

# THE GBPS NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Editor:

**PAUL RAMSAY**

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**GBPS NEWSLETTER 360 • JULY/AUGUST 2016**

*THE SOCIETY DOES NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EDITOR OR CONTRIBUTORS*

## EDITORIAL

**A**nother Westpex has come and gone, but yet I'm behind with reporting on Spring Stampex. We occasionally hear about an item found in someone's desk after they have passed, and wonder how such a treasure could have been carelessly tossed into a draw, and wonder even more about what other treasures were discarded. Surely we all mount and describe our items, at least our better items, not just for our own pleasure, but as a record for those who come after us. Well, I'm beginning to see how it happens, and have to admit that my office desk draws are getting rather crammed with stuff, and piles are building up on my desktop, some piles were started more years ago than I care to remember.

Reporting on the various stamp meetings is similar, it's all too easy to get behind, then rather difficult to catch up. So clearing the decks of Westpex with a few platitudes: fantastic show, wonderful material, and a good time was had by all! Although I will add that I enjoyed Tom Slemmons' presentation at the GBCC AGM, and was pleased to see a couple of new GB tables (Stanley Gibbons and Bill Barrell) in addition to My Penny Blacks and a decent number of British Commonwealth dealers.

Now that just leaves a side trip from Stampex to get current, and then I can claim back a few inches

of desk space. This was a trip out on the Great Western Railway to visit Jean Alexander. Jean is probably best known to members for her definitive work *British Stamp Booklets* and also her recent display on 'Supermarket Philately' (NL 357, pages 8–13), but this trip was to look at hardware, specifically stamp vending and affixing machines.

Those of us who collect coils (or more correctly: stamps issued in rolls) will know of the three early types of machine: Kermoder, POKO, and Multipost. I'll start with Multipost as I showed a photo in NL 356 of one I bought on eBay, they are common and inexpensive,



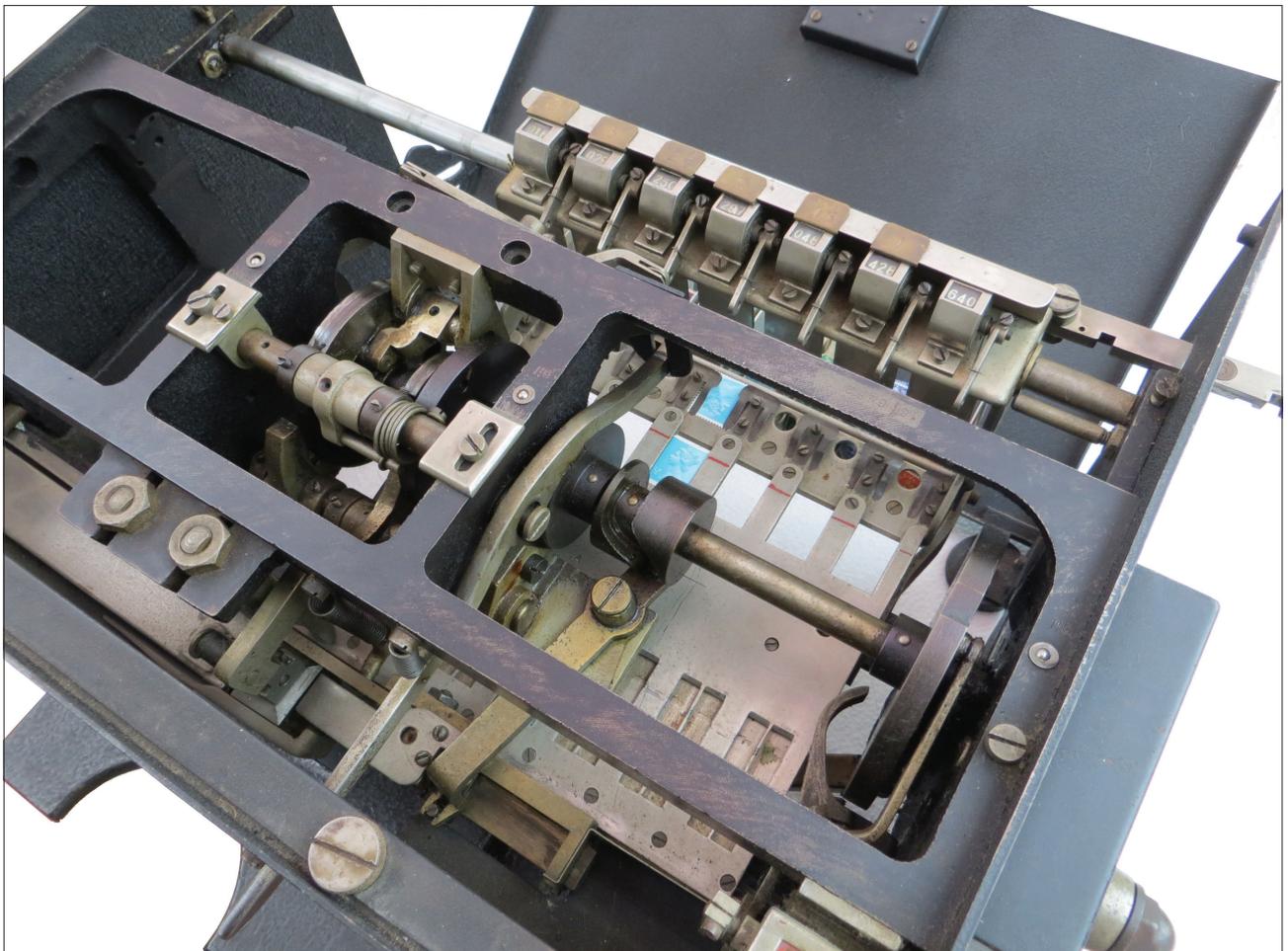
but fun to play with. 'Multipost' has become a generic term for this type of hand-held stamp affixer. The roll is loaded into the circular compartment and, when the handle is pressed, water is sprayed and a stamp pushed down onto an envelope. The photo shows three machines: Fixo, Multipost, and National. Each lists many patents



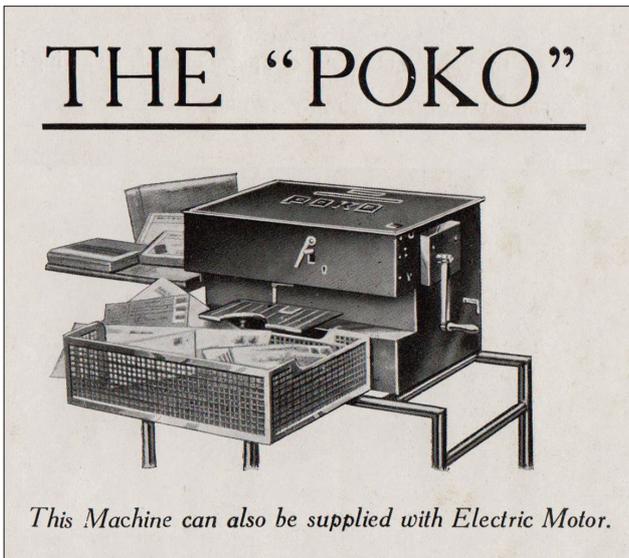
Jean Alexander at home with The POKO Machine.



Multipost-type Affixers.



Inside The POKO Machine.



POKO Instructions.

yet the designs look very similar. Perhaps for the same reasons that mobile phones all look the same today, even though likewise protected by patents.

The POKO (short for Porto Kontroll Kasse) was the star of the show, and certainly not a hand-held machine, it's a beast! Jean's POKO holds seven stamp rolls, a lever on the side selects which roll to use, then a crank handle applies the stamp. An advert for a POKO Junior describes a machine with three rolls. The instructions for the POKO state that it could be supplied with an Electric Motor.

And finally, the Kermode machine. A coin pushed into the slot at the top of the machine raises the driving weight (that rectangular block of metal). If the coin passes the coin tester, then the weight is allowed to drive the feed wheel, and a stamp emerges from the slot.

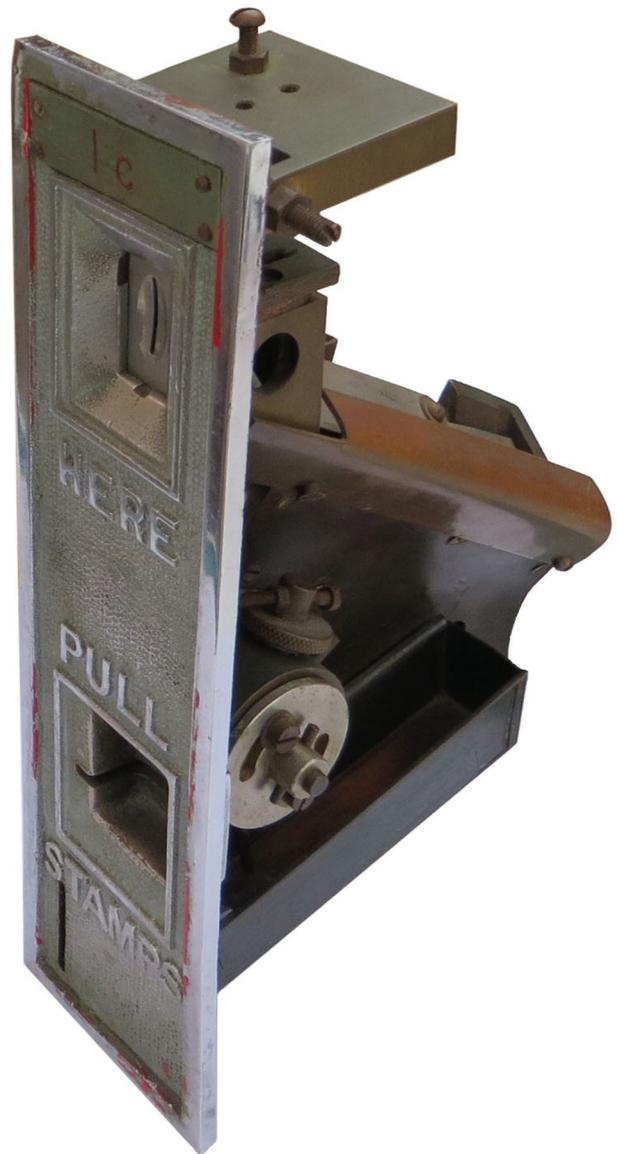
To read more about Mrs Kermode, Jean has written two excellent articles, some 30 years apart: 'Who was Mrs Kermode?', GBJ 13(6)122-123 and 'Mrs Georgina Elizabeth Kermode' GBJ 43(3)52-55.

PAUL

## NEW MEMBERS

<b>Greg Spring</b>	Sheffield
<b>Roger Worsley</b>	Bexleyheath, Kent
<b>Keith Whitelaw</b>	Reading
<b>David Jones</b>	Mallorca, Spain
<b>Daniel Tangri</b>	ACT, Australia
<b>Bernard Vinzani</b>	Maine, USA

*A warm welcome to you all.*



Kermode Vending Machine.

## DATES — 2016

### Saturday 17 September – Autumn Stampex Meeting

*Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington N1 0QH*  
2:15 p.m. **Suffolk Postal History – Tom Slemons FRPSL**

### Saturday 29 October

*Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1*  
11:00 a.m. **GB Stamps and Postal History from the Late 17th Century to 1900 – Ken Burr**

2:15 p.m. **Standing in the SPECIMEN Footsteps of Marcus Samuel – David Leathart**  
**Dealer: Devlan Kruck**

## THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

It is with a great deal of pleasure, and no little pride, that I begin this, my first Presidential missive. The pleasure is derived from the knowledge that I will have two years of further interaction with members of, to my mind, the most knowledgeable and sociable society in the philatelic world.

The pride I feel is attributable to the fact that such a society would want me as its president. I am deeply grateful for this honour and will do my best to represent our Society's interests both at home and abroad.

Our new programme gets underway on 17 September at Stampex where Tom Slemons will be showing us his incredible display of Suffolk postal history. Tom has put together the definitive collection of this subject and will be sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with us. If you attend Stampex, or live near London, why not come along and say hello?

Shortly after Stampex, we have the annual collectors meeting in Paderborn, Germany. This is always a most convivial affair and I would recommend it highly to those of a social disposition. Helen and I look forward to meeting some of you there. Full details were in the *Newsletter* last time (NL 359, page 2) but let me know if you have mislaid them and I will pass on the relevant contact details.

