

Royal Household Mail



The British
Philatelic Trust

Glenn H. Morgan

Royal Household Mail

from the Royal Residences, Households and
Offices of Great Britain past, present
and temporary

Glenn H. Morgan

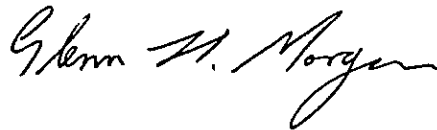
Foreword by Jean Farrugia
British Post Office Archivist



Dedicated to my parents,
Heather and Norman

“Psychologists say that people with hobbies
are not likely to go crazy—but this
doesn't apply to the people they
live with” FRANK FOX

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FOREWORD

As a long serving employee of the Post Office, its Archivist and as a former Assistant Curator of the National Postal Museum, my interest in the subject of this book is threefold.

As an employee, I share with my colleagues throughout the kingdom a great pride in the title under which we still serve, the Royal Mail. We treasure, too, the memory of those special events in our history which have been graced by the royal presence; for instance, the opening of our new Mechanised Letter Office in South West London (which serves Buckingham Palace) by Her Majesty the Queen on 8 December 1983, or our 350th anniversary celebration at Bagshot on 31 July 1985 when HRH Prince Charles rode on a mailcoach carrying letters commemorating the proclamation of 1635 that opened up the Royal Mail as a public service.

As Archivist and custodian of the wealth of records forming the Post Office's archive, and someone daily facing questions about the history of one of the kingdom's oldest public services, I am constantly reminded that the Royal Mail has its origins in a service that predates, by centuries, that which began in the summer of 1635.

My personal interest in the particular subject of this book, began in the summer of 1974, when I was the fairly new Assistant Curator of the National Postal Museum. I had been in the museum only a few months when I was told by the then Curator, the late Tony de Righi, that it was time for me to gain some practical experience of exhibition work. He told me that he would give me the mezzanine gallery, a suitable subject to research and present to a standard worthy of a national museum, one helpful contact - and two months to complete the task, with a deadline of 20 November, when 'my' exhibition was to open to the public. Until then, I was on my own. The subject? The story of the Court Post. My contact? Sir Peter Horsley, a distinguished collector of Royal Household mail. Panic struck me for a day or two, and I wandered forlornly about the museum wondering whether my wisest course of action might be to seek a different job, perhaps delivering the Royal Mail. And then Sir Peter breezed into the museum, bringing with him his collection of Royal letters. We spent a happy day choosing a selection of covers illustrating as wide a variety of aspects of Royal Household mail as possible, and then it was up to me. Somehow, knowing absolutely nothing of the subject, I had to create for the general public a display that would be informative as well as entertaining - and do justice to a remarkable collection of material lovingly built up over the years by Sir Peter, and now entrusted to my care. Where should I start? There was only one place - Post Office Archives.

Fired with enthusiasm and optimism, I abandoned as far as I dared my everyday museum tasks, and took up the challenge. I would unearth all there was to discover about every single letter lent by Sir Peter, all the different postal markings used over the years, and thoroughly background every change that had affected the operation of the service from its very beginning. Not surprisingly, I failed. But in the few weeks given to me

to background the subject, write the panel texts, wrestle with the designer over the importance of relevance over design, and caption the selected exhibits, I managed to discover just enough in the archives to complete the task I had been set, and 'my' exhibition opened on time.

Happily, it was well received, and popular with those who visited the museum; but afterwards I was left with an unsatisfied interest in the subject that could never have been met with just a week or two's research in the archives, intense though that had been. As the years passed by I became involved with other research projects, until 1980 as Assistant Curator of the National Postal Museum and, since then, as Archivist to the Post Office. And so the time that I could hope to spend on this particular subject was minimal. But over the years my interest remained, along with the hope that someone, some day, might carry on from where I had left off back in 1974....

That someone was to be Glenn Morgan. I first noticed him in Archives' Search Room a few weeks after he had begun his daunting task. I asked a colleague who was the young man who was researching so diligently, and what was he studying with such quiet but obvious determination? "The story of the Court Post", I was told.

Perhaps I more than anyone else can appreciate what a formidable, dusty and exhausting task it was that Glenn undertook. He has shown us all what hard work, endless patience and dedication to a subject can achieve. I feel honoured indeed to have been asked to write the Foreword to this excellent result of his study.

Jean Farrugia
Post Office Archives, London

PREFACE

Mail from the Royal Household has always held a special fascination. A philatelist is more likely to be interested in the envelope rather than its contents as many postal markings and cachets have been used over the years. However, the non-philatelist will eagerly read the letters or cards contained within, paying scant regard to the missives outer cover. Their interest might be as a lover of the Royal Family, of ephemera or of history. When compiling this book I have endeavoured to cater for all tastes to some extent, although the postal aspects have obviously taken precedence.

Special emphasis has been placed on the postal activities from the first Elizabethan period onwards as very little material prior to then is available for collectors to purchase on the open philatelic market. Indeed, it is not until the Victorian era that covers and cards become available in any quantity and at a price that the average person could afford.

Several articles have been published on this subject (see the bibliography starting on page 178) but until now the story has not appeared together in one work of reference. In publishing this book I am all too aware that probably some items will have been excluded or the odd error will have crept in despite exhaustive research and checking. The problem is does one carry on with the study never getting around to publishing, or does one go into print in the fervent hope that it will stimulate other students into undertaking further research? I have opted for the latter.

A reviewer of the late Norman Hills' booklet "The Royal Tour Trains" wrote in the GB Journal of July 1977: "Some day, someone will write a comprehensive catalogue on the handstamps and cancellations associated with the Royal Household and the collectors' volcano will erupt." Only time will tell if this prediction was correct.

Sections four and five detail land based and 'on the move' residences of the Royal Family together with non-royal homes known to have been visited by them. It is a fact that many other such non-Royal residences, however temporary, have also been visited. Until examples of Court mail can be identified they have been excluded unless the likelihood of such mail is overwhelming. Where there is a royal residence that is in current or very recent occupation but does not have special postal facilities it has been included thus enabling collectors to seek out examples of the official headed notepaper and envelopes showing correct postal usage.

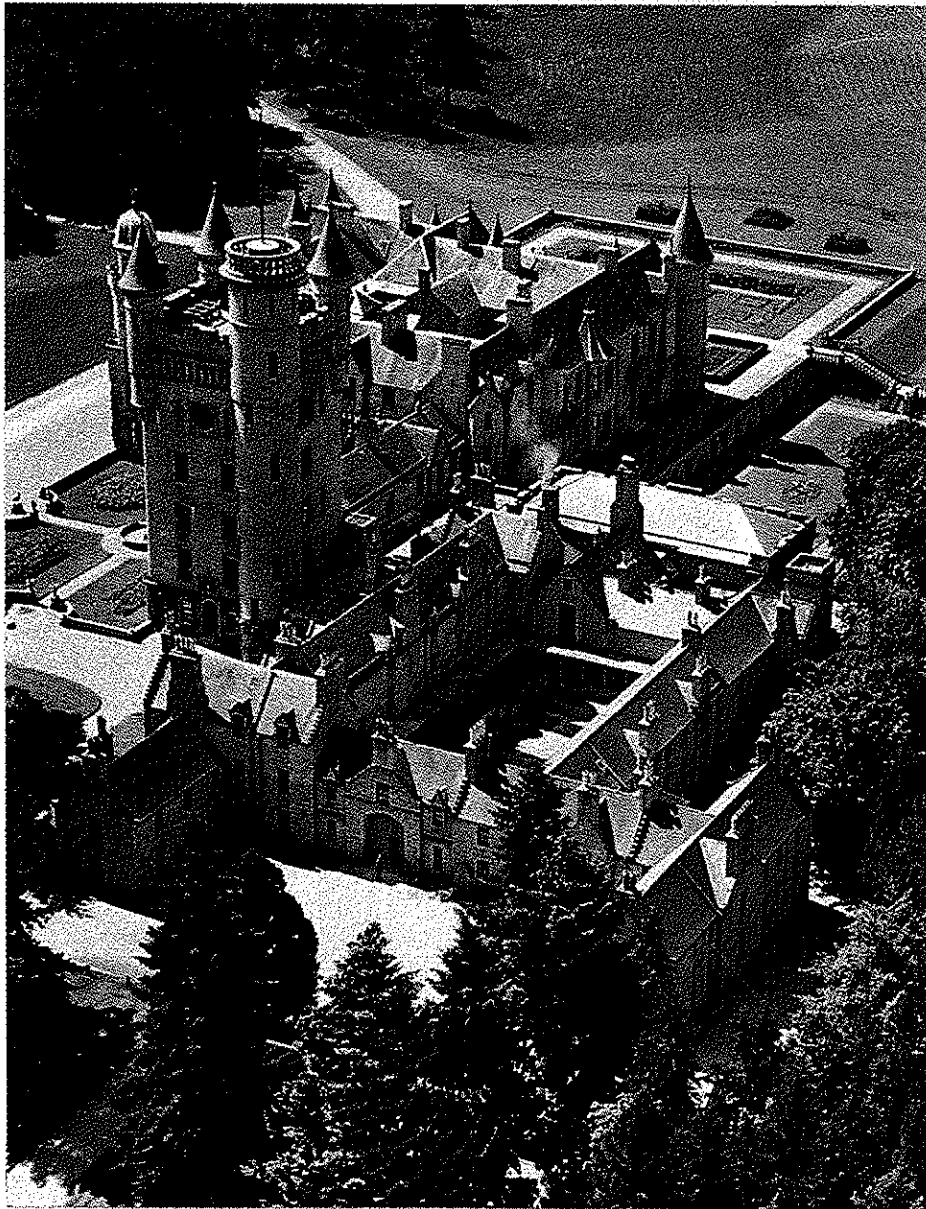
When the royal residence ceased to be so I have continued to list all postal markings and cachets known to me. These items are annotated "Included here for completeness only" to indicate that they are not of royal origin. All postal markings are shown life size unless marked "Illustration not to scale". I have endeavoured to show a range of dates for each postmark and cachet wherever possible in order to give some idea of their period of use. All markings in black unless otherwise stated.

The whole field of modern "royal" mail is becoming very standardised and potentially boring. Stamp societies are not going to want to see displays of almost identical covers anymore than they would wish to see sheet after sheet of penny blacks. The use of rubber stamps may be archaic in these days of high technology but they do currently offer collectors a fascinating range of material to collect. As the cost of communicating by mail and labour and stationery costs increase anything that can help contain costs must be implemented, hence the changes. This should turn the attention of collectors to earlier material.

In concluding this Preface I would like to stress to readers that members of the Royal Household are extremely busy people who could not cope with an influx of letters from collectors requesting examples of the certifying stamps or printed stationery detailed within this book. As a refusal to co-operate could offend, your best source of supply must lie with the many dealers in ephemera and postal history around the country, most of whom maintain extensive stocks. Consultation of any up-to-date philatelic magazine will reveal their addresses.

Glenn H. Morgan, 1992

SECTION 1 -
INTRODUCTION



BALMORAL CASTLE

The history of "royal" mail is the history of the Post Office itself for in the reign of King John Messengers began carrying the mails, but were employed only when required so to do. By the reign of Henry III couriers called "Nuncii" and "Cursores" (Messengers and Runners) carried messages from the Court. They were an important part of the Royal Household and were the first to wear the royal livery.

The control of the country, whether by Roman Emperors, Saxon Chieftains or English Kings would always have required means of communication for the carrying of correspondence and administrative or military orders. It is perhaps not surprising that due to the illiteracy of the masses hundreds of years were to pass before more use was allowed to be made of the posts by ordinary folk. In 1635 Charles I opened-up the mails to everyone and the Post Office as we know it today gradually evolved as a direct result of the need for the Royal Family to communicate speedily with locations throughout their Kingdom and beyond. Our story continues.....

Edward I's period saw horses being kept for hire at specific points (fixed stations) en-route and William de Luda, Keeper of the Wardrobe, was responsible for paying the expenses of the Messengers used for the service. By the following reign the King had 12 Messengers constantly at the ready to travel anywhere the King went. They received 3d (1p) a day in pay, and 4s8d (23.5p) a year for the purchase of shoes. Their pay was supplemented by gifts when they were the bearer of good news.

Nothing especially significant then happened until 1482 when single horsemen were first appointed by Edward IV and two hundred miles were covered in a mere two days by this method during the war with Scotland. By 1484 Richard the Third was afraid of the threat posed by Henry Tudor and needed to be kept informed of events as soon as possible. The Posts were therefore established by relays of horsemen every twenty miles and wherever the King was based his Post Riders would follow. The postal service is mentioned in the "Chronicles of Croyland" for the first time that year also. By 1500 a Master of the Posts had been appointed to supervise the Standing Posts on roads to Dover and the North for Henry VII.

The reign of Henry VIII saw many improvements to the King's Post including the establishment of regular post-stages along major roads of the Kingdom and by 1509 the Treasurer of the Chamber was made responsible for all payments relating to the Posts. By 1512 Brian Tuke (then termed Clerk of the Signet) was making payments to the royal postal officers. Tuke (now Master of the Posts) recorded in 1533 that "As to Posts betwene London and the Corte, there be nowe but ii. Whereof one is a good robust felowe, and was wont to be diligent, evil intreated many tymes; he and other posts, by the herbigours, for lak of horserome or horsmete, withoute whiche diligence cannot be. The other hath been the most payneful felowe in nygt and day that I have knowen amongs the messengers. If he nowe slak he shall be changed, as reason is, he sueth to the Kings Grace for som smal living for his olde service, having never had ordinary wages til nowe, a monthe or little more, this posts wages. It may please you to advertise me in whiche of them ii ye fynde fault, and he shal be changed. I wrote unto my lorde of Northumberland to write on the bak of his pacquetts the houre and the day of the depeche, and so I did to other, but it is seldome observed. I wol also desire you to remember that many tymes happen ii depeches in a day on way, and somtyme moo, and that, often seasons, happen counter posts;

that is to ride bothe northwarde and southwarde. This is moche for on horse or on man."

Tuke had ordered in 1526 that horses were to be available for the King's service and all requirements for the City of London from 1539 were to be provided by one of the Hackneymen, contributions in money being received from fellow Hackneymen and Innkeepers. The nationwide provision of horses for use on official business proved to be a major issue with the owners of the horses who were expected to make them available to the Messengers or Couriers and often abuses occurred whereby payment was "forgotten", or the animals were over-loaded or over-ridden. Frequently people pretended to be on official business in order to gain access to the horses but attempts at rectifying the situation failed to have much effect. Additionally, the sheer volume of despatches meant that sometimes horses had to be taken out of their ploughs to enable the required number of beasts to be available. Postmasters were allowed to supply horses to travellers at 2.5d (1p) per mile on the understanding that fresh horses would be made available at only 1d (0.5p) per mile for Royal Messengers. This was to help supplement their low wages.

Sometime between 1554 and 1558 orders were issued to cover the Posts. Item 3 stated: "Euery of the postes shall be bound to have always the number of vj (6) horses at the least ij (2) for the pacquett for goers and comers by post". Item 12 stated: "The post of Swansford shall take for euery horse xvjd (16d / 6.5p) and shall not be bound to the conueyance of the pacquett to whome in case of lacke all other hacquenymen there shall be ready to furnish horses receiuing for euery horse so supplied to ronne post but by his appointment, neither take for any horse they shall giue out to goe in jorney fare aboue ijd (2d / 1p) at the most for the mile as is abouesaid. PHILLIP/MARY THE QUEENE". (The "pacquett" mentioned above contained letters from the Queen or her officials).

Political circumstances forced a monopoly to be created for the Posts and it was ordained by Queen Elizabeth I that no letters could be sent to or from abroad unless by the royal Posts but during this reign private messages did begin to be carried. When carrying the royal mail the Courier was instructed to blow his horn "as oft as he met company, or four times every mile".

On 5 August 1565 Robert Gascoigne was appointed Poste of the Courte and in 1568 Thomas Randolph (Master of the Posts) discharged all Posts except those relating to the Court in the interests of economy unless they were prepared to work for half of their existing salary.

Special Articles of Instructions were issued in 1584. These proved that private letters had begun to be carried with the Sovereign's mail as Article 9 states: ".....any postes servant or boy riding with the packet to deliver any by-letters or private packets before he have first discharged himself of the packet for Her Majesties affaires by delivering the same into the hands of the next Standing Post, unto whome also he shall commit and deliver all the by-letters and private packets as well as the other, under paine of the forfeiture of ten shillings (50p) to the post offended".

In 1591 a Proclamation ordered that no letters could be sent or received from foreign countries except by the Post and on 24 February 1598 Sir John

Stanhope (Master of the Posts) was instructed by letter to re-instate the Standing and Ordinary Posts between the Court and Holyhead, and also by way of Bristol.

The late 1500's saw certain towns beginning to receive relief regarding the supplying of horses for official despatch (Reading, Grantham and Kingston, for example). Also letters from Ireland arrived at Court via Chester from where the Postmaster would ride to London, or, indeed, wherever the Court was based and wait for the King's reply to be written. For this service he was paid £1:13s:4d (five marks) (£1.66) for the journey and ten groats a day after the first two days attendance at Court.

During James I's reign there were four Posts centred on the Court, namely Courte to Barwicke (Scotland), Courte to Beaumoris (Ireland), Courte to Dover (Continent) and Courte to Plymouth (Royal Dockyard).

The Posts were losing the Crown £3,400 per annum by 1609 and a State Monopoly was therefore established on letter carrying. 1615 saw Matthew de Quester (Merchants Strangers Post within the City of London) complaining that the King had not paid £600 due to him in respect of postal packets carried.

In July 1635 the royal Posts were opened-up to members of the general public by Charles I, as mentioned above, and no longer was it for the sole use of State and reigning Monarch. Two years later on 22 June 1637 a Patent was granted to Thomas Witherings. Headed "PATENT FOR THE LETTER OFFICE OF ENGLAND GRANTED TO THOMAS WITHERINGS - 22 JUNE 1637" it contains detailed instructions for the "speedy conveyinge, carryinge and recarryinge of letters by Post betwixt our Kingdoms". Included is a list of "the charges of the Postes for the Fower (four) Roades through the Kingdome to be given by the Master of the Letter Office of England, Scotland and Ireland, Betwixt London and Berwicke". The first entry reads:

Name of Stage	To be now Paid Per Diem (Day)
Court	£00:02s:06d(12.5p)

James Hicke was appointed Head Postmaster by the King in the 1640's whilst his Court was cut-off from London and was ordered by Warrant to collect payments from the Postmasters and deal with arrears. He also established new stages including Weymouth and Lyme Regis. Letters destined for and from Court were also under his supervision, as was the reporting of disloyal Postmasters.

The rent for farming out the postal service in 1653 during the Cromwellian period of our history amounted to £10,000 per annum and in 1657 Cromwell passed a Statute establishing the Post of England with a Postmaster General and Comptroller. In 1660 the rent for farming-out the postal service amounted to £21,500 at the time of the Restoration of our Monarchy.

Charles II settled upon his brother, James, Duke of York, most of the revenues from the Post. The Act was 15 Chas. II c.14 (1663) and payments were made under the Privy Seal in favour of the King to an amount not exceeding £5,382:10s:00d (£5,382.50) per annum. A later Act - 22 & 23 Chas. II c.27 - made the payment perpetual. James Hicke petitioned for

compensation and support in 1666 following the thirty years that he had served the late King, especially during the plague period. By 1680 the rent for farming-out the postal service amounted to £43,000 per annum.

When James II came to the throne in 1685 the revenues from the postal service were estimated at £65,000 per annum and during that year all revenues reverted to the Crown. The following year saw a pension of £4,700 being paid to Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland and her successors the Dukes of Grafton from the Post Office revenues until 1856 when it was commuted for a lump sum payment of £91,000. George III surrendered all revenues in 1760. In its place he accepted a Civil List payment for the support of the Royal Household and the expenses of the civil government.

During the 1700's Court mail was considered to be letters directed to The Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince, the Lord High Treasurer, and both principal Secretaries of State and their Clerks. Until the 1780's such Court mail had to be received at the General Post Office in London before the ordinary mails were permitted to leave the City. These delays were the subject of many complaints and the plans by John Palmer for his mailcoaches included instructions that the ordinary mails should not be delayed due to the late despatch of government (royal) correspondence. However, as late as 1807 Court letters were still being delivered immediately upon arrival in London.

On 21 June 1793 the office of Court Poste was abolished by order in Council but not until the death of the incumbent Mr Penton. In its place the Sovereign had his mail dealt with in the same manner as his Officers of State and the franking privilege was accordingly granted. It was not until January 1812 that Penton died and the office could finally be abolished.

Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 and three years later on 10 January 1840 Rowland Hill's Uniform Penny Postage was introduced. The franking privilege ceased and the use of the mails for official items was accounted for to the Post Office by the "Official Paid" mail system henceforth. Incidentally, Queen Victoria gave up her franking privilege as a gesture of goodwill and paid her postage bills by adhesive stamps, just like her Subjects but she signed her envelopes "The Queen" to denote sender.

From 4 June 1843 petitions addressed to the Sovereign by any of her Subjects were allowed to be sent free of postal charges regardless of their weight and by the 1850's the Post Office were dealing with correspondence of a semi-official nature by the use of Paying Accounts. In 1857 the Duke of Cornwall and in 1863 both Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales took advantage of this means of accounting for their postage.

A Court Telegraphist called George Warren was appointed around 1870 and in 1877 a Sub-Post Office was opened at Sandringham House for the benefit of the then Prince of Wales. The final major introduction of Victoria's reign occurred in 1897 when Osborne House had the first Post Office opened on-site for use by the Court.

King Edward VII will go down in postal history as the Monarch who re-introduced free postage for himself and Household. In one fell swoop he did away with his mothers decision to abolish free postage and he

consequently gave collectors of Household mail a whole new range of material to collect. Aside from this course of action the other major introduction in Edward's reign was that of "ROYAL HOUSEHOLD/OFFICIAL" overprinted postage stamps. These are highly desirable, very expensive and attractive to forgers. Potential buyers should therefore exercise extreme caution when buying these stamps.

King George V's reign did not bring about any significant changes but King Edward VIII in his short period introduced the King's Flight. The service exists to this day (albeit renamed The Queen's Flight) and was set-up to offer the Royal Family air services when needed and the planes sometimes carry items of Court post. King George VI added little to our story.

The earlier part of the reign of our current Queen saw few changes in the manner in which the mail was handled, although of late there have been moves away from the old methods. No longer are letters typed using the extra large typeface peculiar to the Household. In their place are high-tech wordprocessing machines capable of handling the tens of thousands of letters dealt with annually. Postal franking machines are now used on mail from the Estate Office at Sandringham, Windsor and Balmoral and Telemessages have replaced the famous Telegrams used when one reaches the grand old age of one hundred years.

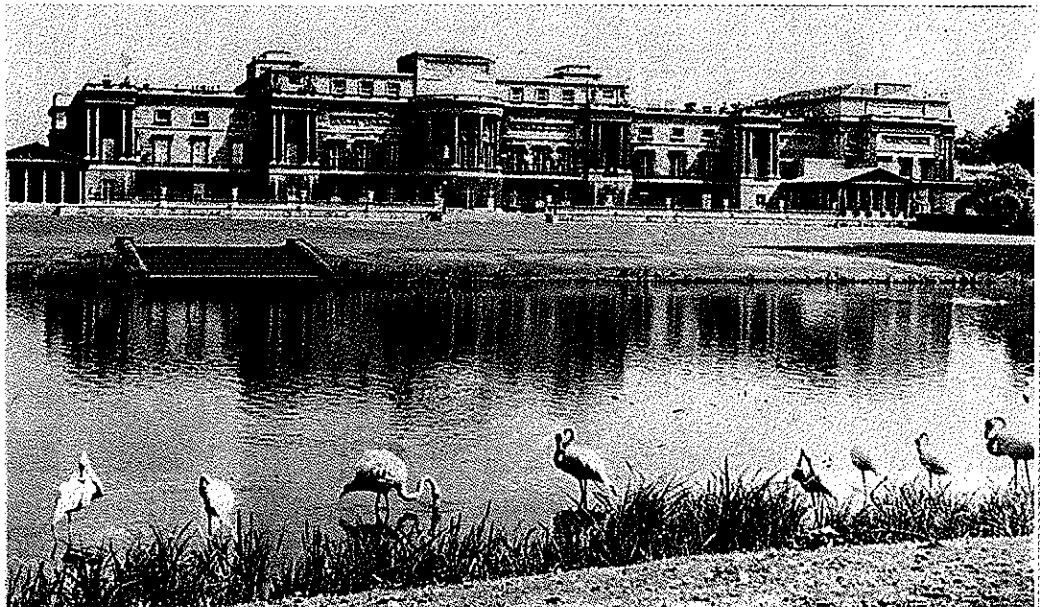
Recently there has been no use of "Official Paid" cancellations in red on mail emanating from the Royal Household at Buckingham Palace. The writer has seen many recent covers all of which have either had a "LONDON IS MLO" cancellation in black or no postal markings of any description. Prior to this departure the "LONDON SWDO/OFFICIAL PAID" cancellers had the word "OFFICIAL" removed leaving a somewhat off-centre "PAID". This would appear to have been a deliberate change of policy towards such mail.

The use of departmental and royal monogram certifying stamps is also altering, albeit very slowly. The Ascot Office now uses pre-printed certifying impressions on its envelopes and the royal monogram certifying stamp on letters from Balmoral at certain times is incorporated into the postal franking machine impression. Also, the Paymaster of the Household and Lord Chamberlain now use the royal monogram certifying stamp "EIIR" instead of 'customised' versions of the departmental stamps.

The volume of Royal Household mail posted each year is immense, especially when events, anniversaries, births and deaths occur. A heavy strain is placed on all concerned in processing the correspondence and it is not uncommon for very senior officers of the Household to give assistance at peak times and clearly a warm affinity exists between the staff at the residences and Post Offices used for the transmission of "royal" mail. Queen Victoria was very close to the Postmasters of Whippingham and Crathie and there is a great fascination in the Royal Family by millions of people around the world that hopefully will never wain. As long as people maintain their love of all things royal there will be the need for postal facilities to serve them, be they resident at one of the grand State Palaces or at a small private country home and the postal historian will be around to record for posterity the changes that occur.

SECTION 2 -

THE ROYAL POSTAL OFFICERS



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

ROYAL MESSENGERS OF THE COURT

Our early postal service was carried out by Royal Messengers who were responsible for carrying letters for the Sovereign when Court and Monarch were absent from London. Costs were paid for by the Monarch.

In 1558 there were six Messengers in the service, namely Robert Gascoigne, John Forster, John Wynter, Thomas Clerke, John Man and Robert Kytchman and during 1565 Messenger Gascoigne became Poste of the Courte. In the 1640's one James Hicke appeared to be a Royal Messenger for the King.

Many royal letters continued to be delivered by hand privately by the Messengers from the 1840's through to 1932. On 30 June that year, King George V abolished the Messengers and all duties were subsequently undertaken by the Post Office. Regular services had included the Royal Yacht at Cowes, Windsor Castle and Newmarket. Occasional services were Aldershot and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. His Majesty's Private Secretary wrote on the 13 April 1932: "I have laid before His Majesty your proposals for the despatch of mails to Windsor, Aldershot, Newmarket and Cowes and there is no objection to making a trial of the proposed system.

"The evening despatch will be one of special bags containing despatch boxes and special correspondence from Ministers of State and Government Offices for His Majesty and Suite. The despatch about midday will consist of redirected correspondence, etc, enclosed in a special cover to the Court Postmaster and will not, it is thought, be of a bulky nature."

The Controller of the London Postal Service subsequently wrote: "His Majesty, The King proposes to discontinue His Own Messenger Service, and to devolve on the Post Office the whole of the arrangements for the circulation of correspondence, pouches, etc, when His Majesty is absent from London.

"As the Secretary is no doubt aware, special postal arrangements are, as a general rule, at present only made when His Majesty visits Sandringham House and Balmoral Castle. When His Majesty visits places other than Sandringham and Balmoral, The King's Own Messenger Service has hitherto been employed and no special postal arrangements have been necessary other than the occasional circulation of a special bag made up at, or for, Buckingham Palace.

"The special arrangements in the case of visits to Sandringham and Balmoral involve the Post Office in special expenditure which will be increased when the Messenger Service is discontinued. So far as London is concerned, mails containing the bags or pouches for, or from, The King are not despatched via the Post Office (London) Railway, and, if a suitable van service is not available a special van is arranged for. Moreover, in every case a guard is provided to accompany the bags in their transit through London. In addition special deliveries and collections are sometimes made. It is possible that special expense is also incurred in the Provinces; when His Majesty is at Balmoral special trains are run in Scotland. It is

not known whether the Post Office receives credit for the services, but so far as this Office is aware, no steps are at present taken to estimate the costs of the services rendered beyond the recording of the pouches as special postings. The Secretary will no doubt say whether any effort should be made to assess the cost of the services to the Post Office."

It transpires that the three Home Service Messengers who had made special journeys to the King every day whenever he was away from London retired together and as an economy measure they were not replaced. They had carried red and black leather boxes stamped with the Royal Arms which contained State documents for His Majesty's attention.

CERTIFYING STAMPS

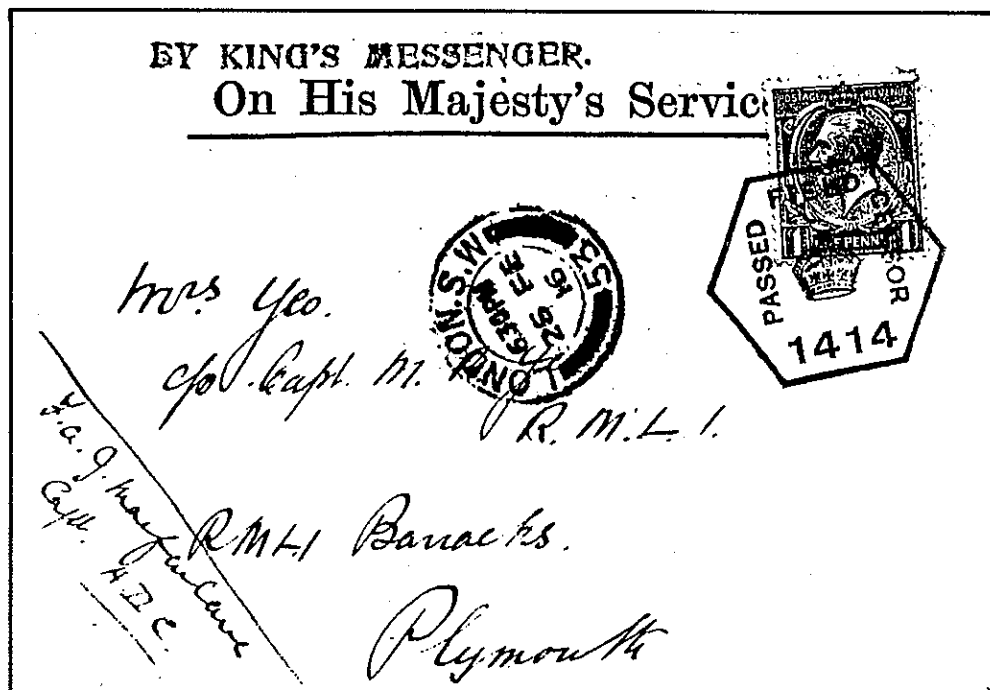


Fig. 2.1

2.1 BY KING'S MESSENGER straight line unframed. Seen 1916 in red.



Fig. 2.2

2.2 K./CROWN/M./PRIVILEGED double rectangular frame. Seen 1917 in violet with War Department certifying stamp together with a London official paid cancellation in red.

POSTE OF THE COURTE

The position of Poste of the Courte was founded on 5 August 1565 during the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the First when a Warrant of the Privy Council was issued.

The holders of the title were:

5 AUGUST 1565 - ROBERT GASCOIGNE

He was responsible for taking the royal letters to the nearest Post House in London from the Court and was also responsible for laying new stages, arrangements regarding the Royal Progresses and the supervision of the Standing Posts.

Gascoigne had previously been a Queen's Messenger and was an Ordinary or Standing Post to the Court at this time. He received a salary of four shillings (20p) per day when the Queen was travelling through England. He laid an Extra-ordinary Post to Bristol via Hounslow, Maidenhead, Newbury, Marlborough and Chippenham in 1580 and in the following year was responsible for establishing the Posts on the Holyhead Road.

During 1582 he surveyed the Queen's Posts on the London to Berwick Road and found great cause for concern when examining the books maintained by the Postmasters. This included causing serious delays to the Court mail. In consequence, every Postmaster was issued with a set of instructions called "Orders by Queen and Council to be observed by all the Posts between London and Berwick." They read:

"Every Postmaster receiving any packet of letters from Sir Francis Walsingham, or any of the Council for Her Majesty's affairs, is to affix a label, subscribed with his name, of the day and hour that it came into his hands.

"To keep a paper book, wherein he shall enter the day and hour of the receipt of such packets, agreeing with the label.

"To keep two or three good horses in his stable, for speedy conveyance of such packets, the person carrying such to ride six miles an hour.

"If any of them break these orders, it will be to their uttermost peril."

During his term of office Gascoigne was accused on more than one occasion of being guilty of fraud and ill-conduct but no charges ever seem to have been pursued.

8 APRIL 1603 - ROWLAND WHITE

The latter agreed to execute the duties of the place for one third of Buckbury's wages. This arrangement would probably have worked smoothly enough, but as no wages had been paid for several years, Wytton at length found himself in trouble with his creditors, some of whom, in 1637, petitioned the Lord Chamberlain to have the benefit of the law against him. The petition was granted, but Wytton was allowed a short period in which to endeavour to give his creditors satisfaction.

The Petition read: "Petition of John Wytton, Deputy Postmaster of the Court, daily attending your Majesty, the King. For his wages of 10s (50p) per diem there is due to him about £1,400; neither has he allowance of diet, or horsemeat, or any other perquisite, the non-payment whereof has brought him much into debt. Some of his Creditors have petitioned the Lord Chamberlain to have the benefit of the Law against him. He has granted the request, unless the petitioner give satisfaction by the middle of the Michaelmas term. Prays that the Lord Treasurer may make present payment of what is due to petitioner, and meanwhile that he may have a protection."

Wytton presented a counter claim to the Lord Treasurer praying for the payment of the wages due to him, and for protection against his creditors. He may have obtained the protection, but he certainly did not receive his wages, for in 1639 he presented a petition to Sir J Coke, from which it appears that in 1637 when the office of Postmaster General was vested in the two Secretaries of State, Wytton was turned out of office, there being due to him eight and a half years wages, amounting, according to Wytton's calculations, to be above £530. Wytton's Petition also stated: "I can make it appear by bills that during the time the debt grew I have disbursed almost £300 out of purse in executing the place, and I do humbly conceive that my own attendance, my keeping of lodgings and horses in town for eight years and a half may be thought worthy of the remainder above mentioned."

1636 - RICHARD POOLE

Mr Poole was a servant of Sir John Coke from 1627 and had originally received 2s (10p) per day wages plus the normal wages of a Messenger. During James's reign it rose to 10s (50p) per day.

OCTOBER 1661 - THOMAS PARNELL

The sum of £182:10s:0d (£182.50), i.e. 10s6d (52.5p) a day, was paid to Parnell in 1663.

12 MAY 1666 - PERCIVAL STANNEY

23 JUNE 1684 - SIR THOMAS DEREHAM

4 DECEMBER 1697 - WILLIAM VAN HULS

7 DECEMBER 1700 - JAMES DE CARDONELL

On 25 March 1705 a payment of £366 was made.

23 JULY 1705 - HENRY ANDREWS

Twenty shillings (£1) a day was given to Queen Anne's Poste of the Courte, Henry Andrews, in 1705. His duty was to carry the mails from the royal residence to the first Post Stage or Post Office. His wages were paid for out of the Post Office profits and a payment of £365 was made on 25 March 1706.

25 MARCH 1715 - DENNIS BOND

1746 saw a payment of £600 for 311 days work being made and in the next year Mr Bond received ninety days pay at 40s (£2) a day, amounting to £180.

21 APRIL 1746 - HENRY PENTON SENIOR

In 1747 54 days pay was given amounting to £108 and in 1748 payment for 366 days work was received which totalled £732.

24 MARCH 1761 - HENRY PENTON THE YOUNGER

Most postal officers, including the Poste of the Courte, failed to ever turn up for duty. Instead they employed a deputy to whom they paid an annual allowance from their own salary and this arrangement appeared to have been quite normal during this period. The office was, therefore, a sinecure. Penton was no exception and paid a deputy the sum of £58 per annum out of his salary of £730. For details see the section "The Memorial of Thomas Collier" on pages 25 to 28.

On Lady Day 1802 (5 April) a salary of £730 was received for 365 days work and in 1803 (5 April) a salary of £550 for 275 days work. In 1812 (5 April) a salary of £730 received for 365 days work, out of which £60 was paid to his deputy, who passed on £24 to a sub-deputy. Finally, in 1813 (5 April) the General Accounts show a payment of £20.

15 JANUARY 1812 - OFFICE CEASED

The post ceased by order of the Privy Council on 21 June 1793 (not effective, though, until the death of Penton), postal arrangements being treated in the same manner as the King's Officers of State henceforth, but still retaining free postage.

COURT TELEGRAPHIST

A Court Telegraphist was appointed sometime between the establishment of public telegraph services (the Electric Telegraph Company first opened offices in London and the larger provincial towns in 1848) and the takeover of the private Telegraph Offices by the Post Office in 1870. That year the Court Telegraphist was placed on the establishment of the Post Office (Southampton Office) and his salary was recoverable from the Privy Purse.

Only two people were ever to hold the post.

c. 1870 - GEORGE WARREN

It was stated that the Court Telegraphist needed to be "experienced in telegraphing in French and German as well as the English language". Mr Warren had previously been on the staff of the Electric and International Telegraph Company and was on a pay scale of £136-£6-£160 but was paid a special salary commencing at £154 a year in view of the duties that he undertook. At his death he was receiving £210 which was fixed under arrangements between His Majesty's Private Secretary and the Post Office Department, being sanctioned by the Treasury. During 1874 his allowance increased from 8s4d (41.5p) to 9s4d (46.5p) per day. In 1876 travelling expenses of 7s6d (37.5p) per day were allowed.

A Mr Edney of Southampton office was substituted in 1894 during a period of absence by Mr Warren and received overtime and subsistence allowances. Two years later on 21 April 1896 Mr Warren died of cancer, having completed thirty seven and-a-half years service, thirty four of which had been on telegraphic business at the Royal Palaces performing "very high class work and long hours of constant attention to duty".

A newspaper cutting at the time read: "The Queen has placed a substantial ornamented cross over the grave in Whippingham churchyard, where lie the remains of Mr George Warren, who for 34 years was Telegraphist to Her Majesty at Osborne. The inscription on the cross states that it is erected by Queen Victoria as a mark of regard for faithful and zealous service".

1896 - JOHN M HILEY

Mr Hiley advised the Head Postmaster at Windsor that Mr Warren had died and wasted no time in recommending himself as the ideal replacement for the post. His letter partly read: "Steps will no doubt be taken to fill the vacancy on the return of Her Majesty to England and I beg respectfully to offer myself as a candidate for the office.

"I have acted as Deputy Telegraphist at the Castle (Windsor) during the past twelve years and I am fully acquainted with the peculiar requirements

of the office. I have received several tokens of satisfaction with which my duties have been performed". That May Mr Hiley became Court Telegraphist at Windsor Castle. According to Lord Stamfordham Mr Hiley had "gained the confidence and respect of all those who have had the opportunity of realising his work and the excellent manner in which it has been performed. He has established a character of probity, capacity and industry".

His promotion was at the express wish of Queen Victoria in view of the twelve years good service rendered as Deputy Court Telegraphist under Mr Warren. He was previously Senior on the class of Clerks on a scale of £110-£5-£140, and was responsible for operating the Morse Code circuit to Windsor Head Post Office, which began functioning about 1890. His salary was increased from £140 to £150 rising by £5 instalments to £180. By 1908 he had reached £180 with an allowance of £25 per annum for overtime performed on holidays and for extra work and responsibilities in connection with Osborne House Post Office. In addition, payment was received for all time worked on Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and a subsistence allowance of 5s (25p) a day whilst travelling. Board and residence was provided at the royal residence where the Court Telegraphist was employed.

He worked virtually as a Sub-Postmaster at each location and was frequently required to be in attendance to the Sovereign both in England and overseas. Additionally, his attendance was deemed to be "...of a very prolonged and exacting nature and his bedroom is situated close to the telegraph instruments so that he can be called up any hour of the night. He personally deals with and is responsible for the King's private pouch and despatch boxes of which he holds the key. In all respects his duties are more onerous than they were in the late Queen's reign." Accordingly, it was agreed that his allowances should be increased to the sum of £50 per annum.

As previously stated, Hiley was boarded and lodged free at the various Royal Palaces but he also maintained a home for his wife and family. He was seldom free from duty, and was frequently on the move. Hiley was to receive payment at overtime rates for time spent travelling on a Sunday from 1903.

Mr Hiley was placed in charge of the newly opened Sub-Post Office at Osborne in 1897. On 17 February 1898 the sale of postage stamps and postal orders by the Court Telegraphist began when the Court was residing at Windsor. However, a Post Office within the Castle was considered unnecessary as the Castle adjoined the Head Post Office. He had already been selling stamps but only on an occasional basis prior to 1898.

Mr Hiley was attached to the London Postal Service when employed in London and was mentioned for an improved salary on more than one occasion but later entries in the PMG Minutes revealed that his salary continued at the same level.

During 1903 the Court Telegraphist was occupied with both postal and telegraphic business when at Balmoral or Sandringham but frequently received help from various members of the staff of Aberdeen and King's Lynn Post Offices.

1906 - OFFICE CEASED

Upon Mr Hiley's promotion to Court Postmaster (at the express wish of the King) the office of Court Telegraphist was dispensed with. He was then on a salary of £180 plus a £50 special allowance per annum to cover overtime on ordinary days. For Sundays and Bank Holidays he could charge overtime and in 1902 this had amounted to £95.

