

THE GBPS NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Contents

Editorial	1
London 2022 Exhibition Results	2
Urgent Membership Notice.	2
Newsletter Copy Dates	2
The President Writes	3
Association Of British Philatelic Societies.	4
New Members.	4
Dealers' Directory	4
Forthcoming Meetings	5
Ongoing Northern Line Closure	6
Help Requested from GBPS Members	7
Request for Information on English 'Rexmarks'	8
Chris Harman receives the Lichtenstein Award	9
Request for Line-Engraved Images	9
Society Displays ('Decimalisation and the Post Office' by Maurice Buxton)	10
Society Displays ('Oddities in GB Postal History before 1840' by Peter Chadwick)	18
Society Displays (Christmas Zoom Meeting)	23
Society Displays (Displays at Stanley Gibbons)	25
British Empire Exhibition 1924	29
Book Reviews	
<i>Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps</i> (SG)	30
<i>Just Large Enough</i> (Muir)	30
<i>The 1840 Embossed Wyon-Whiting Essays</i> (Huggins & Wicks)	31
Surface-Printed Perforation — In Search of Clarification	32
New GBPS Meeting Manager — David Griffin.	32

EDITORIAL

Snowdrops are appearing and the days are slowly lengthening, clear signs of the approach of Spring. GBPS Competitions Day took place in January and the Society is emerging from its winter break. Richard Farman was sadly unable to present his display on Napoleonic Prisoners of War — we look forward to seeing that at a later date. Thanks to all those members who put together displays at short notice to fill the morning session. A report on Competitions Day and the results will appear in the next edition.



With competitions out of the way I hope that some of you will feel motivated to write up some aspect of your collection for the *Journal* or the *Newsletter*. We are always in need of material and even short articles on interesting items from your collections are of great interest to the membership. The *Newsletter* can also be helpful if you are looking for assistance in your research, there are two requests in this edition

I am also keen for everyone to engage in a different, longer-term project. I was a teenager in the 1960s and 1970s and I can remember at least three local stamp shops, now I would find it difficult to name more than a handful in the country. My older colleagues will remember the stamp scene being even more vibrant in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. I would hope that some of that history might be recorded as a living history and I am interested in seeking out members personal recollections of their philatelic journey. Reminiscences and anecdotes of stamp shops, auctions, auctioneers, clubs, societies, stamp shows, journals and of famous, inspirational or eccentric collectors would be recorded in a regular column in the *Newsletter*. I hope that such a column would be of interest to at least some members and would welcome any contributions (newsletter@gbps.org.uk).

CHRIS GEORGE

LONDON 2022 EXHIBITION RESULTS

Congratulations to all members on their awards, which show the quality and depth of collecting of Society members. This list of personal entries should include all members, irrespective of whether or not the material exhibited is GB — apologies if extraction of results has lead to any omission. Particular congratulations to all three candidates for the Grand Prix National, for GB material — winner, **Howard Hughes**, and **Simon Beresford-Wylie** and **Bob Galland**. Then, to **David Griffiths** as winner of Thematics and **Maurice Buxton** as winner of Literature Digital for the Society website. All achieved Large Gold medals with marks from 95 to 97.

The award bands, maximum 100, are as follows:

Large Gold	95 and above
Gold	90 to 94
Large Vermeil	85 to 89
Vermeil	80 to 84
Large Silver	75 to 79
Silver	70 to 74

URGENT MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Payment of USA subscription via Charles Schwab

Please will the US member who instructed Charles Schwab to pay their 2022 subscription on 14 January — no reference — in the amount of £33 contact Ian Harvey by email iph@harvey27.co.uk so that it can be allocated (and to continue membership!)

NEWSLETTER COPY DATES

Copy must be received by the editor as follows:

Issue	No.	Copy required by
May/June 2022	395	Mon. 21 Mar. 2022
July/Aug. 2022	396	Mon. 16 May 2022
Sept./Oct. 2022	397	Mon. 18 July 2022
Nov./Dec. 2022	398	Mon. 19 Sept 2022
Jan./Feb. 2023	399	Mon. 14 Nov 2022

In alphabetic order, the other personal member awards are:

Jon Aitchison	Large Vermeil
Tony Bard	Large Vermeil
Bill Barrell	Gold
Maurice Buxton	Gold
Robin Cassell	Gold
Peter Chadwick	Large Gold, Gold
John Davies	Large Gold
Juan Farah	Gold
Ian Gibson Smith	Gold
Chip Gliedman	Gold, Large Vermeil
James Grimwood-Taylor	Large Gold
George Henshilwood	Large Vermeil
Richard Hobbs	Gold
Alan Holyoake	Large Gold
Mike Jackson	Large Vermeil, two
Akinori Katsui	Gold
Chris King	Large Gold, Large Vermeil
Michael Lockton	Large Vermeil
Simon Martin Redman	Large Vermeil
Steve McGill	Large Gold
Simon Moorcroft	Gold
Glenn Morgan	Gold
Mary Pugh	Gold
Ake Rietz	Large Gold
Mike Roberts	Large Gold, Gold
Alan Rogers	Vermeil
Ray Simpson	Gold
David Spivack	Large Vermeil
Greg Spring	Large Silver
Barry Stagg	Vermeil
Kim Stuckey	Large Vermeil
Malcolm Suttill	Vermeil
Chris Symonds	Gold
Phil Waud	Large Vermeil, Vermeil
Richard Wheatley	Large Vermeil
Graham Winters	Large Gold
Peter Wood	Vermeil

There were many entries in the printed literature class including five major printed publications by members. Congratulations to **Alan Druce** awarded Large Gold with the same marks as the chosen winner and to **John Davies**, **James Grimwood-Taylor**, **Alan Huggins** and **Peter Young**, all of whom are awarded Gold. For websites, **Maurice Buxton** for the Society as winner with Large Gold, then **John Davies** (Stamp Active Network) and **Ian Pinwill** (Telegraph Stamps), both awarded Gold.

IAN HARVEY

THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

I am afraid that I must open with an apology for an omission in my previous note. It was missing the picture of the Grand Prix National Award for London 2022 that was donated to the exhibition by the Great Britain Philatelic Society. The image is on the London 2022 website but should also have been in the *GBPS Newsletter*. This is now included (**Fig. 1**) and, by the time that you read this note, it will have been won by one of the exhibits of British material that compete within the National Class. I hope that you will agree that it is a very elegant prize and the recipient should be very happy to own it. The chances are strong that he or she will be a member of the GBPS (*Yes, he is!* See page 2 — *Ed.*).

Again, by the time this note is published, London 2022 will be history. Increasingly, as the restrictions to entry to the UK relax, the numbers of those visitors have been steadily building. Confidence has been returning; plane tickets have been bought; hotels have been booked; and there does seem to be a determination to attend. This compares with a much more tentative approach from only a few weeks back. Nobody can plan for last minute hitches, but all the signs are that there will be a good attendance.

Members will see from the accounts and reports from the officers that will be circulated in time for the Annual General Meeting in June that the Society is in excellent health. Membership is up; attendance is high for the zoom meetings that we have held; we now know more members whose names have been known but whose faces have now become familiar. The numbers of those attending meetings in person will take longer to build, but we are seeing greater numbers already. We hope that we will build towards the numbers that we have had prior to all the changes wrought by Covid as meeting face to face and the opportunities it brings to discuss philatelic matters can never be properly replicated over Zoom. As many offices are now finding out.

However, irrespective of Covid, we are continuing to offer some Zoom only meetings in the future. Also, several speakers will be combining a Zoom element with their traditional showing of material in the frames. This I tried at my Presidential display last year and it seemed to work well. The technology at the Royal Philatelic Society London is of a high specification and we are experimenting with the idea of filming a complete display. This approach is one that already happens with some Royal meetings but there are logistical challenges that we need to be sure that we can manage. Our technical gurus will be working on how best to do this for the benefit both of all members who are present in person and those who are watching via Zoom.



I commend to you the fine displays that we have planned for the rest of this season. This includes one rather more unusual one from Jonathan Callaway. This is the history of bank notes of England, Scotland and Ireland. Unlike stamps, where the three countries, until partition in 1922, can be treated as single governmental entity, the bank notes and the laws that governed them were very different for each country. Those who see the Spink Insider will know the breadth of knowledge from Jonathan from the excellent articles that he has written on a variety of bank note related subjects. As one of the masters of his subject, I feel certain that members will find much to interest them in a sister collecting area.

Until next time, I wish all members well and hope to have seen many of you at the London 2022 Exhibition.

CHRIS HARMAN



Fig. 1 — Grand Prix National Award

ASSOCIATION OF **BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES**

CALLING ALL STAMP EVENT ORGANISERS

The website of the ABPS provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge. You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved. Go to abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/

Chairman of the ABPS, Steven Harrison, commented 'One of the common challenges for organisers of philatelic events is to avoid clashes with other major philatelic events. We hope that the new ABPS Events Calendar will be the 'go to' place to check the diary to minimise such problems in the

future.' The ABPS website also has a listing of speakers for philatelic and society displays. If you are not on the list, please email your details and you can be added to the site.

The ABPS actively represents the interests of UK collectors and societies at home and abroad. For more information contact the membership secretary:

Alan Godfrey, 8 Gerard Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6QG; Telephone: 01789 765385; Email alanguodfrey@hotmail.com; Or visit the web site: www.abps.org.uk

For additional information contact the Public Relations Officer, John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB; Telephone: 01295 255831 or email: pr@abps.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

Frederic Busch Great Notley, Braintree, Essex
Frederick Cooper Gretna, Dumfries & Galloway
David Edwards Allen Valley, St Tudy, Cornwall
Christopher Freeman Emsworth, Havant, Hants
Peter Halmkin Dawlish, Devon
Roger Marsh Sherborne, Dorset
Daniel Matthews Plymouth Devon
Simon Richards Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford
Christopher Wren Harwich, Essex
Chung Yiu York, Yorkshire
Chris Young Muswell Hill, London

NEW MEMBERS OVERSEAS

Michael Eicke Neftenbach, Switzerland
Mitchell Gardner Brentwood, California, USA
Raymond Morrel Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Johann Nyberg Boden, Sweden
William Raymond Redlands City, Qld, Australia

A very warm welcome to you all. New members may find Ian Harvey's article 'Finding Information on Your Subject' useful (GBPS Newsletter 390, 2021, p. 1).

DEALERS' DIRECTORY

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday 19 March at 11:00 a.m. — Stamps Issued in Rolls — KGV to QEII

Our meeting on Saturday 19 March will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW from 11:00 a.m. The morning session will consist of a display from **David Poynton** entitled **Stamps Issued in Rolls — KGV to QEII**. David tells me 'The display shows the development of stamp rolls for use in both vending and office affixing machines from the very earliest trials through to the QEII period where postal rates were changing rapidly. A number of scarce coil leaders from all reigns will be shown.

The Post Office was initially reluctant to start roll production, but examples of trials in New Zealand that eventually led to development by Mrs Kermode of machines and stamp rolls for sale in the UK will be displayed. Eventually, by 1912 official vertical delivery rolls were produced by Harrison, of the ½d and 1d Downey head design in Crown, Simple Cypher and Multiple Cypher watermark varieties.

The layout, design and colour of the coil leaders were altered over time and there were numerous amendments to roll pricing, as make-up charges were altered and eventually abolished. For a number of years pressure to produce sideways delivery rolls came from the Merkhams Trading Company who distributed the Multipost affixing machine. It took until 1924 for Harrison to start production following further trial work.

The development of continuous printing to simplify the make-up and accounting procedures for rolls will be displayed, with illustrations of the equipment designed and manufactured by Grover and the coils produced by Waterlow.

During the reign of George VI both stamps and leader designs continued to change, recognising the need to economise during wartime and changes in postal rates. Values up to 6d were produced and

throughout the reign rolls were produced both continuously and by joining sheets of stamps. With the installation of vending machines at seaside locations, to serve the increasing demand for stamps for postcard usage, work on the roll design and machines was essential. At these exposed locations there was a real problem of coils sticking to each other because of the damp conditions, preventing smooth operation of the machine.

The QEII period saw the transition from the Wilding head design to Machin head in both pre-decimal and decimal values, with machine development running to keep up with the ever escalating cost of postage. Examples of some of the scarcer coil leaders of this period will be shown including the only commemorative stamps of the Elizabethan era issued in rolls — the 1957 Scout Jamboree issue.

In 1922, following the 1916 Easter rising, the Irish Free State was established. Whilst a new permanent definitive series of Irish Postage stamps for the new Free State were approved and printed the existing George V stamps were overprinted in Gaelic. Whilst Dollard and Thom in Dublin overprinted the sheet stamps Harrison produced stamps in rolls utilising their own characteristic five-line and three-line overprint. With overprint varieties, leader variations and base stamp varieties a whole new level of complexity of analysis arises. Leaders, strips and usages will be shown.

There will be sections on rolls produced for the British Empire exhibitions of 1924 and 1925, the postal Union Congress of 1929 and frames highlighting test rolls used in machine developments and for use day-to-day by Post Office engineers in setting up the network of vending machines.'