Can I draw your attention to one meeting that you may wish to put in your diary? On 11 March 2017, we will be hosting a Gibbons catalogue day. This will offer an opportunity for members to present an argument for updating a section of these fundamental



publications. More details will be available nearer the time but now is the time to start preparing your case!

I must add my thanks to those of my predecessor, Bob Galland, and to two friends who are retiring from their positions on Council. Namely, Don Davies and Roger Bailey. Both have served this society with distinction and will be hard to replace. A big welcome to Phil Waud and Victoria Lajer who now join us on Council.

Finally, let me finish by expressing my thanks, on behalf of members, to Bob for leading the society over the last two years. He has done a wonderful job, both in the limelight and behind the scenes, and his knowledge and humour make him a hard act to follow.

**HOWARD HUGHES**

### MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

*by Ian Harvey*

May I thank those who contacted me following my request in the March *Newsletter* (NL 358, page 2) — by the way, I was not responsible for a duplicate of that reminder! However, this was less than 20 of you and for some I don't know your first name, email and/or phone number. By the way, this includes some overseas members. Typically, I need contact from those who know that they have not contacted me in the last four years. In that case, please email if you can or phone me — if I am out, please leave a message on my answerphone.

My contact details are 0044 (0) 20 8789 7358 and [iph@harvey27.demon.co.uk](mailto:iph@harvey27.demon.co.uk). Thank you.

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## SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 19 March 2016  
at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, London  
(Morning Session)

### **Edward VII — First Day to Funeral**

by **David Milsted FRPSL**

Unfortunately the reporter assigned to this display was called away unexpectedly, so we have some pages but no description. Apologies to **David Milsted** for missing what looks to have been a most interesting display.



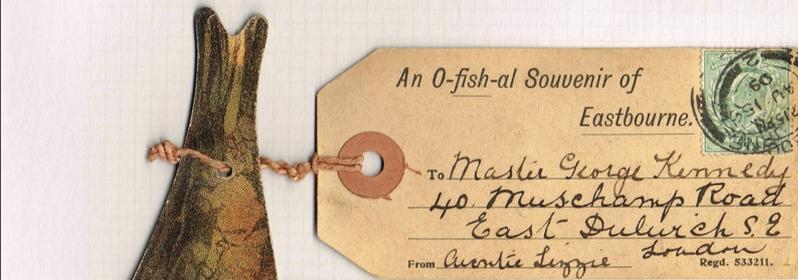
David Milsted presenting.



David Milsted receiving his memento from Bob Galland.

"O-FISH-AL" SOUVENIR OF EASTBOURNE TO GEORGE KENNEDY IN 1909

*King Edward VII 1/2d yellowish-green issue paying a "fishcal" rate from Eastbourne with postmark dated August 15<sup>th</sup> 1909. Fish tied to luggage label.*



An O-fish-al Souvenir of Eastbourne.

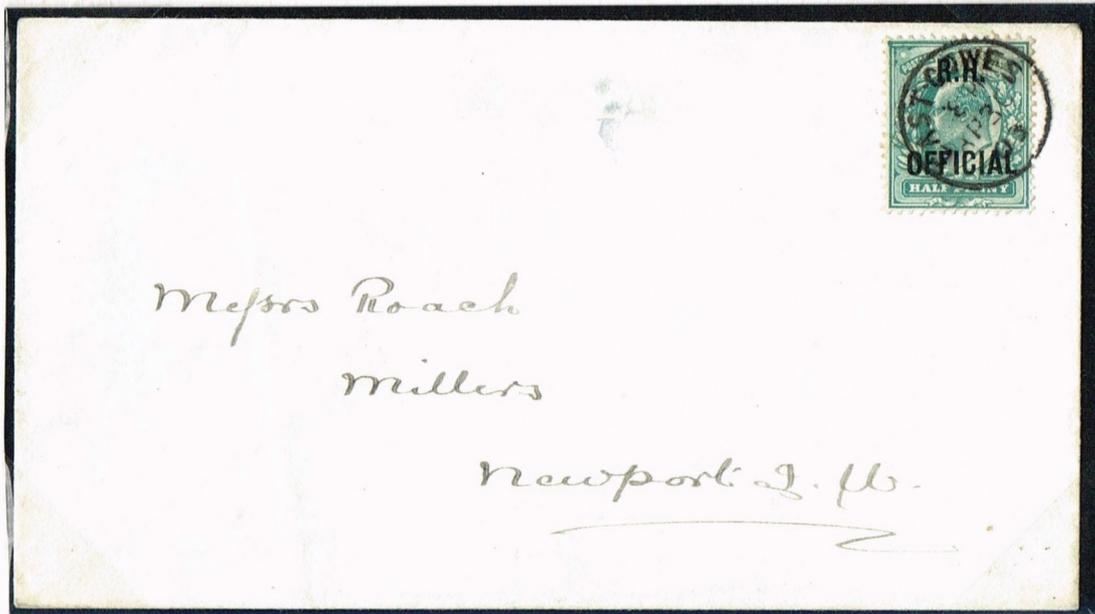
To Master George Kennedy  
40 Muschamp Road  
East Dulwich S.E.

From Auntie Lizzie London Regd. 533211.



*Harry George Kennedy aged 15 before the Great War. Son Peter Kennedy, a retired Architect, lives in Croydon.*

1902 ½ BLUE-GREEN RH OFFICIAL ON 1903 COVER TO NEWPORT IOW



½ d unsealed letter rate paid on Royal Household cover from East Cowes to Newport, Isle of Wight. East Cowes postmark of April 3<sup>0th</sup> 1903. Sent to Messrs Roach, Millers. The Roach family business was started in 1799 by William Roach who supplied bricks and tiles from their local kilns and timber. Newport receiving postmarks dated May 1<sup>st</sup> 1903. Probably sent from the Royal Estate.

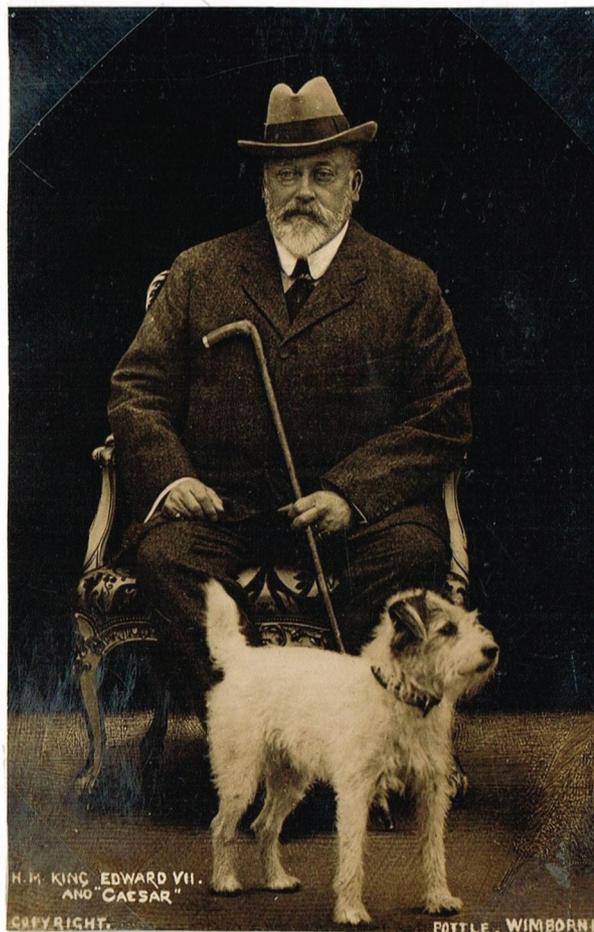


*Queen Victoria died in January 1901 in Osbourne House on the Royal Estate. Rarely used by King Edward VII, the house became a Royal Navy junior officer training college in 1903. Stengel postcard of King Edward VII on Cowes sea front.*

KING EDWARD VII 2d GREEN & CARMINE BLOCK & "CAESAR" CARD



1902 2d grey-green & carmine-red block of twelve issues. Printed by De La Rue. Pengam (Wales) single circle postmarks of September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1905. 3lbs letter rate paid.

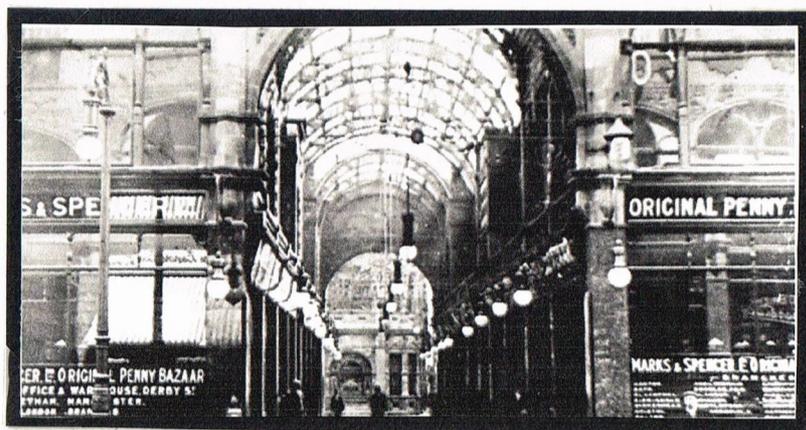


King Edward VII with his fox terrier "Caesar". The dog was at the front of the King's funeral procession in 1910 walked on a leash by a kilted Highland soldier.

KING EDWARD VII ISSUES ON M & S Ltd JERSEY PARCEL LABEL



1902 £1 Dull blue-green, a pair of 1s Dull green & carmine and 3d Dull purple/orange yellow with Jersey double ring parcel cancellations on "M & S Ltd" parcel post label. *Marks & Spencer were founded in 1884 by Michael Marks and Thomas Spencer with a "Penny Bazaar" stall in Kirkgate Market, Leeds.*



## SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 19 March 2016  
 at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, London  
 (Afternoon Session)

### ***Ireland — The British Connection*** by **John Sussex RDP FRPSL**

John introduced his presentation of Ireland's postal history from the 17th century to 1920 by declaring that it would not be an orthodox postal history display — the focus will be on the postal handstamps employed, rather than routes, rates and destinations, with the accent on good clear strikes wherever possible.

The quality objective was certainly evident throughout the display, which featured an abundance of superb markings.

John set the scene with a potted social history of Ireland before moving onto the development of Irish postal services.

Up to 1800 Ireland's Post Office was controlled in Dublin by the Irish Parliament. However, in January



John Sussex giving his display.

1801 the Irish Parliament merged with that in England resulting in the control of Ireland's postal services transferring to the Postmaster General in London. This control remained intact until 1921.

The display commenced with a fine selection of 17th and 18th century handstamps which, as John emphasised, are hard to come by — especially in the condition shown — the earliest being a Dublin Bishop Mark on a 1698 letter. Post town handstamps included

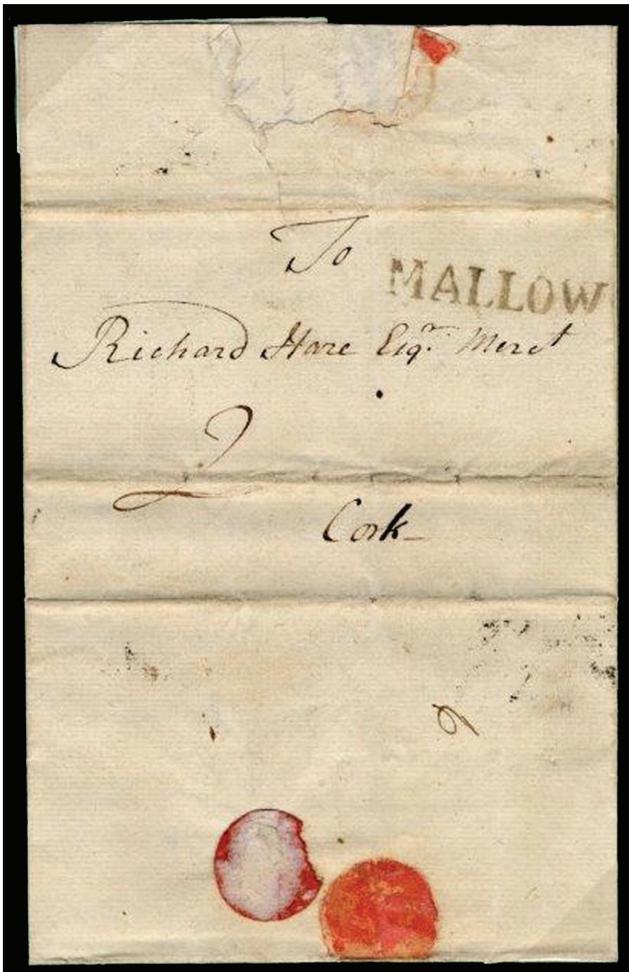


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

1764 'MALLOW' and 1787 script 'GALWAY' (**Figs 1 & 2**). An outstanding 'IRELAND' handstamp in red was shown on a 1791 cover to Enfield, Middlesex, the mark being applied in London (**Fig. 3**).

