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The London Philatelist

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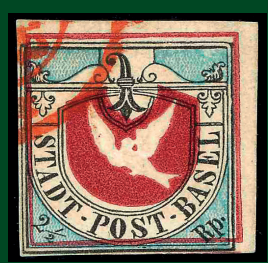
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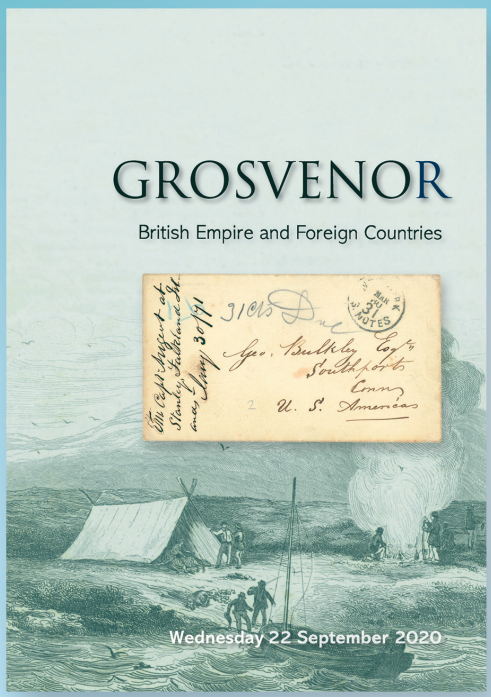
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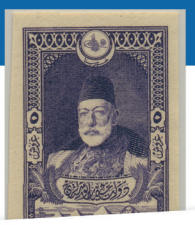
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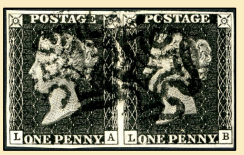
















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From the Editor.

Towards a (Virtual)New Normal.

Tony Bard FRPSL

The term 'new normal,' according to one Roger McNamee, is defined as 'a time of substantial possibilities if you are willing to play by the new rules for the long term. In the new normal it is more important to do things right than to succumb to the tyranny of urgency.' Well, prior to my taking on the role of Editor of this venerable publication, nobody (particularly my wife!) had ever accused me of succumbing to anything remotely like urgency. Now, however, I am a (willing) slave to deadlines! As I complete my seventh *LP,* the sensation of panic, that characterised my first four or five attempts, have ever so gradually reduced. I now approach the almost monthly task with an outlook that could be described as one of positivity, as I open the first blank page on my laptop each month. So in a year's time, or two or three, what will my 'normal' approach be like then? Watch this space! The same could be said about the changing world of philately. Do you remember what passed for normal less than six months ago? It seems like the distant past, rooted as it was in the longstanding ways that we indulged our hobby - we could be as sociable as we liked, visit local stamp shows, society meetings, the occasional much-awaited International, all of this enhanced by email contact with fellow collectors anywhere and everywhere. Then came the seismic shock in mid-March which threatened to eradicate everything (almost) that we had taken for granted for so long.

The first version of the new normal came with the unprecedented (for most of us) realisation that philately was the perfect antidote to lockdown. Even better, there was genuinely very little resistance from our nearest and dearest to us hunkering down to spend hours on what we all love doing best. Definitely new normal mark one. Then came the advent of webinars, Zoom meetings and the like, where we could fill our own little rectangle on the screen and marvel at the range of different backgrounds that decorated fellow attendees' own rectangles - their studies, living rooms, gardens, etc. We could, over time, fleetingly meet various members of their family, their pets, admire the diversity of their sweater collections, be intrigued by 'noises off' and admire their hair growth! New normal mark two. Fast-forward a few weeks and we find another element has entered our lives - the virtual exhibition. Now we can show the world what we have been up to during lockdown, by entering our virtual exhibits and even possibly winning a virtual award from the virtual judges for our efforts. New normal mark three, soon to be enhanced by a virtual Stampex with dealers (virtual of course) in virtual attendance! What next?

Well... there are signs that the 'old normal' may be nudging its way back into our new philatelic world. Look at the Gazette this month. From the sparse content of a few months back, we have in this issue something approaching the level of content last seen in February. There is a full programme for our new Season, now bolstered by online displays. Covid permitting, your philatelic diary could be the fullest it has ever been. In addition to meeting non-virtual members at Abchurch Lane or in your Region, you could attend online presentations from different societies at breakfast, lunch, dinner or in the middle of the night if you so desire. New normal mark four! Long may it continue. One constant throughout is the *LP*; although it may arrive with less of a 'thump' than the July-August edition, this issue is still packed with great reads. We conclude Boštjan Petauer's 'Chainbreakers' study and begin Keith Klugman's three-part of the use of the embossed stamps of Natal. Another multi-part contribution begins with Richard Scott Morel's research on the history of the Tapling Collection, while Jim Taylor notches up another fascinating addition to St. Pierre et Miquelon's postal history, a territory whose philatelic specialists' output is in hugely inverse proportion to its actual size! David Beech recalls the Williams Brothers and we have a full (virtual) post bag of Letters to the Editor. Enjoy!

100 Years of Slovenia's First Issues - The Chainbreakers. Part 2. The 'Maribor' 20 vinar.

Boštjan Petauer.

Continued from The London Philatelist, July-August 2020, pp262-269

New Chainbreakers discoveries continue to be made a century or more after they were in use. One example of new research concerns the rarest colour shades of the 20 vinar lithographic printing. The rarest Chainbreaker stamp, printed in lithography is the 5 vinar stamp on cardboard.

This stamp is quite rare (and consequently expensive) and has acquired the name 'Maribor' since the majority of known copies are cancelled with the double-circle German-language postmark of Maribor (Marburg an der Drau). This stamp was first used in several post offices in the Slovenian territory within the SHS Kingdom but there are no known examples recorded of its use in other parts of the Kingdom (Croatia, Bosnia, Dalmatia, Vojvodina) where Chainbreakers were also used concurrently with their provincial issues. Usage of the stamp in this colour is not known during either the first or the second occupations of Carinthia in 1919 and 1920.

This stamp is surrounded by a veil of mystery, partly because its existence was only discovered some ten years after it was printed and used. It is listed by Priručnik (p301) as 5Bj, in the 1991 Jugomarka catalogue (p60) as 5Bj and by the Petauer catalogue (p91) as 5BI, but is not mentioned in the German-language typescript produced by August Jug (1950). The reason is quite simple: no colours are mentioned there. In other recent catalogues (Michel, Yvert, Stanley Gibbons, Scott) it is not mentioned at all, although none of them deal with the first Slovenian stamps in detail. Nor has it been dealt with much in literature. Only a single article by Fritz Hammer of Prague (Hammer, 1934, pp40-42), published in the *Filatelista* magazine, has been found.

The intention here is to remove the veil of secrecy, through the use of Hammer's article and my own research. The latter would, however, not have been possible without help from fellow philatelists both at home and abroad, that placed copies of this stamp at my disposal. The number of specimens examined, including loose stamps, stamps on piece and examples from my own collection, totals 44. For this I would like to thank the following collectors: Thomas Artel, Dr Helmut Kobelbauer, Dr Ivan Turk, Saša France, Henk Buitenkamp, Andrej Potočnik, Vid Žiberna and Bojan Kranjc.

Plate composition of the 20 vinar stamp lithographic printing.

Of the small number of single used stamps known to exist, many are damaged with partially or totally illegible cancels, or both. There are also cut-outs from packet cards, where the quality of stamps and cancels is better. The stamp is not known in mint condition, though it is possible that an example will turn up at some time. I have not seen any cover bearing this stamp, although the possibility of such a find can, of course, not be ruled out.

Drawing on the above, it seems that no sale sheet (a sheet taken directly from the press and cut into suitably sized sections), let alone a printing sheet (the full sheet taken from the press), has survived intact. The largest known unit is a pair, so the composition of the sheet can only be arrived at by deduction.

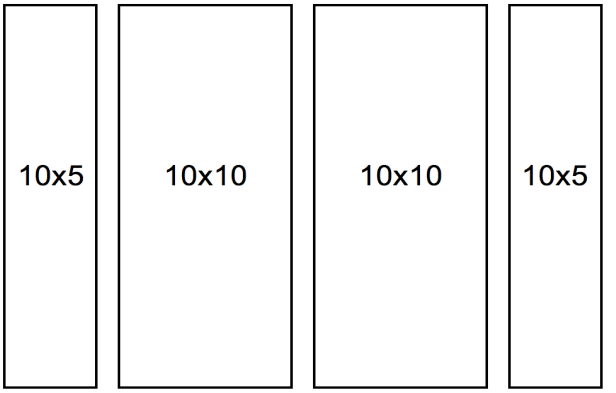


Figure 1. A pair of the Maribor 20 vinar, the largest known multiple.

The first Chainbreaker stamps issued were the 10 and 20 vinar values, the most commonly used denominations at the time. At first, these stamps were printed on Type B paper (white, smooth) and not on Type A paper (thin, rough), as is apparent from all catalogue classifications.

Taking the earliest date of usage into account (February 1919, a month after the appearance of the Chainbreakers), the yellow-brown 20 vinar stamps were without doubt produced during the first printing, which was done in January and February, since the second printing followed in April only. According to Priručnik, stamps from this print-run were in dark brown, muddy-brown, lilac-brown, and yellow-brown. Grey-brown, which was also among the first printing, is missing in the Priručnik list. However, according to Hammer, who actually 'discovered' it, this stamp is supposed to have been printed second, after the grey-brown ink had been used up.

The composition of the 20 vinar value sheets was, according to Priručnik, as follows:



A sale sheet of 10x10 stamps, with a different arrangement of (sun) rays around the slave figure's head, also exists, but it was printed on Type A paper so is not mentioned here.

A close inspection of all the Maribor stamps revealed that they exist with all 10 types of (sun) rays around the slave's head. The inference is that they were printed in sheets as described above.

It is not possible to determine the sheet position of the stamps seen, in either the print or the sale sheets. However, the stamps inspected showed errors and varieties that are not mentioned in Priručnik. I will only mention some of the major points (Roman numbers denote the type of ray).

Type III: White patch above the right leg of Cyrillic 'Ž',

Type III: Tiny white spot between 'D' and 'R' in 'DRŽAVA',

Type IV: White patch left of 'D' in 'DRŽAVA',

Type VI: Tiny white spot left of 'D' in 'DRŽAVA' and 3 blurred spots between Cyrillic inscription on 'žava' and 'CHC',

Type VII: White spot after 'CHC',

Type VIII: Beside the lock on the hand that can be found on all these types of stamp, one white spot can be found on the left of the last 'S' (probably a transitional variety),

Type VII: Short white dash after 'SHS.'

So, the study of errors produced only limited results. Two 10 x 10 sheets on Type A paper were inspected (in brown, one on partly so-called 'marble' paper). They were different as far as the distribution of rays is concerned. There was also one sheet on Type B paper (brown) and two 10 x 5 sheets (right, in chocolate brown and lilac brown). No error that appears on the Maribor stamps was found. Things get even worse. Priručnik mentions five typical errors, four of them in the 10 x 10 sheet format and one in the 10 x 5 sheet format. Only one was found in the sheets inspected (Position 34 in the right pane of the 10 x 5 sheet).

Typography is easier as far as errors and varieties are concerned, probably because the forme (assembly of all the joint clichés) is constant during all prints. Lithography offers more possibilities differences, since after about 200 print-runs the printing stone must be ground off and then, with

the help of transmission paper, the stamp's design is introduced on the stone for the next print-run of 200 sheets. New errors and varieties may occur and the previous ones disappear, so the most interesting errors are those that appeared on the transmission paper at the beginning and appears on trial prints and all subsequent ones. These are, however, few. Quite a number of errors exist in parts of the printings, probably only in each of the 200 sheets from a single print-run. During the first print-run, some 1000+ sheets were printed, meaning that the stone was ground off between three and five times.

The problems connected with errors and varieties in lithography remain open. It is questionable whether it will ever be possible to finally solve them.

Numbers printed and colour shades.

The total number of Maribor 20 vinar stamps printed is not known. Considering the number of post offices where it was used (see below), Hammer guesses it was between 30-50,000 (100 to 167 print sheets). We cannot contradict this estimate, although the real figure could be (much) lower considering the number of surviving copies. It seems indisputable that only 1% or less of used examples have survived. Hammer attributes this to the absence of collectors in smaller places where this value was used and lack of attention to it at the time. This does not apply to Maribor itself, which was already a location of organised philately. Thus, it is very difficult to understand why it took 10 years to discover this stamp. It only came to light when the Post Office sold old kiloware that contained the stamp on packet cards.

There are two groups of colour shades, with marked differences. The first can be named the light-yellow colour with a noticeably greater part of the yellow component (the colour of the stamp tends towards yellow). The second is the dark yellow-brown group (brown prevails). Within these shades small differences exist. For both groups it is essential to clearly observe the presence of yellow. If it is not there, the stamp in question is not the Maribor 20 vinar.

Iris prints.

The simplest definition of an iris print is the transition of one colour shade to another on the same print sheet. In Priručnik, the term 'rainbow printing' is also used to denote this effect. Two types of iris prints are known.

A mixed iris is only possible when stamps of different values in different colours are printed at the same time, causing the flow of one colour to the other. This particularly causes the marginal stamps of one value in the sheet to be in another colour (shade) compared to the remaining stamps of the same value. Since there was never more than one value of the Chainbreaker stamps printed in lithography from the same stone, this type of iris is even theoretically impossible for the Maribor 20 vinar stamp. There are, however, nice (rare and consequently expensive) cases of this type of iris known for stamps printed in typography, since in some print sheets stamps of different values and colours were printed together. Stamps with tabs of other values in different colours originate from such sheets; a rare, if not unique, case in world philately.

A refilled iris is possible when, during the print-run, coloured ink is added to the printing plate. The result is different shades of stamps, printed from the same plate; for instance, the upper part of the sheet is in a lighter shade, the bottom part in a darker one. Light and dark shades can also interchange from one to the other in the same sheet. The change of shades is usually gradual. This type of iris is known to occur in lithography, e.g., for the 15 vinar, but in this case it is possible that lighter and darker shades from the same sheet were caused by variations in pressure of paper against the stone, a lack of ink, or because additional ink had to be added.

I have already mentioned two shades of the Maribor 20 vinar stamp. In contrast to many Chainbreaker stamps, no intermediate shades exist for it. With other stamps it is often quite difficult to decide when one colour changes into another. Intermediate shades should exist if we are speaking of iris print. It can be deduced from the latter that there was no iris print for the Maribor 20 vinar

stamp. This is also the opinion of other Chainbreaker specialists with whom this theme has been discussed.

Places and periods of use.

We can distinguish two periods of use of the Maribor 20 vinar stamp. The first is late January-February 1919, when this stamp was used at various post offices, often quite distant from one another. The second is May-June (perhaps also September) 1919, when it was in use only in the Maribor post office.

In the following overview of places and dates of use, (based on my own specimens and those loaned to me), only those with legible cancels were considered. Each cancel is only included once, even if it is known on several copies. The names of locations given are those that appear on the cancels, whereas current names (where relevant) are given in parentheses.

Hammer states in his article that he recorded the use of this stamp between 31 January and 6 June, in the following post offices:

Cilli (Celje), Marburg an der Drau (Maribor), Maria Rast (Ruše), Metlika, Prassberg (Mozirje), Semič and Železnike (Železniki):

He also notes that he had been told that the stamp was used at three other post offices, although only one cancellation had a legible date: Dol (13 February), Rietz in Steiermark (Rečica v Savinjski dolini), and Weinitz (Vinica).

First Period:

Dol: 13 February.

Leskovec pri Krškem: 13 February.

Maria Rast (Ruše): 31 January; 15 February.

Prassberg (Mozirje): 4, 7 and 14 February.

Šmartno (Laze) v Tuhinju: 14 February.

Zatičina (Stična): 12 February.

Second Period:

Marburg an der Drau (Maribor): 19 May - 22 June; (a cancel dated 19 September is probably an error, perhaps through an inversion of the month slug '6' – for June)

After inspecting 44 specimens, we can summarise this stamp as having been recorded used in a total of 14 post offices. If cancellations inscribed 'Maribor,' applied at Marburg and der Drau, are listed separately, the total would increase to 15. These offices are listed in alphabetical order of place name as used on the cancellation, together with the date (or dates) of use. Where the day and/or month was unclear, these are listed as '?':

Cilli (Celje): 4 February.

Dol: 13 February.

Loški potok: 17 February.

Leskovec pri Krškem: 13 February.

Maria Rast (Ruše): 31 January; 15 and 18 February.

Marburg an der Drau (Maribor): 15 February; ? and 7 (both Maribor cancels), ? and 19 May; 3, 4, 6, 16 and 22 June; 19 September (Maribor cancel - error of date?).

Metlika: 17 February.

Prassberg (Mozirje): 4, 14, 19 and ? February.

Rietz in Steiermark (Rečica v Savinjski dolini): ?

Semič: 13 February.

Šmartno (Laze) v Tuhinju: 14 February.

Weinitz (Vinica): ?

Zatičina (Stična): 12 February.

Železnike (Železniki): 20 February.

Figures 2 and 3 show examples of use in some of these post offices.



Figure 2 Examples of use in Zatičina, Laze v Tuhinju and Marburg an der Drau (Maribor).



Figure 3. Examples of use in Ruše and Mozirje

I should add that a particular colour shade cannot be attributed to a single time period. Both colour shades were used in Maribor in February and June. The second shade could not have been part of the second print run, because the next printing of this stamp in lithography (printed by Blaznik) was only done on Type B paper in September 1919 (printings from April exist, but these were printed on Type A paper).

A final request.

I hope I have succeeded in unveiling some of the secrets of the Maribor 20 vinar, but much remains unknown, mostly with regard to print sheets and places and dates of use. I ask any readers who can provide some additional information to share their findings with me (possibly with copies of the material). By joining forces, perhaps we will be able to shed more light on the story of this interesting but elusive stamp.

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An Index: Why these are Essential in Printed Books. Lessons Learned from L. N. and M. Williams.

David R Beech MBE FRPSL

It was my great privilege to have known the world-renowned philatelic writers and journalists L. N. and M. Williams, known as the Williams Brothers. The elder of the two brothers, Maurice, was born in 1905 and died in 1976 and the younger, Leon Norman, was born in 1914 and died in 1999. They had started a philatelic writing partnership in 1935 and this only ended in 1999 on Norman's passing.