WAX SEAL

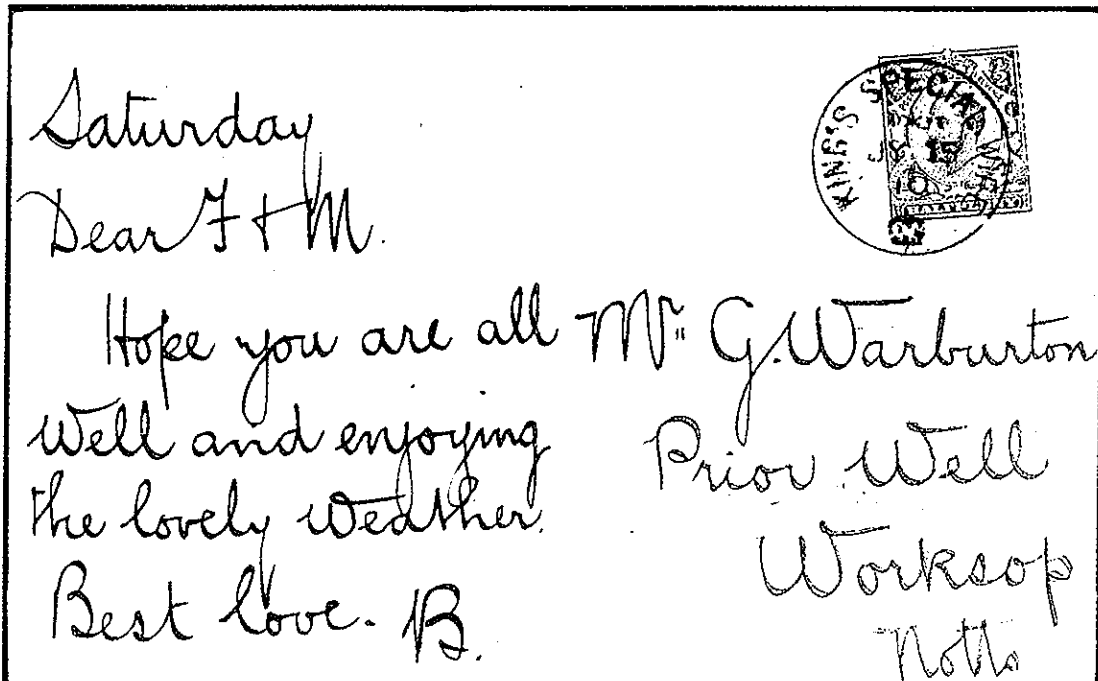
A wax seal worded "Court Telegraph Office" with the royal coat of arms is recorded in red wax on the reverse of a cover emanating from the Royal Household dated 1938. This was long after the position of Court Telegraphist existed but before the end of the telegram service.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 2.3

- 2.3 **KING'S SPECIAL WIRE/(CROWN)** single circle. Issued 8 January 1904. Post Office Proof Book states: "Supplied to the Secretary for Court Telegraphist". Seen 1904 to 1910, including incorrect usage cancelling postage stamps.



Incorrect usage of King's Special Wire cancellation

COURT POSTMASTER

The first Court Postmaster was appointed in 1906. There are currently two Court Post Offices both open all the year round at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. There is however, only one Court Postmaster in existence at any one time.

When the Royal Family are in residence elsewhere he also serves them from that location and collections from and deliveries to these other residences are made by him.

19 OCTOBER 1906 - 29 DECEMBER 1922 JOHN M HILEY, I.S.O.

Mr Hiley was a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist at Windsor from 15 March 1882 and then a Clerk from 12 December 1886. He was allowed to travel first class on lines where there was no second class rail facility, and he was entitled to a subsistence allowance of 5s (25p) a day when travelling abroad. The King thought that he should receive a higher grade than that of Telegraphist and that he should receive the grade of Postmaster in order to put him on a level with other Postmasters. The following year in 1907 a nightly allowance of 1s6d (7.5p) was paid to the Court Postmaster when Her Majesty the Queen was in residence at Buckingham Palace or other royal residences and in 1913 Hiley received a salary increase from £350 to £360 per annum for which "he is very grateful". That same year he was awarded the I S O, presumably in recognition of services to the Sovereign.

A PMG Minute in 1914 referred to the possibility of promoting Mr. Wilson from Senior Counter Clerk and Telegraphist to Overseer to Mr Hiley. At this time the establishment at Buckingham Palace consisted of a Court Postmaster, 2 Counter Clerks, 2 Call Office Attendants and 2 Boy Messengers. It was not an especially busy office and, as such, Mr. Wilson would not normally have qualified for the position but as he had been employed since 1902 at the Palace and his "long experience and intimate knowledge of the special class of work performed there are invaluable to the King and His Court" it was desirable to retain his services. The Court Postmaster was still receiving a salary of £360 per annum whilst Mr. Wilson was on the scale 18s-62s (90p-£3.10) a week and was expected to take charge of the office during Court Postmaster absences. Accordingly an exception was made in this case and promotion to that of Overseer was granted by the Treasury.

30 DECEMBER 1922 - 13 JUNE 1929 F G WILSON

Mr Wilson was born on 3 March 1869 and became a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist at the South Western District Office with effect from 30 May 1885, becoming Overseer on 15 April 1914. He was appointed Court Postmaster from 30 December 1922, a position he held until retirement in 1929.

A Mr A G Logan was his Overseer from 1923 on the Counter and Telegraph establishment of the London Postal Service.

14 JUNE 1929 - 31 AUGUST 1935 FRANCIS AUGUSTUS MASON

Mr Mason was born on 14 September 1871 and, like his predecessors, started his Post Office career as a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist but in the London Postal Service from 9 September 1889. He then became Overseer (Telegraphs) on 15 May 1920 followed by an Assistant Superintendent on 17 October 1928.

His appointment as Court Postmaster came into effect from 14 June 1929 under "difficult circumstances" that the Post Office files failed to record. Apparently he "has had a formidable task and one that has required a considerable amount of tact and discretion".



Captain F A Mason in 1935

Whilst Mr Mason was the Court Postmaster the carrying of important messages to and from Sandringham and Balmoral was transferred to the Post Office.

1 SEPTEMBER 1935 - 31 AUGUST 1940 G P WYLES

On 28 November 1878 Mr Wyles was born, entering the Post Office on 16 December 1896 as a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist with the London Postal Service. Subsequently, on 24 April 1928 he became Overseer, followed by Assistant Superintendent from 10 January 1934. He became Court Postmaster on 1 September 1935 in Jubilee year.

In 1936 the officers of the Court Post Office were commended for their devotion to duty during the illness and death of His Majesty King George V and the Court Postmaster received an audience with King Edward VIII.

Mr A Day the Overseer at Battersea acted as a substitute for Mr Wyles in his absence of 1940 but as there was some doubt as to his personal suitability for the post of Court Postmaster he was turned down when the replacement for Mr Wyles was needed.

1 SEPTEMBER 1940 - 20 OCTOBER 1945 T E RIDOUT

Mr Ridout entered this world on 4 September 1883 and joined the Post Office as a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist on 2 December 1900. He became Overseer on 28 October 1931 and Assistant Superintendent (Telephones) with the South Western District of the London Postal Service from 13 August 1938. His appointment as Court Postmaster took effect from 1 September 1940 during the second world war.

21 OCTOBER 1945 - 15 JANUARY 1952 EDWIN JOHN BURT

Mr Burt was born on 7 July 1889, became a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist on 24 October 1910 followed by Overseer at Battersea Counters and Telegraphs District on 14 May 1938. He became Court Postmaster on 21 October 1945, a position he held until his retirement in 1952.

The grade of Court Postmaster was abolished in 1946 and the post was then filled by an Assistant Superintendent who was allowed to retain the courtesy title of Court Postmaster. In 1951 it was decided that perhaps the Post Office had been "....a bit hasty in abolishing the grade in 1946".

16 JANUARY 1952 - 1962 R D NORTON

Mr Norton was born on 10 March 1897 and was appointed a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist on 19 October 1916. It was not until 21 January 1944 that he was upgraded to Overseer and then in 1952 his grade became that of Assistant Superintendent (Court Postmaster).

1962 - 1967 W A KING

1967 - 1975 L A BUTTERS

Mr Butters died in service during 1975.

1975 - 1981 L R PENGELLY

1981 - BRIAN G JOHNSTON

Mr Johnston was still Court Postmaster as of August 1989.

Unfortunately, details about the holders of the office during the current reign are almost looked upon as State secrets and consequently very little can be recorded beyond their name.

CERTIFYING STAMPS



Fig. 2.4

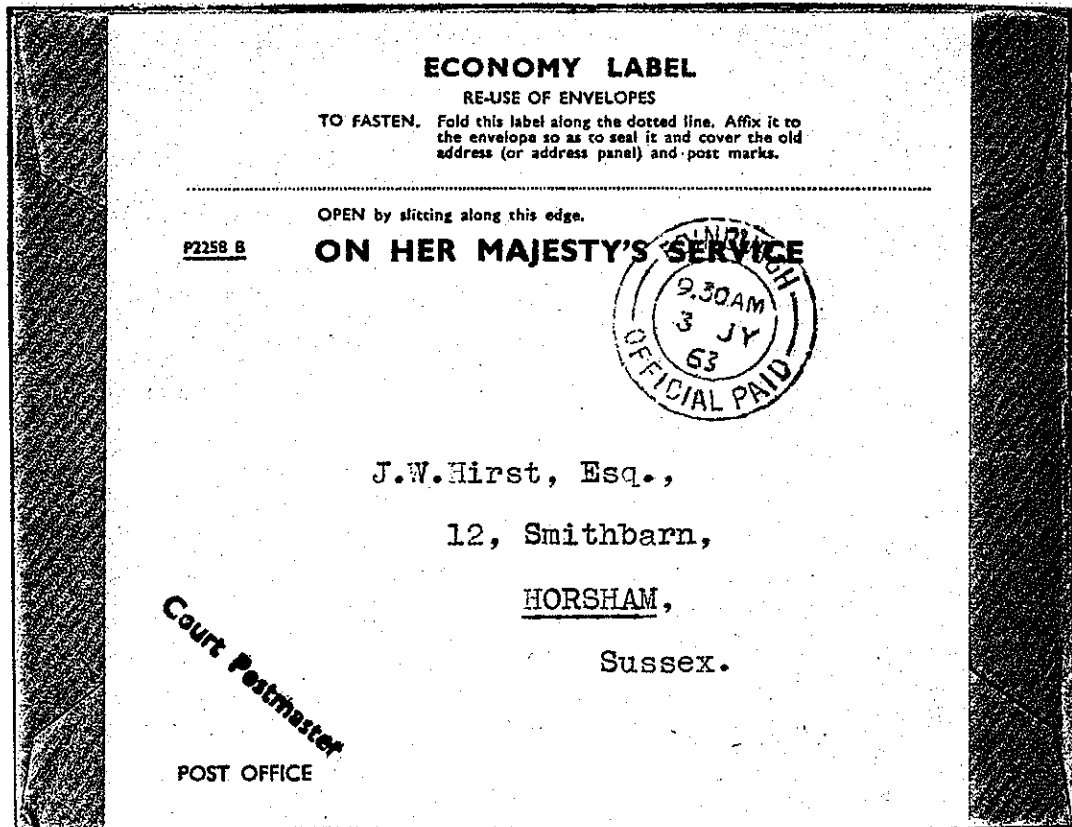


Fig. 2.5

Court Postmaster

Fig. 2.6

- 2.4 OFFICE OF THE/COURT POSTMASTER** triple circle with royal monogram of King George V in centre. Bright magenta ink seen on mail emanating from the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert in 1933.
- 2.5 OFFICE OF THE/(DATE)/COURT POSTMASTER** single circle. Seen 1934 in red/violet on a "Telegrams for Transmission" envelope emanating from Buckingham Palace.
- 2.6 Court Postmaster** straight line unframed. Seen 1963 in violet from Edinburgh.



THE MEMORIAL OF THOMAS COLLIER

On 13 June 1801 a letter to the Treasury partly read:

".... the only Patent place for Life in the Department of the Post Office is that of the Office of Court Post, which in the 10th Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry is stated to be altogether unnecessary; that the Duty may be very properly performed by any of the Messengers in Waiting at the Secretary of States Office, and therefore they (the Joint Postmasters General) were of the opinion that on the Demise or Resignation of the present Patentee this Office ought to be abolished..."

Subsequently in January 1812 the Postmaster General was advised that the Court Post Henry Penton had died via a newspaper report that read:

"Mr Penton's Salary is £2 p. diem or £730 per annum which will be paid to the day of his Death. It was ordered by His Majesty in Council on the 21st June 1793 that the Office of Court Post should be discontinued on the decease of Mr. Penton, and the sum of £730 per annum will consequently fall to the Revenue...."

That April Mr. Thomas Collier (who had been the Deputy Court Post to both Mr. Henry Penton Senior and to his son) presented a Memorial in an attempt to continue the allowance that had been paid to him previously. There then followed a series of fascinating letters back and forth, the contents of which are reproduced here:

To the Right Hble The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury. The
Memorial of Thomas Collier Deputy Court Post

Humbly Herewith,

That His Majesty by his Royal Letters Patent granted unto Henry Penton the Office or place of Post or Courier of all letters and dispatches between His Royal Court and Palace of Residence, and also between the offices of His Majesty's principal Secretary of State, and the first Post Stage or Post Office of Postmaster General, the same to be executed by himself or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies for and during the term of his natural life, with the salary of £2 by the day and all fees, perquisites, rights and privileges.

That your Memorialist has held and enjoyed the situation of Deputy Court

Post until the said Henry Penton and his father (who was his predecessor for upwards of fifty years), received from the said Henry Penton a salary or allowance of £60 per annum: out of which sum he pays £24 per annum to an assistant, whom he has been under the necessity of employing, for several years past, in consequence of an affliction from the effects of a paralytic stroke and other infirmities and that he is 79 years of age.

That the said Henry Penton departed this life on the 15th of January last and your Memorialist has been informed that under the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Patent Office of Court Post at Mr Penton's Death is intended to be abolished.

Your Memorialist therefore humbly prays that your Ldps will be pleased in Consideration of his great age, infirmities, and long and faithful services to continue the same allowance to be paid to him out of the Post Office Revenues, with the same privilege which he received and enjoyed in the lifetime of Mr Penton, or, as in your Ldps wisdom shall deem meet.

and your Memorialist-
(signed) T Collier

16 Winchester Place, Pentonville, 27 January 1812

Winchester Place, 8 April 1812

Sir,

I beg leave to inform you that in January last I presented a Memorial to the Lds Commrs of HM Treasury praying their Ldps would be pleased to continue to me the same allowance as was paid to me by Henry Penton Esq the late Court Post deceased, for acting as his Deputy - and having been informed that their Ldps were pleased to refer the same to the PMG but finding I have omitted in my Memorial to detail the precise duties attached to the situation of Deputy Court Post and actually performed I now take the liberty of enclosing a statement of the same for their Lordships information humbly requesting that it may be taken as part of my Memorial above referred to -

G Harrison Esq

I have the honour
(signed)

Statement of the Duties actually performed for His Majesty's Service by the Deputy Court Post.

To collect all letters or dispatches every evening at about 7 o'clock and on Tuesdays and Fridays twice, once at 7 o'clock as above, and once more between the hours of 11 at night and 5 o'clock next morning - to wait those hours till the dispatches are made up for The Foreign Mail - and then to convey them to the GPO in Lombard Street - The delivery frequently weighing 100lbs and upwards - from the undermentioned Departments:-

Secretary of States' Office - Home Department
- ditto - - Foreign Do
- ditto - - Colonial Do
Alien's Office,
India Board,
First Lord of the Treasury
and Chancellor of the Exchequers' House

Treasury Chambers, 14 April 1812

My Lords,

I am commanded by the Lords Commrs of HM Treasury to transmit to your Ldps a letter from Mr T Collier dated the 8th inst. enclosing a statement on support of his Memorial for a continuance of the same allowance as was paid to him by Mr Penton, the late Court Post, for acting as his Deputy and I am to request you will consider the same and report to my Lords what in your opinion may be yet to be done therein.

His Majesty's
Postmaster General

I am
(signed)
Geo Harrison

21st April 1812

Sir,

Having laid before my Lords the PMG your letter of the 14th inst. transmitting the enclosed letter from Mr T Collier with a Statement in support of his former Memorial for a continuance of the same allowance as was paid to him by Mr Penton, the late Court Post for acting as his Deputy requesting my Lords to consider the same and to report to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury their opinion what may be fit to be done therein - I am commanded by my Lords to acquaint you that upon an attentive consideration of the circumstances stated by Mr Collier he appears to their Lordships to be entitled to the favourable consideration of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

G Harrison Esq
Treasury Chambers

I have the honor
(Initialled)

Treasury Chambers
4 May

My Lords,

The Lords Commr of HM Treasury having considered your letter of 21st ulto on two applications from Thos Collier for a continuance of the same allowance as was paid to him by Mr Penton, the late Court Post for acting as his Deputy - I have it on command to authorise your Lordships to pay Mr Collier an allowance of Thirty Six pounds per annum to commence from the death of Mr Penton.

The Postmaster General

I am
(signed)
Geo. Harrison

SECTION 3 -

GENERAL POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS AND MARKINGS



London. Kensington Palace from Gardens.

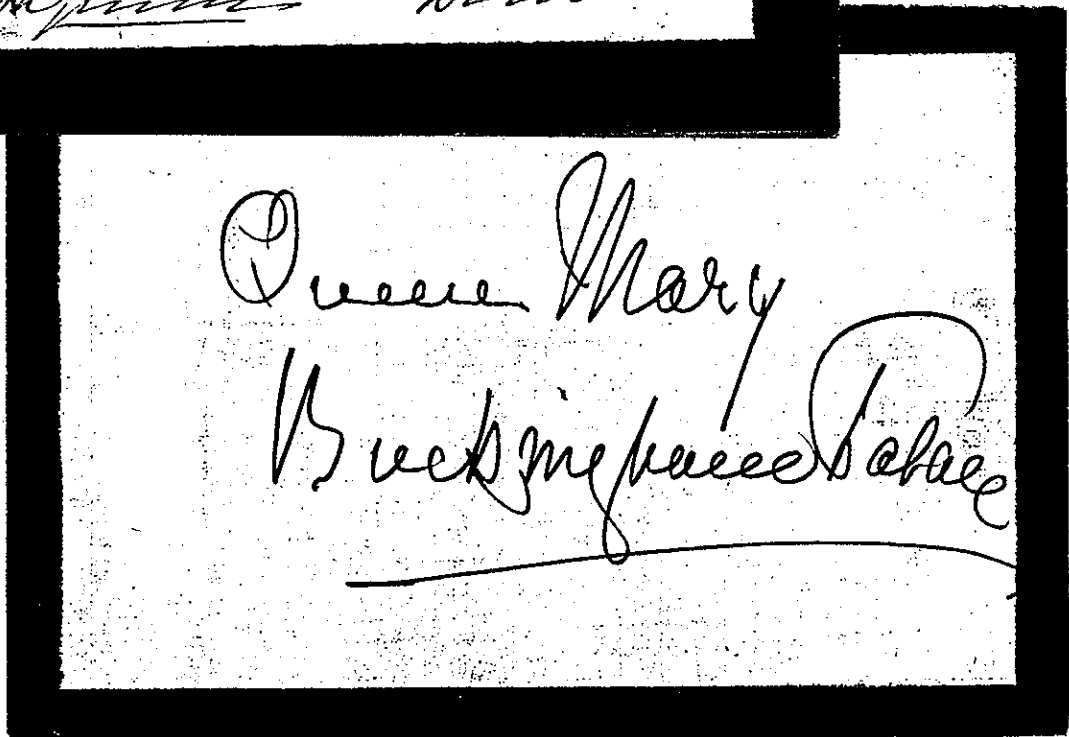
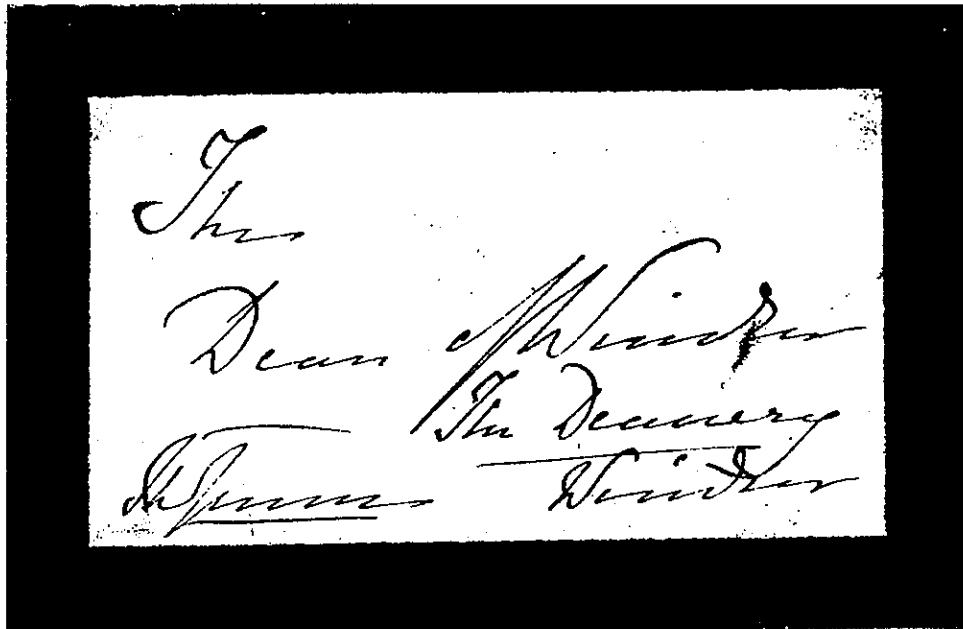


KENSINGTON PALACE

PRIVATELY CARRIED CORRESPONDENCE

Not all mail has always been carried by the Post Office for various reasons including speed and security.

The two examples shown below are firstly a mourning envelope written in the hand of Queen Victoria, signed "The Queen" and bearing, on the reverse, a black wax seal with the royal arms; whilst the second is in the hand of Queen Alexandra again a mourning envelope bearing a Marlborough House imprint on the reverse. Neither cover can be accurately dated as the contents were no longer with the envelopes. They would however, both have been carried by members of the Royal Household or a Royal Postman.



THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE

The franking privilege began during the Commonwealth Period in 1652 for Members of Parliament and Officers of State and Council entitling them to free postage. This included the Sovereign, of course. Over the next 180-odd years there were many abuses as the following Chronology shows:

- 1653 - "For the Service of the Commonwealth" endorsed on letters.
- 1660 - Restoration of Monarchy. Postal revenues reverted to Crown.
- 1660's - Abuses became serious.
- 1693 - Royal Warrant issued in attempt to cut abuses.
- 1703 - Another Act issued as abuses continued.
- 1705 - Act 9 Anne Cap. 10 detailed the regulations.
- 1717 - The Postmasters General complained to Parliament about losses.
- 1734 - Each letter to be totally in hand of writer.
- 1735 - Increased losses reported.
- 1764 - Act 4 Geo. III Cap. 24 issued to prevent fraud and abuses
- 1784 - Members of Parliament told to indicate post town and date of posting. Letters to be posted within 20 miles of town quoted.
- 1795 - Maximum weight for letters reduced from two to one ounce with a maximum of fifteen letters per day.
- 1800's - Government departments escalated causing even more abuses.
- 1837 - General Franking Act 1 Vic. Cap. 32-6 became legislation.
- 1839 - Act 2 and 3 Vic. Cap. 52 enabled privilege to be suspended by Order of Treasury and on 29 December an entry in "The Times" read: "We are happy to be able today to insert the important minute directing the commencement of the Penny Post on January 10th. It will be seen that Her Majesty has given up her Franking Privilege and will use stamps like her Subjects."
- 1840 (10 January) - The privilege of free postage ended. Queen Victoria surrendered her franking rights voluntarily and on 10 August Act 3 and 4 Vic. Cap. 96 endorsed ending of the franking privilege.

The sweeping changes brought about in 1840 by Rowland Hill and his Reforms resulted in a far greater accountability by everybody involved with posting official correspondence and, therefore, less revenue losses.

AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES

INITIALS AND SIGNATURES

The private letters of members of the Royal Family have often (but not always) had an initial or pair of initials or signature in the bottom left hand corner of the envelope to indicate their origin, together with (sometimes) a royal monogram certifying stamp or departmental certifying stamp.

Similar facilities have existed for certain members of the Royal Household.

	<u>Family Member</u>	<u>Initials/Signature Used</u>
A	Queen Victoria	The Queen
B	Prince Albert	A
C	Prince Albert	Albert
D	Edward VII (as Prince of Wales)	AE
E	George V	G
F	Queen Mary	H.M. Queen Mary
G	Queen Mary	The Queen
H	Queen Mary (during widowhood)	M R
I	Edward VIII (when Prince of Wales)	E
J	King George VI	G R
K	Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother	E R
L	Princess Elizabeth	E
M	Queen Elizabeth	E R
N	Princess Margaret	M

Fig. A

Fig. B

Fig. C

Fig. D

Fig. E

Fig. F

Fig. G

Fig. H

Fig. I

Not
Seen

Fig. J

Fig. K

Fig. L



Fig. M



Fig. N

FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

When the Postal Reforms of 1840 came into effect it was necessary for official mail to be endorsed in the bottom left hand corner of the postal item with the signature of a responsible officer of the department concerned, as had been done previously with the franking privilege.

This worked satisfactorily for some considerable time but when the volume of mail posted increased alarmingly the practice of signing each and every letter became a most onerous task. Gradually the use of facsimile signatures came about and the Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse was one who took advantage of this facility. A few copies are known of a facsimile "WL Maberly" handstamp used on franked mail posted in the late 1830's and, although not connected with our story, does prove that this labour-saving idea was not exclusive to the Royal Household.

In 1921 a PMG Minute revealed that the Treasurer of H M Household also certified his letters by means of a facsimile signature.

This method slowly proved to be outdated itself and eventually mail from the Royal Household bore impersonal certifying stamps or royal monogram certifying stamps (depending on the letters origin) or overprinted postage stamps, as the following pages will detail.

*General,
Comptroller to H.M. Queen Alexandra.*

*General,
Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse.*

Facsimile signatures of D W Probyn from two of his Royal Household positions

HOODED CIRCLE "SCROLL" HANDSTAMPS

The so-called "scroll" handstamps incorporating the initials of the reigning Monarch appear to have been introduced for use on mail emanating from the Royal Family and Household. It is, however, fair to say that covers exist bearing these marks that have no "royal" association whatsoever. The Proof Impression Books from King Edward VII's reign onwards do positively link them to the theme of this book and it is just possible that the Victorian cancellers were used on ordinary mail if no other convenient handstamp was to hand, but this has not been proved.

As a result of King Edward VII reviving the franking privilege it was necessary for the Post Office to instigate special regulations for the non-paying account. The Eastern Central District Office and the Official Correspondence Division of the Inland Section received letters from Buckingham Palace every weekday by van service. Two pouches were included - one for the King when at a location other than Buckingham Palace (sent to the OCD) and a second containing pre-paid mail (sent to ECDO) and cancelled by the E.R. scroll handstamp. Non pre-paid mail received the official paid cancellation.



Fig. 3.1



Fig. 3.2



Fig. 3.3



Fig. 3.4



Fig. 3.5

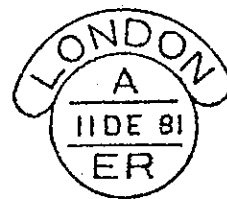


Fig. 3.6

- 3.1 LONDON/V.R. at centre within bars, single circle with hood. Issued to the Circulation Department on 11 July 1882 and to Mount Pleasant Inland Branch on 27 July 1882. Code letters A,B, and C known.

The Mount Pleasant Proof Impression Book reads: "July 26, 1882./ This stamp to be used on Private corres/pondence received in "Official" bags. The/ index letter to be changed hourly. For trial/ only. For this reason the '89' double stamp/ (ie duplex) will be placed out of use for the present,/ withdrawn". The meaning of "withdrawn" is unclear as it could relate either to the '89' or

'VR' stamp. It would not appear to be for exclusive use on Royal Household mail. Seen dated between 26 July and 1 September 1882. Also known on a loose stamp dated 27 February 1893.

- 3.2 LONDON/V.R.** at base, single circle with hood. Two dies were issued to the Circulation Department on 6 November 1882. There is a slight difference of 1mm between the spacing of the "V" and "R" on each die.

There is some doubt in the minds of collectors as to whether this cancellation is always a bona-fide "royal" cancel or merely an official stamp. Without the dots between the V.R. it could possibly have been just a combination of code letters (V equals stamp V used on an evening when R was the serial letter), although this has been disproved as all London "EC" scrolls with two code letters always began with either an A, B, X or Z but never V. Aside from many positive royal examples several copies are known struck on House of Commons envelopes, also Metropolitan Police, War Office and Gladstone envelopes, amongst others. Code letters A,B,C and D known. Also known with an inverted "A" and sideways "B" and "C". Covers known from 1882 to 1901. The Mount Pleasant Proof Impression Book states: "Novbr. 10th 1882. On trial only. No.101 Massey patent withdrawn".

Essays of the coloured paper scheme of 1884 exist in the National Postal Museum Phillips collection (Vol XXXVIII pages 13 and 15) cancelled "4 NO 84". The reason why this particular canceller was provided to De la Rue by the Post Office has not been able to be ascertained.

- 3.3 LONDON/E.R.** at base, single circle with hood. Issued July 1901 to the Eastern Central District Office having been supplied by the Circulation Department on about 3 May 1901. One example seen is dated 18 December 1901 used from York House, St. James's Palace; whilst a second is dated 29 January 1908. Three copies in all known. The Eastern Central Proof Impression Book states: "Used on H.M. the King's Correspondence/ special box". Only code letter "A" known.
- 3.4 LONDON/E.R.** at base and **I.S.** above date, single circle with hood. Issued to the Inland Section on 29 December 1902. No examples recorded. Its intended use is in some doubt until Court mail has been seen but the 1907 Staff Proof Duty Stamping Book states: "Purpose for which used - Correspondence from H. M. The King's Household".
- 3.5 LONDON/G.R.** at base, single circle with hood. Issued on 6 August 1910. No examples recorded. The Eastern Central Proof Impression Book states: "9th August 1910./ A new stamp "The King's" as per specimen impression/ rec'd. from Stores Dept/ & brought into use".
- 3.6 LONDON/E.R.** at base, single circle with hood. Issued to the Eastern Central District Office. Struck in red. One copy known dated during 1981 and recorded by James Mackay in his "Official Mail of the British Isles".

COURT POST "OFFICIAL PAID" CANCELLERS

Early in September 1901 correspondence preserved in the Post Office Archives indicated that: "It has been decided to supply an official paid stamp for use by the Court Telegraphist on certified correspondence from the King and Royal Household and the Secretary will be glad if a special stamp be cut and forwarded with the usual date box to "The Secretary, Establishment Branch" as soon as possible. The stamp should bear the words Official Paid" and a crown." It was: "For use at Windsor, Sandringham, Kings Lynn and in Scotland when the Court is in residence. A record is kept at these offices of the value of the services performed and this record is included in the Chief Office official postage account."



Fig. 3.7

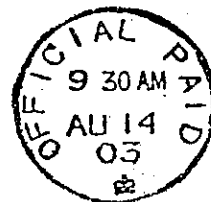


Fig. 3.8



Fig. 3.9



Fig. 3.10

- 3.7 OFFICIAL-PAID/(CROWN)** single circle (hyphen between OFFICIAL and PAID). Issued 26 September 1901 for use at the royal residences. First used at Balmoral. A letter dated 25 October 1901 to the Post Office Secretary by Hiley stated: "The Official Paid stamp I carry with me to the different Royal Palaces". Post Office Proof book states: "Supplied to Mr Landray for Court Telegraphist". Seen 1902-1906. Struck in red ink. A London official paid canceller was issued in the interim.
- 3.8 OFFICIAL PAID/(CROWN)** supplied 13 August 1903 to Aberdeen for use on Balmoral mail. In use between 14 August and 15 September 1903. Skeleton type produced by Alexander Kirkwood and Son of Edinburgh. Returned to Stores at Edinburgh on 16 September 1903. Struck in red ink.
- 3.9 OFFICIAL PAID/(CROWN)** single circle. Seen 1910-1935. Struck in pale red ink. Issued 5 September 1903. The Post Office Proof Book states: "Official Paid stamp for use at Balmoral while the Court is

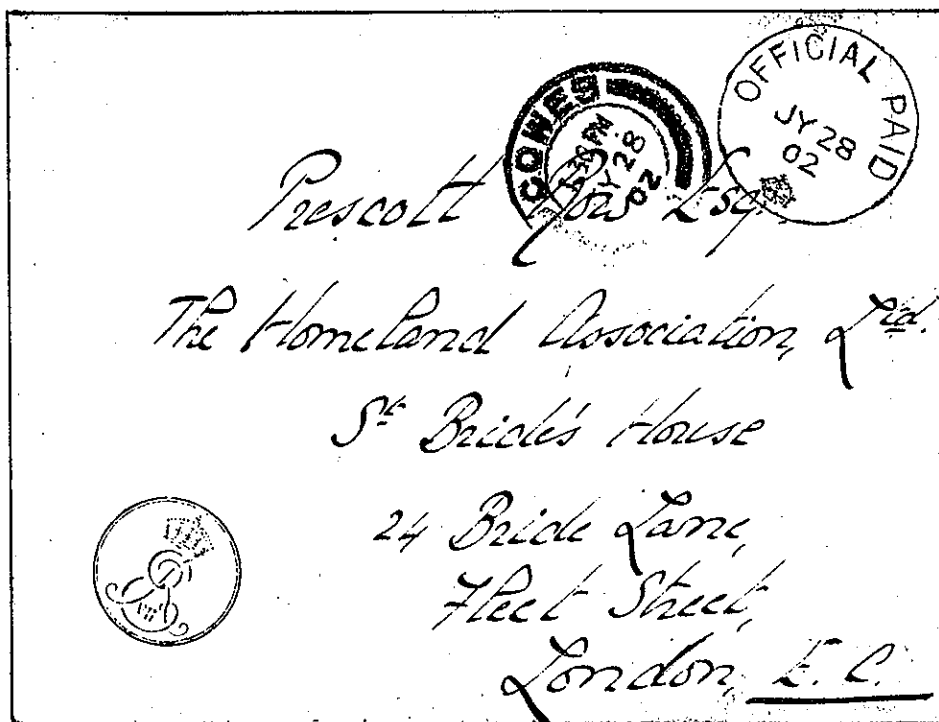
residing there. To Aberdeen. New type box 31424/03".

3.10 OFFICIAL PAID/(CROWN) single circle. Seen 1910. Crown change.

ARTWORK DESIGN FOR OFFICIAL PAID STAMP



Original rough sketch by Mr Hiley



Early usage of first type of official paid cancellation

CERTIFYING STAMPS

The first personal royal monogram certifying stamp was issued for use on King Edward's mail in May 1901 and on 28 August the first certifying stamps were issued for use by certain departments of the Royal Household. All Postmasters were instructed to use official paid cancellations on mail from the King bearing his signature or certifying stamp. Every letter had to be sent free and a record kept. When an official paid canceller was unavailable postage stamps had to be affixed instead. The bill for these stamps could be recovered by using Form "C". For details see the Appendices entry "Instructions Concerning Treatment of "Royal" Mail" on page 168.

ROYAL MONOGRAM CERTIFYING STAMPS

Requested by His Majesty King Edward VII upon his Accession in January 1901 and, as decreed by the Treasury in August, they were intended for use on the Sovereign's private correspondence and letters sent by his staff at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Sandringham House, the Royal Yacht when at Cowes and Balmoral Castle. They were impressed in accordance with the Special Regulation Number 237 relating to the franking privilege.

The Post Office Circular dated Tuesday, 5 February 1901 (Number 1424) was headed "Official Correspondence" and listed all Public Offices that had Official Postage Accounts. The final sentence read: "It is to be understood that letters for His Majesty the King and the Duke of York and Cornwall are to be dealt with in the same manner as Official Correspondence for Government Departments". Later that same year (24 September) an additional section partly read: "...and it has also been arranged that correspondence for the Privy Purse and other Departments of His Majesty's Household should be similarly dealt with".



Fig. 3.11



Fig. 3.12



Fig. 3.13



Fig. 3.14



Fig. 3.15



Fig. 3.16



Fig. 3.17



Fig. 3.18



Fig. 3.19



Fig. 3.20



Fig. 3.21



Fig. 3.22



Fig. 3.23

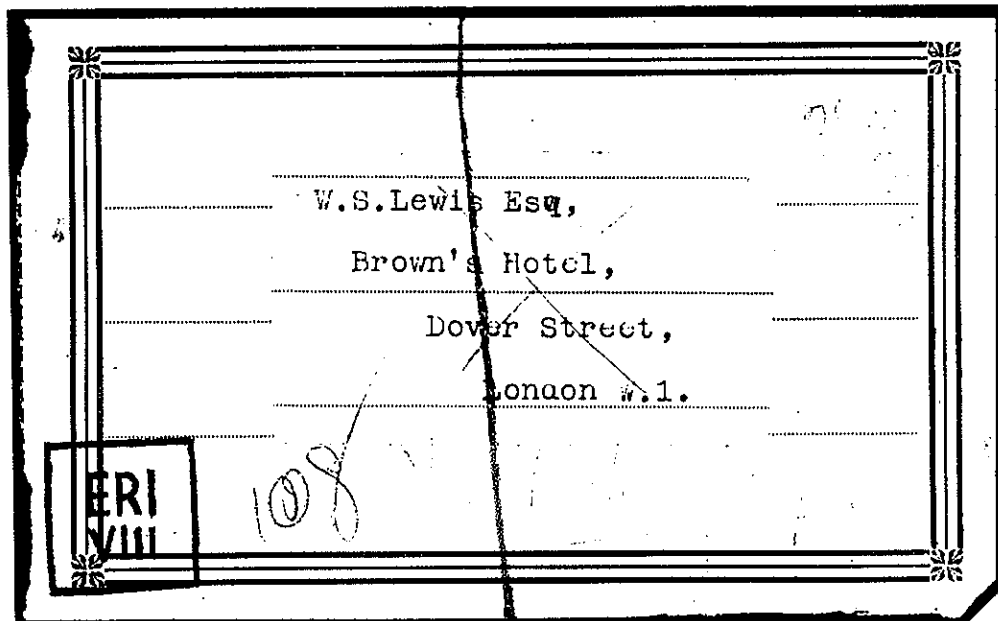
- 3.11** **EVIIR** with Crown in double circle. Design approved by the King on 2 May 1901 and introduced on or about 16 May 1901 and made by His Majesty's Jewellers. Seen 1903. Steel. Six stamps existed by the end of 1901 - two for use by the King, three for the Court Telegraphist and one for Sandringham. A seventh stamp was produced in 1903 for use on the Queen's mail when she was not with the King. The Stamp was kept by the Court Telegraphist when His Majesty was absent and the "Privy Purse" Stamp was used on the Queen's mail when at Windsor Castle. There was not a problem when at Buckingham Palace.
- 3.12** **EVIIR** with Crown in double circle. Type II.
- 3.13** **GVR** with Crown in double circle. Introduced September 1910. Seen 1926. Four stamps were supplied.
- 3.14** **ERI/VIII** without Crown in rectangular box. Introduced 1936. Based on a design sketched by KEVIII early on in his reign, the I of ERI indicates Edward Rex Imperator - Emperor of India. Seen 1936. Eight stamps were supplied for use at Sandringham, Windsor, Balmoral, Fort Belvedere, the Court Post Office at Buckingham Palace (two copies), one for use when travelling plus one in reserve for occasional loan to Lord Wigam. (He was Private Secretary to King George V and Equerry to King Edward VIII.)
- 3.15** **GRI/VI** with Crown in double circle. Introduced 1937. Incorrect cipher. Small size circle. King George VI made known his concern regarding the inaccurate design and arranged for the I to be removed. 12 copies were supplied to Sandringham, Balmoral, Buckingham Palace, Privy Purse, Lord Wigam, St James's Palace, Marlborough House, Windsor Castle, Travelling and Reserve (3). 19mm circle.
- 3.16** **GRI/VI** with Crown in double circle. Introduced 1938. Incorrect cipher. Larger sized circle. Used on mail from Her Majesty Queen Mary in her widowhood. Different typeface used. 20mm circle.
- 3.17** **GRI/VI** with Crown in double circle. Incorrect cipher. Very thick

lettering. 22mm circle.

- 3.18** GVIR with Crown in double circle. Introduced 1938 (28 June). Replaced above GRI/VI markings. Seen 1939-1950.
- 3.19** E with Coronet in double circle. In 1947 a PMG Minute referred to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and raised the question of free postage for the royal couple and, more interestingly, item 2 states: "Separate certifying stamp (Coronet with "E" underneath)". The marking is detailed in the Proof Impression Book and the text quoted reads: "Clarence House, SW1 /H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH. ENTERED 27/4/1949." Then below that is a copy of the correct cipher GVIR marking with text reading: "The Certifying Stamp "E" surmounted by a Coronet, previously notified as the authorised certification stamp to be used by HRH Princess Elizabeth at her residence at Clarence House, SW1, has been withdrawn from use, and replaced by the stamp "GRVI". Entered 25/7/49". It is clear therefore that the marking had only a three month life-span.

When Princess Elizabeth was a child she had a favourite bag that she would carry around with her and this, too, depicted a Coronet and "E" motif.

- 3.20** EIIR with Crown in double circle. Introduced about 25 June 1952. Seen 4 July 1952 up to 1981. 20mm circle.
- 3.21** EIIR with Crown in double circle. Seen 1970 to 1977. 22mm circle.
- 3.22** EIIR with Crown in single circle. Seen 1981 in violet and 1988 in violet. 23mm circle.
- 3.23** EIIR with Crown in single circle. Seen 1988 in violet. 20mm circle.



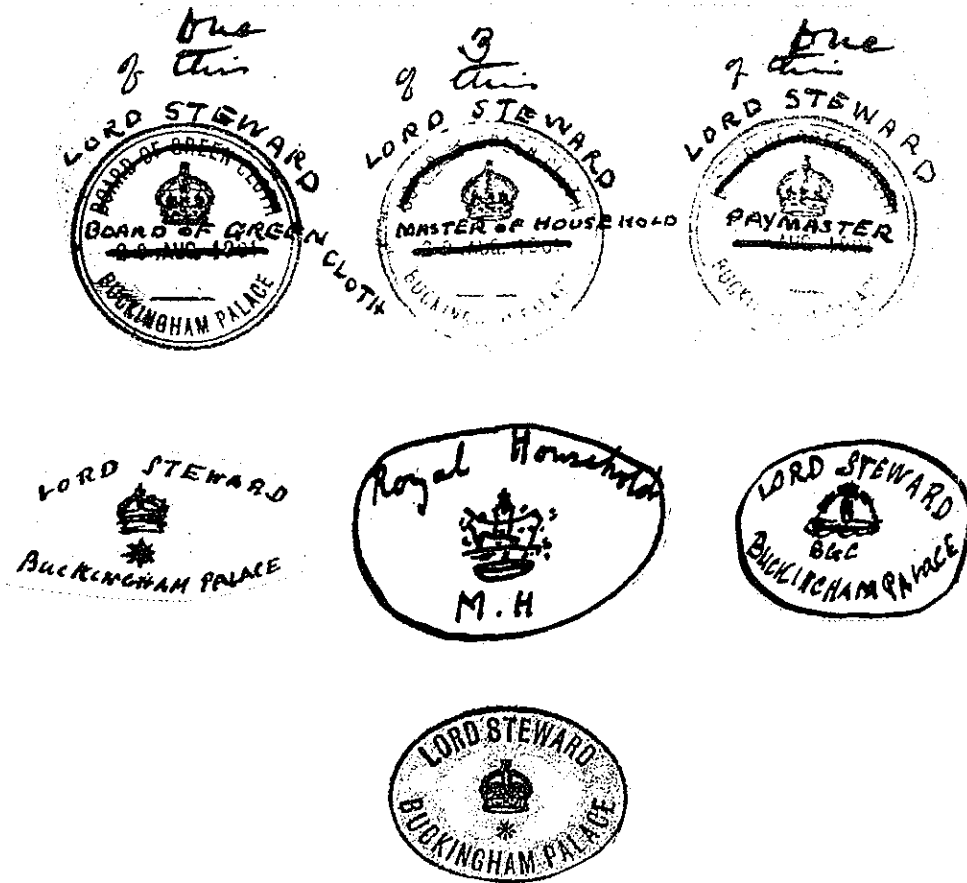
Parcel Post label from KEVIII's short reign

Various slight differences exist between the above royal monogram certifying stamps, such as minute changes in size or the type crown used, but they are of little significance.