A unique feature of early Irish town handstamps was the many instances to be found of abbreviated town names; examples shown included 'B.FAST' for BELFAST on a 1731 letter to Dublin (**Fig. 4**). From 1800 to 1840 Irish markings were generally in the style of those used in England and Wales.

The first half concluded with a selection of Cork Ship Letter markings and various 'Paid' / 'Penny Post' handstamps as well as an 1808 letter featuring the Dublin 'Mermaid' handstamp — its first year of use.

The second lay-down concentrated on post-1840 material and opened with a star item — an 1840 over 2 oz inter-bank cover bearing a pair of Plate 1 1840 2d Blues sent from Ballycastle to Ballymoney (**Fig. 5**). This was followed by a series of 1d Black covers included a pair paying the over 1 oz rate from the same correspondence (**Fig. 6**).

The covers displayed for Irish Maltese Cross interest clearly supported John's assertion that the quality of the cross was paramount.



Devlan Kruck of Empire Collectables with his stock.

Mulreadys used in Ireland are particularly scarce — the display included a lovely example used in 1840 from Waterford to Dublin (**Fig. 7**).

Then followed an impressive spread of town and village cancellations from Co. Cork, Co. Clare and Co. Galway including many fine strikes on postcard from the Edwardian era. Irish spoons featured a superb example from Newry in 1870 (**Fig. 8**).



John Sussex receiving his memento from Bob.

The display was rounded off with a selection of the diamond-shaped duplexes used exclusively in Ireland and a selection of Army Camp and Dublin sub-office cancellations.

Hon. President Bob Galland congratulated John on such a fine overview of Ireland's postal history and presented him with the Society plaque.

**DON DAVIES**

## SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 16 April 2016  
at the Royal Philatelic Society London  
(Morning Session)

### **King George V & VI Commemoratives** by **Stephen Weir**

A good number of members braved the weather to see this display and I doubt any were disappointed. Our fellow member, Stephen, attending his first GBPS meeting, produced a huge variety of material covering the issues between 1924 to 1951.

Stamps commemorating the 1924 British Empire Exhibition issued on 23 April 1924 were intended to be only available to personal callers to the Exhibition, but demand was high and the decision was made to make the stamps available by post and from the London chief office. Initially issued with line perforation 14 this was changed to comb perforation 16 following difficulties in handling the sheets with the small perforation holes. Sheets from the first printing only were numbered, as Waterlow was in the habit of doing, and no instruction to the contrary had been given, thus numbered sheets (1–999) are scarce. On display were examples of this and a variety of constant



Stephen Weir presenting.

flaws (**Fig. 1**). For the 1925 Exhibition the original dies were changed to the new date and the constant varieties of 1924 disappeared. Vertical coil stamps were again issued and also re-dated postal stationery (**Fig. 2**).

Stephen's favourite issue of all the stamps on display is the 1929 Postal Union Congress. Originally intended as four low values, the now-iconic £1 stamp was added with the intention of it being a gift to Congress delegates. Sheet stamps, coil examples and



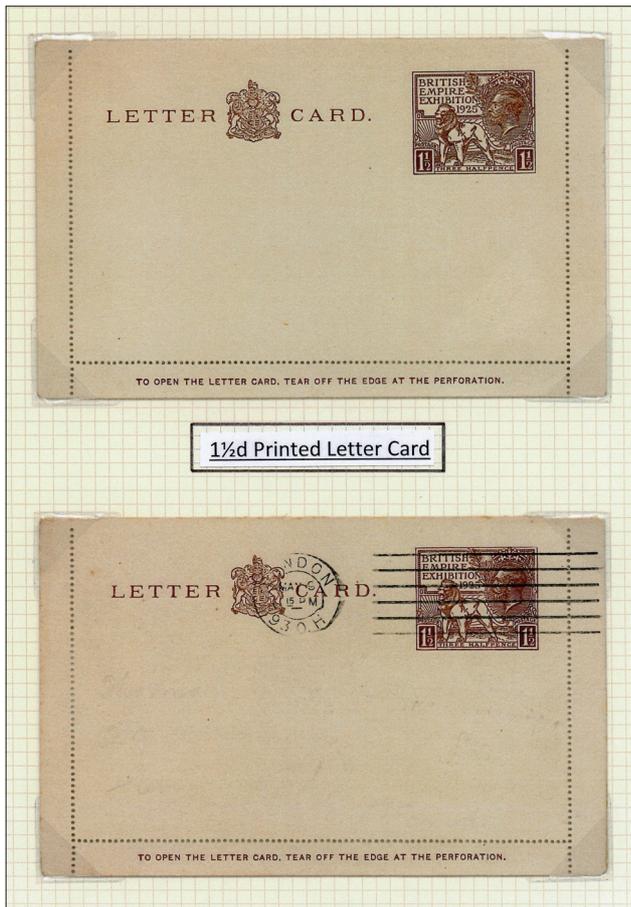
Fig. 1

booklet panes were on display. All cylinder stamps and controls for the low values were shown including a pair from the, possible, 7th plate used for the 1½d value. Cancelled and punched items were a delight to see (**Fig. 3**) and the huge number of constant and non-constant flaws was staggering.

Moving onto the first commemorative stamps printed in photogravure, the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue, there was an almost complete range of the sheet cylinder numbers together with booklet panes and

constant varieties, not forgetting an example of the 2½d Prussian Blue. Pre-release and First Day Covers were on display, plus a number of illustrated envelopes using the stamps.

Many 1937 Coronation stamps, which were printed from 17 different cylinders and shown in large blocks, featured multipositive flaws (**Fig. 4**) and constant varieties of this issue. The stamps overprinted for use in British post offices abroad were also displayed.



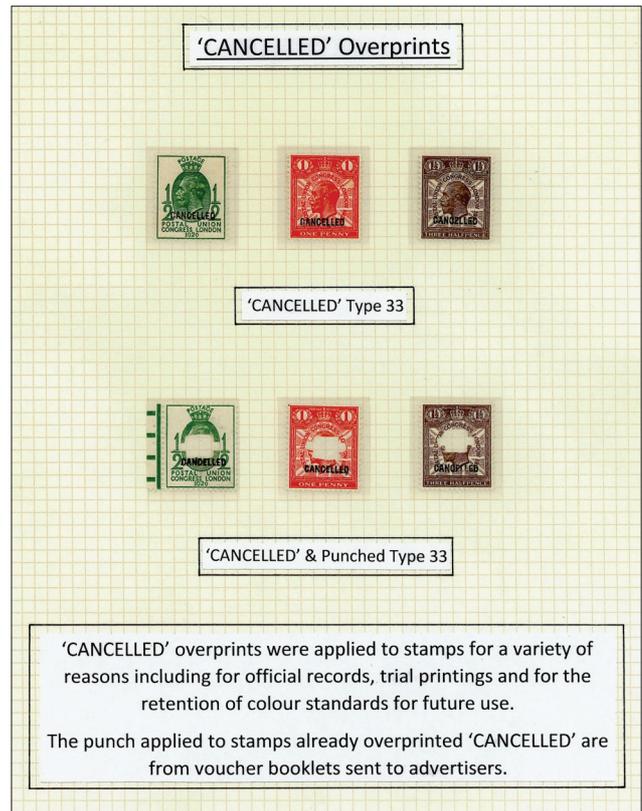
1½d Printed Letter Card

Fig. 2

The 1940 Centenary stamps were well represented and included examples of the few known constant flaws from this issue (**Fig. 5**). Due to a shortage of stamps in Guernsey at the time the use of bisected 2d stamps was authorised and Stephen displayed several examples of the 2d Centenary stamp used in this way.

The 1948 Silver Wedding stamps showed several flaws on the 2½d value that are not yet catalogued, causing at least one member of the audience to check for these items later! Both values were printed from double-pane cylinders and both cylinder numbers of the £1 value were on display together with a punched and cancelled example (**Fig. 6**). An illustrated First Day Cover was an attractive feature.

A relatively small printing was made of the Channel Island Liberation issue in 1948 which was primarily for use in the Channel Islands, however it was also on sale in London and seven other head post offices. There are few constant flaws on this issue and all were on display as were the cylinder numbers and the perforation varieties. In the same year, the London Olympic Games took place, being commemorated with the issue of four stamps, all designed by different artists. Included in this section amongst other varieties was the well known 'H.L.P.' (H. L. Palmer) initials in the marginal rule of the 6d value. Also included, a 1s value



'CANCELLED' overprints were applied to stamps for a variety of reasons including for official records, trial printings and for the retention of colour standards for future use. The punch applied to stamps already overprinted 'CANCELLED' are from voucher booklets sent to advertisers.