Saturday 19 March at 2:15 p.m. — £sd Regionals 1958–1971

The afternoon session, commencing at 2:15 p.m., will consist of a display from **Trevor Shimell** entitled **£sd Regionals 1958–1971**. Trevor tells me 'This display provides a detailed study of the Regional £sd issues of Great Britain from 1958 until 1971 including their usages. On 18 June 1956 an announcement was made from the House of Commons which stated that consultative committees had been appointed to advise on "individual stamps for the regions in small size showing the Queen's portrait framed by heraldic or symbolical subjects". All designs contained the photographic portrait of Queen Elizabeth II taken by Dorothy Wilding Ltd on 15 April 1952.

The first stamp issued was the 3d value on 18 August 1958. A total of four different denominations were produced for Jersey, Isle of Man and Guernsey, and seven for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The last issued being the 9d value of Scotland on 28 September 1970. The issue was initially valid for use throughout Great Britain, however, became invalid in Guernsey and Jersey from 1 October 1969 when they established their own independent postal administrations. All £sd Regionals not previously withdrawn were taken off sale on 25 November 1971 and were demonetised on 1 March 1972. The series was replaced by decimal regional values on 7 July 1971.

The period of this series coincided with technological changes aimed at the automation of the handling of mail, with the introduction of different phosphor inks, watermarked and unwatermarked papers as well as paper coatings. In addition, the introduction of 1st and 2nd class postage rates from

1968 altogether gives this issue much scope for study.

The display includes the designs and designers and detailed analysis by region for each value, the cylinders issued, shades, listed and unlisted varieties and production errors, as well as usages.'

Saturday 23 April — 11:00 a.m. — QV Mixed Franking Covers

Our meeting on Saturday 23 April will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW from 11:00 a.m. The morning session will consist of a display from **Ray Simpson FRPSL** and **Karl Louis FRPSL** entitled **QV Mixed Franking Covers**. Ray tells me 'This display is all about Victorian stamps. Or maybe postal history. Or perhaps bits of both. Whatever your verdict on that, this display is wide-ranging, beginning with "mixed frankings" on covers from the 1840s through to the beginning of the KE VII period and the first mixed-reign frankings. Throughout, the focus is firmly fixed on transition from one issue or type of stamp to its successors. So you will see 1d Blacks used with 1d Reds and 1d Pink postal stationery uprated with various adhesives. Technical developments like perforation spawned examples of perforated stamps used with imperforate stamps. The introduction of adhesive embossed and surface printed stamps in the late 1840s and 1850s

widened the range of stamps in circulation and created conditions for some surprisingly rare and unusual frankings. Progressive changes to the check letters on the surface printed stamps, and colour changes, led to a range of mixed frankings, some of the rarest of which will be on display. Also covered will be the major change from line-engraving to surface printing for the lower value stamps, and also the raft of technical and administrative developments in the early 1880s, all illustrated with stamps of different types and origins used together on the same cover. High-value stamps used with Jubilee and other stamps will be displayed, and the show will conclude with examples of mixed-reign frankings, many of them surprisingly scarce. The display will start with a PowerPoint introduction and commentary, supported with something in the region of 100 or more real live covers.'

Saturday 23 April at 2:15 p.m. — Members' Displays

The afternoon session, commencing at 2:15pm, will consist of **Members' Displays** on the related but expanded theme of **Any Reign Mixed/Unusual Franking Covers**.

This is a call to dig out from your collections your covers with mixed/unusual frankings and bring them along to show to members. 1-2 frames (of up to 16 sheets per frame) are ideal. Do you have mixed reign frankings, unusual combinations, mixed pre-decimal &

decimal frankings?

Please bring something along to show. As always, advance notice of what you plan to bring (type of material and quantity) is useful to know to help speed up planning the running order on the day so please email our new Meeting Manager, David Griffin, via meetings@gbps.org.uk or ring him on 07450 113084 with brief details.

ANDY DONALDSON

ONGOING NORTHERN LINE CLOSURE AFFECTING BANK STATION

Transport for London has announced that the **Northern line (Bank branch)** will be closed between **Kennington** and **Moorgate** from **Saturday 15 January to mid-May 2022**. This is due to work they are doing to improve the capacity at Bank station.

During the closure, there will be no Northern line at four stations: **Bank, London Bridge, Borough** and **Elephant & Castle**.

The main impact will be for members who come into **London Bridge** and then use the Northern line to get to Bank. Those travelling from the north end of the Northern line (e.g. King's Cross) will not be affected.

Please see the TfL website for more details and to plan an alternative route should you be affected by this closure: tfl.gov.uk/status-updates/major-works-and-events/northern-line-closure

HELP REQUESTED FROM GBPS MEMBERS

As the GBPS website manager, I have a number of projects that I would like to do that would increase the information available to GB collectors — but which unfortunately run into the problem that there are only 24 hours in the day. However, many of these require no actual website-building knowledge for the bulk of the work, so it should be possible to ‘crowdsource’ this — what’s needed is help with time-consuming tasks such as scanning and proofreading, and ‘many hands make light work’. If any of the projects below strike you as useful and something you’d like to help out with (in however small a way), please get in touch at the email address at the end of this article!

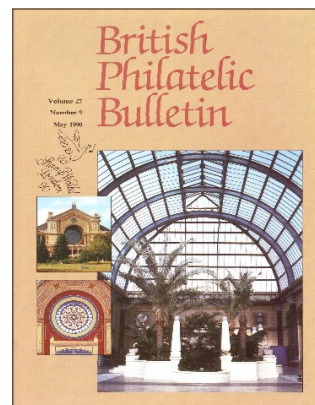
Digitising the *Philatelic Bulletin*

This Royal Mail magazine contains a great deal of useful information on British stamps of the current reign, as well as many articles about other aspects of GB philately (some of them even contributed by your correspondent). The editor of the *Bulletin* has indicated that they are willing for us to produce PDF versions of the back numbers from 1963 up to at least 2010. Rob from the very useful site CollectGBStamps.co.uk has made a pretty good start, with a range of articles from 1983 onwards scanned, but there are still lots to do.

This job has two parts. One is simply going through the copies of the *Bulletin* and scanning the pages as individual images. If you have your own copies that’s great, if not a selection can be arranged! I can then combine and OCR(*) them in *Adobe Acrobat* to make PDF files for each issue (of course, if you have suitable software for doing that yourself, that’s a bonus).

The other job is extracting the contents lists in each issue and the volume indexes (probably by copy-and-paste of the text from the OCR’d version), proofreading them, and tidying up the formatting (to make it easy for me to generate a composite contents list and index, in the style of the ones for the *GBJ*).

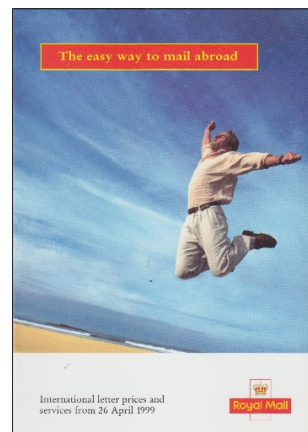
(*) ‘OCR’ = ‘Optical Character Recognition’ — getting text when you have only an image, by having the computer process it and work out which parts of the image are letters. Accuracy is of course variable depending on the nature of the image, but usually pretty good for scans of printed text.



Digitising Post Office leaflets

This is very similar to the above. There’s a section of the website for PDF versions of the leaflets produced by the Post Office, which are a key source for much ‘modern’ postal history. At present this contains only leaflets from 2005 (already in PDF format when downloaded from the Royal Mail site), plus the airmail leaflets from 1919–72, but I’d like to extend that to include scans of the wide range of other leaflets that have been issued.

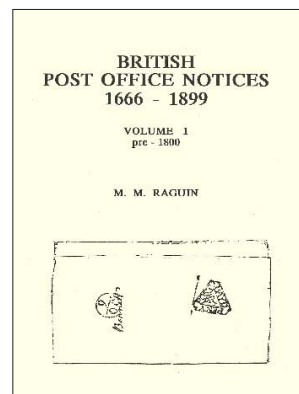
What’s needed here is simply to scan the pages ready for conversion into a PDF — again, if you happen to have software for doing that as well, great, but it’s not required. You don’t need to have any leaflets yourself, as I can supply copies of lots of them that were picked up from post offices from the 1980s onward (and which are actually semi-organised). Of course, if you have ones that I don’t have that you can either scan yourself or make available for scanning, even better!



Proofreading

In addition to the above, there are two jobs falling under this heading that I could do with some help with — one is a one-off, the other is something that needs to be done every six months or so.

The first of these relates to the books of Post Office Notices collated and published by Michel Raguin in the USA in the 1980s and 1990s — extremely useful books (I’m informed they are the most requested volumes in the RPSL library!). He has agreed to let us digitise these and make them available on the website (a joint effort between the GBPS and the RPSL), and we now have scanned versions of all seven volumes, which will appear on the site in due course. However, we would also like to make the notices available on regular web pages as a searchable list —



which requires proofreading the OCR'd text to correct software misinterpretations and get the notices into a consistent format.

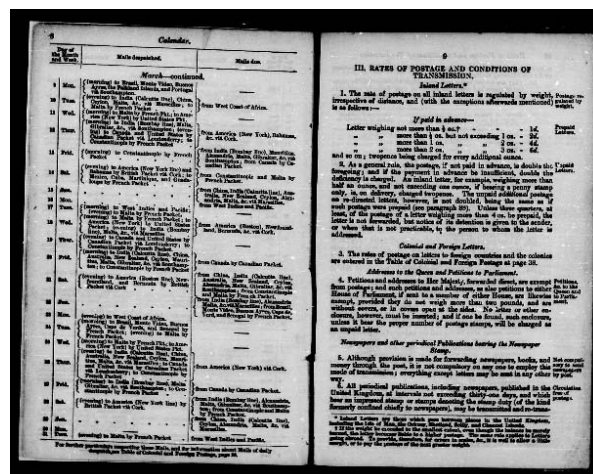
The second relates to the 'UK Post Offices by County' search tool on the website. The database behind this is based on the superb lists of post offices compiled by Ken Smith (with technical assistance from Nick Bridgwater). These are updated approximately twice a year, so the database needs to be, too. The main task here involves comparing the *Microsoft Word* docs for the new version and previous version of each county, and extracting the differences. This is something which the *Word* document comparison feature does surprisingly well, but since there are over 100 counties to work through, it's rather a lengthy process! Being able to split this task up several ways would be a huge speed boost.

Converting archive microfilms

This is a more complicated one, and a longer-term project, but would I think be very useful.

The Postal Museum has a lot of documents that were scanned to produce microfilms some years ago — including material such as the *Proof Impression Books*, 19th century *Post Office Guides*, and the Minutes to the PMG from the Secretary describing what was to be done about a wide range of postal matters. Of course, these are currently only accessible if you're actually in the TPM Discovery Room, but they do have readers that will save microfilm slides as JPEG images. Unfortunately, they don't currently have the time or budget to do the conversion, but when I raised the subject, they indicated that they would be willing for us to put the material on our website if we were willing to do the work.

Naturally, doing this requires physically visiting The Postal Museum in London, so to assist here you would need to be close enough to be able to do that reasonably often. If that sounds like it might be you, get in touch and I'll explain in more detail how it all works.



General website images

Finally, a general call — if you have items that you could scan to enhance some of the pages on the website, I'd be glad to receive images. In particular, a number of the pages in the rates section don't have an illustration, simply because I don't have a suitable example in my collection!

MAURICE BUXTON (website@gbps.org.uk)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ENGLISH 'REXMARKS'

Peter Chadwick writes: More than fifty towns in Scotland used manuscript 'town name marks', usually with the rate to Edinburgh appended, before town name handstamps were issued. About 180 individual examples of these marks are known: these are summarised in Rex Clark's excellent book, 'Manuscript Town Markings on Early Scottish Mail'. In a breath-taking display at the 'Royal' a few weeks ago, Malcolm Ray-Smith showed a few English examples of 'Rexmarks', early manuscript town marks: these seem to be rarer than Scottish ones! Mostly, they will have been used before 1720. I am now trying to compile a list of towns in England which used manuscript town markings. So far, I have seen examples from:

Doncaster Falmouth Ferrybridge Halifax Penrhyn Prescott Thorne Wigan York.

As a result of a single archive in Hamburg, I know that Doncaster, Ferrybridge and York are common.

I have no doubt there are several more: I am also sure they are not common. I am begging for information: IF you are so fortunate to have any English manuscript town marks in your collection, please tell me; I will add them to my list. When I have 18 towns, or 30 examples (other than Doncaster, Ferrybridge and York) to report, I will offer it for publication (*inter alia*) in your esteemed magazine. If you have any to tell me about, ideally I would like scans; to know the exact wording of the mark, if there is a rate attached to the mark, the date and the destination. A scan would be a welcome bonus! Please email me: Peter Chadwick, PVChadwick@gmail.com

CHRIS HARMAN RECEIVES THE 2022 ALFRED F LICHTENSTEIN AWARD



Chris Harman with HM The Queen.

The Collectors Club of New York has named Christopher G. Harman as the 2022 recipient of its prestigious Alfred F. Lichtenstein memorial award for distinguished service to philately. The award was announced at the club's annual meeting on 12 January 2022.