DEPARTMENTAL CERTIFYING STAMPS

It was intended that the use of certifying stamps should also extend to the business correspondence of the Privy Purse Office and the Household departments of the Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward and Master of the Horse. To this end three rubber stamps worded "Royal Household" and numbered 1, 2 and 3 were manufactured for the Post Office but following strong complaints about the impersonal nature of the markings they were not issued. Similar experiments using stars in place of numerals were also produced but not proceeded with. At the suggestion of the Secretary to the Board of Green Cloth new designs incorporating the letters BGC, MH, PH, RC and RL were prepared. His letter partly read: "(The inclusion of) "Lord Steward, Buckingham Palace" on all of these would shew that they are all under the one department - but anything could be traced by means of these letters."

These may be found listed under the relevant residence where used, together with all subsequent departmental certifying stamps.



Original designs for departmental certifying stamps

OVERPRINTED POSTAGE STAMPS

Prior to 1882 (when the first overprinted stamps were issued to Inland Revenue Offices) many government offices and departments were purchasing from their local Post Office supplies of postage stamps for use on their outgoing mail. It is clear that some of this stock was being "liberated" by employees for use on their own post and so, gradually, stocks of the then current definitives were overprinted and requisitioned by authorised officials as and when required.

Great care must be exercised by collectors who contemplate purchasing overprinted British postage stamps as forgeries abound. Purchasers should ensure that a recognised Certificate of Expertisation accompanies the item.

ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

In 1902 stamps of King Edward VII were overprinted in black by Thomas de la Rue "R.H./OFFICIAL" for use by more distant offices of the Royal Household. These included the Examiner of Plays, the Inspector of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Buckingham Palace, the Housekeepers at Windsor Castle and Frogmore, Gentlemen of the Royal Cellars, Paymaster of the Royal Households and the Royal Laundry at Richmond. They were issued on 19 February (one penny in scarlet) and 29 April (one half-penny in blue-green).



Half Penny
Stamp

R.H.

OFFICIAL

Overprint
Used



One Penny
Stamp

GOVERNMENT PARCELS

It is known that Mr Hiley maintained stocks of Government Parcel stamps for issue to whosoever needed them at Buckingham Palace. Examples of the 2d and 9d values have been seen on a parcel post label used at Buckingham Palace (see section four, page 71). It was necessary for all departments to use these overprinted stamps so it is obvious that some other copies used on piece might exist hidden away in a collection unidentified. The 1d, 2d, 6d, 9d and 1s KEVII stamps were thus overprinted, although whether Mr Hiley maintained all values is unclear.

They were issued to departments for use on parcels in excess of three pounds in weight. Those parcels under that weight were treated as if they were ordinary letters thereby avoiding the railway company payment that would otherwise have been due. (Parliament had decreed that fifty-five per cent of the postage due on the parcel should be paid to the railway).

ROYAL STATIONERY

Going back over the years members of the Royal Family would have written their letters on parchment or plain sheets of paper which would have been folded in such a way as to conceal the contents and be sealed with wax. An impression of the royal coat of arms or some similar device would then be impressed into the wax whilst still maleable and the addressee details would be written on the front. This was prior to the use of the envelopes that we all take for granted today.

When Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee she was staggered to receive 100,000 letters and cards of good wishes from her loyal subjects. Her Private Secretary was faced with the gigantic task of replying to them all and it is amazing that with so much mail emanating from the Household that more items of "royal" mail have not survived.

Gradually the use of printed stationery came about and it is intended that this section of the book should detail a few of the various types seen by the author. It does not claim completeness but does give an indication of changing styles over the years. The letter headings by their very nature are large and have therefore been reduced by varying percentages.

There is a Page of the Presence who has, amongst other duties, to ensure that there are always stocks of the stationery on the desks of the Household Officers and the Queen.

The famous red crested stationery used to be supplied by Waterlow's but these days it is printed in New Bond Street, London by the firm of Frank Smythson Limited.

Used envelopes received at the royal residences are no longer destroyed but are kept for internal mail purposes.

ENVELOPE FLAPS



York Cottage.
Sandringham.



Marlborough House,
Pall Mall. S.W.

LETTER HEADINGS



Memorandum

FROM

The Queen,

Sandringham,

Norfolk.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE



BUCKINGHAM PALACE



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Telephone 01-930 4832

Court Postmaster's Office.

Earl Marshal's Office,
3, Cleveland Row,
S.W.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE,
3, CLEVELAND ROW,
S.W.

Sandringham,
Norfolk.


Buckingham Palace.


WINDSOR CASTLE



GLAMIS CASTLE

22, FRIARY COURT,
ST. JAMES'S PALACE,
LONDON, SW1A 1BJ

CROWN ESTATE OFFICE
THE GREAT PARK,
WINDSOR, BERKS SL4 2HT.



ASCOT OFFICE, ST JAMES'S PALACE. SW1A 1BP

ROYAL MOURNING

When a member of the Royal Family dies there is a period of mourning, as one would expect. As far as effects on the postal service go there are not normally any noticeable changes. However, the stationery used by the Royal Household and Family has, by tradition, had a black border around the edge as a mark of respect, which continues to this day.

If the Sovereign dies the official period of mourning is six months into the new reign; whilst for lesser members it is a personal matter and the period varies.

The use of mourning stationery can be traced back to the reign of King George III and was extensively used from the following reign onwards. Until 1840 letter postage was based on the number of sheets plus the distance that the mail had to travel and so envelopes did not find favour until about 1854 when postal revisions came into effect. It took a couple of years or so for the old habit of using a folded letter sheet to die out. The early envelopes were generally ungummed and so the traditional waxed seal continued in use for some considerable time.

Black-edged stationery, be it envelopes or letter headings, is used only by government departments when the Sovereign dies and has also been known to be used in the Colonies and Dominions in the earlier part of this century.

As a guide for readers there is detailed below the dates of death of our King's and Queen's since George III (for convenience there is also included Prince Albert) and the approximate time that mourning ceased when known.

<u>Ruling Monarch</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>End of Mourning</u>
George III	29 Jan 1820	
George IV	26 Jne 1830	
William IV	20 Jne 1837	
Prince Albert	14 Dec 1861	See below
Victoria	22 Jan 1901	July 1901
Edward VII	06 May 1910	November 1910
George V	20 Jan 1936	July 1936
George VI	06 Feb 1952	August 1952

In 1861 very deep black bands appeared around all envelopes following the death of Prince Albert which were to gradually get narrower over the years. Queen Victoria was never to get over the death of her "beloved Albert".

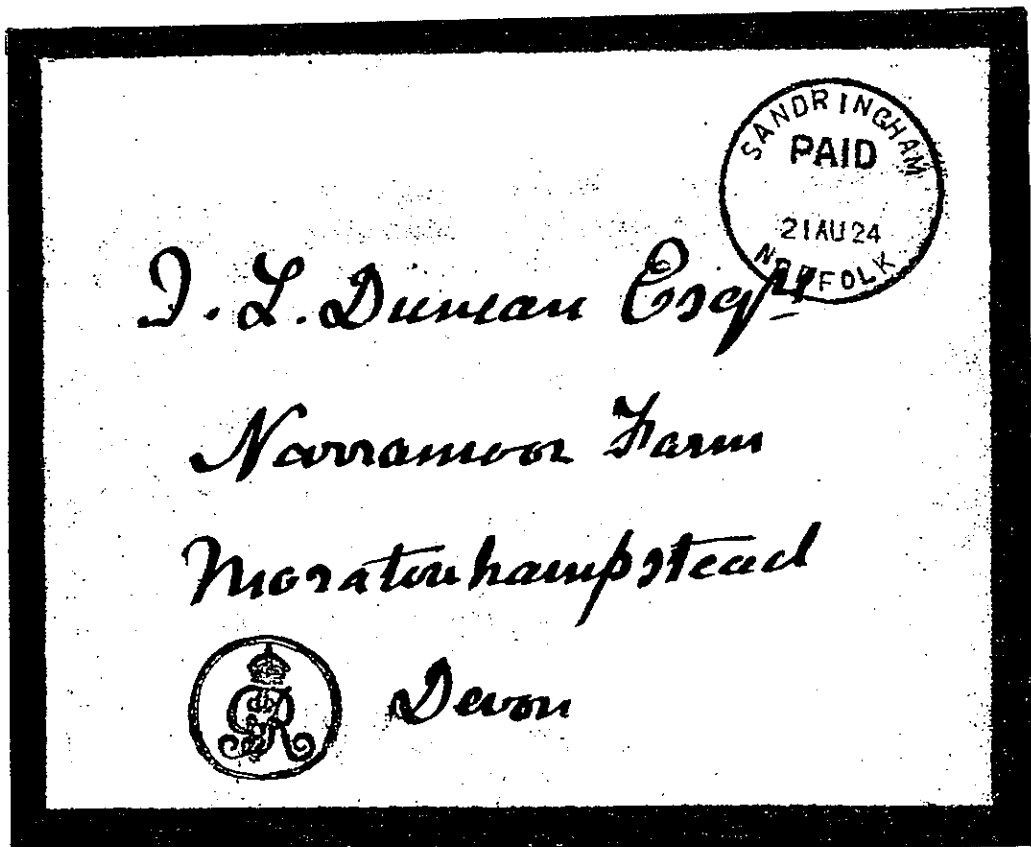
In 1901 the Earl Marshal had the franking privilege granted to him for letters and telegrams relating to the funeral of Queen Victoria. During 1936 free postal and telephone facilities were given to Queen Mary during her widowhood.

It is not uncommon for the royal monogram certifying stamp of the deceased Monarch to be used into the new reign. This is not out of respect, but merely because new rubber stamps are not held in readiness. They have to

be designed and produced following the death. Certifying stamps of the Household departments, with one or two exceptions, do not need to be altered although when replacements are needed the crown is generally changed to that of the current Sovereign.

As the Royal Family tended to be quite large in earlier reigns it has been suggested that they must have been in almost constant mourning.

The width of the black borders have varied over the years and apparently there is no significance in this aspect of mourning.

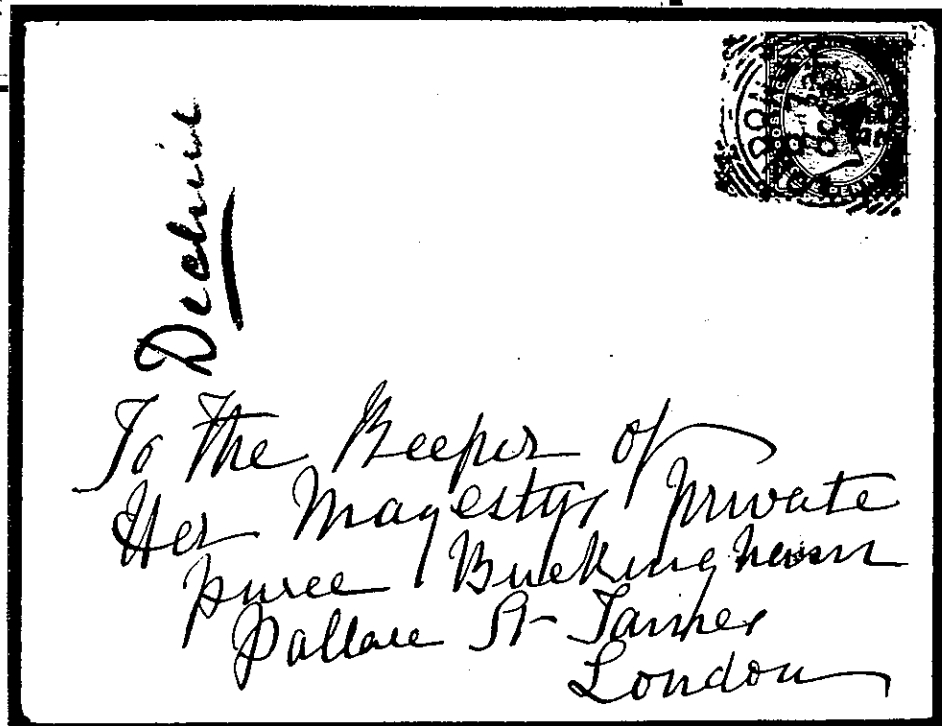
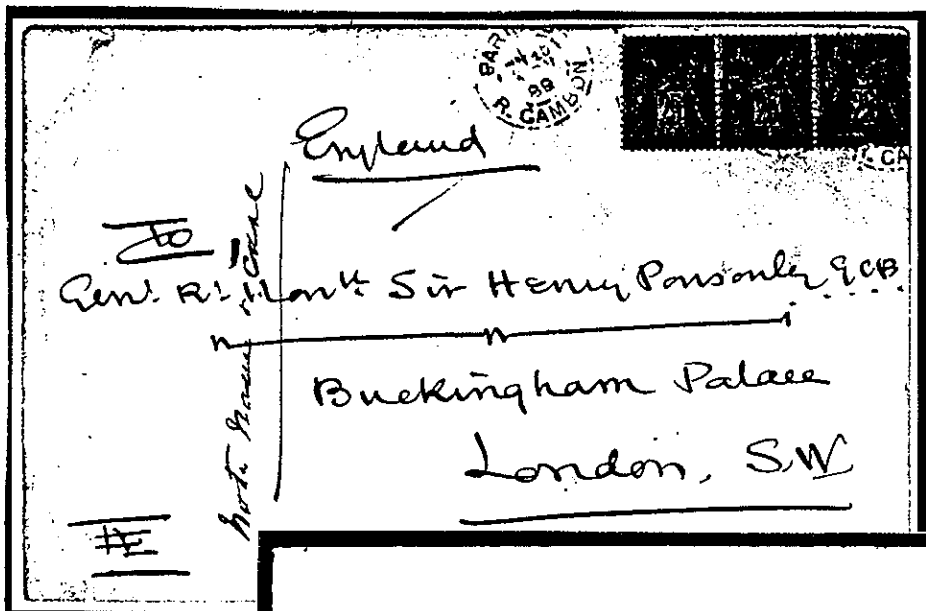


A typical mourning cover from the 1920's

INWARD BOUND MAIL

Mail destined for the Royal Palaces is far scarcer to come by than mail emanating from them as security arrangements in force would normally ensure their destruction at the residence.

There are however, two such items illustrated below. The first (bottom cover) is addressed to the Keeper of the Private (sic) Purse and is dated 1889. It bears the word "decline" in the hand of Sir Henry Ponsonby, Queen Victoria's Private Secretary, and probably contained a begging letter. The second item (top cover) is to Sir Henry in the hand of Albert Edward, then Prince of Wales and subsequently King Edward VII.



TELEGRAMS AND TELEMESSAGES

When the telegram service was introduced in 1870, the Royal Family were quick to take advantage of this new facility. Any messages in the hand of the Sovereign would never pass beyond the Court Telegraph operator.

Eventually, with the spread of the telephone their usefulness came to an end and in 1981 the service was finally scrapped in favour of telemessages.

TELEGRAMS

In 1890 a special account was opened for use by the Duke of Edinburgh for the despatch of telegrams whilst at Devonport. Telegrams despatched by Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family were given "priority" treatment from 1898 and abbreviated telegraph addresses were allocated in 1901, namely "MARL" London for His Majesty The King, and "KROY" London for The Prince of Wales.

The number of telegrams passing through the Central Telegraph Office on the 1st February 1901 regarding the funeral of Queen Victoria amounted to 199,155 exceeding by 4,000 the record held for her Diamond Jubilee.

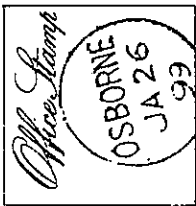
The birth of HRH Prince Andrew in 1960 brought forth 5,000 telegrams all of which were dealt with by the Court Postmaster and his staff.

ROYAL TELEMESSAGES

As in the days of the telegram a telemessage is delivered to all those people attaining the age of one hundred and for those couples celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary. They are delivered in a window envelope worded "[B.T. logo] Telemessage/British Telecom transmitted this Telemessage electronically/to a Royal Mail Sorting Centre near you for delivery today". At the top right is a boxed postage paid impression reading "1/Postage Paid/Great Britain/PHQ413", whilst at the bottom of the envelope is a large sticker bearing a crown within an oval and the words "FROM THE QUEEN".

Accompanying the Royal Telemessage is a slip reading:

"This is a Royal Telemessage for delivery
..... Special instructions
exist about reporting this item. Please
hand to the officer in charge of the
Delivery Office. It should be recorded on
Form P413 and its arrival reported to the
Court Postmaster on 01-930 4832 between
0930 and 1100 (Monday-Friday) and 0800 -
0900 (Saturday)."



AG
D



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Counter No. 695

Foreign No.

Handed over
to Public Comptroller
at

Government Telegram

To be forwarded by the
best route available

I Certify that this Telegram is sent on the
business of the Post Office
Signature

For use of Post Office

Prefix Code Sent at To By me	OSBORNE JA 26 99	No. of Chargeable Words (If in Cyphers) No. of Plain Words Cyphers	OSBORNE	OSBORNE	Charges Telegram Repetition Acknowledgment Reply Extra Copies Re-direction Special Charges Total	L S d
Service Instructions AS TO ROUTE		No. of Chargeable Words (If in Cyphers) No. of Plain Words Cyphers		Charges Telegram Repetition Acknowledgment Reply Extra Copies Re-direction Special Charges Total		L S d
Counterman to sign here		OSBORNE		Charges Telegram Repetition Acknowledgment Reply Extra Copies Re-direction Special Charges Total		L S d

The Name and Address of the Sender, if to be telegraphed, must be written at the end of the Telegram.

TO { Lord Chamberlain
London

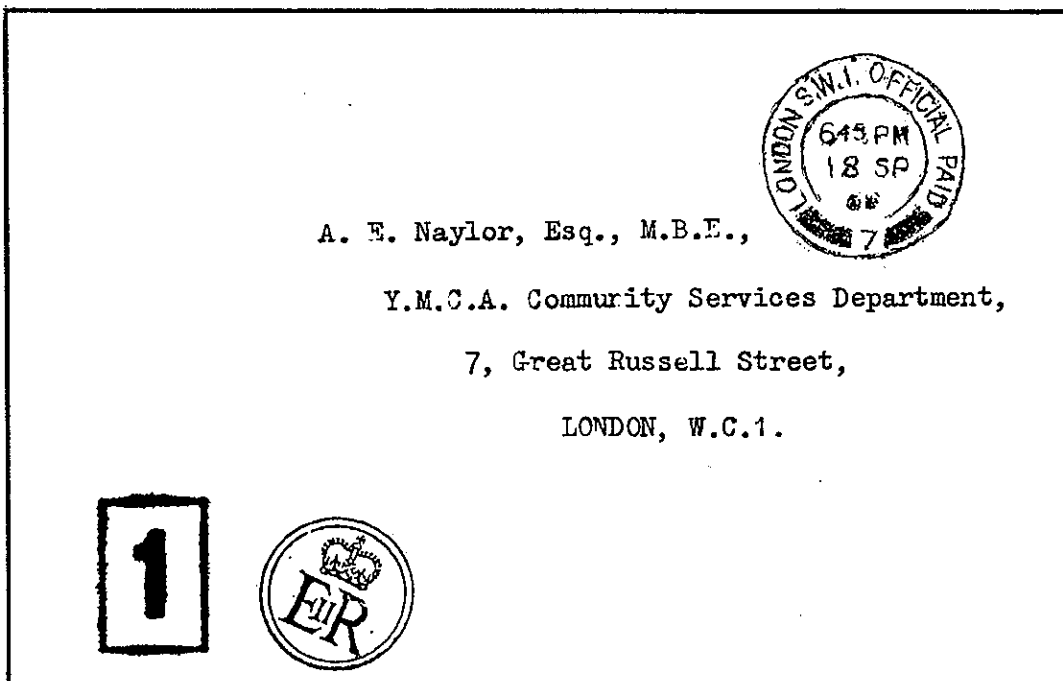
TWO-TIER POSTAL SERVICE

On 16 September 1968 a two-tier postal system was established by the British Post Office that was also to affect all "royal" postings. It brought about a first and second class mail service where letters had to be identified by some means prior to posting. First class was intended for urgent items supposedly guaranteeing next day delivery; whilst second class was for less important mail and delivery therefore took longer.

Consequently, a system utilising a boxed "1" handstruck cachet was introduced for first class letters. Lack of the numeric "1" signified second class. The Royal Household obviously considers all of its mail to be urgent as the writer has only seen a couple of covers without the first class indicator.



Various examples of different sizes and type faces are shown above but the illustrations do not claim, or intend, to be complete, as every officer and department uses varying types and, being rubber, they do not last long. New stamps are requisitioned from H.M.S.O. Stores at Norwich as and when required.



Cover posted just after two-tier introduction

SECTION 4 -

LAND BASED RESIDENCES



PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

ABERGELDIE CASTLE

Built by the Gordon family in about 1560, the Castle was leased to Queen Victoria and is currently a residence of the Queen Mother.

A Post Office was sited in a ground floor room loaned by the Housekeeper and was staffed by members of the Aberdeen Post Office. It operated for a mere two hours on the 20 August 1955 from 3pm to 5pm (according to the "Manchester Guardian" newspaper) on the occasion of a Saturday afternoon fete and sale in aid of a new vestry at Crathie church. Cards and envelopes were sold to the public by Princess Anne and Prince Charles at two shillings (10p) each.

Thousands of articles which had been given to the sale were sold by Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family and by the end of the afternoon about half of all letters and parcels posted had been despatched to overseas addresses. Over £2,000 was raised.

CANCELLATIONS

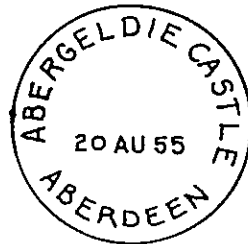


Fig. 4.1

- 4.1 **ABERGELDIE CASTLE/ABERDEEN** single circle skeleton made by Alexander Kirkwood and Son of Edinburgh. Supplied by and returned for dismantling to Aberdeen. Used 20 August 1955 only.

REGISTRATION LABELS



ABERGELDIE/CASTLE/ABERDEEN "7" seen 20 August 1955. Produced in sheets rouletted all round.

ANMER HALL

The Hall was built in the first Elizabethan period having become a royal residence in 1972. It is situated in Norfolk on the Sandringham Estate.

Until recently the Duke and Duchess of Kent lived there but no special postal facilities existed for them. At the time of writing this book the Prince and Princess of Wales were believed to be interested in moving in to the Hall.

BADMINTON HOUSE

Badminton House was built in the 17th century and is the home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort. Famous for its horse trials, the Beaufort Hunt and the game of Badminton.

During world war two Her Majesty Queen Mary was evacuated to the House to avoid the London blitz and mail bearing the GVIR royal monogram certifying stamp exists postmarked at Bristol or Chippenham. Also registered mail utilising the "BADMINTON" registration label is known (see section six, page 140).

BALMORAL CASTLE

First used as a royal residence in the 1850's, it was built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Mainly occupied during August by the Royal Family for the shooting season.

In 1853 letters were dealt with by the Sergeant Footman and the sealed bags were made-up by him. An Express Mail Cart service began between Aberdeen and Balmoral for the conveyance of Her Majesty's correspondence during the period of her Scottish visit at the rate of 35s (£1.75) per day - 4s (20p) less than previously. From 1855 the cost of conveying Her Majesty's mail by Express Cart rose frequently, i.e 1855 £1:15s:0d (£1.75), 1856 £1:17s:0d (£1.85), 1857 £2, 1859 to 1865 £3:2s:6d (£3.12 1/5). In 1872 the payment for the weekly service was discontinued.

Postal facilities were provided by Aberdeen Post Office staff from 1874 and

the Queen was given a private telephone extension to a room within the Castle in 1876. Mr Edney of Southampton was sent to assist as Telegraphist during the Queen's stay and in 1883 a Wheatstone Receiver (tape telegraph) was provided.

Letters for the Castle were despatched on the 12:20pm train from Aberdeen in lieu of the 10:10am from 1886. In 1887 the sum of £33:15s:00d (£33.75) was due for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mail between 21 May and 16 June from Ballater to Balmoral. The money was paid through the Departmental account at the Bank of England, and amounted to £1:5s:0d (£1.25) per day. Preliminary arrangements had been made with Innkeepers for a road service throughout between Aberdeen and Balmoral but these plans were countermanded. An officer of the Post Office travelled in charge of the despatches from London (Euston) to Carlisle from where he transferred them to the custody of the Sorters in the Travelling Post Office as far as Aberdeen. On arrival there special trains were required on week days between Aberdeen and Ballater and the mails were then placed under the control of an officer of the Scottish Post Office specially detailed for the service. He then accompanied the mail on the final leg of its journey to Balmoral. The 11:00 train from Euston was not a mail train between Euston and Carlisle, so the Post Office official travelled in a separate second class compartment taking the despatches with him. In view of the great importance attached to Her Majesty's mails it was not considered appropriate for him to travel with other passengers.

The contract that the Post Office had negotiated with the London and North Western Railway Company permitted employees to travel free of charge, but in view of the great value placed upon seats on this run a deal was struck between the Post Office and the LNWR whereby the second class fare was paid. This cost £7:6s:10d (£7.34) per week, together with the Railway fare between London and Carlisle for a return fare of £3:4s:0d (£3.20). Eventually it was decided to convey the Queen's Messenger gratis provided that he did not "monopolise" more than a single seat in a second class carriage. Her Majesty always sent boxes, etc., back by Messenger so if he had no bags or boxes the Railway Company would be entitled to charge for the ride.

A Telegraphist was employed as an Assistant and received the sum of 5s (25p) subsistence allowance in 1894. Two years later consideration was given to opening a Post Office within the Castle for about four months per year when the Queen was in residence but it was considered unnecessary. Instead, an Accelerated Day Mail Service was laid on during the Summer months by Queen's Conveyance from Braemar to Aberdeen. However, by February 1904 a Post Office was being maintained within Balmoral. Indeed, a Memorandum regarding "The Duties of the Court Telegraphist at Balmoral" was submitted to the Secretary of the Post Office and detailed duties undertaken by Mr Hiley. It read: "At Balmoral Mr Hiley may be said to be always on duty, his bedroom is attached to the Telegraph Instrument Room so that he may be called up any hour of the night. From 6am to 10pm his time is fully occupied with postal and telegraph duties. A mail reaches Balmoral at 6:15am he must be on duty to receive it, and the correspondence for The King, guests and Household, is called for from 7:30am to 9am - second mail arrives at 11am - first despatch leaves at 3pm - a record is kept of all Despatch Boxes sent and received this takes considerable time. The second despatch closes at 10pm - except for letters from The King which

cannot be obtained until His Majesty retires (usually at 12:40am) this mail is then sealed and handed to a member of the Met. Police who delivers it to mail gig drivers passing about 4:45am. The Assistant does this late mail. Almost daily His Majesty or some member of the Household sends for Mr Hiley to give postal information. The Instrument Room is separate from P.O. and counter and excepting short intervals for meals continuous attendance must be given."

Stamps and postal orders were obtained on credit from Aberdeen Head Post Office but money orders were not required. The Post Office was listed for the first time in the Post Office Guide of July 1909 and in 1911 an allowance was paid to a Watchman for conveyance of the Bag to Crathie during the residence of the Court. Ten years later a new telephone switchboard was installed.

A Circular issued by the London Postal Region (Circulation and Transport Division) on 1st August 1947 went into details of the visit by Their Majesties, The King and Queen and Suites to Balmoral Castle from 8th August. It was agreed that the Captain of the King's Flight would arrange for the King's mail to be flown by helicopter between Dyce Airport and the Castle, as was done in 1946, all arrangements being made by the RAF and not the Post Office.

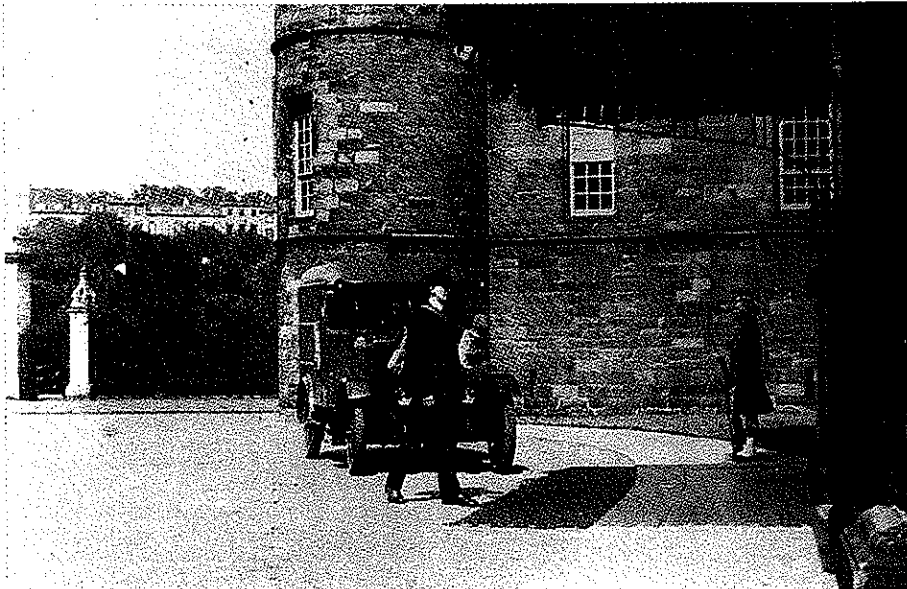
Aeroplanes left RAF Benson at 5:00am daily and return flights were made to London Heathrow arriving at 1:45pm. Mails were made-up the night before at Buckingham Palace at 9:15pm. addressed to "The Court Postmaster, Balmoral Castle" and were conveyed to Paddington Station by SWDO official motor van (accompanied by a Postman from the Palace) whereupon they were placed on the Great Western TPO Down (10:10pm train ex Paddington) under the personal care of the Officer in Charge. At Reading the mail was handed to an officer of Reading GPO for conveyance to the NCO of the Guard Room at Benson Airport at 11:45pm. From that point the Royal Air Force were in charge and conveyed the mail to Dyce Airport, for onward transmission by helicopter direct to Balmoral. The return arrangements involved the Court Postmaster making-up the mails in the morning addressed to "Buckingham Palace P.O.". A special motor van supplied by SWDO would meet the aircraft at Heathrow, collect the mail from the Marshalling Superintendent's Office and convey it direct to the Palace and accompanied once more by a Postman guard.

Many flights were cancelled and road deliveries were necessary, mainly due to adverse weather conditions. "The Times" for 29th September 1947 described the trials as an "outstanding success" but no one else would appear to have agreed as correspondence preserved in Post Office Archives indicates that deliveries to Balmoral were made more expeditiously when motor vans were used! A saving of some 15 minutes was frequently made with the added advantage of delivery straight to the door of the Post Office, whereas the helicopter landed on the cricket pitch and an engineering van had to stand by to transport the mail on the final leg of its journey. Additionally, only three bags of mail (150lbs) could be carried, the balance arriving later by RAF tender from Dyce. All this coupled with problems of a mechanical nature, forced landings, helicopter damage, etc. meant that helicopters do not appear to have been utilised again for the carriage of "royal" mail until 1985 when HRH The Prince Charles flew a helicopter of the Queen's Flight with commemorative covers on board to

celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Post Office at Bagshot Park.

On 12 August 1947 a flight by helicopter was made between Dyce Airport and Balmoral Castle by two Royal Air Force S51's piloted by Flight Lt. E.B. Trubshaw and A.J. Lee. The return trip was also made. Commemorative covers were cancelled with the Balmoral Castle single ring cancellation. When King George VI made his first royal visit to Balmoral an average of 15 bags of mail inward were received daily.

Despite Queen Elizabeth II being the first Elizabeth of Scotland, the royal monogram certifying stamp "EIIR" is used at Balmoral Castle. Mail these days bears the royal monogram certifying stamp together with either a Ballater or Balmoral official paid cancellation in red when the Court is in residence. At other times a meter marking is used.



Postman delivering to Balmoral, 1930's

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.2



Fig. 4.3



Fig. 4.4



Fig. 4.5

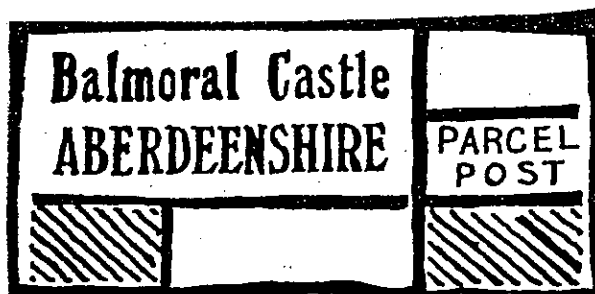


Fig. 4.6



Fig. 4.7



Fig. 4.8

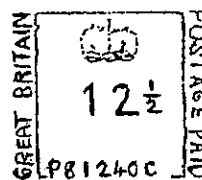


Fig. 4.9

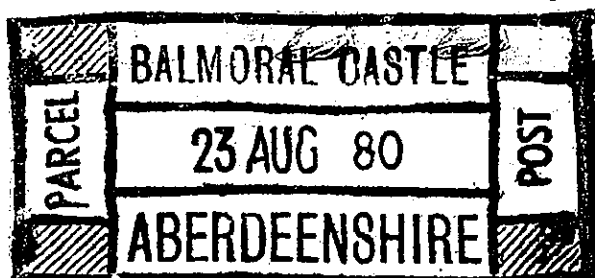


Fig. 4.10

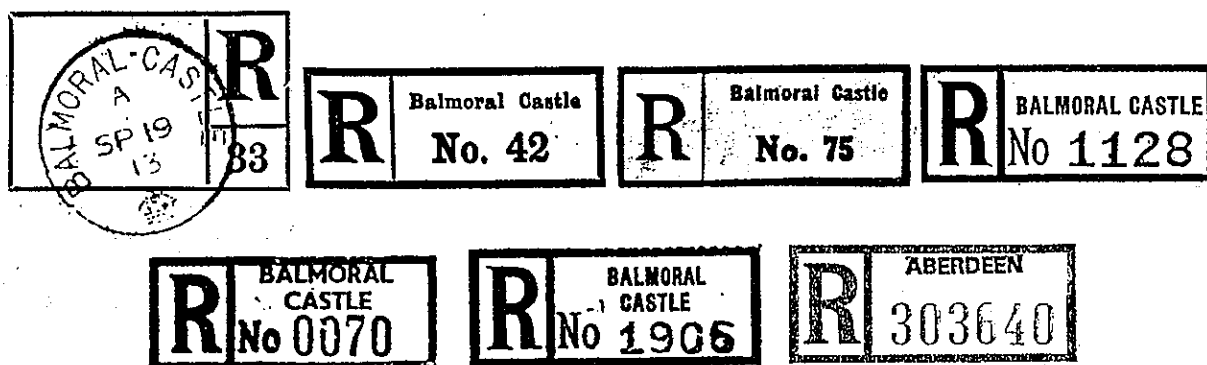


Fig. 4.11

- 4.2 **BALMORAL** single circle thimble with code letter **P**. Issued 28 March 1870 for telegraphic use. Post Office Proof Book states: "Issued to Windsor Castle".
- 4.3 **BALMORAL** single circle. Issued 12 August 1903 and returned to Stores on 17 August 1903. Temporary skeleton handstamp made by Alexander Kirkwood and Son of Edinburgh. The Post Office Proof Book states: "Balmoral to Aberdeen. Clocktime".
- 4.4 **BALMORAL-CASTLE/(CROWN)** single circle. Found with code letters **A,B,C** or blank. Seen 1911 to 1960's.
- 4.5 **OFFICIAL PAID/BALMORAL CASTLE** single circle. Issued September 1938. Seen 1953 to 1981. Struck in red.
- 4.6 **BALMORAL CASTLE/ABERDEENSHIRE/PARCEL/POST** rectangular parcel cancellation. Seen 1938 to 1944.

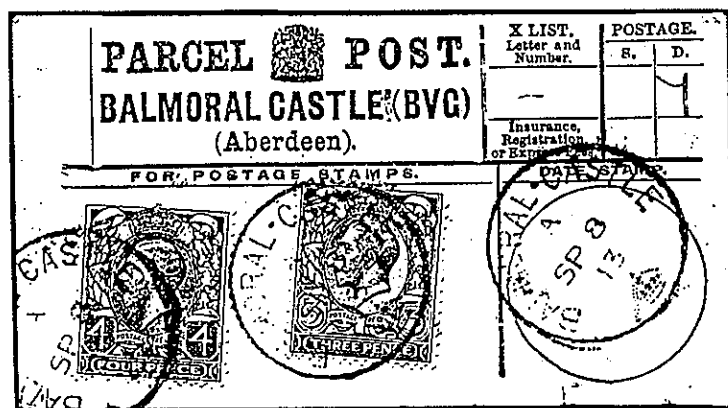
- 4.7 **BALMORAL-CASTLE/(CROWN)** single circle. Found with code letters A,B,C or blank. Seen 1950's to 1978.
- 4.8 **REGISTERED/BALMORAL CASTLE** oval registration cancellation.
- 4.9 Machine number PB1240C. The slogan die depicts the EIIR Royal Monogram within a circle. Used by the Estates Office. Seen 1985. Struck in red.
- 4.10 **PARCEL/BALMORAL CASTLE/POST/(DATE)/ABERDEENSHIRE** rectangular parcel cancellation. Seen 1980.
- 4.11 **REGISTERED/(DATE)/BALMORAL CASTLE** oval registration cancellation. Seen 1984.

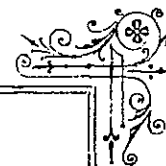
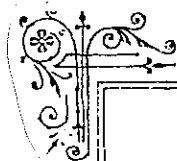
REGISTRATION LABELS



- Universal type label. "33" seen 1913.
- Balmoral Castle "No. 42" seen 1923.
- Balmoral Castle "No. 75" seen 1937.
- BALMORAL CASTLE "No. 0524" seen 1947 and "No. 1128" seen 1953.
- BALMORAL/CASTLE "No. 0070" seen.
- BALMORAL/CASTLE "No. 1906" seen.
- ABERDEEN "No. 303640" seen 1984.

PARCEL POST LABEL





BALMORAL CASTLE,

Mails for October,

1906.

OUTGOING MAILS from BALMORAL.

1st MAIL Out—Letter Boxes Cleared 2·20 p.m. (Sundays 12·20 p.m.).

The Mail Leaves at 3·0 p.m. (Sundays 1·0 p.m.).

It Arrives at Buckingham Palace at 7·34 a.m. next day (but on Mondays at 6·30 a.m.).

The Post Letters are delivered in London about 9·15 a.m. (on Mondays at 8·15 a.m.).

The Aberdeen Letters are delivered there at 6·40 p.m. (but on Saturdays this delivery is omitted and Letters are delivered on Monday Mornings.)

2nd MAIL Out—Letter Boxes Cleared 10·0 p.m.

The Mail Leaves at 4·45 a.m. (Sundays 4·0 a.m.).

It arrives at Buckingham Palace at 11·15 p.m. same day (but on Mondays at 4·15 a.m.).

The London Letters are delivered at 8·15 a.m.

The Aberdeen Letters are delivered at 12·10 p.m. (but on Mondays at 6·45 a.m.).

INCOMING MAILS arriving at BALMORAL.

1st MAIL In—Arrives at 6·10 a.m. (arrives at same hour on Sundays, but on Mondays at 10·55 a.m.).

It leaves Euston at 2·0 p.m. the previous day (but on Sundays at 8·30 p.m.).

2nd MAIL In—Arrives at 11·0 a.m. (but on Sundays at 2·40 p.m.).

It leaves Euston at 8·30 p.m. the previous day.

His Majesty's Printers, Aberdeen.

Mail arrangements for Balmoral

BARNWELL MANOR

The Manor is at Oundle in Northamptonshire and is home to the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alice of Gloucester. It was built in the first Elizabethan period around 1580 and became a royal residence in 1939. No special postal facilities exist.

BATCHELOR COTTAGE

The cottage was built in 1864 and was the original name for York Cottage. See page 124 for further details.

BEDFORD ROW

Number eight Bedford Row, London houses the offices of the Royal Jubilee Trust and the Princes Trust, both organisations of which are of charitable status.

BELGRAVE SQUARE

A special Office of the Earl Marshal was set-up at number 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1 for the purpose of dealing with the Coronation arrangements of The Princess Elizabeth in 1953.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

In July 1952 a letter from the Garter Principal King of Arms requested the same postal facilities as had been provided for the funeral of His Majesty King George VI (see page 106) some months earlier. It was intended that the office be opened on 1st October 1952 and that about 25,000 outgoing

Letters would be sent in the following eight months. Agreement was reached with the Treasury and a Postage Account was opened in the normal way. Accounts were to be rendered to the Earl Marshal in respect of telegraph, telephone and postal facilities on behalf of the office in Belgrave Square. These were then settled in due course from the provision on the special Vote to be taken for the Coronation expenses.

The Office was actually opened on Monday 15th September 1952 and normal delivery of inward correspondence was made, mail being accepted by the resident caretaker. Outward postings were handed in at the SWDO or Knightsbridge B0 in the early days but as mail posted increased a request for special collections to be laid on was authorised. Telegrams were sent by telephone or handed in at the SWDO or Knightsbridge Branch Office throughout.

A copy of HM Treasury booklet "Postal Arrangements for Government Departments" was handed to a Mr Heaton-Armstrong who objected to two points contained therein. Namely, paragraphs 15, 18 and 20 which related to maintaining records of the number of items posted at each despatch and the need to prepay in postage stamps postage due on parcels and foreign letters.

Mr Heaton-Armstrong maintained that he would need to employ a Clerk to handle the postal duties and that the Treasury would not sanction such unnecessary expense. It was tactfully pointed out that the rules laid down were governed by Treasury regulations and that as the workload increased it would be appropriate to employ such a Clerk.