Fig. 3

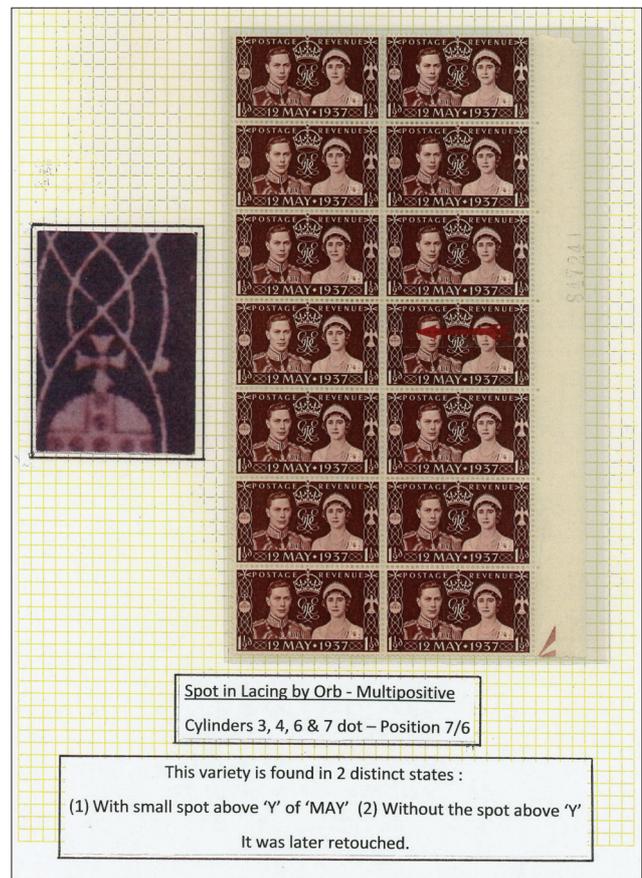


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

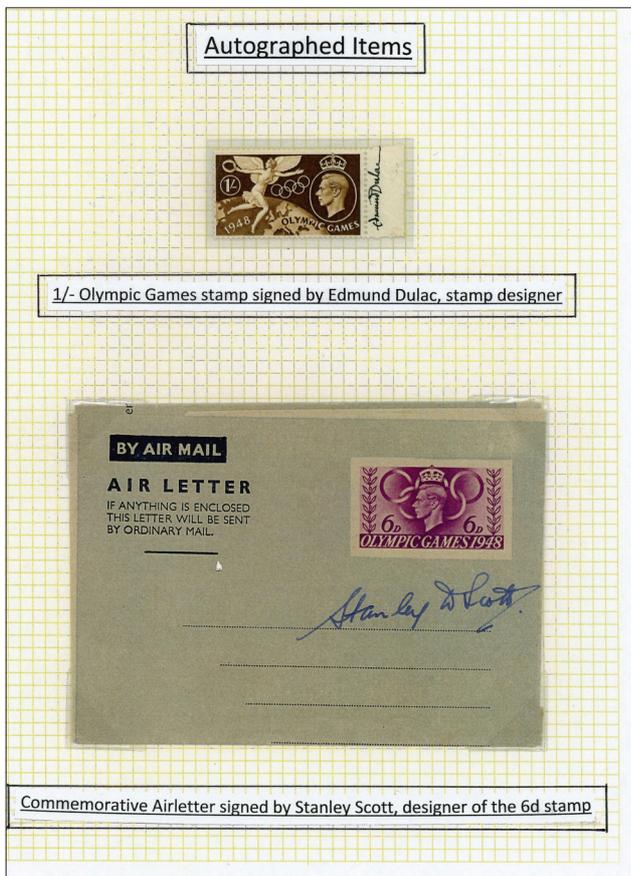


Fig. 7

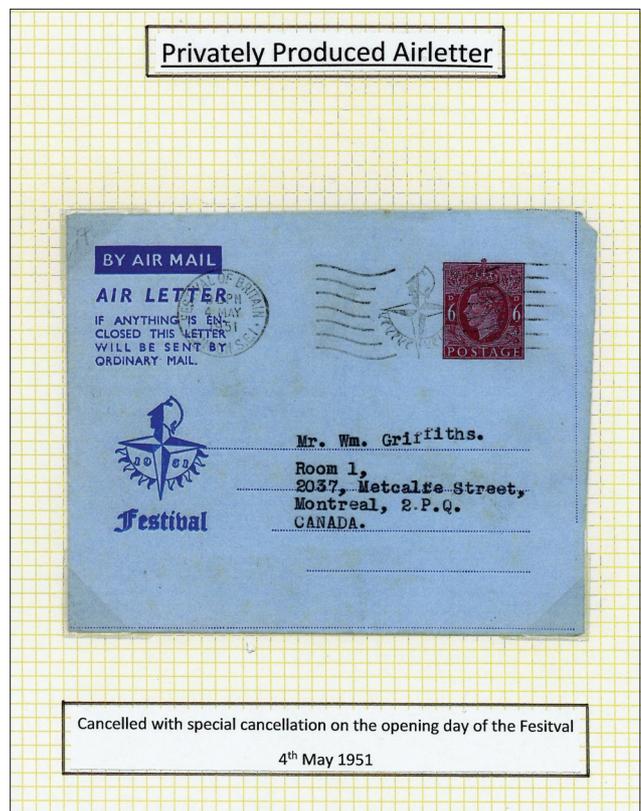


Fig. 8

stamp signed in the margin by the designer, Edmund Dulac and the commemorative airletter signed by designer Stanley Scott (**Fig. 7**).

The 1949 issue commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union was again designed by four different artists. The 2½d value was printed from three double-pane cylinders and the other values each printed from one cylinder. The cylinders used for the 2½d underwent several retouches and a large selection was shown. The final issue of commemorative stamps on display was for the 1951 Festival of Britain. Again, single stamps, cylinder stamps and varieties were displayed together with covers and airletters (**Fig. 8**).

Stephen showed a fine range of covers which included a large selection of FDCs and items marking such events as the abdication of King Edward VIII and his subsequent marriage, VE Day, the 1947 wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten and the birth of Prince Charles.



Stephen Weir receiving his memento from Bob.

This was a display dealing in depth with the issued stamps and President Bob Galland's thanks to Stephen were warmly supported by the members present.

**JANET BYGATE**

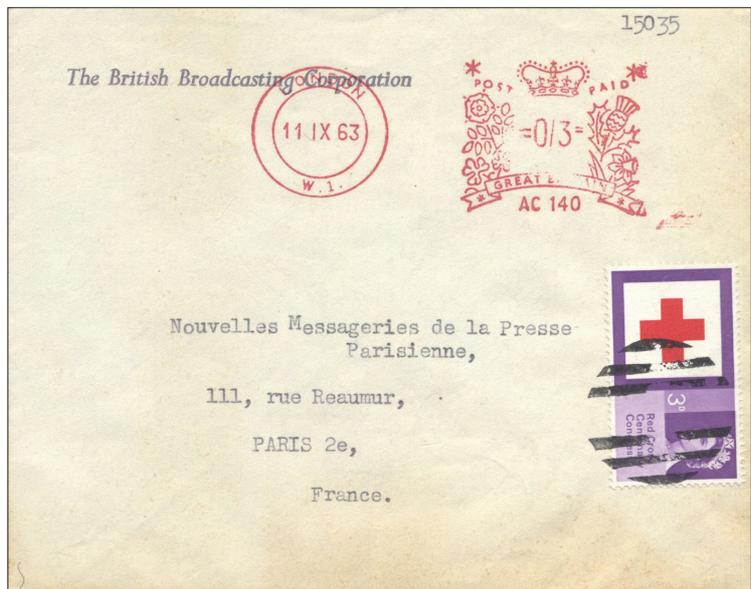
## QUERIES ABOUT QEII ITEMS

**Howard Hughes** has some queries from a fellow member of a local society:

The first query is about a BBC cover to France. It has been internally franked 0/3 (3d) and then uprated with a 3d adhesive to pay the 6d rate to France. Does anyone know anything about the cancel applied to the adhesive? If it has been applied within the BBC, in order to allow the cover to be treated as franked mail, what authorisation did the organisation have to apply stamps and cancel them?

The second query relates to the pair of pink 'FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY' poached egg stamps. Does any member have any information about the GPO stamps on either side of the pair?

Please contact Howard at [howardandhelen@aol.com](mailto:howardandhelen@aol.com) or via your editor.



## VICTORIAN COMBINATION COVERS

**Ray Simpson** writes:

Karl Louis and I were delighted by the unusually generous and enthusiastic response to our GBJ article 54(2)36–45 describing work in progress on our book on Victorian combination covers. There is clearly greater interest in this subject than even we had suspected. We would like to thank all GBPS members who took the trouble to provide details of covers in their collections. You have provided us with some interesting material and useful scans which we expect to publish in due course.

## SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 16 April 2016  
at the Royal Philatelic Society London  
(Afternoon Session)

### **First Flights** by **John Roe**

John's interest in first flights was inspired by his residence near Croydon Aerodrome which was key in early aviation in Great Britain. His knowledge of his subject was impressive and the display was brought to life by photographs and postcards to supplement the wide range of philatelic material, including some very rare items.



John Roe giving his display.

**FIRST FLIGHTS IN UK**

**Early Aviators and their Aircraft**

**Pilot: Charles Stewart Rolls**

This postcard records the historic flight by C.S. Rolls who completed the first non-stop return flight across the English Channel on the evening of 2 June 1910. The flight time was recorded at 45 minutes for each direction. This gives an approximate average speed of about 29 miles per hour. The plane was a French built Wright Flyer.

Capt. Rolls father had become Lord Llangattock with the title of the Honourable C.S. Rolls being taken by his son and correctly recorded on this postcard.

This flight came only twenty months since Rolls visited Wilbur Wright at Camp d'Auvours, at Le Mans, France and flew as a passenger and only the second Englishman with Wright for a flight of 4 minutes 20 seconds. This Channel flight came 11 months after the first Channel crossing by Bleriot and yet it was only six weeks before Rolls was killed at an air show in Bournemouth at 1PM on 12 July.

This card was posted at the postcard rate using a yellow green King Edward VII halfpenny stamp cancelled with a double ring postmark: **DOVER / 11. PM / AU 5 / 10 / 5** and the following day was carried by train to Brighton where it received a London & Brighton S. C. (Sorting Carriage) Day Down circular postmark.

Published by: James Taylor Harris, Counterslip, Bristol

Fig. 1 — Postcard 1910 commemorating C. S. Rolls' first non-stop flight across the English Channel.

The display featured many different aspects. Early aviation and their aircraft were illustrated beginning with the Wright Brothers in 1903 with further illustrations of Latham, Roe, Rolls (**Fig. 1**), Hewitson and Hucks. In the early years of aviation meetings were arranged from 1909 with events in Larkhall, Bourmemouth, Blackpool, Lanark, Burton on Trent, etc. There was a military competition in 1912 showing Army aircraft.

The 1911 Coronation Post included a wide range of postcards (**Fig. 2**) and envelopes which had been flown. Re-directed covers had helped John establish the dates of the flights. 112,000 items had actually been handled through the post.

The early Airmails, pre-1927, began with the first air mail post to Alahabad in 1911, followed by Army and RAF flights. Labels were produced by the Junior

Philatelic Society as part of a design competition for a possible airmail stamp which was sold at the 1923 Philatelic Exhibition. **Fig. 3** shows a label commemorating the first flight between England and Australia in 1919.

Flights to Africa and Cape Town started in 1925 with later flights to Sudan (**Fig. 4**) and Uganda, East Africa and Gold Coast. As relatively few items were flown, examples can be very rare and John's collection exhibited some of these unusual covers. Flights to Tanganyika took place from 1931, illustrated by scarce Croydon Aerodrome covers to three destinations.

UK First Flights of covers flown by (Sir) Alan Cobham between 1924 and 1925 included promotion of a national aviation day. Alan was the experimental pilot for Imperial Airways and appeared to have had a 'charmed life' (**Fig. 5**).



This red-brown card was printed from card Block B and identified as from Plate 14 of 30 Plates, initially determined from only four plates with the left bracket missing from the Address panel, then by the white spot in the bottom frame line beneath "by the" in the bottom scroll.

Fig. 2 — The 1911 Coronation Air Post Souvenir Card.

Foreign Flights were also shown to a wide variety of destinations, from 1922 to 1940 (**Fig. 6**).

The second half began with Imperial Airways flights (**Fig. 7**) to/from India from 1928 undertaken by a Mrs Bruce, who had earlier entered the Le Mans Car Race and was 'quite a girl!' and certainly a very brave aviator.

Experimental flights from England to Australia in 1931 were shown, including the 'MacRobertson' Air Race Cover in 1934 with the first regular flights starting at Christmas.

The story of Transatlantic Mail prior to 1940 followed (**Fig. 8**), including float plane trials, ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship flights and the first catapult air mail. John's article was published by *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in July/August 2013.

UK internal mail (**Figs 9 & 10**) was represented by various airlines, with proofs and colour trials for labels of Provincial Airways. The Railway Air Service began in 1934 with a combination of destinations.

There was a small range of covers flown by four planes of the RAF on a goodwill flight through the Philippines, the first Australian 'All the Way' flight (**Fig. 11**).

Examples of covers flown by Australian National Airways (ANA) were shown and early US air mail letters as well as a cover that had been flown over the summit of Everest in 1933. Hong Kong and China mail

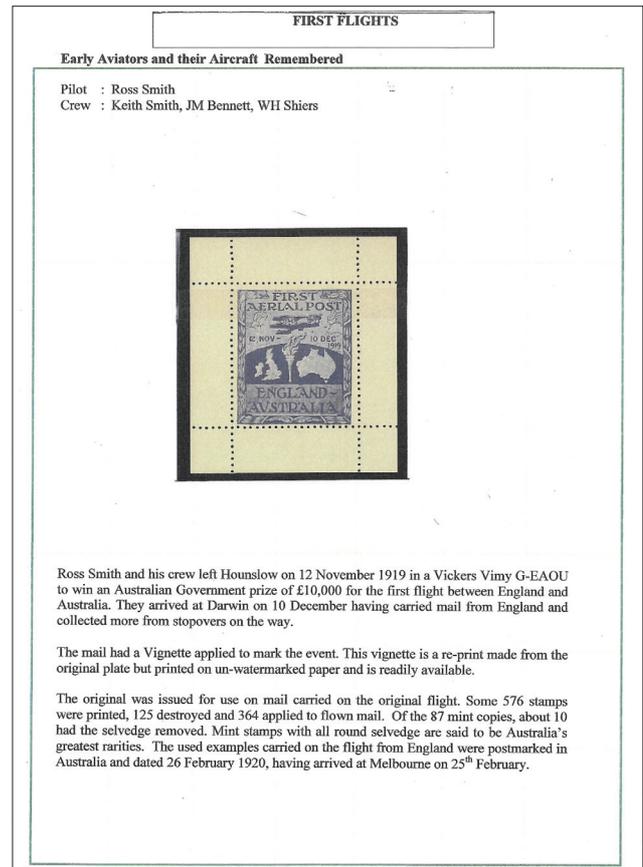


Fig. 3

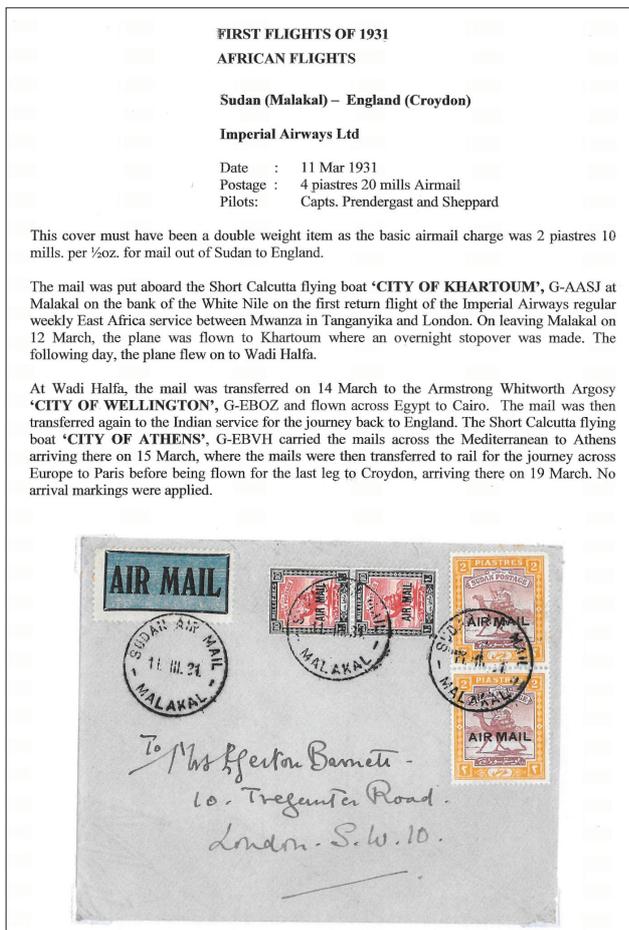


Fig. 4 — First Flight Cover from Sudan to London 1931 by Imperial Airways.