Chris Harman, who is British, is the third overseas winner of the Lichtenstein award in four years, following Chris King (of the United Kingdom) in 2019 and co-winner Patrick Maselis (of Belgium) in 2021. He is an insurance broker and member (or name) of Lloyd's of London, Harman lives in Suffolk with his wife, Debbie, and three children.

A specialist in classic issues, forgeries, revenues, locals and cinderellas, Harman's philatelic accomplishments include many of the hobby's leading service roles and recognitions.

He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2003. He is past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London, where he has been a member since 1979, a fellow since 1986 and chairman of the expert committee since 2011.

He is the current President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (with a prior stint in that role 20 years ago) and has served as chairman of the Cinderella Stamp Club since 2009. Harman is also a member of several societies in the United States, including the American Philatelic Society, American Revenue Association and the Carriers and Locals Society.

Since his first exhibit in 1978, Harman has risen to become a national and international judge, both of traditional philately and literature. He is the president of the jury for the London 2022 international exhibition.

His most notable exhibits include those on the work of British stamp printers Perkins Bacon; Great Britain revenues; classic British private posts; fakes and forgeries; and postal history of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II.

His contributions to literature include authoring *Great Britain: The Stamps of the Circular Delivery Companies and their Forgeries*; sections of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume I* dealing with postal fiscals, college stamps and circular delivery stamps; and numerous articles and presentations.

Alfred F. Lichtenstein (1876–1947) was widely considered one of the greatest American philatelists of the first half of the 20th century. The award in his memory was established by the Collectors Club in 1952, and its first recipient was Lichtenstein's good friend and co-founder of the Philatelic Foundation, Theodore Steinway.

REQUEST FOR LINE-ENGRAVED IMAGES

Mike Williams writes: Can anyone help me please? I am looking for a good quality images (preferably 1200 ppi) of the following items:

- 1) A block of 1d Rose-red Die 2 Plate 61 lettered IH-JL, and
- 2) The imprimaturs from 1d Red Die 2 Plate 65 lettered AG, AJ and AK.

If anyone can help, please email me at lineengraved@gbps.org.uk

SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 20 November 2021
at the Royal Philatelic Society London
(Morning Session)

Decimalisation and the Post Office by Maurice Buxton

The morning display at the November meeting was my collection of postal decimalisation material, just scraping into the anniversary year! As collectors will know well, in 1971 the UK changed its long-standing traditional currency of pounds, shillings and pence to a decimalised currency of pounds and pence, thus finally catching up with the vast majority of other countries. The Post Office was a key organisation in the economic life of the UK, and it needed to adapt to the new currency across a wide range of areas. The presentation aimed to show as many of these as possible in the space available.

Suggestions for the decimalisation of British currency (and weights and measures) went back a long way. A 'Decimal Association' was founded in 1841 in order to promote these causes (**Fig. 1**). The idea was given a boost by South Africa's successful conversion to the rand in 1961, with Australia and New Zealand both also planning to decimalise. A Committee of Inquiry reported in favour in 1963, with an authorising Act in 1967. The pound sterling was retained as the basic unit, split into 100 new pence worth 2.4 old pence each, with a ½p worth 1.2d as an interim measure (it was expected that it would eventually be dropped due to inflation, which happened in 1984).

The first few frames showed background material and ephemera from the lead-up to decimalisation. For example, the Royal Mint produced sets of the originally planned decimal coins in a specially designed wallet to aid public familiarity, sold at Crown Post Offices in 1968. The old halfpenny was demonetised in 1969 (it had

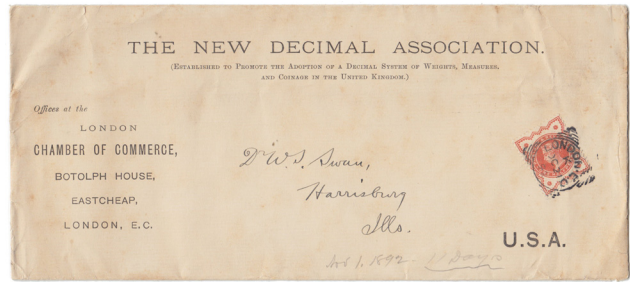


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Old £sd	New £p	Old £sd	New £p	Old £sd	New £p	Old £sd	New £p	Old £sd	New £p	Old £sd	New £p
		2/-	10	4/-	20	6/-	30	8/-	40		
1	½	2/1	10½	4/1	20½	6/1	30½	8/1	40½		
2	1	2/2	11	4/2	21	6/2	31	8/2	41		
3	1	2/3	11	4/3	21	6/3	31	8/3	41		
4	1½	2/4	11½	4/4	21½	6/4	31½	8/4	41½		
5	2	2/5	12	4/5	22	6/5	32	8/5	42		
		2/6	12½	4/6	22½	6/6	32½	8/6	42½		
6	2½	2/7	13	4/7	23	6/7	33	8/7	43		
7	3	2/8	13½	4/8	23½	6/8	33½	8/8	43½		
8	3½	2/9	14	4/9	24	6/9	34	8/9	44		
9	4	2/10	14	4/10	24	6/10	34	8/10	44		
10	4	2/11	14½	4/11	24½	6/11	34½	8/11	44½		
11	4½										
		3/-	15	5/-	25	7/-	35	9/-	45		
1/-	5	3/1	15½	5/1	25½	7/1	35½	9/1	45½		
1/1	5½	3/2	16	5/2	26	7/2	36	9/2	46		
1/2	6	3/3	16	5/3	26	7/3	36	9/3	46		
1/3	6	3/4	16½	5/4	26½	7/4	36½	9/4	46½		
1/4	6½	3/5	17	5/5	27	7/5	37	9/5	47		
1/5	7										
		3/6	17½	5/6	27½	7/6	37½	9/6	47½		
1/6	7½	3/7	18	5/7	28	7/7	38	9/7	48		
1/7	8	3/8	18½	5/8	28½	7/8	38½	9/8	48½		
1/8	8½	3/9	19	5/9	29	7/9	39	9/9	49		
1/9	9	3/10	19	5/10	29	7/10	39	9/10	49		
1/10	9	3/11	19½	5/11	29½	7/11	39½	9/11	49½		
1/11	9½										

Shoppers' table

DECIMAL CURRENCY BOARD

This table will help you to check decimal prices against previous £sd prices, but there is no need to learn it by heart. Remember, shops will charge either £p prices or £sd prices, but not both. You cannot use this table to choose whether you pay the £sd or the £p price.

Fig. 3

become very low in value), and the halfcrown in 1970 (as its equivalent of 12½p did not fit well into a decimal coinage). The 'grille poster' shown here (**Fig. 2**) was put up in Post Offices in connection with halfpenny withdrawal.

A range of booklets produced by the Decimal Currency Board (the statutory body responsible for organising the changeover) and other bodies were shown — one entitled *Your Guide to Decimal Money* was printed in an edition of 20 million and the Post Office undertook to deliver them to each household in the country between 11 and 25 January 1971 (although only 15 million were delivered before the postal strike started). It contained a copy of the

'Shoppers' Table' — the official equivalents between old and new currency for use by the general public (as a conversion from base 12 to base 10, these could not always be exact). This was the table used for postal services, so is the one to consult if you have mixed currency frankings to interpret! (**Fig. 3**)

The Post Office's own guide to decimal currency came in two forms — one for the general public and one for business. They included details of how the postal and telecommunications services were affected, and lists of the revised decimal charges. The version for the public included an illustrated guide for what to add to £sd stamps to make up the new first and second class rates (**Fig. 4**).

Postal services





The new postage stamps
We already have the high value decimal stamps, which were issued last June. Their values are 10p (2s) 20p (4s) 50p (10s). The £1 stamp remains unaltered.
On 15th February, 12 new low value decimal stamps will be issued. Their denominations are: ½p, 1p, 1½p, 2p, 2½p, 3p, 3½p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7½p, 9p.

Using up your £sd stamps
From 15th February onwards, we won't be selling any more £sd stamps (except at philatelic counters). But you can still use up any £sd stamps you may have, probably until the end of the changeover period.
This is how you do it. Convert the total £sd value of your stamps to decimal, using the DCB Shoppers' table, and then add any decimal stamp necessary to make up the new postage charge.
£sd stamped stationery can be used in the same way throughout the changeover period by converting the total £sd value to decimal by the DCB Shoppers' table and adding any decimal stamp necessary to make up the new postal charge.
The Post Office will also repurchase stamps bought for postal purposes within the last two years. This is the normal repurchase scheme and a charge of 12½% is made. In addition, an extension to the normal repurchase scheme allows for all £sd stamps issued within the current reign to be repurchased whether or not they were bought for postal purposes. The charge for this service is 15% of the face value of the stamps.

4

Below is a convenient guide for use in making £sd stamps up to the new inland post charges (First class 3p, Second class 2½p for the first 4oz.).

Total value of your £sd stamps	To make the postage up to 3p, add	To make the postage up to 2½p, add
7d	—	—
6d		—
5d		
4d		
3d		
2d		
1d		

5

Fig. 4



Fig. 5

A variety of material was produced to train postal staff how to handle business in the new currency, and I've been able to pick up some examples of this via eBay. These included the 'Postal Decimalisation Bulletins' Nos 2 and 3 (if anyone has a spare copy of Nos 1 and/or 4, get in touch!), circulated to Post Office staff in 1969–70 with information and updates. There were also books of exercises used for the formal training, consisting of a series of questions and examples. The well-known set of five 'training stamps' of the same size and approximate colour of the new definitive stamps — 2p, 2½p, 3p, 3½p and 4p (**Fig. 5**) — were printed for use with these, specifically Book 2 (which I don't have a copy of, unfortunately, although there is one in The Postal Museum). Something which had to be left on the side for inspection — as it was far too thick to mount — was a ring-binder of 'Postal Decimalisation Instructions' for Post Office staff issued in April 1970, which covered all aspects of postal business. A PDF version of that is available at www.gbps.org.uk/sources/staff-handbooks.php.

The first decimal stamps were a new set of Machin high values issued some months in advance on 17 June 1970, to ease distribution pressure and aid familiarity — £sd-compatible values of 10p, 20p, and 50p, and new plates of the £1 made up as a single pane of 100 instead of four panes of 40. They are not especially easy to find used on cover before D-Day, but a number of examples were shown, including a packet tag with a mixed franking of the 1969 10s and 1970 50p stamps of equivalent value, together with £1



Fig. 6

stamps from the decimal format printing (**Fig. 6**) (yes, I know it's been illustrated here before, but it's one of my favourite items).

A set of decimal postage dues was issued on the same day in the same denominations — these were however in a new design, the first since the introduction of the labels in 1914! Examples of these used before D-Day are even harder to find, especially used to collect purely postal surcharges rather than customs duty — they represented an unusually high amount of underpaid postage (at least 2s). A likely scenario is incoming mail from Rhodesia — for which the Government had declared the stamps illegal and null, and which were thus treated as completely unpaid (**Fig. 7**).

One page showed examples of the 'Cambridge University Colour Trials'. In 1969, 'confusability' trials were carried out there to determine the colour range for the new decimal definitives (see Tony Walker's



Fig. 7

articles in the *GB Journal*, Vol. 48, Nos 3–5). The stamps used were produced from special small cylinders using the existing pre-decimal values. I picked up a couple of these a while ago in colours that made it into the final set (light emerald and pale chestnut) but didn't have one that was rejected — at least, not until the day before the display! An example in deep bright purple and pale dull green (you can see why this combination wasn't used) turned up in a SG auction and went at reserve, and was collected from the Strand on the Friday ready to slot into the page (**Fig. 8**).

The display then moved on to the 12 decimal low value Machins — issued on Monday 15 February 1971, the date fixed as 'Decimalisation Day' or 'D-Day' — showing cylinder blocks from the 1971 printings and some standard usages. The set covered all values to 4p in ½p steps, then 5p, 6p, and 7½p and 9p, two values needed for airmail rates. Most values had a specific basic rate use when issued, with the exception of the ½p (a makeup value) and the 6p (second step surface/Europe rate). Incidentally, I've been trying to find details in the archives to say exactly why the 6p made it into the set, as opposed to something more obviously useful such as a 4½p (inland second class second step), but no luck so far — any information welcome!

First Day Covers were affected by an unforeseen event — the national postal strike from midnight 19/20 January 1971 until 8 March. I didn't go into that in much detail as there's already a talk some bloke did about it on the website, but did look at First Day Cover arrangements. Normal FDCs were not possible, but the Post Office announced that items bearing the new stamps would be backdated if posted in the special posting boxes on the fourth and fifth days following the resumption of work. A late decision was taken to apply explanatory cachets reading 'POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971' — they seem to have been locally obtained and there are many variants. (The GBPS library has recently received an extensive listing of them, courtesy of Cavendish.)



Fig. 8

FDCs cancelled on the actual day were obtainable from places that maintained local services during the strike (and obliging sub-postmasters), and the Forces network.