The Williams Brothers. Photograph reproduced courtesy of Marcus Williams

In addition to many thousands of articles, which mainly appeared in the British philatelic press, the brothers were the authors of many books. Perhaps their most significant publications are *Famous Stamps* (1940), *More Famous Stamps* (1942), *Stamps of Fame* (1949), all of which eventually appeared (following Maurice's death) as the two-volume *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps (*1993 and 1997), *A 'Melville' bibliography: being a catalogue of the separate philatelic works written, compiled, edited or published by Fred J Melville* (1941), *Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps* with E F Hurt [1890-1952] (1942-1947), revised edition as *Handbook of the Private Local Posts* (1950), *Forged Stamps of Two World Wars, the Postal Forgeries and Propaganda Issues of the Belligerents 1914-1918, 1939-1945* (1954), *The Postage Stamp: Its History and Recognition* (1956), *Fundamentals of Philately* (1971, second edition 1990). All of these are sound, standard works in a wide range of subjects, much used by researchers of today and are some of the most important works in philately.

The Williams brothers were also the editors of *The British Philatelist* (1940-1954), *Stamp Lover* (1940-1964), *The Cinderella Philatelist* (1961-1985, and from 1976 with others) and a number of other periodicals. Thus the brothers had continued that outstanding writing achievement of Fred J. Melville (1882-1940), which commenced in 1897, when they started philatelic writing in 1935.

The Williams Papers, the research notes of L. N. and M. Williams, include correspondence, photographs, lists, etc., are held by the British Library Philatelic Collections and were first donated in 1990 by Norman, subsequently added to in 2002 by his widow Denise and finally, in 2020, by his son Marcus.

I had known the brothers since about 1969 and across the years came in contact with them on very many occasions, both philatelic and social, and took, from time to time, some small part in

assisting them in research for their articles and books. This during the time when I was, from 1970, with the Expert Department of H R Harmer Ltd, the philatelic auctioneers, and later as Philatelic Curator at the British Library from 1983. I had seen a lot of Norman, in connection with the Philatelic Writers Society, whose meetings and happy conferences we both attended. The Society existed in the UK from to 1982 to 2000.

Thus I have been much influenced by both Maurice and Norman, especially the latter who was by profession a barrister and, latterly, a law reporter for *The Times* newspaper London. His understanding of the importance of accuracy is only slightly put in the shade by Sir Edward Denny Bacon (1860-1938), a man of quite another generation. On numerous occasions, to me directly, or to groups involved with philatelic research and understanding, Norman had two great pieces of advice. One was "to get up all of the literature" and the second was "every book needs, indeed requires, an index". I have found such wise words central to any endeavour or scholarship in any subject.

The reason for writing this piece (apart from as a matter of record), is that in recent months I have become aware of a dangerous idea firmly expressed, that an index is not always necessary in a printed book. There can be very few occasions when a book does not need an index - perhaps when it is in the form of an encyclopaedia arranged alphabetically, but even then it depends on the nature and extent of the text. It has been stated that a good contents page or pages might be an indication of the structure of a printed book, indeed they should be, but they will not contain, even if extensive explanatory text is provided, the level of detail to be sure that information can be found without reading a large number of pages. Authors and publishers should understand, I believe, that any good book of substance is written for the user or reader and not for the self-aggrandisement of the writer. The test is how useful is the printed book to the user and, when used as a reference book, how easily will the required information be found. Hence the importance of the index.

I remember having a long conversation, probably in 1994, with my good friend the late E.Victor Toeg (1916-2010) about his excellent book *Dominica Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery* (1994). It is the product of a lifetime's interest in the subject, of which he formed an important collection. It has 216 pages and is broadly arranged chronologically. While it has two quite useful Contents pages, it lacks an index. In our good-natured conversation I said that it should have an index. He responded that it was arranged in date order. My reply was that if I wanted to know about a printer, or of the involvement of the Crown Agents, it would mean that I would have to read almost all of the text to be sure of discovering the desired information!

As another example, I would mention a recently-published printed book (I am not going to give its author or title) on a subject where the only other book covering the area was published in the 1960s - also unindexed. This recent volume has just under 190 pages, lacks an index and its Contents page. listing ten chapters and a number of appendices, has such chapter titles as: 'A modest beginning and a brilliant idea,' 'I had a dream,' 'Life after that,' - without any further explanation. I leave it for the reader to form his or her own views.

The compiling of an index is a skilled art, calling for knowledge of the subject and something of how the book will be used. There is little point of an indexed subject heading where 20-plus page numbers are given; this probably means that further subdivision of the subject is required. I recommend James Negus's splendid book *Philatelic Literature Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources*, (1991) which has two indexes! (Not 'indices,' which are something quite different).

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Natal: Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamps. Part 1.

Keith P. Klugman FRPSL

In 1492, Bartholomew Diaz reached the Cape of Good Hope from Portugal, but could not confirm that he had rounded the southern tip of Africa by ship for the first time – this achievement went to another Portuguese explorer. On Christmas Day, 1497, Vasco de Gama, after rounding the Cape, named the Bay of Natal based on the day of the year that he first saw it (Holden, p36).

The first English record of Natal was nearly 200 years later, when in 1683, about 80 sailors, wrecked at Delagoa Bay, made their way south on foot to Cape Town, and their report described the River of Natal at 30 degrees south latitude (Holden, p36). Today we know it is at precisely 29.8587 degrees south!

Three years later another English ship, the *Stavenisse* managed to wreck itself at the Bay of Natal. After a year of labour, the shipwrecked sailors had put together a small boat from the wreckage, and sailed down to Cape Town, leaving four of their compatriots behind, who did not fancy their chances on the small boat. The Dutch government at the Cape then rescued three of these reluctant settlers, but no successful attempt was made to colonise the area for another 140 years (Holden, p37).

In 1820 Chaka, a formidable Zulu warrior, subjugated the local tribes and four years later, Lt Farewell with around 20 English companions, having failed to persuade the authorities in Cape Town or London of their plans, decided to start a new colony at the Bay of Natal (Holden, p46). To further their goal, they later renamed Port Natal, D'Urban, in honour of the newly-arrived governor of the Cape, Sir Benjamin D'Urban. (Holden, p62)

These settlers lived in an uneasy truce with Chaka and his successor Dingaan until 1838 when Dingaan, wary of an approach for land from Dutch *voortrekker* settlers, murdered Piet Retief and his followers, and completely laid waste to the town of D'Urban, with the remaining settlers fleeing on the ship *Comet*.

The earliest letter from Natal in private hands was written in happier times in 1836, by one of those who fled in 1838, Susan Champion, wife of the American missionary at Dingaan's kraal, George Champion (Klugman, 2010). After the defeat of Dingane by a Boer force in 1838, the Boers set up a Republic, Natalia, with its capital at Pietermaritzburg, 52 miles inland of Durban.

In a very short-lived military campaign in June-July 1842, from which a single letter is recorded in private hands (Klugman, 2014), Natal was conquered by the British and became a colony administered as part of the Cape Colony. In 1856, Natal became an independent crown colony and issued its first postage stamps the following year.

The four stamps (3d buff, 6d green, 9d blue, one shilling buff) were adapted from locally embossed revenue stamps, the dies for which were designed by B. Wyon of Regent Street, London, and only defaced in the 1930s (Dickson, p25). They paid the local 3d rate of postage per ½ oz and its multiples for heavier letters. The embossing was applied to different coloured papers from that of the light blue laid paper of the current revenue stamps, and the postage stamps were issued on 26 May 1857 (Dickson, p32). At least the 3d appears to have been embossed in a sheet of 108 stamps, comprising 12 rows of nine stamps, presumably six rows from one side of the sheet, and then six from the other, allowing tête-bêche pairs to exist comprising pairs across rows six and seven (Dickson, p33). No genuine tête-bêche pairs of the higher values are recorded. The stamps were a provisional issue, pending the arrival of Chalon head stamps designed and printed by Perkins Bacon in London which arrived in the colony in late June, 1859, a date concordant with the end of the first period of use of these embossed stamps. Due to a shortage of the Chalon 3d in August and September 1861, both the 3d and 6d embossed values were reintroduced just for those 2 months.

The philatelic challenge of collecting Natal is that the original dies were used to create reprints

for decades after the stamps ceased to be issued. Some of these reprints were embossed on the same paper as the originals. Natal embossed stamps have therefore only been listed by Stanley Gibbons with contemporary cancellations, and are best collected, if possible, on a contemporary cover – hence the importance of this first attempt to document all the recorded postal uses of this issue.

3d local use on cover.

The most commonly recorded use of an embossed Natal 1857 stamp on cover is, not surprisingly, a single stamp paying the prevailing 3d rate of postage between July 1857 and July 1859. There are 91 such recorded examples and rather than providing an itemised list of all the recorded covers, their use is summarised in Table 1.

The key message from this table is that the existing record, which is, as always, biased by the presence of a number of items from large correspondences, nonetheless provides postal historians with a clear picture of the more common covers, and those that are significant rarities. Correspondence between the two future major cities of Durban, the commercial centre and port, and Pietermaritzburg, the capital, dominate the existing record. The vast majority (69%) of single rate local uses originated in Durban or Pietermaritzburg (63/91), or, if they originated in smaller towns, they are addressed to one of these two cities (a further 23 covers (25%)). Indeed, only five covers are recorded between small towns; four from Umhlali and one addressed there. Umhlali at this early time had no postal cancellation device and therefore the characteristic manuscript cancellation used by the postmaster is well known to collectors of early Natal (Figure 1). There are in total 12 single rate postmaster provisional Umhlali manuscript-cancelled covers in this record. Manuscript cancels consisting of just a cross or concentric circle occur in other small towns, but the most sought-after single rate local covers bearing the Natal 3d have the manuscript cancel applied by small town postmasters other than Umhlali. Here the pickings are much slimmer. Census number 76 has the only recorded postmaster manuscript cancel of Pine Town (Figure 2), today spelled as a single word, Pinetown, but consistently spelled as Pine Town in those days. The second postmaster manuscript town name cancelled example (Census number 77), also known on just a single cover, is part of the well-known Wathen correspondence from Richmond to Pietermaritzburg (Figure 3). The cover illustrated in Figure 4 (Census number 78) has it all, a town manuscript cancel of 'RR', attributed to Richmond Road, transit through Durban and is addressed to Umhlali!

Among the covers originating in Durban or Pietermartzburg, some single rate rarities also exist. The earliest covers from 1857, mailed from Pietermaritzburg, have a mute cancel, and the earliest recorded entire bearing a Natal 3d embossed stamp, written on 1 June 1857 (Census number 20) has the 3d similarly cancelled (Figure 5). From Durban, the blue Natal cds is the standard, but after the blue 3d Chalon stamps were introduced, black cancellations were used and the black Natal cds is found on just one single rate 3d cover (Census number 16, Figure 6).

During the shortage of 3d Chalon stamps, mentioned in the introduction, the numeral cancel '2' is recorded on a single cover franked at the single rate (Census number 17, Figure 7). Finally, with regard to local uses, it has been a mystery to date why the pre-stamp oval of Ladysmith, which is recorded on used embossed stamps, has not been found on cover. The quality of the handstamp apparently became degraded and it is mostly illegible by this period, but its smaller dimensions than the Pietermaritzburg oval have allowed its detection on a single cover (Figure 8).

The most sought-after Natal 3d embossed stamps on cover, are not, however, the single rate frankings, but the multiple frankings, their use with other embossed stamps, and their use in pairs (the largest multiples recorded on cover) including the remarkable tête-bêche pair (See Table 2).

To understand the rarity of these multiple frankings, just three local covers are recorded at a double rate franked with two 3d stamps (one of which is in the Royal collection); three others (one each in the Royal Collection, the Mann collection at the RPSL and in private hands) have three stamps paying the triple rate of 9d; a further two double rate local covers are franked with a pair of 3d (one of which is the unique tête-bêche on cover) and finally, two covers have a 3d plus 6d franking to pay the 9d triple rate.

Table 1. Census of the recorded local use on cover of the single 3d rate within Natal.

Census number	Rate	Franking	Dates	Origin Cancel	Destination	Covers in Private Hands	Covers in Museums
1 - 10	3d	Single 3d	8 Dec. 57- 8 Jan. 59	Durban. Blue Natal cds	Pietermaritzburg	9	1
11 -15	3d	Single 3d	24 Mar. 58 - 7 Dec. 58	Durban. Blue Natal cds	Other Towns - : Fort Scott (1), Pine Town (1), Umsunduzi (1), Umhlali (1) and Umvoti (1).	5	
16	3d	Single 3d	5 Jul. 59	Durban. Black Natal cds	Other Towns: Umzinto.	1	
17	3d	Single 3d	20 Sep. 61	Durban. "2"	Pietermaritzburg	1	
18 - 21	3d	Single 3d	1 Jun. 57	PMBurg mute	Durban	4	
22 - 35	3d	Single 3d	14 Oct. 57 - 23 Feb. 59	PMBurg oval	Durban	11	3
36 - 51	3d	Single 3d	6 Sep. 58 - 27 Dec. 58	PMBurg oval	Umsunduzi	13	3
52 - 63	3d	Single 3d	1858 - 27 Jun 59	PMBurg oval	Other Towns: Richmond (6); Pine Town (2); Greytown (2); Umhlali (1) and York (1)	11	1
64 – 69	3d	Single 3d	-	Umhlali ms	Pietermaritzburg	4	2
70 – 71	3d	Single 3d	-	Umhlali ms	Durban	1	1
72 - 75	3d	Single 3d	16 May 59 - 3 Jun. 59	Umhlali ms	Other Towns: Verulam (2); Pine Town (1) and Greytown (1)	4	
76	3d	Single 3d	-	Pine Town ms	Pietermaritzburg	1	
77	3d	Single 3d	1859	Richmond ms	Pietermaritzburg	1	
78	3d	Single 3d	20 Jul. 57	R(ichmond) R(oad)	Umhlali	1	
79 – 83	3d	Single	17 Jul. 61	Richmond 'X' or concentric circles	Pietermaritzburg	5	
84 - 87	3d	Single		Local Natal 'X' or concentric circles	Durban	2	2
88	3d	Single	-	Local Natal 'X'	PMBurg	1	
89	3d	Single	27 Nov. 58	Ladysmith Oval	PMBurg	1	
90-91	3d	Single	18 Apr. 58	Ladysmith 'X'	Durban	2	

Table 2. Census of recorded local use multiples and combination frankings of the Natal 1857 3d.

Census number	Rate	Franking	Dates	Origin Cancel	Destination	Provenance
92	6d	2 x 3d	15 June 1857-9	Durban	PMBurg	To C Behrens Lagerloef. Harmers NY, 22 Oct 59; BPSB cert 6 May 98; Klugman Coll.
93	6d	2 x 3d	7 Dec 1857	Durban	PMBurg	To David Buist. Royal Coll.
94	6d	2 x 3d	4 Aug 1859	'X' Other Small Town	PMBurg	Pearse Corr. Ex Classics Soc. Archive. BPA cert 24 Feb 2004. Klugman Coll.
95	9d	3 x 3d	14 Feb 1859	PMBurg oval	Durban	To Rev Lloyd. Royal Coll.
96	9d	3 x 3d	-	Umhlali ms	PMBurg	To Maclean. Hurst Coll., Durban Museum.
97	9d	3 x 3d	7 Mar 1860	PMBurg oval	Durban	To John Goodricke. BPA cert 5 Mar 2017. Enclosure to Goodricke dated 7 March 1860. Klugman Coll.
98	6d	3d pair	-	PMBurg oval	Umsunduzi via Durban	To Lewis Grout, c/o G. C. Cato, Durban; Mercury 5 Dec 1962; Kohler sale 228. Klugman Coll.
99	6d	2 x 3d [tête-bêche pair]	-	'X' (Probably Pine Town).	PMBurg	To the Dean of Pietermaritzburg. Harmers 4 May 36, lot 246; ex Boker, Behr; illus. in *Monaco Rarities of the World*, p41, 1997; listed in *Philatelic Gems* 4, p82; signed Bloch; BPA cert 1998. Klugman Coll.
6d no. 4	9d	3d + 6d		PMBurg oval	Greytown, Natal	1
6d no. 5		3d + 6d		PMBurg oval	Fort Scott, Natal	1

Of the three local covers (Census numbers 92-94) paying the 6d double rate with two 3d stamps, one (Census number 93) is in the Royal collection, and is shown for the first time with gracious permission of Her Majesty (Figure 9).

Of the three covers known, franked by three 3d stamps to pay the 9d triple rate, the highest franked Natal embossed cover in the Royal Collection, also not previously shown, is also illustrated (Census number 95, Figure 10) again by gracious permission of Her Majesty.

The other two covers are a similar franking from Pietermaritzburg to Goodricke in Durban (Census number 96, Figure 11) and an Umhlali part cover to Pietermaritzburg in the Hurst collection

at the Durban Museum (Census number 97).

Only two covers bearing a pair of 3d embossed Natal stamps are recorded, paying the 6d double local rate. The first is to the missionary Reverend Grout, at Umsunduzi, care of G. C. Cato who was the first Mayor of Durban (Cover number 98, Figure 12).

Finally, while a pair of the 3d embossed stamp is the largest recorded multiple and pairs on or off cover are rare, there are seven recorded used examples of embossed 3d pairs, where the stamps are tête-bêche. Only one of them is on cover or front and it may be considered the most important cover of the embossed issue (Census number 99, Figure 13). The cover is part of the well-known correspondence to the Dean of Pietermaritzburg, and the pair is cancelled with a large pen cross. The manuscript-cancelled stamps in this correspondence originated in Umhlali or Pine Town; given that the Umhlali correspondence all have manuscript town cancels, it is perhaps more likely that this cover originated in Pine Town.

Finally, there are two covers franked by both a 3d and 6d stamp to make up the local 9d rate (6d number 4 and 6d number 5, Table 1), but these covers will be illustrated in the next part of this article. This will provide a census of the 6d embossed stamps on cover, and describe the local uses of this value.

The use of 3d embossed stamps on international mail, their combination usage with other embossed stamps on cover, as well as the local Natal uses of the 6d stamp on cover will be covered in part 2 of this series of articles.

As this article was at the final proof stage, a 3d embossed cover from Pietermaritzburg to Umzinto (Census number 62.1) was sold on 30 July in the Stanley Gibbons 'Stamps and Postal History of the World' auction (lot 746).



Figure 1. Census number 72. 16 May 1859. 3d cancelled in manuscript 'Umhlali' on Crimean War patriotic cover to Verulam.