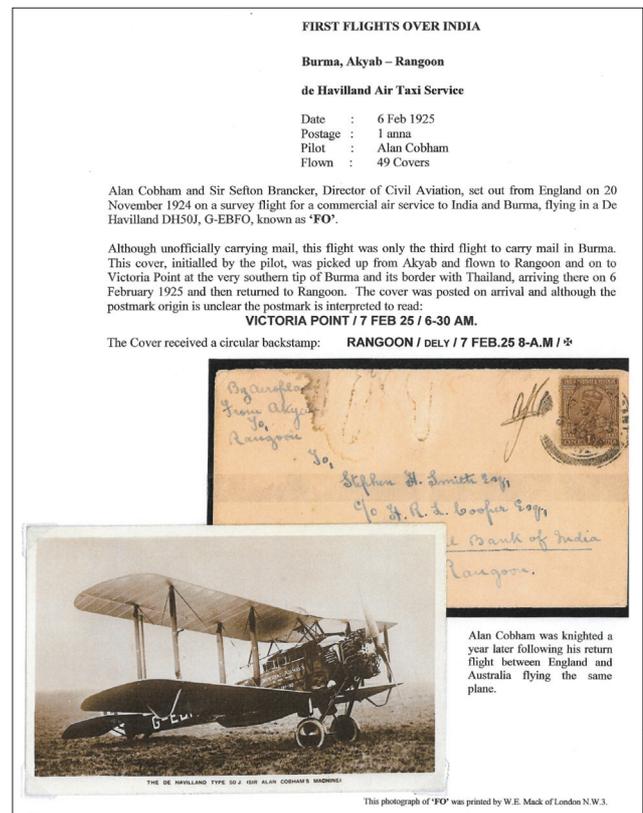


Fig. 5 — Cobham Cover to Burma 1925, with postcard of his De Havilland aircraft.

**FOREIGN FLIGHTS**

Greece(Athens) - England - U.S.A.

Imperial Airways Ltd

Date : 12 Apr 1929  
 Postage : 15 drachmas Registered Airmail  
 Flown : 422 covers

A Short S8. Calcutta flying boat, name unrecorded, flew this registered cover from Athens on 12 April to Rome and Genoa, arriving there the same day. The Italian Government would not allow over-flying of their country so the mail was transferred to rail for the journey to Basle before being flown to Croydon via Paris in Armstrong Whitworth Argosy "CITY OF GLASGOW", G-EBLF, arriving on 14 April.

A fine Imperial Airways cachet was applied in red recording the first India - England Air Mail and the Greek stamps received a fine postmark recording this first flight. An Athens Airport cancel was also applied on 11 April. No markings were applied to this cover in England but on arrival in New York, 4 oval backstamps were applied by the Registry Division on 24 April, 10 days later.



Fig. 6 — Registered cover from Greece to USA, via England, 1929.

**FIRST FLIGHTS OVER INDIA**

India (Karachi) - London

Imperial Airways Ltd

Date : 7 Apr 1929  
 Postage : 8 Annas Airmail

This cover was carried on the first regular weekly flight to carry mail between India and England. The BY AIR cachete was applied in Karachi and the mail received a 4 April cancellation. The outbound flight from London was delayed, delaying the return until 7 April. The mail reached London on 14 April. No backstamp was applied.



Fig. 7 — Imperial Airways Cover from Karachi to India, 1929.

**TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL Prior to 1940**



Fig 7



Probably the most famous of the aviators to cross the Atlantic was Charles Lindbergh, an American Mail Pilot. This stamp from the Spanish 1930 issue records the first non-stop solo crossing of the North Atlantic, in his single-engine Ryan monoplane "SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS" N-X-211, powered by a 237HP Wright J-5C Whirlwind radial engine. He crossed between New York and Paris between 20 and 21 May 1927 and was met by tumultuous crowds. The stamp depicts his plane, his cat and the Statue of Liberty rising from the sea. (Fig 8a)

He went on to fly into Croydon Airport on 29 May and was again met by a jubilant crowd. He made a second visit to Croydon Airport on 12 October 1933 and in this photo is seen inspecting a single-engine monoplane. (Fig 8). Charles Lindbergh flew his wife across the North Atlantic in July and August 1933 and across the South Atlantic between Bathurst and Natal on 6 December 1933.

Fig 8

Fig 8b



Fig 8a



Several countries issued commemorative stamps to record the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his historic flight and stamps shown here are from USA (Fig 8b), France (Fig 8c), Mongolia (Fig 8d) and Ivory Coast (Fig 8e).

Fig. 8: First Air Mail to arrive in New York from the East, 1925.

**U.K. FIRST FLIGHTS**

Croydon - Southampton and Plymouth

Provincial Airways Limited

Date : 25 Nov 1933  
 Postage : 3d. Airmail Fee

Mail carried by Provincial Airways had a specially printed 3d. label affixed in receipt for the Air Fee. This page shows a selection of printer's colour trials for the labels printed in black on thick card, cyan on pink paper and green on pink paper. The finished labels appeared with borders, values and city pictograms in orange and the biplane and logo in slate blue as shown by the imperf. Colour proof on glossy cream paper below.



Fig. 9 — UK First Flight: Croydon to Southampton/Plymouth: colour trials for receipt label.

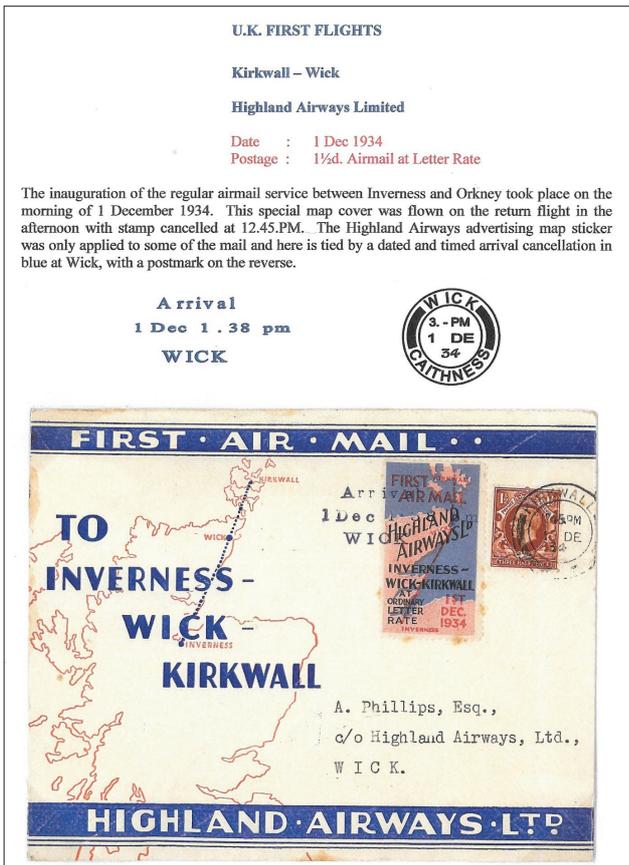


Fig. 10 — Highland Airways Cover from Kirkwall to Wick, 1934.

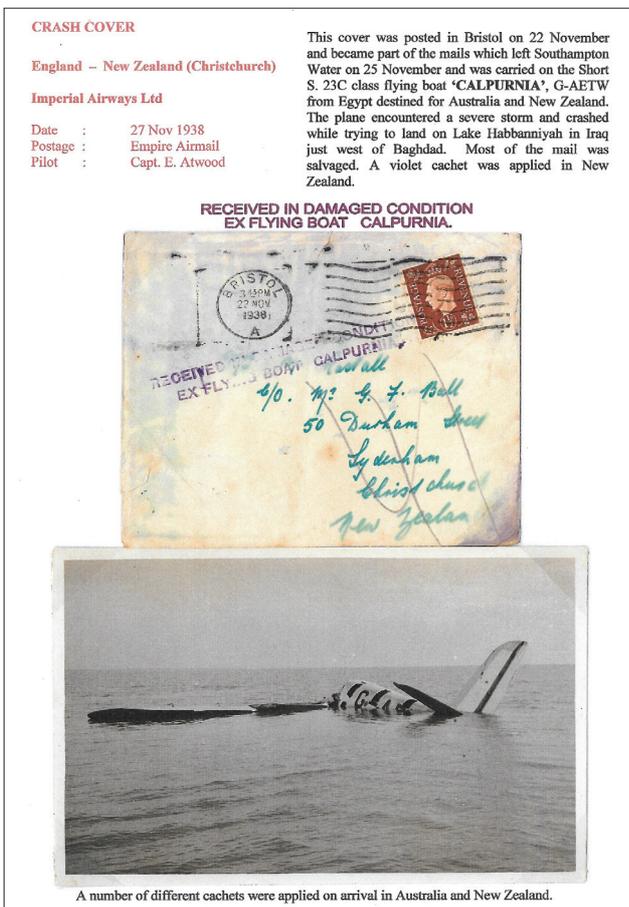


Fig. 12 — Crash Cover from Christchurch (New Zealand) with postcard of the aircraft in the sea, 1934.



Fig. 11 — Pacific First Flight Covers from Manila to Cabugao, 1928.



John Roe receiving his memento from Bob.

resulted from an extension of the service by Imperial Airways in 1936.

Inevitably, such a display would not have been complete without a selection of 'crash' covers (**Fig. 12**). Clearly, air travel at this time carried significant risk. Each of the 31 covers shown had a 'story to tell' which was often accompanied by a personal tragedy.

John's display featured the full variety of material relating to early aviation to and from Great Britain. It was clear that he had undertaken considerable personal research to learn the history behind the covers. It was disappointing that only 20 members were present to enjoy such a varied and interesting display of early aeronautical postal history.

**JOHN DAVIES**

## POSTAGE RATES FROM THE USA

**Edward Caesley** asks about postage rates from the USA to the UK in 1913. Edward writes:

Please can you tell me if the two covers illustrated are the correct postage rates for 1913. Am I correct in thinking that the cover with the one cent stamp (**Fig. 1**) would be for ½ oz Printed Paper rate? The other cover (**Fig. 2**) is dated September 1913, am I correct in thinking that the ten cents stamp paid for the registration fee and the 4 cents paid for the ½ oz Letter rate to the United Kingdom?

Please contact Edward at [caesley@btinternet.com](mailto:caesley@btinternet.com) or via your editor.