Books and rolls of stamps were treated next. The former remained in the same general format with panes of four stamps (machine vended) or six stamps (sold at counters), but the new decimal rates (and effective base 12 to base 10 switch) meant that panes of mostly single values were no longer a good fit. The solution was a return to se-tenant four-stamp panes, and to one or two stamp-size labels with commercial advertising on many six-stamp panes (**Fig. 9**). Early decimal panes with labels were fully perforated, but it was soon realised that this caused problems for the blind, who could not distinguish them from stamps, so on later panes the labels were part imperforate. A development of stamp rolls to account for decimalisation was the introduction in 1969 of machines that accepted either a 1s coin or the new 5p piece of the same size and value. They dispensed a strip of five se-tenant stamps that allowed both first and second class rates to be made up in a variety of ways. The only change needed on decimalisation was to replace the rolls with a decimal version.

New 'Regional' stamps were issued on 7 July 1971, the distinct Wilding designs for each area replaced by Machin designs in a common style — a smaller Queen's profile with a national emblem in the top left corner. All four sets contained the same values, 2½p, 3p, 5p, and 7½p. The first decimal commemorative set, 'Ulster Paintings', was not issued until June, out of consideration for collectors who already had the new definitives and regionals to shell



Fig. 9

out for — those were the days! The decimal 'To Pay' set was completed on 15 January with six denominations from ½p (occasionally needed on underpaid overseas mail, if you were wondering) to 5p.

£sd stamps were not sold at post offices after D-Day, but of course large numbers remained in the hands of the public. There was a transitional grace period in which these could be used up (at their equivalent Shoppers' Table value), and so mixed currency frankings were possible, as indeed were post-D-Day frankings consisting entirely of £sd stamps. A range of these were shown (Fig. 10).

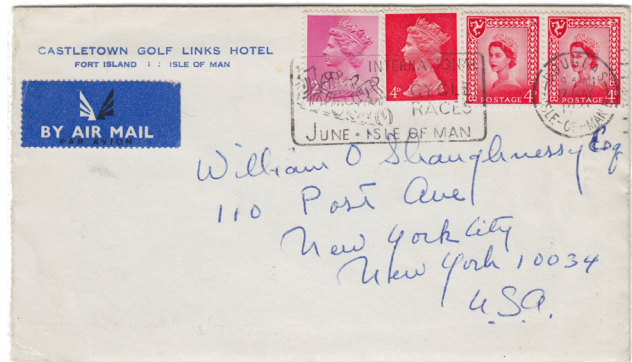


Fig. 10

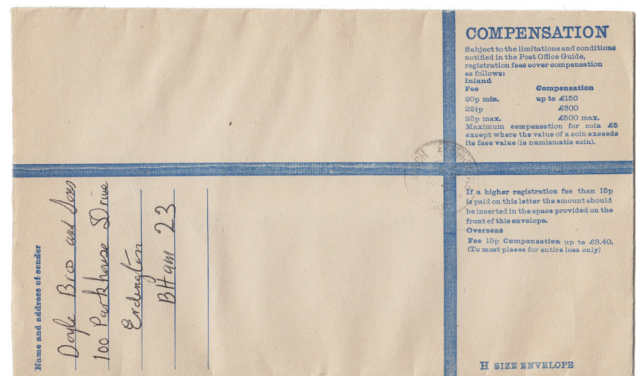
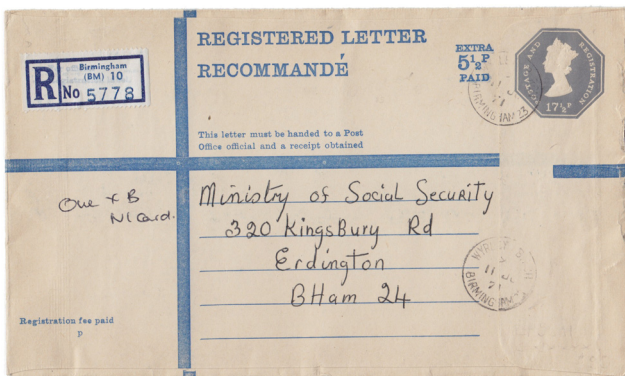


Fig. 11

The second half of the display kicked off with decimal postal stationery. No major changes were required across most of the range — simply straightforward new issues for 3p first and/or 2½p second class using the octagonal Machin design rolled out in 1969. The registered envelopes were a different story, with a number of oddities — the first 23p decimal registered envelopes (3p first class postage + 20p registration fee) were in a rather odd format, a 17½p embossed die with an 'EXTRA 5½P PAID' uprate as part of the letterpress printing. It appears that the die was prepared at a time when it was thought that the first class rate would be 2½p and registration remain at 3s/15p. A small number of early printings had the fee given as 15p in one place on the back and 20p in another! (Fig. 11) To avoid wasting expensive stocks, 'K' size registered envelopes with £sd 3s 5d embossed dies were overprinted in letterpress 'EXTRA 6P PAID' to uprate them to 23p — the only



Fig. 12

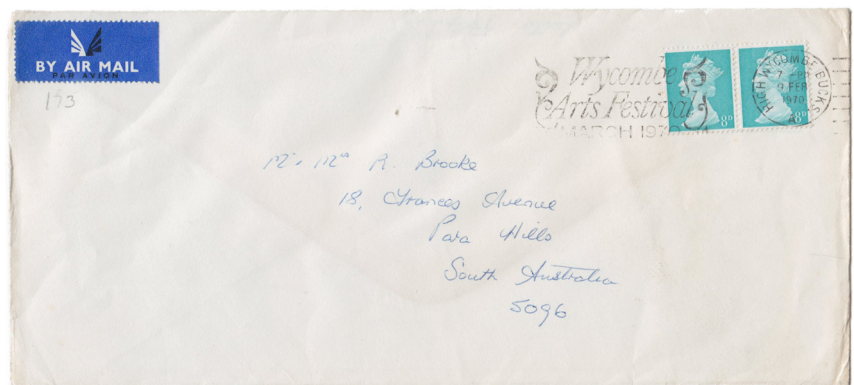


Fig. 13

mixed currency postage items issued by the Post Office during decimalisation.

Both embossed and letterpress decimal dies for stamped-to-order postal stationery were available, and the users of the STO service could generally carry on much as before (until it was withdrawn in 1973). Examples of £sd versions updated with decimal stamps were included. It was of course possible to take already stamped stationery back for additional stamps to be impressed, but most users didn't bother so very few non-philatelic mixed currency STO stampings are known. One company that did do this was the *Stamford Mercury* newspaper, a long-time user of STO wrappers with their own 'precancel' (Fig. 12).

The next part of the display was an extensive treatment of postal rates, showing pre- and post-decimal versions. A number of these are surprisingly difficult to find now — for example the 8d per ½oz Zone C airmail printed papers rate — as consequentially are covers with the 8d Machins issued to pay it (Fig. 13). There were some anomalies as certain overseas rates were not increased until the new UPU agreement took effect on 1 July 1971, resulting in some rates that were cheaper than the inland equivalent — for example the 5d overseas surface postcard rate translated to 2p — the cheapest rate for an inland postcard was 2½p second class. Likewise, the overseas registration fee remained at 15p — a registered envelope was issued with a 15p stamp for just this fee and no postage (as overseas rates varied widely).

The next section looked at franking machines — yes, meter marks! Over 70,000 machines were in use by the late 1960s, and had to be replaced or converted for decimal working. The method adopted from 12 June 1968 was to show values in pence only, usable before and after decimalisation, and needing only an accounting change on D-Day. The new decimal frank — designed by Stuart Rose — was actually quite plain, and the general format is still in use today. A (philatelic) first day use was shown (Fig. 14), along with examples of 'before and after' types from converted machines, and an oddity of an

unconverted old design machine apparently used as £p well after D-Day.

The penultimate section looked at some of the other services the Post Office offered. One was postal orders: from March 1970 orders in a cleaner, more modern design were issued, with the value and poundage printed in both £sd and £p — the idea was that they could be used both before and after decimalisation. In the event poundage was increased from D-Day, and so new versions were rolled out from December 1970 — some printed without poundage, some with it deleted by a punched hole (Fig. 15), and after D-Day even some with it scored through in pencil. Later in 1971 decimal-only orders with no poundage stated were issued — they remained in use for many years after decimalisation, as there was no need to change the design.

For many years, payments into the 'National Insurance' scheme by employers and workers were made by affixing special stamps to cards, typically bought at Post Offices. There were many classes of contribution for the different types of worker and amounts changed often — so many values and designs exist, with four different ranges needed during 1971 alone (examples Fig. 16).

The Post Office Savings Bank became the 'Department of National Savings' in 1968, to keep it as a government service after the Post Office became a public corporation in 1969. However, most operations were still conducted via the Post Office. The method of converting balances to decimal currency depended on the type of book. With new-type National Savings Bank books the conversion was made at the counter the first time the book was used, but for old-type POSB books — with an account number based on a local post office — it was made when the book was next sent to Headquarters (e.g. after a large withdrawal). There were also National Savings Stamps that were stuck in a small booklet, allowing savers (especially children) to accumulate in small amounts over a period, and these could be used to make a deposit in



Fig. 14

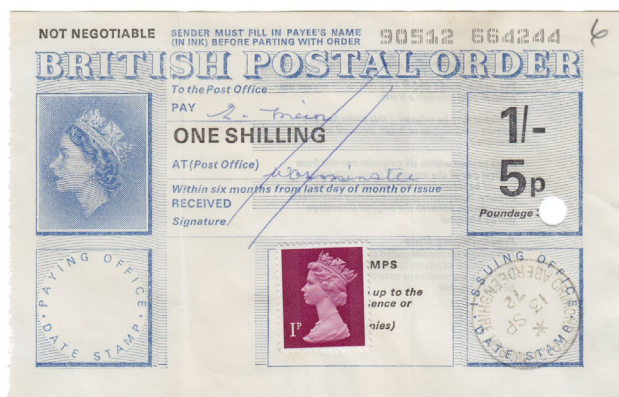


Fig. 15



Pre-decimal



February



July



September

Fig. 16

the Post Office Savings Bank. One book shown (apparently never cashed in) had three distinct issues of savings stamp used over a period — 2s pre-decimal, a mixed currency 2s/10p issue, and decimal 10p (Fig. 17).

Many hundreds of forms were in use by post offices, some customer facing, others purely for internal use. Any that referenced amounts in £sd required new versions — a mammoth task. The general procedure was to first produce a 'Bridging Decimal' issue in a form usable before and after



Fig. 17

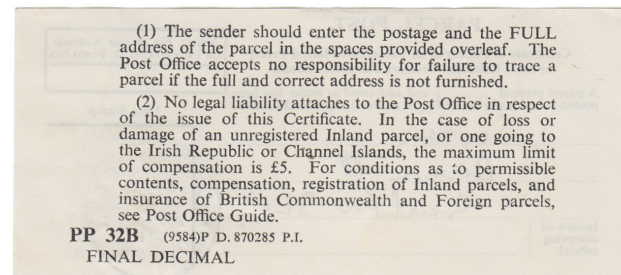
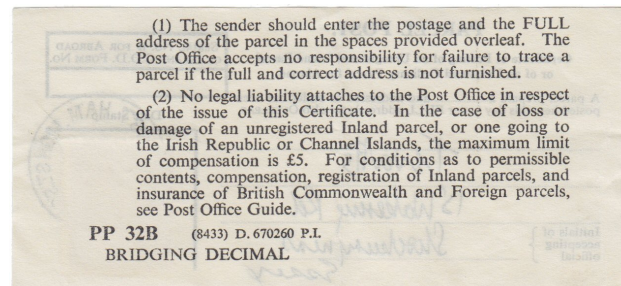
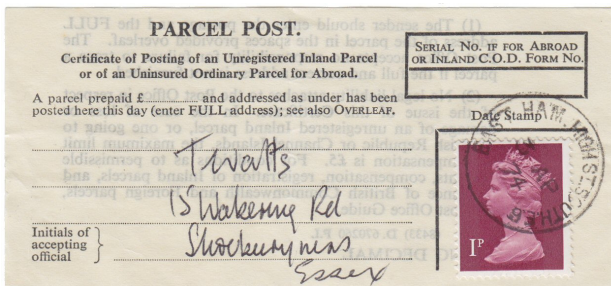
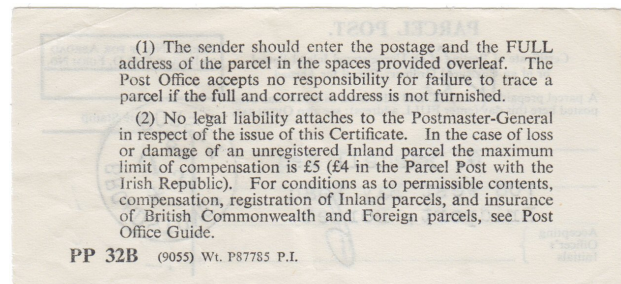
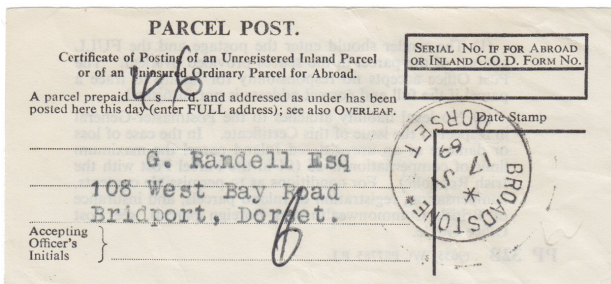


Fig. 18

D-Day, and later issue a 'Final Decimal' version with currency amounts in decimal — as an example here are a sequence of Parcel Post certificates of posting (stores number PP 32B), with the space to note the postage paid expressed in shillings and pence (original), pounds only (bridging decimal) and pence only (final decimal) (**Fig. 18**).