An undated subsequent Memorandum indicated that the Post Office agreed to letters for overseas destinations being stamped in the London Foreign Section with an impression from the meter franking machine in the same way as overseas letters from the Foreign Office. However, the parcel post question was one that the Post Office were not so keen to bend the rules over.

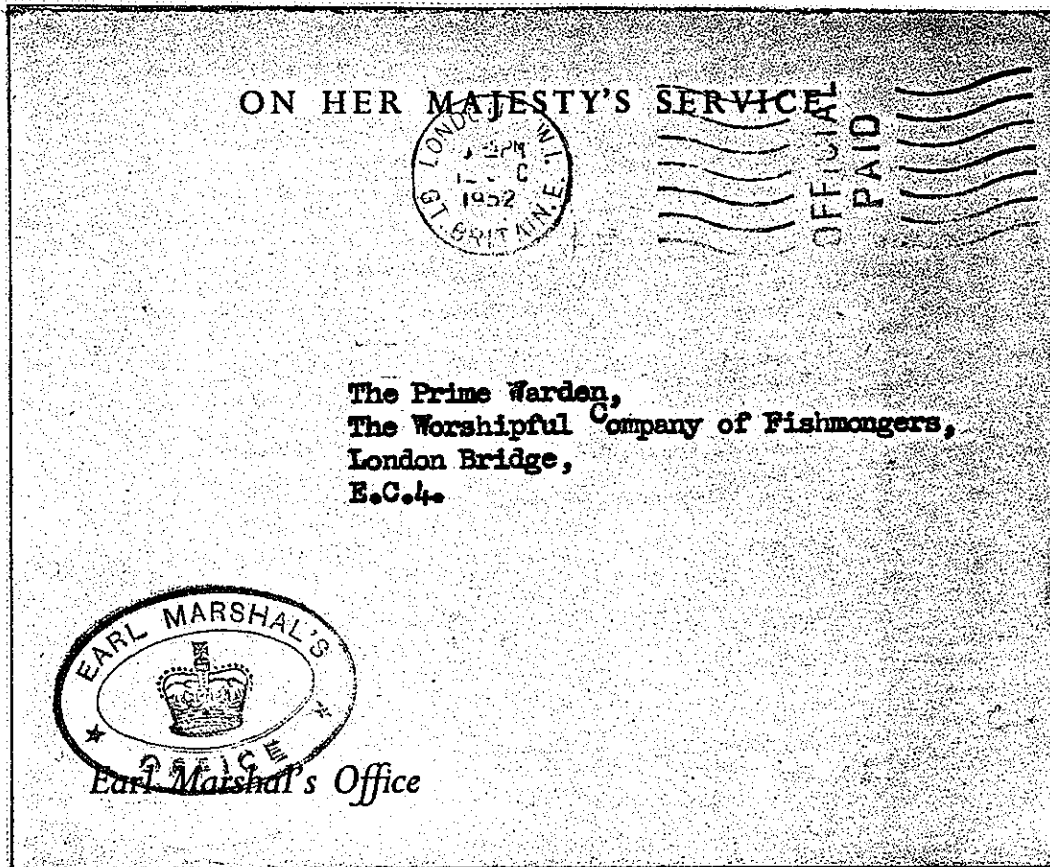
The situation was going to be solved by the use of the official paid parcel labels but this was not acceptable to all and so at the end of the day and in view of the temporary nature of the problem the Post Office allowed heavy packages to travel by letter post.

The recording of the numbers of items posted was undertaken by the Post Office, as had been done since Queen Victoria's funeral.



Fig. 4.12

4.12 */EARL MARSHAL'S/(CROWN)/OFFICE/* double oval. Used from 15 September 1952 for eight months.



Cover from the Earl Marshal's Office, 1952

BIRKHALL

Sited at Glenmuick, the mansion of Birkhall was built in 1715 and purchased in November 1848 for the Prince of Wales.

The house is now one of the Queen Mother's residences and is primarily used by Her Majesty in May and August.

BUCKINGHAM GATE, NUMBERS 8 AND 10

Number eight was once used for the Earl Marshal's Office and the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood; whilst number ten houses the Office of the Duchy of Cornwall.

There is no special treatment of the mail emanating from number ten as postage is paid by means of postage stamps and there are no certifying stamps used. Envelope flaps bear an albino impression of the Arms of the Duke of Cornwall.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

The principal functions are to maintain the records of Chivalry less the Order of the Thistles, publication of entries in the London Gazette, the organisation of Investitures and research. Now located at St. James's Palace.



Fig. 4.13



Fig. 4.14

- 4.13 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD/(CROWN)/8 BUCKINGHAM GATE/LONDON. S.W.1/** oval. Seen 1959.
- 4.14 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD/(CROWN)/8 BUCKINGHAM GATE/LONDON. S.W.1 oval. Seen 1960 to 1968 in blue.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

The office was set-up on 6th October 1936 for dealing with the Coronation arrangements. Telegrams were handed in at the SWDO.



Fig. 4.15

- 4.15 */EARL MARSHAL'S/(CROWN)/OFFICE/* double oval. Introduced in October 1936 and only used for a few months.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Built on the site of a house owned by the Duke of Buckingham, it has been the Sovereign's London residence since 1837 but first became a Royal residence one Saturday afternoon in May 1762 when King George III and Queen Charlotte moved in. Built in the 18th century it was redesigned in 1825 and re-fronted in portland stone in 1913.

There was a Mail Coach from 1793 that used to carry a bottle of sea-water for the Queen from Weymouth. It was generally sent to Buckingham House or, if Her Majesty was not in London, to the Gloucester Coffee House for onward transmission to Windsor. The Mail Guard from Exeter was issued with the instructions: "Leave the water bottle every Friday, Saturday and Monday at Staines, and every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday bring it to London, if not ordered to the contrary.....".

1886 saw the establishment of a private wire to the Central Station and a Telegraphist was appointed to attend at Buckingham Palace. The following year the telegraph was commissioned.

A private wire between the Inspectors' Office and private residence was established in 1894 and the consent to attach to the South Western District Office was granted.

A wall letter box was installed at the South East corner during 1896.

The Post Office took charge of the telephone circuits in 1897. The sending of "unsuitable mail" by post between Buckingham Palace and Balmoral Castle was not permitted with effect from 1899, although what would have been deemed "unsuitable" is unknown.

A Sub-Post Office was opened within the Palace on 14 April 1902 for the sale of stamps, etcetera. It came under the control of the Court Telegraphist until 1906 whereupon he was made Court Postmaster.

A Post Office Circular dated April 22, 1902 read:

"POST OFFICE OPENED AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The office at Buckingham Palace, which has hitherto transacted telegraph work only, has been made a Postal Sub-Office for the convenience of His Majesty's household.

It is subordinate to the South Western District Office (London) and the Court Telegraphist acts as Officer-in-Charge.

Postal Orders are sold, but Money Order and Savings Bank business is not transacted.

The telegraph code BQX has been appropriated to the Office."

A statement to the Secretary of the Post Office regarding work undertaken at Buckingham Palace was submitted by Mr Hiley in 1903 and read: "When first placed under the control of the Postmaster S.W. telegraph work only was performed at this office doing an average of about thirty messages daily.

"On April 14th 1902 the Office was opened for the sale of postage stamps, postal orders, parcels, registered letters etc a credit stock to the amount of £73:5s:6d (£73.27 1/5p) was obtained from the Postmaster S.W. for which I am responsible. I have also under my charge a stock of Govt. Parcel and Royal Household stamps, which have to be supplied when required to the various departments in the Royal Palaces and returns rendered quarterly.

"Their Majesties The King and Queen, Royal Family and Households Correspondence are dealt with here.

"I have been commanded by His Majesty to attend him wherever he goes, to deal with his correspondence and telegrams. Returns of all Foreign correspondence is kept which for some quarters is very heavy.

"I am frequently commanded to see His Majesty, Lord Knollys, General Sir Dighton Probyn, and members of the Household in connection with postal and telegraph matters.

"I am practically always on duty and have been ordered to sleep at the different Palaces or wherever His Majesty is in residence. 31 Oct 1903."

In 1905 the hours of opening were amended to 8am-midnight all year round at the wish of His Majesty, even when not resident in London. This meant that two additional Counter Clerks and Telegraphists had to be employed at a cost of £212 per annum at the mean of the wage scales. The Post Office was made into an Express Delivery Office in 1907 and in 1913 the operation of telephone services throughout the Royal Household was charged for henceforth. Three years later the release of Telegraph Clerks and Telephonists for Military Service was discussed but, generally, they were classed as indispensable.

An article in "The Postage Stamp" (see bibliography on page 179) detailed postal arrangements at the Palace at that time and is reproduced herewith: "The headquarters of the Court Post Office is at Buckingham Palace and consists of three large apartments; one is fitted out as a telegraphic gallery, another as a sorting room, and a third as a general office. There is also a telephone exchange attached to the Post Office, where three operators are employed.

"The letters for the King and Queen and members of the Household are delivered to Buckingham Palace from the General Post Office six times a day, the first delivery being made at seven o'clock in the morning. The mail on its arrival at the post office, is at once sorted (there are four sorters on duty throughout the day) and made up into separate packets for the King, Queen, members of the Royal Family, resident officials in the Household and the servants.

"The whole mail is, by the way, carefully counted before it is sorted, and the number of letters received is entered into a book labelled "Mails In."

After the packets for delivery throughout the Palace have been made up the number of letters in each packet is counted and entered in a book labelled "Mails Out," and the number in both books, must, of course, be the same."

"As soon as the mails have been sorted they are given to two of the Palace postmen, who deliver them to their respective departments. The letters for the King and Queen are delivered to the equerries' department and are placed in the secretaries' rooms by an equerry. The letters for members of the Household are delivered to their respective private rooms, and the letters for male servants are delivered to the Steward's waiting room, where they are put into a large rack, from which they are taken by servants between 9.30 and 10.30am, and 7.30 and 8.30pm. The letters for the female servants are delivered to the head housekeeper's room.

"There are six large mahogany pillar boxes throughout Buckingham Palace, where letters can be posted by members of the Household. These boxes are cleared every two hours and the contents made up into mail bags at the Palace Post Office. All the King's letters, whether on State or private business, are marked "Official paid," and need not be stamped, neither need any letter on State business written by a member of the Household, but all private letters of members of the Household must be stamped in the usual manner.

"Apart from the ordinary mail business the Court postmaster has a considerable quantity of despatches for special delivery to attend to, which are not passed through the hands of the general post office. Numbers of despatches to the chief government offices and to many private individuals are sent out from Buckingham Palace every day when the Court is in residence in London. These are delivered by one of the four special messengers attached to the Court post office."

According to the "Post Office Magazine" for May 1948: "The Post Office is sited close to the South Gate with an approach from the forecourt next to the Guardroom. Behind the modest counter can be seen the teleprinter circuits and the operators at their Private Branch Exchange with a separate enclosure for Mr E J Burt, the Court Postmaster."

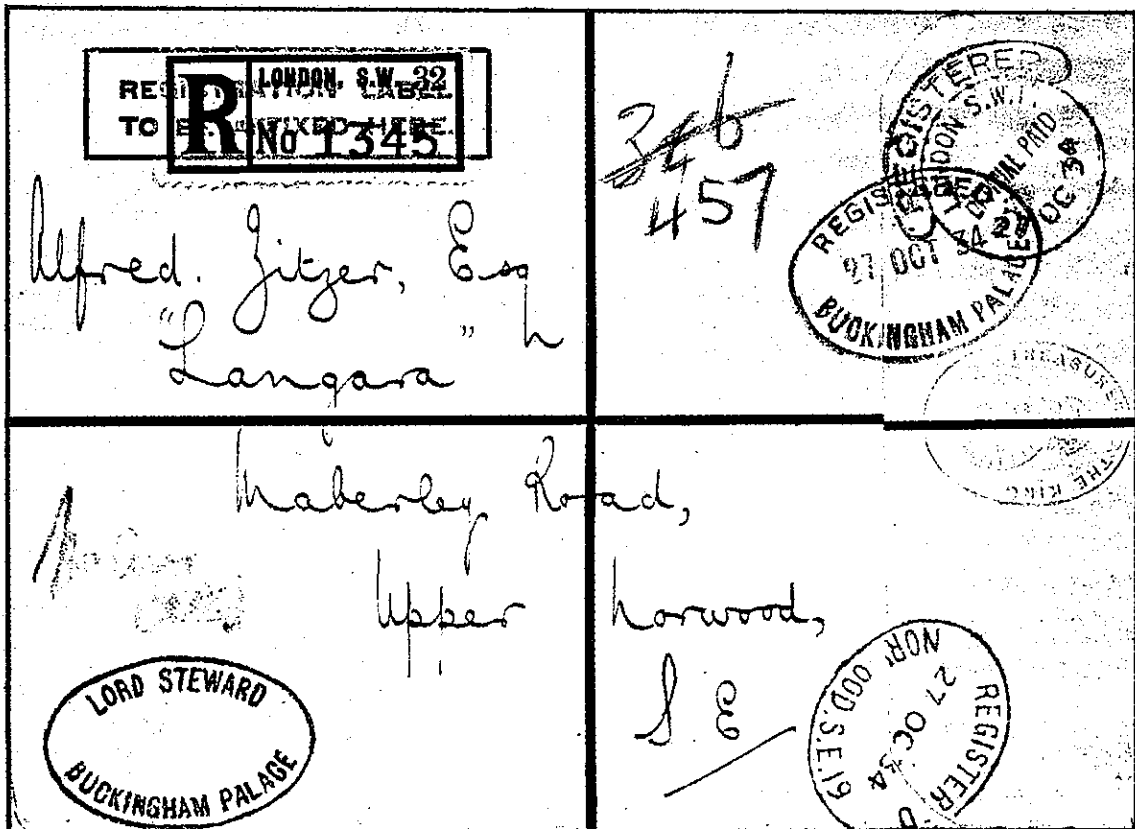
The Postmen at Buckingham Palace wear special embroidered breast badges on their uniforms, originally worded "(CROWN)/GPO/BUCKINGHAM PALACE" they now bear the words "POST OFFICE" in place of "GPO". They have a black background and the remainder is gold except the Crown which also includes red, green and blue jewels. See illustration on page 73.

The children of the Queen have offices in the Palace and, as such, do not have to affix postage stamps but can utilise the main postal facilities.

All mail addressed to the Queen is now scanned for letter bombs and for this and other reasons the Court Post Office at the Palace comes under the control of the Master of the Household. According to "At Her Majesty's Service" (see bibliography on page 180): "The Post Office at Buckingham Palace is situated in the peculiar annexe at the far left of the building in the south-east corner, is operated by a Head Postmaster and a team of clerks in conjunction with trained security officers. With almost 100,000 letters arriving annually which have to be distributed throughout the Palace and to other royal residences and government departments, a group of

full-time Postmen are employed simply to deliver and collect the "royal" mail. Her Majesty's own mail is delivered by the Queen's Orderly, who will also deliver the important documents and despatches by motor cycle."

The Flagman at Buckingham Palace could not be kept fully employed by merely raising and lowering the Royal Standard and so he is also responsible for scrutinizing by fluoroscope all letters and parcels addressed to the Palace. It is interesting to note that every letter addressed to the Queen is seen by her and a reply is always given, although one of her Household staff would compile, sign and despatch the reply unless protocol dictated otherwise.



CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.16



Fig. 4.17



Fig. 4.18



Fig. 4.19



Fig. 4.20



Fig. 4.21



Fig. 4.22



Fig. 4.23



Fig. 4.24



Fig. 4.25

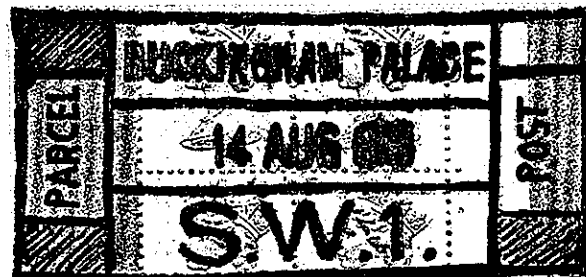


Fig. 4.26



Fig. 4.27

- 4.16 BUCKINGHAM-PALACE single circle. Code letter A. Issued 30 June 1880. Seen 1903 to 1923.
- 4.17 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. First registration cancellation. Issued on 4 November 1920. Struck in violet.
- 4.18 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1923.
- 4.19 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1924 to 1934. Struck in violet.
- 4.20 BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1 single circle. Issued 19 July 1930. Seen 1951 to 1977.
- 4.21 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 oval. Seen 1938-1939. Struck in violet.
- 4.22 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 oval. Seen 1938. Struck in violet.
- 4.23 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1 oval. Seen 1947 in violet.

- 4.24 BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1./PARCEL/POST rectangular. Seen 1951.
- 4.25 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 oval. Struck in violet. Seen 1953 to 1977.
- 4.26 PARCEL/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/POST/(DATE)/S.W.1 rectangular parcel canceller. Seen 1986.
- 4.27 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 double oval. Seen 1987.

CERTIFYING STAMPS

BUCKINGHAM
PALACE

Fig. 4.28

- 4.28 BUCKINGHAM/PALACE straight line unframed. Seen 1934 in red/violet on a "Telegrams for Transmission" envelope.

UNOFFICIAL CACHETS

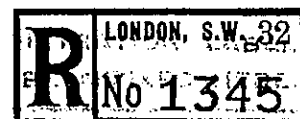
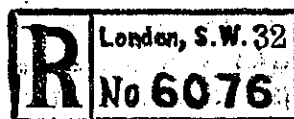
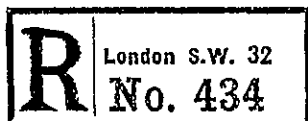
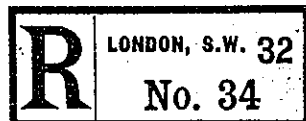


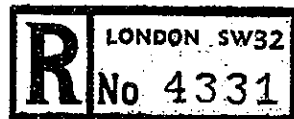
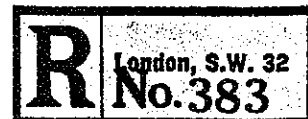
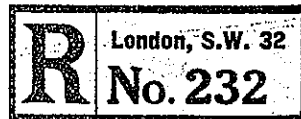
Buckingham Palace.London

Fig. 4.29

- 4.29 Posted in special Posting Box/Buckingham Palace, London with monogram of the Duke of Edinburgh. Used 1977 on first day covers of the Silver Jubilee issue serviced by a well known cover dealer

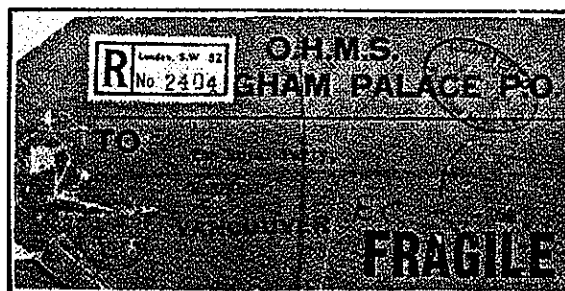
REGISTRATION LABELS





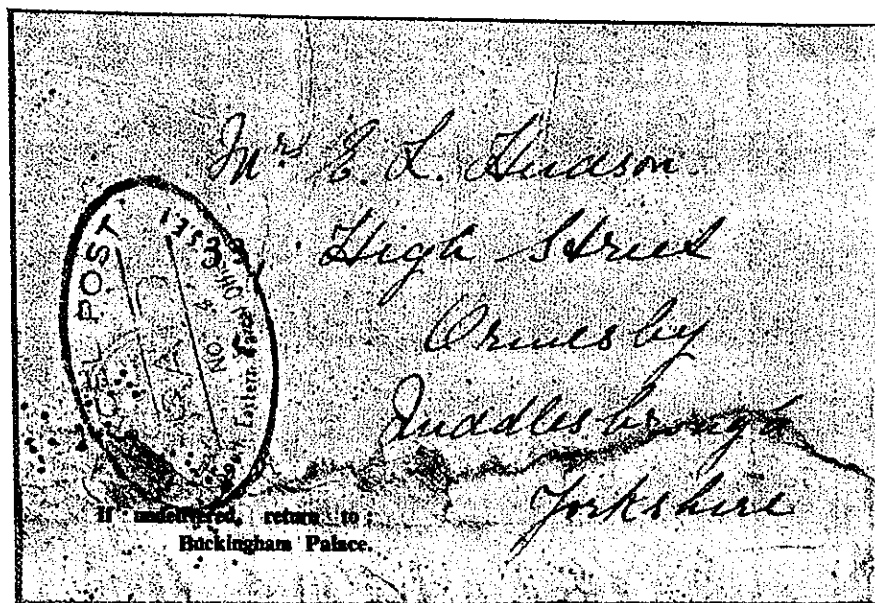
BUCKINGHAM PALACE. Believed to exist. Not seen.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 34" seen 1914 and "No. 44" seen 1920.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No.201" seen 1923.
London S.W. 32 "No. 24" and "No. 434" both seen 1924.
London, S.W.32 "No.6076" seen 1934.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 1345" seen 1934 and "No. 3541" seen 1939.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 5036" seen 1938.
London, S.W.32 "No. 232" seen 1951.
London, S.W.32 "No. 383" seen 1951.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 4551" seen 1952.
London, S.W. 32 "No. 1846" seen 1956 and "No. 9072" seen 1960.
LONDON / SW 32 "No.7957" seen 1976.
LONDON SW32 "No. 4331" seen 1977.
LONDON/SWDO "F" "032280" seen 1987 and "411844" seen 1988.

REGISTRATION PARCEL LABELS



Used for forwarding mail to the royal party when on overseas tours

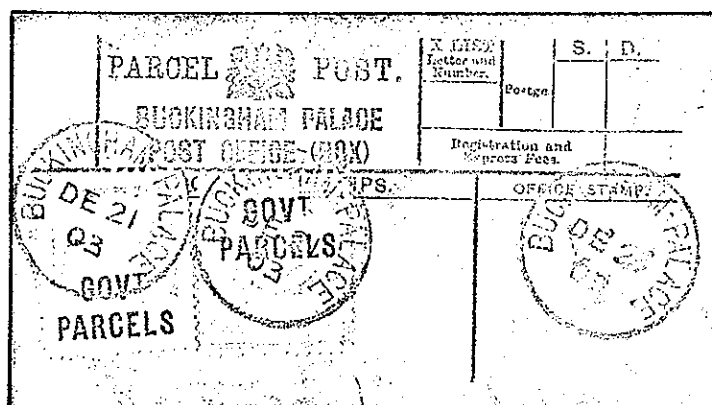
EMPIRE FOOD PARCEL LABELS



Following the wedding in 1947 of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, food sent as wedding gifts from the far flung corners of the Empire was distributed throughout the country by the Womens Voluntary Service (WVS). For six weeks Buckingham Palace was the distribution centre and two types of label were used on the packages. Type one was worded "If Undelivered Return to: W.V.S. Buckingham Palace."; whilst Type two had the WVS letters removed. Both types bore the second type of King George VI royal monogram certifying stamp (ie GVIR) and a London SW1 oval parcel post cancellation.

PARCEL POST LABEL

A blue parcel post label from the Palace Post Office is known used in 1903. It was headed "PARCEL (ROYAL ARMS)/POST/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/POST OFFICE (BOX)" and bears 2d and 9d King Edward VII Government Parcels overprinted stamps cancelled by Figure 4.16 and dated 21 December.





**Mail van leaving the Palace after
having made a delivery, 1930's**



**A busy scene at the Court Post Office
during the 1935 Jubilee rush**



Breast badge which is unique to Palace postmen

DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE PALACE

BOARD OF GREEN CLOTH

The Board of Green Cloth sits about six times a year and is responsible for licensing public houses and gaming houses within a narrow strip of about a quarter of a mile to the North of St. James's Park and to the east and south of the park.

The certifying stamp was originally used by the Lord Steward, Treasurer and Comptroller of the Household, Acting Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Green Cloth.



Fig. 4.30

- 4.30 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/B.G.C./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

COMPTROLLER OF SUPPLY

Responsible for all non-food requirements of the Household.

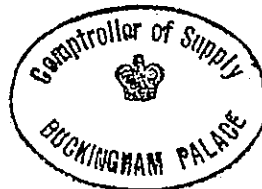


Fig. 4.31

- 4.31 Comptroller of Supply/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Introduced in 1948.

INSPECTORS' OFFICE

In 1906 it was suggested that Mr Sands (Inspector of Buckingham Palace) be given an indian rubber certifying stamp for use by his Office. It was never actually introduced and he was to have continued using the Board of Green Cloth certifying stamp, despite causing Mr Hiley problems with items of returned mail. It was subsequently agreed, however, that he could use the certifying stamp of the Lord Chamberlain at St James's Palace instead.



Mr Hileys drawing for stamp

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

As Senior Officer of the Household he is responsible for ceremonial including all arrangements for royal garden parties, royal weddings, state visits plus many other subsidiary functions.



Fig. 4.32

4.32 LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W. oval. Seen 1926 in violet.

LORD STEWARD

Titular head of the Master of the Household's Department. He attends at the Palace on ceremonial occasions, e.g. the opening of Parliament and state visits (especially the state banquet where he presents the guests to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and their visitors). Position always given to a peer.

The Lord Steward uses pre-printed envelopes for some of his correspondence. The writer has seen one worded (top left) "Immediate. - Please Forward" and (bottom left) "THE LORD STEWARD". The cover has a handwritten address of the Marshall of the Royal Air Force and is dated 1978. The reverse bears the usual royal crest embossed in red.



Fig. 4.33

- 4.33 **LORD STEWARD/BUCKINGHAM PALACE** oval. Issued 28 August 1901 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1934 on a pre-printed envelope of the Treasurer to the King.

MASTER OF THE HORSE

Titular head of the Royal Mews. He attends the Queen on ceremonial occasions when Her Majesty travels by horse drawn carriage or rides on horseback. The Master of the Horse periodically inspects the Royal Mews and is in charge of the Sovereign's stables.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Master of the Horse, Crown Equerry and Secretary, the Accountant, Clerk and Assessor of Taxes and the Superintendent of the Royal Mews.



Fig. 4.34

not seen

Fig. 4.35



Fig. 4.36



Fig. 4.37

- 4.34 **MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** oval. Issued 28 August 1901 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1910.
- 4.35 **MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** narrow oval. Known 1905.
- 4.36 **MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/THE ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** oval. Seen 1980's struck in black, violet or blue.
- 4.37 **+/MASTER OF THE HORSE/+/(CROWN)/THE ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** oval. Seen 1987 to 1989.

MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD

The Master of the Household is in charge of the people who run the Palaces and the Sovereign is regularly consulted by him.

Like the Lord Steward, the Master of the Household uses pre-printed envelopes on some correspondence. Of the two examples seen by the writer, one is dated 1960 and the other 1984. They have the royal crest on the flap and are worded on the front "MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD", bottom left.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Master of the Household, his Deputy and the Clerk Comptroller.



Fig. 4.38



Fig. 4.39



Fig. 4.40



Fig. 4.41

4.38 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/M.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1904.

4.39 MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Introduced 1933.

4.40 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/M.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1934 to 1940.

4.41 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/M.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1937 to 1940.

PAYMASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD

The Paymaster of the Household is responsible for royal finances.

The certifying stamps were used by the Paymaster of the Household. These days the normal royal monogram certifying stamp EIIR is used instead of personalised versions.



Fig. 4.42



Fig. 4.43



Fig. 4.44



Fig. 4.45

4.42 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/P.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1902 to 1910 in pink.

4.43 P/(ROYAL MONOGRAM GVIR)/H/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1949.

4.44 P/(ROYAL MONOGRAM EIIR)/H/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1953.

4.45 P/(ROYAL MONOGRAM EIIR)/H/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1967.

PRIVY PURSE OFFICE

Personal payments from the Sovereign's private resources and payments of salaries to employees of the Monarch are made by the Privy Purse Office.

The Office once used envelopes bearing the pre-printed embossed signature of the Keeper of the Privy Purse prior to the introduction of certifying stamps. In an effort to use up stocks of the old envelopes instructions must have been given to continue their use as the writer has seen two covers. The first envelope is dated 25 October 1904 and the second is dated 24 February 1906. Both covers bear the pre-printed signature of D M Probyn.

These certifying stamps were in the early days used by the Keeper of the Privy Purse, the Assistant Keeper, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Privy Purse and the Personal Secretary and Assistant Private Secretaries.



Fig. 4.46



Fig. 4.47

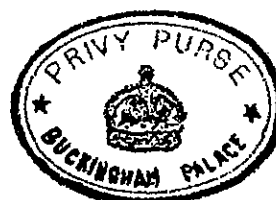


Fig. 4.48



Fig. 4.49



Fig. 4.50

- 4.46 PRIVY PURSE/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1904 and 1915 in violet.
- 4.47 PRIVY PURSE/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1909 to 1935 in violet.
- 4.48 */PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE double oval. Seen 1949/52.
- 4.49 */PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval.
- 4.50 */PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE double oval.

A wax seal was issued for use by the Privy Purse and has been seen used in 1883 on the reverse flap of an envelope. It was impressed into black wax.

ROYAL CELLARS

The jobholders' task is to decide, in consultation with a Wine Committee, what wines are to be purchased for the royal residences.

The certifying stamp was used by the Gentlemen of the Royal Cellars.



Fig. 4.51

- 4.51 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/R.C./BUCKINGHAM PALACE** oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

ROYAL LAUNDRY

Aside from dealing with the laundry, this department also once supervised the machinery and electricity requirements of the Royal Household. Laundry facilities are now provided by an outside company called the Sycamore Laundry at Clapham.

The certifying stamp was used by the staff at the Royal Laundry at Richmond, Surrey.



Fig. 4.52

- 4.52 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/R.L./BUCKINGHAM PALACE** oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

CASTLE OF MEY

The Castle is one of the residences of The Queen Mother and was purchased by her in the 1950's. It took three years to renovate.

Mail these days is processed via Wick, Caithness Post Office and bears the usual royal monogram certifying stamp and a Wick official paid cancellation.

CASTLEWOOD HOUSE

This residence is one of the homes of the present Duke and Duchess of York, Andrew and Sarah, and is located in Windsor Great Park.

No special postal facilities exist for the royal couple.

CHATSWORTH HOUSE

Chatsworth is the home of the Duke of Devonshire and most of the house was constructed between the years 1686 to 1707. It is located about four miles from Bakewell in Derbyshire.

In December 1843 Queen Victoria made a visit but no postal items have emerged yet. If any do exist they will have been cancelled at Chesterfield. King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria spent a week at the house from Monday 4 January 1904. Whether or not the staff at Bakewell Post Office or members of the Court Post Office manned the temporary office has not been ascertained.

A PMG Minute detailed arrangements for a visit made in 1907 and is reproduced herewith: "It is announced that T.M. the King and Queen will visit the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth House on the 1st proximo (1 January).

"In connection with His Majesty's previous visits it has been customary to erect a temporary wire between the Midland Railway at Bakewell and Edensor and to extend it to Chatsworth House by renting an underground wire from the National Telephone Company. It is however understood that no National Telephone Company wire is now available and it would consequently be necessary to lay a pipe across the park, a distance of 1320 yards. The cost would amount to £48 exclusive of the cost of excavating the trench which the Duke of Devonshire's Agent has agreed to carry out at his own expense. The pipe would afford accommodation for additional wires, but it is unlikely that these would be needed in the near future.

"It is therefore proposed that a staff of cycle messengers be provided for the conveyance of telegrams between Chatsworth House and Edensor Post Office. Edensor Post Office would be placed in direct communication with London or Manchester.

"The Duke's Agent will be informed of the proposed arrangement and it will be suggested that the Duke of Devonshire should bear the expense of providing wires between the Post Office and Chatsworth House, if he desires this accommodation."

In 1913 Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary were entertained at Chatsworth House, and the present members of the Royal Family often stay there.

CANCELLATIONS

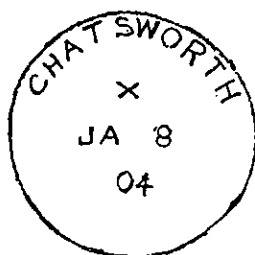


Fig. 4.53

4.53 CHATSWORTH single circle skeleton handstamp with X code letter in use between 4 and 8 January 1904 only. Seen in blue and black ink not cancelling the postage stamps but used as a cachet to the left of the address, and on the picture side of postcards. Use of blue ink was most unusual for Royal markings (other than royal monogram certifying stamps).

Believed to have been issued for telegraphic use only, which might explain the absence of Court mail.

CLARENCE HOUSE

Clarence House was built during 1825 by John Nash for the Duke of Clarence.

It is currently the London residence of the Queen Mother and previous occupants have included Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and between the years 1942 and 1947 it became the Red Cross and St. John Organisation Headquarters.

Mail these days is processed via the South Western District Office and bears the usual royal monogram certifying stamp and a London official paid cancellation.

CLEVELAND ROW

Number three Cleveland Row was once the home of the Earl Marshal's Office in London's South West district.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

Letters franked by the certifying stamp illustrated below, or franked with the Duke of Norfolk's (Earl Marshal) or C H Montgomery's name were transmitted free through the post. Arrangements were made for a Postman to call and collect three times a day at noon, 3pm and 6pm and for St. James's Street Post Office to accept letters so franked or stamped over their counter.



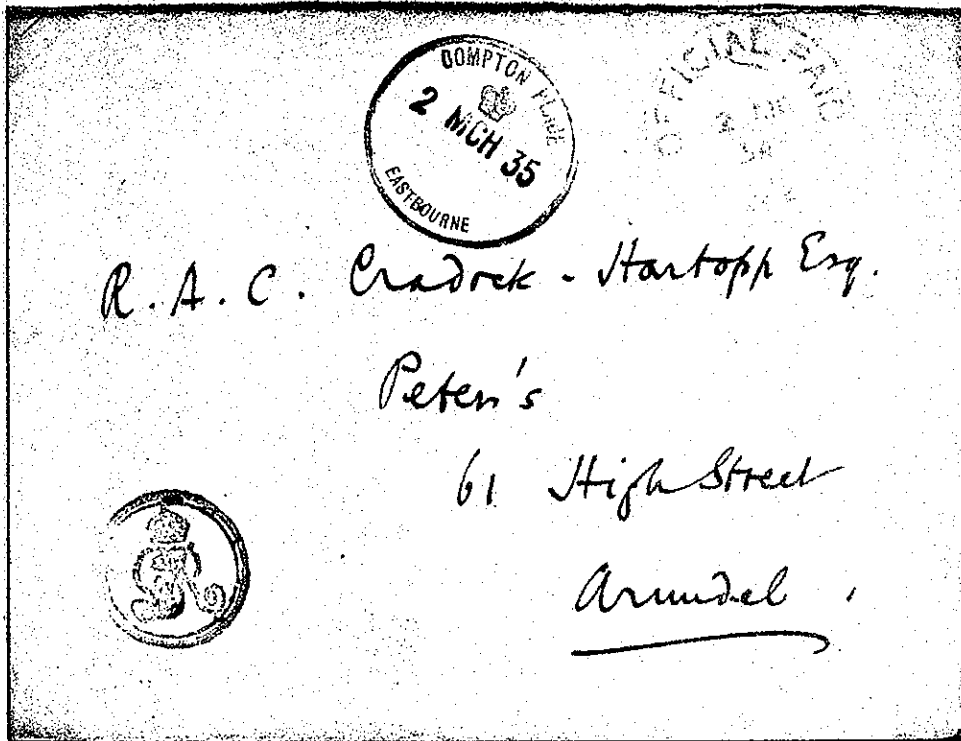
Fig. 4.54

4.54 */EARL MARSHAL'S*/(CROWN)/OFFICE double oval. In use from November 1910 through to the end of the Coronation arrangements.


COMPTON PLACE

The County seat of the Duke of Devonshire, its location is at Eastbourne in Sussex. Compton was built by James Burton and is Jacobean or earlier. It was often used by royalty this century who were desirous of a seaside holiday and it still stands as a girl's college.

In 1935 special arrangements were made by the Post Office for the visit of King George V and Queen Mary who, on 26 February motored to Eastbourne for



Cover posted from Compton Place 1935

COMPTON PLACE, EASTBOURNE									
TRAIN TIME TABLE									
From February, 1935, until further notice								POST TIMES	
DOWN WEEKDAYS Vict. E'st'bn'g Vict. E'st'bn'g E'st'bn'g a.m. a.m. p.m. p.m. a.m. 9 10p 10 50 6 40c 7 25 6 15 9 25 11 41 6 45p 8 16 7 30 p.m. 6 53d 9 3 8 6 10 6 12 27 7 6c 9 3 8 33c 11 10p 12 51 8 20 10 8 8 33d p.m. 9 10p 10 45 8 50 12 3 1 54 10 10 11 50 9 30p 12 40d 2 17 a.m. 1 10p 2 51 11 40 1 26 3 10p 4 45 -- -- 3 45 5 47 -- -- 4 30p 6 8 -- -- 5 15p 6 48 -- --				UP WEEKDAYS Vict. E'st'bn'g Vict. E'st'bn'g a.m. p.m. p.m. 8 16 1 51 3 57 9 15 2 25p 4 8 9 37 3 25 6 57 10 10 4 30 6 15p 10 29 5 25 7 3p 10 54 5 31 7 57 11 0 6 30 8 5p p.m. 7 53 9 57 10 25 12 13p 8 25 10 13p 10 59 1 23 9 20 11 17 11 54 1 57 9 50k 12 40 p.m. 12 20 2 9p -- --				From February, 1935, until further notice WEEKDAYS Deliveries Despatches 7.45 a.m. 11.15 a.m. 4.15 p.m. 3.20 p.m. 7.0 p.m. 8.0 p.m. SUNDAYS 8.15 p.m.	
SUNDAYS a.m. a.m. p.m. p.m. a.m. a.m. p.m. p.m. 6 44 9 50 6 28k 7 52 7 25 9 54 4 33k 7 22 9 35p 11 21 6 0k 8 3 8 30k 10 25 6 25d 6 45 p.m. 6 30 8 51 9 30 11 14p 6 25 8 5p 10 45d 12 5 8 0k 10 4 p.m. 6 40 9 0 11 10p 12 50 8 40p 10 22 10 10k 12 22 7 30p 9 8 p.m. 9 0k 11 10 10 50k 1 22 7 55k 10 18 12 28k 2 57 a.m. 8 55 10 36 2 40p 4 21 10 0k 12 8 p.m. 1 5k 3 22 a.m. 10 36 4 28k 6 37 -- -- 3 25 5 10p 9 39k 12 6				NOTES d Saturdays only. e Saturdays excepted. k Via Brighton. l Only First and Third Pullmans. p First and Third Pullmans attached.					

Train time table and post times for 1935

a few weeks' rest prior to the Jubilee celebrations.

The following year, special telephone facilities were made available for the use of the King when at Compton Place.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.55

- 4.55 **COMPTON PLACE/(CROWN)/EASTBOURNE** rubber single circle datestamp. Seen on cover dated 1935 but with official paid cancellation dated 1934.

COPPINS

Coppins is a late-Victorian home situated at Iver in Buckinghamshire. It was originally the home of Princess Victoria (daughter to King Edward VII) and subsequently became the home to the Duke and Duchess of Kent from 1935 until 1972.

No special postal arrangements existed.

CROCKER END HOUSE

This Victorian manor house that was once a rectory is the new home of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, having moved-in during 1989 from Anmer Hall. It is sited at Nettlebed in Oxfordshire. No special postal facilities exist for the couple.

CUMBERLAND LODGE

The Lodge was sited within the Great Park, Windsor and was home to Prince Christian.

In 1856 a Post Office Receiving House was opened within, mainly for telegraphic work. It was run by a Miss Ada Crooke who was on a salary of 6/- (30p) per week and little postal business is believed to have been carried out.

The Telegraph Office was established almost exclusively for use by the Prince and a PMG Minute of 1876 read: "I submit a report from the District Surveyor upon Colonel Gordon's application to your Lordship for increase of pay for Miss Crooke who performs the telegraph duties at Cumberland Lodge, the residence of Prince Christian.

"It appears that the Office at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park is on the footing of an ordinary Sub-Post Office and Miss Crooke receives the usual allowance of 6/- (30p) per week for the telegraph work. The amount of business undertaken is very small - not sufficient to justify on Public grounds the maintenance of the office, and certainly the circumstances do not seem to me to be such as to warrant an additional expenditure of Public money.

"It appears that if Miss Crooke received the extra payment to which she would be entitled at an ordinary Post Office when messages are sent or received beyond the official Court, she would not be so dissatisfied with her emolument; but it seems only right that such extra payment should be borne, as in other cases, by persons using her services and not by the Department. Perhaps your Lordship may like to take this point up with Colonel Gordon."

The Minute then records: "approved, June 30th", although whether extra payment was approved or merely the Minute is not clear.

In 1904 a bicycle was provided to help with the delivery of telegrams and the Telegraph Messenger received an allowance for cleaning it.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.56

4.56 CUMBERLAND LODGE/WINDSOR single circle with code letter A for telegraph use. Issued 13 January 1874.

DUBLIN CASTLE

On 30 August 1204 King John issued a mandate decreeing that a castle be constructed in Dublin for the safe custody of the national treasures. In the 17th century the present building was erected.

The cancellation detailed below was used on the occasion of the visit of His Majesty King George V to Dublin following his Coronation and its use was probably restricted to the 8th to 12th of July 1911. The reason put forward by WG Stitt Dibden in his article "A Coronation Collection" (see bibliography on page 178) for the issue of the datestamp reads as follows: "The Dublin Castle datestamp was introduced for the large number of congratulatory telegrams and resultant replies expected in Ireland (following the Coronation)".

This seems to be a reasonable reason, especially as the Palace of Holyroodhouse datestamp appears alongside in the Post Office Proof Impression Book.

Correspondence preserved in the State Paper Office at Dublin Castle recently unearthed by their archivist revealed the existence of a record of the services of a Telegraphist and Messenger during the period of the royal visit. The record is reproduced herewith:

"E.B. - No. 52
ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE,
G.P.O., DUBLIN,

22 August 1911.

Sir,

I beg to enclose an account for £3:2s:3.1/2d (£3.11 1/2p) due to the Postmaster-General for the services of a Telegraphist and Boy Messenger at Dublin Castle in connection with the Royal Visit 8th to 12th July 1911 and I have to request you will be good enough to cause that amount to be paid to the Cashier, General Post Office, DUBLIN, at your earliest convenience.

The cheque should be made payable to the Postmaster-General or order, and crossed "Bank of Ireland."

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES MACMAHON, Accountant

To The Under Secretary, Dublin Castle
300, Wt.3605(212), 11, '07, C.&Co. 4302"

Post Office Archives have a Minute preserved that reads: "The power to meet this exceptional strain with such signal success reflects the highest credit upon Mr O'Toole (Controller) and the Dublin staff."

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.57

- 4.57 DUBLIN CASTLE/+** (Cross pattee) single circle. Issued 29 June 1911. Post Office Proof Book states: "Issued to A G D, King Edward's Buildings".