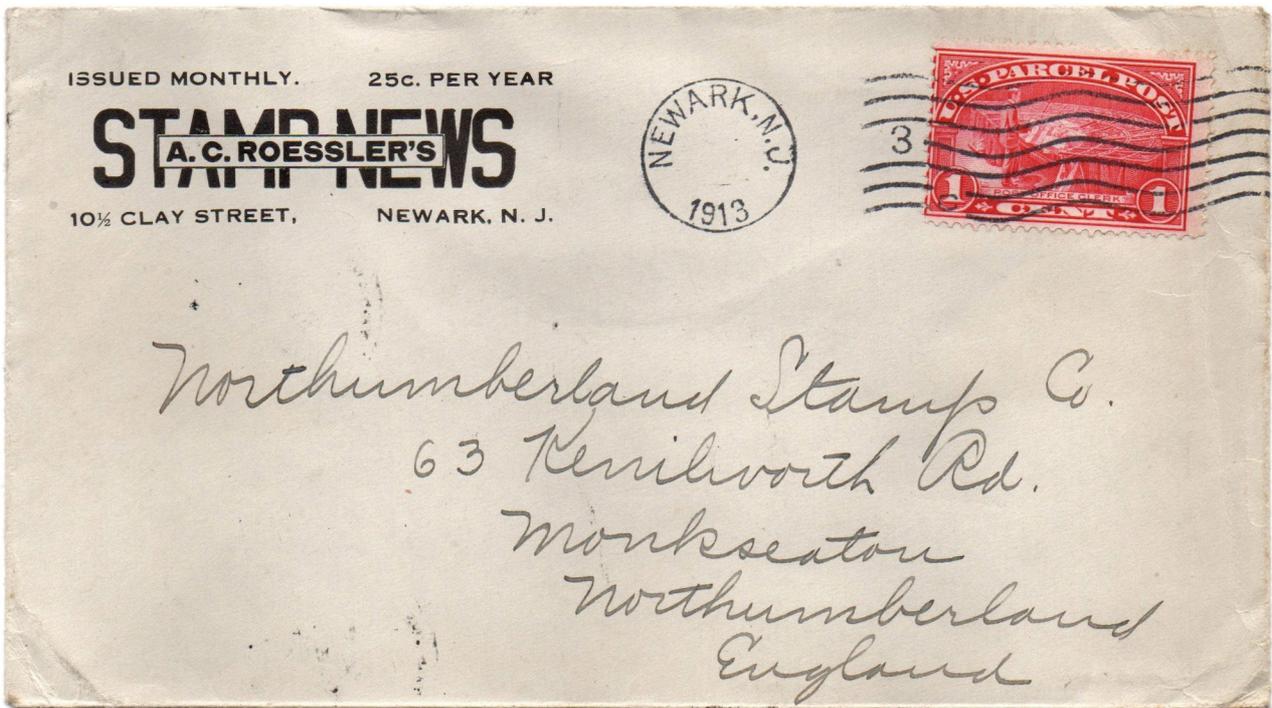


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

# LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP ARCHIVE ON GBPS WEBSITE

The London Postal History Group was founded in 1971 by Peter Forrestier-Smith, who edited their magazine the *London Postal History Group Notebook* throughout until ill health forced his retirement in 2009. However, sufficient funds remained to allow the complete archive of their past publications to be scanned by John Parmenter and Anthony Shine and made available on a USB stick. John has kindly offered to also let us archive the files in the Downloads section of the GBPS website.

The collection is in PDF format, and includes 145 editions of the *Notebook*, numbers 1–173 (some were multiple editions). These contain a large amount of really useful information and are the only source for Barrie Jay's updates to Volume 3 (London) of the *British County Catalogue*. John has also prepared cumulative subject indexes.

What's more, the collection also includes a set of now out-of-print publications totalling some 2,000 pages produced by or associated with the Group:

*Undated Namestamps of the UK — a classification 1840–1860* by Michael Champness  
*District Post Cancellations 1840–1857 — Horizontal Ovals* by John Parmenter  
*London Date Stamp Codes* by W. G. Stitt Dibden  
*District and Branch Office Cancellations from 1856 — Intro., E, N, NE, NW, S, SE* by John Parmenter  
*District and Branch Office Cancellations from 1856 — EC* by John Parmenter  
*District and Branch Office Cancellations from 1856 — SW, W, WC* by John Parmenter  
*District and Branch Office Cancellations — Supplement* by John Parmenter  
*Handstamps of the Branch Offices 1829–1857* by John Sharp  
*Barred Numeral Cancellations of the Suburban Offices — N, NE, E* by John Parmenter  
*Barred Numeral Cancellations of the Suburban Offices — SE, S, SW, W, NW* by John Parmenter  
*Inland Branch Cancellations from 1856* by John Parmenter and Keith Martin Jones  
*London Postal District Map 1856* (reproduction of contemporary map)  
*The London Postal Service Of To-day* by R. C. Tombs (republication of the original of August 1891)  
*London Postal Directory 1850* (reproduction of a contemporary postal guide)  
*Inland Office Cancellations 1844–1868 — The Horizontal Diamonds* by Brian Smith  
*The Bye Posts and Cross Posts of London* by Peter Bathe  
*London Fancy Geometric Postmarks* by Maurice Barette  
*Daily Records and Orders EC and Foreign Section 1907–1921* (contemporary day-to-day notes of changes to machines, datestamps, etc. — POST 55/189)  
*Daily Records EC District 1921–1939* (contemporary day-to-day notes of changes to machines, datestamps, etc. — POST 55/190)  
*Krag Machines in the London Suburban Offices* by John Hine and Michael Goodman  
*Stamps of the General Post Branch Offices 1829–1857* by John Sharp, Michael Goodman, Gunther Dette, Tony Thompson  
*Early Experimental and Inland Branch Cancellations* by John Parmenter with Antony Shine and John Hine  
*Barred Numeral Cancellations of London* by John Parmenter  
*London Late Fee and Too Late Mail 1840 to 1930* by John Parmenter  
*A Photographic and Cartographic Compilation of London District Post Offices* by James Norris  
*Experimental and Early Machine Postmarks of England 1857–1912* (presentation of the Jerry Miller collection)  
*Rules for Receivers at Provincial Towns in England* (reproduction of original contemporary booklet)

John has also generously included his detailed listings of Post Office numbers, which can be found under the relevant section of the GBPS website:

- A. Introduction
- B1. England and Wales — Numerical
- B2. England and Wales — Numerical by County
- C. England and Wales — Alphabetical
- D. England and Wales — Alphabetical by County

- E. England and Wales — RSO Offices
- F. England and Wales — Numeral Errors
- G. London — Numerical
- H. London — Alphabetical
- I. London — Alphabetical by County
- J. London — Alphabetical by District

John is also preparing PDF versions of his six-volume series *Barred Numeral Cancellations of England and Wales* (see *Newsletters* 333 p. 17 and 341 p. 21) and has offered to make them available in the same way, so watch this space! (To obtain a personal copy of the USB stick, price £5 post free, contact John at [john.parmenter44@gmail.com](mailto:john.parmenter44@gmail.com).)

**URLs:**

- [www.gbps.org.uk/downloads/lphg-notebook.php](http://www.gbps.org.uk/downloads/lphg-notebook.php)
- [www.gbps.org.uk/downloads/lphg-publications.php](http://www.gbps.org.uk/downloads/lphg-publications.php)
- [www.gbps.org.uk/po-numbers/downloads.php](http://www.gbps.org.uk/po-numbers/downloads.php)

## PENNY RED STARS USED ABROAD

**Mike Batty** writes:

The 2016 edition of my book *Penny Red Stars Used Abroad* was published in March, 164 pages in A4 portrait format. Up to March 2016, imperforate and perforate 1d Red Stars used abroad were recorded from 65 countries and/or mail-boat lines, with 178 sending locations. From these are noted 258 cancellations and/or back-stamps, resulting in 387 combinations of cancellations seen with differing SG *Specialised* groups, in turn giving a current total of 1,118 for each printing plate from each SG *Specialised* group, with each obliterator, from all sending locations.

PDFs of the book and checklist, which may be freely downloaded, have been placed on the GBPS website, located at <http://www.gbps.org.uk/downloads/philatelic-studies.php>



## O.U.S. OFFICIAL UNDERPRINTS

**Andy Donaldson** writes:

As some of you will know, my main collecting interest is the Protective Overprints and Underprints, largely found on QV stamps. While revisiting a section of my display I have reviewed my collection of the official O.U.S. underprints, namely PP154 (with underprint reading upwards) and the scarcer PP155 (with underprint reading downwards) on the 1d Red plate number issue.

Now to my question and request for help. In all my time collecting these I have only ever seen examples of PP155 from Plates 143 and 156. Has any member recorded examples from any other plates listed by SG, these being 134, 150, 205, 212 and 213 or indeed any currently unlisted plates?

As far PP154, there are far more plates listed and a few of these I have never seen either, so I would also like to hear of any examples recorded from Plates 130, 136, 156, 159, 165, 174, 185, 199 and 208 or again any unlisted plates.

I can be contacted via [adonaldson@underprints.com](mailto:adonaldson@underprints.com) and look forward to hearing from you.



## £3 ENSCHEDÉ CASTLE WITH THE MISSING QUEEN'S HEAD

**Peter Shaw** writes:

In my article in the January/February 2015 issue of the *GB Journal* (53(1)10–20) regarding the missing optically variable ink (Queen's head) on the £3 stamp I referred to some turning up in Cornwall.

The information was given to me in 1998 by Machin dealer Jim Bond. He had heard that the £3 missing head from the top row only had turned up in Cornwall. He went looking for it and found a pair which he purchased in a block of four. The post office had no idea of the error.

In *Stamp Magazine* of May 2016 dealer Ian Lasok-Smith advertised a pair with the top stamp with the omission and the bottom stamp as normal.

I have been in contact with Ian who has confirmed that the pair is from Jim Bond's block of four and has also kindly sent me a scan for the *Newsletter*.

This the first time I have seen the error paired with a normal stamp and virtually confirms more than one sheet was affected.



## MEMBERS' WANTS

**Peter Aveyard** writes:

Using the *Newsletter* to advertise for missing items I realise depends wholly on the readership of the Society, and not everybody is specialised in your subject. I have managed to fill in gaps occasionally for other members, and once supplied the last six missing letterings of Plate 55 to a member in Telford, to complete a plate reconstruction.

Here's a thank you for a member offering me a want. Some years ago, longer than I care to remember, I needed a Plate 55 Die 2 Alphabet 3, HG perf. 16 to make up a run. On 29 December I received an email from Willem Hoitink in Holland: had I been offered or obtained my missing Plate 55 perf. 16 (C11). To cut a long story short, 'No' — 'I have one would you like it?' — 'Yes, please!' — 'In the post today, arriving tomorrow'.

The moral to the story is don't stop looking. It took 20–25 years for this particular stamp to come to light. Illustrated here is the quartet of imprimatur, perforated 14 (as issued), imperforate (error or missing perforations cut by scissors?), and perforated 16 (16 comb in use whilst the 14 comb was being repaired). All lettered HG.

P.S. Nearly forgot to mention, I am still looking for Die 2 Alphabet 3 Plate 27 C9 KH and C11 KH.



Imprimatur

Imperforate

Perforated 14

Perforated 16

**Imprimatur:** there are 21 stamps missing from the archive sheet of Plate 55 held by The Postal Museum, HG being one of them.

**Imperforate:** one sheet, therefore 240 stamps, out there somewhere (to find, or have they been destroyed?). I believe Lady Mairi Bury had two copies from Plate 55, but I needed only HG.

**Perforated 14:** 870,000 sheets is Ken Statham's revised estimate from (1,000,000) which has been widely held 'forever', so fairly easy to find.

**Perforated 16:** 15,000 sheets (K.S.) so in theory, at 2% survival rate, there should be 300 available, one would think?

# THE GBPS TRADING FORUMS

Most specialist societies have a method for members to trade directly with each other. Commonly this is by an auction and/or a club packet; however, the GBPS auction came to a halt some time ago, and the packet has been running down.

So, in *Newsletter 350*, we floated the idea of using the GBPS website to allow direct 'private treaty' sales between members, and are pleased to say that this is now ready to roll! We've created a new section on the discussion boards called the '**GBPS Trading Forum**' (which is linked from the front page of the website, or just follow the links on the boards' index). This allows you to buy, sell, and exchange material with your fellow GB collectors.

It works exactly like the rest of the boards (because it's part of them), so all you need in order to use it is the username and password you use to access the other members-only parts of the site. (If you don't have one yet, simply fill in the registration form — there's a link at the top of each page.)