Finally in this section, telephones, telegraphs and related services were also the Post Office's responsibility until 1981. A wide range of charges had to be revised for decimalisation, and equipment such as public call boxes modified (to accept 2p instead of 6d coins). Unfortunately, phone calls don't result in collectable items in the way that letters do, but as a key aspect of Post Office business at the time it certainly deserves a mention (**Fig. 19**).

The last section looked at the final demonetisation of pre-decimal stamps — the 'grace period' for their use ended on 1 March 1972. The only special commemorative handstamp was a rather bland type used at Windsor — just the place and date with no reference to its significance. Naturally, some people were either ignorant of the cutoff date or simply ignored it, and £sd stamps are seen on covers for many years afterwards. They were treated as invalid if noticed and a surcharge raised, sometimes with a special purpose handstamp used (**Fig. 20**).

The initial talk was broadcast via Zoom — the video and presentation files are available via www.gbbs.org.uk/videos and go into even more detail!

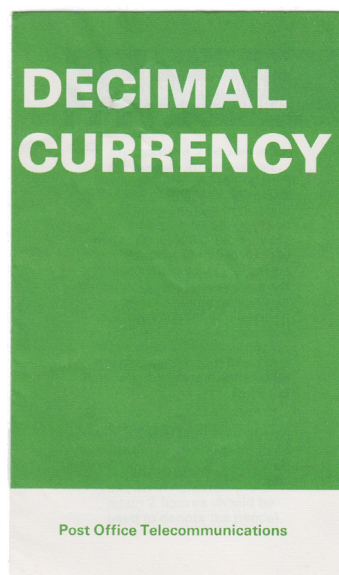


Fig. 19

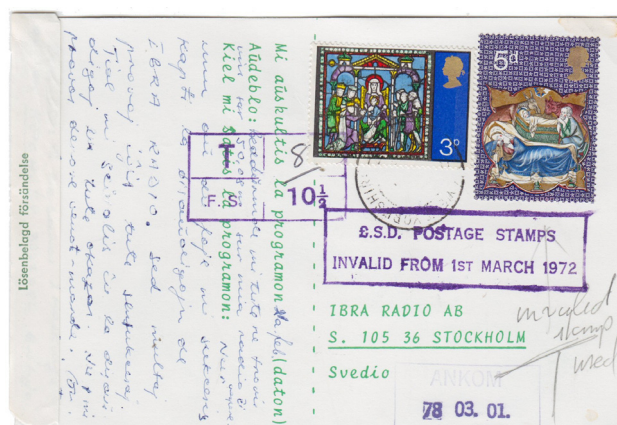


Fig. 20



Fig. 21

In giving the vote of thanks (**Fig. 21**), John Davies, Immediate Past President, commented 'Decimalisation is something that we take for granted and it is surprising to realise that this was introduced fifty years ago. How time flies! Since then, we have lost some low value coinage with the farthing and halfpenny no longer in use. I wonder how long it will be before we lose the penny or even twopenny coins? As a collector of open philately, I recognise this was a display that was considerably enhanced by the inclusion of ephemera such as postal notices and pamphlets that explained the system. Maurice had told us that he was missing a few items but you could hardly have known from the breadth of his display. This, of course, is just one of many collections that Maurice has put together. As always, they are exceptional in both telling an interesting story and in the quality and variety of material and the presentation of his collection and the PowerPoint display.'

If you missed the display, you can now view the talk on the Society website.

MAURICE BUXTON

SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 20 November 2021
at the Royal Philatelic Society London
(Morning Session)

Oddities in GB Postal History before 1840 by **Peter Chadwick FRPSL**

This collection formed the basis for Peter's book, *Oddities in GBPH before 1840*. The collection has won two International Gold medals, and a Large Gold at the Continental Philatelic Exhibition in Cairo in 2019 where it was also awarded 'Best of Show' (**Fig. 1**).

The collection was built on parts of our postal history which were not obvious, where there were anomalies or peculiarities that needed explaining, or simply postal marks that needed more researching. The existence of no less than four different official or semi-official local post systems fascinated and continues to fascinate him. His current immediate interest is manuscript town marks; Rex Clark did a wonderful study of these marks in Scotland — indeed, Rex's study formed part of a collection on display at the Athens International Exhibition, Notos 2021. No similar study has been done of these marks in England, and he has asked that every one of you tells him about any such marks in your collections.

Peter displayed the collection in two parts (**Fig. 2**): Firstly, the General Post; and in the second half, Local Posts.



Fig. 1
Best in Show Award, Cairo 2019

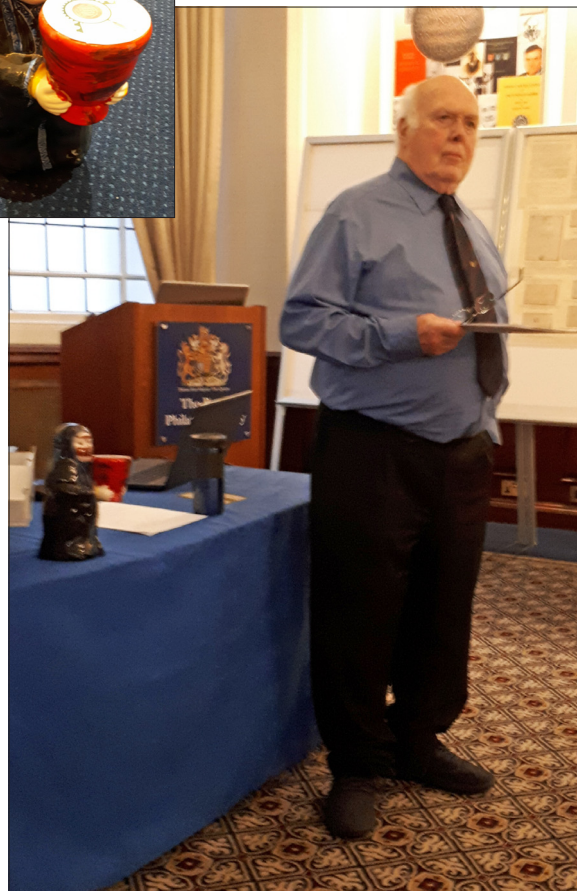


Fig. 2 — Peter Chadwick

The General Post was arranged as:

Frame 1	Bishop marks
Frame 2	Calendar differences: both 'year' and '11 days'. Also: Cardinal Duke of York!
Frame 3	English Rexmarks (MS town name marks)
Frame 4	General Post receivers
Frame 5	Chargemarks of the GP
Frame 6	Scottish Wheel Tax
Frame 7	Cross posts
Frame 8	Welsh charges and Scottish mileages
Frame 9	Dublin ship letter oddities. Prepaid marks of the GP
Frame 10	Free mail & abuse thereof
Frame 11	Uniform Fourpenny Post: a general post charge

The Local Post was arranged thus:

Frame 12	LONDON: Dockwra
Frame 13	Reforms of 1794, 1801
Frame 14	Reforms of 1805
Frame 15	Introduction to flat top 3
Frame 16	More on the country area rides
Frame 17	OUTSIDE LONDON: unofficial private posts
Frame 18	Postmaster locals
Frame 19	Official penny posts, fifth clause
Frame 20	Illegal 2d posts
Frame 21	8 mile post
Frame 22	Local charges of the Uniform Fourpenny Post

ENGLISH TOWN NAME MARK: HALIFAX



10 April 1782. Letter from Halifax (written at Ripponden) to Bradford, sent in the Bradford penny post, with an unrecorded manuscript "Halifax"

Fig. 3 — Manuscript town name 'Halifax'

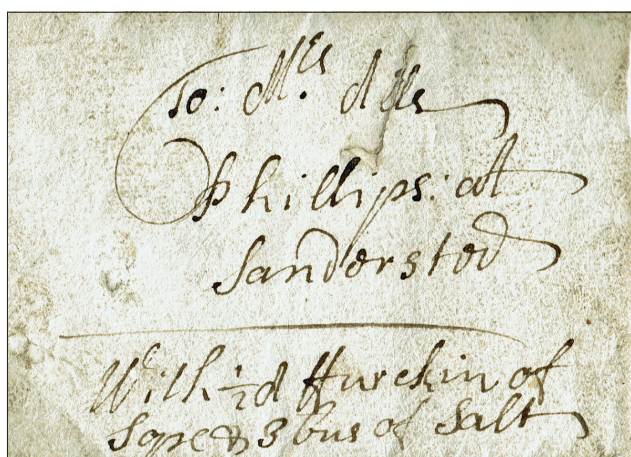


Fig. 4 — Private carrier's letter

Some key points from the display, supported by quality material, were:

The public postal service was introduced by King Charles II in 1660, organised by Henry Bishop, and Peter showed a cover from the first year of use. Complications arose in dates as the Church year began on 25 March. This was used by clergy but not in popular use and covers could have two dates on them!

Manuscript town name marks are uncommon in Scotland and rare in England (**Fig. 3**). Peter is currently studying these from 1675 to 1725 and is seeking help (see later remarks).

The first Foreign Office charge marks were shown from 1663 (the first in the world). The handstamps introduced for the rate to London are great rarities.

The Scottish Wheel Tax handstamps (additional halfpenny) are difficult to identify and Peter suggested the use of a protractor to differentiate the types.

The Cross Posts began in 1696, proposed by Joseph Quash (Postmaster in Exeter) firstly from Exeter to Bristol, with distinctive marks shown. An essential part of the development of the postal system became fully operational by 1720.

Wales had the only hypothetical charge mark with 1d tax to cross the Menai Bridge.

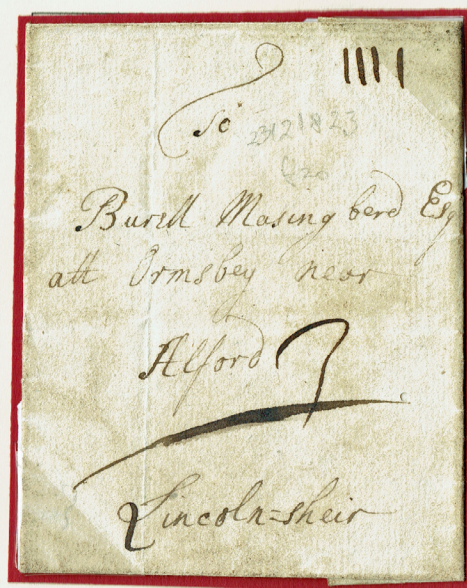
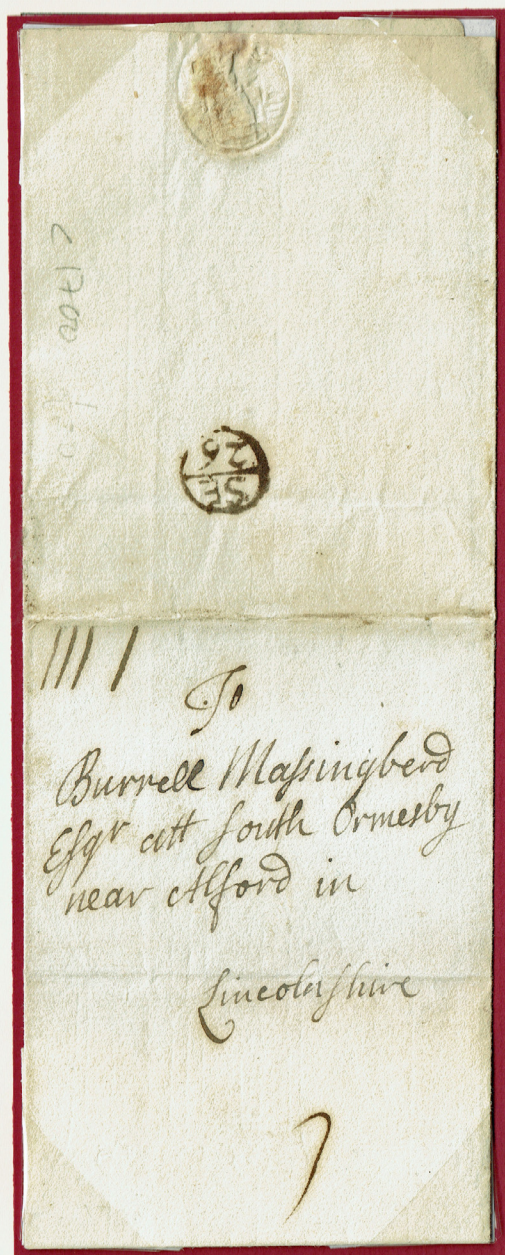
The abuse of free marks by MPs was demonstrated, one from 1719 being one of the earliest examples. Handstamps included 'above privilege, above number, above weight'.

