CORONATION 1937

Covers

An illustrated listing

Compiled by Allan Oliver

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Foreword

With my main area of interest coving the British stamps of King George VI, (as well as many other related items), I have over a number of years been pulling together the various illustrated covers which relate to the coronation in 1937 of the King and his consort Queen Elizabeth.

The information I have been able to find on these covers is very limited and as far as I am aware, no list has been made of the various different types that exist. This booklet is intended to make a start on remedying the later.

For ease of use all the covers have been illustrated and numbered as well as divided in to group such as those which shown the King as the main element of the design under portrait types, those that show a map as the main element under map types etc.

Illustrations

With a work of this nature, it is almost impossible to describe the covers in a manner, which would make them identifiable to the user. For this reason, vast amounts of illustrations have been included, which although making the book rather large, (both in terms of pages and file size), we hope will pass on the information required.

All the illustrations appear **below** the item number / description

The illustrations used in this work are, (where ever possible), taken from the TALLAN collection. Those that are numbered in blue are from external sources, (such as internet auctions), and are used here to make the work as complete as possible.

Numbering

The numbering of items in this listing has been done section by section. This method has been adopted as it reduces the need to re-number when new items are added. The way we have done this in the listing is to give each section an identification letter followed by a number for the item. Where there are variations to the basic cover design, the numbers are suffixed by a small letter.

Listing

Every basic cover within the listing has been illustrated, and as noted above, those, which are not actually in the TALLAN collection, are numbered in blue. Where there is different usage, (either in dates, place of origin or stamps used), these have been noted after the illustration.

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Coronation covers

First day covers exist from all the countries in the Empire that issued special stamps and most are readily available at fairly low prices. Although this listing is concerned with the printed covers, we thought that mention should be made of the more standard types which occur which can provide an extensive addition to any collection.

A number of similar coronation covers are known posted from Devon, bearing a Lundy stamp and airmail label. These are dated the 13th May 1937 with the Lundy items cancelled on the following day.



A whole host of covers, (varying slightly from one to anther), are known where text has been added with a typewriter. The scope for variation on these is so great that they have been excluded from the text types section, but a typical example is shown below. Most of the examples of this type are in black, blue or red inks, as these were the standard colours employed on the typewriter ribbons of the time.

Another type of cover that can add interest to a collection is those that are posted outside the country of origin. These usually show additional postage markings on the reverse of the cover which can yield a wealth of information for the postal history collector.

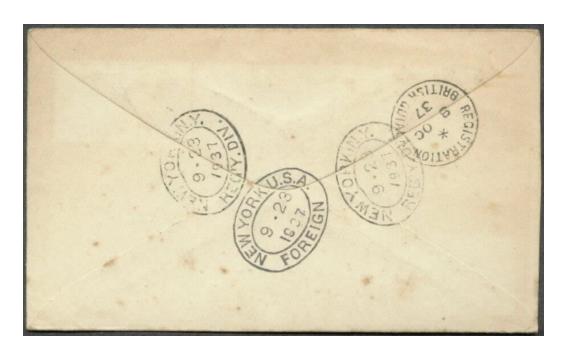
Also known are reuse of covers with the British coronation stamp. These covers bear the first three definitive stamps, (issued on the 10th May 1937), as well as the coronation stamp cancelled on the 13th May 1937. The more common double use is the coronation goodwill flight which is listed in this work.



Typewritten text at top left.



Cover from British Honduras to Guiana



Rear of the cover showing United States of America foreign section cancellations.



Re-use item showing definitive and the coronation stamp cancelled on different dates

Coronation stamp

Pre-release

Pre-release covers are also known dated the 10th, 11th and 12th May 1937 from various locations. These will be added as illustrations become available.

A1 Used on cover dated the 7th May 1937



Examples of the coronation stamp are also recorded used on Wednesday the 12^{th} May 1937, coronation day.

Coronation Day

12th May 1937

Covers dated the 12th May 1937, (coronation day), are of interest as that Wednesday had been declared a public holiday. As such many Post Offices were closed making dated items more difficult to obtain.