Rules and instructions are available on the site, but are also included below for ease of reference.

Comments, questions, suggestions, and general feedback are very welcome — please contact the website administrator ([website@gbps.org.uk](mailto:website@gbps.org.uk)).

## TRADING FORUMS RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 These are the current rules for the GBPS Trading Forums.

The GBPS Council would prefer to act in a 'hands off' manner and let members get on with it, so we've tried to make the rules as flexible as possible — they can be summarised as 'use common sense and play fair with other members'. In effect, this is the online equivalent of a public message board.

(For the sake of avoiding confusion, note that these forums are simply one section of the regular discussion boards — so the mechanics of posting etc. work in exactly the same way as on the rest of the boards. Some example screenshots are included below as a quick guide, please see the FAQ for fuller details.)

### 2. General Points

**2.1 The Society currently takes no commission on sales.** This would have to change if things required a more 'hands on' approach, but hopefully that won't be necessary! However, the Council may set more specific rules on any point if experience suggests they seem to be required.

**2.2** Please note that this facility is effectively a replacement for the packet service — transactions via the forums are to be on a **direct sale basis**. In other words, this is **not** an auction site.

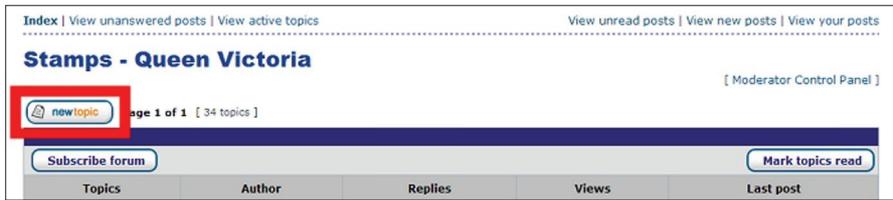
**2.3** Only current paid-up members of the GBPS may post in the trading forums to offer or acquire material. You will need to be logged in to the site with your usual username and password (if you don't have one yet, you will need to register first). Since they are GBPS forums, said material should at least be GB-related, or general items such as stockbooks and mounts. Other than that, you can list anything from single stamps and covers up to whole collections, and that can of course include things like postcards, ephemera, and so on.

**2.4** The GBPS acts purely as a facilitator to introduce buyers and sellers (or exchangers) to each other. We therefore make NO representation as to the quality or genuineness of the items offered, and members are responsible for the agreements they make — the GBPS is not liable in the event of a dispute or loss. However, we do reserve the right to lock or delete topics without notice for any reason whatsoever at our sole discretion, and may do so if, for example, the rules are breached or an offer appears to be potentially problematic.

**2.5** Members making use of these forums are, by so doing, deemed to have fully agreed to these rules. Severe or persistent breaches of the rules may lead to a member being temporarily or permanently banned from using the trading forums, at the discretion of the GBPS Council. Please contact the website administrator in the first instance if problems arise (or if you are unsure how to use the forums).

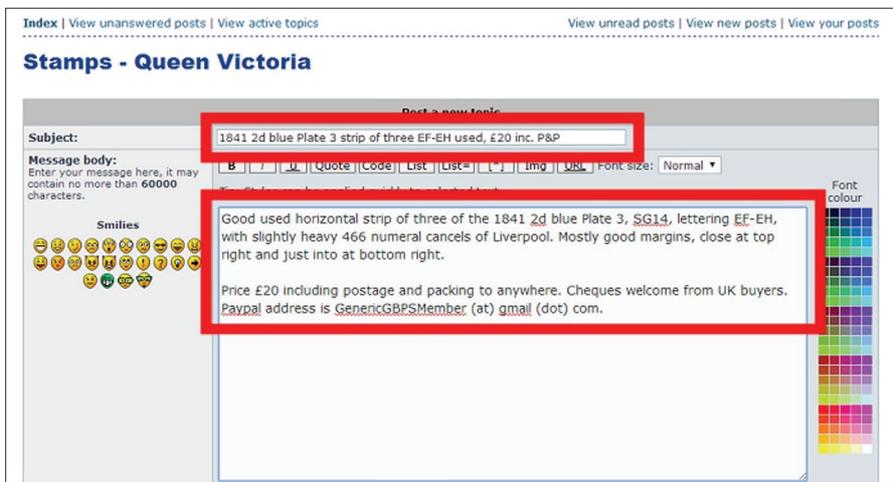
### 3. Selling

3.1 You offer material by creating a new 'topic' in a forum, e.g.



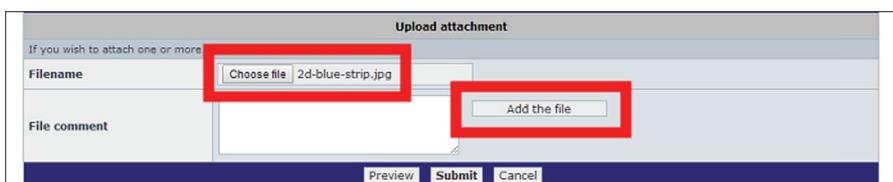
You'll see we have specific sales forums for various aspects of GB philately (stamps by reign, postal history, etc.) in order to help members find what they're looking for, so do create the topic in the most relevant forum.

Use the topic subject (which will appear as the title in the listing of topics on the forum page) to give a short 'headline' description of what's on offer and the price, and the main body of the post for the details:

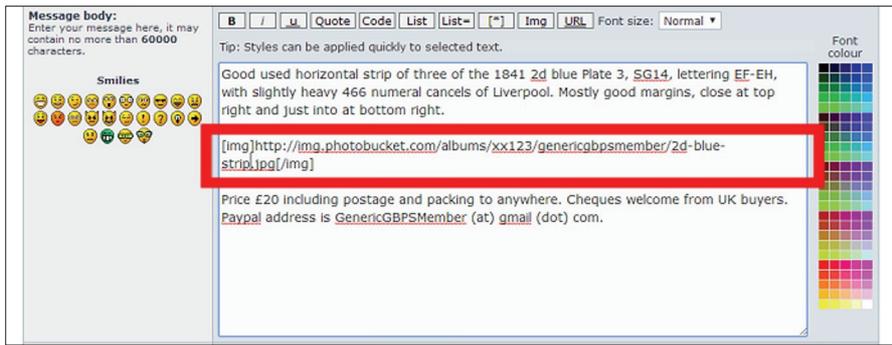


To keep things clear, please create a new topic for each offer, unless you are listing a number of essentially identical items (e.g. half a dozen special Stampex Post and Go strips).

3.2 Offers should include pictures as part of the description — members will want to see what they're buying! Generally speaking scans are clearer than digital camera photographs, and should preferably be larger than actual size to show the detail well — 300 ppi (pixels per inch) is a good general choice, and for single stamps or sets 600 ppi is even better, especially for small details such as cylinder varieties. For most material, include a picture of the reverse too, as this is often important to judge condition or usage. Photos can however be useful when selling collections of everyday items that it doesn't make sense to scan individually. Pictures of any size can be uploaded to the topic as part of the post (pictures that won't fit — i.e. more than 750 pixels wide — will be shown as thumbnail images that can be clicked on to see the full size image). Click 'Choose file' (Chrome) or 'Browse' (Internet Explorer, Firefox), select the file from your computer (or, you can drag-and-drop the image file onto the 'Choose file'/'Browse' button), then click 'Add the file' (or just click 'Submit' if you've nothing more to add):

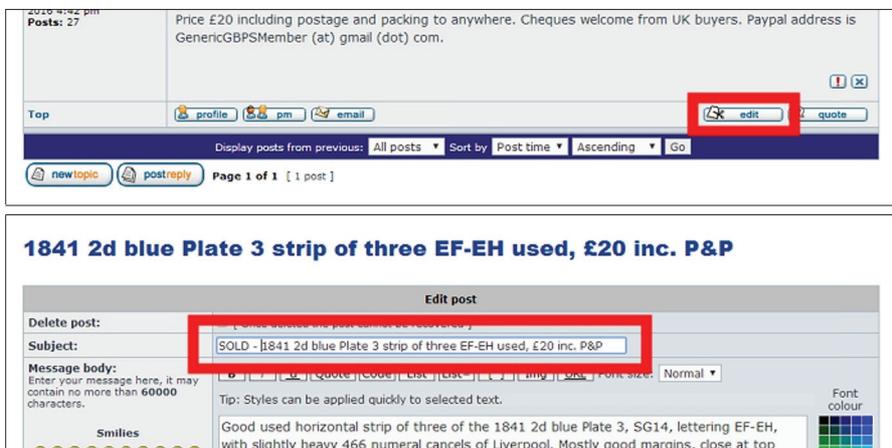


Alternatively, you can link to an image hosted on an external site such as Photobucket or Imgur (as long as it's no more than 750 pixels wide) using BBCode, which may make it easier to place the image in the middle of the text:



Any standard image type is acceptable, although the most useful types for philatelic pictures are JPG/JPEG and PNG.

- 3.3** Hopefully this should go without saying, but . . . **items sold must be as described**. In other words, they should be genuine examples of whatever they're stated to be, and if they have any faults not visible from the picture these should be clearly stated in the description. Breach of this rule is grounds for return of the item for a refund at the seller's expense. If you're really not sure whether an item is OK, either offer it subject to certification if appropriate, or state 'SOLD AS IS' prominently in the description.
- 3.4** State any postage, packing or other charges clearly. Remember that the GBPS has members all over the world, so unless you're only willing to post to local buyers, you should give an indication of overseas charges too. For the same reason, try to offer some method for overseas buyers to pay easily (such as Paypal or Skrill). There's no requirement to use any particular method, but if you can only accept payment by (say) bank transfer in Euros, you'll be severely limiting the number of potential buyers. Since a majority of GBPS members are in the UK, however, pricing and payment in pounds sterling is generally a sound idea.
- 3.5** Don't swamp the forums by listing everything you have all at once — if you have a few dozen items to sell, space them out. Do price them reasonably — Ian Harvey's suggestions in the context of the packet in *Newsletter* 327 seem relevant here. Material should be of reasonable quality — the minimum price for a sales listing is £5.
- 3.6** Making a new post to an existing offer topic is much like posting a new offer topic in that it will 'bump' the topic to the top of the list in the forum again — so please don't do that unless you're making a significant change to the listing, i.e. reducing the price by at least 10% and/or adding something extra. (You'll also need to edit the title of the first post in that case — see below — so that the change shows up in the forum listing.)
- 3.7** When you sell an item, edit the topic title (i.e. edit the title of the original post) to put the word SOLD at the start, so that everyone knows what the status is:



- 3.8** Anything offered on the GBPS sales forums must be exclusively available to members for a period of one month — i.e. don't list it on eBay, Delcampe, Stampboards, etc. at the same time. If it's still unsold after a

month, then feel free to put it up for sale elsewhere too, but if it sells somewhere else please come back and edit the topic title as above.

#### 4. Buying

**4.1** To purchase something, post a reply to the topic that clearly indicates that the item offered is sold to you:



The first person to make such a post on the topic gets it, and the seller is required to sell it to them at the stated price (even if someone else comes along and offers more). The post can just say 'sold' if you think someone else might get in while you're typing. You can of course ask questions before purchasing, but if someone else posts 'sold' to the topic before you, the item is theirs.

**4.2** Once something is sold, it's up to the buyer and seller to arrange payment and delivery in the most mutually convenient manner, but this should be done as quickly as possible. If the seller hasn't been paid within a week, they may re-offer the item if they wish.

**4.3** If you want to ask the seller questions first before buying, please send them an email or personal message using the buttons at the end of the post, rather than making another post to the topic (as that will 'bump' the topic to the top of the forum list again):



#### 5. Wants, Swaps, and Giveaways

**5.1** The 'Wants' forum is very straightforward. Simply post the details of what you're looking for in a new topic, and hope that someone has it and offers it to you at the right price. Again, if you don't get an offer please don't 'bump' the topic more than once every few months.

**5.2** If you're looking to exchange material rather than buy or sell direct, then make a post in the 'Swaps' forum stating clearly what you have and what you would like to exchange it for. Obviously in this case you have to take pot luck on someone wanting to swap what you want for what you have.

**5.3** If you have items that you're willing to pass on free of charge (perhaps simply to make a bit of space!), or for just the cost of postage/shipping, then make a post in the 'Giveaways' forum. The rules above, where relevant, apply here too — in particular 'first claim wins'.