In relation to the local posts, there was no real experience of running a postal system that could be used in the general population. Effectively, everything we did in GB was experimental. The success of the Industrial Revolution was largely influenced by the improvements in communication through the postal system.

The Dockwra local penny post service began in London in 1681. Major changes did not occur until 1794 and the system was revised again in 1801.

WAYS of SHOWING THE CHARGE

ALFORD (Linconshire). "III" charge, c 1710



About 1710

Letters from London to Alford, Lincolnshire, charged 3d in the General Post ("3" on the address panel), but marked "III I" to indicate 4d to collect. The extra "1" is the local postmaster's charge for delivery to South Ormesby. Note that the "4" is written with four strokes, not as a "4", so that an illiterate post-boy would know how many coins to collect.

These are only fronts, so there are no letters to confirm the date: but this style of Bishop mark was in use only from 1673 to 1713.

These are thus very early examples of a postmaster's "private post" charge, and rare to be shown (as on these two examples) on the face of the letter.

Fig. 5 — General charge and postmaster's local charge

Freeling proposed new rates in 1805 with charges for the outer area increased to 3d. Re-directed mail attracted 'more to pay' fees.

Outside London, unofficial private carriers operated. This was allowed where people were related or where letters were sent with parcels of commercial goods (**Fig. 4**). Postmasters also operated private services (**Fig. 5**).

Local penny posts were allowed outside London from 1760. These started in Edinburgh by Peter

Williamson in 1793 and spread quickly after taken over by the Post Office.

When satisfied that the Post Office could operate a profitable service, a local service started under the 'Fifth Clause' settlement (**Fig. 6**). Around 50 operated and some have their own handstruck marks.

Other unusual postal marks were shown relating to illegal 2d posts (**Fig. 7**) and the 8-mile post.

The display concluded with rare handstruck marks of the Uniform Fourpenny Post.

EXTRA CHARGES within the UNIFORM FOURPENNY POST

FIFTH CLAUSE POST

FIFTH CLAUSE POST

“Fifth clause” posts has been running for more than thirty years, with the local population underwriting the cost of providing the post service from outlying locations to the post roads. The fifth clause post charge (normally 1d) was paid in advance, and the letter marked to show that the fifth clause post fee had been paid.



18 Dec 1839. Letter from Llaugharne to London, prepaid 1d for the fifth-clause route from Llaugharne to the Pembroke coast road, and charged 4d payable on delivery in London, for the Uniform Fourpenny Post charge.

The Fifth Clause charge is shown by the “Llaugharne/ 5” Clause Post” handstamp, the 4d in manuscript.

The use of a “Fifth Clause” mark in the Uniform 4d Post is rare. This is the only example known to the exhibitor.

Fig. 6 — Fifth Clause post

In giving the vote of thanks. John Davies, Immediate Past President, commented ‘Whenever you are told that you are going to see a collection that has won multiple Gold and Large Gold Medals at International level, you know you are going to see something very special and this was certainly the case with Peter’s display. There were so many great rarities in Peter’s collections that I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to see them. Again, the variety, depth and quality of material was stunning and the collection has been beautifully written up.

The collection is also remarkable for the depth of study that Peter has put in. He has generously published this research in several areas. His book of *Oddities in GBPH before 1840* is available to buy at £20. Please contact Peter for more information (see below for more information).

For those who wish to know more about these subjects, Peter has provided a list of reference works:

Literature

There are many, many books on specialised topics: and a working knowledge of British political and social history is essential. Postal History is arid without a

social and political context. The ‘sine qua non’ core books are:

- Willcocks and Jay, *The British County Catalogue of Postal History* (five volumes) (BCC).
- Auckland and Stables, *Postal markings of Scotland to 1840*, 2nd edition — SPHS.
- Feldman and Kane, *Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840*.
- Robinson, *For the Port and Carriage of Letters* — SPHS.

There are specialist books on many subjects. For example, the entire publications of the London Postal History Group are available on the GBPS website; James Grimwood-Taylor’s new masterpiece gives an outstanding overview of the developments leading up to the penny post; Stephen Parkin has written the definitive guide to Edinburgh postal history; Ian Baker and others have produced an outstanding guide to the halfpenny wheel tax; for the Midland counties, a significant and valuable update and expansion on BCC has been produced. And there are many others, covering an enormous diversity of topics!

HARROGATE "TWO PENNY POST"



"Two Penny Post" of Harrogate, used to Knaresborough, September and December 1836

Only two towns in England used a "Two Penny Post" handstamp: Harrogate and Sheffield: both are rare. The Harrogate handstamp was introduced in 1836, just before the Twopenny post became illegal. Both of these examples are used, to Knaresborough, with a total charge in each case of 3d: 2d in the Harrogate "penny post" and 1d in Knaresborough penny post. This is an example of "contiguous" postal areas, with a common receiving house in Ripley. As a result of a legal challenge, twopence "outer area" posts stopped from 3 January 1837.

Only three copies of this handstamp have been recorded.

Fig. 7 — Harrogate Twopenny Post

Peter has attempted to add to the body of knowledge with a book of today's collection, and booklets on two specialist topics:

Chadwick, *Oddities in GB Postal History before 1840*.

Chadwick, *Chargemarks of the 4d Post, 1839–1840* (out of print).

Chadwick, *The Flat-topped Three of the London District Post*.

Peter's current research is on English 'Rexmarks' — manuscript town name marks of England; he asked that anyone who has any of these marks — normally in the region of 1665 to 1720, sometimes later — to send him details of any such marks that they have. Ideally, a scan plus date, sender and destination. His

email is: PVChadwick@gmail.com He intends to offer a list for publication in the *GBPS Newsletter* as soon as he has a list of twenty towns OR fifty individual examples.

He is also, but less urgently, trying to compile lists of postmaster private posts; illegal twopenny posts; and recognised 8-mile posts of England.

William Blackwood, an influential businessman and publisher in Edinburgh in 1822, wrote a detailed and very constructive recommendation for speeding up mails from London to Edinburgh. This contains detailed timetables and costings, and is a very useful guide to the main postal route of that date. This has been reprinted by SPHS and is a useful reference book for anyone interested in the posts in the north of England and in Scotland of this era.

JOHN DAVIES FRPSL

SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 4 December 2021

Christmas Virtual Meeting via Zoom — Members Short Displays

This meeting was the first Zoom meeting after our resumption of physical meetings and was well supported by members from many parts of the world. Twelve members opted to display and those attending were treated to a wide variety of material.

Maurice Buxton got us underway with four pages of examples of comic postcards commenting on the post (**Fig. 1**). A couple of examples are illustrated here but please look on the website for the full selection.

Next up was **Jean Alexander** with five pages lifting the lid on the 1994 Stamp Advisory Committee Christmas lunch. Items displayed included a 3D Christmas card and a delightful booklet containing the menu (**Fig. 2**).

Andy Donaldson followed with examples of Charles Dickens stamps and an envelope printed on behalf of the Charles Dickens centenary testimonial committee. These were printed by Tuck and Co. with the intention of raising funds for the descendants of the writer and to commemorate his memory (**Fig. 3**).

Phil Waud showed us the first Christmas commemorative stamps of 1966 and explained that they had been designed by two schoolchildren, Tasveer Shemza and James Berry (**Fig. 4**).

James Heal had personally nostalgic items in the form of Weston-Super-Mare postcards from yesteryear including an improbable snowy seaside scene (**Fig. 5**).

Duncan Barber then gave us 'Timbromanie' a humorous guide to collecting and displaying stamps that exactly hit the spot for this light hearted meeting (**Fig. 6**).



Fig. 1

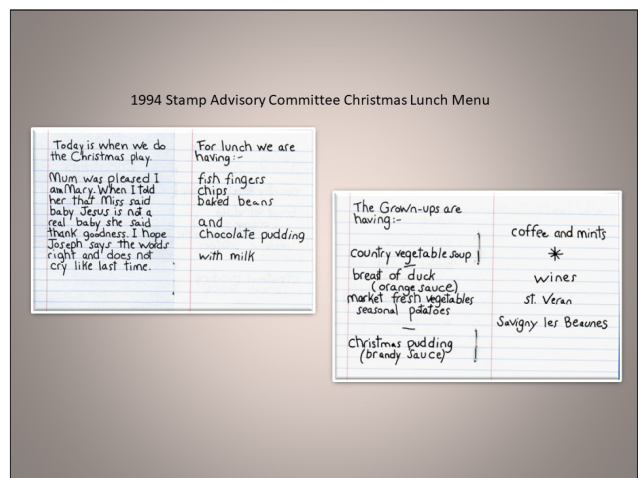


Fig. 2

Nick Amor then brought meeting back to order with a wonderful find, a cover from the first day of the uniform 4d period but destined for France, most unusual (**Fig. 7**).

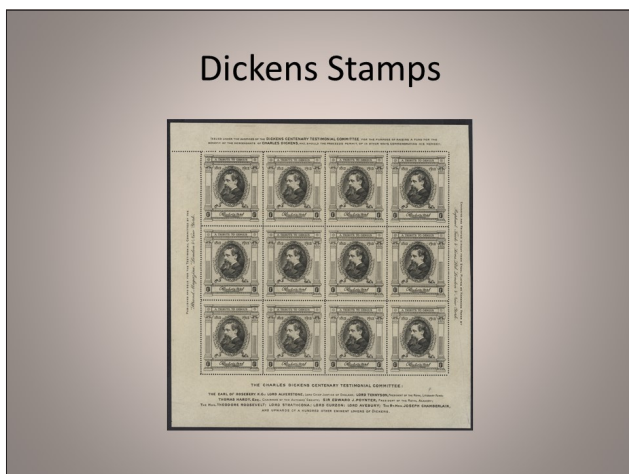


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

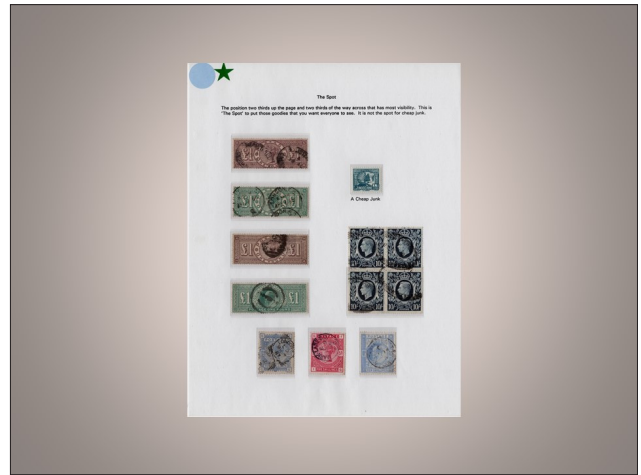


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

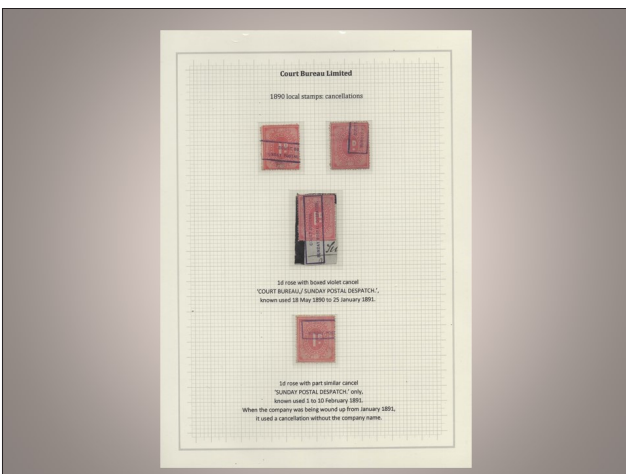


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Chris Hibbert also showed us an interesting cover. This one being an oddly folded Mulready cancelled by two different Maltese Crosses and also bearing a manuscript 'Pd1' and a London 'PAID' tombstone datestamp. The contents concerned a man who had tried to kill his wife by poisoning, with disastrous results for all (**Fig. 8**).

Vincent West has written a lovely book *The Court Bureau: A London Company and its Stamps 1889–91* and treated us to a selection of mint and used copies of these stamps (**Fig. 9**). He would love to know if any members have other examples to share with him.

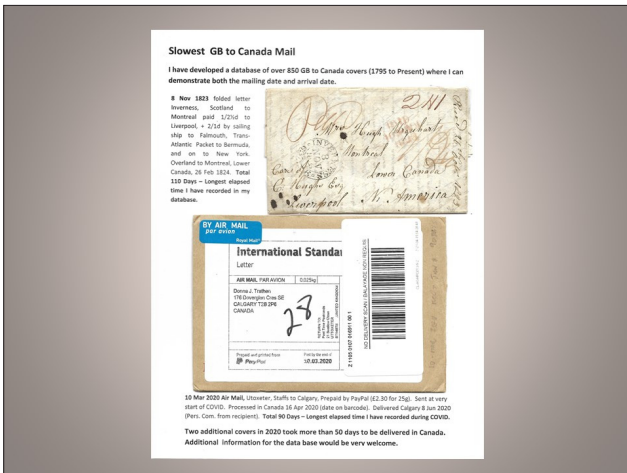


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

Bob Galland shared a topical postcard found in his local post office which is self-explanatory and delightful (**Fig. 10**).