B1 Kilburn machine cancellation



Seals and Tape

These seals, which were produced for the coronation in 1937, were apparently sold to allow people to advertise the forthcoming coronation and to generate their own 'illustrated' coronation mail. It is unknown when these were made available, but most examples are on covers dated the 10th May 1937, (the first day of issue of the first three low value definitive stamps bearing the portrait of King George VI).

As well as their use on items of mail, these seals were also used on various other products connected with the coronation, (an example is shown below). It is uncertain at this time if the seals used on the various coronation products were available to the public for use on mail or if they were a special order produced for the manufacturer. To date no examples have been seen on mail which have been matched with commercial items, and any information on examples would be of great interest for inclusion in this work.



C1 Circular seal – King and Queen facing left in gold on a red background.



C2 Circular seal with banners at the base – Crown in centre on blue background.



C3 Circular seal with straight banner at the base – Kings portrait on a shield.



C4 Shield shaped seal with straight banner at the base – Surmounted by a crown.

Known used on the rear of an envelope from Nyasaland.





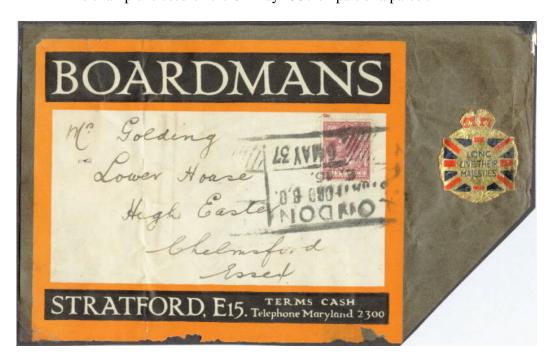


C6 Large gold and red seal with portraits in the centre.



C7 Circular seal with union flag with text in the centre and crown on top.

This example is used on the 6th May 1937 on part of a parcel.



C8 Circular seal with silver text and blue background.



C9 Tape with script, shield and banners.





C10 Red, gold and blue floral type seal



Portrait types

King and Queen

D1 Airmail cover.

Red and blue outer boarder. Envelope divided into three sections with blue lines. Design in lower left section.

All known examples are posted from London.



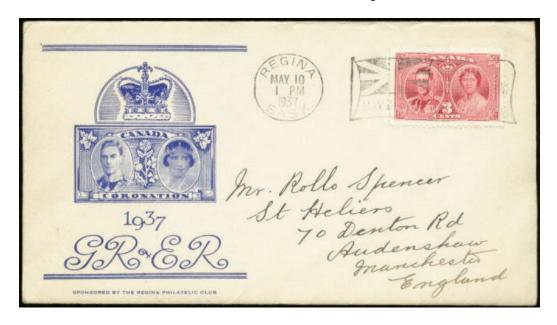


Notes: -

D1 is known used with the following stamps:-, British low value definitive stamps (as illustrated above) Gambia

D2a Blue portraits and text surmounted by a crown

The text at the base reads 'SPONSORED BY THE REGINA PHILATELIC CLUB' in the same colour as the main design.



D2b As D2a with a gold background printed first.



D3 Coloured portraits inside a golden wreath with crown and sceptres.

Text in very deep blue, (almost black), print.

The text at the base reads 'Prepared by Napier (N,Z.) Philatelic Society (Inc.)' and 'SWAILES PRINT' in the same colour as the main text.



Notes: -

D3 is known used with the following stamps:-, New Zealand (as illustrated above) New Zealand (overprinted Niue)

D4a Portraits and pre-printed address in blue. Embossed gold crown and sceptres

Produced by the Westminster Stamp Company, London.





Notes: -

D4b is known used with the following stamps: -,

Antigua

Bahamas

Basutoland

British Honduras

Cayman Islands

Ceylon

Dominica

Gambia

Grenada

Monteserrat

Nigera (as illustrated above)

Northern Rhodesia

Sierra Leone

St Christopher and Nevis

St Kitts and Nevis

St Lucia

St Vincent

Portraits in blue flanked by standards. Text in blue. Whole set on a background map of the Empire.