FOLEY HOUSE

During the first world war incoming mail for the Queen's Work for Women Fund was addressed to Foley House. See page 125 for main details.

FORT BELVEDERE

Sited at Sunningdale in Berkshire, it was the home of King Edward VIII from 1930 until his departure from Britain. The Fort is Crown Lease land.

Edward VIII used his royal monogram certifying stamp when in residence.

FROGMORE

This was Queen Charlotte's favourite retreat and is a small mansion which she acquired in 1790. It is close to Windsor Castle, indeed the grounds are now within the private park.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.58



Fig. 4.59



Fig. 4.60

- 4.58** FROGMORE/C single circle telegraph datestamp. Seen 1907 on a postcard.
- 4.59** FROGMORE/WINDSOR single circle. Issued 19 December 1901. Post Office Proof Book states: "Sent to Windsor HPO on 22 December 1901".
- 4.60** FROGMORE/WINDSOR single circle. Issued 1910. Taller, narrower lettering. Post Office Proof Book states: "Supplied to Court Postmaster Buckingham Palace on 10 June 1910".

GATCOMBE PARK

Gatcombe was built late on in the 18th century and is the residence of HRH The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips. It is to be found at Minchinhampton, Stroud, Gloucestershire and became a royal residence in 1976.

The mail is treated ordinarily, i.e. by the use of postage stamps. No certifying stamps are used and mail seen has been cancelled at Chippenham Wiltshire.

GLAMIS CASTLE

Glamis is sited at Glamis, Angus, Scotland having become a royal residence in 1372. It is owned by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and there has been a residence on the site for many hundreds of years. Princess Margaret was born there.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.61

4.61 Machine number 2N536K. Slogan worded "GLAMIS CASTLE/TAYSIDE/OPEN MAY TO SEPTEMBER", with picture of Castle. Seen 1986 to 1988. Used by the Estate Office.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Cardinal Wolsey, one of Henry VIII's most powerful and wealthy subjects, built the original Tudor mansion and gave it to the King to remain in his favour! The South Wing was extensively damaged in 1986 by fire.

During the 1700's mail was carried by horse from Hampton to Kingston (as the former was not a post town) by Henry Andrews. In 1900 the telegraph was replaced by telephone apparatus.

There is some doubt as to whether the Post Office was ever sited within Hampton Court Palace as it is known to have been a Post Office in East Molesey having opened around about the early 1890's. In 1914 it was recorded in the Post Office Guide as a Telegraph and Money Order Office, but would appear to have closed by the early 1920's.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.62



Fig. 4.63



Fig. 4.64



Fig. 4.65

4.62 HAMPTON-COURT unframed circle with code letter A and thin arc at base. Seen 1867.

- 4.63 **HAMPTON-COURT** single circle with code letter **A** seen 1890. Issued 15 January 1872 to Kingston-upon-Thames for telegraph use.
- 4.64 **HAMPTON.COURT** single circle thimble with code letter **C**. Code **D** seen 1888 on a telegraph form. Also seen used during King George V's reign. Issued 19 May 1880 to Kingston-Upon-Thames.
- 4.65 **HAMPTON COURT/CAMP/(DATE)/Kingston-on-/Thames, Sy.** single circle Climax dater. Seen 1937 on mail from the special camps set up to house troops due to attend the Coronation of King George VI.

HAREWOOD HOUSE

Edwin Lascelles began to build Harewood in 1759 from millstone grit. Princess Mary and Queen Mary once lived at this Palladian mansion set in West Yorkshire. The Estate currently belongs to the 7th Earl of Harewood.

Postal facilities must have existed but the writer has not come across any covers during research for this book.

HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE

The present Castle was constructed in the early 1800's and suffered two major fires in the 1960's. Highcliffe was used for three or four weeks in the Autumn of 1907 for the visit of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.66

- 4.66 HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE** single circle. Seen 1907 on a postcard. Additionally, a registered cover dated 29 November 1907 to London, franked with a King Edward VII 3d and cancelled with the Highcliffe Castle cancellation is known with a manuscript registration label worded "Highcliffe / Castle".

HIGHGROVE HOUSE

Highgrove was built in 1796/8 and is sited near Tetbury in Gloucestershire. It is currently the residence of the Prince and Princess of Wales having been purchased by them in 1980.

No special postal arrangements exist.

KENSINGTON PALACE

William and Mary bought Nottingham House (as it was previously referred to) in Kensington village in 1689. Sir Christopher Wren made extensive alterations. Queen Victoria was born there and today it is divided into various apartments for members of the Royal Family. It falls under the control of the Department of the Environment.

In 1899 telephones were installed. During 1960, the Court Postmaster became involved in much preparatory work for mail and telephone requirements following the marriage of HRH Princess Margaret and Mr Antony Armstrong Jones.

CANCELLATIONS

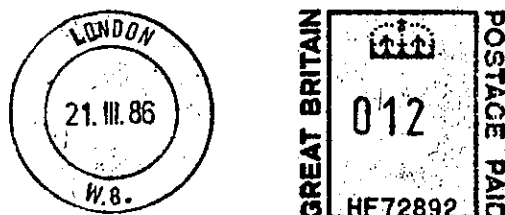


Fig. 4.67

- 4.67** Machine Number HF72892. Seen 1986-1988. Struck in red.

OFFICE OF THE DUCHESS OF KENT, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER AND PRINCESS MARGARET

The certifying stamps were issued for use between the Duke, Duchess and Princess and other members of the Royal Family.

Limited franking privilege was accordingly granted.

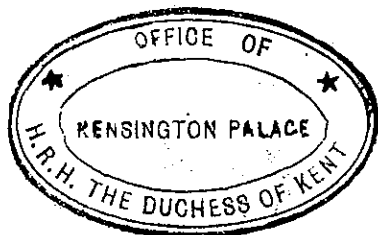


Fig. 4.68

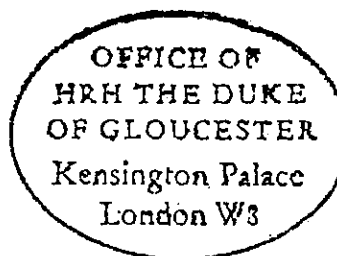


Fig. 4.69



Fig. 4.70

- 4.68 */OFFICE OF*/KENSINGTON PALACE/H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT triple oval. Seen 1955.
- 4.69 OFFICE OF/HRH THE DUKE/OF GLOUCESTER/Kensington Palace/London W8 oval. Seen 1976 to 1984 with postage stamps affixed.
- 4.70 */OFFICE OF*/KENSINGTON PALACE/H.R.H. THE PRINCESS MARGARET triple oval. Seen 1976.

KEW PALACE

Kew was built in 1631 at Richmond Surrey and acquired by the Crown in 1728.

It was the family retreat of George III and Queen Charlotte between 1802 and 1818.

LINLITHGOW PALACE

This Scottish Palace has been a royal residence since the 1400's. More recently King George V and Queen Mary held Court in the Lyon Hall in 1914 and forty years later Queen Elizabeth II held a reception there. It is possible that postal facilities would have been provided.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE

Built 1709/11 it became a royal residence in 1816/7, prior to which it belonged to the Dukes of Marlborough and in 1959 it was transferred to the State by Royal Warrant and is now the Commonwealth Centre.

In 1887 the telegraph was commissioned and during 1899 a letter box was installed for use by the Prince of Wales. 1902 saw the introduction of a private wire for use by the Prince of Wales and four years later an additional Telegraph Messenger was appointed.

CERTIFYING STAMPS

Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London S.W.1

Fig. 4.71

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE
PALL MALL
SW1Y 5HU

Fig. 4.72

4.71 Marlborough House/Pall Mall/London S.W.1. unframed. Included here for completeness only.

4.72 FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE/MARLBOROUGH HOUSE/PALL MALL/LONDON /SW1Y 5HU unframed. Included here for completeness only.

POSTAGE PAID IMPRESSIONS

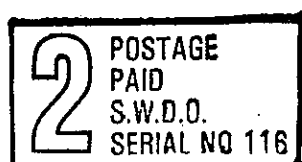


Fig. 4.73

4.73 2/POSTAGE/PAID/S.W.D.O./SERIAL No. 116 rectangular. Used in conjunction with the above two certifying stamps. Included here for completeness only.

OFFICE OF H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT

The certifying stamp was issued for use between the Duchess and other members of the Royal Family. Limited franking privilege was accordingly granted.



Fig. 4.74

4.74 *OFFICE OF*/Marlborough House/H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT triple oval.

MOY HALL

The Hall is eight miles from Inverness and is the seat of the Laird of Mackintosh. King George V was a friend of the Laird and used to stay at the Hall.

He would presumably have needed postal facilities when at the hall so possibly mail exists, perhaps with an Inverness cancellation?

NETHER LYPIATT MANOR

Set at Stroud in royal Gloucestershire, the Manor is the home of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent having been built in 1717.

No special postal facilities exist for this residence.

NEWMARKET

Although not a specific residence, the royal Court was often at Newmarket and many letters were sent from there in the 1600's onwards. Until the King's letters were delivered everybody was forbidden to deal with mail relating to his subjects and complaints were made as a result of the delays that were occurring. It is recorded in 1672 that "Colonel Whitley personally appears at the office every postnight and never goes to bed till the King's letters are come down, nor does he omit to appear in the morning."

His Majesty King Edward VII attended the horse races at Newmarket on a regular basis and a cover bearing the first type official paid cancellation and second type royal monogram certifying stamp is known dated the 4th July 1906. It additionally bears a Newmarket double circle cancellation of the same date.

NORFOLK HOUSE

The Earl Marshal's Office was set-up in 1910 at this address in St. James's Square, London to cover the arrangements needed for the funeral of King Edward VII.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.



Fig. 4.75

4.75 EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE/(CROWN)/NORFOLK HOUSE, St. JAMES'S SQ. oval.
Seen 1901 on telegraph form and 1902 on a letter.

OSBORNE HOUSE

The favourite residence of Queen Victoria, Osborne House was built in 1845 on the Isle of Wight but it ceased to be a royal residence in 1902. Instead it became a Royal Naval College between 1903 and 1921 and subsequently a Convalescent Home for Officers.

Day mails for Osborne from 1845 were carried by boat by two routes, namely Portsmouth to Ryde and Southampton to Cowes; whilst mail from Osborne was sent via Cowes only. The night mails existed between Cowes and Southampton (and reverse direction) only. Prior to 1865 The Queen's Private Pouch was sent direct to London where it was opened at the London Chief Office, sorted and despatched throughout the Kingdom and beyond.

The Southampton and Cowes Packet Contractors tried to increase their charges in 1865 but met with a refusal to pay any extra. Tenders resulted in a night time route of Ryde to Portsmouth being established, which proved to be cheaper than hitherto. Also, the mail cart now passed the Lodge gates to collect the Queen's Pouch avoiding the need to send the mail on horseback to Cowes. At 6:15pm a Postman continued to collect items of mail not contained within the Pouch (i.e. personal items of mail from the Royal Family and members of the Royal Household) for cancellation at East Cowes before being despatched to Ryde.

During the 1860's to 1880's at least, mail from Osborne House was taken to the mainland in mail bags for placing on board the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage, where mail was cancelled on board the train. The Carriage was responsible for handling the night mails from the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth and it was usual for the stamp to be cancelled by the "POR SC" star cancellation. Whilst it cannot be classed as a "royal" marking its use on postage stamps was peculiar to the Osborne House mail contained in the Queen's Pouch between the years 1865 and 1873. Subsequent to 1873 a single circle canceller was employed on the stamps, unlike ordinary mail from the Island which was cancelled at the Post Office beforehand.



In 1870 the telegraph was extended to Osborne from East Cowes and a telegraphic code of O.S. was allotted. A PMG Minute of 1896 regarding the upgrading of East Cowes Post Office and the postal arrangements for Osborne House read: "The application of the East Cowes District Council for a direct service of mails from London is not perhaps an unreasonable one, and the Surveyor has shewn that by making East Cowes a Railway Sub Office with direct mails to and from: (1) London, (2) the Portsmouth Night Mail Sorting Carriage, (3) Portsmouth, and (4) the London and South Western Day Mail TPO it will be possible to afford earlier arrival and later dispatches of

letters at East Cowes, and at the same time to improve the Service.

"Sir Arthur Bigge, in his letter to Your Grace, asks that the Queen's mail may be left at Osborne Lodge by the Mail Cart on its way from Ryde to Cowes, and this can be arranged without difficulty.

"The Cart already collects Her Majesty's Mail on its return journey at 8.10p.m. and the Night Mail Service will thus be direct each way.

"As regards the Day Mails for Osborne, the Foot Postman who now leaves Cowes Head Post Office for East Cowes and Osborne at 10a.m. and 5.15 p.m. will start for Osborne from East Cowes and will arrive some minutes earlier than at present.

"The only other Day Mail is that arriving at Cowes Head Office at 12.10 p.m., and Her Majesty now sends to the Head Office at 1 p.m. for her letters. This arrangement could be continued or if it should be preferred a Special Messenger could be sent from Cowes to Osborne with this Mail during the time Her Majesty is in Residence.

"In order that it may be placed under no doubt that these proposals will meet the Queen's wishes, I propose to instruct Mr. Rushton, who has the case in hand, to proceed to Windsor as soon as the Court moves thither, and place the full details before Sir Arthur Bigge.

"The necessary alterations in wages and allowances result in a saving of £3:18s:3d (£3.91) a year, but a payment of not less than 10s (50p) a week will be necessary for special use of the Floating Bridge at Cowes at 5.55 a.m. on Sunday, or, as an alternative, a payment of like amount for a special Cart on Sunday morning from Wootton Bridge to Cowes via Newport. Beyond this no additional cost is involved for the Mail Cart Service, but I take this opportunity of recommending that instead of paying £145 a year for a one-horse Cart between Ryde and Cowes, with additional payments amounting to £60 a year for extra horses during the Queen's stay at Osborne, Your Grace should accept the Contractor's offer to perform the service all year round with a two horse Cart for a payment of £200 a year.

"The proposals here put forward for Your Grace's sanction will meet the wishes of the East Cowes Council save on two points, viz:-

- (1) raising East Cowes to the rank of a Head Office,
- (2) establishing a 4th delivery of letters at East Cowes to correspond with the 1.10 p.m. delivery at Cowes.

"On the first point the Surveyor reports that the present proposal gives East Cowes all the advantages in mail service which it would have if a Head Office, and he argues that it is better to have the responsibility for the two places, and also for the Osborne services during the Queen's stay, in the hands of the experienced Postmaster of Cowes.

"I concur with this view and cannot therefore recommend that this part of the Council's request be sanctioned. East Cowes will have a separate postal address, viz:- East Cowes R.S.O., Isle of Wight.

"As to the application for a delivery at 1.10 p.m., the Surveyor reports that the Mail reaching Cowes at 12.10 p.m. brings very little correspondence for East Cowes, and the circumstances do not warrant any special arrangements for its immediate conveyance to East Cowes, or for its delivery there. The Queen's letters arriving by this Mail have already been referred to in this Minute."

On 24 December 1896 a telegram to the Secretary of the Post Office was worded: "Sir Fleetwood Edwards informs me that Her Majesty approves Post Office at Osborne House and I am arranging to open it on 1 January 1897. I note that the cost is to be charged to the postal account". Prior to this ordinary Household mail was handled by the existing postal facilities provided on the island at Cowes. However, letters actually from the Royal Family were carried in the Queen's Pouch utilising the Royal Mail Steam Packet from Ryde to Portsmouth and then by the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage, as explained earlier.

The newly introduced Osborne handstamp was used to cancel all mail emanating from the House prior to its collection by the mail cart bound for Ryde. The Portsmouth Sorting Carriage cancels were thus no longer used and all mail left the island cancelled.

The Osborne Sub-Post Office opened as planned, having previously only been used for telegraph work, for use by the Royal Household and to relieve the Sergeant Footman of what had become arduous Sub-Postmaster duties (four mails each way despatched and received, parcels and letters weighed and stamps sold). The position of Clerk-in-Charge was undertaken by the Court Telegraphist. The nearest Post Office to Osborne was East Cowes, some distance away. It was classed as a Branch Office under Cowes and was not open to the public during the "Royal" period. A Post Office Weekly Circular entry dated 12 January 1897 read:

"Post Office Opened at Osborne

On the 1st instant the Office at Osborne, which has hitherto been open only for telegraph work, was opened as a Postal Sub-Office also - for the convenience of the Queen's Household.

It is subordinate to Cowes, and the Court Telegraphist is Clerk-in-charge.

It will be open only during the periods of Her Majesty's residence.

Postal Orders are sold, but Money Orders and Savings Bank business is not transacted."

Approximately 1,000 letters and 164 parcels were handled each way and £73 worth of stamps and £237 of postal orders were sold in the period that the Court were in residence from 1 January to 15 February.

Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 a telegraph line was laid from the House to the yacht "Hohenzollern" which belonged to the German Emperor who had come for the funeral. A German speaking Telegraphist was provided called Mr Mullins who was placed on board the vessel to process the vast quantity of telegrams received and despatched. In all sixty three Telegraphists were deployed nationwide and nearly 9,000 telegrams

were transmitted at press rates generating an extra income of over £530 for the Post Office.

A Public Branch Post Office was opened during 1904 for use by the members of the staff and patients at the Convalescent Home as the following PMG Minute of 1903 revealed: "An application has been received from His Majesty's Office of Works asking that a Sub Office, which was opened in the time of the late Queen for all branches of work during the residence of the Court may now be opened permanently for the benefit of the residents at the new Convalescent Home and Naval College which are being established at Osborne.

"It is estimated that there will be about four hundred persons in residence at these two places increasing later on to six hundred and to this number must be added one hundred-and-fifty persons connected with and residing on the estate.

"Eventually, therefore, there will be about 750 persons to avail themselves of the desired facilities; and while it is impossible at present to forecast the amount of work, there is reason to think that the Office should be remunerative.

"Premises will be provided and fitted up by the Office of Works, and it is thought that a staff of two Female Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists will be required, for whom free accommodation will be provided in the Nurse's Quarters.

"If you approve, the minor details shall be settled later on when the requirements can be better forecast, everything shall be in readiness for 1st January next when opening is desired."

During 1917 the Post Office installed a Public Branch Telephone Exchange at the House.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.76



Fig. 4.77



Fig. 4.78

- 4.76 P/OSBORNE single circle. Issued 25 March 1870 to Windsor Castle for telegraphic use at Osborne.
- 4.77 OSBORNE/I.OF.WIGHT single circle. Issued 1897. Seen 1900.
- 4.78 OSBORNE I.W. parcel type double circle. Issued 1897.

KEVII CONVALESCENT HOME FOR OFFICERS

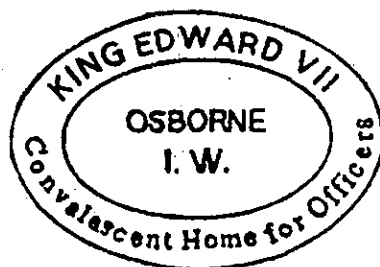


Fig. 4.79

4.79 KING EDWARD VII/OSBORNE/I.W./Convalescent Home for Officers double oval. Seen 1982. Included here for completeness only.

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

Built on the site of an abbey, the present building dates from the seventeenth century and was used by Queen Victoria as a means of breaking her long journey to Balmoral. Prior to this, she was guest of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. The Palace is the Royal Family's official Scottish home.

In 1911 a Post Office was opened at the Palace for the visit of the King and in 1914 a telephone system was installed. Mail these days is sent unstamped to Edinburgh for cancellation. Only registered or special delivery mail receives the Holyroodhouse cancellation.

Despite Queen Elizabeth II being the first Elizabeth of Scotland, the royal monogram certifying stamp "EIIR" is used at the Palace.

CANCELLATIONS

Note - Postal markings worded 'Holyrood' are not connected with the Royal Household as Holyrood was a normal TSO under Edinburgh Head Office.



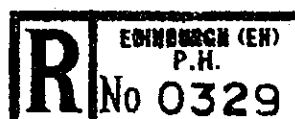
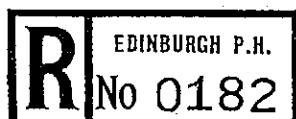
Fig. 4.80



Fig. 4.81

- 4.80 **HOLYROOD PALACE/+** (cross pattee) single circle. Issued 29 June 1911. Post Office Proof Book states: "Issued to A G D, King Edward Buildings." Used originally for the visit of the King to Edinburgh between 17-21 July 1911 on ordinary pre-paid mail. However, WG Stitt Dibden in his article "A Coronation Collection" (see bibliography on page 178) states that it was introduced to handle the large volume of telegrams expected following the Coronation. Also known used in 1953 and 1958 on registered mail.
- 4.81 **HOLYROOD PALACE/+** (cross pattee) single circle. A replacement for above cancellation. Seen 1974 to 1976.

REGISTRATION LABELS



EDINBURGH B Known 1953.

EDINBURGH P.H. "No. 0182" seen 1958. The P.H. presumably indicates Palace of Holyroodhouse, despite the Post Office insisting that the residence is called Holyrood Palace in the cancellations.

EDINBURGH (EH)/P.H. "No. 0329" seen, date unknown.

PURSE BEARER AND PURSE BEARER DEPARTMENT

The Purse Bearer is also the Lord High Commissioner and arranges Court Ceremonial. He also attends the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.



Fig. 4.82



Fig. 4.83

- 4.82 **-PURSE BEARER-/(THISTLE)/HOLYROODHOUSE** triple oval. Applied not at Holyroodhouse but in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. Seen 1984.
- 4.83 **-PURSE BEARER DEPT-/(THISTLE)/HOLYROODHOUSE** triple oval. Seen 1980's.

PICCADILLY, NUMBER 145

145 Piccadilly in the heart of London was once the home of His Majesty King George VI when he was Duke of York.

There must have been postal facilities of some kind at the House for the Duke, although the writer has not come across any postal material during researches for this book.

ROYAL LODGE

The Lodge is a pink washed gothic house set in the middle of Windsor Park and has been the Queen Mother's home since 1931 and is where she spends most weekends.

There is no indication that special postal facilities exist.

ROYAL PAVILION, ALDERSHOT

Designed and built in 1855 for Queen Victoria, the Pavilion was first used as a royal residence on 10th June. It was a wooden building used by the King while inspecting the troops at various military spectacles and manoeuvres in Aldershot. The building no longer exists having been demolished in 1963.

The late Norman Hill stated in his article "Royal Pavilion, Aldershot" (see bibliography on page 179): "Only when royalty were in residence were postal facilities provided at the Pavilion. The Court Postmaster and staff then filled their normal duties at the Pavilion, the forward handling of the royal correspondence being performed by the Aldershot Head Post Office; State correspondence, however, was conveyed in a locked pouch. Three deliveries and collections were made daily "by a Postman with shiny boots, glittering badges and buttons.""

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.84

4.84 ROYAL PAVILION, ALDERSHOT/(CROWN) single circle. Struck in red.

MAY, 1928.

THE KING'S OWN MESSENGER SERVICE To Royal Pavilion, Aldershot.

	LEAVE BUCKINGHAM PALACE.	LEAVE WATERLOO.	DUE AT ALDERSHOT.	DUE AT R. PAVILION.
WEEK DAYS	{ 10.55 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	{ 11.24 a.m. 8.0 p.m.	{ 12.56 p.m. 9.22 p.m.	{ 1.15 p.m. 9.45 p.m.
SUNDAYS	{ 12.50 p.m. 5.40 p.m.	{ 1.20 p.m. 6.10 p.m.	{ 2.52 p.m. 7.21 p.m.	{ 3.15 p.m. 7.45 p.m.

TO LONDON.

	LEAVE R. PAVILION.	LEAVE ALDERSHOT.	DUE AT WATERLOO.
WEEK DAYS	{ 9.55 a.m. 8.25 p.m.	{ 10.16 a.m. 8.46 p.m.	{ 11.36 a.m. 10.14 p.m.
SUNDAYS	{ 9.34 a.m. 8.10 p.m.	{ 9.54 a.m. 8.30 p.m.	{ 11.20 a.m. 9.56 p.m.

Timetable for the King's Own Messenger
Service when at Aldershot

ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON

The Pavilion was built following the visit by His Majesty George IV and between 1815-22 John Nash transformed it into a unique Indian style of domes and minarets. In 1848 it was sold to Brighton Town Commissioners for £50,000.

In 1836 a Minute preserved in the Post Office Archives detailed accidental damage to one of the Despatch Boxes of the King. It is reproduced herewith: "My Lord, I beg to enclose a note from Mr Backhouse respecting a despatch box addressed to His Majesty which had been broken open when it arrived at the Pavilion.

"I lost no time in calling upon the proper officer for a debate upon the subject from which it appears that the box was in a perfect state when it reached this office and that it was safely deposited in the Brighton bag.

"There can be no doubt therefore that the injury was caused by the force which the guard was compelled to use to get the letter bags into the box of the mail coach.

"With respect to Mr Johnson's suggestion that the guards should be cautioned against any repetition of such violence during H.M.'s stay at Brighton I doubt the propriety of such a prohibition, as I plead that on many occasions it would be absolutely inappropriate to get the bags into the mail boxes without great force - a general caution might be given not to use violence unless it shall be actually required.

"If your Lordship approves I can state to Mr Backhouse your opinion as to the cause of the accident."

ST. JAMES'S PALACE

In 1532 King Henry VIII acquired a female leper hospital. On the site he built St. James's Palace. Clarence House adjoins the apartments at the west end.

In 1906 an additional Telegraph Messenger was appointed to serve at the Palace.

Considering the importance of this residence it is surprising that more archival material has not been unearthed.

DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE PALACE

ASCOT OFFICE

The Ascot Representative is appointed by the Sovereign to run the Ascot Office and to issue tickets for the Royal Enclosure.

A rubber certifying stamp was used by His/Her Majesty's Representative.



Fig. 4.85



Fig. 4.86

4. 85 */HIS MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE*/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1. oval. Introduced 1948.

4.86 HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. James's Palace, S.W. double oval. Seen 1979.

Pre-Printed Certifying Stamps

Her Majesty's Representative now uses pre-printed envelopes that bear a facsimile of the above certifying stamps in black at the bottom left hand corner. The flap has an oval logo in red with the words "Her Majesty's Representative" and a crest.



Fig. 4.87



Fig. 4.88

4.87 HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. James's Palace, SW1A 1BP double oval. Seen 1986.

4.88 HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. James's Palace, SW1A 1BP double oval. As above stamp but larger. Seen 1987

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

The principal functions are to maintain the records of Chivalry less the Order of the Thistles, publication of entries in the London Gazette, the organisation of Investitures and research. Previously at 8 Buckingham Gate.



Fig. 4.89



Fig. 4.90

4.89 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE/LONDON, S.W.1./OF KNIGHTHOOD oval. Seen 1975.

4.90 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS/./(CROWN)/./ST. JAMES'S PALACE/LONDON, S.W.1./OF KNIGHTHOOD oval. Seen 1987.

CORONATION (EXECUTIVE) COMMITTEE

The Committee was appointed to consider the arrangements to be made for the Coronation of Their Majesties in June 1911.

Collections of mail were made from the Private Box of the Earl Marshal's Office (17 collections daily), with delivery by Postmen in the usual way. No special telegraph facilities were required. Extra arrangements were deemed necessary at certain times such as when the despatch of notices or tickets was expected, either at Norfolk House or Westminster Abbey.

Telegrams were handed in usually at Charles Street B0 during the day, and at West Strand after ordinary hours and on Sundays. Occasionally however, Broad Sanctuary B0 was used as it was the nearest Telegraph Office to Westminster Abbey.



Fig. 4.91

4.91 */CORONATION (EXECUTIVE)*/./(CROWN)/COMMITTEE double circle. Seen 1910.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

On 25 September 1951 a memorandum headed "Most Confidential" from F.G. Fielder of the Post Office indicated that postal and telephone facilities would be needed "in certain circumstances" and that a special office of the Earl Marshal would be set-up "in the event of particular circumstances arising". All very mysterious at the time, but of course we now know that they were planning for the imminent death of His Majesty King George the Sixth.

On the 6th February the office was opened as planned as His Majesty had died. Exceptionally all mail from the Earl Marshal's Office was treated as being on the list of departments entitled to the official paid posting facility. Records were maintained of all the mail and telegrams despatched and these were sent to the AGD via the Finance Branch of the Regional Office once the Earl Marshal's Office closed.



Fig. 4.92

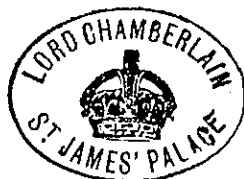
4.92 +/EARL MARSHAL'S/(CROWN)/OFFICE/+ double oval. In use from 6 February 1952 for only a few weeks.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

As Senior Officer of the Household he is responsible for ceremonial including all arrangements for Royal Garden Parties, Royal Weddings, State Visits plus many other subsidiary functions.

A pre-printed envelope worded in black at bottom left "Lord Chamberlain" has been seen dated 19 February 1970, together with the certifying stamp of the period.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Lord Chamberlain, the Comptroller and the Chief Clerk.



**Incorrect spelling of St James's.
Noticed and corrected prior to issue**

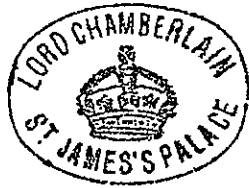


Fig. 4.93



Fig. 4.94

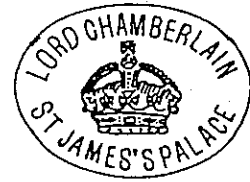


Fig. 4.95



Fig. 4.96

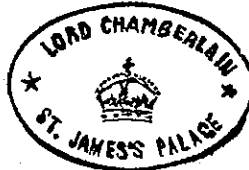


Fig. 4.97

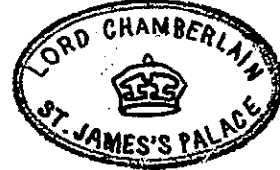


Fig. 4.98

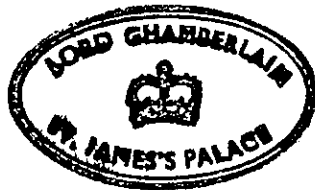


Fig. 4.99

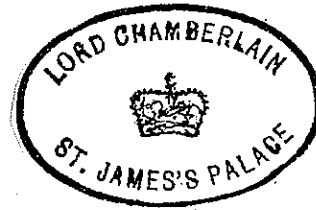


Fig. 4.100

- 4.93 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE oval. Issued 28 August 1901 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1902 to 1906 in violet.
- 4.94 (CROWN)/(DATE)/LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, oval. Seen used December 1901 on a letter NOT item of mail and in 1906 on cover.
- 4.95 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE oval. Seen 1909.
- 4.96 */LORD CHAMBERLAIN*/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE oval. Seen 1935 in violet.
- 4.97 */LORD CHAMBERLAIN*/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE oval. Seen 1951 in violet.
- 4.98 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE double oval. Seen 1970 in violet.
- 4.99 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE double oval. Seen 1975 in violet.
- 4.100 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE single oval. Seen 1984 in violet.

THE ROYAL COLLECTION

In 1988 an exhibition entitled "Treasures from the Royal Collection" was opened in the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. They used a large certifying stamp at St. James's Palace on letters relating to the show and

the marking could almost be termed the first commemorative certifying stamp.



Fig. 4.101

4.101 THE ROYAL COLLECTION/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE SW1A 1JR oval. Seen 1988 struck in blue/black ink.

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

The Prince of Wales, later to become Edward VII, bought the Sandringham Estate in 1863. 1871 saw the rebuilding of the house in red brick and in the 1970's it was reduced in size and many internal alterations were made.

A PMG Minute preserved in Post Office Archives details the setting-up of the Post Office at the House from 1 December 1877 and the charges levied. It reads: "I submit that a Post Office may be established at Sandringham House as desired by the Prince of Wales, and that the arrangements which the Surveyor has proposed for the improvement of the post to the neighbourhood throughout the year, as well as those for the special convenience of His Royal Highness when at Sandringham may receive your Lordship's approval. The alterations of expenses will be as follows:

To Commence

	£.	s.	d.	
Sandringham S.O. Salary	25.	0.	0	a year
West Newton S.O. Allce for delivery	8.	0.	0	
Additional payment to Contractor for Mail Cart	10.	0.	0	

	£43.	0.	0	

To Cease

Dersingham S.O. allce. for delivery	23.	9.	3	(£23.46)

Permanent Increase	£19.	10.	9	(£19.54)

"In addition there will be an expense of 9/- (45p) a day incurred during the stay of the Prince or Princess for a special cart between Lynn and Sandringham in the evening."

The Minutes also show that the Post Office were not happy to pay the costs relating to the postal officers at Sandringham House. It reads: "I do not think the Department will be justified in continuing to provide the services of these clerks free of charge; and I propose with your Lordship's approval, to write to the Controller of the Prince of Wales' Household, and say that your Lordship's attention having been drawn to the matter you feel that you have no alternative but to request that for the future the services of the Clerks may be paid for; that you propose accordingly to charge H.R.H. The Prince of Wales with the actual salaries of the Clerks during the period of their service at Sandringham as well as with their travelling and subsistence allowances during the same period; and that you trust His Royal Highness will have no objection to this proposal.

"The Queen, I should state, pays for the services of the Clerk who attends Her Majesty."

The Office became a Money Order and Savings Bank Office in 1878 and in 1886 a public Telegraph Office was opened, again at the express wish of the Prince. As a private wire between King's Lynn and Sandringham was the property of the Prince, it had to be purchased from him by the Post Office and approval was given on 31 January 1886. The charges levied for the Telegraphist were discontinued but a Mr Warrington continued to serve from 1888.

A private wire between Sandringham House and Appleton House was installed in 1896 and in 1899, at 5.15am, a Special Bag was despatched from London to Sandringham House for the Prince of Wales daily. Additionally, a private wire was established between Sandringham House and West Newton Schoolhouse and Clubhouse and finally in this hectic year postally, a private wire between Sandringham House and "The Folley", Sandringham was established, again for the Prince of Wales.

The use of royal monogram certifying stamps by Mr Beck (His Majesty's Estate Agent at Sandringham) was granted in 1902 but the facility was rescinded in 1936.

A Report to the Secretary of the Post Office in 1903 about the work undertaken by Mr Hiley when at the House was submitted by the Sub-Postmaster at King's Lynn and read as follows: "Mr Hiley is always on duty he is in the Office about 8am and remains throughout the day till 11 & 12 at night & sometimes later. He himself deals with the Kings Private Pouch and despatch boxes of which he holds the key and is responsible. He sleeps close at hand so that he can be immediately fetched should he be wanted during the night.

"It is quite necessary for Mr Hiley to be within call at all times, it often happens he is sent for to go to His Majesty and members of the Household on official business and also to decipher Their Majesties writing. I should like to point out that the telegrams are exceedingly long ones and the majority are in a foreign language or cypher and the numbers dealt with cannot be taken at the ordinary average."

When the Court were in residence extra staff were provided by King's Lynn Post Office from 1906 and stamps and postal orders were obtained on credit, also from King's Lynn. A special telephone circuit was installed between Sandringham and Buckingham Palace in 1922.

When King George V died at Sandringham in 1936 over 200,000 words of condolence were dealt with by the Court Post Office telegraph system and its volume of postal traffic surpassed all previous records. The staff were able to take over as much extra accommodation and staff as facilities allowed.

In 1947 a very serious train accident occurred to the East Anglia TPO at Gidea Park station in Essex. The train included mail from His Majesty at Sandringham which was returned to the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.102



Fig. 4.103



4.104



- 4.102 OFFICIAL PAID/SANDRINGHAM HOUSE, NFK single circle. Seen 1974 in red.
 4.103 SANDRINGHAM HOUSE/NORFOLK double circle with thin arcs. Seen 1976.
 4.104 Seen 1984. Machine number P.B.L 518H. Struck in red.

UNOFFICIAL CACHETS

Not of Royal Household origin. Included here for completeness only.



Fig. 4.105



Fig. 4.106

- 4.105 SANDRINGHAM/(CROWN)/1953/EIIR/CORONATION CAMP single circle. Used during the Coronation arrangements on commemorative mail.
 4.106 19/ROYAL ESTATE/56/(SCOUT EMBLEM)/SANDRINGHAM single circle. Used at a Scout Jamboree and struck in green ink on mail posted there.

SUNNINGHILL PARK

This property was purchased by the Duke and Duchess of York following their marriage and it is sited near Windsor in Berkshire.

At the time of writing this book the House had not been occupied.

TAMARISK

Tamarisk is sited in the Scilly Isles and is one of the homes of the Prince and Princess of Wales. No special postal facilities are provided.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

Once a small Lodge for park officials at Richmond in Surrey, it was enlarged in 1727. Princess Alexandra has lived there since 1963.

In 1891 a Rural Postman was appointed to assist on station service. His wages were accordingly increased. Two years later the delivery office was transferred from Richmond to Kingston-upon-Thames. No special postal facilities exist.

TOWER OF LONDON

The building of the Tower of London was begun by William the Conqueror in the 11th Century. It was built to control and protect the City of London and has subsequently been a prison, fortress and Palace.

In 1903 the Office of Works took charge of the War Department with effect from the first of April. The official letters of General Milman, the Lieutenant of the Tower, had previously been franked by the Ordnance Officer (Major Moore) with an allowance of 1s3d (6p) per day made to the Constable of the Tower for postage. Permission was sought for the issuing of a certifying stamp to the Lieutenant, to be shared with the Clerk of Works who had previously been compelled to send his official letters to Custom House to be franked.

Outward mail from the Ordnance Store Office at the Tower was certified by the "War Department/Tower" certifying stamp; whilst incoming correspondence was addressed to the Ordnance Officer, Captain R Moore, A.O.D.

Collections from the Tower were to be made into the Inland Section at 4:50pm (Monday to Friday) and 3:27pm (Saturdays only). The Bag arriving at 5:22pm and 3:56pm respectively by "Local Marine Board, Dock Street, E" country van enclosed in the Great Tower Street Country Letter Bag and detailed on the Great Tower Street Letter Bill. Any "immediate" letters could be handed in at the Great Tower Street B.O. Deliveries were to be made by the ECDO throughout the day.

The use of the large general certifying stamp was approved in June 1903 but in 1911 attention was drawn to the fact that it was "of unusual size and design and is affixed in an unusual position". It did not comply with "Paragraph five of the Treasury Regulations, under which a Certifying Stamp should contain the name of the Department to which it belongs and the impression of the stamp occupies an unduly large portion of the front of the cover and is liable to obscure the address, and is also affixed in the place usually occupied by a postage stamp (ie in the top right hand corner) instead of in the bottom left hand corner." Apparently it embarrassed the Postmaster General who insisted that a certifying stamp "of the usual pattern" be supplied.

In 1914 a letter from the Tower stated that letters were still enclosed in a sealed bag and handed in a Great Tower Street B.O. They requested that this be abolished in favour of posting in ordinary post boxes and over the counter at Great Tower Street B.O or Billingsgate B.O, in bundles. The Controller of the London Postal Service agreed to the abolition of the Bag but refused posting in ordinary letter boxes. Arrangements were accordingly made for mail to be handed over as requested provided that they were enclosed in a cover addressed to the "Superintendent on Duty, ECDO". 1916 saw a similar request to use the post boxes in the North Western District of London but, again, this was refused.

During 1923 a request was made for the Constable's Office to have the benefit of a Non-Paying Account as a letter sent by him was surcharged by the Post Office as it was not considered that it bore a legal type of certifying stamp. It was pointed out that this stamp had been in use for over a quarter of a century without being challenged and so it was agreed on the 9th November that free postage could continue, but on a "legal" basis. Later that year it was found that the oversize stamp banned in 1911 was still in use by the Governor of the Tower and that the cost of the correspondence was debited to the War Office. It was admitted that the Post Office were at fault for not fully explaining the situation at the time and so special steps were taken to check all government departments in case similar discrepancies existed.

In 1936 a further letter was erroneously surcharged bearing the Constable's Office certifying stamp because it had been posted in a pillar box and had not been cancelled with the official paid marking.

Following an article in the Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly of 29th July 1950 by the late Arthur Blair a full-scale enquiry was launched into the use of certifying stamps at the Tower in case any irregularities were apparent as

the article led the Post Office to believe that unauthorized stamps were in use. The enquiries made brought to light that the Constables Office had been posting their correspondence in the public pillar box at Towergate. This was stopped at once and all mail was now to be handed over the counter at Seething Lane BO. Snap checks were made to ensure that the regulations were being adhered to.

The Post Office were surprised that Sorting Office and delivery staff did not realise that the regulations were not being adhered to and although it was felt that this case was probably an isolated problem, the postings of all government departments was checked.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.107

4.107 THE-TOWER/LONDON single circle. Issued 17 June 1884.

GENERAL CERTIFYING STAMPS

All certifying stamps used after the Royal period and included here for completeness only.

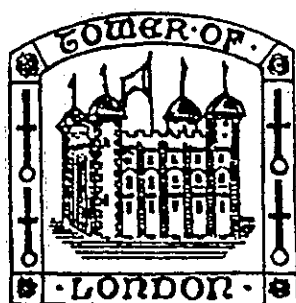


Fig. 4.108

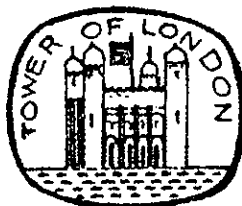


Fig. 4.109

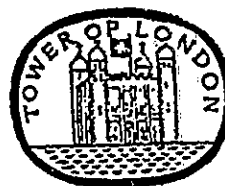


Fig. 4.110

- 4.108 TOWER.OF./LONDON with picture of the Tower and heraldic devices. Arch shaped. Introduced 1903. Seen 1911 in violet.
- 4.109 TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the Tower. Squared oval.
- 4.110 TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the Tower. Squared oval. Seen c1970 in blue.

THE ARMOURIES

The Armouries are where the arsenal of weapons are stored.

Pre-Printed Envelopes

Envelopes headed O.H.M.S. exist with, in the bottom left hand corner, the legend "The Armouries,/Tower of London." Seen 1923.

Certifying Stamp

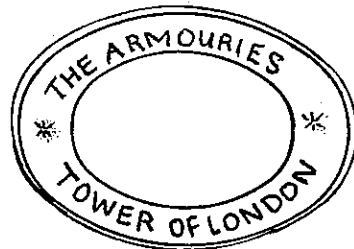


Fig. 4.111



Fig. 4.112

4.111 THE ARMOURIES/TOWER OF LONDON triple oval.

4.112 THE ARMOURIES/*/H.M. TOWER OF LONDON/* with Crown at centre. Double circle. Seen 1974.

THE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

The Constable is the Governor in charge of the Tower of London.