Dave Russum has a database containing the details of covers sent from GB to Canada and showed us the cover that took the longest time (110 days in 1823/4) to reach its destination and a more recent COVID-affected contender (90 days in 2020) (**Fig. 11**).

Finally, **Steve Teuma** returned us to the 1966 Christmas issue with a number of examples of errors (**Fig. 12**).

Lively discussion followed the displays with the meeting eventually finishing with Christmas and seasonal good wishes to all. If you haven't yet seen the display, it is available on the website in the Meeting Videos part of the Members' Section.

HOWARD HUGHES

SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Wednesday 8 December 2021
at Stanley Gibbons, Strand, London

Members' Displays at Stanley Gibbons

Resurrected! Christmas spirit returned — of course, I am referring to philatelic sociability. After an enforced nil turnout in 2020 — being respectable citizens following government guidelines, ho, ho — this was much better with about 40 attending from all over. Again, many thanks to Victoria Lajer and her team at Stanley Gibbons — quite low key, no long speeches and plenty eager to show some interesting and diverse material.

George King, our reliable stalwart of postal stationery, showed a wide range of new items ranging from Post Office circulars in 1875 and 1876 through to current reign anomalies focusing on the unusual — for instance, as not constrained by exhibition mounting, an OHMS cover measuring some 35 cm by 23 cm.

Fig. 1 shows an Inland Revenue form printed in 1903 with a one-off printed 'official paid' so a type all its own. You know that I like the stamped-to-order material with explanatory wrappers so **Fig. 2** illustrates an example for the Co-op pre-stamped 1/2d for the

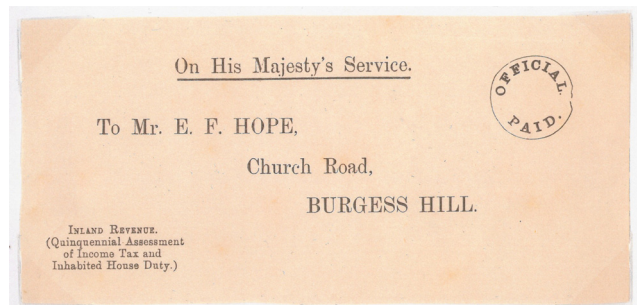


Fig. 1

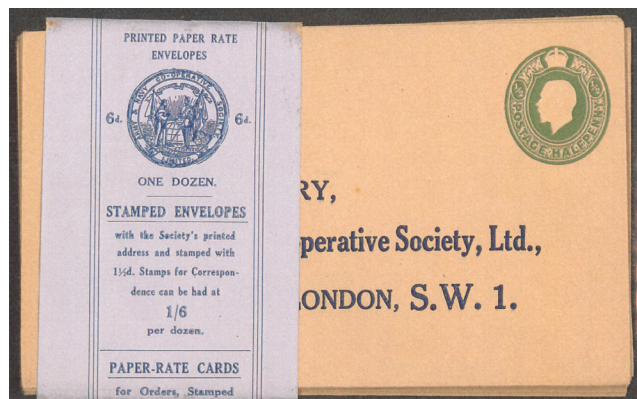


Fig. 2

printed paper rate. George showed the equivalent for letter rate 1 1/2d envelopes.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

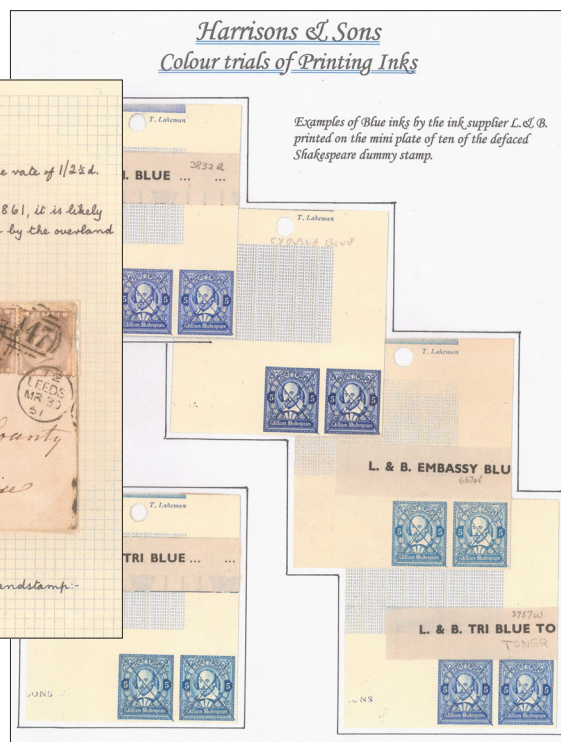


Fig. 5

Stephen Weir is a regular at these events coming from Bathgate — for the uninitiated, midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow, a good place as an uncle and aunt of mine owned a pub on the main road! He collects the reigns of Edward, both VII and VIII. Mostly of the first king, he showed a summary full range of issues by both De La Rue and Harrison with the different papers, plate proofs, used and unused, some in blocks and the distinctive Harrison shades. **Fig. 3** shows an example page of 1d controls. For Edward VIII he showed some post-abdication covers which had been signed by Edward in his reduced status as 'Edward, Duke of Windsor'.

Edward Walker is another stalwart of this party and provided us with a nice frame of mail to the US between 1848 and 1875 — a very comprehensive collection to cover the period showing the changing rates. For 1848, unstamped and paid in cash, then use of the one shilling embossed including a pair, on to the surface-printed shilling rate with a double rate, with additional 1d and 2d line-engraved and a late fee with the extra 1d. From then, it was the reduced rates, 6d, one with a 2d late fee, the 3d and the eventual 2½d rate. One I like is the rate of 1 shilling and 2½d — even better as a double rate! (**Fig. 4**).

Peter Lister, President elect, showed early Harrison photogravure material introduced by the sizes large, intermediate and small with lower value blocks, some signed by Cecil Harrison. This was a preface to an example of their screen printing followed by a range of colour trials prepared by the ink supplier

using the Shakespeare dummy stamp, about 10 sheets in various colours, of which **Fig. 5** is an example of the shades of blue.

Mike Williams explained that his small display was of the 'official perforation of Die 1 stamps' — he did not explain to me what were 'unofficial'! Anyway, these are all during the earliest years of perforation, in great depth, perf. 14 and 16, shades, perf. errors to identify the stamps, repairs to plates and changes in plate making, imprimaturs and imperfs — which need to be identified as such. **Fig. 6** shows an example page using the 2d Plate 4 which gives a flavour.

John Davies is well known for the 1890 Jubilee with its Guildhall exhibition so I had forgotten that there was another exhibition, perhaps even more important, the GBPS Guildhall Exhibition in 1966! John provided us with a complete frame of both contemporary and 1890 stationery used at this exhibition and the application of the 1890 handstamps. **Fig. 7** illustrates an exotic example of a cover — judicious use of the ½d value to avoid the requirement for a 1d Black — and a 'regional' postcard.

Don Davies gave us a range of Uniform Penny Post handstamps from all over the country, those pre-paid in cash receiving a red '1' or '1d' many incorporating Paid and those unpaid with a black '2', many being very scarce. **Fig. 8** shows a couple of examples of the latter.

Kevin Maunder was another of our team on the recently published Volume 1, Part 1 of the *Specialised Catalogue*, with concentration on the earlier imperf.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

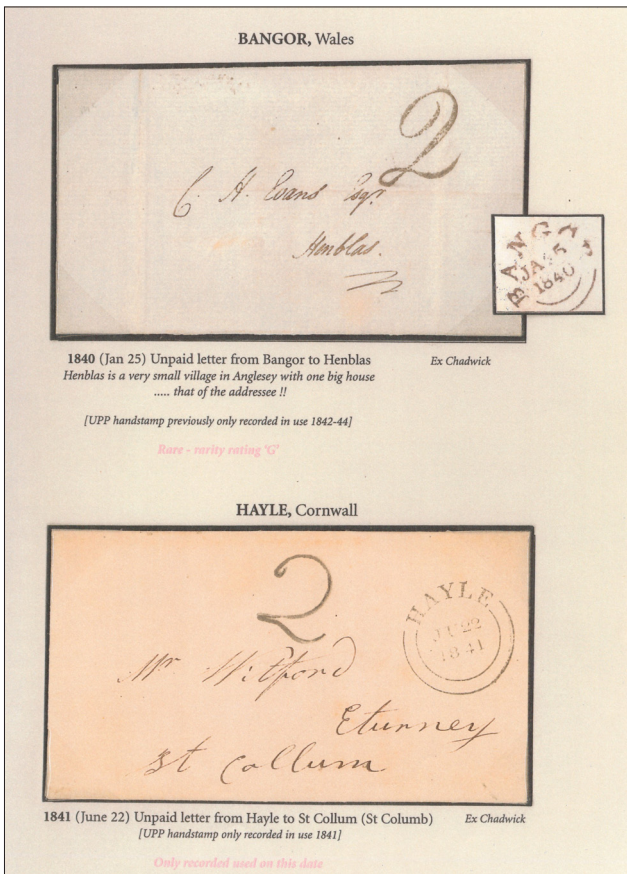


Fig. 8

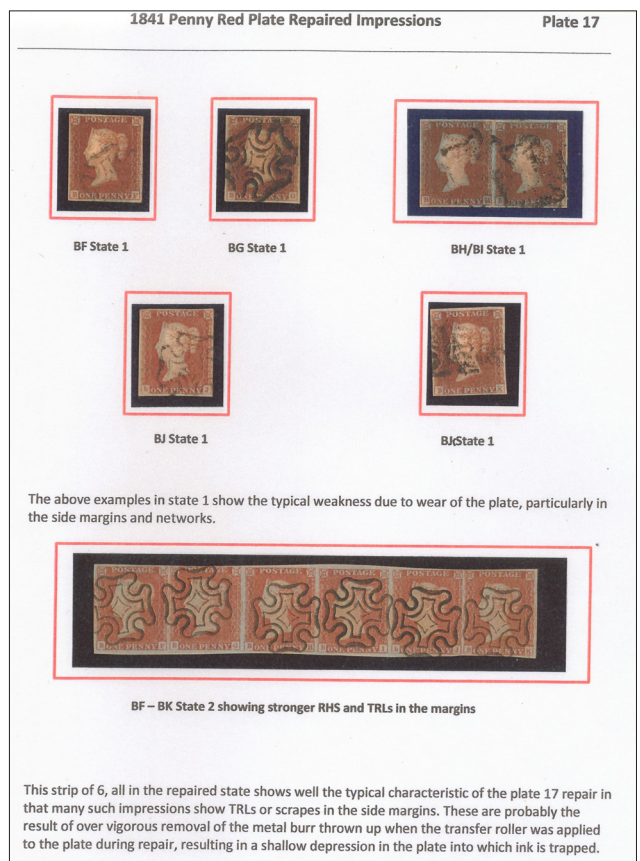


Fig. 9

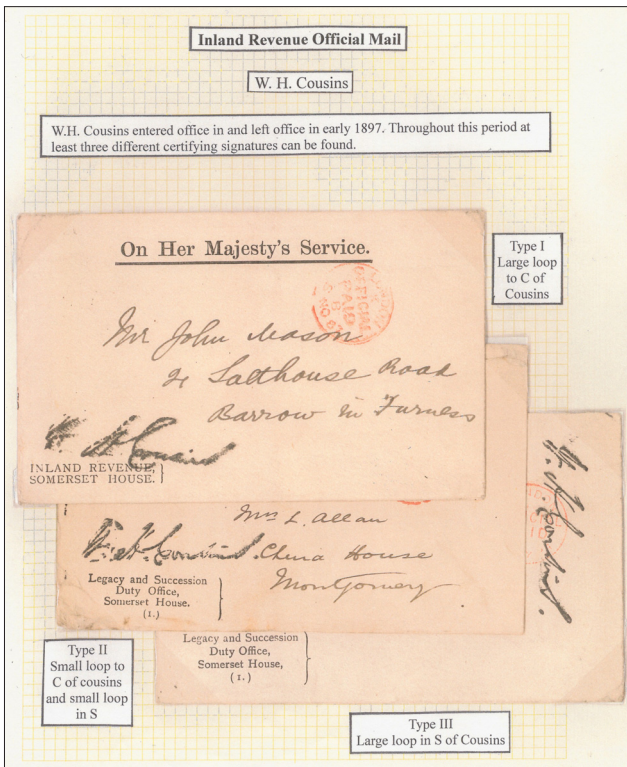


Fig. 10

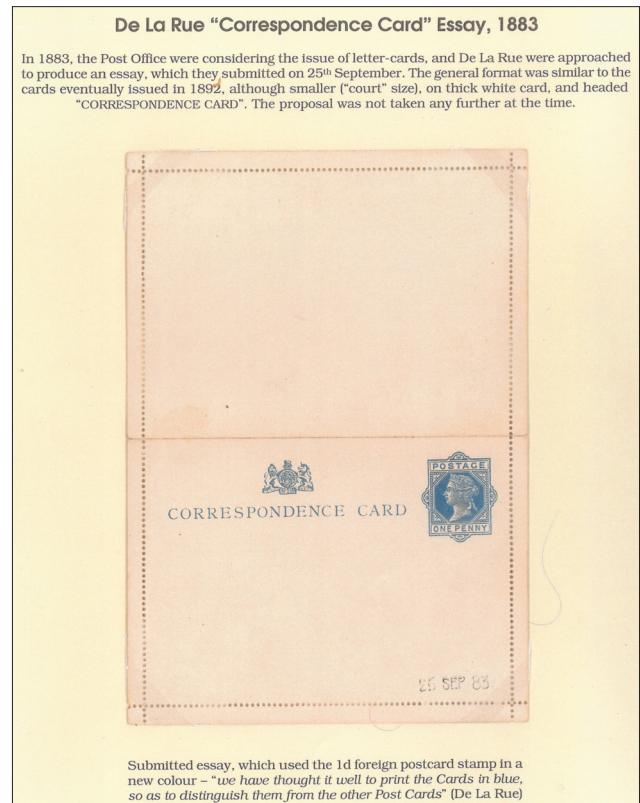


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

there were varieties as shown for Cousins (Fig. 10).