D5





Notes: -

D6 is known used with the following:-, GB stamps overprinted (as illustrated above) Somaliland Protectorate stamps Swaziland

D7 Blue oval portraits in top corners.

Text in the centre with a space for the date to be inserted.



D8 Blue oval portraits on a fancy background. Gold edging to cover.







Notes: -

D9 is known used with the following stamps:-,

Canada

Ceylon

Cyprus

Egypt (as illustrated above)

Great Britain (Coronation issue)

Kenya Uganda and Tanganyika

Malta

New Zealand

Newfoundland

D10 Blue portraits surmounted by a beaver. Text in green.

Originates from Canada.



D11 Portraits with a map of the empire below all printed in blue.

This is believed to originate from Canada as the portrait section used matches that of the Canadian cover, (item D10).



D11 *var* Cover D11 overprinted for the Empire Airmail Service.



D12 Portraits in interlocking ovals with crowns.



D13 Blue portraits in oval flanked by standards and text below.



D14a Portraits in tilted ovals with central crown. Printed in red.



Notes: -

D14a is known used with the following stamps:-, Cook Islands (overprint on the stamps of New Zealand) Falkland Islands (as illustrated above)

D14b As above but printed in violet.



Notes: -

D14b is known used with the following stamps:-, British Coronation stamp British Stamps overprinted for use in Tangier Cayman Islands (as illustrated above) Montserrat Virgin Islands

D14c As above but printed in green.



Notes: -

D14c is known used with the following stamps:-, British Stamps overprinted for use in Tangier Bahamas (as illustrated above) Northern Rhodesia Southern Rhodesia Turks and Caicos Islands

D14d As above but printed in blue.



Notes: -

D14d is known used with the following stamps:-, British Stamps overprinted for use in Tangier Cook Islands Seychelles (as illustrated above)

D14e As above but printed in black.



Notes: -

D14e is known used with the following stamps:-,

Gambia

Singapore

Straits settlement Malaya (as illustrated above)

D15 Blue portraits in separate ovals.



D16 Blue portraits in linked ovals draped with standards.



D17 Blue portrait stood on twin globes



Notes: -

D17 is known used with the following stamps:-, Barbados Straits Settlements Malaya Trinidad and Tobago (as illustrated above)

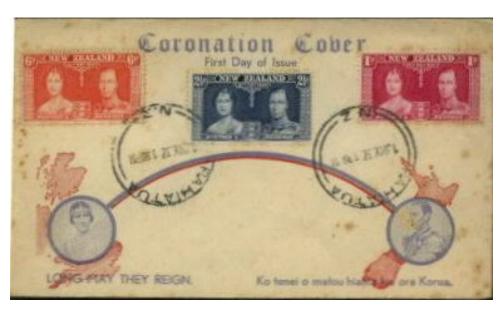
D18 Black and white portraits within a purple frame



Notes: -

D18 is known used with the following stamps:-, Antigua Canada

D19 Blue portraits in circles linked between two maps



For details on the printed address see Pre-printed stamp company envelopes



Dual portraits within a wreath with text. All in red. D21



The design on this cover is obscured and will be replaced as soon as a better example is made available to us.

D22 Blue portraits in central oval with scrolls, standards and crown.



D23 As illustrated printed in red



D24 Portraits in upright ovals and text at top all printed in blue



D25 Blue portraits flanked with standards



Portrait types

King, Queen and Princess Elizabeth

E1 Group picture in blue flanked by standards. Text in red.



Portrait types

King

F1 Portrait set on a background of banners and flora.



Notes: -

F1 is known used from the following:-, Australia British Solomon Islands Cook Islands (as illustrated above) Fiji

F2 Oval portrait within a bluish green oval surmounted by a crown.