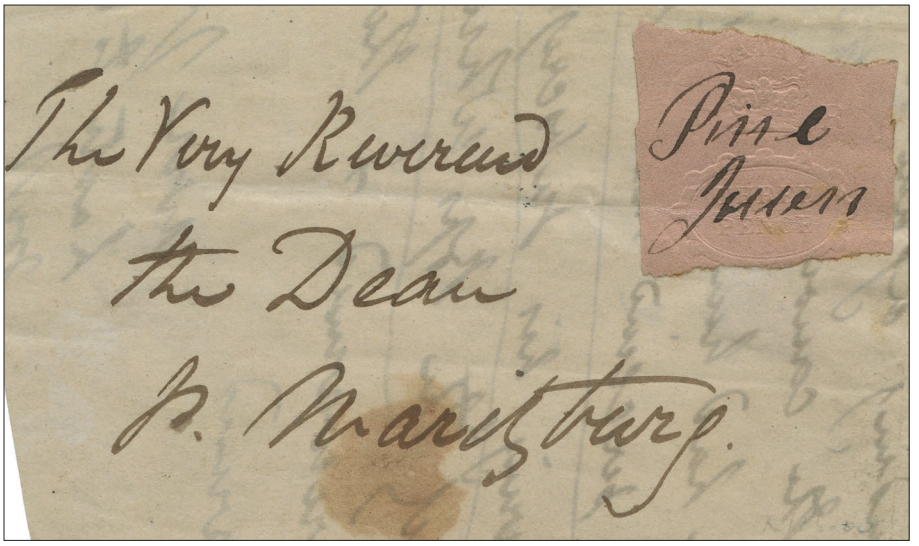


Figure 2. Census number 76. Unique front bearing 3d embossed Natal stamp with Pine Town manuscript cancel, to Dean of Pietermaritzburg.



Figure 3. Census number 77. Only recorded Richmond manuscript town cancel on letter to Pietermaritzburg (ex-Wathen correspondence).

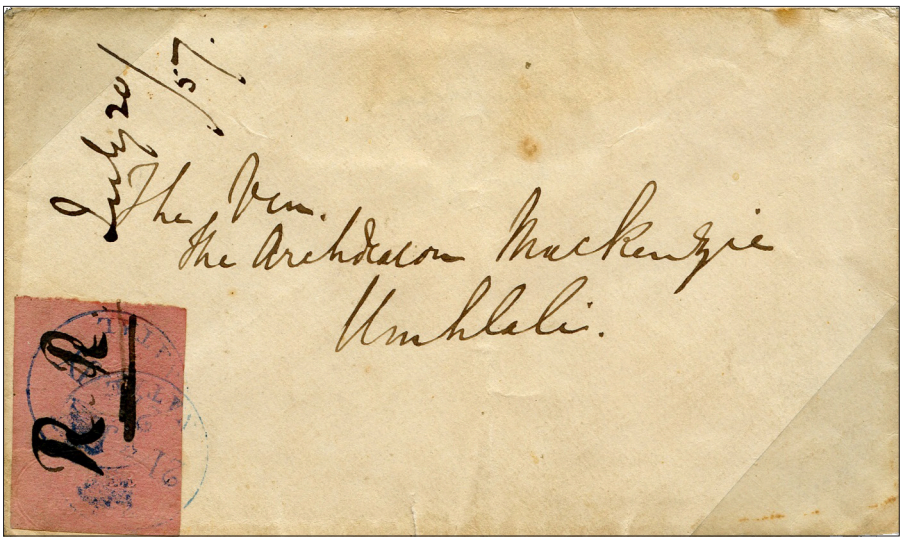


Figure 4. Census number 78. 20 July 1857. Only recorded R(ichmond) R(oad) manuscript cancel on 3d letter via Durban (Blue Natal cds) to Umhlali.

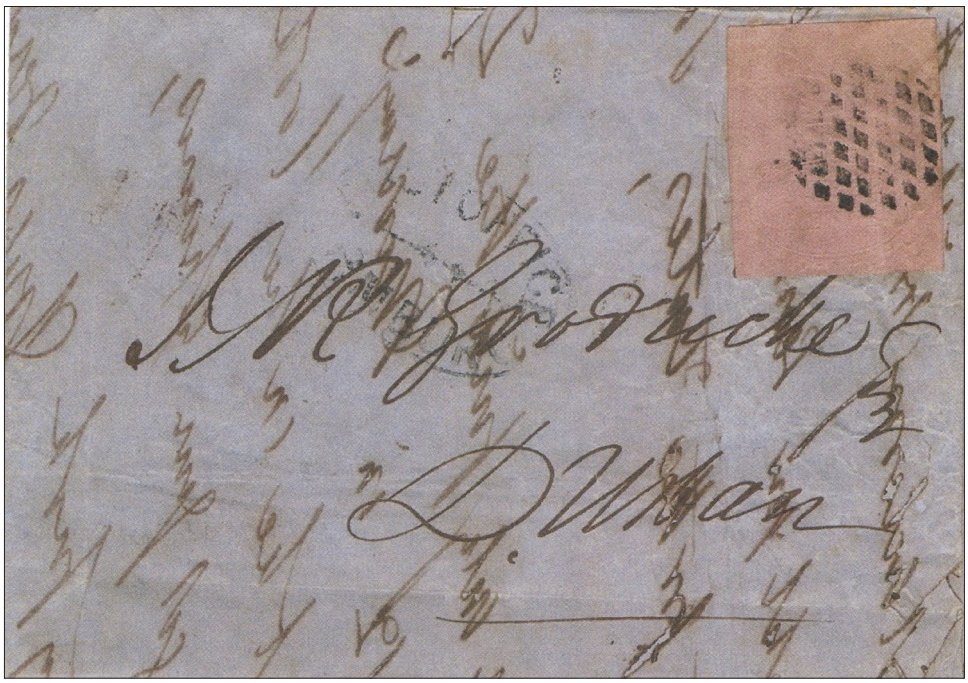


Figure 5. Census number 20. 1 June 1857. Earliest recorded embossed stamp on cover, used with Pietermaritzburg mute cancel to Goodricke, a solicitor, at Durban



Figure 6. Census number 16. Late use of Durban Natal black cds on local 3d cover from Durban to Umzinto.



Figure 7. Census number 17. 20 September 1861. Late use of 3d Natal embossed stamp cancelled Durban '2' to Pietermaritzburg.

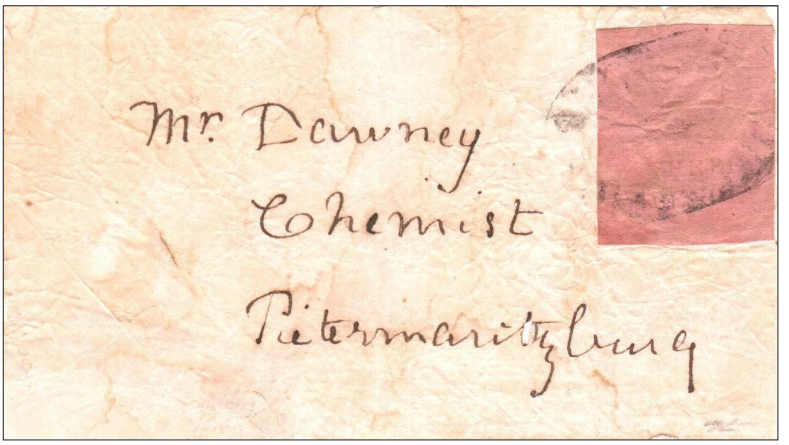


Figure 8. Census number 89. Only recorded putative use of the Ladysmith oval on an embossed Natal stamp on cover to Durban – a faint outline of this oval is also on census number 91, addressed in the same hand.

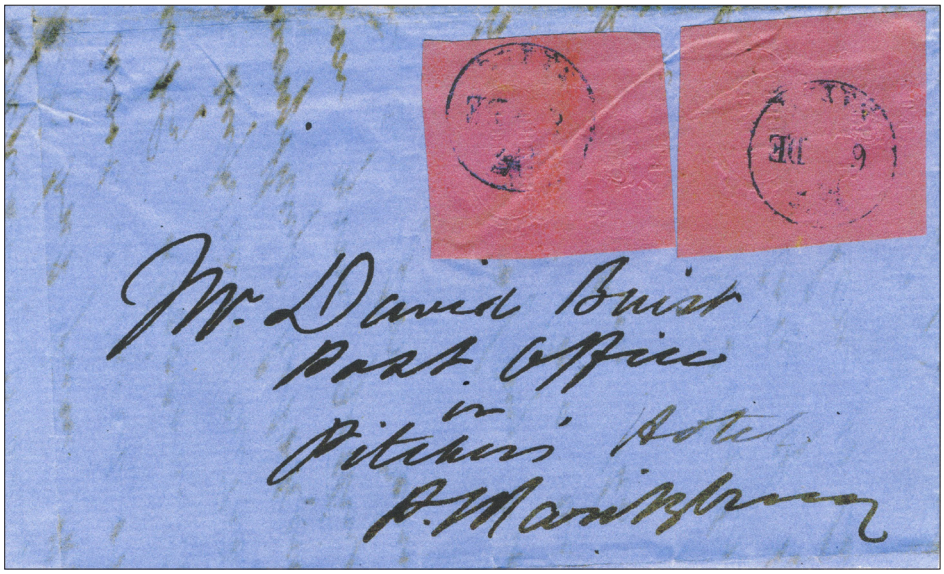


Figure 9. Census number 93. 1857-58. Two four-margined 3d embossed stamps pay double rate cover from Durban, cancelled by blue Natal cds cancels to Pietermaritzburg.

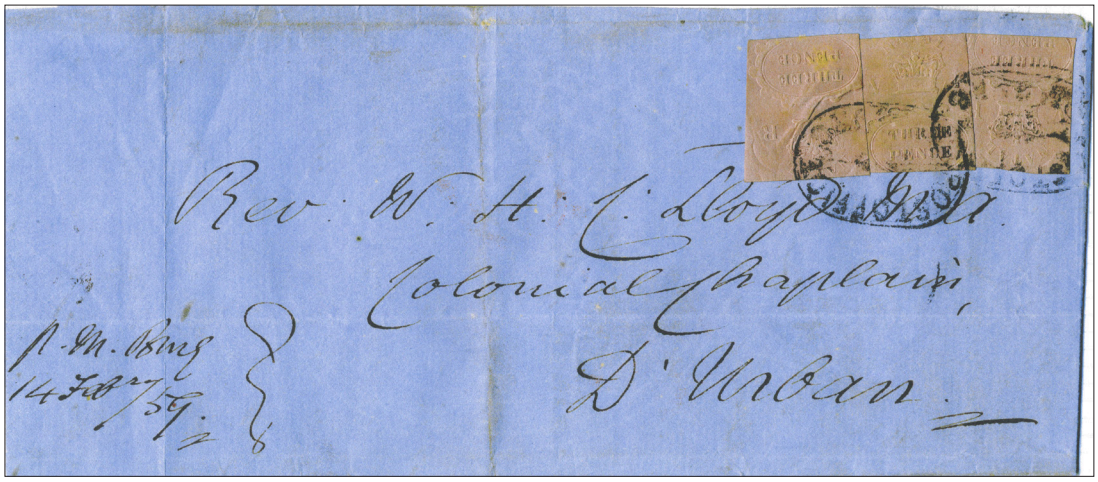


Figure 10. Census number 95. 14 February 1859. Three 3d embossed stamps paying the 9d triple rate from Pietermaritzburg, cancelled by ovals, to Durban.

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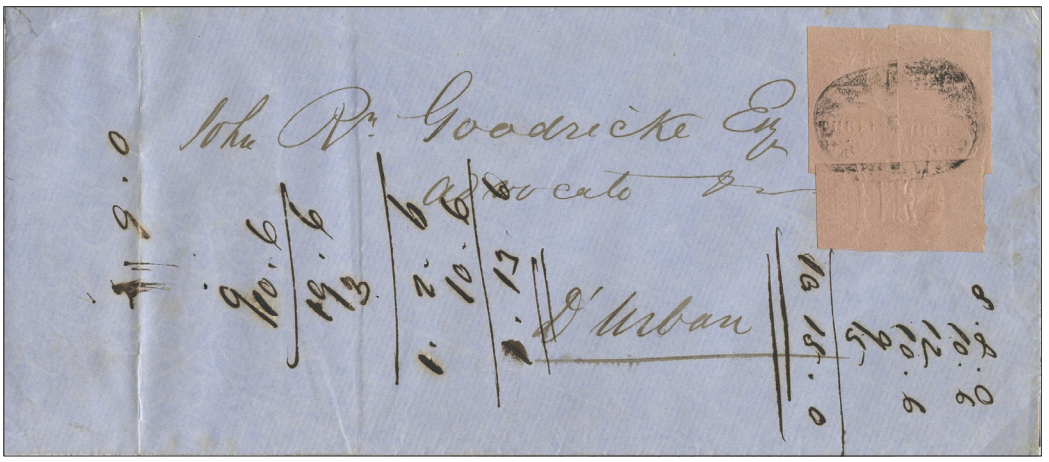


Figure 11. 3 March 1860. Census number 97. Late use of three 3d to pay 9d triple rate from Pietermaritzburg cancelled single oval to Goodricke at Durban.

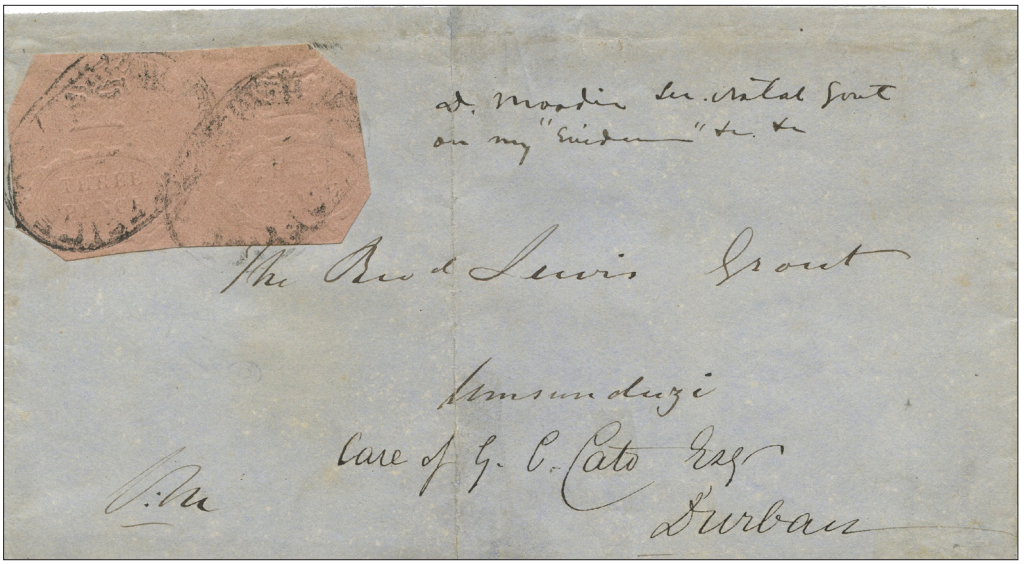


Figure 12. Census number 98. Pair of 3d embossed cut octagonally, from Donald Moodie, member of the Natal Legislature, pay double 3d rate from Pietermaritzburg to Reverend Grout at Umsunduzi c/o G. C. Cato, in Durban.



Figure 13. Census number 99. The only recorded 3d Natal embossed tête-bêche pair on cover or front is this example (a front), cancelled with pen cross, likely originating in Pine Town, addressed to the Dean of Pietermaritzburg.

Acknowledgements.

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Donations to the Tapling Collection from the Philatelic Community, 1891-1899.

Richard Scott Morel FRPSL, Curator, British Library's Philatelic Collections.

The leading philatelist, Thomas Keay Tapling (1855-1891) purchased or had the pick of every major collection that came to market in the 1880s. Buying widely from dealers and exchanging items with other important philatelists, Tapling accrued a near complete collection of the world's earliest postage stamps and postal stationery up to 1889. This collection was bequeathed to the British Museum following his death from consumption on 11 April 1891 (Negus, 2007, p45). The terms of his bequest stipulated that his collection never be broken up or sold, be named the 'Tapling Collection,' be placed on public display, and, that it was always accessible to the President and Secretary of the Philatelic Society, London (Melville, pp1-5). There are unconfirmed reports that the Museum's Trustees were initially reluctant to accept the collection for taxation purposes and that the collection was too modern (Negus 2007, p45). Nevertheless, the Museum's acceptance of the largest and most valuable donation in almost fifty years fulfilled Tapling's ambition that his collection should form the basis of a national philatelic collection (Negus, 2007, pp45-46).

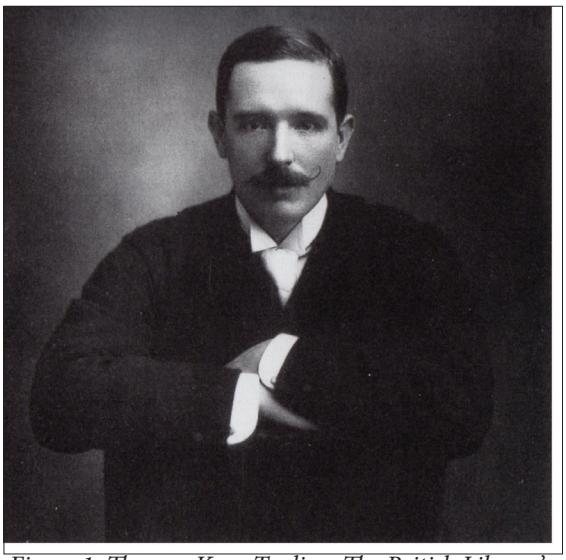


Figure 1: Thomas Keay Tapling. The British Library's Philatelic Collections: Photographic Collection.

Details of the Tapling Collection and its numerous rarities have been published in many languages in countless philatelic books and articles. Much less explored is how the Tapling Collection was managed during its earliest years at the British Museum whilst being arranged and mounted. This was an important phase in the Museum's philatelic history since a range of material was donated by individuals and organisations for incorporation into the Tapling Collection. These donations are historically significant since they represent the results of the first collaborative venture between the first 'Curator' of the Philatelic Collections at the British Museum and the Philatelic Society, London. They also shed important light on how the museum's first Philatelic Curator managed the Museum's collection.

From the moment it was first publicly exhibited inside new vertical slides within the King's Library at the British Museum in 1903, individuals viewing the Tapling Collection were in awe of its scale, logical arrangement, elegant write up and the rarities it contained (Mackay, p5).

Credit for this work cannot merely be attributed to Tapling, since his collection arrived at the museum as a disorganised accumulation of albums and loose stamps, with only one or two countries actually written up. Since it was the first bequest of its kind to the British Museum, there was no in-house curatorial expertise to manage it. Consequently, in May 1892 (Ref. Negus, 2007, p46) the Museum's Trustees appointed the eminent philatelist, Edward Denny Bacon (1860-1938) as their Philatelic Adviser and Jane Hamilton (1874-1957) as his Assistant (Negus, 1999, p5).



Figure 2. The King's Library in the British Museum showing the original Tapling Collection display cases c.1985. The British Library's Philatelic Collections: The Photographic Collections.



Figure 3. Edward Denny Bacon.



Figure 4. Jane Hamilton.

The British Library's Philatelic Collections: The Photographic Collections.