Maurice Buxton seems to be treading on the toes of George King by showing Victorian and Edward VII lettercards! This was a series of 1d Red with many changes in the card during the period but there was an essay prepared by De La Rue in 1883 in Blue (Fig. 11). And he touched on registration labels used by different organisations and for different events so many varieties but I thought that the cover in Fig. 12 was a fairly unusual example of registered mail forwarded registered with some confusion.

Yours truly slipped in a couple of frames of training school material, certainly the good and the bad if not the ugly. As expected, this was mainly booklet material with the message that almost all good, which is scarce, has provenance (Len Newbery) and much forged — and there is much — which has known provenance from the middle 1990s. Equally, I treat much counter sheet stamp material with great suspicion as the basic stamps are usually of little or no worth. But, to help to identify the good, here are two panes: a decimal training school (backed with a letter of origin) and a Postal Museum Wilding Specimen (Fig. 13). For authenticity of yours, including sheet material, look at the 'sit up and beg' shape of the 'S'.

So, I hope this illustrates that we can enjoy ourselves in times of adversity!

IAN HARVEY

issues. This time, he was showing Plates 12 to 40 of the 1d Red in their various states thus following the repairs to the plates. Fig. 9 shows Plate 17 with the repairs to the letters on the B row from F to K.

Denis Noe, very welcome as a new member last year, showed Inland Revenue Official Mail from 1840 to 1900 starting off with the VR 1d Black. This covered the range of Somerset House handstamps described I to VI and he had numerous examples of the signatures of the Secretary of Stamps & Taxes at the Inland Revenue all on correspondence with the official obliterations. Some of these were signed personally but many had been made into handstamps, of which



Fig. 13

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION 1924

THAT DODGY FIRST DAY COVER

In the January/February *Newsletter*, David Ogden drew our attention to a faked first day cancellation. I would like to use this as an example of how it would be treated if sent to the Expert Committee of which I am a member. We receive submissions of first day cancellations quite regularly, usually pre-QEII or the scarcer QEII — in other words, worth spending the money on a certificate. The relevant illustrations are those of David, his **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 3** repeated here as presented in the original article.

On receipt, the postcard would be compared with our photograph records of previous submissions — we will have a few — to see if we have seen previously, very unlikely, and be able to compare with others, whether considered to be good or bad. With the 1924A datestamp aberration (**Fig. 1**), the query is obvious and further reference would be made to the relevant literature, that for the British Empire Exhibitions and First Day Covers. Plainly, none of this would give an example of 1924A, but that is not to dismiss it out of hand.

Hopefully, this work will have shown examples of others similar to David's **Fig. 3**, so we would look further at the slogan part of the cancellation of the stamps. Comparison shows differences, in particular, look at the letter 'M' in 'Wembley'. Totally different shapes and other letters do not look alike even from the *Newsletter* illustrations. Also, we would look at the stamps — should they both be line perforated? I cannot remember without reference!

We would note that this is a postcard relating to Brighton sent to Dorset — so read the message — perhaps it says 'having a wonderful time at the exhibition', it might say 'went for a bracing walk on the beach'! At this stage, I am getting suspicious.

If we consider that the 1924A is incorrect by addition of the 'A', why go further? In expressing an opinion, we cannot conclude with that only as it infers that the postcard is a first day cover with a genuine cancellation to which an 'A' has been added. But, I am



Fig. 1



Fig. 3

suspicious that the whole cancellation is faked, that the first day postcard is a total fabrication.

At this stage, I look to discuss the submission with a specialist — in this case, David. I draw his attention to all our research. In order to express an accurate and complete opinion, we need to decide whether it is just the addition of 'A' to an otherwise genuine first day postcard or whether we say it is a total fabrication. No doubt, you can see where I suspect that we are going!

eBay is a wonderful means of passing off material. Sellers can start at 99p and see how bidders get drawn into the competition. I think that this one is more subtle. Gibbons list a 1924 FDC at over £400 so £120 is not a silly price. It is marketed as a 'good item'. It is targeted at the collector with reasonable knowledge and pocket money but not with the expert knowledge of David. If you are interested in an item that is beyond your particular knowledge, feel free to discuss it with the relevant GBPS consultant — we are not in the business of bidding against each other, there is integrity between members!

IAN HARVEY

BOOK REVIEWS

Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps, 31st combined edn. Size 240 x 170 mm, softbound, ix + 568 pp. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 2022. ISBN 978-1-911304-89-0, price £37.95.

The previous edition of this catalogue was published in 2016 and was called *Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps*; for this edition, the 'Collect' has been dropped. The listings in the new edition are complete up to 31 December 2021, and the additional five years' worth of issues has added 154 pages while the price has increased from £29.95 to £37.95.

It is printed in colour throughout and provides a comprehensive priced listing of the stamps of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, including the Wartime occupation issues of Guernsey and Jersey, the British Post Office 'Regional' issues and the stamps of the independent postal administrations of Guernsey (including Alderney), the Isle of Man and Jersey. First day covers, presentation packs, year packs, postage dues and booklets are listed and priced as well as printing errors and paper changes. Information is provided on designers, printers, plate and cylinder numbers, sheet sizes and layouts, and withdrawal and invalidation dates. Quantities sold are given where known.

The style and content of the new catalogue has been brought into line with the *Concise* and *Collect British Stamps* and as with these other publications, the new one is very well produced.

MIKE JACKSON



Just Large Enough by Douglas N. Muir. Published February 2022 by The Postal Museum. 292 pp. ISBN 978-1-3999-1273-0. Price £25.



Douglas Muir needs no introduction and, given his extremely successful term as Senior Curator of Philately at The Postal Museum, he is ideally placed to produce a guide to the museum's philatelic collections. When Douglas first mentioned this, I was expecting a rather dry tome in the nature of a directory or signposting map but, as the quirky title suggests, he has produced a much more interesting work.

The title is inspired by Rowland Hill's definition of the requirement of a postage stamp 'a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash.' but it could equally apply to the book itself which, in nearly 300 pages, neatly and imaginatively captures the essence of the collections.

The style is for each chapter to tell the story of a particular era or subject and to bring that to life with illustrations of items within the collections whilst also drawing the reader's attention to other items that sit within them. A list of references and archive identification codes is included at the end of each chapter.

If the intention is to encourage philatelists to visit the archive themselves then this approach has a far more profound effect than the sort of listing I had anticipated.

Each chapter is a standalone story beginning with a history of the collections themselves and then moving on to the history of the early posts and postal reform. Other chapters consider the speeding of the mail, types of printing, design, postal stationery and other services offered by the Post Office. The last third of the book is largely devoted to more modern themes and includes modern postal history and machine sorting, various aspects of modern stamp design, designers and printers' trials. The book concludes with chapters on unissued stamps (with some beautiful photographs of rare items), the influence of the Post Office on issues abroad and, finally, Post and Go.

Each of these chapters is worthy of a review in its own right and, indeed, I did begin writing along those lines but, found that such reviews were becoming repetitive. This is because the standard remains high throughout and each chapter has been well researched and tells a cogent and interesting story, often revealing new information (at least to me). The chapters are beautifully illustrated with many rare, and some spectacular, items shown.

In short, this book is a something of a gem!

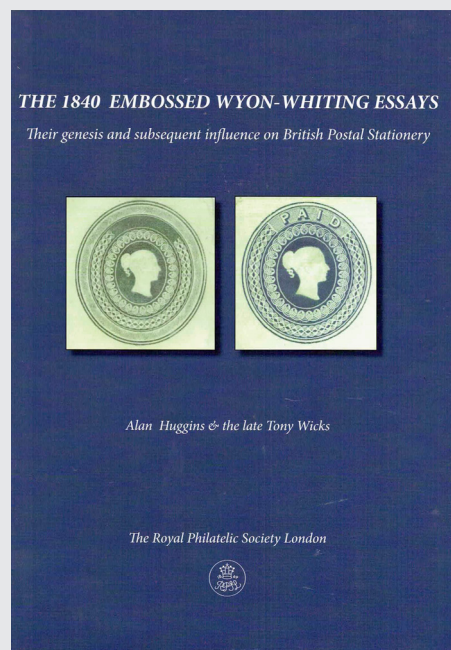
It represents a considerable amount of work and the experience of the author. It is clearly presented and should whet the appetite of the reader to visit the museum either physically or online.

Available from British Postal Museum shop.

HOWARD HUGHES

The 1840 Embossed Wyon-Whiting Essays: Their Genesis and Subsequent Influence on British Postal Stationery by Alan Huggins & the late Tony Wicks, size A4, hardback, xii + 187 pp., published by RPSL, London, 2021. ISBN 978-1-913015-1v0-7. Price standard binding £45 (RPSL members' £40); leather binding £145 (RPSL members' £140).

This RPSL publication, jointly authored book by Alan Huggins and the late Tony Wicks, illuminates a nook of postal history not previously examined in such detail, and represents the culmination of decades of the authors' joint research and knowledge of this specialist area. The book traces the history of the first embossed stationery and embossed postage labels, providing context for the reader with an introduction to James and Fenton Whiting's work; illustrations of the 'Royal Cameo Scrap Books' and examples of Whiting Cameo portraits which create in the round an invaluable resource that completes the story. Whiting's involvement in the Mercantile Committee on postage is described whilst the accompanying embossed designs, printed as part of the 1839–40 postal reforms and Treasury competition, are profusely illustrated. There is a chronology and classification of the embossed essays for stamping paper supplied by the public, and a full examination of the replacement of the unpopular Mulready postal stationery by the embossed postal stationery and embossed stamps. Appendices cover registration dates for the QV Wyon Head embossed dies together with the provenance lists for collections and auctions. As James Grimwood-Taylor points out to us in his foreword, Alan Huggins wrote the first comprehensive study of British Postal Stationery nearly 50 years ago. At that time, Huggin's book contained a short section summarising 'Early Postal Stationery Issues.' This book expands Huggin's early notes significantly and for the first time provides the collector and postal historian with a clear road map for the development of the first embossed postal stationery and embossed postage stamps of Great Britain. The book is beautifully produced and can be purchased directly from the RPSL website at www.rpsl.org.uk



MATTHEW & CHERYL TOOMEY, GBPS Librarians

SURFACE-PRINTED PERFORATION

— IN SEARCH OF CLARIFICATION

David B. Escott

The following arises from a detailed investigation into the Perforation Fingerprints of the Surface-Printed issues.

In the SG *Specialised Catalogue* (Vol. 1, 16th edn) on page 238, the following statement can be found (in relation to the 1d Lilac):

'During 1898 vertical perforators were introduced which gave a single extension hole below the bottom horizontal row of holes. This took place during the V control period. Perforation was from left to right or from right to left according to feed direction. Later a line of pins was added to the vertical comb which gave a perforated bottom or top margin depending on which end had the extension to the comb. This had the same end result as the horizontal combs in use from 1884. Controls V (rare), W and X are known with a single extension hole (Perf. Type E) in the bottom margin from the vertical comb perforator.'

The above clearly states that one end of the beam line of perforation pins (not the spur lines) was extended with a line of pins.

Fig. 1 shows a bottom-right corner pair of the halfpenny blue-green (SG 213, Spec. K28). The perforation configuration indicates that this pair was perforated Left Side Feed with a vertical perforator.

Fig. 2 shows the same pair but with four vertical lines of small square holes added to the bottom margin to simulate the effect of the modification described by SG.

No stamps with genuine perforations similar to Fig. 2 from any of the four corners of a sheet have been seen by the writer. This poses the question, Is SG's statement correct? The writer would be very happy to receive any images of QV Jubilee stamps showing perforations as in the simulation of **Fig. 2**, or as in **Fig. 3** which for interest shows a corner block of a KEVII 1d with side feed perforations. Please email me at escott@telefonica.net



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

NEW GBPS MEETING MANAGER

— DAVID GRIFFIN

We welcome David as the new GBPS Meeting Manager. I am sure many of you will already know him from GBPS meetings. He has a longstanding interest in low value George V definitives. He is a member of Woking Philatelic Society and currently their President.

Our sincere thanks go to Stephen Teuma the outgoing Meeting Manager for his help and his contribution to the society.