These covers are thought to be American in origin, possibly produced by K. M. Walsh, who's return address also appears on the reverse as a hand stamp.



F3a Blue portrait with scroll at base – flanked with standards.



F3b As previous but all in black and text omitted from banner at base.



Notes: -

F3b is known used with the following stamps:-, Falkland Islands Mauritius (as illustrated above) Newfoundland St Lucia

F3ba As previous but with the addition of the date in the banner.

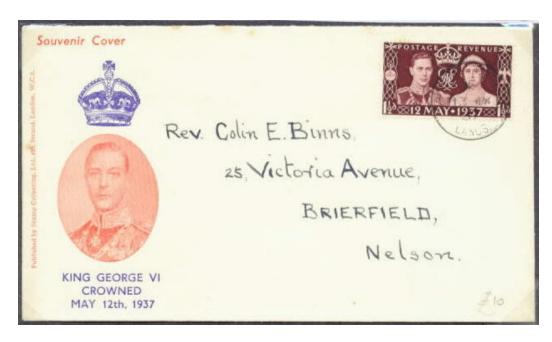


Blue portrait with red crown and text. F4a

The text on the left side reads 'Published by Stamp Collecting, Ltd., 428 Strand, London, W.C.2.' The text is in the colour of the portrait and reads upwards.



Notes: - F4a is known used 10^{th} May, (as illustrated above), 12^{th} May and 13^{th} May 1937



Notes: -

 $\overline{F4b}$ is known used 13^{th} May 1937, (as illustrated above).

The black flaps also have printed text in blue. On the left this reads 'CORONATION / COVER' in two lines. On the right it reads 'Plimpton Manufacturing Co. / Hartford, Conn.' also in two lines.



Notes: -

F5 is known used from the following:-, Bahamas Great Britain (Used with a coronation commemorative stamp) Grenada (as illustrated above)

F6 Brown portrait and text



Notes: -

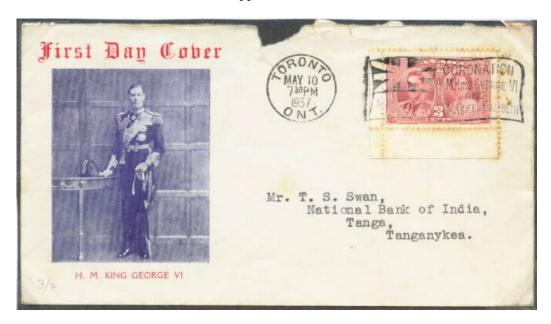
F6 is known used from the following:-, Australia

Fiji (as illustrated above)

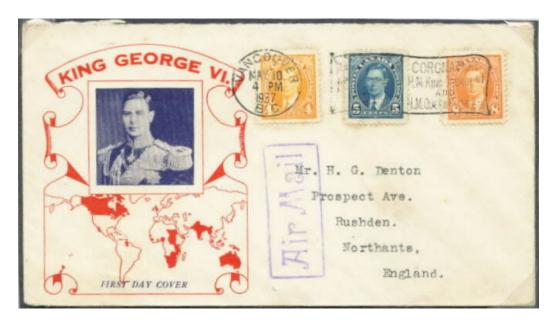
F7 Halftone blue picture with red text.



Believed to be of Canadian origin. Possibly produced by P. J. McCabe, 3 Allen Ave, Mimico, Ontario as this appears on the reverse of the cover.



F9 Blue portrait in a red frame on a map of the Empire. Text at base in blue.



The only example I have seen of this cover has a coronation stamp of Queen Elizabeth II affixed over the text tablet at the base, re-using the cover sixteen years after it was printed.



F11 Portrait in brown within floral frame.

This picture is an enlarged version of one of the labels produced in a sheet of sixty by Harrison & Sons Ltd. The quality of the printing suggests that this was not printed by Harrison's, but more likely by the person who commissioned the labels.



F12 Blue portrait and text.



F13 As illustrated below.