Their main responsibilities included arranging and mounting the collection as well as writing it up for exhibition, tasks which took just over seven years to complete. For the first three years Bacon worked alone for three days each week. Thereafter, he was assigned Jane Hamilton as an Assistant to hinge the stamps to the little white card mounts. Once Bacon had arranged them on the appropriate page, she could then mount them and he could write them up (Negus, 1999, pp8-9). Figure 5 shows a typical page from the Collection.

Each item was mounted upon a small white card with a red border, which was itself mounted onto a page with a greenish tint. Bacon's method of displaying the collection in such a manner was actually adopted from the layout used by Tapling to write up a small part of his collection. Nevertheless, Tapling and the British Museum cannot take full credit for producing such a distinctive and pleasing display. The choice of paper was no doubt influenced by the leaves used within Tapling's original stamp albums. In the mid-1880s Tapling acquired a hundred superb unused albums bound in red Morocco, each containing 60 leaves of a grey-green tint, from his friend Frederick Adolphus Philbrick (1836-1910) for three guineas each. These had remained in Philbrick's hands following the sale of his collection to Philipp La Rènotière von Ferrary in 1882.

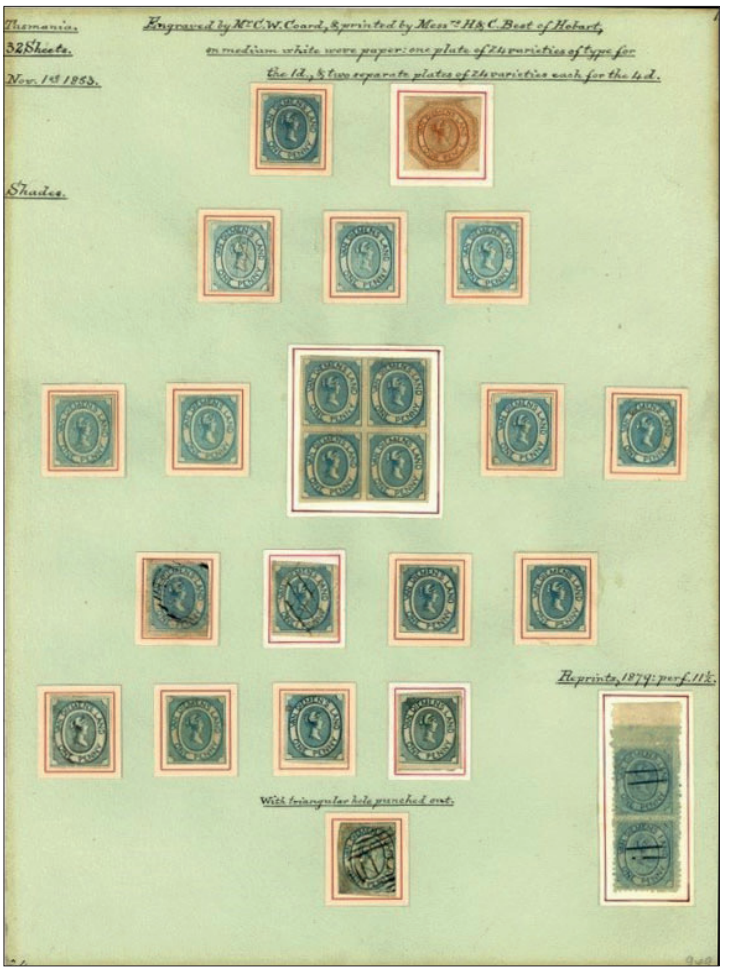
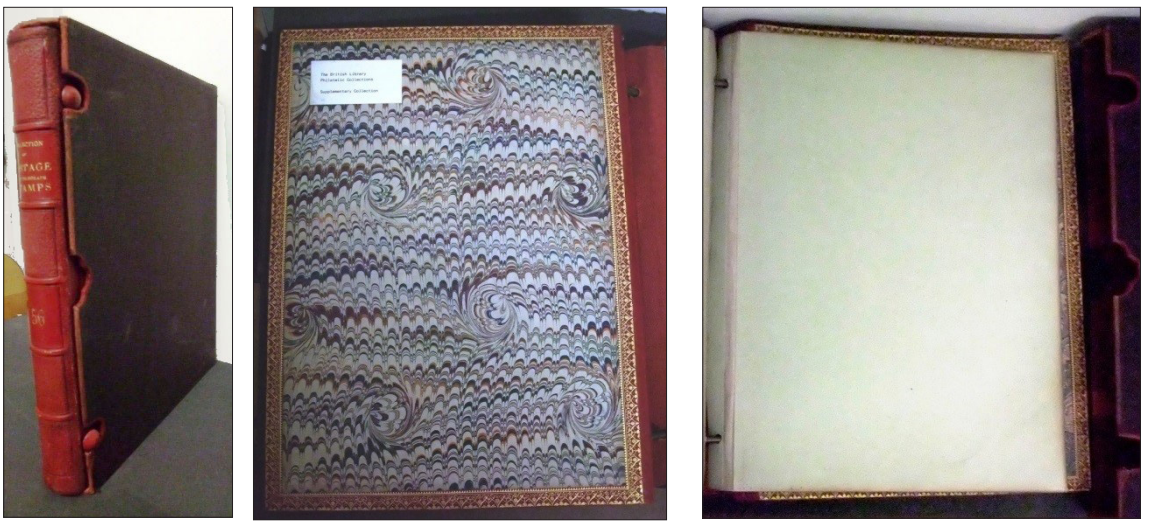


Figure 5. A 'typical' page from the Tapling Collection, page 1 of the Tasmanian section. The British Library's Philatelic Collections: The Tapling Collection, Tasmania.

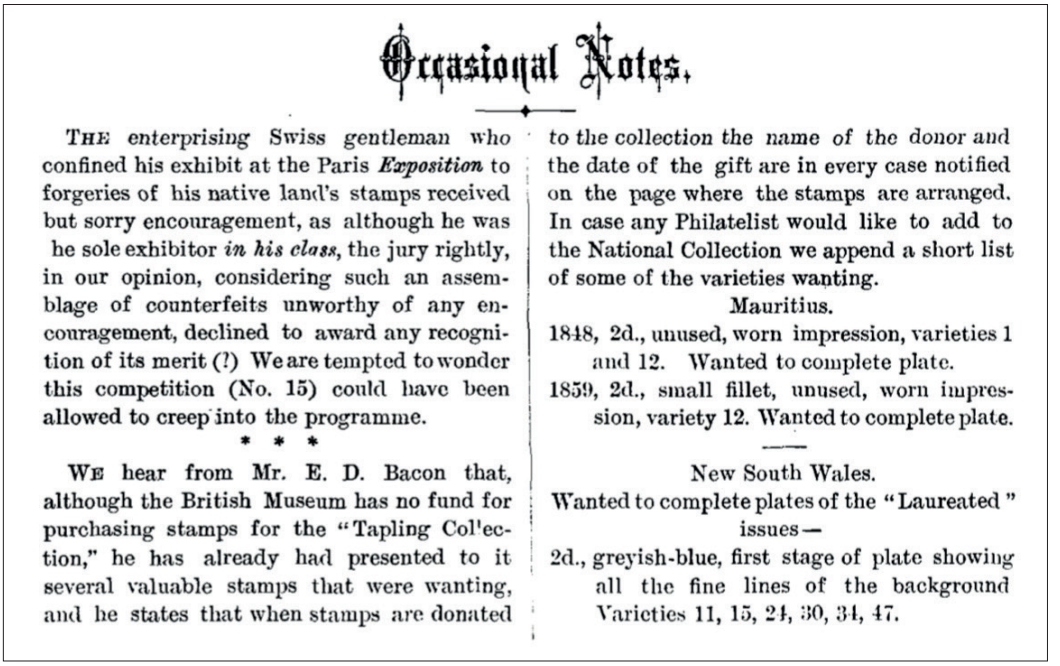


Figures 6-8. One of the stamp albums purchased in the mid-1880s by Tapling from Philbrick to house part of his collection. The British Library's Philatelic Collections: The Tapling Collection.

However, it was only with the sale of the Caillebotte Brothers' collection in about 1888, that Tapling settled on the final format for his own collection. The Caillebotte collection was sold to Pemberton, Wilson & Company but bankrolled by Tapling, as was usual, for the first choice of the material. Their collection was superbly mounted and written up, as one would expect considering that Gustav Caillebotte (1848-1894) (known as Georges in the philatelic world) was an artist. Each stamp or set in their collection was mounted on a piece of card, in turn mounted upon an album page. Not only did this arrangement enhance the appearance of the collection, but it also made it easy to rearrange a page without remounting the stamps themselves and risk damaging them (Melville, p4).

Within a year of starting this massive undertaking, Bacon began to encounter gaps within the Tapling Collection which required filling, if possible. Unfortunately, the Museum's budget was such that it could make no financial provision for new acquisitions to the Collection. This compelled Bacon to try and complete the collection, initially from his own personal resources and later by approaching fellow members of the Philatelic Society, London for donations.

Bacon's first published appeal was made in October 1892 in the 'Occasional Notes' section of the first volume of the Society's Journal, *The London Philatelist*. Tapling had been the Vice-President and popular both within and beyond the society, consequently its members likewise embraced the ambition to develop his bequest into a National Philatelic Collection. This commitment evoked a positive response to Bacon's appeal and resulted in hundreds of items being donated over the next few years.



Occasional Notes.

THE enterprising Swiss gentleman who confined his exhibit at the Paris *Exposition* to forgeries of his native land's stamps received but sorry encouragement, as although he was he sole exhibitor *in his class*, the jury rightly, in our opinion, considering such an assemblage of counterfeits unworthy of any encouragement, declined to award any recognition of its merit (?) We are tempted to wonder this competition (No. 15) could have been allowed to creep into the programme.

* * *

WE hear from Mr. E. D. Bacon that, although the British Museum has no fund for purchasing stamps for the "Tapling Collection," he has already had presented to it several valuable stamps that were wanting, and he states that when stamps are donated to the collection the name of the donor and the date of the gift are in every case notified on the page where the stamps are arranged. In case any Philatelist would like to add to the National Collection we append a short list of some of the varieties wanting.

Mauritius.

1848, 2d., unused, worn impression, varieties 1 and 12. Wanted to complete plate.

1859, 2d., small fillet, unused, worn impression, variety 12. Wanted to complete plate.

New South Wales.

Wanted to complete plates of the "Laureated" issues—

2d., greyish-blue, first stage of plate showing all the fine lines of the background Varieties 11, 15, 24, 30, 34, 47.

Figure 9. Extract of appeal published in 'Occasional Notes,' The London Philatelist, October 1892, p286

Upon receipt of a donation, the individual stamps were mounted on the relevant pages throughout the Tapling Collection by Bacon and Hamilton. Since no centralised acquisition register is extant, it is difficult to discern who made donations, when they were made and what each of the donations comprised. Bacon regularly published announcements of donations within the first eight volumes of *The London Philatelist*. However, these were only summaries and he failed to provide the dates when the donations were made, full descriptions of what was donated or how they were dispersed within the Tapling Collection. Consequently, over time they were subsumed within the identity of the Tapling Collection and largely forgotten. Fortunately, as an inducement to donors, Bacon promised to record the donor's name and date of donation upon each page on which the

material was mounted. By honouring this promise, Bacon made it possible to extract this data from each of the four and a half thousand pages of the Collection, which can be used to reconstruct the donations.

Take the following example depicted in Figure 10. On each page of the Tapling Collection where a donation is mounted, Bacon inscribed a symbol next to the donated item. This symbol was then incorporated into a key located at the bottom of the page, next to which is given the date and donor's name. Descriptive information relating to the items can be found in the page write-up and further information in relevant philatelic publications. An excellent example of this practice can be found on page 8 of the Virgin Islands Section of the Collection which lists two separate donations.



Figure 10. Donations made by Bacon and Ferrary mounted and recorded on page 8 of the Virgin Islands section of the Tapling Collection. The British Library's Philatelic Collections: The Tapling Collection.

The first was made by Ferrary on the 19 December 1893, comprising proofs on white card of the December 1866 One Penny and Six Pence stamps, in addition to a lithograph proof on white paper of the 1867 One Shilling stamp. The second donation recorded on the page was made by Bacon on 7 March 1895, comprising an essay of the 1867 One Shilling stamp on stout white paper.

Scattered throughout the Tapling Collection can be found a total of two hundred and seventy-

three references to donations. Arranged into chronological sequence it is revealed that the first donation was made by Bacon in September 1891, almost a year before his first published appeal, whilst the last was made on 6 September 1899.

Year	Donation references recorded on pages
1891	1
1892	12
1893	22
1894	73
1895	35
1896	19
1897	15
1898	67
1899	22
1923	1
NULL	6
TOTAL	273

Table 1. Number of references recorded on the Collection pages by year.

At this point it is important to reiterate that the number of references to donations on the pages does not correlate with the number of donations made to the Collection. In many instances a donation comprised a number of items, often from various postal authorities. In such cases the donations were split up and mounted on the relevant pages, therefore a single donation can be recorded several times across the pages of the Collection. Nevertheless, by arranging the same body of data by donor and then chronologically, it shows that the two hundred and seventy-three references on the pages came from one hundred and twenty-nine separate donations.

The reconstructed data arranged by donor also reveals that donations came from a variety of different sources. The most numerous donors were individuals, comprising 79% of the total donations to the Collection, whilst donations made by companies comprised 10.5%, followed by Universities and Government Departments making up 6% and 1.5% of the total donations respectively. The outstanding 3% of the donations are impossible to categorise since the provenance data is incomplete. It is also worth noting that the boundaries between these distinctions are fluid and ambiguous, since some of the individual donors are known to have been stamp dealers and in the case of the university donations, it is uncertain whether the donations were made in a personal or institutional capacity.

Types of donor	Number of donors	Percentage of total
Individuals	53	79
Companies	7	10.5
Universities	4	6
Government Departments	1	1.5
Unclassified	2	3
TOTAL	67	100

Table 2. Types of donor and frequency of donations

The donors of the material are also of the highest order. Table 3 provides details of the fifty-three individual donors recorded on the Collection's pages. Seventeen individuals made more than one donation to the Collection.

Individual	Pages	Donations
Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovich (1875-1895)	1	1
Edward Denny Bacon (1860-1938)	40	18
Arthur Thomas Bate (ca.1850-1921)	1	1
Erskine Beveridge (1851-1920)	1	1
Dr. George Thompson Bishop (1865-1935)	1	1
W.W. Blest	6	3
Samuel Bostock	1	1
Friedrich Andreas Breitfuss (1851-1911)	2	2
William Brown (1864-1927)	6	5
George Campbell	5	4
Miss A. Cassels	4	2
Marcellus Purnell Castle (1847-1917)	3	2
Samuel Chapman (1859-1943)	23	3
Anthony Buck Creeke, Jr. (1860-1932)	1	1
G.E. Cutting	1	1
Dr. Emilio Diena (1860-1941)	4	1
Robert Ehrenbach (1858-1906)	1	1
Major Edward Benjamin Evans (1846-1922)	8	7
Herbert L'Estrange Ewen (1876-1912)	3	1
Philipp La Rénotière von Ferrary (1850-1917)	18	3
Oliver Firth (1860-1913)	3	1
Lachlan Gibb (1852-1922)	1	1
Morris Giwelb (1853-1937)	1	1
William Hadlow (1861-1931)	3	1
Gilbert Harrison (1858-1894)	1	1
Mr Justen	1	1
8th Earl of Kingston (1846-1896)	3	3

Table 3. Individual donors to the Tapling Collection, 1891-1899

In addition to being known associates of Tapling, many of the individuals given in Table 3 are recognised today as the most notable early philatelists. Amongst the donors are no less than ten of the forty-three 'Fathers of Philately' who died before the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established, but who would have been invited to sign it had they still been alive. Their names are inscribed in the scrolls at the sides of the Roll: Breitfuss, Castle, Ferrary, Harrison, the Earl of Kingston, Philbrick, Smith, Tilleard, Westoby and Wright (Birch, 2019). Six more had lived long enough to sign the Roll. These included Bacon, the Collection's first curator, who made no fewer than eighteen separate donations to the Collection, making him the most prolific donor. The other five signatories were Bate, Chapman, Diena, Evans and Hadlow (Butler).

Two of the donors were a member of royalty or the aristocracy: Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovich of Russia and Henry Ernest Newcomen King-Tenison, the 8th Earl of Kingston. Others such as

Brown, Ewen, Giwelb, Hadlow, Mekeel, Morley, Ridpath and Wilson were well-known stamp dealers who have been included in this category, since it is unclear whether their donations were made in a personal or corporate capacity. In addition, two early female philatelists are also recorded to have made donations, Miss A. Cassells, who made two separate donations and Miss Alice Zimmern who made a single donation. Finally, Captain Charles Louis Norris Newmen, a notorious international adventurer who left his mark within Africa, Asia and Europe, but nevertheless found time to donate three items to the collection (Rogers-Tillstone; Birch, 2007; Scofield).

Stamp Dealers	Pages	Donations
Brown and Skipton	2	1
G. Hamilton Smith & Company	11	1
John Boulton and Company	1	1
Stanley Gibbons Ltd.	27	14
Theodor Buhl and Company	2	2
Whitfield King and Company	1	1
Other Organisations/Institutions		
National Telephone Company	2	1
Post Office Department of Canada	2	1
All Soul's College, Oxford	1	1
Keble College, Oxford	1	1
St John's College, Oxford	1	1
Queen's College, Cambridge	1	1
TOTAL	52	26

Table 4. Corporate donors to the Tapling Collection, 1891-1899

A number of corporate bodies also made generous donations to the Tapling Collection. The first six were major philatelic dealers from whom Tapling had probably made purchases during his lifetime. Stanley Gibbons Limited made fourteen separate donations to the Museum between 1894 and 1899; Theodore Buhl and Company, which purchased Pemberton, Wilson & Company - Tapling's favourite dealer - made two separate donations in 1894 and 1897; the others each made a single donation. The 'Brown' in Brown and Skipton was, of course, the same William Brown that figures in the list of individual donors.

The remaining six organisations can be categorised as stamp-issuing entities. The National Telephone Company donated some of its own stamps, missing from the Collection, in 1894. Between 1893 and 1894 the bursars of several of the Colleges forming the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge donated sheets of stamps, used to prepay College mail being delivered by messenger. Finally, the Post Office Department of Canada made a single donation of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia stamps on 24 August 1894.

Finally, arranging the data by title, showing the Country or Issuing Authority, reveals the widespread geographical coverage of the donated items, from sixty-seven different postal authorities worldwide.

Donations to the Collection ranged from the commonplace to major philatelic rarities. In addition to issued stamps, donations represented every conceivable format including essays, proofs, sheets, blocks, pairs, errors, varieties, covers and partials as well as historic manuscripts. It is well beyond the confine of a single paper to discuss each individual donor and donation in detail. Therefore, a number of future papers will undertake this task during the coming months and appear in future editions of *The London Philatelist*.