Fig. 4.113



Fig. 4.114



Fig. 4.115



Fig. 4.116



Fig. 4.117

- 4.113 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S*/OFFICE*/H.M./TOWER/OF/LONDON double oval.
Seen 1906/10 in violet.
- 4.114 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S*/OFFICE*/H.M./TOWER/OF/LONDON double oval.
Introduced May 1924.
- 4.115 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S OFFICE/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the
Tower. Seen 1946.
- 4.116 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S OFFICE/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the
Tower.
- 4.117 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S OFFICE/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the
Tower. Seen 1978 in red.

THE OFFICE OF WORKS

A government department that was at one time located within the grounds of the Tower of London.



Fig. 4.118

- 4.118 OFFICE OF WORKS/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the Tower.
Introduced 1911. Seen 1914.



H. M. Office of Works, &c.

**Original pen and ink artwork for certifying
stamp on OHMS stationery envelope**

ORDNANCE OFFICE

The Ordnance Office was a government department for military stores.

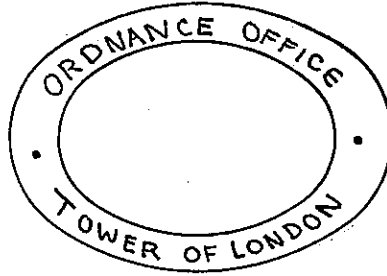


Fig. 4.119

4.119 ./ORDNANCE OFFICE/./ (DATE)/TOWER OF LONDON double oval. Seen 1914.

WAR DEPARTMENT

A government department that was at one time located within the grounds of the Tower of London.



Fig. 4.120

4.120 WAR DEPARTMENT/(CROWN)/TOWER oval. Seen 1923.

WHITE LODGE

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Teck used to live at White Lodge, which was sited in Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey having become a royal residence in 1730. Building of the property had commenced three years earlier in 1727.

A PMG Minute of 1875 concerned deliveries and read: "From the accompanying Reports it appears that the request of HRH the Duchess of Teck for two

deliveries of letters a day, with corresponding collections at the White Lodge, Richmond Park, to be made by Letter Carrier from Mortlake would involve an expense not justified by the revenue from the letters to be delivered, even calculating it at the unusually high rate of 1d (1/2p) per letter.

"At present letters for the White Lodge are left by one of the Richmond Letter Carriers at the Park Keeper's Lodge opposite the "Star and Garter" Hotel, and are conveyed thence by one of the Park-Keepers at about 10:15am and 4:00pm. The same number of deliveries - but at more suitable hours, viz 9:20am and 7:30pm with two collections, could be made officially by employing one of the Richmond Telegraph Messengers at a cost of only 5/- (25p) per week, and as this seems the best arrangement that can be made under the circumstances I submit that it be sanctioned." Arrangements were approved on 4th March that year.

WILTON HOUSE

The House is the home of The Earl of Pembroke and was built by Sir William Herbert over four hundred years ago.

A registered cover dated 1908 from the House and bearing the royal monogram certifying stamp of King Edward VII is known, presumably during a royal visit by Their Majesties.

WINDSOR CASTLE

For nearly 900 years Windsor Castle has been the principal residence of the Sovereign and the Queen always spends Christmas there, although at the time of writing Windsor Castle is about to undergo a major re-fit and Sandringham will temporarily become their Christmas residence. Built by William the Conqueror, the Castle was restored by George IV.

King George III began re-using the neglected Castle in 1775 and a Richard Martin of the Castle Inn, Windsor became Hackneyman to His Majesty, having obtained the Royal Warrant in the 1780's.

The Post Office took charge of the telephone circuits in 1879 and during 1888 there were "suspected persons at Windsor" and special precautions were made for the safety of the Queen's Pouches. A few years later in 1892 a PMG Minute states that a telegram was forged at Windsor, but gives no further insight into what must have been considered a very serious offence at that time.

In 1896 Queen Victoria was desirous of telephones between Windsor Castle and Cumberland Lodge. Telegraphs already existed with Windsor Post Office intermediate. A Public Telegraph Office had for some years been established at the Lodge and was often used by persons residing in the vicinity. Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle were connected to the National Telephone Company's exchange at this time and in the following year the Post Office took charge of the telephone circuits. A letter by Mr Hiley that year indicated that for a cost of 10s (50p) for four months of the year, postal orders and stamps could be sold when the Court were in residence, as had been done at Osborne. A Bond was issued to the Postmaster of Windsor to cover the credit stock that needed to be obtained. The sale of postal orders and postage stamps by the Court Telegraphist was sanctioned and an officer from Windsor Post Office was sent to assist.

By February 1904 a Post Office was being maintained within Windsor Castle between the hours of 8am and midnight and in 1906 when the Court was at Windsor, two Telegraphists were supplied from the Windsor Head Post Office who slept in at the Castle and received board and lodging.

A Post Office counter was opened in 1912 under the control of the Court Postmaster and extended hours of opening were established which meant that a further two Sorting Clerk Telegraphists needed to be employed.

During 1916 male Sorting Clerk Telephonists who were employed at Windsor Castle were not allowed to be replaced by females despite any desire they may have had to assist the war effort.

In the 1930's the "Post Office Magazine" detailed postal arrangements at Windsor during the reign of King George VI. It read: "Delivery and collection services are effected in the ordinary way by the Postman when the Court is not in residence, but when Their Majesties and Court are at the Castle a full time Postman-in-Waiting is provided extra and boy Messengers-in-Waiting for the additional work inside the Castle itself.

"During Court visits the Court Postmaster is present in immediate charge, and then H.M.'s official correspondence and despatch boxes are exchanged direct between Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle by G.P.O. Motor Vans.

"The Gentleman Porter still takes over Their Majesties' personal items, but the Windsor postman effects delivery to the apartments of the Court officials and visiting Ministers, and makes collections in the course of the day for the principal despatches."

The office was re-located to its current position facing the quadrangle during 1963. These days, when the Queen is in residence the Post Office is the responsibility of the Court Postmaster. At other times it comes under the control of the Windsor Head Post Office, where all the mail gets processed.

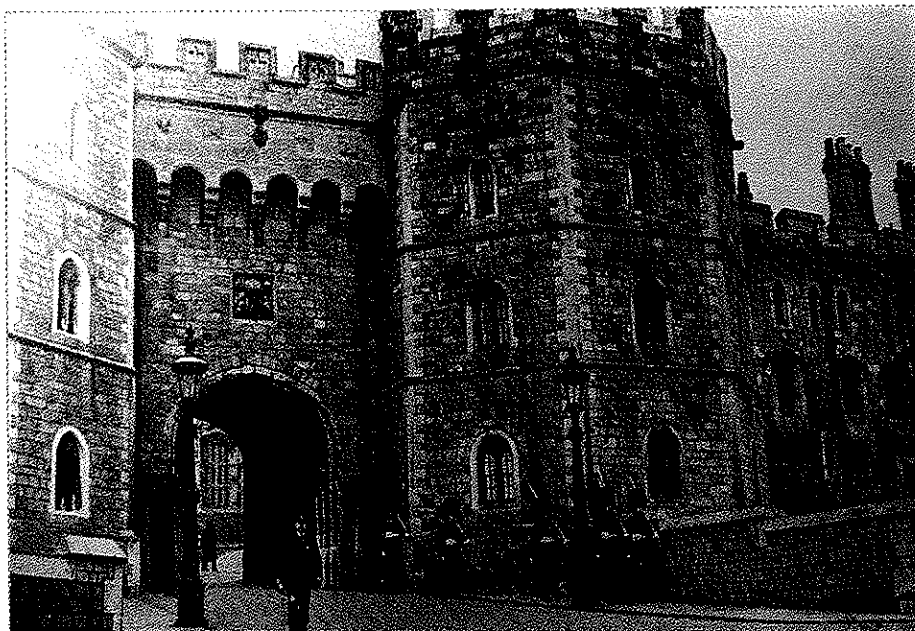
THE ROYAL POSTMAN



"This photograph is of Mr W T Riley who had the distinction of dealing with the Royal Mails at Windsor Castle from 1902 to 1915 during the Court visits of their Majesties King Edward VII and King George Sixth, respectively. The King's Pouch itself was padlocked and chained and bore on it the inscription "H.M. The King, Windsor Castle" on a large brass address label. During the greater portion of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's reign the Royal mail for Windsor Castle was taken over at the Head Post Office by a Corporal of Horse and two Troopers of the Life Guards and conveyed to the Castle for delivery to the Gentleman Porter, but during the reign of King Edward VII the work was transferred to the practice of Postmen undertaking all the duties.

"Mr. Riley was the first to be entrusted with these wider services of delivery direct to the several official quarters of His Majesty's Court when in Residence at Windsor."

(Reproduced from the "Post Office Magazine")



Postman leaving Windsor Castle
having made a delivery, 1930's

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.121



Fig. 4.122



Fig. 4.123



Fig. 4.124



- 4.121** WINDSOR.CASTLE single circle. Issued 23 February 1870.
- 4.122** WINDSOR.CASTLE single circle. Issued for telegraphic use. Seen 1903 to 1926 on postcards.
- 4.123** WINDSOR CASTLE, WINDSOR, BERKS single circle. Issued prior to the first world war. Seen 1979 on registered mail.
- 4.124** Machine Number 2N 451Y. Struck in red. Used by the Estate Office. Seen 1987.

REGISTRATION LABELS



- WINDSOR CASTLE "No. 15". Seen 1919.
- WINDSOR CASTLE "No. 0654". Seen 1941.
- WINDSOR/CASTLE "No. 2277". Seen 1979.
- WINDSOR CASTLE "No. 7131"

DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE CASTLE

FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S

Envelopes worded "The Society of Friends of St. George's / Windsor Castle" in black at top left hand corner exist. Seen 1982.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S DEPARTMENT

As Senior Officer of the Household he is responsible for ceremonial including all arrangements for royal garden parties, royal weddings, state visits plus many other subsidiary functions.



Fig. 4.125

4.125 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/WINDSOR CASTLE oval. Seen October 1901 and 1907.

MASTER OF THE HORSE

Titular head of the Royal Mews. He attends the Queen on ceremonial occasions when Her Majesty travels by horse drawn carriage or rides on horseback. The Master of the Horse periodically inspects the Royal Mews and is in charge of the Sovereign's stables.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Superintendent of the Royal Mews.



Fig. 4.126



Fig. 4.127

4.126 MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/ROYAL MEWS,WINDSOR oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

4.127 */MASTER OF THE HORSE*/(CROWN)/THE ROYAL MEWS,WINDSOR double oval.

MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S DEPARTMENT

The Master of the Household is in charge of the people who run the Palaces and the Sovereign is regularly consulted by him.

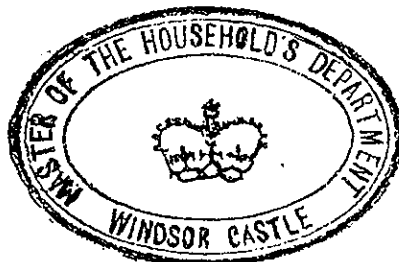


Fig. 4.128



Fig. 4.129

- 4.128 **MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S DEPARTMENT/(CROWN)/WINDSOR CASTLE** triple oval, small Crown. Seen 1964 to 1981.
- 4.129 **MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S DEPARTMENT/(CROWN)/WINDSOR CASTLE** double oval, large Crown. Seen 1986.

PRIVY PURSE OFFICE

Personal payments from the Sovereign's private resources and payments of salaries to the employees of the Sovereign are made by the Privy Purse Office.



Fig. 4.130

- 4.130 ***/PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/WINDSOR** oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1908 to 1940.

ROYAL GARDENS, WINDSOR

Private gardens set within the confines of Windsor Castle.



Fig. 4.131

- 4.131 ***/ROYAL GARDENS*/(CROWN)/WINDSOR** double oval. Seen 1976 to 1987.

MILITARY DETACHMENT MAIL

Letters posted by soldiers based at Windsor Castle on a tour of duty use cachets relating to their Regiment. All covers also receive the Windsor machine cancellation as if it were an ordinary piece of mail that had been posted in Windsor town. There are no special Post Office markings to identify the mail.

YORK COTTAGE

Built in about 1864, York Cottage was originally called Batchelor Cottage. It was home to King George V for thirty years and is currently used as flats and offices for Estate pensioners.

Mail for York Cottage was despatched through Sandringham House Post Office.

YORK HOUSE

York House forms part of St. James's Palace.

In December 1901 it was requested that the Prince of Wales' official correspondence should pass free of postage from York House or, indeed, wherever the Prince may be residing. Hitherto he had paid postage at the ordinary rates. There was no practical difficulty in arranging for the pouches to be franked when passing either to or from one of the Royal Palaces or government offices and the scheme was accordingly granted.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND (and The Queen's Work for Women Fund, and Queen Mary's Needlework Guild)

Established during the first world war to raise money for troops on active service and for their dependents.

A non-paying account was granted by the Post Office in 1914. A PMG Minute gives full details of postal arrangements, and is reproduced herewith: "The Treasury have now given written authority for the transmission of unpaid letters sent on the business of the National Relief Fund and either addressed to or despatched from the Headquarters of the Fund Committee.

"The legality of such authority, even if given by warrant, is by no means clear: under an opinion of Sir Robert Hunter dated 26th May 1888 it could certainly be challenged but Mr Llewelyn Davies in an opinion dated the 17th instant states that, although there is some room for doubt, he is inclined to think that Section 2 of the Post Office Act 1908 "gives sufficiently wide powers to the Treasury to enable them, by Warrant, to sanction the remission of postage in favour of the National Relief Fund and other similar Funds, during the continuance of the war.

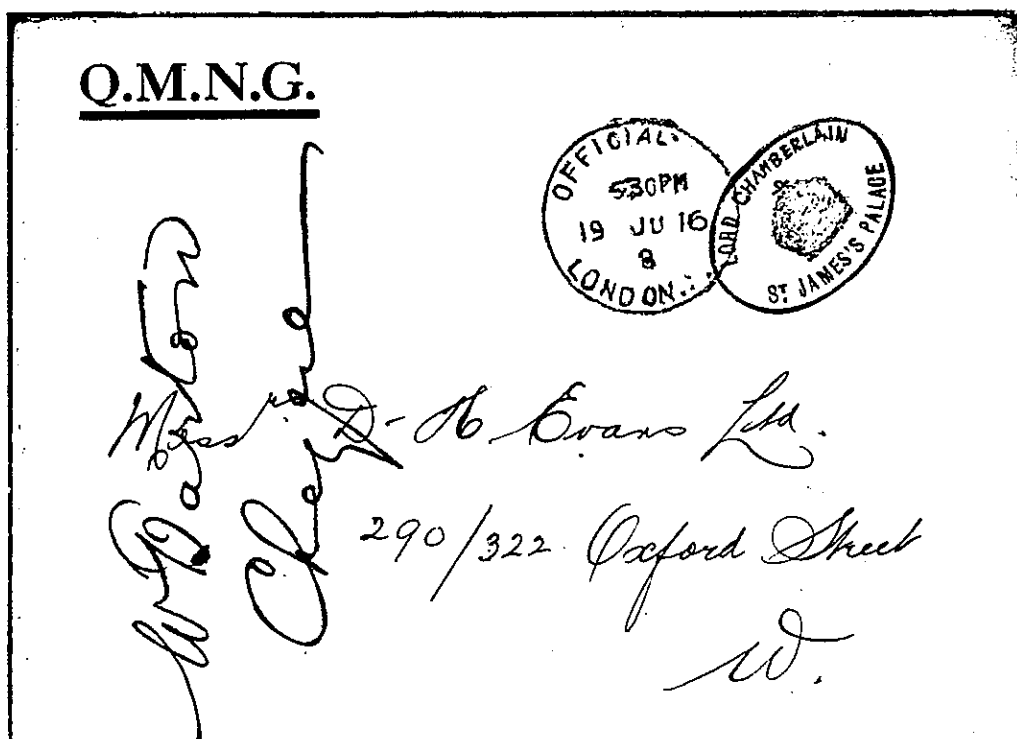
"That the action of the Treasury is opposed to the intention of Parliament - as shown by the abolition of "franking" in 1840 - I have no

doubt, but I do not think the present case is a convenient one in which the Treasury decision should be challenged. Moreover, as the concession of free postage to the National Relief Fund is only a temporary concession, I think it is scarcely necessary to embody it in a formal Warrant, which in ordinary course would be published in the London Gazette.

"The Queen's Work for Women Fund sends its outward letters to Buckingham Palace or York House to be impressed with the National Relief Fund Certifying Stamp. Its inward letters are addressed to Buckingham Palace, York House or Foley House. I recommend that the Work for Women Fund be regarded as a branch of the National Relief Fund and that the postage on its unpaid letters be charged to that Fund's account. Outward letters, in order to pass unpaid, should, I think, continue to be sent to the Headquarters of the National Relief Fund - Buckingham Palace or York House - for certification and despatch.

"Queen Mary's Needlework Guild sends its outward letters from St. James's Palace impressed with the Lord Chamberlain's Certifying Stamp. Its inward letters are addressed to the Guild at St. James's Palace. I recommend that this arrangement be allowed to continue, and that the postage be charged to the account of the Lord Chamberlain's Department which is merged in the Non-Paying Account of His Majesty's Household.

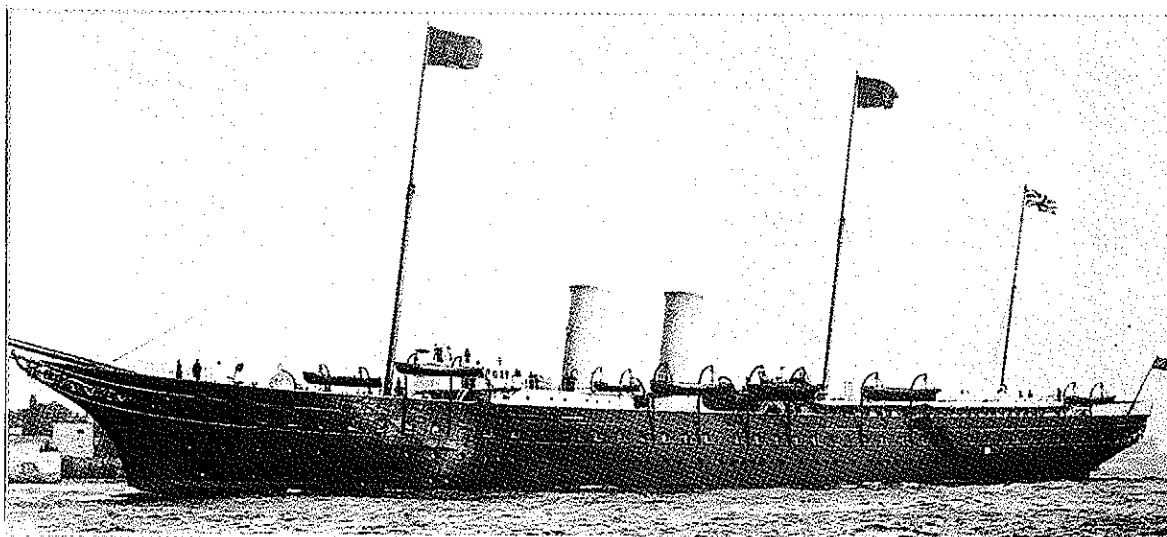
"With regard to the scheme for providing sweaters, outward letters are impressed with the Lord Chamberlain's Certifying Stamp and despatched from St. James's Palace, and inward letters are addressed to Devonshire House. The work of the organisation will probably be completed before long and I recommend that the arrangement be allowed to continue, postage being charged to the account of the Lord Chamberlain's Department."



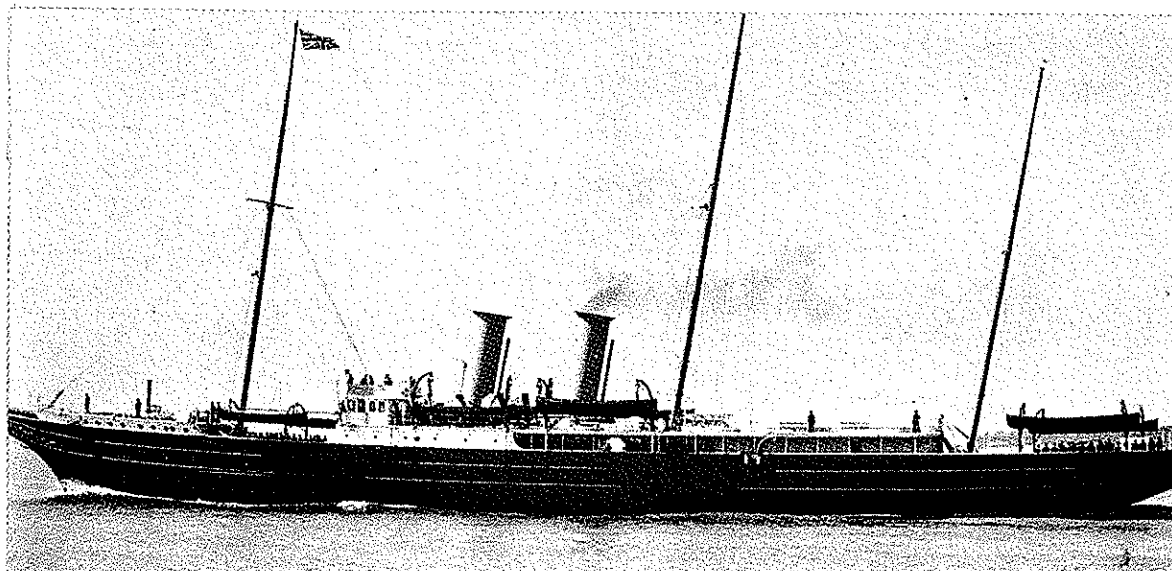
Cover from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild

SECTION 5 -

ROYAL RESIDENCES ON THE MOVE



H.M. YACHT "VICTORIA AND ALBERT III"



H.M. YACHT "ALEXANDRA"

ROYAL FLIGHT

The King's Flight was formed on 20 July 1936 by King Edward VIII at Hendon to provide air transport for the Sovereign and members of the Royal Family when on official duties. It was disbanded between 1941 and May 1946 and was renamed the Queen's Flight on 1st August 1952 upon the Accession of Queen Elizabeth. Based at Royal Air Force Benson in Oxfordshire it is under the control of RAF Strike Command.

CANCELLATIONS

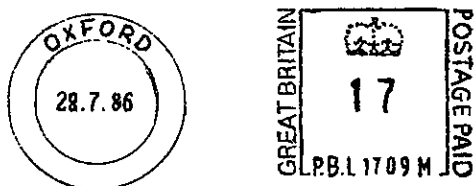


Fig. 5.1

5.1 Seen 1982/6. Machine number P.B.L 1709M. Used by Officer Commanding.

KING'S AND QUEEN'S FLIGHT

The certifying stamps have been used on some mail carried on board aircraft of the King's and Queen's Flight and on certain correspondence emanating from RAF Benson.



Fig. 5.2



Fig. 5.3



Fig. 5.4

5.2 THE KING'S FLIGHT/(DATE)/ROYAL AIR FORCE triple circle. Always applied in violet ink. Seen 1947.

5.3 THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT double circle with Royal Monogram fully within centre circle.

5.4 THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT double circle with royal monogram above centre circle. Seen 1986.

FLIGHT PLANNING

Duties include collecting and displaying weather information and dealing with navigation warnings for all of the country.



Fig. 5.5

5.5 THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT/(DATE)/FLIGHT PLANNING rectangular. Struck in red ink. Seen 1982.

OFFICER COMMANDING

The duties of the Officer Commanding vary from selecting Officers for the Flight, to welfare and disciplinary problems (of which there are few).

**OFFICER COMMANDING
ROYAL AIR FORCE,
BENSON,
OXON, OX9 6AA**

Fig. 5.6

5.6 OFFICER COMMANDING/ROYAL AIR FORCE/BENSON/OXON, OX9 6AA unframed. Seen 1982 to 1984 in red ink on items of Queen's Flight mail.

ROYAL TRAINS

British royalty have used trains to travel around their Kingdom for many decades, indeed since the reign of Queen Victoria.

ROYAL TRAINS WITHIN BRITAIN

The Royal Train maintained for exclusive use by the Royal Family when in Great Britain has stocks of Buckingham Palace notepaper and envelopes on board at all times.

Unfortunately no special cancellation or certifying stamp has ever been used as all mail receives the normal royal monogram certifying stamp of the period and a postmark from the nearest Post Office to where the train stopped.

ROYAL TRAINS ABROAD

When the Royal Family travel abroad on State Visits it is not uncommon for a Post Office to be set-up on the train and for special cancellations to be applied by the host country.

Examples are 1934 when visits were made to Australia and New Zealand and the 1939 visits to the United States of America and Canada.

As the scope of this book is restricted to Royal Household mail posted from within the United Kingdom readers are directed to the bibliography contained within this book from page 178.

ROYAL YACHTS

Many previous Royal Yachts existed but they had no postal significance.

H.M. YACHT "OSBORNE II"

Laid down at Pembroke in 1870 and Commissioned in 1874. Tonnage 1,850, length 250 feet, beam 36 feet 2 inches. Wooden construction with two funnels and three masts. This vessel was the last with paddle wheels.

It has not been ascertained whether a Court Post Office operated on board.

CANCELLATIONS

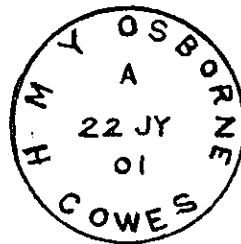


Fig. 5.7

5.7 H M Y OSBORNE/COWES single circle. Only recorded used at the Royal Regatta, Cowes, Isle of Wight in 1901. Skeleton type 30mm.

H.M. YACHT "VICTORIA AND ALBERT III"

Built at Pembroke in 1899 and commissioned in 1901. Length 380 feet, beam 50 feet, displacement 5,500 tons. Broken-up in 1955. A wooden sheathed steel hull, twin screws with two funnels and three masts.

Whilst the Cowes Regatta was being held, His Majesty King George V had the Court Postmaster set-up a Post Office on board. It was necessary for him to dress for the occasion by wearing a peaked cap of the Royal Yacht Squadron and a blue reefer suit.

In 1902 a direct wire was established between the Yacht and Cowes, and also London for the visit to the Isle of Wight. A PMG Minute read:

"In response to Commodore Lambton's request directions were given for a four-wire cable to be run to the Royal Yacht's buoy off Cowes.

"The Yacht reached its moorings at 4:50pm on the 16th, the cable was at once attached, and at 5:20pm the special circuits were working well.

"The arrangement made is for the Royal Yacht to have direct telegraphic communication with London and with Cowes Post Office by separate wires and for two Telegraphists to be in constant attendance on board the Yacht. In addition to this the staff at the Cowes Post Office has been temporarily increased by the addition of four Telegraphists while a special circuit from that office to London with Southampton intermediate has been made up."

An entry in the Post Office Weekly Circular of 8 September 1903 read:

"Treatment of Correspondence for His Majesty's Yachts

"It has been arranged that the Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Yachts should, before leaving any port in the United Kingdom, give directions to the local Postmaster for the re-direction of their correspondence.

"These directions should of course be acted upon, and they should, moreover, be telegraphed at once both to the Superintendent, Inland Section, General Post Office, and to the Postmaster of the port of destination of the Royal Yacht. The instructions will then be telegraphed from the Inland Section to each of the Offices which is supplied with the Admiralty Weekly List of Addresses.

"Letters, Parcels, &c., for His Majesty's Yachts should be accorded the same treatment as packets for His Majesty's Ships (see Rule 211 (h) and Parcel Post Rule 108 (g)) with the exception that private packets for His Majesty's Yachts even if specifically addressed to a different port should be re-addressed when occasion requires at any of the Offices supplied with the necessary information."

An entry in the Post Office Weekly Circular of 29 July 1913 read:

**"Their Majesties on board the Royal Yacht "Victoria and Albert"
at Cowes during the Regatta**

"Telegrams for the Royal Yacht should circulate to the Central Telegraph Office which will be in direct communication therewith. Boatage should not be charged."

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 5.8

- 5.8 **HIS MAJESTY'S YACHT/(CROWN)** single circle 28mm. Used at the Cowes, Isle of Wight Regatta on mail posted on board. Seen 1904 on face of a postcard, ie not cancelling a stamp, through to 1934.

SHIPS CACHETS

H.M. YACHT
"VICTORIA & ALBERT"

Fig. 5.9

H. M. Yacht Victoria & Albert

Fig. 5.10

HIS MAJESTY'S YACHT VICTORIA & ALBERT

Fig. 5.11

H.M. YACHT
VICTORIA & ALBERT

Fig. 5.12

H.M. YACHT
VICTORIA & ALBERT

Fig. 5.13

- 5.9 **H.M. YACHT/"VICTORIA & ALBERT"** two line cachet.
- 5.10 **H.M. Yacht Victoria & Albert** single line cachet in blue. Seen 1904.
- 5.11 **HIS MAJESTY'S YACHT VICTORIA & ALBERT** single line cachet in violet. Known used during a royal visit to Dublin in 1904.
- 5.12 **H.M. YACHT/VICTORIA & ALBERT** two line cachet. Seen 1908 in violet.
- 5.13 **H.M. YACHT/VICTORIA & ALBERT** two line cachet. Seen 1909 in blue.

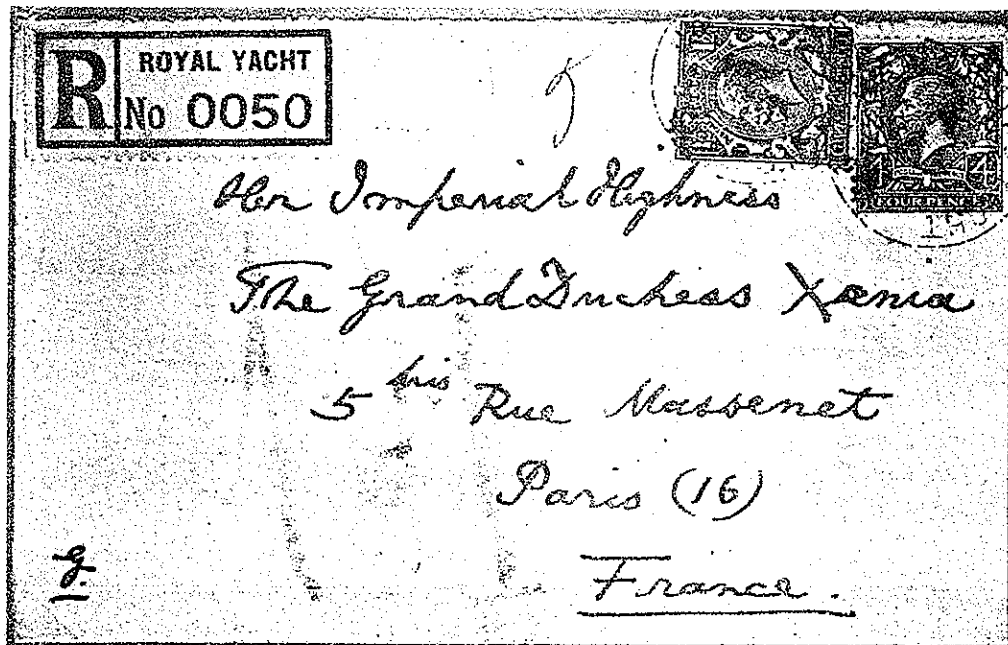
REGISTRATION LABELS

ROYAL YACHT. "No. 0050". Seen 1934. See illustration on next page.

H.M. YACHT "ALEXANDRA"

Launched 1907, commissioned 1908. Tonnage 2,050, length 275 feet, breadth 40 feet, draught 13 feet. Twin screw vessel. Sold in 1922.

The only interest lies in the envelope flaps worded "H.M. YACHT ALEXANDRA".



Yacht mail registered letter sent in August 1934

H.M. YACHT "BRITANNIA"

Launched in 1954 it serves as official and private residence of the Queen. Length 412 feet 3 inches, beam 55 feet, gross tonnage 5,769. Twin screws, one funnel and three masts. Built by John Brown & Co. Ltd. Refitted 1987.

Whilst the Yacht was being built, the SS Gothic served as a temporary Royal Yacht for much of the tour of the Commonwealth in 1953 to 1954 but as she was outside British territorial waters is not detailed within this book.

Mail to and from Britannia is carried in special bags, placed under seal and sent via normal routes across land, sea or air. It is not uncommon for the seals to bear special instructions and registration markings. Even when at sea the red boxes are flown in by helicopter with the mail.

Separate arrangements apply to the crew's mail which is cancelled by a Post Office maritime mail marking. When required, the Marines become Postmen.

BOGUS ROYAL YACHT CACHETED COVERS

Covers cancelled 21 June 1971 at Tristan da Cunha bearing a 7d stamp depicting Britannia together with a two line straight cachet in black worded "H.M.R.Y. BRITANNIA" appeared on the American stamp market that

year. The then Flag Officer, Royal Yachts, Commander JES Raymond, RN confirmed that the Yacht had not been to Tristan since 1957. Covers reported seen were addressed to Boston, USA. Commander Raymond also confirmed that no straight line cachet had been used on board Britannia. This could have thrown into dispute the ships cachet if not for the genuine OHMS cover used from Sierra Leone during the 1961 royal visit.

SHIPS CACHETS

H.M. YACHT "BRITANNIA"

Fig. 5.14

5.14 H.M. YACHT "BRITANNIA" straight line cachet. Seen 1960 and 1961.

ROYAL MONOGRAM CERTIFYING STAMPS



Fig. 5.15

5.15 THE ROYAL YACHT double circle with royal monogram above circle. Seen 1977 to 1981.

POSITIONS ON BOARD THE YACHT

COXSWAIN

The Coxswain is the officer responsible for the steering of the vessel.

not seen

Fig. 5.16

5.16 COXSWAIN/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT/BRITANNIA Known but not seen by the author

ENGINEERS OFFICE

This certifying stamp is used by staff employed as engineers on board the Royal Yacht.

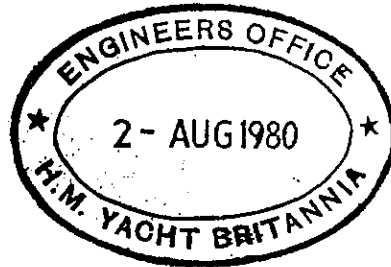


Fig. 5.17

5.17 */ENGINEERS OFFICE*/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT BRITANNIA double oval. Seen 1980 in blue.

FLAG OFFICER, ROYAL YACHTS

Normally appointed as an Extra Equerry to the Queen and, as such, is a member of the Royal Household.



Fig. 5.18

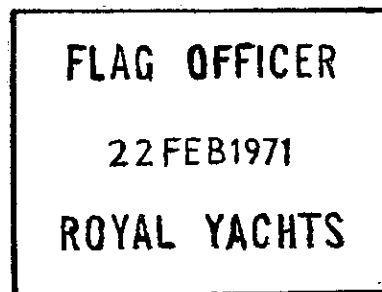


Fig. 5.19

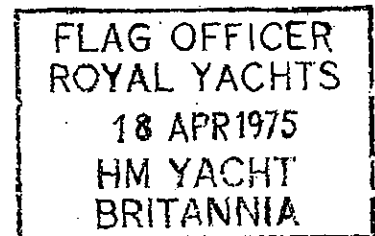


Fig. 5.20

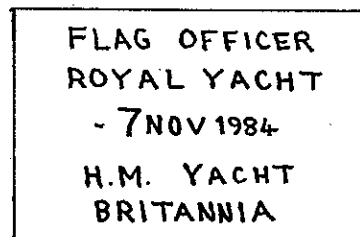


Fig. 5.21



Fig. 5.22

- 5.18 ***/FLAG OFFICER*/(DATE)/ROYAL YACHTS** triple oval. Seen 1958 in red.
- 5.19 **FLAG OFFICER/(DATE)/ROYAL YACHTS** rectangular. Seen 1971-3 in red.
- 5.20 **FLAG OFFICER/ROYAL YACHTS/(DATE)/HM YACHT/BRITANNIA** rectangular. Seen 1975 in red.
- 5.21 **FLAG OFFICER/ROYAL YACHT/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT/BRITANNIA** rectangular. Seen 1984 in red.
- 5.22 **FLAG OFFICER/ROYAL YACHTS/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT/BRITANNIA** rectangular. Seen 1986 in red.

KEEPER AND STEWARD, ROYAL CABINS

Used by the Keeper and Steward, Royal Cabins.



Fig. 5.23

- 5.23 **KEEPER & STEWARD/ROYAL CABINS/HM YACHT BRITANNIA** rectangular. Seen 1963.

MAIL OFFICE

Responsible for the postal arrangements of the Royal Yacht, both incoming and outgoing.

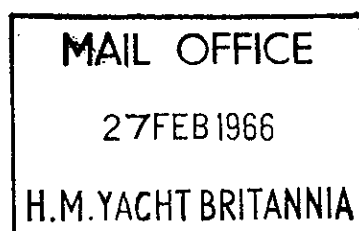


Fig. 5.24

- 5.24 **MAIL OFFICE/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT BRITANNIA** rectangular. Seen 1963 to 1970 in blue.

OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF SUPPLY (RENAMED SUPPLY OFFICE)

This officer handles the non-food requirements of the Yacht.

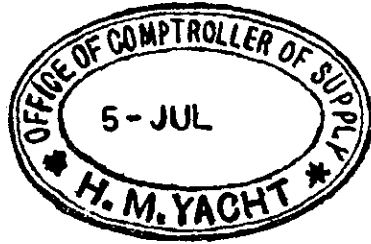


Fig. 5.25

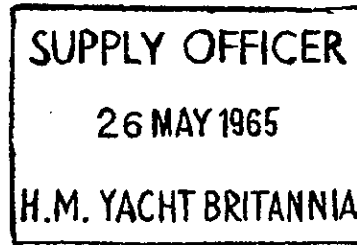


Fig. 5.26

5.25 OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF SUPPLY/(DATE)*/H.M. YACHT/* triple oval. Seen 1960's.

5.26 SUPPLY OFFICER/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT BRITANNIA rectangular. Seen 1967.

VICTUALLING OFFICE (RENAMED CATERING OFFICE)

The Victualling Office provides the necessary food and plans the menus to feed the officers and royal yachtsmen.

The certifying stamps are used by the Chief Petty Officer, Caterer and his Assistant.

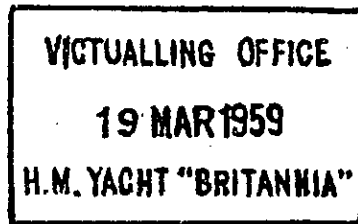


Fig. 5.27

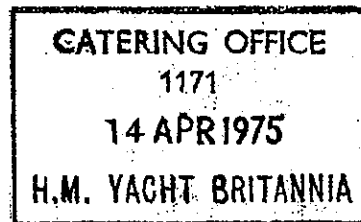


Fig. 5.28

5.27 VICTUALLING OFFICE/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT "BRITANNIA" rectangular. Seen 1959 to 1961 in blue/black ink.

5.28 CATERING OFFICE/1171/(DATE)/H.M. YACHT BRITANNIA rectangular. Seen 1975 in blue.

SECTION 6 -

POST OFFICES ASSOCIATED WITH ROYALTY



ST. JAMES'S PALACE

Aside from the official Court Post Offices there have been many normal public offices that have been used over the years for the speedy despatch or receipt of Royal Household mail and telegrams.

This section aims to detail those known to have provided facilities and to illustrate wherever possible the type of postal marking used. It does not claim completeness as many markings would have been in use for only very short periods of time and not always exclusively for use on Royal Household mail.

Some offices such as the SWDO will have used a phenomenal number of cancellations, most of which have not proved to be of any special significance unless highlighted as such in the text.

It always pays to check the reverse of any covers held in dealers stocks to see if there are any royal crests or the residence name on the envelope flap for towns detailed in this section as some items are lying undiscovered and as a result are priced cheaper than expected.

ABERDEEN

From the 1850's Aberdeen Post Office staff conveyed mail by Express Mail Cart to Balmoral and from 1874 postal facilities at the Castle were also provided by them. Additionally, staff were provided for Abergeldie Castle in 1955 for a fete in aid of the local church.

ALDERSHOT

Responsible for processing mail emanating from the Royal Pavilion (Aldershot) and for providing Postmen to deliver and collect mail in the first quarter of this century.

BADMINTON

Badminton handled mail from Badminton House during the evacuation of Queen Mary in the 1940's.

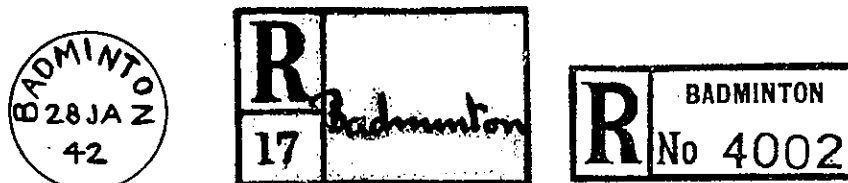


Fig. 6.1

6.1 BADMINTON single circle thimble. Seen 1942.

Registration Labels - Universal type with "Badminton" written in manuscript. "17" seen 1942.

BADMINTON "No. 4002" seen 1942.

BAKEWELL

This Post Office provided staff for the royal visit to Chatsworth House in 1904.

BALLATER

The Post Office at Ballater is used for mail from the royal residences at Balmoral.



Fig. 6.2

6.2 OFFICIAL PAID/BALLATER double circle with thick arcs. Issued April 1939. Seen 1986. Struck in red.

BILLINGSGATE, LONDON

The Tower of London used this Post Office as a back-up facility to Great Tower Street during the 1910's.

BRAEMAR

An Accelerated Day Mail Cart service was laid on from Braemar to Aberdeen in 1896 for the Balmoral mails.

BRIGHTON

Royal Pavilion (Brighton) mail was dealt with in the 1830's and 1840's by officials from Brighton Head Post Office.

BRISTOL

Bristol handled mail from Badminton House during the evacuation of Queen Mary in the 1940's.

CHARLES STREET, LONDON

Used by the Coronation (Executive) Committee in 1911 for the handing-in of telegrams during normal business hours.

CHESTERFIELD

Mail from Chatsworth House during December 1843 would have been cancelled at this office during Queen Victoria's visit. However, no mail has so far been discovered.

CHIPPENHAM

Chippenham handled mail from Badminton House during the evacuation of Queen Mary in the 1940's. When The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips moved to Gatcombe Park in 1976 the mail arrangements were undertaken by Chippenham.

COUPAR ANGUS

A special mail gig service was provided from Coupar Angus to Balmoral during the stay of Queen Victoria from 1864.

COWES

From 1845 Cowes handled the mail arrangements for the residence of Osborne House until it became a Public Branch Office. It also is responsible for mail from the Royal Yacht when in port at the Isle of Wight.

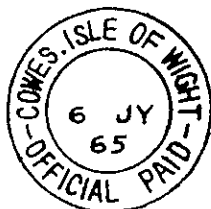


Fig. 6.3

- 6.3 COWES. ISLE OF WIGHT/OFFICIAL PAID** single circle with thin arcs. Struck in red. Used on mail from Britannia at Cowes. Issued 1965.