From the Thomas P. Myers. Collection

F14 Blue portrait in oval flanked by standards



F15 Small blue portrait in text frame



Notes: -

F15 is known used with the following stamps: -, Aden (As illustrated above) Kenya Uganda Tanganyika Newfoundland

F16 Portrait in frame with map. All in dark blue.

We have not been able to examine this cover and are uncertain if it is printed or hand-drawn.



F17a Coin type illustration with text at bottom right.



F17b As previous but in grey.

It is assumed that the text on the cover was also in this colour.



F18 Blue portrait with red and blue text



Portrait types

Queen

G1 Portrait of the Queen on a map of Australia in pale violet



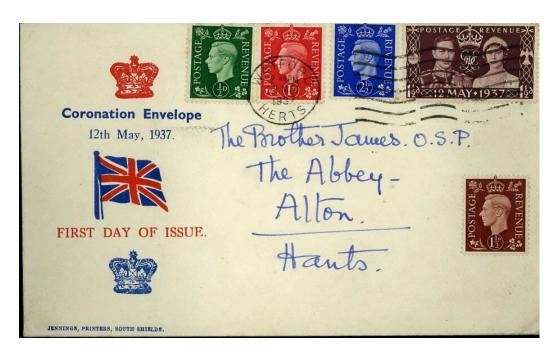
Flag and Crown types

H1a As illustrated below.

The text at bottom left reads JENNINGS, PRINTERS, SOUTH SHIELDS. in blue.



H1b As previous but on smaller size envelope.



Printings was made on continental size envelopes, (15 x 12 cm), type H1a, as well as the more standard format size, ($14\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 cm), type H1b, generally used in Great Britain. The colour and spacing of the cachet on both these sizes of envelope is the same.



Gold crown and flags in top right corner H3

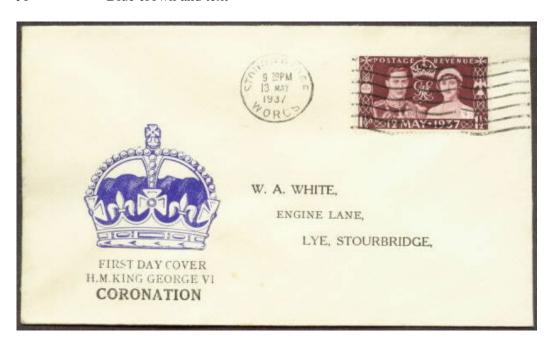


H4 Standards at top and crown at base with blue text

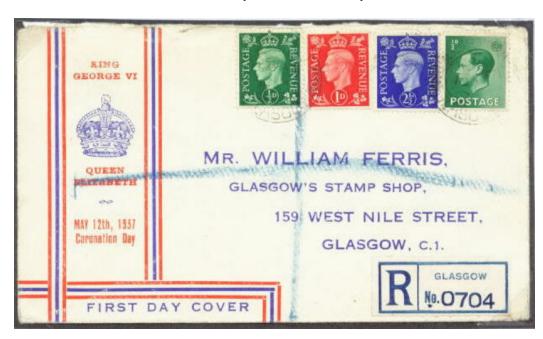


Crown types

J1 Blue crown and text



J2 Blue crown with mainly red text flanked by red and blue bands.



J3a Imperial crown above coat of arms.

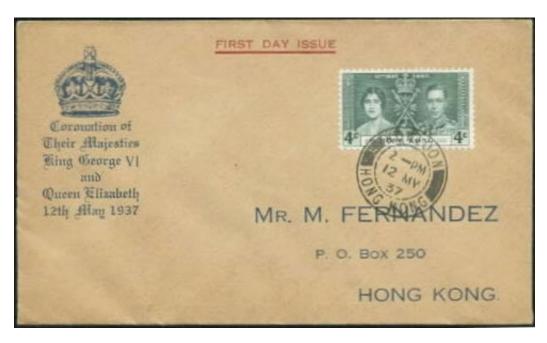
Text in orange-red / yellow and grey-green (as shown)



J3b Imperial crown above coat of arms.
Text in gold and grey-green (as shown)



J4 Crown above six lines of text all in pale blue.