Country or Issuing Authority	Donations recorded on pages	Country or Issuing Authority	Donations recorded on pages
Afghanistan	1	New South Wales	5
Antigua	1	New Zealand	2
Antioquia	2	Nicaragua	1
Bahamas	1	Nova Scotia	1
Barbados	1	Nyassa Company	1
Bavaria	1	Orange Free State	2
Bermuda	1	Philippine Islands	1
Bolivia	1	Porto Rico	1
British Bechuanaland	3	Prince Edward Island	2
British Guiana	2	Queensland	7
Canada	3	Reunion	1
Cape of Good Hope	2	Roman States	1
Ceylon	18	Russia	8
Chili	1	St Lucia	1
Colombia	2	St Thomas, La Guaira & Porto Cabello	2
Confederate States of America	2	St Vincent	2
Danubian Steam Navigation Co.	1	Salvador	1
Eritrea	1	Selangor	1
Gambia	1	Selangor	1
German Colonies	2	Shanghai	2
Great Britain	73	Siam	2
Hanover	3	South African Republic	2
Heligoland	5	South Australia	3
Holkar	1	Straits Settlements	1
India	4	Sungei Ujong	1
Italy	2	Switzerland	1
Japan	3	Tasmania	6
Labuan	1	Trinidad	2
Matabeleland	1	Turks Island	2
Mauritius	2	United States	1
Mexico	44	United States Locals	1
Natal	2	Venezuela	1
New Brunswick	2	Victoria	5
Newfoundland	4	Virgin Islands	2
New South Wales	5	Wenden	1
TOTAL			273

Table 5. Donations by Country or Issuing Authority

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A 'V. P. Day' Letter from Leeds to Philadelphia

Richard Wheatley FRPSL

The Imperial Japanese Government finally accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration of 26 July 1945, but only after the atom bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on 6 and 9 August 1945. When this news broke on the 10 August, one man in Leeds produced six celebratory covers, calling that day 'V P Day' for 'Victory in the Pacific.'

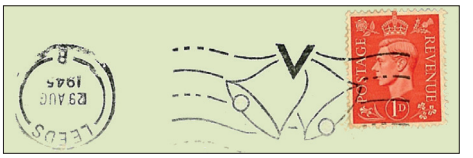
Enclosed within the envelope there was a short note:

Dear Miss Bond,
Well it's all over bar the shouting. I have done six covers with today's pmk (VP day) please retain 2 & return the other 4 at Your convenience. Will write again later,
Kind regards, G Walker

Our man in Leeds must have been inspired in his choice of decoration on the envelope by the Victory Bells machine slogan cancellation that had been used for VE Day. They were to be used again, for VJ Day, from 15 August to 15 September. These are hard to find, especially with the town and date inverted!



Left: 10 August 1945. Leeds to Philadelphia, prepaid 2s 6d, with manuscript 'via Trans-Atlantic Service.'



Above: 29 August 1945. Leeds 'V with bells' machine cancel showing inverted cds.

Foreign Destinations of Pre-UPU Mail from St. Pierre and Miquelon: The Use of Nova Scotia and Canada Stamps.

James R. Taylor FRPSL.

Introduction.

The innovation of the postage stamp with the economic benefits of postal reform, introduced in Great Britain in 1840, was quickly adopted in Europe and North America. Prepaying letters with postage stamps was introduced in the United States in 1847, in France in 1849, in Canada in 1851, in Newfoundland in 1857, and the French Colonies in 1859. Arrangements to handle the larger volumes of domestic mail within the various countries or from and to the home country and colonial possessions were quickly established. Less well developed were the arrangements for cross-border correspondence between the various national postal administrations.

Before the advent of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the 1880s, bilateral regulations, in many cases cumbersome, required that domestic postage be prepaid to the national border and letters either had to be franked with stamps of the country being entered before receiving postal service, or additional fees were collected from the foreign addressee. These systems were inconvenient and expensive. Limited bilateral agreements for the transfer of mail across national boundaries and the onward transmission to a foreign address, or transit through one country on route to another foreign destination, existed but posed problems for local anomalous postal situations. These problems were particularly acute for the small and isolated French island colony of St. Pierre and Miquelon, (hereafter referred to as 'St. Pierre') located in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Newfoundland.

On 6 April 1851, a postal convention between the United Kingdom, the British North America Colonies (including Nova Scotia) and the United States, allowed for postage at fixed rates for inland letters in each country combined into one rate, of which prepayment was optional; partial prepayment was not permitted (Lowe, p107).

In the 1860s, agreements with the Nova Scotia Colonial Post Office allowed for entry of St. Pierre mail into the Nova Scotia postal system at various ports, mainly at Sydney and North Sydney on Cape Breton Island and at Halifax. Mail carried in sealed bags to the home country, France, also followed this route, to connect with the British Trans-Atlantic Packet at Halifax. However, similar bilateral cross-border agreements, regarding outward St. Pierre mail, were not in force for other foreign destinations, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom. Much St. Pierre commercial business, particularly the fishing trade, was conducted with the New England ports, so efficient postal connections were important. A treaty for the exchange of mail, in these pre-1879 UPU times, did not exist between the French Colony of St. Pierre and the United States and other countries. This was a severe impediment to commercial trade, and to personal and official communications.

Nova Scotia Stamps before 1867.

As a matter of expediency, an arrangement (in place of a comprehensive postal convention) was adopted, whereby the St. Pierre French Colonial postage was prepaid to a Nova Scotia port. Nova Scotia postage was to be affixed at the St. Pierre Post Office to prepay the postage through Nova Scotia to a foreign address.

Nova Scotia decimal stamps used to the United States.

After 1 May 1862, the letter rate from Nova Scotia to the United States increased to 10 cents, from 8½ cents per ½ ounce (Argenti). 10 cents, in Nova Scotia stamps of the decimal currency series, prepaid single letters to the United States by steamer, or overland from Halifax.



Figure 1. July 1863. St. Pierre to Boston franked with two Nova Scotia Decimal 5c blues (D'Alessandris, 2016).

Figure 1 shows a cover postmarked 'ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON/ 1? / JUIL / 63 / ST. PIERRE,' at St. Pierre. It is prepaid with a pair of Nova Scotia 5c blue decimal stamps, making up the 10c rate. They are tied with a Halifax oval barred cancel with a circular hole, struck twice. The cover also carries the blue handstamped return address of a local St. Pierre commercial agent, with a "Cie Gle Transatlantique" (short for the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique shipping firm) handstamped sender's marking (D'Alessandris, 2012, 2016). No St. Pierre postage is marked, but it is likely that 25 centimes was charged for carriage by the St. Pierre Government-subsidised mail boat to Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Note the circular 'PAID / 10' applied at Boston, Massachusetts. The use of a pair of Nova Scotia 5c stamps from St. Pierre is rare.

The letter rate to the United States was more commonly made up with a single 10c vermillion stamp, shown in Figure 2. The letter, to the same addressee, an A. F. Marze, is postmarked St. Pierre on 2 June 1865, and is franked with a single 10c Nova Scotia stamp that was applied in St. Pierre. It is likely that 25 centimes was charged at St. Pierre for carriage by ship to Sydney. The stamp is tied with a Halifax barred oval killer. Note the straight-line 'PAID,' probably applied at Boston.



Figure 2. June 1865. St. Pierre to Boston, franked with a Nova Scotia Decimal Series 10c vermillion (D'Alessandris, 2016).

A third similar cover to the same addressee is known, postmarked at St. Pierre on 24 August 1865, and franked with a single 10c 1860 Nova Scotia vermillion, addressed to the United States (illustrated in D'Alessandris, 2012). The 25 centimes charge, for the mail boat to Sydney, was probably collected at St. Pierre in cash, but not noted on the cover. The stamp is tied with a strike of the Halifax barred oval.

Postage stamps of Nova Scotia were available for sale at the St. Pierre Post Office counter for the convenience of patrons. On letters originating from St. Pierre and Miquelon, the circular dated of St. Pierre postmark was applied away from the Nova Scotia stamp(s) that had been affixed to the envelope at the time of posting. The Nova Scotia stamps were cancelled in Halifax with an oval mute barred killer. There are no notations or marks on the covers that indicate that an extra fee was prepaid at St. Pierre in addition to the Nova Scotia franking. Additional postal charges for the subsidised St. Pierre postal boat to Halifax or Sydney on Cape Breton Island may have been collected in cash, and therefore payment was not indicated on the mail item (D'Alessandris, 2012 and 2016). Any additional postal accounting notations that could be placed on the cover, were probably left off the envelope to avoid confusion in the receiving United States post office and to prevent any additional postage due being demanded from the recipient.

The use of Canada stamps from 1 July 1867 until 1879.

Cross-border agreements for the exchange of mail with St. Pierre continued under the auspices of the Canadian Post Office after 1 July 1867, when the Nova Scotia colony joined the Canadian Confederation. The Nova Scotia Colonial Post Office was absorbed into the Canadian Post Office. Existing cross-border mail agreements between Canada, Nova Scotia, and the United States continued. From 1 October 1875, prepayment between Canada and the United States and the United Kingdom was compulsory, but underpaid letters were forwarded and charged the deficiency. Under these agreements, the prepaid postal rate from Canada to the USA was 10 cents per ½ ounce, from 1 July 1859 and decreased, in the period from 1 April 1868, to 31 January 1875, to 6 cents per ½ oz, if prepaid, irrespective of distance (Lowe, p107).

The convention of 1 February 1875, between Canada and the United States, agreed that the domestic rate of each country should apply to letters of the respective parties. From 1 February 1875, to 30 September 1883 (Lowe, p107), the rate was 3 cents. In the brief period from 1875 until 1879 covers with Canadian stamps prepaying the 3 cent rate to the United States from St. Pierre should exist.

Many Canada single, lower values (1c to 6c) of the period are known with legible St. Pierre cancels (Millet). These result from uncancelled stamps on arriving mail in St. Pierre from Canada, which were subsequently cancelled on arrival by the St. Pierre Post Office. The St. Pierre Post Office was very careful that pre-1879, outbound letters for foreign destinations via Canada, bearing Canadian stamps, were left uncancelled when entering the Canadian mails, in order to avoid delays or additional charges.

Large Queen stamps on covers to the United Kingdom.

Figure 3 illustrates a 22 June 1871 Canada Large Queen 6c brown on a cover front (back removed) mailed from St. Pierre to Jean Campbell King, Edinburgh, Scotland (Brigham). A hastily written '0.25' for 25 centimes (or 0.25 Franc) notation, in black ink alongside the stamp, acknowledges receipt of the payment collected from the sender, to prepay the letter rate for the St. Pierre-North Sydney subsidised mail boat service. During the summer, mail was usually sent to the Nova Scotia port of North Sydney to be placed into the Canadian postal system. In the winter months, the harbour of North Sydney was usually frozen over, and the mail boat from St. Pierre was diverted to ice-free Halifax. In bad weather, mail was sometimes landed at smaller Nova Scotia coastal villages.

The 25 centimes French colonial St. Pierre postage paid is indicated in manuscript, rather than with a French Colonies general issue 25 centimes stamp, which was current at St. Pierre in 1871 (Stone). This manuscript notation avoided placing a general issue 25 centimes value on the cover,

which would have no franking value in the United States and might have confused United States postal officials if present. Also, the Canada 6c Large Queen is only tied to the cover by the Canadian Halifax, Nova Scotia oval grid cancel, while the St. Pierre cancel does not tie the stamp. This careful placement of cancellations was effected so as to rigorously comply with the terms of the Canada-United States cross-border postal convention, thereby avoiding delays and any possible additional fees.

A St. Pierre cds for 22 June 1871 has been lightly struck on the lower left of the cover, below the

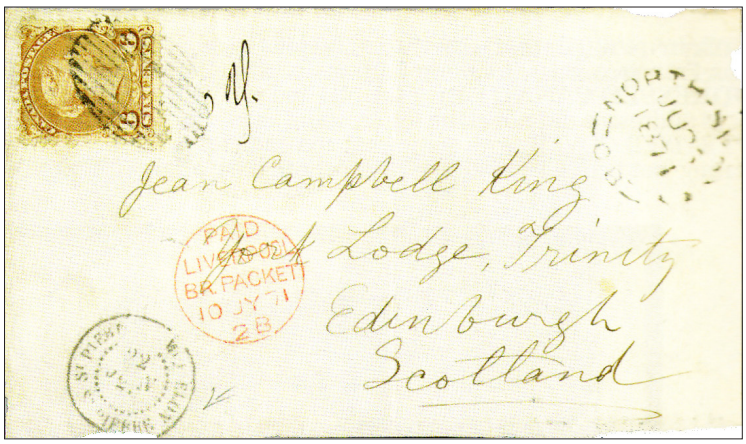


Figure 3. July 1871 St. Pierre to Edinburgh, Scotland, franked with a single Canada "Large Queen" 6 cents brown (Brigham).

stamp. A circular dated transit cancel reading 'NORTH SYDNEY/ C B / JU25/ 1871' (C.B. is for Cape Breton) appears in the upper right corner. The postmark cancelling the stamp is a Canadian mute oval grid commonly used in Halifax, the port of call of the British Packets en route to Liverpool. A circular PAID/ LIVERPOOL / BR. PACKET / 10 JY 71 / 2B receiving mark was struck in red.

The short-lived Canada Large Queen designs were gradually replaced during 1870-1871, by the Small Queen stamps.



Figure 4. February 1872 St. Pierre to Edinburgh, franked with six 1c yellow-orange Canada Small Queens.

Small Queen stamps on covers to the United Kingdom.

Figure 4 shows a horizontal strip of six 1c yellow-orange Small Queens, making up the proper Canadian 6c rate to Scotland on a cover front (back removed) to the same address as the cover in Figure 3. The stand-alone St. Pierre cds for 19 February 1872 does not cancel the Canadian stamps. A manuscript '0.25' (25 centimes) is at the lower right, indicating the prepaid St. Pierre Post Office charges. The stamps are tied with a fancy geometric 'cork' cancel in black. Judging from the February

(winter) date, the marking originated at a Canadian post office at or near the ice-free Canadian port of Halifax, or possibly as far west as Saint John, New Brunswick. The Canadian post office, which originated the rather well-struck, fancy cancellation, has not been determined and has not been previously recorded. The circular Liverpool paid mark for 8 March is again struck in red.

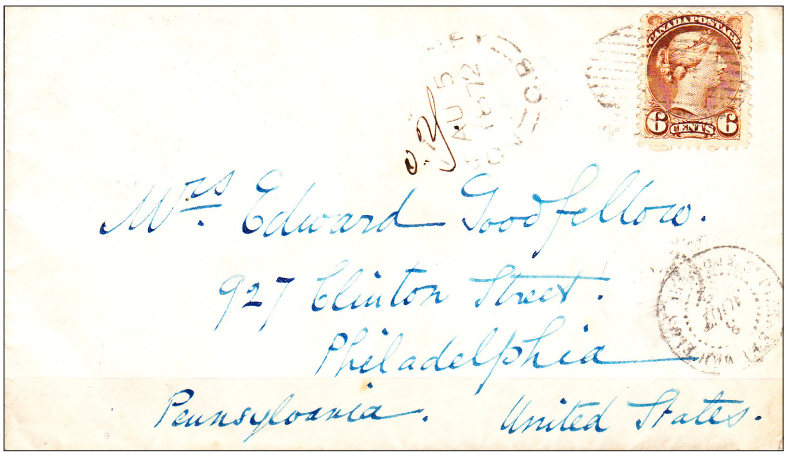


Figure 5. 3 August 1872. St. Pierre via North Sydney, Cape Breton, to Philadelphia franked with a single Canada Small Queen 6c yellow-brown.

Small Queen stamps on covers to the United States.

An 1872 cover is illustrated in Figure 5, addressed to Philadelphia (Jephcott, Arfken). The Canada Small Queen 6c yellow-brown is tied by a light, mute oval grid cancel of Halifax. The manuscript '0.25' (for 25 centimes) has been written alongside the stamp. A lightly-struck St. Pierre cds for 3 August 1872 has been struck twice, once partially, in the lower right, below the stamp. A North Sydney transit datestamp for 5 August 1872 appears just to the left of the stamp. The reverse of the cover shows the 7 August 1872 Halifax transit marking. Additionally the manuscript receipt for payment of the 25 centime St. Pierre postage and the 6c Canada Small Queen were required to prepay letters from Canada to the United States. Both rates were levied on letters from St. Pierre to the United States through Canada. Halifax was the port of call of the British packets to Boston. The addressee, Mrs. Goodfellow, was the wife of Edward Goodfellow, an Observer with the United States Government Coastal Survey. He arrived at St. Pierre on 22 May 1872 on official business and with cooperation of the French Colonial officials, established an astronomical station at St. Pierre (US House of Representatives).

A similar, slightly later cover (Figure 6), is also addressed to Mrs. Goodfellow in Philadelphia (Harmers). The Canada 6c yellow-brown is tied by a light, mute Canadian grid cancel. The manuscript '0.25' notation was actually written on the stamp (Figure 7, stamp enlarged). The St. Pierre cancel was struck at lower left. A North Sydney transit cancel for 19 August 1872 is on the lower left of the cover. The receiving postmark of Philadelphia has beens struck on the back. The cover shows the payment of the 25 centimes French colonial postage in the manuscript cancel and the 6c Canada Small Queen prepaying letters from Canada to the United States. The manuscript notation cancelling the stamp is rare and unusual.

Another 6c dark brown cover (illustrated in Millet) addressed to Provincetown, United States, is dated 1874 (Millet Collection). It is postmarked at St Pierre on 20 August 1874, with back stamps for Halifax (24 August 1874) and Boston on 26 August. The stamp is cancelled with the oval bars of Halifax (Millet).

The cross-border rate to the United States from Canada was reduced from 6 cents to 3 cents (Lowe, p107) from 1 February 1875. In the brief period from 1875-1879, covers from St. Pierre with 3c Canada Small Queens prepaying the 3 cent rate to the United States are unknown to the author. They may represent an area of further research and discovery.



Figure 6. 17 August 1872. St. Pierre to Philadelphia franked with a Canada Small Queen 6 cents brown with manuscript indication of payment '0.25' (enlarged at right) and oval Halifax grid (Harmers).



Figure 7. November 1876 St. Pierre to Martinique franked with four Canada Small Queen 6 cents (Rumsey).

Small Queen stamps on covers to other countries

Figure 7 illustrates a cover to Fort de France, on the French Caribbean island colony of Martinique, sent in November 1874 (Aitken, Rumsey) and prepaid at 24 cents. Four 6c yellow-brown stamps, (a pair of the perf. 11.5 x 12 variety and two singles), tied by oval grid cancels, make up the postage charged. The St. Pierre origin datestamp to the left of the adhesives is indistinct. The black, broken, Halifax cds (30 November 1874) was applied on the flap. Additionally the cover shows a circular New York red exchange marking of 24 December, with 8c credit to Great Britain for carriage by the St. Thomas to Martinique RMSPC steamship. The "18" (cents) in red crayon, indicated the credit rating accrued to the United States.