CRATHIE

"Post Office records show that an official Letter Receiving House was established in the village of Crathie in September 1842, a Mr Anderson guaranteeing to meet the Post Office's expenses of £5 a year.

"Crathie's first Receiver was Charles Thomson, head forester of the Balmoral Estate, who, realising soon after the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840 that the village needed a Post Office had set about building one.

"His new home and Post Office were very much like any other cottage in the area; thick granite walls and a low-pitched roof. It also possessed the usual bare wood dresser found in most highland cottages - but Thomson's dresser had a special drawer set aside for all the paraphernalia of the Post Office for forty-five years, until his death in 1887.

"Queen Victoria had become a frequent visitor, and upon Charles Thomson's death she expressed the wish that his son Albert, then following a successful commercial career in London, should take over the office. When she realised that he would have to accept a substantial drop in income if he agreed, she undertook personally to make up the deficiency. Thomson therefore became Postmaster of Crathie by Royal request.

"Later, the Queen suggested that the building was too small. Upon Albert informing her that his request for permission to extend the premises had been rejected, the Queen undertook to see to it - and permission was soon granted. Two rooms were therefore added, and the Post Office moved to the new wing.

"In 1887 an application was submitted for a Telegraph Office at Crathie (Aberdeen) and it was felt likely that it would be self-supporting. The expenditure was estimated at £77 and permission to go ahead was given on 21 March 1887.

"In December 1933, after forty-three years service, Albert Thomson died. His widow had already taken over the office in the preceding May, and she continued as Postmistress until her eldest son, Albert, was appointed Postmaster in 1947.

"Albert Thomson, aided by his brother Gordon, is still Postmaster, carrying on the business - in the same building - which has been part of the Thomson's family life for over one hundred years.

"The office is also well known to the many thousands of tourists who have visited the other building sited just a few yards away, Crathie Kirk, where Her Majesty the Queen worships when she returns to Balmoral Castle, her home in the Scottish Highlands." (Reproduced by courtesy of Post Office Archives, London)

It is quite clear that Her Majesty Queen Victoria thought very highly of the Thomson family. In her Highland Journal for Wednesday 1st September 1869, Victoria detailed a journey that she made from Balmoral to Ballater the carriage of which included both "Charlie" Thomson and "A Thomson" amongst its occupants.

DERSINGHAM

Until the Sandringham House Post Office was opened, Dersingham had been responsible for the delivery and collection of all the mails from the House.

DUBLIN

The visit in 1911 by the King and his entourage to Dublin Castle meant that the GPO at Dublin were instructed to provide postal and telegraphic services and staff.

EASTBOURNE

This Post Office was used during the stay of King George V and Queen Mary at Compton Place in 1935 and 1936.

EDENSOR

Facilities at Edensor Post Office were used in 1906 during the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen to Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. Cycle Messengers conveyed telegrams from the House to Edensor.

EDINBURGH

The Palace of Holyroodhouse has utilised the sorting office located in Edinburgh for the processing of its mail since it first became a royal residence.



Fig. 6.4

6.4 EDINBURGH/OFFICIAL PAID double circle with thin arcs. Seen 1952 to 1976. Struck in red.

FORFAR

Glamis Castle uses this Post Office for the processing of all of its royal correspondence.

GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON

This Post Office, sited near the Tower of London, was used by them as their local office for despatching mail in the early part of this century.

HOUSE OF COMMONS TELEGRAPH OFFICE

Used for the conveyance of telegrams from Westminster Abbey during the 1911 Coronation ceremony.

KING'S LYNN

The Royal Estate at Sandringham has its mail dealt with by the Post Office at King's Lynn.



Fig. 6.5



Fig. 6.6

6.5 OFFICIAL PAID/KING'S LYNN single circle. Struck in red.

6.6 OFFICIAL PAID/KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK single circle. Seen 1976 to 1981. Struck in red.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Hampton Court Palace came under the control of Kingston Post Office as early as the 1700's and continues to be responsible for postal arrangements to this day.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON

Responsible for mails from Belgrave Square during the residency of the Earl Marshal's Office in 1952.

LONDON INLAND SECTION MECHANISED LETTER OFFICE

Since the mid-1980's this office has been used for processing mail from Buckingham Palace.

LONDON SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE

Used at one time or another for all mail emanating from London residences or offices of the Household.



Fig. 6.7

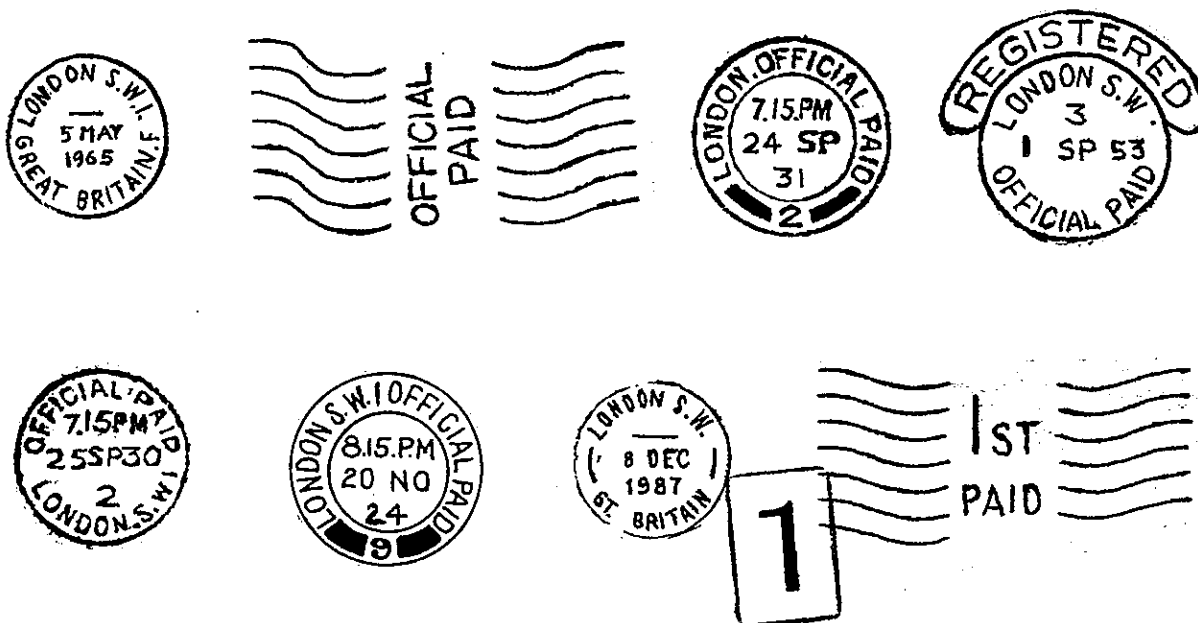


Fig. 6.8

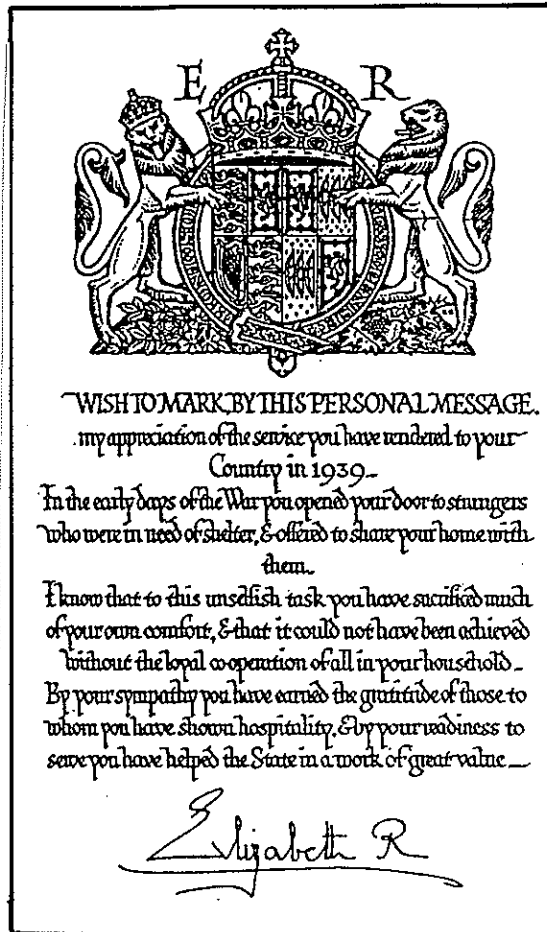


Fig. 6.9

- 6.7 (CROWN)/PAID 1858 FREE** cancellation issued for use on mail from the Royal Household. A miniature version of that used elsewhere in government, the place of use is not indicated. Withdrawn by late 1858. Struck in red ink.
- 6.8 BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1/PAID** with GR and crown in centre. Single circle. Used on mail sent by the King and Queen to thank people for their kindness in housing evacuees from the air raids over London. Used without wavy lines from 26 March to 18 April 1940. A total of at least 320,000 items of mail were despatched but few appear to have survived. The envelopes enclosed a card measuring 11" x 7" (designed by G. Kruger Gray, FSA) and carried the good wishes of HM Queen Elizabeth. The cancellation was struck in black ink but the writer has seen a proof impression in red ink.
- 6.9 LONDON/SW1/GREAT BRITAIN C** single circle. 1977 struck in red ink. Used on letters of thanks from the Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund and sent by Prince Charles, the Chairman of the Fund.



Examples of SWDO cancellations used over the years, none of which were for exclusive use on Royal Household mail.



Reduced copy of card that accompanied Fig. 6.8

NEWMARKET

The Court was often at Newmarket in years gone by and would have handed mail to officials of this office. King Edward VII used to attend the races and mail from 1906 is known bearing the royal monogram certifying stamp and local Newmarket postmark of the period.

OSBORNE

The Branch Office at Osborne was opened in 1904 but did not have "royal" connections. Details included for completeness only.

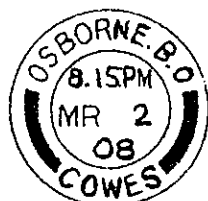


Fig. 6.10



Fig. 6.11



Fig. 6.12

- 6.10 OSBORNE B.O./COWES double circle with thick arcs. Issued 1904.
- 6.11 OSBORNE B.O./COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT rubber double circle parcel cancel. Issued March 1908.
- 6.12 OSBORNE B.O./COWES, ISLE.OF.WIGHT single circle. Issued 19 December 1908 for counter work.

RICHMOND, SURREY

The Royal Laundry took advantage of the facilities afforded by Richmond Post Office for the despatch of its mails from 1902.

ROYAL AIR FORCE STATION BENSON

During 1946 and 1947 the Post Office at Benson RAF Station despatched mail by aeroplane to Dyce for onward transmission by helicopter to Balmoral Castle.



Fig. 6.13



Fig. 6.14

- 6.13 BENSON R.A.F. STATION BENSON/OXFORD single circle. Not seen on Royal covers but as there is a Post Office based at the Station it is likely that some covers may exist.
- 6.14 ROYAL AIR FORCE/BENSON single circle. See note against above cancellation. Seen 1986 on the reverse of philatelic souvenir covers.

ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON

The Earl Marshal's Office used this Post Office during 1910 for the Coronation arrangements.

SANDRINGHAM

When Sandringham Post Office opened, a William Henry Mann was appointed Postmaster on a salary of £25 per annum. In 1900 Sandringham became a Railway Sub-Office for money order and telegraphic business from 8am to

midnight every day of the week.

On 30 September 1918 Mr Mann retired as Postmaster and John William Eastwick took his place the next day. On 24 July 1927 Mr Eastwick retired and Frederick Christopher Bunn took over. Then on 31 October 1952 when Mr Bunn retired an Antony Seaman Hanslip took over the position of Postmaster and remained until the office closed on 9 February 1968 due to lack of business. The retirement of Mr Hanslip due to ill-health also probably helped the Post Office reach its decision.



Fig. 6.15



Fig. 6.16



Fig. 6.17



Fig. 6.18



Fig. 6.19

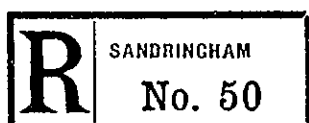


Fig. 6.20



Fig. 6.21

- 6.15 SANDRINGHAM single circle.
- 6.16 OFFICIAL PAID/SANDRINGHAM R.S.O. NORFOLK single circle. Issued on 28 August 1901. Seen 1902 to 1924. Struck in red.
- 6.17 SANDRINGHAM/NORFOLK single circle. Seen 1910 to 1919.
- 6.18 SANDRINGHAM/PAID/NORFOLK single circle skeleton. Seen 1924. Struck in red.
- 6.19 OFFICIAL PAID/SANDRINGHAM, NFK single circle. Seen 1925 to 1950 in red.
- 6.20 SANDRINGHAM/NORFOLK double circle with long thick arcs. Seen 1934.
- 6.21 SANDRINGHAM/NORFOLK double circle with short thick arcs. Seen 1956 to 1968.





- Registration labels - SANDRINGHAM** "No. 50" seen 1919.
- **SANDRINGHAM** "No. 225" seen 1924.
 - **SANDRINGHAM** "No. 84" seen 1934.
 - **SANDRINGHAM** "No. 2339" seen 1954.

TETBURY

The Post Office at Tetbury has handled postal arrangements at Highgrove House for mail from and to the Prince and Princess of Waleses' residence since 1980.

WEST STRAND, LONDON

Used by the Coronation (Executive) Committee in 1911 for the handing-in of telegrams after ordinary hours and on Sundays.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

In 1902 at the Coronation of His late Majesty, arrangements were made at the request of the Earl Marshal for a staff of Telegraphists and of Messengers to attend at the Abbey to accept messages from Press reporters who were stationed in the Triforium in the North Transept.

A temporary office was built by the Office of Works at the back of the Triforium and connection was made between it and an office on the ground outside the Abbey by means of a cord-pulley and pouch. Messages taken by reporters by the Boy Messengers were handed in to the Office in the Triforium, thence lowered by the pulley to the office outside the Abbey and carried to the House of Commons Telegraph Office for transmission by pneumatic tube to the Central Telegraph Office

The assent of the Sergeant-at-Arms was obtained at the House of Commons; and the Chief Commissioner of Police made an arrangement by which the Messengers had free transit between the Abbey and the House.

The Abbey was also the temporary accommodation of His Majesty King George V on the day of his Coronation in 1911. A Court Post Office was established within the Abbey and Mr W G Stitt-Dibden in his article "A Coronation Collection" (see bibliography on page 178) quoted a Mr T Chandler who wrote

in 1937 about his connection with the Coronation. He wrote: "When I was detailed for the duty of Telegraph Messenger in Westminster Abbey, I was both proud and excited as may be expected of a lad of 16. On the day previous to the event I had to attend the Abbey for a rehearsal of my duties and to receive full instructions. This having been done, with the full approval of the Earl Marshal, I was issued with my pass card for the following day, without which, although in uniform, I should have been unable to obtain admittance to the Abbey. At the same time I was given a red rosette to be worn on the left breast of my tunic.

"A temporary Telegraph Office was erected in the Abbey, high up in the North Triforium, hidden from the view of those taking part in the Coronation ceremony but in a position from which I could obtain a good view of all taking place down below. This Office was for the sole use of Press representatives from all parts of the world, who were seated just to the front of the Office.

"My duty was to convey Press Telegrams from the reporters to the Telegraph Office for stamping and recording, after which they were transmitted to their respective destinations via the House of Commons Branch Office and the Central Telegraph Office."

Post Office Archive Minutes reveal that: "At the request of the Earl Marshal the Office of Works has this time duplicated the arrangements made at the last Coronation. The representatives of the Foreign Press have been granted facilities at the South Transept similar to those provided for the British Press at the North Transept; and, instead of the pulley and pouch system, pneumatic tubes have been provided to connect the Offices in the Triforium each with a relative Office on the ground outside the Abbey.

"The pneumatic tube arrangement is considered much better than the pulley arrangements provided last time, but the Abbey Authorities would not then consent to the arrangements now provided."

The Post Office Proof Book has two strikes of the die used possibly indicating that two separate cancellers were made (one for each Triforium) and despite showing a despatch date of 20 June, the cancels are dated 22 June. A set of date-type is, therefore, unlikely to have been supplied with the date-stamps.

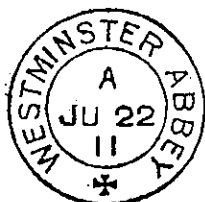


Fig. 6.22



Fig. 6.23

- 6.22 WESTMINSTER ABBEY/+ (cross pattee) double circle. Issued 20 June 1911. Code letter A. Seen on a telegraph form dated 22 June 1911.
- 6.23 WESTMINSTER ABBEY/+ (cross pattee) double circle. Issued 20 June 1911. Code letter B.

WHIPPINGHAM

This particular Post Office was sited close to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight and as soon as the House was acquired by Queen Victoria there was the need for postal facilities. The Postmaster (a Mr Groves) provided loyal service until his death in 1879 and there was clearly a close affinity between Victoria and Mr Groves and his family. Over a period of time she gave four £5 notes to them for services rendered and often called in for a chat and to purchase woollen items that they sold as a sideline.

WICK

Mail from the Castle of Mey is processed at this Post Office.

WILTON

Used by Edward VII on a royal visit to Wilton House, Salisbury in 1908.



Fig. 6.24



Fig. 6.25



6.24 WILTON/SALISBURY single circle undated and struck on registration label. Seen 1908.

6.25 WILTON/SALISBURY double circle with thick arcs. Seen 1908.

Registration Label - Universal type. "11" seen 1908

WINDSOR GREAT PARK

The Post Office was opened for use by the Royal Estate families on 17 January 1949. Its postcode is SL2 2HZ.

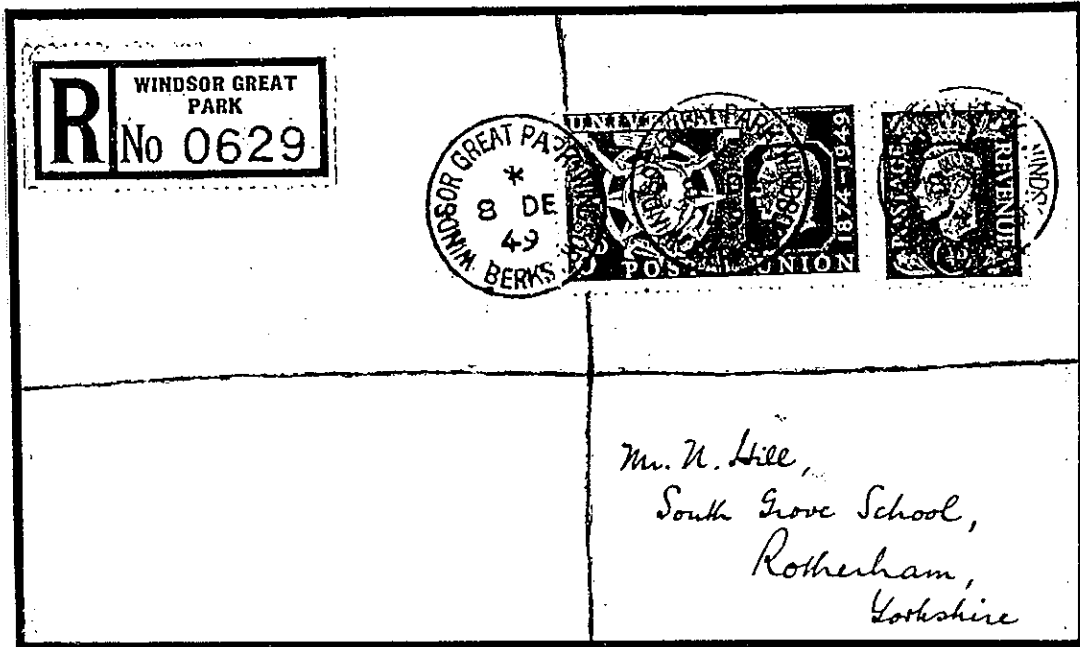


Fig. 6.26



6.26 WINDSOR GREAT PARK, WINDSOR/BERKS single circle. Issued 17 January 1949. Seen used on registered mail from 1949. Still in use in the 1960's.

Registration Label - WINDSOR GREAT/PARK "No. 0629" seen 1949.



Registered cover from Windsor Great Park Post Office

WINDSOR HEAD OFFICE

Postal facilities for all the royal residences in and around Windsor have been/are provided by this Office.



Fig. 6.27



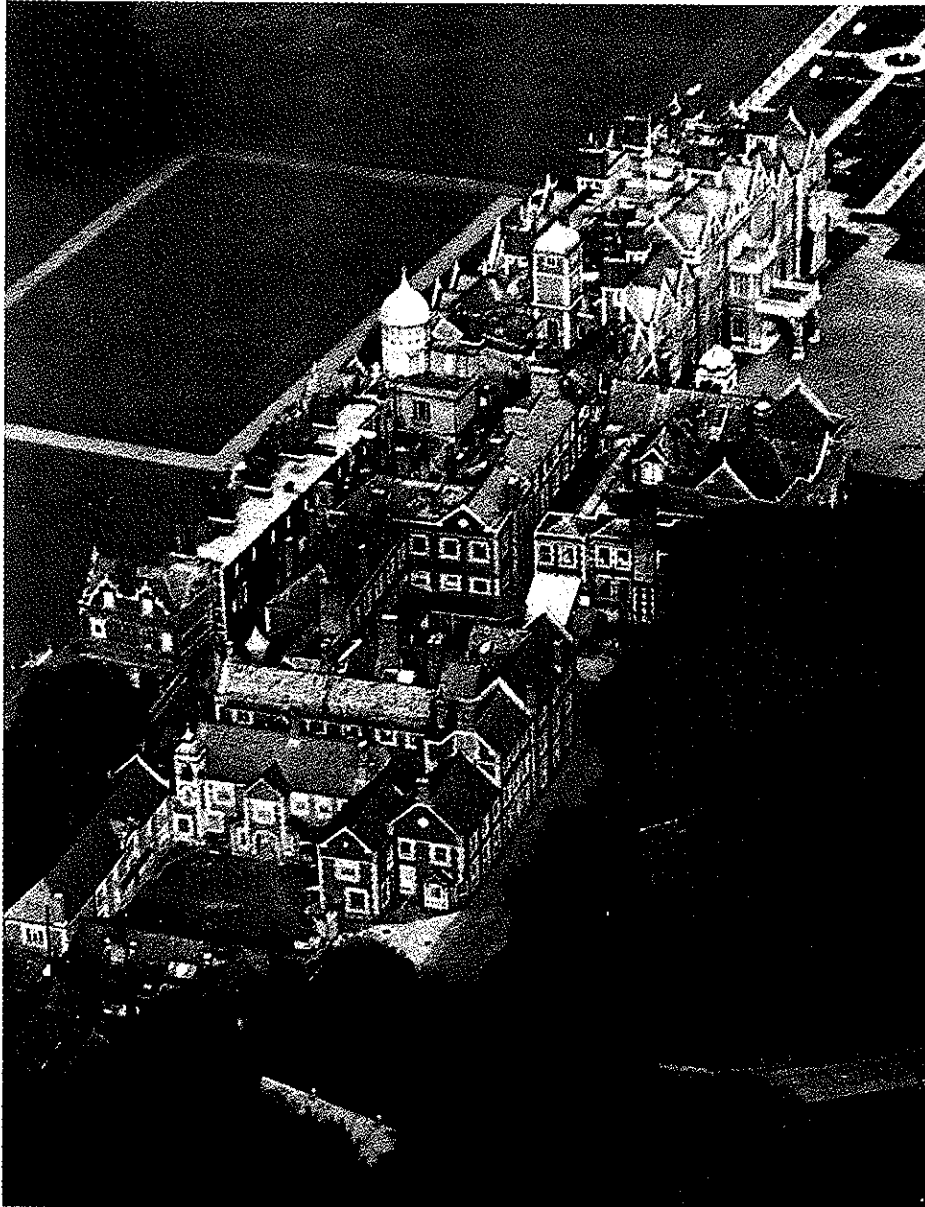
Fig. 6.28

6.27 OFFICIAL-PAID/WINDSOR single circle. Issued 28 August 1901 to Windsor Head Post Office. Struck in red. Seen 1920.

6.28 OFFICIAL PAID/WINDSOR, BERKS double circle with thick arcs. Seen 1943/87. Struck in red.

NOTES

SECTION 7 -
APPENDICES



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AND ROYAL LINE SINCE KING JOHN

1199-1216 JOHN

King's Messengers employed but only when required.

1216-1272 HENRY III

Couriers called "Nuncii" and "Cursores" (Messengers and Runners) were employed when required.

1272-1307 EDWARD I

Horses kept at the ready for hire by the Royal Messengers.

1307-1327 EDWARD II

Twelve Messengers constantly at the ready.

1327-1377 EDWARD III

1377-1399 RICHARD II

1399-1413 HENRY IV

1413-1422 HENRY V

1422-1461 HENRY VI

1461-1483 EDWARD IV

From 1482 - Single horsemen appointed every twenty miles during the war with Scotland.

1483 EDWARD V

1483-1485 RICHARD III

1484 - Posts established to inform Richard III of events wherever he was in his Kingdom.

1485-1509 HENRY VII

By 1500 - A Master of the Posts had been appointed.

1509-1547 HENRY VIII

Many improvements to the King's Post were made during this reign.

1516 - Brian Tuke (Master of the Posts) ordered horses to be made available.

1539 - Hackneyemen provided horses in London for the King's service.

1547-1553 EDWARD VI

1553 JANE GRAY

1553-1558 MARY I

Sometime between 1554 and 1558 - Orders were issued to cover the Posts.

1558-1603 ELIZABETH I

1565 (5 August) - Robert Gascoigne appointed Poste of the Courte.

1568 - All Posts except those relating to the Court dismissed.

1584 - Private letters began to be carried.

1591 - No letters could be sent or received from foreign countries except by the Post.

Late 1500's - Relief given regarding the supplying of horses for the royal service.

1603-1625 JAMES I

1609 - State monopoly established on letter carrying.

1625-1649 CHARLES I

1635 (July) - The royal Posts opened up for general public use for the first time.

1637 (22 June) - A Patent was granted to Thomas Witherings.

1653-1658 OLIVER CROMWELL

1653 - Postal service farmed out.

1657 - Cromwell established the Post of England with a Postmaster General and Comptroller.

1658-1659 RICHARD CROMWELL

1660-1685 CHARLES II

1663 - Most of the revenues accruing from the Posts were settled upon his brother James, Duke of York.

1685-1688 JAMES II

1685 - All revenues accruing from the postal service reverted to the Crown once more.

1689-1702 WILLIAM AND MARY

1702-1714 ANNE

1714-1727 GEORGE I

1727-1760 GEORGE II

1760-1820 GEORGE III

1760 - Civil List instigated.

1776 - Franking privilege resulted in loss of £120,000 revenue due to abuses.

Until 1780's - The Court mail dealt with before the ordinary mails.

1793 (21 June) - Office of Court Poste abolished by order in Council but not until the death of Mr Penton.

1812 (January) - Penton died so the office of Court Poste was finally abolished.

1820-1830 GEORGE IV

1830-1837 WILLIAM IV

1837-1901 VICTORIA

1840 (10 January) - Rowland Hill's Uniform Penny Postage introduced.

1840 - Queen Victoria gave up her right to free postage.

1850's - Paying accounts introduced.

c. 1870 - Court Telegraphist George Warren appointed.

1882 - Hooded circle "scroll" cancellations introduced.

1897 - Osborne House had the first Post Office opened on-site for use by the Court.

1901-1910 EDWARD VII

1901 - Edward VII restored the franking privilege.

1901 - Royal monogram and departmental certifying stamps began to be introduced.

1901 - Court post official paid cancellers introduced.

1901 - First recorded use of a postmark on board a Royal yacht.

1902 - Stamps overprinted "R.H. OFFICIAL" and "GOVERNMENT PARCELS" introduced.

1902 - Buckingham Palace Court Post Office opened.

By 1904 - A Court Post Office sited at Windsor Castle for the first time.

1906 - Position of Court Postmaster created.

1910-1936 GEORGE V

1911 - Court Post Office sited at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for first time.

1932 (30 June) - Royal Messengers abolished.

1936 EDWARD VIII

1936 (20 July) - The King's Flight was formed.

1936-1952 GEORGE VI

1946 - The use of helicopters from London to Balmoral instituted.

1946 - The rank of Court Postmaster abolished but allowed to remain as a courtesy title.

1952 - The King's Flight renamed the Queen's Flight.

1953- ELIZABETH II

1968 - Two-tier postal service introduced.

1981 - Royal Telemessages introduced.

WARRANTS IN FAVOUR OF SIR THOMAS DEREHAM

Post Office Archives have preserved in Post One copies of original Warrants in favour of Sir Thomas Dereham dating from the 1600's. They are reproduced herewith:

"A DORMANT WARRANT FOR 10S (50P) PER DIEM FOR SIR THOMAS DEREHAM

After my hearty commendations, By vertue of His Majesty's Letters of Privy Seale bearing date the 23rd day of June last. These are to pray and require you to make payment to Sir Thomas Dereham Knt Court Post or his assignes of the sume of ninety pounds tenn shillings for one hundred eighty one days of his allowance or fee of tenn shillings per diem commencing from Christmas last 1685 and ending at Midsommer last 1686, as of what shall from time to time for the future grow due upon the said fee according to the direction of the above said Letters of Privy Seale, and for soe doing this shall be aswell to you for payment, as to the Auditor for allowing thereof from time to time upon your account a sufficient Warrant. Hampton Court Treasury Chambers the 3rd day of July 1686.

Rochester

To Mr Stephen Lilly, Receiver Generall
of the Post Office

Let this Warrant be executed

Treasury Chambers

28th January 1686"

"A GRANT TO SIR THOMAS DEREHAM TEN SHILLINGS (50P) PER DIEM AS COURT POST

JAMES the Second by the grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defendour of the Faith & c: To our High Treasurer and Postmaster Generall now being, and to our High Treasurer and also our Postmaster Generall for the time being and likewise to the Chancellor and Indertreat: of our Exchequer the Commissioners of our Treasury and all other Officers and Ministers that now are or hereafter shall be to whom these presents shall or may apperteine, Greeting whereas our Dearest Brother King Charles the Second of blessed memory, by Letters Patents under the Great Seale of England, bearing date the fifteenth day of May in the four and twentieth

yeare of this Reigne, Did grant unto Our Trusty and Wellbeloved Sir Thomas Dereham Knt (by name of Thomas Dereham Gentleman) the Office or Place of Post or Carrier of all his Oursaid Brothers letters and dispatches between his Court or place of residence and the first post stage or Post Office of the Postmaster Generall for and dureing the naturall life of him the said Sir Thomas Dereham together with all fees, salaries, allowances, proffits and perquisites to the said office belonging. And our Dearest Brother did afterwards, towitt, by Letters of Privy Seale bearing date the three and twentieth day of August in the four and twentieth year of his Reigne authorize payment to be made to the said office) of the fee or allowance of ten shillings per diem, out of the rents or proffits of the office of Postmaster Generall dureing the pleasure of him our said Dearest Brother. And whereas by an Act of Parliament which passed in the first year of our Reigne, it was enacted, that we our heires and successors, should from thenceforth be and stand seized of and in all and singular the revenues, issues and proffits of the Generall Letter Office or Post Office of one intire and indefeazable estate in fee simple, with proviso only for the joynture of our Royall Consort the Queen. And whereas the said Sir Thomas Dereham by a deed or instrument in writing bearing date the tenth day of May one thousand six hundred eighty six inrolled or intended to be inrolled in our High Court of Chancery, hath surrendred resigned and yielded up unto us all such estate right title interest pretencon and demand whatsoever which he the said Sir Thomas Dereham had or might claime either in law or equity or otherwise howsoever of in or to the said fee or allowance of ten shillings per diem by vertue of the Letters Patents and Letters of Privy Seale Act of Parliament and Deed of Surrender (relacon being thereunto respectively had) may more fully appear. Our will and pleasure now is and we doe hereby authorise and command that you or such of you to whom it apperteines, doe cause payment to be made to the said Sir Thomas Dereham (whom we are plased to continue in the said office or place of Post or Carrier of all our letters and dispatches between our Court or place of residence and the first post stage or Post Office of our Postmaster Generall) or to his assignes, for his execution of the said office, of the like fee or allowance of ten shillings by the day, outt of the rents issues or proffits of the Generall Letter Office or Post Office or the office of Postmaster Generall, the said payment to commence from the Feast of the Birth of our Lord Christ now last past (it appearing by a certificate signed by Sir Peter Apsley and Sir Benjamine Bathurst Knt that the above said ten shillings per diem hath been already paid to the said Feast of the Birth of the Lord Christ now last past and noe further) and to continue for and dureing our pleasure and to be paid or payable at the four most usual feasts or termes of payment in the yeare, by equall portions. And lastly our pleasure is, and we doe hereby authorize and command, that you, or such of you to whom it appertains in the accompts of our Receiver Generall of the Revenue arising in the Generall Post Office, doe make and give allowance to our said Receiviour of the sums paid by him for the said ten shillings per diem to the said Sir Thomas Dereham from the time of passing the said Act of Parliament untill the said Feast of the Birth of Our Lord Christ now last past. And these our letters or the entry or inrollment thereof shall be your sufficient warrant in this behalfe. Given under our Privy Seale at our Pallace at Westminster the Three and Twentieth day of June in the second yeare of Our Reigne."

**"A PRIVY SEALE TO SIR THOMAS DEREHAM TEN SHILLINGS (50P)
PER DIEM AS COURT POST**

William and Mary by the grace of God King and Queene of England Scotland France and Ireland Defenders of the Faith & c: To the Commissioners of our Treasury and Postmaster Generall now being and to our High Treasurer and Commissioners of our Treasury and also our Postmaster Generall for the timebeing and likewise to the Chancellor and Under Treasurer of our Exchequer and all other our Officers and Ministers that now are or hereafter shall be to whome these presents shall or may apperteine Greeting. Whereas our Royall Unkle King Charles the Second of Blessed Memory by Letters Pattents under the Great Seale of England bearing date the fifteenth day of May in the four and twentieth yeare of his Reigne did grant to our trusty and wellbeloved Sir Thomas Dereham Knt (by the name of Thomas Dereham Gentleman) the office or place of post or carrier of all his our said Unkles letters and dispatches betweene his Court or place of residence and the first post stage or Post Office of the Postmaster Generall for and dureing the naturall life of him the said Sir Thomas Dereham, together with all fees, salaries allowances proffits and perquisites to the said office belonging. And our said Unkle did afterwards to wit, by Letters of Privy Seale beareing date the three and twentieth day of August in the four and twentieth yeare of his Reigne authorize payment to be made to the said Sir Thomas Dereham (for the execution of the said office) of the fee or allowance of ten shillings per diem out of the rents or proffits of the office of Postmaster Generall dureing the pleasure of him our said Unkle. And whereas the said Sir Thomas Dereham by a deed or instrument in writing beareing date the tenth day of May one thousand six hundred eighty six inrolled in our High Court of Chancery did surrender resign and yield up unto the late King James the Second all such estate, right, title, interest, pretencon and demand whatsoever, which he the said Sir Thomas Dereham had or might claime either in law or equity or otherwise howsoever, of, in, or to, the said fee or allowance of tenn shillings per diem by vertue of the Letters Pattents, and Letters of Privy Seale above recited or menconed or either of them, as in and by the said Letters Patents, Letters of Privy Seale and Deed of Surrender (relacon thereunto respectively had) may more fully appeare. Our will and pleasure now is and wee doe hereby authorize and command, that you or such of you to whom it apperteines doe cause payment to be made to the said Sir Thomas Dereham whom wee are well pleased to continue in the said office or place of post or carrier of all our letters and dispatches between our Court or place or residence and the first post stage or Post Office of our Postmaster Generall, or to his assignes for his execution of the said office of the like fee or allowance of tenn shillings by the day out of the rents issues or proffits of the Generall Letter Office or Post Office of the Postmaster Generall, the said payment to commence from the five and twentieth day of December now last past it appeareing by a certificate signed by Stephen Lilly Gent Receiver Generall of our said Post Office, that the above said ten shillings per diem hath been already paid to the said five and twentieth day of December now last past and noe further and to continue for and dureing our pleasure and to be paid and payable at the four most usuall feasts or termes of payment in the year by equall porcons. And these our letters shall be your sufficient Warrant and discharge in this behalfe. Given under our Privy Seale at our Pallace of Westminster the 25 day of July in the first yeare of our Reigne."

**"A DORMANT WARRANT FOR THE PAYMENT OF SIR THOMAS DEREHAM FEE OF TEN
SHILLINGS (50P) PER DIEM AS COURT POST**

After our hearty commendacons by vertue of Their Majesties Letters of Privy Seale beareing date the 25 day of July instant. These are to pray and require you to make payment unto Sir Thomas Dereham Knt Court Post or his assignes of such sume and sumes of money as are and shall from time to time grow due to him the said Sir Thomas Dereham upon his fee or allowance of ten shillings per diem; according to the direcon of the said Letters of Privy Seale. And this shall be as well to you for payment as to the Auditor for allowing the same from time to time on your Accompt a sufficient Warrant. Whitehall Treasury Chambers July the 26 1689.

To Mr Stephen Lilly, Receiver Generall
of the Post Office

Let this Warrant be executed

Treasury Chambers

23 May 1690"

LETTERS PATENT OF THE POSTE OF THE COURTE 1761

As detailed elsewhere in this book, Henry Penton Senior died in 1761 and in the same year his son Henry Penton The Younger took over the position of Poste of the Courte.

The following Letters Patent was issued to confirm the new appointment and is reproduced from the original held by the Post Office Archives. It reads:

"George the Third by the Grace of God... Whereas our late Royal Grandfather King George the Second by his Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain bearing date at Westminster the 21st day of April in the 16th year of his Reign did Give and Grant unto his Trusty and Wellbeloved Henry Penton Esquire the office or place of post or carrier of all his letters and dispatches between his Court or Palace of Residence and the first Post Stage or Post Office of the Postmaster General and also between the Offices of his Principal Secretaries of State and the first Post Stage or Post Office ... To hold the said Office unto the said Henry Penton during his Natural Life to be executed by himself or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies with the Allowance of Twenty Shillings (£1) by the Day payable Quarterly by the Postmaster General out of the profits arising within the Post Office... And whereas the said Henry Penton both humbly besought our leave to surrender to us the said Letters Patent we are graciously pleased to admit of the same and to confer the said Office or place upon our Trusty and Wellbeloved Henry Penton the Younger Esquire. And whereas the said Henry Penton by an Instrument in writing under his hand and Seal bearing date the twenty first day of March one thousand seven hundred and sixty one in the first year of our Reign and Inrolled in our High Court of Chancery hath surrendered and yielded up unto us the said Office or place of post or Carrier ... together with all ... profits and advantages whatsoever to the said Office belongeth and all his Estate Right Title Interest Claim and Benefit and Advantage whatsoever of in and to the said Office and Premises together with the said Letters Patent ... Now know ye that wee ... have Given and Granted ... and Successors do Give and Grant unto our Trusty and Wellbeloved the said Henry Penton the Younger Esquire the said Office or place of Post or Carryer of all our Letters and Dispatches ... to have hold exercise execute and enjoy the said Office ... to be executed by himself or sufficient Deputy or Deputys for and during the Term of his Natural Life together with the Allowance of Twenty Shillings (£1) by the Day

by Writ of Privy Seal

HOLDERS OF OFFICE OF COURT POSTMASTER AND TELEGRAPHIST

POSTES OF THE COURTE

1565	Robert Gascoigne
1603	Rowland White
1625	Anthony Buckbury
1636	Richard Poole
1661	Thomas Parnell
1666	Percival Stanney
1684	Sir Thomas Dereham
1697	William Van Huls
1700	James de Cardonell
1705	Henry Andrews
1715	Dennis Bond
1746	Henry Penton Senior
1761	Henry Penton The Younger
1812	Office ceased

COURT TELEGRAPHISTS

c1870	George Warren
1896	John M Hiley
1906	Office ceased

COURT POSTMASTERS

1906	John M Hiley
1922	F G Wilson
1929	Francis Augustus Mason
1935	G P Wyles
1940	T E Ridout
1945	Edwin John Burt (1946: Grade "Court Postmaster" abolished but allowed to continue as a courtesy title)
1952	R D Norton
1962	W A King
1967	L A Butters
1975	L R Pengelly
1981	Brian G Johnston (Current as of August 1989)

COURT POSTMASTER SALARIES 1906 TO 1957

The salaries of the Court Postmaster are recorded in the Establishment Books (POST 59) maintained at the Post Office Archives.

Public Record Office regulations apply to these documents and so the "Thirty Year Rule" means that 1957 is the most recent year available for research at the time of compiling this book.

YEAR	INCUMBENT	SALARY £	
1906	Hiley	350 (fixed)	
1914		360 (fixed)	
1922	Wilson	350 (fixed)	
1928		370 (fixed)	
1929	Mason	370 (fixed)	
1932		370 (fixed)	£385 (personal salary)
1935		480 (fixed)	£492:18s:0d (£492.90) (personal salary)
1935	Wyles	480 (fixed)	£480:4s:0d (£480.20) (personal salary)
1937		500 (fixed)	
1939		525 (fixed)	
1940	Ridout	525 (fixed)	
1945	Burt	525 (fixed)	
1947		580-25-680 (wage scale)	£640 (personal salary)
1950		580-25-680 (wage scale)	£680 (personal salary)
1952	Norton	610-25-710 (wage scale)	
1953		630-25-730 (wage scale)	
1954		705-810 (wage scale)	
1956		755-860 (wage scale)	
1957		905-1,045 (wage scale)	

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING TREATMENT OF "ROYAL" MAIL

In May 1931 a form was produced for recording "Official Letters and Parcels from or to Their Majesties The King and Queen" the reverse of which detailed the regulations to be followed. They are reproduced herewith:

"Instructions concerning treatment of Official Letters, Parcels, &c., from or for Their Majesties The King and Queen.

OUTWARD LETTERS, etc (for Parcels, see below).

1. Letters, &c., from the King or Queen should bear an impression of the King's certifying stamp or the autograph signature of His Majesty or of the Privy Purse or from one of His Majesty's Private Secretaries.
2. Registered letters, &c., will be handed in entered on a list which should be signed and returned to the person handing them in.
3. At Offices where the "Official Paid" stamp is in use, that stamp should be impressed on Inland letters, &c., and on those addressed to British Dominions, Colonies, Possessions, and Mandated Territories, India, Egypt, and H.M. Ships not in Home Waters. The weight in bulk of the Inland letters should be recorded in Column 1, the postage including Registration fees on letters for British Dominions, &c., in Column 5, and any Registration fees on Inland letters not prepaid by stamps in Column 2. Postage on letters, &c., for places abroad, other than British Dominions, &c., must be prepaid by means of stamps, the value of the stamps being claimed on Form "C" and recorded in Column 6 of this form.
4. At Offices where the "Official Paid" stamp is not in use, all letters, &c., must be prepaid by means of stamps, their value being claimed on Form "C" and recorded in Columns 3 and 6 of this form.