J5 Large crown above text. All in blue.



J6 Blue crown above leaves.



J7 A gold and red transfer affixed to the cover.







J9 Gold crown and text on blue background and frame



Text types

These covers bear no illustration, but all have text printed onto the envelope to indicate their intended usage. Some of these covers have the text contained in a framework / boarder with the addition of a crown. These have been included in this section as the text is far more prominent than the crown, thus precluding it from the other section.

The number of possible covers in this section doesn't bear thinking about. The fact that the text can be printed and this can be done in various colours in various positions on the envelope, in it self gives a vast number of combinations. Add to this those where the text is applied by hand-stamp and the problems of assembling any more than a token selection becomes a lifetime quest.

K1 grey text in 6 lines. Top left (as illustrated).



K2 Blue text in 3 lines (as illustrated).

Believed to have been produced by H. N. Dungarwalla., P.O. box 167. Mombasa, who's name appears on the reverse flap of the illustrated cover printed in the same colour.



K3 Similar to type K2. Text in blue



K4 Eight lines of text in blue.



K5a Six lines of text in blue and pre-printed address.



Notes: -

K5a is known used with the following stamps: -, British Guiana Great Britain (As illustrated above)

K5b As previous but with the addition of the registration cross.



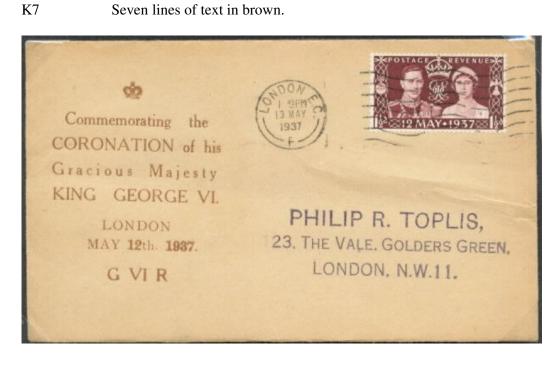
K6 Four lines of text printed in black with small horizontal line.



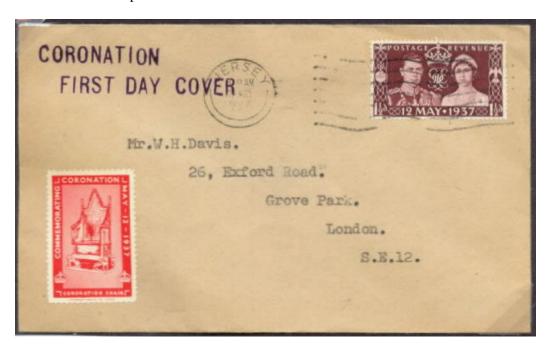
Notes: -

K6 is known used from the following:-, GB Post Offices abroad (As illustrated above) Gilbert and Elise Island Mauritius

Seven lines of text in brown.



Deep violet text in two lines. K8





K10a Oval hand stamp with text and crown. Applied in black.

These hand stamps are known applied to both the fronts and rears of envelopes, and in certain cases both. The example shown is a forgery of both the hand stamp and cancellation.



K10b Oval hand stamp with text and crown. Applied in red.

K10c Oval hand stamp with text and crown. Applied in gold.

K10ca Oval hand stamp with text and crown. Gold and red on one cover.



K11 Three lines of text at bottom left in blue on bordered envelope.



K12 Hand stamp with 3 lines of text applied in red.

It is believed that these hand stamps were applied to commonwealth covers when they were received by the dealer in London.



K13a Two lines of text at the bottom left in blue.

It appears that this printing not only consisted of the text, but also the blue registration cross, the word 'REGISTERED' at the top left and the address.



Notes: -

K13a is known with the following stamps: -, Aden (as illustrated above) British Guiana Gibraltar Somaliland Protectorate St Helena

K13b As type J12a without cross and the word 'REGISTERED'.