The cover is addressed to a First Lieutenant on board the Admiral-class frigate *Magicienne*. The letter perhaps contained an important military message. The Canadian rate via New York to Martinique was 24c, with 6c to Canada (the 3c rate to the United States did not come into force until 1 February 1875) and 18c credit to the United States. In turn, the United States retained 10c, with 8c paid to Great Britain for carriage from St. Thomas to Martinique.

Figure 8 shows an 1877 cover from St. Pierre addressed to Yokohama, Japan (Mueller). The St. Pierre postmark is dated 19 November 1876. A pair of Canada 6c brown and a single 1c yellow, making up a total of 13c, are tied by three strikes in black of a segmented cork cancel. In addition, the red 2c mark represents an additional internal rate charged in Nova Scotia. The postmarks show that the cover was carried from St. Pierre to Sydney by boat and through Nova Scotia to Halifax, then by rail to Montreal.

Datestamps for Halifax (22 November 1876) as well as a Montreal (25 November 1876) transit marking, are on the back of the cover. Additionally, 'Paid All' postmarks for Detroit (29 November 1876), San Francisco (January 1877), Yokohama (24 January 1877) and Tokyo N2B2, for the same date, were applied on the back. The Yokohama KB2 arrival datestamp for 27 January 1877 was struck on the flap, with the later strike of 'YOKOHAMA ADVERTISED,' dated '2. 4.1877' (2 April or 4 Feb?). This was applied on letters advertised in newspapers (Mueller).

The sender of the Yokohama letter was Emile Flouest, a St. Pierre lawyer. The addressee, George Bousquet, a scholar from France, was a legal adviser to the Japanese and helped translate the Napoleonic civil code into Japanese to aid in the reform of the legal system. He authored a book about his travels titled *Japon de nous jours*.

The advent of St. Pierre and Miquelon joining the UPU.

The General Postal Union, later called the Universal Postal Union (UPU), was established by the 1874 Treaty of Berne, as the first collective convention governing international postal services. The treaty standardised charges and guaranteed the free transit of mail among member countries. France and the United States joined the Union on 1 July 1875, Japan joined on 1 June 1877, while Canada was accepted as a member on 1 July 1878, with the provisions of the treaty and lower international rates coming into force on 1 October 1878.

James Bendon (p169) states, 'UPU member additional to France as 'French Colonies' from 1 July 1876. Officially, this date applies to all colonial territories then existing or formed subsequently.' For practical purposes, however, St. Pierre mail sent via Canada between 1 July 1876 and 1 October 1878, still required the use of Canadian postage stamps. From my research, St. Pierre outward-bound mail (Bendon, p169) appears to have been treated as an exception to the rules applying to St. Pierre's UPU membership on 1 July 1876. As almost all of the mail from St. Pierre transited Canada, the 'practical UPU membership' date for the application of the convention's terms to St. Pierre, is closer to 1 October 1878

Filling the 25-month gap in full UPU membership.

The gap between 1 July 1876 and 1 October 1878, presents a problem for the status of mail sent from St. Pierre and Miquelon to other countries. I have been diligently trying to trace any St. Pierre

covers that would have transited Canada to a foreign country during this time gap.



Figure 8. 19 November 1876, St. Pierre to Yokohama with two 6c and a 1c Canada Small Queens (Mueller).

The illustrated cover (Figure 9) shows the use of three Small Queen 3c (totalling 9 cents) on a cover to Kingston, Jamaica (Taylor, 2019). It was postmarked 16 December 1877, at Halifax, Canada. and has a strike of that town's transit cds for 19 December 1878 on the reverse, Routed through the US (no transit marking) it was received in Kingston, Jamaica on 4 January 1878 and arrived at Port Maria, Jamaica, on 6 January 7[9]. This confirms the fact that stamps of St. Pierre, even as a UPU member under the grouping of 'French Colonies,' did not have franking value in transit through Canada and the use of Canadian stamps was still required to apply rates provided by pre-UPU Canadian postal treaties or arrangements. 1 October 1878 appears to be an approximate possible date for when St. Pierre postage was universally recognised and covers so prepaid could transit through Canada unencumbered.

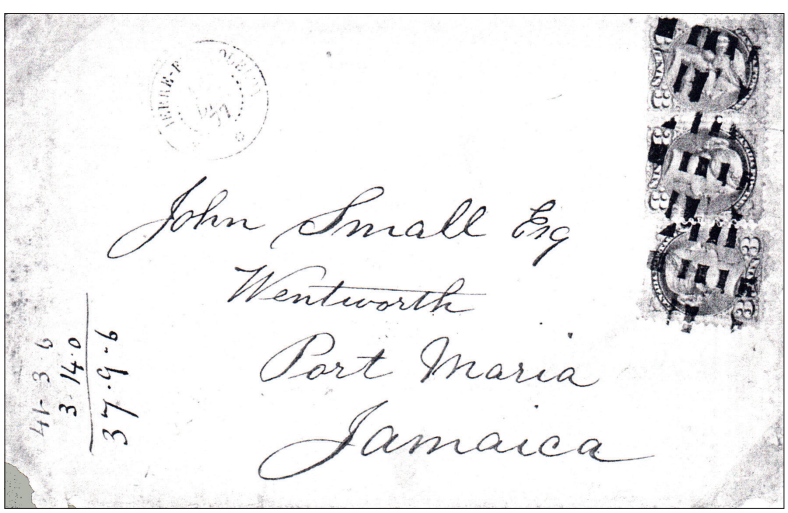


Figure 9. 1877-1878 cover St. Pierre to Port Maria, Jamaica franked with three Canada Small Queen 3c stamps (Illustration courtesy of Henk Slebbinck FRPSL).

The advent of UPU membership by St. Pierre and Miquelon and the subsequent admission of Canada, effective 1 October 1878, meant that the requirement to frank letters sent from St. Pierre to, or in transit to, the United States and other foreign countries with Canadian postage was discontinued. Letters in transit through Canada from St. Pierre, which were properly prepaid with the current French Colonies general issue stamps, would subsequently be honoured by both Canadian and international postal services.

Conclusions and Acknowledgements.

The sale and postal usage of Nova Scotian and Canadian stamps from the St. Pierre Post Office is little known to most collectors. Still, it is a fascinating chapter in the postal history of cross-border mail from Canada's Maritime Provinces. While the covers that trace these usages range from scarce to very rare, it is hoped that this article will result in the discovery and recording of more.

Thanks are due to Bill Pawluk, David D'Alessandris, Bruce Craw, Ron Smith, and Edward Grabowski FRPSL for the use of illustrations, helpful advice, tracking previous works and encouragement in the writing of this article.

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The Story behind the Cover - Number 7.

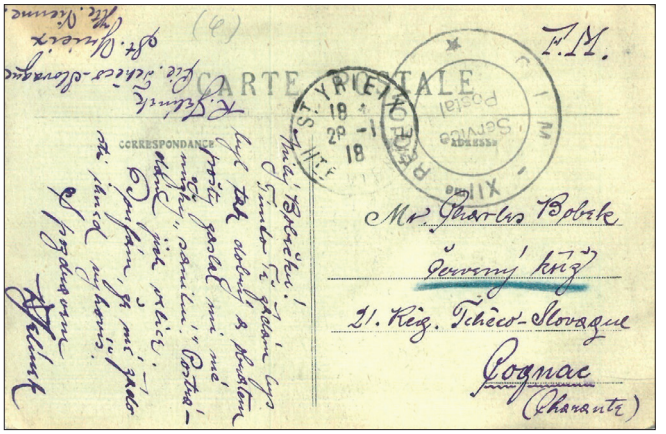
Czechoslovak-American Volunteers in France, 1917-18.

Lubor Kunc.

The Czechoslovak exile movement led by the future first President, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, had tried to establish a state independent from Austria since 1914. To support the Allies´ struggle with Germany and Austro-Hungary, the Czechoslovak Government in Exile provided troops in France and Russia, later followed by the units drafted from the ranks of Czech and Slovak POWs in Italy. The exiled forces were known as the "Czechoslovak Legion" and consisted of 80.000 soldiers, operating mainly in Russia.

The exiled Czechoslovak authorities tried to mobilise the Czech and Slovak communities in the United States, but until the America's participation in WWI, in April 1917, these attempts were completely rejected by the US politicians, who wanted to maintain their neutrality towards the war. When the USA finally joined the Allied forces in Europe, the U.S. Army drafted tens of thousands of Czech-Americans, including Ray Kroc (later of McDonalds fame) who was born to Czech parents in Oak Park, Illinois.

The United States became home to millions of Czech and Slovak immigrants who had not been granted American citizenship. The men were not allowed to serve in the U.S. Army, but they wanted to support Masaryk´s call for Czechoslovak independence. These volunteers therefore contacted the Czechoslovak recruiting office in New York City, and applied for military service in the Czechoslovak Legion in France. The first volunteers from the USA arrived at Darney (the location of the Czechoslovak Legion garrison) in late 1917. Their arrival in France was used in an extensive campaign organised by Czechoslovak exile groups in the USA, in the autumn of 1917.



The campaign attracted the attention of Rudolf Jelínek (born 1893 in Strakonice) and Karel 'Charles' Bobek (born 1894 in Prague), who both applied for Czechoslovak Legion service at the New York recruitment office in October 1917. They were selected for the 21st Rifle Regiment, based in Cognac, and sent there in November 1917, spending the whole of 1918 in France. Their regiment received the highest appreciation for its participation in the capture of Vouziers and the battle of Terron in the Ardennes, as a part of the French 53rd Infantry Division (October 1918).

The postcard illustrated here illustrates an item mailed by the Czechoslovak-American WWI volunteers who were fighting in Europe as a separate combat unit, with no connection to the U.S. Army. It was posted from Jelinek to Bobek on 28 January 1918, at the French civil post office of Saint-Yrieix-la-Montagne, located in the French region administrated by the 12th Corps (assigned to the 10th Army of France). The Corps operated the regional censorship of civil and military mail, as confirmed by the circular mark "Service Postal XIIme Region." The 12th Corps used the description "Secteur Postal No. 88" for security purposes.

In January 1919 the majority of the 21st Rifle Regiment was moved to Čáslav, Czechoslovakia, and participated in wars with Poland (January-February 1919) and Hungary (January-July 1919). Jelínek and Bobek finished their military service in November 1919, having reached the rank of sergeant and both are registered by the Czech Army Record Office under numbers 18297193 and 18263178 respectively.

Letters to the Editor

From John Lush FRPSL

Postal History is Less Than Half What Story?

Richard Berry FRPSL, writing in the July-August 2020 issue of *The London Philatelist* (pp256-61), may well be right when he says that postal history is less than half the story. But what story is he trying to tell, how is he telling it, and to whom? From the examples he gives, and by his own admission, his focus is on the human story and then he brings in the philately. So the story is social history, illustrated by philately. No wonder postal history is less than half of it. And he was wrong to say that "outside this room nobody cares less about your squiggles, inky marks, routes, rates, shades and printings!" I was not in that room and I do care about most of them! Of course he was trying to be provocative, and he asks for constructive feedback.

After some time as a stamp collector (not to be confused with a philatelist) I became interested in postal history. One evening I attended a stamp auction with a stamp club colleague, really only for the sake of something to do. In the auction was an old letter. It was scruffy, dog-eared, cheap, and fascinating. On an impulse, I bought it. It is still in a cupboard somewhere, but I was hooked on the subject so I gradually formed a small but nice collection. When I started on it, postal history was rigidly and exclusively defined as 'routes and rates' (squiggles and inky marks), but what interested me more was the way in which the letters I was collecting told the story of how the (British) postal service had developed. For me, postal history was the whole story! At the time, my approach was unfashionable.

Over the years, I have displayed this collection, by invitation, to a Probus club, a youth club, a ladies' group, a Rotary club, and several philatelic societies. To all of them, the story has been the same, describing the history of the postal service and using my squiggles and inky marks to illustrate it. But the emphasis and level of detail has been tailored to my audience. All of them expressed their appreciation. One Rotary club member said that he had not realised how much could be learned from a few inky marks. I was less sure about the youth club, so I asked the organiser afterwards if he thought they had appreciated it. Oh yes, he said, they were quiet! The lesson is simple – know your subject, and know your audience, especially the latter.

I am not averse to being provocative. Being a committee member of my local stamp club (which made no claim to being a philatelic society), I thought that I should show a good example by entering their annual nine-sheet competitions. I then 'graduated' to my local philatelic society where, having successively entered mileage marks, London penny and two-penny posts, and Bishop marks (criticised as 'not being complete'), I entered 'English Privately Carried Letters of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries' to see what the judges would make of it (not a route or rate in sight, of course, but surely a part of postal history). The only comment they made was that the writing-up was a bit small!

Of course, I understand Richard's concerns about a perceived lack of new recruits to our hobby. But what is our hobby? Essentially, according to the Oxford English Dictionary (2006), philately is 'the collecting and study of postage stamps or other devices used for or relating to the prepayment of postal charges; stamp collecting,' derived from the Greek words philo (loving) and ateleia (tax exemption), because postage stamps exempted the recipient from paying the cost of a letter. As R W Willcocks points out in his 1975 work, *England's Postal History*, (pp20-21), since the earliest letters carried by the British postal service were also pre-paid and pre-payment was always an option (though not much used), postal history falls legitimately within the definition of philately. Where I personally draw the line is at 'thematic philately' and 'social philately,' which I regard more as using philately to tell a non-philatelic story (subjects illustrated on philatelic items, or social history,

respectively). If that is what their adherents wish to do and the philatelic establishment wishes to support them, then far be it from me to demur. If thematic or social philately can be used to attract people to become philatelists, then fine, but the current trend seems to be the other way. For me, social philately is membership of the RPSL!

What seems to be missing from this list of enthusiastically supported areas is 'revenue philately.' I put it in quotes because, at least in Great Britain until the Post Office was privatised, all postage rates were determined by the Government's need for revenue, not by the costs of the postal service, so all stamps were essentially revenue stamps. Thus, we are all 'revenue philatelists,' whether we are collecting postage stamps or fiscal stamps. When I reached the point where I had taken postal history as far as I wanted (or could afford), an auction catalogue dropped through my letter box offering (inter alia) a part set of fiscal stamps. I had never heard of them, but their purpose interested me, so I made a speculative bid. It must have been the only one, because I secured the stamps at the reserve price and they have provided an almost endless source of fascination and delight.

What they have also taught me is that the apparent cordon sanitaire between postal and fiscal philately is largely artificial and counterproductive. These two aspects of the hobby provide almost the same scope for the study of stamps in all their complexity and, in the course of my research, I have had many happy and vigorous, discussions with a dedicated postal philatelist, at the end of which we have both admitted having learned from the other. This is just as it should be. Of course, studying an individual stamp closely can reveal some of its secrets but, at the end of the day, it is just a stamp. Incidentally, I once discovered in conversation that a prominent member of the RPSL did not know why a stamp was called a stamp! Stamps (largely impressed, which we now call handstamps) existed for many years before the introduction of postage labels (which have usurped the original meaning). We need to keep a sense of perspective.

My own introduction to stamp collecting was simply accumulating as many stamps as I could (as schoolboys do). They were (mostly) colourful, and spoke to me of far-off places. They may even have taught me some geography or history. I progressed from there. I wonder how the very earliest philatelists were attracted to the hobby, when there were no copious new issues to tempt them? Nowadays, we bemoan the proliferation of 'special' issues and argue that they do nothing to attract newcomers to our hobby. But I am not so sure. They may not attract many, but even a few are welcome and the work of groups trying to encourage youngsters is heartily to be commended. Richard Berry's advocacy of 'philately through social history' may also work, but I suspect that it is more likely to swell the ranks of 'social philatelists.' Perhaps that is what he is trying to do, especially if addressing a regional meeting of the RPSL. What I think we need, is for people like Richard to go out and spread the gospel to non-philatelic groups. Whether my activities in this direction have borne fruit, I do not know, but it was worth doing. I would like to acknowledge the philatelists (of all persuasions) whose friendly conversations over many years have influenced my thinking.

From Alan Spencer.

I found the article 'Postal History is less than Half the Story' by Richard Berry very interesting and informative. Letters and postcards were in their essence means of communication and the messages that they conveyed, as well as the senders and recipients, are part of the story. When I am writing up my material, I try to include what Richard called the 'back-story.'

The following are two examples.

The first item is a letter that was carried on the Falmouth Packet and has a green 'Lisbon/F' handstamp applied on arrival. It then travelled up to Edinburgh, where it received a weak strike of the date stamp for 6 September 1812. It carries a manuscript charge mark of 2/8d (2s 8d).

This letter was written from Salamanca, where an Anglo-Portuguese army under the Duke of



Figure 1 A letter carried on the Falmouth Packet from Salamanca to Edinburgh, dated 6 August 1812

Wellington defeated Marshal Marmont's French forces among the hills around Arapiles, on the 22 July.

The sender, Ensign John Belcher of the 4th Foot, was made a Lieutenant in 1812 'without purchase' (*British Officer Monthly Register*) i.e. on his own merits. Whilst much of the contents relates to mundane matters, it includes a description of part of the battle.

> *You will see by the Gazette the particulars of the most brilliant victory ever obtained by the British arms. The cool undaunted bravery displayed by the officers and men was such as to strike terror on all sides. Genl. Leith showed such an example of cool determined courage that gained him universal admiration, he led his Division to the attack about half a mile to the top of the ridge where the enemy had their positions without ever firing a shot, the enemy the whole time keeping up a most tremendous fire of cannon and musketry on us the whole time of our advance, the only effect it had on the men was when they gave us a better fire than usual our men gave them a cheer in return. As soon as we gained the summit of the ridge we charged and drove the enemy lines back on their columns and such a scene of confusion was the consequence as I believe was never heard of. The men were absolutely tired of making use of the bayonets – in three hours the whole French army was routed and put to flight – Genl. Leith and his nephew and another ADC are wounded. I was the only one who escaped unhurt.*

The thought of cheering somebody trying to kill you seems a little strange but it was a different time. General Leith's 5th Division played an important role in the Battle of Salamanca. Advancing in two-deep lines, with the British Brigades in the front line, the Division's musketry defeated Antoine de Maucune's badly deployed French Division. Leith was sent home to recuperate from his wounds.

As a consequence of Wellington's victory, his army was able to advance and liberate Madrid for two months, before retreating to Portugal. The French were forced to abandon Andalusia permanently, whilst the loss of Madrid irreparably damaged King Joseph's pro-French Government.