**[www.gbps.org.uk/trading](http://www.gbps.org.uk/trading)**

## UPDATE OF **SPECIALISED VOLUME 3, QEII PRE-DECIMAL**

The 12th edition was published in 2011 and it is planned that the 13th edition will be published in 2017. As many members will know, I coordinated the information from members, including from dealers, for changes in the current edition and liaised directly with Hugh Jefferies. I intend to do the same for the 13th edition — already, he has about 60 pages with typographical corrections!

Accordingly, may I invite all members to submit proposed changes to me as soon as possible. All will be considered for inclusion but it will be appreciated that decision rests with SG. However, it will ensure that the Society receives the usual acknowledgement for assistance provided.

As usual, submissions to Ian Harvey by email at [iph@harvey27.demon.co.uk](mailto:iph@harvey27.demon.co.uk) or phone 020 8789 7358.

## **1d RED, PROVISIONAL PERF. 16** (SG 36, SG SPEC. C11) — HELP NEEDED

by **Graham Stockdale**, **Ray Simpson FRPSL**, and **Mike Williams FRPSL**

This is a request for help. Graham, Mike and I are attempting to construct a database of dated examples of this stamp (on cover, piece and dated singles).

The information required is:

- date and place of posting;
- check letters of stamp(s);
- plate number (if known).

Scans are not needed.

### **Why is this information needed?**

From 1855 the low value postage stamps were perforated by gauge 14 punch sets. Late in 1857 (and into 1858) some 1d Red and 2d Blue stamps were perforated by the old gauge 16 perforation punch sets, originally used between 1854 and 1855. The problem is that nobody knows how long the perforation gauge 16 punch sets were used and how many stamp sheets

were perforated by them. All previous published estimates are suspect. We believe that the usage information requested will assist in compiling more accurate estimates. Our findings will be published in due course.

### **Sending the information**

The most convenient way is to send it via the internet to either: [g.stockdale100@btinternet.com](mailto:g.stockdale100@btinternet.com), or [raymar2103@aol.com](mailto:raymar2103@aol.com). Alternatively, it could be sent via your editor.

### **Guidance on identifying the stamp**

For any collector to whom all 1d Reds look the same, the relevant stamps are those on white (not bluish) paper (see **Figs 1 and 2**). Apart from the date of usage, which will normally be between December 1857 and August 1858, the key feature is that stamps with perforation gauge 16 have 15 holes across the top and bottom, as opposed to the normal 13. If in doubt send a scan and we will work it out.

Thank you for your help.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

## 1½d PUC FLAW

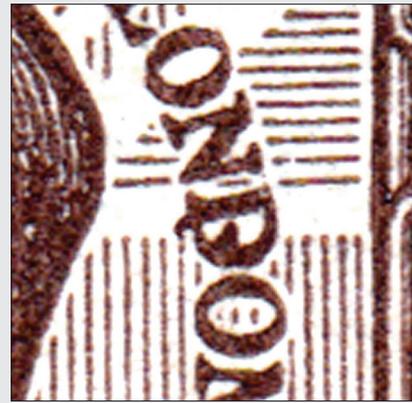
**Philip Robinson** has been waiting over 35 years for a reply to a query in GBJ 18(1)10. Is this 1½d PUC flaw constant? Philip writes:

Looking through my collection recently I came across a stamp that was featured in the *GB Journal* as long ago as 1980, and I just wondered if it is worthwhile to give it another 'airing' in the *Newsletter*. It is a 1929 Postal Union Congress 1½d stamp with a possible flaw, consisting of two spur-like marks on the letter 'D' of 'LONDON'.

I found the stamp in a small auction lot that I purchased in 1979, and I sent it to Stanley Gibbons for comment. In due course I received a reply from their Consultant Catalogue Editor, Rex Phillips. Mr Phillips agreed that the flaw had the appearance of possibly being constant, and that he would forward it to the Editor of the *GB Journal*. Mr Phillips later returned the stamp to me with a copy of the note that was to appear in the *Journal* (I do not have the relevant issue of the *Journal*, as this was shortly before I joined the GBPS).

Members may like to check their PUC 1½d stamps in case another copy of the flaw should turn up, which might help establish it as constant or semi-constant.

Please contact Philip at [probin391@aol.com](mailto:probin391@aol.com) or via your editor.



## CLEVEDON POST OFFICE

**Austin Davis** writes:

Following the theme instigated by Mike Jackson in the last *Newsletter* (NL 359, page 26) on how the Post Office and their offices have changed over the years, I highlight my home town of Clevedon, North Somerset.

During a large part of the 19th century and up until 1938, the general post office was housed in a rather nondescript stone-built property. During its early years this was very much a family business over several generations selling stationery and fancy goods alongside the normal post office services.

The Victorian was replaced by neo-classical architecture to the design of Henry Edward Secombe in 1938. Secombe was responsible for a number of similar post offices which in most cases were out of sympathy with the neighbouring architecture. Visiting this office when it provided counter services was an experience for a young boy, with a desk providing pen, ink and blotting paper, mahogany joinery and brass fittings giving a very grand impression. One could ask why such a grand building in such a small town. This building is still used by the PO as a delivery/collection and sorting office but is purely functional with much of the grandeur lost and replaced by the ordinary.

As in Melton Mowbray the Clevedon post office is now based at the back of a retail outlet, in fact several, all of equal status. This has been the case since the late 1980s/early 1990s. I illustrate the 1938 building, built at a time when a letter to a friend cost 1½d.



# PAGES FROM A COMPETITION WINNER

At the Society Competitions on Saturday, 30 January 2016, the R. A. G. Lee Cup was won by **Martin H. Lloyd** with his excellent display *GB Line Engraved One Penny Stamps Used in Malta with 'A25' Cancellations*.

## G.B. USED IN MALTA

**1857 One Penny, Die II, Alphabet III, White Paper, Wmk Large Crown, Perf. 14  
S.G. Specialised Catalogue Number C10**

Possible plates – 27, 33, 34, 36-39, 41-49, 52, 55-68 and R17

One penny stamps with the above characteristics from most of the plates listed are found with the 'A25' cancel. Stamps from many of these plates are frequently found but stamps from several are scarce and from some are rare. In a few cases, none are recorded though a few may exist.

The following are from the most frequently found plates



Plate 27



Plate 42



Plate 43



Plate 44



Plate 46



Plate 47



Plate 48



Plate 49



Plate 55



Plate 56



Plate 57



Plate 59



Plate 60



Plate 61

PAGES FROM **A COMPETITION WINNER** (continued)

**GB Line Engraved One Penny Stamps Used in Malta with 'A25' Cancellations**

**G.B. USED IN MALTA**

**1857 One Penny, Die II, Alphabet III, White Paper, Wmk Large Crown, Perf. 14  
S.G. Specialised Catalogue Number C10 - Multiples**

Until 1863, there were both three pence and four pence rates to Italy. There was no British 3d stamp until May 1862 and so, until then, all letters at the three pence rate needed at least one 1d stamp (1d plus 2d) but many had a strip of three. There was a 4d stamp available for that rate but it was often paid with two 2d stamps and sometimes with a strip of four 1d stamps. Strips of three are common and strips of four are occasionally found. Two strips of six are recorded, one of which is shown below. These are the largest recorded multiples of any of the one penny 'Stars'. Very few blocks of any size are known to exist and one is shown here.

Strips of three usually, but not always, have right hand corner letters grouped 'ABC', 'DEF', 'GHI' or 'JKL' as in the following examples.



Plate 48



Plate 58



Plate 42



Plate 57



Plate 49



Plate 27



Plate 47



Plate 27

PAGES FROM **A COMPETITION WINNER** (continued)

**GB Line Engraved One Penny Stamps Used in Malta with 'A25' Cancellations**

**G.B. USED IN MALTA**

**A Wrapper from Malta to Marseille, 25th February 1860**



A wrapper from Malta to Marseille in France with four 1857 1d reds and an 1857 4d rose paying the double 4d rate. They are cancelled by the A25 duplex handstamp (AD-1), code 'A', dated 25th February 1860.

The 1d stamps are a strip of three from plate 47 and a single (BK) from plate 58.

The 'P.D.' (AF-5) indicates that the cover was paid to its destination.

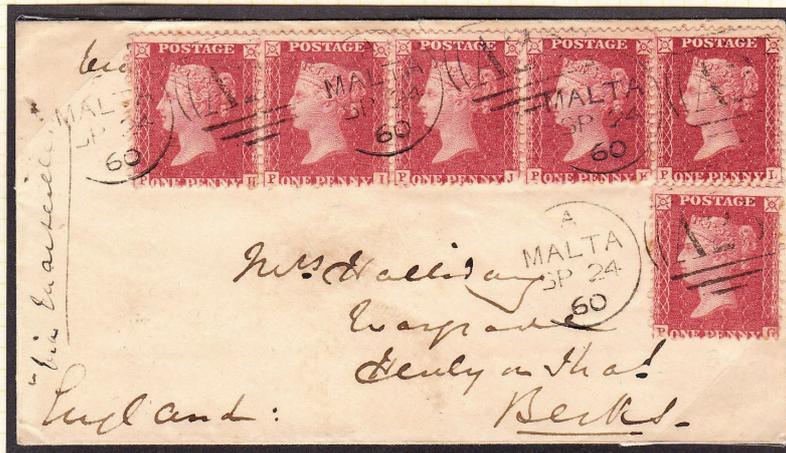
There is a French 'POSS ANGL' (English Post) datestamp on the front but no postal markings on the back.

PAGES FROM **A COMPETITION WINNER** (continued)

*GB Line Engraved One Penny Stamps Used in Malta with 'A25' Cancellations*

**G.B. USED IN MALTA**

**An Envelope from Malta to England, 24th September 1860**



An envelope from Malta to Henley-on-Thames in Berkshire with six 1857 1d rose-reds from plate 55 cancelled by the 'A25' duplex handstamp (AD-1), code 'A', dated 24th September 1860. It is marked in manuscript 'via Marseilles'.

There is a circular British datestamp on the back:-

HENLEY-ON-THAMES/B/SP 29/60 (The code letter 'B' is inverted.)

## UNUSUAL LONDON CANCELLATION ON SEAHORSES

**Bryan Kearsley** sent the following:

Among our members, I am hoping someone will be able to inform me what a group of distinctive London postmarks were used for. You can see from the stamps shown that these feature a bold capital letter at their base. Those recorded on KGV Seahorses include the capital letters 'L', 'W', 'V', and 'Z'. What do each of these letters signify? With one exception, all these postmarks appear on either £1 or 10s Seahorse stamps. Unfortunately, all have been removed from their original covers or forms. The cost of these postal or telegraphic charges, or the payment of duties/fees, or even for the Post Office accounting procedures, reached £2 down to 10s. Their usage period, so far recorded, covers that of the Great War. £1 — 1914; 10s — 1916 to 1918. It is noticeable how crisply and neatly the strikes were applied suggesting the handstamps were kept in good condition; with their apparent scarcity suggesting they were not in regular use. Might they have been allocated to a few senior clerks for approving and cancelling unusual and costly requests? I would be most grateful for any documented evidence our members can provide.



## CRAWFORD PHILATELIC LIBRARY TO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

*Based on a press release from the Royal Philatelic Society London*

The major philatelic library built up by the 26th Earl of Crawford was made available online at [www.globalphilateliclibrary.org](http://www.globalphilateliclibrary.org) from 30 May (subject to some copyright constraints).

The Crawford Philatelic Library comprises over 1.3 million pages and represents around 95% of the world's published philatelic knowledge at the time it was created.

This major digitisation programme was launched on Monday, 30 May 2016 during the World Stamp Show in New York. A presentation was given in Room 1E07 of the Javits Centre at 2 p.m. by Frank Walton RDP FRPSL, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

When the 26th Earl of Crawford died in 1913 he left his magnificent philatelic library to the British

nation. It has been carefully kept and conserved ever since by the British Library in London, where it is available for researchers in the Reading Room.

Thanks to creative thinking and IT development by staff at the British Library and volunteers from the Royal Philatelic Society London, a project to digitise every page of every volume is now well advanced. The work has been aided by funding from the British Library, the former British Philatelic Trust, the Philatelic Fund and the Royal Philatelic Society London.

More details of this project were given by David Beech MBE FRPSL in a supplement published with the March edition of *The London Philatelist*, journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London. The text can be downloaded from the Global Philatelic Library website.