Notes: -

K13b is known with the following stamps: -, Aden Gibraltar (as illustrated above)

K14a Boxed hand stamp applied in violet

Applied by the dealer, (probably on receipt of the items) and known on covers from a variety of locations. It is possible that this hand stamp was also applied to first day covers of other issues both prior and post coronation 1937.



K14b Boxed hand stamp applied in violet

See notes for K14a which also apply here.



K15 Blue text at top centre in a triangular format



K16 Blue text across the top of the envelope



K17a Unboxed hand stamp applied in violet.

There appears to be a number of these hand stamps applied to covers from different locations addressed to various individuals.



K17b As previous. Type K17a.



K18 Similar to type K17. Larger letters with stop. Applied in black.



K19 Blue text over a pale blue ship.



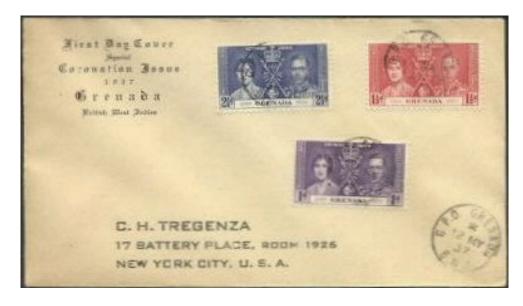
K20 Two lines of blue text at bottom left.

It is possible that the entire printing, (including the address and the registration cross), were made from a single printing.



K21a Six lines of text in grey at top left. Grenada.

There appears to be a series of these covers, each with a different name.



K21b As previous but St Kitts - Nevis



K22 Two lines of blue text at the top centre



K23 Boxed hand stamp applied in violet.



K24 Four lines of text in a rectangular frame. All in blue.



K25 Boxed hand stamp applied in violet



K26 Boxed hand stamp, (with country name), applied in violet



K27 Boxed text applied in violet. (Probably at source).



K28 Boxed text, address and registration cross all printed in blue.



K29 All printed in blue

Believed that all printing was applied from a single plate.



K30 Red text in banner with flags and pre-printed address



K31 Six lines of text at left centre.

The three line red hand stamp has only been seen applied to this cover, and so is not listed as a separate type.



Arms types

L1a Arms in very deep blue, (almost black) and text in red.

Prepared by Gimbels stamp department in the United States.



L1aa As previous type but without text at top right.



L1b Arms and text in blue.



L2 Arms and text in violet.

Address applied by hand stamp in the same colour.



Notes: -

L2 is known with the following:-,

GB stamps overprinted MOROCO AGENCIES / 15 CENTIMOS (as illustrated above)

GB stamps overprinted MOROCO AGENCIES / 15 CENTIMES

GB stamps overprinted TANGIER

L3 Red text and three lions enclosed in a shield with crown at top.



L4 Full colour arms with text at base.



Selfridge and Company Ltd.

These covers probably exist for all the omnibus issue as well as the issued stamp of Great Britain and the three overprints that were applied.

The company address was plate printed onto blank envelopes and the layout was such that it looked right for the size of envelope employed. At least four plates were made and used, the later types having a reduced spacing both horizontally and vertically compared with that illustrated below. This was done for the same visual reason as employed on this issue, however as the size of the envelope used was of a reduced height and extended length, so the format was adjusted to compensate. Examples of these reduced plate sizes are shown as items D20 under Portraits / King and Queen and K27 under Text types



Notes: -

M1 is known with the following stamps: -, Cyprus Hong Kong Nigera (as illustrated above) Virgin Islands

M2 Pre-printed address in blue simulated handwriting. (Type 3).



Wingfields.

N1a Pre-printed address in black.

These covers probably exist for all the omnibus issue as well as the issued stamp of Great Britain and the three overprints that were applied.

In addition to the type illustrated below, other types were produced to print on different formats of envelope. These had the inclusion of a text cachet on the cover and are illustrated as types K28 and K30 under Text types.