In some cases, it is the story of the sender, or recipient, that enhances an item. Take, for example, the following item.

This is a postcard to a Nottingham-based British POW relief fund, which has had a Wittenberg Camp hand stamp applied in purple and also a red Camp censor handstamp. A machine cancel was applied on receipt in London.

The message side is naturally very brief, but provides sufficient information to enable the sender's story to be told. George Teather was born in Nottingham on 27 December 1886. His parents were William Henry Teather and Mary Ann Foster, who had married in 1871. George was the youngest of three children – Sarah born in 1872 and Albert born in 1881. Initially from the village of Lambley in Nottinghamshire, the family had moved to Nottingham by 1881, where George's father became a cycle fitter, probably at the Raleigh factory.

On the card, George thanks the sender for the two parcels received and says "I am a Notts man

although in Canadian Regiment." In 1910 George emigrated to Canada, his mother having died in 1902. By profession he was a logger and when war was declared he immediately signed up at Valcartier Camp, joining the 7th Infantry Battalion (British Colombia). Teather was badly wounded and taken prisoner during the Battle of St. Julien (part of the second Battle of Ypres) during which the Germans used poison gas for the first time. Initially sent to Stendhal Camp, he was later transferred to Wittenberg. On repatriation he was sent to Kinmel Park Camp in May 1919, before returning to Canada.

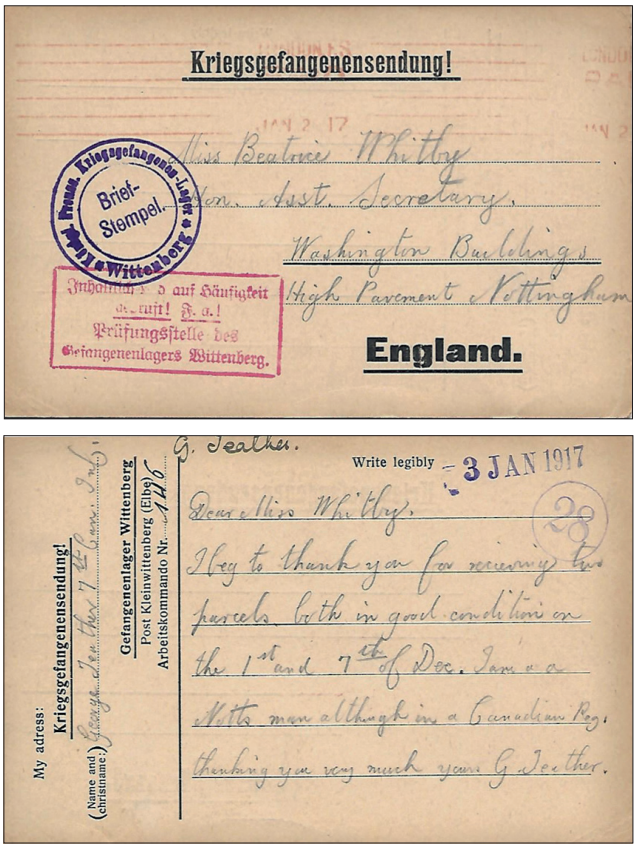


Figure 2. German POW Camp message card.

He became a farmer and was married in June 1935 (at the age of 48) to Lilian Muriel Wheeler at Fort St. John B.C. In May 1956 he made a return trip to England with his wife, probably as part of his 70th birthday celebrations. George Teather died on 25 June 1971 at Fort St. John.

As with the examples that Richard gave, it is possible to use the historical stories behind items such as this to interest a non-philatelic audience, even though they would rank very low in competitions. Indeed, at Stampex last year I went to a seminar on competing and when I raised the question of providing the non-philatelic story that lies behind items such as this, the speaker dismissed them as of no importance. I disagree with him and agree with Richard that the way of attracting new, non-philatelic, collectors is to open their eyes to the stories that such material can tell.

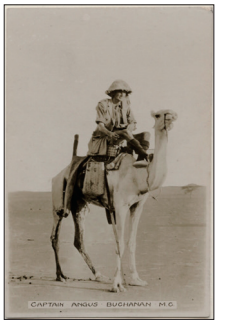
From Rob May FRPSL

T. A. Glover – expedition photographer

With reference to the 'Story Behind the Cover' by Mike Parker in the July-August 2020 *LP*, there is more of a story to be told. I attach scans of two covers from my collection addressed in the same hand to the same person, T.A. Glover, in 1922 and 1923 during another expedition from South to North across the Sahara.

That expedition was organised by a wealthy adventurer named Angus Buchanan (1886-1954), shown in a photograph taken by T.A. Glover that is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

This expedition by camel started in March 1922 from Kano, Nigeria and ended at Algiers in June 1923. It was undertaken by only Buchanan and Glover, with Tuareg guides Sakari and Aliand was recorded on cine film by Glover in *Crossing the Great Sahara*. The film still exists in the British Film Institute Archives. Details are at www.screenonline.org.uk/film/id/554246/index.html

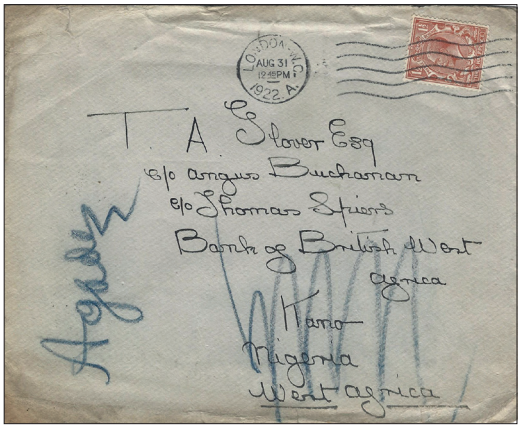




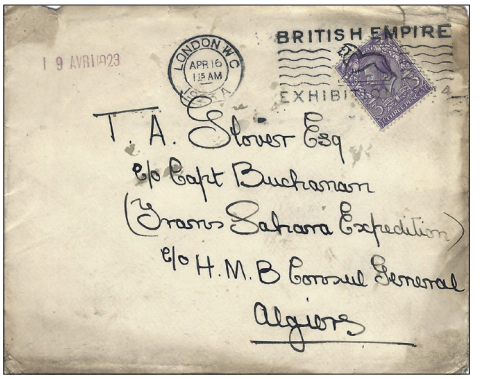
Still images from the film were also printed in the *Illustrated London News* in 1924 as part of a double-page report entitled 'Where man is veiled: the land of the Saharan Tuareg.'

My final photograph of the expedition members arriving in Paris (including the two guides!) is believed to show T.A. Glover, second from the right (Source: *Angus Buchanan: Beyond the Frontiers of Civilisation*, www.intriguing-people.com).

My two covers straddle the start and end of this expedition.



The first, posted in London on 31 August 1922, was addressed to a forwarding address at the Bank of British West Africa at Kano. The blue manuscript marking shows it was forwarded to Agadez and backstamped there on 15 October 1922.



The second, posted in London on 16 April 1923, was addressed to H. M. B. Consul General at Algiers to await the arrival of the expedition. The return address for both letters was 'Glover, 8 Coptic St, London,' which was probably his studio.

In 2020 there is still a film studio at 9 Coptic Street.

The Gazette

news, meetings, events and reports

Forthcoming Meetings and Events at 15 Abchurch Lane – Season 2020-21.

The programme for Season 2020-2021 set out below may be subject to revision if existing circumstances change.

16 Sep. at 3pm: Annual General Meeting.
9 Oct. at 3pm: ***Tomorrow's Royal*** Grand Charity Auction.
15 Oct. at 1pm: Richard Stock – *Anglo-Boer War Postal History & Early QEII Recess-printed Commonwealth*.
29 Oct. at 5pm: Simon Richards – *Grenada and other West Indies Postal Stationery*.
12 Nov. at 1pm: James Grimwood-Taylor – *Postal History of the World c.3000BC-1940AD*.
26 Nov. at 5pm: Michael Elliott – *Finland at War: Defending its Borders*.
3 Dec. at 1pm: Bill Hedley, Denés Czirók and Adriano Bergamini – *Hungarian Rhapsody*.
10 Dec. at 1pm: John Scott – *The Development of Decorative Writing Paper 1780-1980*.
7 Jan. 2021 at 1pm: Wessex Region – *Regional Display*.
21 Jan. 2021 at 1pm: Graham Booth – *West Indies Maritime Mail*.
11 Feb. 2021 at 5pm: Peter Rooke – *Revolution, Conflict & Occupation-The Posts 1789-1815*.
18 Feb. 2021 at 1pm: Richard Stock – *Sudan Stamps & Postal History*.
25 Feb. 2021 at 1pm: West Midlands Region – *Regional Display*.
11 Mar. 2021 at 1pm: H.M. The Queen – *Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus.* (Restricted to Fellows and Members).
25 Mar. 2021 at 1pm: The G.B. Overprint Society – *Display by Members*.
8 Apr. 2021 at 1pm: North West and Northern Ireland Regions – *Regional Display*.
22 Apr. 2021 at 1pm: David Cordon – *Bermuda: Stamps and Postal History*.
6 May 2021 at 5pm: Grace Davies – *Peace*.
20 May 2021 at 1pm: North Midlands Region – *Regional Display*.
10 Jun. 2021 at 5pm: Carol Bommarito - *Adhesive Stamp Usage, Transatlantic Mail to and from the US 1840-1875*.
24 Jun. 2021 at 4.30pm: Annual General Meeting.

Forthcoming Online Meetings. All Meetings Commence at 14.00 BST (13.00 GMT).

Details of how to access Online Meetings were given in the July-August 2020 issue of The London Philatelist, p298.

27 Aug.: Stephen Parkin – *The Introduction of Uniform Postage Rates in Edinburgh*.
10 Sep.: Cheryl Ganz – *Zeppelin LZ-129 Hindenburg's Onboard Post Office*.

Forthcoming Regional Meetings of the RPSL – UK and abroad.

17 Oct.: Thames Valley at Oxford – Patrick Reid, pge.reid@gmail.com
18 Oct.: South West at Tiverton – Ian Pinwill, i.pinwill@btinternet.com
28 Nov.: West Midlands at Solihull – Gerald Marriner, 0116 240 2064, gerald.marriner@gmail.com
28 Nov.: East at Chelmsford – *Contact details to be advised.*
7 Aug. 2021: South East – Nigel Gooch, 01424 251169, nigelrngooch@gmail.com

RPSL Standing Displays.

With the re-opening of 15 Abchurch Lane, we are now in a position to re-start the standing displays. The first one of these for the new season will be: Ceylon 1857-1871, The Pence Period by Kurt Kimmel-Lampart FRPSL. Kurt's display has achieved a Large Gold Medal at International level, so is one not to be missed. Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, this will be displayed in the main meeting room from Monday, 19 October 2020.

Displays will be changed approximately every two months (subject to availability). Any Fellows or Members who would like to offer a display of 128 sheets (photocopies only), should please contact the organiser at displays@rpsl.org.uk Subsequently, the copies will be retained in the RPSL Library for viewing and shown on the RPSL website.

Forthcoming Philatelic Events.

1–3 October:	UK	Virtual STAMPEX
4–6 December:	Sweden	NORDIA 2020 Nordic Philatelic Exhibition, Malmö.
3 July 2021	UK	MIDPEX 2021 Warwicks. Event Centre, Leamington Spa
12-15 August 2021:	USA	Great American Stamp Show, Chicago.
25-30 August 2021:	Japan	PHILANIPPON 2021. Pacifico Yokohama Hall B/C, Yokohama.
9–13 November 2021:	South Africa	IPEX 2021 FIP Exhibition, Int'l Convention Centre, Cape Town.
19–22 November 2021:	Greece	NOTOS 2021, Peristeri Exhibition Centre, Athens.
19–26 February 2022:	UK	LONDON 2022, The Business Design Centre, London N1.
May 2023:	Germany	IBRA, Essen. New date to be confirmed.

Membership News:

Announcement of New Members as Approved by Council.

The following new members, whose membership applications have been duly announced in *The London Philatelist* in accordance with the articles of association of the Society, have been approved by Council. We wish them a long and enjoyable membership.

Name	County/Country	Name	County/Country
Julian Bagwell.	Oxfordshire.	James Rock.	Massachusetts, USA.
Thomas Hernqvist.	Sweden.	Steven Street.	Derbyshire.

Announcement of Membership Applications.

The following applications have been received for membership of The Royal Philatelic Society London. All have been duly proposed and seconded as shown. If a member wishes to express an opinion on any of these applications, they should be communicated to the Honorary Secretary at 15 Abchurch Lane in writing or by e-mail to secretary@rpsl.org.uk by the end of the month of the cover date of this *LP*. The application will thereafter be presented to Council for approval.

Name	County/Country	Proposer	Seconder
Jiaming Li	PR China	Jack Huadong Zhang	Danny Wong
Paul McTaggart.	New Zealand.	Robin Gwynn.	Lindsay Chitty.
Jonathan Woensdregt.	BC, Canada.	Peter Newroth.	Neil Donen.
Sourav Sengupta.	India.	Markand Dave.	Advait Dave.
Allen Withington.	London.	James Podger.	R. F. May.

We announce with regret the death of the following members:

Alan Watson of Falkirk, Scotland, died 27 February 2020 (joined 10 September 2009).

Fellowship of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Nominations for the award of Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society London are invited from all members. They must be received by 31 October 2020, for consideration by the Fellowship Committee on 11 November and approval by Council on 25 November 2019.

The criteria considered by the Fellowship Committee include:

- Service to the Society through volunteering or presentation of a display or paper.
- Noteworthy contributions to philately in general.
- Publication of an article in *The London Philatelist* or other philatelic journal, or publication of philatelic books.

The nomination form can be downloaded from the Society website, by selecting 'Society Business' then 'Member downloads,' or from the administration office at Abchurch Lane or by phoning the Administration Manager. Please give as much relevant information as possible and return completed forms to the Administration Manager by 31 October at the latest. Jon Aitchison FRPSL Hon. Secretary.

Society News.

Programme for Season 2020-2021.

The programme set out in The Gazette may be subject to revision if existing circumstances change. If that occurs members will be notified immediately. However, we all hope that it will not be necessary.

Members are advised that for operational reasons, it was not possible for the display by H.M. The Queen to be the first display of the 2020-2021 season and the new date is 11 March 2021.

Richard Stock FRPSL, President.

Tomorrow's Royal Grand Auction change of date.

In order to give surfers at VIRTUAL STAMPEX (1-3 October) the time to download and view the catalogue, the Grand Charity Auction in aid of Tomorrow's Royal will now take place on Friday, 9 October 2020 at 3.00pm. For more information on bidding see 'Forthcoming Philatelic Events.'

Over 100 lots of philatelic material and RPSL memorabilia will be sold at 15 Abchurch Lane, and online. Fine quality material will be listed in the Auction Catalogue which will be on the Society website in September. Examples have been illustrated in previous editions of *the London Philatelist,* notably in April 2020, pp120-121. Lots of other interesting and unique memorabilia will include the Limited Edition of only ten copies of the very special Stockholmia Grand Award Champion's book: Daniel Ryterband, *A Country Divided: Effects of the American Civil War on the Mail*. (See *LP,* October 2019, p416). Apologies for yet another date change but this one is final - 9th October 2020!

Peter Cockburn FRPSL, Vice-President.

RPSL Representative for the East of England Region.

Afer some twenty years as a Representative for the East of England Alan Moorcroft has decided it is time to step down. He has organised many successful meetings in that part of the country and his keen and active contributions will certainly be missed albeit he will certainly still be a keen participant at future meetings.

The position of Representative for the East of England in Essex and Hertfordshire is now vacant. Anyone interested in filling this role should contact Chris Hitchen at marc@rpsl.org.uk

Luff Awards 2020.

Congratulations are extended to the following recipients of this year's Luff Awards. This is the most prestigious award presented annually by the American Philatelic Society.

Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research: James Peter Gough RDP FRPSL.

Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately: Yamil H Kouri, Jr. FRPSL.

ESTONIA 2020 awards.

The following awards were won by members of the Society at the recent ESTONIA 2020 show. Note that Large Gold Medals were not awarded in this competition. Congratulations to all concerned.

Jean-Jacques Tillard FRPSL	*St Pierre et Miquelon: 19th Century Surcharges.* Grand Prix Estonia 2020. (96 points).
Chris King RDP Hon. FRPSL	*Posts in the City of Lubeck before 1868.* Grand Prix International. (96 points).
Jaan Roots	*Estonia 1918.* Grand Prix National. (93 points).

Gold: Peter Chadwick FRPSL (90 points).

Large Vermeil: Chris Harman RDP Hon. FRPSL (87 points); Graham Winters FRPSL. (85 points); Jean-Jacques Tillard FRPSL (85 points - second entry)

Vermeil: Gerald Marriner FRPSL (81 points); Reinhard Weber (80 points) and Mats Soderberg FRPSL (80 points).

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The RPSL is a Show Partner for

STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL EXHIBITION 2020

A KEY FEATURE OF THIS VIRTUAL SHOW WILL BE THE ABILITY OF SURFERS TO CHAT WITH MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AT ANY TIME.

PHILATELY AROUND THE CLOCK

Virtual Stampex is live 24 hours a day from the 1st – 3rd October 2020

London: Opens 08:00 on 1st Oct. Closes 07:59 on 4th Oct

New York: Opens 04:00 on 1st Oct. Closes 03:59 on 4th Oct

Los Angeles: Opens 01:00 on 1st Oct. Closes 00:59 on 4th Oct

Hong Kong: Opens 16:00 on 1st Oct. Closes 15:59 on 4th Oct

Sydney: Opens 18:00 on 1st Oct. Closes 17:59 on 4th Oct

Members of the Society are invited to volunteer for two hours during the 72 hour open period to chat, discuss, make new philatelic friends and encourage philatelists to join the RPSL.

You need an internet connection and time to read the information pack, Q & A info sheet and the full help with which volunteers will be provided.

If you want to help, email kingc@rpsl.org.uk with date and local times that you are free.

The Royal Philatelic Society London.