INWARD

5. Letters, &c., for Their Majesties or for the Keeper of the Privy Purse or for one of His Majesty's Private Secretaries should be delivered free, whether prepaid or not, and any surcharge on such letters, &c., should be cancelled and claimed on Form "C". Unless these letters, &c., bear an "Official Paid" stamp (which would indicate that the postage had already been brought to account), or are prepaid by means of postage stamps, a record of their weight in bulk should be made in Column 8 of this form, and any unpaid Registration fees in Column 9.
6. Letters, &c., received unpaid or uncertified, unless addressed to the King or Queen, or to the Keeper of the Privy Purse or to one of His Majesty's Private Secretaries, should be impressed with the ordinary datestamp and surcharged in the normal way.

7. Letters, &c., addressed to any of the above, however, and marked to the effect that they are intended for a member of the Royal Family or Household not possessing the privilege of exemption from paying postage, and addressed either by name or title, should be treated as intended for either the King or Queen, or the Keeper of the Privy Purse or one of His Majesty's Private Secretaries.

PARCELS

(1). For addresses in the United Kingdom (including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) and Irish Free State.

(a) Packets weighing between 3lb. and 11lb. should be sent "Parcel Post" and should be so marked. Official parcels are not entitled to free transmission, and postage must be pre-paid by means of postage stamps. The certifying stamp need not be used. (Official pouches exceeding 3lb. in weight, if posted in the public service, may be sent as letters).

(b) A parcel addressed to the Channel Islands or the Irish Free State must have an adhesive Customs Declaration form affixed (see Post Office Guide).

(c) Particulars of parcels intended to be registered should be entered on a list. Postage stamps to the amount of the Registration fee prepaid on each parcel must be affixed to the cover.

(d) The amount of postage (including Registration fees) should be claimed on Form "C" and recorded in Column 4 of this form.

(2). For addresses abroad.

(a) Parcels up to the weight of 11lb. can be transmitted to places abroad. To some countries the maximum weight is greater, viz, 15lb., 20lb. or 22lb.

(b) The general regulations relating to outgoing parcels (see Post Office Guide) must be observed.

(c) Detailed information regarding particular countries as to postage, limitations of service, maximum dimensions and weight, prohibited importations, insurance, methods of packing and sealing, &c., is given in the Imperial and Foreign Parcel Post tables in the Post Office Guide.

(d) Particulars of parcels intended to be insured should be entered on a list. Postage stamps to the amount of the insurance fee prepaid on each parcel must be affixed to the cover."

The Form "C" referred to above was addressed to The Comptroller and Accountant General and read: "I hereby certify that Postage Stamps to the value of have been affixed to Foreign Letters, &c., and to Inland and Imperial and Foreign Parcels, as shown in detail in the Official Record overleaf, of postage stamps affixed to Their Majesties' correspondence, &c., during the period....."

.....
Signature of Court Postmaster
(or other Officer required to keep the Account.)"

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

AGD - Accountant General's Department. A Post Office Department once responsible for all aspects of finance, pensions, wages, etcetera.

BO - Branch Office. A particular status of Post Office.

Cancellations - A postal marking used either to deface a postage stamp and/or, on most Court mail, to indicate place, date and time of posting.

Certifying Stamp - A rubber (invariably) or steel impression used on items of mail to indicate the office or department within the Royal Household that despatched it.

Direct Wire - A telegraph wire going directly from one location to another without any intermediate connection.

ECDO - Eastern Central District Office. A Post Office sorting office within central London used for the handling of Court mail and millions of non-royal letters.

Frank - Indicating free of postage. Members of the Royal Family and Members of Parliament could at one time sign their name in the bottom left hand corner of the envelope and not have to pay postage.

GPO - General Post Office. A term used until 30 September 1969 when it ceased to exist. From 1 October 1969 its status was altered and became a Public Corporation.

MLO - Mechanised Letter Office. A "new generation" sorting office, of which there are currently over eighty spanning the United Kingdom, which, as their name implies, takes full advantage of new technology to speed the mails.

Non-Paying Account - These accounts were maintained by the Post Office and ensured that no postage was actually paid. In effect, a credit and debit entry for the total postage cost was shown in an appendix to the Post Office Vote in the Parliamentary Estimates annually.

OCD - Official Correspondence Division. A department within the Inland Section of the Post Office.

Paying Accounts - Maintained by the Post Office, these accounts kept track of the postage costs due.

PMG Minutes - A huge series of volumes preserved in the Post Office Archives detailing all manner of subjects relating to the posts that were brought to the attention of the Postmaster General (PMG).

Private Wire - Their history pre-dates the telephone (1876) and offered people/companies private telegraph facilities.

RAGO - Receiver and Agent General's Office. A department that once existed within Post Office Headquarters.

Registration Labels - These labels are used on mail that is of a value and where an additional fee has been paid to ensure compensation in the event of loss.

RSO - Railway Sub Office. This type of office received most of their mail from a railway sorting carriage and not from its Head Post Office.

Sinecure - "A position that requires little or no work but usually yields profit or honour" is the dictionary definition and for our purposes means that a job was given to one person who 'sub-let' it to another for a lesser wage so that he did not have to attend his place of work.

SWDO - South Western District Office. A Post Office Sorting Office in central London used for the handling of Court mail and millions of non-royal letters.

TPO - Travelling Post Office. Special railway carriages used by the Post Office to speed-up the delivery of mail as postmen are able to sort letters whilst the train is en-route for its destination.

TSO - Town Sub Office. A particular status of Post Office.

POSTAL ADDRESSES OF THE RESIDENCES

- Abergeldie Castle, Wick, Caithness, AB3 5SY
Anmer Hall, Sandringham Estate, Sandringham, Norfolk
- * Badminton House, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire, GL9 1DB
Balmoral Castle, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, AB3 5TB. Estate Office AB3 5TD
Barnwell Manor, Oundle, Northamptonshire
Batchelor Cottage - original name for York Cottage
8 Bedford Row, London
- * 14 Belgrave Square, London, SW1
Birkhall, Ballater, Deeside, Scotland
8 and 10 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LA
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA. Royal Mews SW1W 0QH
- Castle of Mey, Thurso, Caithness, Scotland
Castlewood House, Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire
- * Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE4 1PP
Clarence House, London, SW1
- * 3 Cleveland Row, London, SW1
- * Compton Place, Eastbourne, Sussex
- * Coppins, Iver, Buckinghamshire
Crocker End House, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire
Cumberland Lodge, Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire
- * Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland
- * Foley House - see page 87
- * Fort Belvedere, Sunningdale, Ascot, Berkshire
Frogmore, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2JQ
- Gatcombe Park, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 9AT
Glamis Castle, Forfar, Angus, DD8 1RJ
- H.M. Yacht Britannia, BFPO Ships, London
- * Hampton Court Palace, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey
- * Harewood House, Harewood, Leeds, LS17 9LQ
- * Highcliffe Castle, Highcliffe, Near Christchurch, Dorset
Highgrove House, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL6 6UE
- Kensington Palace, London, W8 4PX
Kew Palace, Richmond, Surrey
- * Linlithgow Palace, Scotland
- * Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HU
- * Moy Hall, Inverness, Scotland
- Nether Lypiatt Manor, Stroud, Gloucestershire
- * Norfolk House, St. James's Square, London

- * Osborne House, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6JY
- Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, EH8 8DZ
- * 145 Piccadilly, London, W1
- Royal Flight, RAF Benson, Benson, Oxfordshire, OX9 6AA
- Royal Lodge, Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire
- * Royal Pavilion, Aldershot, Hampshire
- * Royal Pavilion, Brighton, Sussex
- St. James's Palace, London, SW1. Ascot Office SW1A 1BP.
- do- Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood SW1A 1BG
- Sandringham House, Sandringham, Norfolk, PE35 6EN
- Sunninghill Park, Windsor, Berkshire
- Tamarisk, Scilly Isles
- Thatched House Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey
- Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB
- * White Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey
- * Wilton House, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 0BJ
- Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ. Royal Mews SL4 1NG
- York Cottage, Sandringham, Norfolk, PE35 6EN
- York House, St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BQ
- * Property no longer serves a royal purpose, has been demolished or was only a temporary residence used for a royal visit. See section four for explanations.

CHECK LIST

It had been intended to include a rarity guide for every marking in the book, but it soon became clear that the volume of material available for examination was not great. Also, some of the very modern markings, for example, are not known in numbers of more than a mere handful, but it must be borne in mind that just because few covers have been shown to the author does not automatically mean that the item is of immense monetary value.

As prices can be out of date so quickly coupled with the fact that the appearance of this book in itself could help to stimulate interest in the subject with a consequent increase in prices, your author chose not to proceed with such a guide. Perhaps this aspect could be pursued should a second edition be published.

The boxes following the postal marking reference number are for readers to enter a tick if they possess the item in question.

SECTION ONE - No cancellations in this section.

SECTION TWO

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SECTION SEVEN AND EIGHT - No cancellations in these sections

NOTES

GENERAL INDEX

This general index details every personal name, titled position, royal residence, job title, Post Office and place quoted throughout the book, excluding section eight references where a total of over 500 entries have been recorded in order that the few collectors likely to pursue them can. It was not felt that indexing those entries would benefit the majority of readers.

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BRITISH PHILATELIC TRUST

BACKGROUND

The Trust was established in 1981 and received charity status in 1983. Its aim is to promote and encourage an interest and participation in study, research and knowledge of philately as well as in stamp collecting and in postal history.

Originally, money for the Trust came from premium charges on the sale of the British Post Office miniature sheets of special stamps issued for London 1980. Additional funds have come from further sales of stamps for Stamp World London 1990. The Trust is not part of the British Post Office and is separately managed by a Board of Trustees.

THE TRUST'S OBJECTIVES

Within the terms of the Trust Deed and the limits of the funds available, the Trustees' intention is to provide financial assistance to philatelic initiative over as wide a field as possible, especially for local and regional philatelic activities and those involving young people. By this means it seeks to encourage the development of philately, to support related educational and research projects and to broaden the knowledge, interest and enjoyment of collectors and philatelists throughout the United Kingdom.

GRANTS AND LOANS

Grants or loans can be made in support of local, regional and national philatelic activities, for example exhibitions, seminars, open days, school and youth organisation stamp clubs, publication of books and pamphlets, provision of philatelic books for public libraries, together with some contribution towards United Kingdom participation in international philately. Trust funds are not available to support wholly commercial philatelic ventures or other countries' philatelic activities.

ADVICE

The Secretary of the Trust is able to offer telephone or written advice to applicants on the preparation of applications for grants and/or loans. Guideline notes on support for authors and publishers and for societies and clubs are available on request.



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Previous publications by the author

- *British Post Office Santa Mail Service*
A catalogue of cards and cancellations sent in response to letters posted to Santa—out of print
- *Welcome to the House of Questa*
A detailed study of stamp production methods used at this internationally acclaimed British printing house—out of print.
- *Letter Boxes on Stamps and Postal Stationery*
A whole-world catalogue and checklist of philatelic material relating to this increasingly popular theme.

Publications in preparation by the author

- *For Testing Purposes Only*
A catalogue of British Post Office booklet, coil and stationery vending and affixing machine dummy material
- *Letter Box Postal Markings*
An illustrated world catalogue of letter boxes mentioned or depicted on operational and special postal markings
- *British Stamp Printers' Samples*
An illustrated catalogue of sample labels produced by British stamp printers for their own publicity purposes

The author would welcome correspondence and further information about any of the above subjects, and can be contacted via the publisher.

The Publisher

Other books published by The British Philatelic Trust and available from the Trust at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT:

- *The Postal History of Fiji 1911-1952*, by J.G. Rodger C.B.E.—published in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain. Price £27.50 plus £3 postage and packing for both U.K. and overseas surface mail.
- *History of the Post in Derby 1635-1941*, by H.S. Wilson—published in conjunction with the Derbyshire Postal History Society. Price £22 plus £3 postage and packing £4.50 overseas surface mail.
- *Falkland Islands Mails—The Kosmos Years, 1880-1900*, by the Revd J.N.T. Howat—Price £15 plus £1.50 postage and packing £2 overseas surface mail.

and the following booklets—£1 each including U.K. postage or £2 each including overseas surface mail:

- *Introducing Postal History* by Vivien Sussex—published in conjunction with the Postal History Society.
- *Introducing Thematic Collecting* by Alma Lee—published in conjunction with the National Philatelic Society.
- *Successful Exhibiting* by Franceska Rapkin—published in conjunction with the British Philatelic Federation.

Royal Household Mail

Postal Markings and Cachets from 1990 to Q1 2012

An update to the *Royal Household Mail* handbook, 1992

Glenn H Morgan

Note: There are a number of postal markings that were introduced years or even many decades before the Vidler and post-Vidler years which are included here, but separately from recent markings. They were gradually phased out from 1990 onwards and none probably still exist in use, especially when counter services were withdrawn from Balmoral, Holyrood and Sandringham.

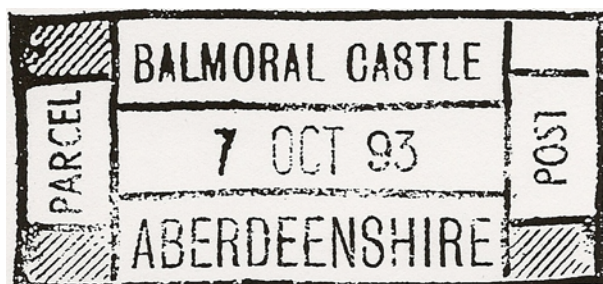
This compilation excludes any markings known *not* to have been used from 1990 onwards.

(See the 1992 *Royal Household Mail* handbook by Glenn H Morgan for those.)

Balmoral Castle

Balmoral Castle on the Balmoral Estate in Aberdeenshire, Scotland is the private residence of The Queen. Mail from this castle is collected and handled by Royal Mail Aberdeen. Post Office counter services were permanently withdrawn on 9 October 2000.

No longer in Use



Introduced pre-Vidler era, but still used subsequently

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced
Intended Usage

Never introduced. Only proof pulls should exist
First class mail destined for inland addresses



Date introduced
Intended Usage

Never introduced. Only proof pulls should exist
Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain

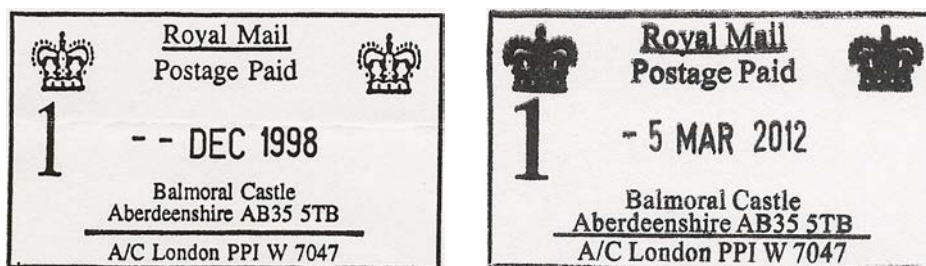
Still in Use in Q1 2012

Circular Court Post Office Date Stamps



Date introduced By 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 2012
Usage First Day Covers.

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 2012
Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses
Notes Incorporation of Aberdeenshire and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'



Date introduced 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 1998
Usage Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain
Notes Incorporation of Aberdeenshire and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'

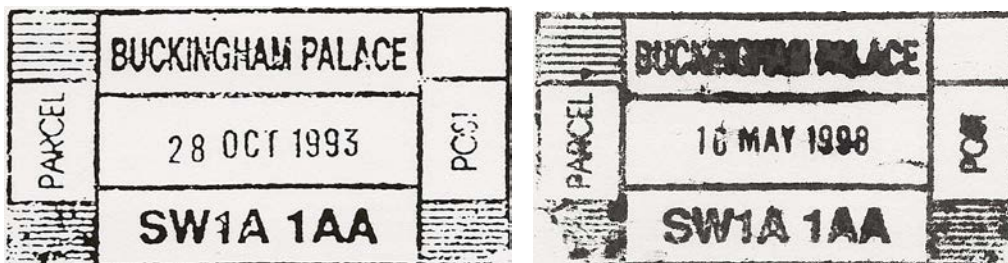
Not seen but known to exist

Date introduced	2008
Date range seen	2008-2012
Usage	Second class mail destined for inland addresses

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace has served as the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns since 1837 and today is the administrative headquarters of the Monarch. Mail from this palace is collected and handled by Royal Mail Nine Elms.

No longer in Use



Code K



Code P

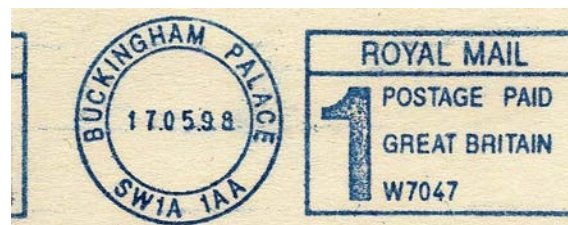
All above introduced pre-Vidler era, but still used subsequently

Circular Machine Struck Royal Monogram Cachets



Date introduced	1998 (12 January)
Date range seen	1998 to 2003
Usage	Applied by franking machine in conjunction with the initial blue postage paid meter markings recorded below, but only on mail destined for Inland and Commonwealth nations where Her Majesty or her Household was writing to one of The Queen's subjects. Foreign mail was therefore not treated this way.
Notes	Not used where a hand struck certifying mark had already been applied. Blue colour only exists.

Meter Machine Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced	1998 (12 January)
Date range seen	1998 to 2003
Usage	Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of Great Britain, avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes	Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in blue only.



(B&W photocopy of blue impression)

Date introduced	2001 (2 April)
Date range seen	2001 to 2003
Usage	Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of Great Britain, avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes	Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in blue only

Circular Court Post Office Date Stamps



Date introduced	By 1993
Date range seen	1993 to 1993
Usage	Mail bag tags and general use.
Notes	Large text, Small date. Seen in purple only



Date introduced	By 1998.
Date range seen	1998 to 1999
Usage	General counter use
Notes	Small text, large date

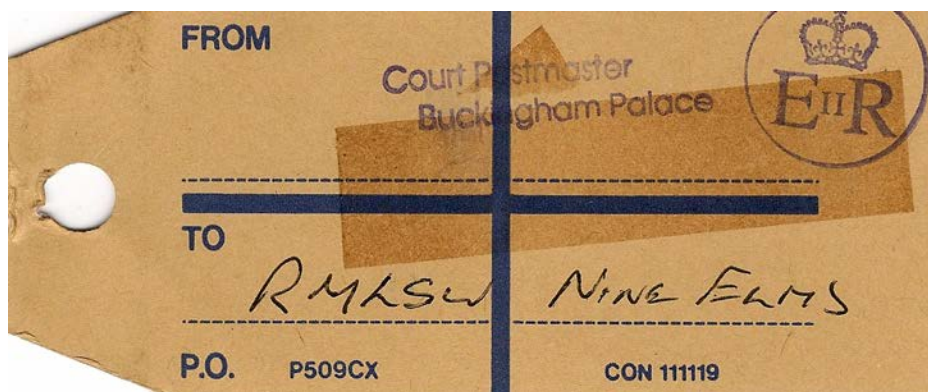


Date introduced By 2005
 Date range seen 2005 to 2005
 Usage Mail bag tags and general use
 Notes Extra large date



Date introduced By 1998
 Date range seen 1998 to 1998
 Usage General counter use

Straight Line Court Post Office Cachets



Date introduced 19__
 Date range seen 19__ to 19__
 Usage Mail bag tags
 Notes Seen in purple only

Straight Line Cachets



Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 19__
Usage	Mail bag tags
Notes	Seen in purple only

Still in Use in Q1 2012

Circular Royal Monogram Hand Struck Cachets



Date introduced	By 1993
Date range seen	1993 to 2012
Usage	Outgoing mail destined for Inland and Commonwealth addresses only. Not used on Foreign mail
Notes	Note incorrect use of '11' (eleven) instead of 'II' between the E and the R. Seen in red, black and purple.

Circular Office Date Stamps



Date introduced	By 1998
Date range seen	1998 to 2002. Seen in black (mainly) or violet (1999)
Usage	Known used on First Day Covers serviced by household employees.

Meter Machine Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced By 2004
Date range seen 2004 to 2012
Usage Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of 'GB', avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in red only



Date introduced By 2005
Date range seen 2005 to 2012
Usage Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of 'GB', avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in red only. Some examples exist with a wider spacing between the SW1A and 1AA parts of the postcode (seen 2009)



Date introduced By 2004
Date range seen 2004 to 2012
Usage Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of 'GB', avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in red only on primarily office mail from the likes of Royal Collection Enterprises.



Date introduced 2012
 Date range seen 2012 to 2012
 Usage Mail destined for inland addresses only. Used on letters of congratulations sent to Her Majesty on the occasion of Her Diamond Jubilee
 Notes Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in red only

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced 1998
 Date range seen 1998 to 2002
 Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses

Not seen but known to exist

Date introduced 2008
 Date range seen 2012 to 2012
 Usage Second class mail destined for inland addresses



Date introduced 1998
 Date range seen 1998 to 2012
 Usage Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain.

Notes

However, it has been seen in red on inland mail
Seen in black and red. No significance in this.

Birkhall

When at Birkhall, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall enjoy fishing and walking in the Scottish countryside. Mail from this residence is collected and handled by Balmoral Castle when Their Royal Highnesses are in residence.

Castle of Mey

In 1952 Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother saw the Castle and despite its poor condition, she purchased it that year and set about renovating and restoring both the Castle and its gardens. In 1996, The Queen Mother established The Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust, to which the castle was transferred later that year. Mail from this residence is collected and flown to Buckingham palace where it receives the red franking machine marking when Their Royal Highnesses are in residence.

Clarence House

Clarence House, which stands beside St James's Palace, was built between 1825 and 1827 to the designs of John Nash for Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence. Today Clarence House is the official London residence of The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, and Princes William and Harry. Mail from this house is collected and handled by Buckingham Palace, hence lack of postal markings and cachets.

Estate and Other Offices

Possibly still in Use in Q1 2012

Meter Machine Cancellations

All struck in red ink, but only B&W photocopies seen.



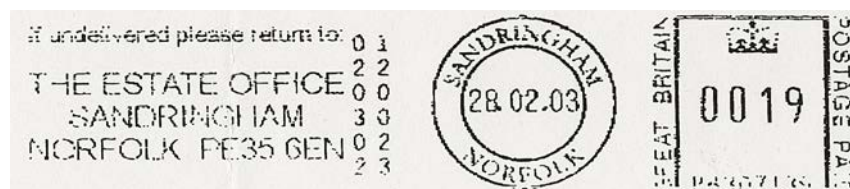
Balmoral Castle – Machine PB237976



The Royal Studs, Sandringham - Machine PB712545



The Estate Office, Sandringham - Machine P.B.L518H



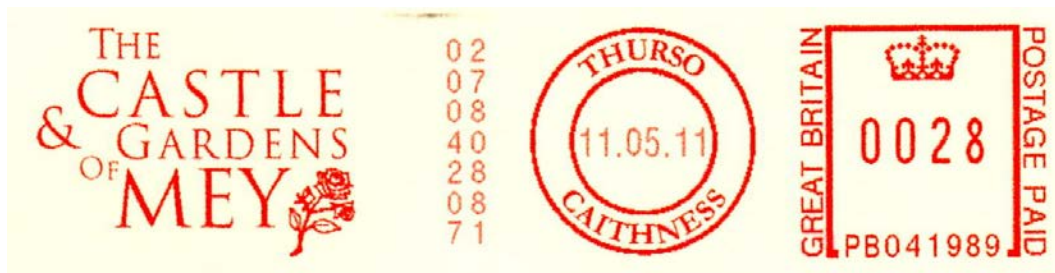
The Estate Office, Sandringham - Machine PB307139.
Possible replacement for above?



The Prince's Youth Business Trust, London –
Machine PBG09640.

All above introduced pre-Vidler era, but still used subsequently

Still in Use in Q1 2012



The Estate Office, The Castle and Gardens of Mey - Machine PB041989

Highgrove House

Highgrove House near Tetbury in Gloucestershire is The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall's family home. The Duchy of Cornwall owns Highgrove, and bought the house, garden and nearby farmland now known as Duchy Home Farm in 1980. Mail from this house is collected and handled by Royal Mail Gloucester when Their Royal Highnesses are in residence.

Still in Use in Q1 2012

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced	2002 (11 January)
Date range seen	2002 to 2002
Usage	Mail destined for inland addresses, but only when Prince Charles is in residence
Notes	A separate cancellation for overseas mail use (i.e. with Great Britain incorporated) was not created.

Not seen but known to exist

Date introduced	2008
Date range seen	2012 to 2012
Usage	Second class mail destined for inland addresses

Not seen but known to exist

Date introduced	2008
Date range seen	2012 to 2012
Usage	Mail destined for overseas addresses

Prior to these cancellations Highgrove House mail would only be identifiable by Prince of Wales feathers on envelope flaps

Kensington Palace

Today Kensington Palace contains the offices and London residences of The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. Princess Margaret, Diana, Princess of Wales and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester used to live in Kensington Palace and have their offices there. Mail from this palace is collected and handled by Buckingham Palace, hence lack of postal markings on all but mail from the Gloucester and the Michael families resident in the palace.

No longer in Use

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 19__
Usage	Mail destined for inland addresses by the Michaels and the Gloucester families resident within Kensington Palace
Notes	Experimental cancellation used for a short period of time only PPI contract number W7047. Seen in blue only



Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 19__
Usage	Mail destined for inland and overseas addresses by the Michaels and the Gloucester families resident within Kensington Palace
Notes	PPI contract number W7047. Replaced KP1 . Seen in black or purple. Known used on mail from Prince Edward when at Bagshot Park in 2007.

Palace of Holyroodhouse

Founded as a monastery in 1128, the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh is The Queen's official residence in Scotland. Mail from this palace is collected and handled by Royal Mail Edinburgh. Post Office counter services were withdrawn on 6 July 2000.

No longer in Use



Introduced pre-Vidler era, but still used subsequently

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellation



Date introduced
Intended Usage

Never introduced. Only proof pulls should exist
Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain



Date introduced
Date range seen
Usage

By 2003
2003 to 2003
Mail destined for inland addresses by Royal Collection Enterprises, Edinburgh

Notes

PPI contract number HQ7397. Seen in blue only



Date introduced
Date range seen

By 2003
2003 to 2003

Usage Mail destined for inland and overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain, by Royal Collection Enterprises, Edinburgh
Notes PPI contract number HQ7397. Seen in blue (crisp) and black (worn)



Date introduced By 2003
Date range seen 2003 to 2003
Usage Mail destined for inland and overseas addresses, hence inclusion of "GB", by Royal Collection Enterprises, Edinburgh
Notes PPI contract number HQ7397. Also seen (above) unusually cancelling a postage stamp

Still in Use in Q1 2012

Circular Certifying Cachets



Date introduced By 2003
Date range seen 2003 to 2003
Usage Mail from Royal Collection Enterprises, Palace of Holyroodhouse
Edinburgh
Notes Seen used in blue and black. Rarely used these days

Circular Court Post Office Date Stamps

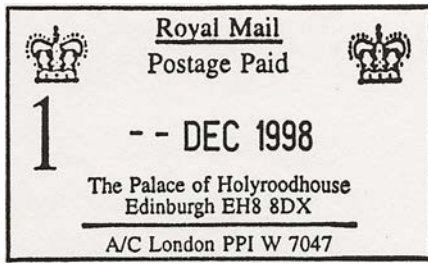


Date introduced By 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 1998
Usage General use

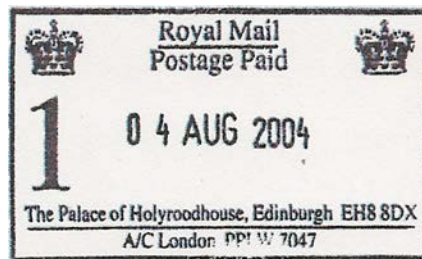
Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellation



Date introduced Officially described as "never introduced". Only proof pulls should exist, but an example has been seen properly used on cover in 2008. As it contravenes usage terms by excluding the term "A/C", it is surprising that it was utilised
Intended Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses



Date introduced 1998
 Date range seen 1998 to 2011
 Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses
 Notes Incorporation of Edinburgh and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'



Date introduced By 2004
 Date range seen 2004 to 2004
 Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses
 Notes Note different crown, thicker "1" and single line address.



Date introduced 1998
 Date range seen 1998 to 2012
 Usage Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain
 Notes Incorporation of Edinburgh and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'



Date introduced 2008
Date range seen 2012 to 2012
Usage Second class mail destined for inland addresses. Only seen in blue/red bi-colour. Two line address



Date introduced 2008
Date range seen 2012 to 2012
Usage Second class mail destined for inland addresses. Single line address

Departmental Certifying Cachets



Date introduced By 20__
Date range seen 20__ to 20__
Usage Seen used on mail from the Lord Chamberlain at Holyrood as a pre-printed cachet on the envelope, i.e. it is not hand applied



Date introduced Well before 1990
Date range seen 2008 to 2008

Usage

Seen used on mail from the Purse Bearer at Holyrood in conjunction with a boxed "1" to indicate first class postage

St. James's Palace

St. James's Palace is the senior palace of the Sovereign, with a long history as a Royal residence. The offices of the Royal Collection Department, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, the Chapel Royal, the Gentlemen at Arms, the Yeomen of the Guard and the Queen's Watermen are all located at St. James's Palace. Since January 2009, the Household Office of Prince William and Prince Harry has been based at St. James's Palace, although their official residence remains Clarence House. St. James's Palace contains the London residences of The Prince of Wales, The Princess Royal and Princess Alexandra. Mail from this palace is handled by Buckingham Palace, hence lack of postal markings.

No longer in Use

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 19__
Usage	Mail destined for inland addresses by Royal Collection Enterprises in London
Notes	PPI contract number HQ7397

Departmental Certifying Cachets



Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 19__
Usage	Seen used on mail from The Royal Collection
Notes	Postcode is shown as SW1A <u>1JR</u> . Only seen in blue

Still in Use in Q1 2012

Departmental Certifying Cachets

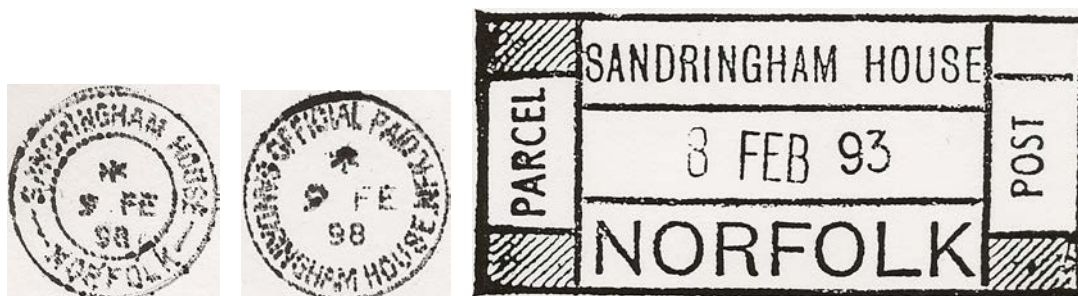


Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 19__
Usage	Seen used on mail from The Royal Collection
Notes	Postcode is shown as SW1A <u>1BQ</u> . Only seen on black

Sandringham House

Sandringham House in Norfolk has been the private home of four generations of Sovereigns since 1862. Mail from this residence is collected and handled by Royal Mail King's Lynn. Post Office counter services were withdrawn on 11 February 2001.

No longer in Use



Introduced pre-Vidler era, but still used subsequently

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced
Intended Usage

Never introduced. Only proof pulls should exist
First class mail destined for inland addresses



Date introduced
Intended Usage

Never introduced. Only proof pulls should exist
Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain

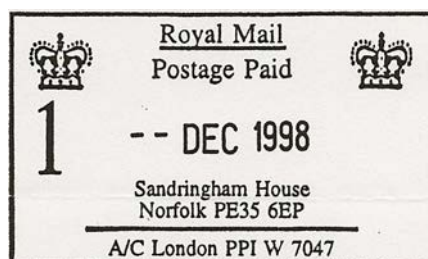
Still in Use in Q1 2012

Circular Court Post Office Date Stamps



Date introduced By 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 2001
Usage Seen used on First Day Cover envelopes

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 1999
Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses
Notes Incorporation of Norfolk and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'



Date introduced By 2012
Date range seen 2012 to 2012
Usage First class mail destined for inland addresses
Notes Incorporation of Norfolk and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'



Date introduced 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 2012
Usage Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain
Notes Incorporation of Norfolk and postcode, plus 'A/C'. Introduced due to new 'operational requirements'

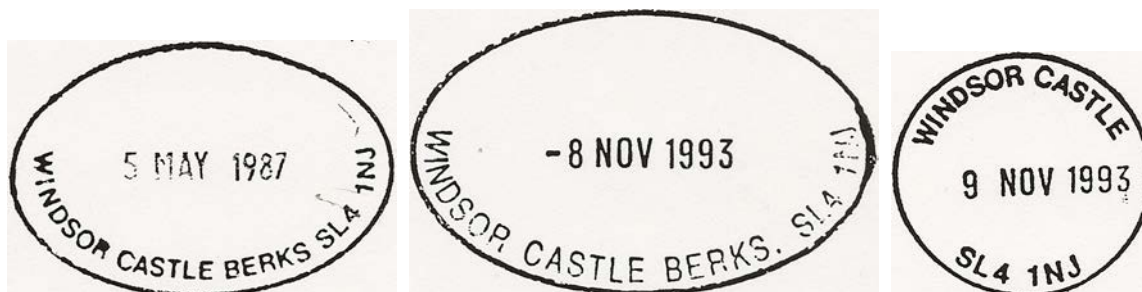


Date introduced 2008
Date range seen 2012 to 2012
Usage Second class mail destined for inland addresses

Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world. A Royal home and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace today. Mail from this residence is collected and handled by Royal Mail Slough.

No longer in Use



All above introduced pre-Vidler era, but still used subsequently

Circular Machine Struck Royal Monogram Cachets



Date introduced	1999 (5 April)
Date range seen	1999 to 2003
Usage	Applied by franking machine in conjunction with the initial blue postage paid meter markings recorded below, but only on mail destined for Inland and Commonwealth nations where Her Majesty

or her Household was writing to one of The Queen's subjects. Foreign mail was therefore not treated this way.

Notes

Not used where a hand struck certifying mark had already been applied. Exists in blue only

Meter Machine Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced

1999 (5 April)

Date range seen

1999 to 2003

Usage

Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of Great Britain, avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail

Notes

Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in blue only



Date introduced

2001 (2 April)

Date range seen

2001 to 2003

Usage

Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of Great Britain, avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail

Notes

Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in blue only

Still in Use in Q1 2012

Circular Hand Struck Royal Monogram Cachets



Date introduced	19__
Date range seen	19__ to 2012
Usage	Outgoing mail destined for Inland and Commonwealth addresses only. Not used on Foreign mail
Notes	Various sizes exist

Circular Court Post Office Date Stamps



Date introduced	By 2003
Date range seen	2003 to 2005
Usage	Known used on First Day Covers serviced by household employees. Also used on a certificate of posting form accompanying the FDC.

Circular Date Stamps



Date introduced By 1998
Date range seen 1998 to 2002
Usage Known used on First Day Covers serviced by household employees.



Date introduced By 2012
Date range seen 2012 to 2012
Usage Known used on First Day Covers serviced by household employees.

Meter Machine Postage Paid Cancellations



Buckingham Palace style

**Not seen but
known to exist**

Date introduced
Date range seen 2012
Usage Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of Great Britain, avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in red only



Buckingham Palace style

Not seen but known to exist

Date introduced	
Date range seen	2012
Usage	Mail destined for any address, hence inclusion of Great Britain, avoiding the need for a separate die for inland mail
Notes	Machine supplied by Pitney Bowes. Exists in red only

Rectangular Postage Paid Cancellations



Date introduced	1998
Date range seen	1998 to 1999
Usage	First class mail destined for inland addresses



WC8

Date introduced	1998
Date range seen	1998 to 2005
Usage	Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain.



Date introduced	By 2010
Date range seen	2010 to 2010
Usage	Mail destined for overseas addresses, hence inclusion of Great Britain.

Notes As above, but different crowns. Presumably created to replace a worn-out cancellation.

Not seen but known to exist

Date introduced 2008
Date range seen 2012 to 2012
Usage Second class mail destined for inland addresses

A Royal Household Mail TimeLine from 1990-Q1 2012

All of this information has been supplied by the relevant Court Postmaster and is therefore guaranteed as to its accuracy

- | | | |
|------|-------------|--|
| 1990 | 21 December | Adrian Vidler appointed Court Postmaster. He had been Assistant Court Postmaster from 15 March 1985. |
| 1992 | 26 June | TPO service last used to Holyroodhouse. |
| 1992 | 8 October | TPO service last used to Balmoral Castle. |
| 1993 | 26 June | Flights by Skynet British Midland from London (Heathrow-Edinburgh, then by van) first made to Holyroodhouse. A postman accompanied the mail. Service only in use when The Queen was in residence. Used for transferring Government Boxes. A BA scheduled flight was utilised instead if The Queen was in residence at weekends, escorted by a van. |
| 1993 | 14 August | Flights by BA first made to Balmoral Castle from London. A postman accompanied the mail. Service only in use when The Queen was in residence. Used for transferring Government Boxes. |
| 1994 | 7 February | Last day for old-style red name badges at Buckingham Palace. <i>GHM has one!</i> |
| 1994 | 8 February | New name badge style introduced at Buckingham Palace (Crown over Buckingham Palace / Royal Mail / forename) <i>GHM has one!</i> |
| 1995 | (probably) | New name badge style introduced at Windsor Castle (Crown over Windsor Castle/ Royal Mail / forename). Only two made. <i>GHM has one!</i> |
| 1996 | 6 February | TPO service last used to Sandringham House. |
| 1996 | 20 December | Despatches to Sandringham House by road service commenced. |
| 1998 | 12 January | Radical new Buckingham Palace 1 st class franking machine die introduced. |
| 1998 | 1 February | The position of the Court Postmaster was upgraded to Superintendent (PE "A"). Previously an Assistant Superintendent grading. The job content of Court Postmaster was re-evaluated again from 2 February 2003, when it was regarded as a (SB9) Senior Managerial position. |
| 1999 | 5 April | Radical new Windsor Castle 1 st class franking machine die introduced. |
| 1999 | 11 June* | Royal Telemessage service ended (*date to arrive). |
| 1999 | 12 June | Royal Card service introduced (to arrive - The Queen's official birthday). 22,000 cards sent in 2003. Cards are sent two days prior to receipt date. |
| 2000 | 6 July | Court Post Office counter service discontinued at Holyroodhouse. |

2000	4 August	Mr A (Tony) Nicholls, The Queen's Postman delivered the 100 th Royal Birthday Card from Her Majesty The Queen to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Opened by sword.
2000	9 October	Court Post Office counter service discontinued at Balmoral Castle.
2001	11 February	Court Post Office counter service discontinued at Sandringham House.
2001	31 March	The Court Post Office's postal and telegraph services ceased to be provided free by the Post Office.
2001	1 April	The Household were charged for postal services from this date. Note how from the following day, 2 nd class post was utilised for non-urgent mail.
2001	1 April	Michael Delaney appointed Assistant Court Postmaster.
2001	2 April	Windsor Castle 2nd class franking machine die introduced. Note how from this date, 2 nd class post was utilised for non-urgent mail.
2001	2 April	Buckingham Palace 2nd class franking machine die introduced. Note how from this date, 2 nd class post was utilised for non-urgent mail.
2002	11 January	A Highgrove House Postage Paid handstamp introduced into service.
2002	4 June	David Wren, previously Assistant at The House of Commons, appointed temporary Court Postmaster. Last day of service 29 August 2003.
2002	28 June	Last day of service for Adrian Vidler as Court Postmaster, who retired.
2002	14 July	The position of Assistant Court Postmaster became obsolete, the post now being known as Deputy Court Postmaster.
2003	1 September	Michael Delaney, who had joined 13 years previously as a cadet, starts his new role as the Court Postmaster.
2006		David C Baxter appointed Court Postmaster.
2008		Second Class predominantly used instead of the more expensive First Class.
2012		Diamond Jubilee wavy-line cancellations used as part of the meter franking machine at Buckingham Palace in place of standard PPI. The wavy-lines cancelled a gold (initially) then diamond blue (from its issue date) Machin definitive stamp.

2012 Royal Household Mail corrections to statements made by "XYL" on a Bulletin Board

He states: *"If she sends a letter she does not have to put a stamp on the envelope."* If by this he means Her Majesty's Household does not pay postage, then this is erroneous. It does. Until 31 March 2001, the Court Post Office's postal and telegraph services were provided free of charge by the Post Office, but from 1 April 2001 the Household, at its suggestion, has paid.

It is wrong to state that Her Majesty does not pay for a single stamp that enters her private collection. She does. OK, only those issues that are determined by the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection to be of significant importance, for as with many collectors there is an annual budget set aside for such purchases.

Yes, she does receive many stamp issues free of charge when issued by some Commonwealth postal administrations. As royal.gov.uk states: *"Today the Collection continues to grow. It receives stamps of the UK and many Commonwealth countries in mint blocks of four or six. Occasional purchases of rare historical items are also made to enhance the Collection further."*

As for Her Majesty owning several full mint sheets, including Penny Blacks, I am sure that she would love to. However, as far as the Penny Black goes, the only sheets in the world are owned by The British Postal Museum & Archive here in London. As the museum states: *"In our collections at The British Postal Museum & Archive we hold unique treasures illustrating the history of postal reform and the design and production of the [Penny Black] stamps. These include proofs, the Old Original die from which all the printing plates were made, and the only sheets of Penny Blacks in existence."*

Royal.gov.uk goes on to state: *"The Royal Philatelic Collection contains many examples of these first stamps, including 1d stamps printed in black ink (penny blacks) and 2d stamps printed in blue (two pence blues)."* No mention of full sheets anywhere.

In May 2001 Her Majesty sold some duplicate material to pay for two lovely additions to her collection (a block of ten Penny Blacks as she possessed no larger multiple, and a 6 May 1840 FDC). In 2008 she put up for auction 13 duplicates, including two single mint penny blacks. There is nothing that I have ever found on record to indicate that she sold philatelic material to a US businessman in 2011 - or ever - and certainly not for \$66million. There is nothing on the internet, nor has it appeared in any of the dozens of philatelic magazines that I have access to. Trust me, if it were true I would have read about it, as this would be a major headline in the British stamp press. Until documentary evidence is provided, it is simply hearsay and as TV's Judge Judy would say "I don't listen to hearsay in my court".

The above is all common knowledge in England.

Glenn H Morgan