Notes: -

N1a is known with the following stamps:-, British Honduras Fiji (as illustrated above) Gilbert & Ellice Islands Grenada Hong Kong Mauritius

N1b As previous but printed in blue

These envelopes have the address printed on specially prepared labels with parts of the registration cross included.



N1c As previous but printed in red





A Medawar.

O1 Pre-printed in deep blue.



H Sinclair Brown.

P1 Pre-printed in very deep blue



Westminster Stamp Co.

Q1 Pre-printed in very deep blue



Notes: -

Q1 is known used with the following stamps: -, Cook Islands (As illustrated above) Gilbert and Ellice Islands

Q2 Pre-printed address in black on plain cover



J D Harris and Son.

R1 Printed text, address and registration cross in blue



Healey and Wise.

S1a Address, REGISTERED and registration cross all printed in red



Notes: -

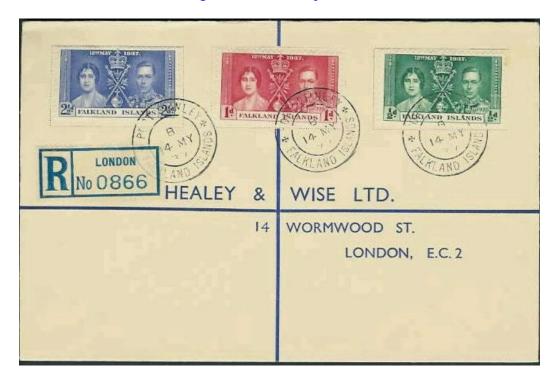
S1a is known used with the following stamps: -, New Guinea Papua (As illustrated above)

S1b As above but printed in blue



S1b is known used with the following stamps: -, New Zealand (As illustrated above)

S1c Address and registration cross all printed in blue



S1c is known used with the following stamps: -, Falkland Islands (As illustrated above) Seychelles Sierra Leone St Lucia Trinidad and Tobago Turks and Caicos Islands

Meter marks.

T1 As shown printed in violet.



Map types.

U1 Blue map with stamp type tablet and crown.



Notes: -

UI is known with the following stamps:-, Aden (as illustrated above) Hong Kong Nigera Somaliland Protectorate

Flag types.

V1 Standards on map of Australia with scroll.



V2 As illustrated below.



Coronation goodwill flight.

W1a Airmail cover



W1b As previous but signed by the pilot



These covers have a 6 cent orange stamp, (top left), cancelled in New York, (United states of America), on the 8th May 1937. A cachet has been added in blue, (top centre), for the service from New York to London, (England). On arrival in England, the coronation commemorative stamp has been added, (top right), which has been cancelled in London on the 13th May 1937, the first day of issue for this stamp. A cachet has also been applied in red, (bottom centre), for the return flight to America. On arrival back in America, a 2 cent red has been added, (bottom left), which is cancelled on the 14th May 1937.

The address for the outward flight appears in black print at the centre left of the cover. This is given as 'Poste Restrante, G.P.O. London, E.C.1. England'

A total of 13,668 covers were carried on the flights.

W1 (insert)

Grimbels stamp department inserted into some covers an insert card, which gave details of the flight times and durations, the names of the pilot and co-pilot, and the number of covers carried.



Bibliography.

The following list attempts to give not only reference books, which we have found useful, but also sources of information we have used in the compilation of this work. This list has been included at the suggestion of Mr Thomas P. Myers, Curator and Professor, University of Nebraska State Museum and it was his article on the coronation stamps that prompted me to compile this work. This article can be viewed at the <u>GB collectors Club web site</u>.

There is really very little I can list in this section due to the original nature of the book and the fact that very little information is currently available. We hope the list provides some useful pointers as to where information can be obtained and if you have any other sources we would be happy to include them.

WEB SITES

King George VI coronation First Day Covers by Thomas P Myers.
EBay auctions - Search of current items.

BOOKS

Bonham's collect First Day Covers 1991 edition

Details of coronation related postmarks and the Anglo

American goodwill flight cover.