(A company limited by Guarantee – Company number 92352 and Registered Charity number 286480)

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Society's premises, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, on Wednesday, 16 September 2020 at 3pm BST, for the transaction of the following business.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. The Honorary Secretary will present a report.
3. The Honorary Treasurer's report.
4. The report of the Auditor on the accounts of the Society will be read.
5. To receive, and if thought fit, to adopt the accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 December 2019.
6. Reports from chairmen of the committees will be presented.
7. Elections:
   The following nominations have been received.
   - Vice-President: Peter Cockburn.
   Proposed by Richard Stock, seconded by Jon Aitchison.
   - Vice-President: Mike J Y Roberts.
   Proposed by Richard Stock, seconded by Simon Richards.
   - Hon. Secretary: Jon Aitchison.
   Proposed by Richard Stock, seconded by Peter Cockburn.
   - Hon. Treasurer: Simon Richards.
   Proposed by Peter Cockburn, seconded by Mike J. Y. Roberts.
   Nominations for Council.
   David Alford. Proposed by Michael Eliott. Seconded by Steve Harrison.
   Mark Bailey. Proposed by Patrick Maselis. Seconded by Frank Walton.
   Richard Berry. Proposed by Michael Elliott. Seconded by Mark Bailey.
   John Davies. Proposed by David Alford. Seconded by Mark Bailey.
   Steven Harrison. Proposed by Richard Stock. Seconded by Christopher Hitchen.
   Christopher Hitchen. Proposed by Peter Cockburn. Seconded by Chris King.
   Colin Hoffman. Proposed by Richard Stock. Seconded by John Davies.
   Christopher King. Proposed by Richard Stock. Seconded by David Alford.
   Kim Stuckey. Proposed by Richard Stock. Seconded by Mike J Y Roberts.
   Jack Zhang. Proposed by Richard Stock. Seconded by Peter Cockburn.
   There being no other nominations, under article 40 the above mentioned are deemed to be re-elected.
8. To appoint an Auditor in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.
9. Any other business of which notice has been given.

15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.
Jon Aitchison.
Honorary Secretary.
18 July 2020.

Notes:

1. Reports by Chairmen of committees will be available on the Society website from 9 September 2020 and will be published in the October edition of *The London Philatelist*.
2. After the Annual General Meeting time will be available for a question and answer session.

The Royal Philatelic Society London

Procedure for the Annual General Meeting

2020 has been a challenging year in which the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the way we all live, has curtailed the Society's activities and has necessitated a radically different approach to the Annual General Meeting.

We anticipate that for safety reasons not many members will want to attend the meeting in person so we are going to make it accessible worldwide by Zoom as well as holding a physical meeting at 15 Abchurch Lane.

This is how it will work.

The physical meeting:

This will commence at 3pm BST (UK time) on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. Everyone that wants to attend in person must register in advance, as there is a strict maximum number of people that can be accommodated due to social distancing. If too many members apply we will regrettably have to decline some applications. Anyone turning up that has not registered in advance will unfortunately not be admitted.

To register to attend, please send an email to the Hon Secretary at HonSec@rpsl.org.uk or britishlocals@aol.com or write to him at 15 Abchurch Lane. All applications will be acknowledged and confirmation of an available place will be sent before the end of August. Members and Fellows in attendance will have voting rights at the meeting.

Joining the AGM by Zoom:

The Annual General Meeting will be televised by Zoom, allowing all Members and Fellows to observe. There will be an opportunity to ask questions both during the AGM and afterwards but it is not possible to vote. This is because we have to follow the terms laid down in our Articles of Association and they do not allow it.

The President's Newsletter prior to the AGM will include a link to the Zoom registration page. To participate you must be registered with Zoom. Having done that you will be sent instructions with a meeting ID and password prior to the AGM. There will also be instructions on how to use the Zoom Chat facility in case you want to ask any questions during or after the AGM.

We hope to return to normal in 2021 and crave your indulgence under difficult circumstances this year. Attendance at the meeting will of course still be subject to all Government legislation that applies at the time.

Jon Aitchison.
Honorary Secretary.
18 July 2020.

Forthcoming Philatelic Events:

1-3 October 2020 : Virtual STAMPEX and *Tomorrow's Royal* Grand Charity Auction.

The PTS has invited the Society to be an Official Partner and to take a stand at the Virtual STAMPEX, which will replace the normal show at the Design Centre in Islington.

The Royal is proud to be part of this innovative and exciting venture, which will truly make Stampex International in every sense. The show will be open for 24 hours a day for three days, with direct links to landing pages on our website, after which the virtual stands will be open for a further 27 days.

The Royal will contribute three one-hour sessions of philatelic presentations and an opportunity to advertise our publications and facilities. The Expert Committee will make a presentation, which it is hoped will be interactive.

There will also be a chat line connecting to real people. Volunteers from across the world are needed to occupy the chat room seats, so that this service can hopefully function on a 24-hour basis. If you are able to assist by being available electronically for two hours during the 72 hours of the show, please contact Chris King at Kingc@rpsl.org.uk who is coordinating the volunteer team. Please head your email subject 'VIRTUALSTAMPEX.'

Volunteers will be sent full details, covering frequently asked questions and answers, information about buying RPSL books and other publications, expertisation, membership information etc.

A feature of the Royal's participation in Virtual Stampex will be the *Tomorrow's Royal* Grand Charity Auction on 9 October 2020 at 3.00pm. At this point, it is not possible to confirm whether or not it will be possible to have room bidders. It is expected that the Auctioneer will be present at 15 Abchurch Lane and will have a Zoom screen to accommodate online bidders, each of whom will need to register beforehand (numbers may be limited).

Bids will be accepted by email and 'snail mail,' as is standard for any postal auction. Lots will be sent out by mail or courier after payment, although large lots may be retained for collection by arrangement.

FIP Postal History Commission online seminars.

The FIP Postal History Commission is organising a series of on-line seminars on aspects of exhibiting between August and October 2020:

16 August	Rarity and Condition.	Henrik Mouritsen	Start time A
6 September	Presentation.	Chris King RDP Hon. FRPSL	Start time A
20 September	Treatment.	Dan Walker RDP FRPSL	Start time B
4 October	Importance.	Henrik Mouritsen	Start time A
18 October	Knowledge and Research.	Andrew Cheung FRPSL	Start time A

Start Time A: 8pm Singapore; 8am New York; 1pm London; 2pm Berlin; 9pm Hong Kong.

Start Time B: 10pm Singapore; 10am New York; 3pm London; 4pm Berlin; 11pm Hong Kong.

To register for any of the seminars, please email Andrew Cheung (Secretary of the FIP Postal History Commission) at amtc911@yahoo.com.hk

12-15 August 2021: Great American Stamp Show, Chicago. Invitation to participate.

The response to my note in the March issue of this journal (No. 1473, p78) has been staggeringly underwhelming. Let us blame Covid-19! The Society has been invited to show 50 frames of material at this show, which is in effect the intermediate show in the US between New York 2016 and BOSTON 2026.

There are no frame fees. Material will be treated as with an FIP exhibition in terms of collection, charged carriage, display and return, but will not be competitive. For those members who have great material but do not like to have it judged competitively, this is your show! Please respond to me at vp-petercockburn@rpsl.org.uk

Peter Cockburn FRPSL

Accounts of Meetings: Season 2019–2020.

16 July 2020: Online Meeting.
Richard Stock FRPSL.
Sudan: The Development of Postal Communications 1844-1928.

Report by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL

The seventh RPSL digital presentation, the second by our President, attracted an audience of 136 Fellows, Members and invited guests from the Sudan Study Circle.

The display illustrated the influence of historical, political and social events on the development of mail services during the period, under the subtitle of 'Feet, Hooves, Wheels and Paddles, and Wings.' It was remarkable, because many of the covers contained the original correspondence giving fascinating insights into military operations as well as personal details, all enhanced by an expert commentary by Richard.

Postal arrangements in the Sudan did not commence until the 1840s. The earliest letter shown was dated 1846 from John Errington, who stated there was no post in Nubia so he had to carry the letter as far as Egypt. This was followed by cancellations used in Egyptian territorial post offices.

A postal service and telegraph communications for Sudan were of vital importance. This was demonstrated by a letter from Carl Giegler to General Gordon, circa 1877-78, with detailed proposals for the establishment of an independent postal system for Sudan. James Grant, the explorer, wrote to Giegler, Director of Telecommunications at Khartoum in 1879, mentioning plans for telegraph communications with the Cape. He wrote that he attended the funeral of Louis Napoleon, Prince Imperial of France killed during the Zulu War, where, to his disgust, his gold watch was stolen.

Campaign Mail was extensively covered, with letters from Viscount Kitchener, Earl Haig, Sir Francis Wingate and General Gordon. Of particular note was a letter dated 29 September 1884 from Major General Sir John Cowell, KCB, Master of the Royal Household, to Major General Gordon CB, besieged in Khartoum. There were a number of covers from the Sandbach correspondence and Richard has shared his substantial holdings from that source in his articles in *The London Philatelist*, June and July-August 2020.

Covers demonstrating the postal arrangements during the military operations on the Nile and Eastern Sudan between 1884 and 1898 were shown in abundance. These postal arrangements included use of the Egyptian civilian post offices, the British Army Post Offices and the Indian Field Post Office. Mail from border areas, the Lado Enclave and Uganda were shown, followed by river and rail travelling post offices.

The last section contained pioneer flight covers, including a cover from Sir Francis Wingate to Field Marshal the Viscount Kitchener, carried by Marc Pourpe. Other covers, letters and photographs illustrated the pioneer flights by Sir Alan Cobham, Captain Tony Gladstone and Lores Bonney.

Richard was able to bring history to life with the range of remarkable letters giving eyewitness accounts of the campaigns in the Sudan.

Correction - North West Region, Regional Meeting Report.

In the last edition of The London Philatelist, (July-August 2020, p304) the following entry was inadvertently omitted from the list of exhibitors published in the report of this meeting:

Peter Rooke – Postal History of Bornholm.

Accounts of Meetings: Season 2019–2020.

30 July 2020: Online Meeting.
Philip Waud
A Quick Glimpse of the GB Queen Victoria Jubilee Issues.

Report by John Davies FRPSL

Philip Waud is well known in GB philately as the Secretary of the Great Britain Philatelic Society. A role to which he has brought much enthusiasm, professionalism and thoroughness. He is also very much the expert philatelist. In giving his presentation, he showed all the same qualities he brings to organised philately, reflecting his depth of study, personal knowledge and attention to detail.

The talk covered various aspects:

Stamp Development – the new Small Head.

Head and Duty Die Proofs, which were essential for colour printing.

The Large Panes: ½d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 5d, 6d and 1s.

Small Panes: 4d, 9d, 10d, 4½d.

End of the QV Reign.

The development of the series began in 1884 when the Stamp Committee went through an extensive exercise to explore many designs. Rare examples of pages from the Stamp Committee Book (only 36 were prepared) were shown. It was interesting to see how he identified the range of innovations in the Jubilee series. These included:

1. The first QV Head on a white background
2. Creation of bi-coloured stamps requiring a separate Head and Duty Plate
3. Marginal Settings
4. Coloured Papers. The first of these shown was the 2½d purple on blue paper.
5. The Mill Sheet was then changed to small panes of 20. This was also the first time that the stamps were printed through the margin of the stamp design.

The various settings were explained, to improve the printing process, including 'Jubilee lines' and 'lined blocks' (amongst others). It certainly helped members to understand the descriptions applied to the various settings of the plates which have long been a mystery to some. The stamps are a minefield for the novice in terms of identifying papers and shades, so sharing the characteristics of the stamps that were a great help in understanding the varieties. Philip showed some great rarities in terms of die proofs and scarce usages, particularly of some of the high values.

'The stamps as a success story' is a fitting description of his collection and of his presentation.

The recording of the presentation can now be viewed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/CIXRRueo7Zw







Clockwise from left to right:
Stamp Committee book, page 3;
1885 De La Rue Striking Book F49h, dies 288-289 white line;
2d head plate proof, dated '5 MAR 86.'

Accounts of Meetings: Season 2019–2020.

13 August 2020: Online Meeting.
Malcolm Groom FRPSL.
Western Tasmania: Prospectors and the Post Office.

Report by Frank Walton RDP FRPSL Past President.

Although there are many downsides to the impact of the worldwide lockdown, this presentation by one of the Society's Australian representatives demonstrates a real positive benefit that has arisen. Along with many other non-UK resident members, Malcom has been a regular attender at the RPSL's Zoom presentations, and I was delighted when I heard that he was to give a talk himself. He must have set the record for the most unusual (local) time of day when he gave his paper to the Royal!

Malcom's display was a masterclass in setting the wider scene of a postal history exhibit. The social background to the development of the service was explained in detail, with some wonderful examples of ephemera to support the postal items. Amongst my personal favourite were the examples of bag seals used as cancellations.

But the item that stood out to me was the remarkable 'Advertising Card.' This was an ordinary-looking post card sent in 1896 from Penhanga to New Norfolk that appeared, on the face of it, to be overpaid by one penny. I am sure postal historians all over the world would shout a chorus of 'late fee,' which is the usual explanation offered when the postage paid is one penny more than expected. But no! Malcolm undertook research into the card and eventually discovered a post office notice announcing a service that was previously unknown. There was a special service introduced on 19 October 1895 by the Tasmanian Post Office in Hobart which, for the payment of additional 1d, would allow a post card bearing an advertisement to be displayed in the post office to which it was sent. Delightfully, Malcolm's card has an appropriate pin hole suggesting that this is exactly what happened in this case.

The RPSL website has a video recording of the presentation, a copy of the slides used and, most helpfully a much more detailed document giving much more information on the contemporary social history of Western Tasmania.



Left: 1896 1d postcard sent from Pohanga to New Norfolk, paid with an additional 1d to cover the recently-discovered charge for displaying an advertisement (written on the back) in the post office.



Right: 1902 registered letter card from Mount Dundas to London containing 9/- for the purchase of Costa Rican stamps sent by the son of the Postmaster.



Right: 1906 Inland Parcel Post label bearing 2x9d Sideface issue, paying the 1s 6d rate for a 5 lb parcel within the State. Waratah datestamp with circle stops.

RPSL Collections' Summer Seminar Series.

Nicola Davies, Head of Collections.

In the fifth session of the RPSL Collections Summer Seminar Series, friend of the Royal and ICON book and paper conservator, Victoria Stevens ACR, presented 'Conserving the Perkins Bacon Archive.'

Victoria's work with us over the last three years has been funded by grants from the Association of Independent Museums, The Pilgrim's Trust and the National Manuscript Conservation Trust.

This presentation was an engaging account of the techniques used when restoring these significant items from the RPSL collections. Victoria provided some background about the construction of the items, how they would have originally been used and the insights they can give into economic and social history. Just under half of the attendees to this seminar were non-RPSL members and first time participants at our events; many have given very positive feedback about the warm welcome they received from the Royal's members.

In the final seminar of this series, Kim Stuckey FRPSL and Mike Roberts FRPSL presented 'Research in the Falkland Islands Jane Cameron National Archives.'

Kim opened the presentation with some background about the formation of the National Archives and emphasised the importance of archives to national identity as well as discussing how putting archive information online has assisted philatelic research this remote (but very popular in terms of collecting) territory. Mike presented a selection of case studies which demonstrated how a wide range of sources can be used for philatelic studies and concluded with a brief look at the Jane Cameron National Archives' impressive website.

Once again, thank you to all presenters and participants during the series and to Mike Hoffman and IT Chairman Mark Bailey FRPSL for their technical help.

If anyone has any suggestions for future topics or feedback they would like to offer, then please contact me by email at daviesn@rpsl.org.uk

The presentations are all available to watch online, and can be viewed via our website: https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Library/Events



Book Review.

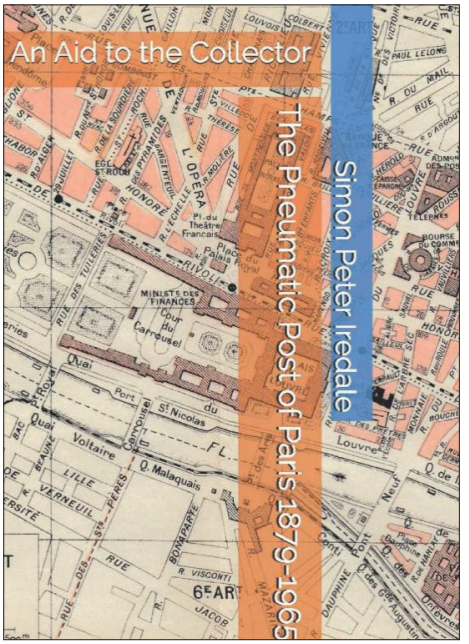
Compiled by Dr D Gwynne Harries FRPSL

The Pneumatic Post of Paris 1870-1965: An Aid to the Collector.

Simon Peter Iredale, 2018.
S. P. Iredale. ISBN 9781983319822
Softback, 148p, col. ills., 23cm.

ID Number: 22196

Reviewed by Dr D Gwynne Harries FRPSL.



I write this review in strange times. Like many philatelists, I now have the rare opportunity to really get on top of my collection and this I have very nearly started! In so doing, I have come across my old 'to do' collection of Parisian Pneumatic Posts. My challenge is that I have not held onto all the information in my head that I had once garnered with the arrogance of a lost youth, suggesting that I did not need to ever actually write it down!

Happily, through consultation with 'Professor Google,' I discovered Dr. Iredale's recent publication on the internet in various formats. I purchased a copy and in so doing I made my charitable donation to the Royal.

The book certainly is a new and up to date reference, which gathers together all the currently available information regarding the Pneumatic Postal History of Paris. Reference is made to the two existing standard works, both of which are updated through information evidenced in the author's own collection and through his current research. Much of this information has been often difficult to obtain and I for one, am delighted that so much spade work has been undertaken. The book is wonderfully illustrated, with more than 100 full colour images, all of which are accompanied by a succinct in-depth commentary.

Such commentary has been of particular help to me, as it has allowed me to understand the chronology of the various official and unofficial cards, letter cards and envelopes as they were issued. Dr Iredale illustrates many of these postal items from his own collection, which again has helped me considerably as a 'new' collector, in that I can see direct examples of the textual narrative and make comparison with my own items.

Whilst this book is clearly one that can assist the specialist collector in this aspect of philately, it also may well be of interest to the more general collector or student of history or engineering. These posts are a memory of my lifetime and this book brings them back to life both as an experience and as a collector.

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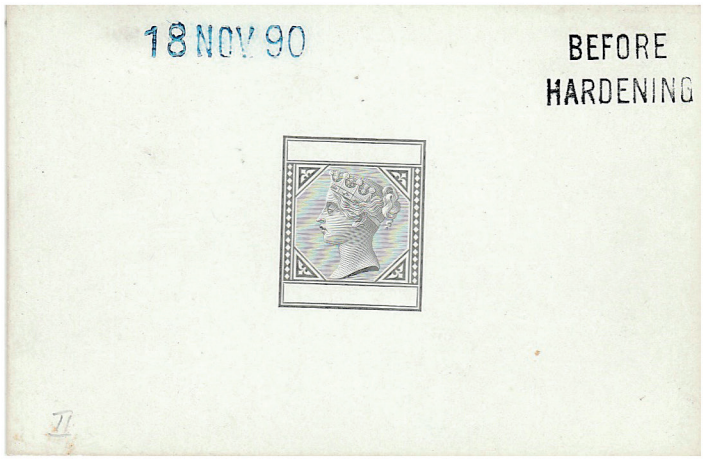
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