

THE GBPS NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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GBPS NEWSLETTER 353 • MAY/JUNE 2015

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

EDITORIAL

The GBPS Diamond Jubilee Festival and Spring Stampex are now just memories, and I'm back in California under blue skies and we are in the fourth year of a drought. While I do enjoy the weather, another year with too little rain will have serious consequences. Lawns are also becoming just memories with grass turning brown, or being replaced by fake grass or with drought tolerant landscaping. With no water, my vegetable garden remains unplanted, which allows more time for stamps . . .

You may have noticed that the March/April *Newsletter* was a little late; apologies for that, but February was rather busy. The delay meant that the annual competition results could be included in the March edition as usual, despite the competitions being held later in the year. A full report is in this edition, which also contains reports from the January meeting (Postage Dues by John Pearce FRPSL, and Sheffield Postal History by Frank Walton FRPSL). There is also a report on Max Melrose's presentation in February which was added after the production of the 2014–15 Programme. Also note that Andy has been able to add a regional meeting to the programme: at Midpex in July, details below.

For this editorial, as for the one from a year ago, here's a brief trip report on a busy week in London.

After arriving late on the Monday, I checked into the Hilton Islington next to the Business Design Centre. From the room I could see London's skyline with the Shard, the Gherkin, and the dome of St Paul's Cathedral all visible. Last year there was some time for sightseeing, and now I had a few ideas for this year. The Gherkin has an interesting connection to philately. It sits on the former site of the Baltic Exchange, which during the 19th century was the Baltic Coffee House on Threadneedle Street. This may be a familiar name if you collect used Surface Printed stamps. Many, if not most, of the superb circular datestamps from this period, especially around 1872, are on stamps liberated from used telegraph forms, and the Baltic Coffee House had a telegraph office with its own handstamp.

Tuesday started early with the usual jetlag making me wide awake by 3 a.m. and struggling to keep my eyes open past 5 p.m. After breakfast I took a walk around Islington which was more pleasant than I had expected. I had never stayed in this part of London but Islington looked quite nice, and judging by the prices in some estate agent's windows, must be very desirable. After wandering



around for a couple of hours, a road sign conveniently pointed my way back (**Photo 1**).

Later that morning I met with two Telegraph stamp collectors: Ian Pinwill and Chuichi Ota. The three of us travelled to Wanstead to visit Steve Lawrie and see his most impressive collection (**Photo 2**), preceded by a pub lunch of course. Chuichi Ota and Martien Blank (who arrived the next day) had five frames of Telegraph stamps each in the competitions.

I had to leave early to get back for the GBPS Council meeting in the evening, in a hotel bar at happy hour with two-for-one drinks! The meeting went very smoothly.

Wednesday started with a tour of the British Library arranged by the GBCC. Paul Skinner met our group of 20 or so in the lobby (**Photo 3**) and took us around the



Photo 1 — The Way to Stampex.



Photo 2 — A gaggle of Telegraph stamp collectors.

Library's highlights ending up in the Philatelic Research Room where he had prepared a selection of wonderful items for us to drool over (**Photo 4**). Jeff Modesitt (editor of the GBCC *Chronicle*) and I played dueling cameras. I like 'lovely crinkly edges' especially those with inscriptions, ornaments, guide lines, etc. and overstayed my welcome taking photos of the Telegraph proof sheets. Details of the philatelic collections held by the British Library can be found on their website: www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic

In the afternoon I went back to the Business Design Centre for the presentations and displays.

Thursday I was awake early again and decided to return to the British Library to spend time looking at the Philatelic Exhibition on the upper ground floor, particularly the Tapling and Langmead Collections. The Tapling Collection, bequeathed in 1891, is the only major collection formed in the 19th century which is still intact. Half of the collection is on display at a time, and luckily it was the half with GB. The Langmead Collection was more difficult to find as it doesn't seem to be indexed or labelled. It's in the last of the pull-out frames in the exhibition, next to the café.

Later in the day I went to the Strand, then on to the RPSL for an afternoon with the GBCC: displays and presentations by Tom Slemons and Steve McGill, followed by dinner at Getti.

On Friday I finally had some time to look around Stampex. In the afternoon I had an appointment at the BPMA to view some imprimatur sheets, which meant missing some presentations, but I couldn't turn down the opportunity to examine and take photos of some more 'lovely edges'. Details on the BPMA can be found on their website: www.postalheritage.org.uk

In the evening we had the Anniversary Dinner at the Royal Over-Seas League. There's more about this below. Thanks to Gale Self for taking my picture wearing a tie, first time I've worn one in 10+ years, and it becomes my new photo for the *Newsletter*.



Photo 3 — The GBCC at the BL.

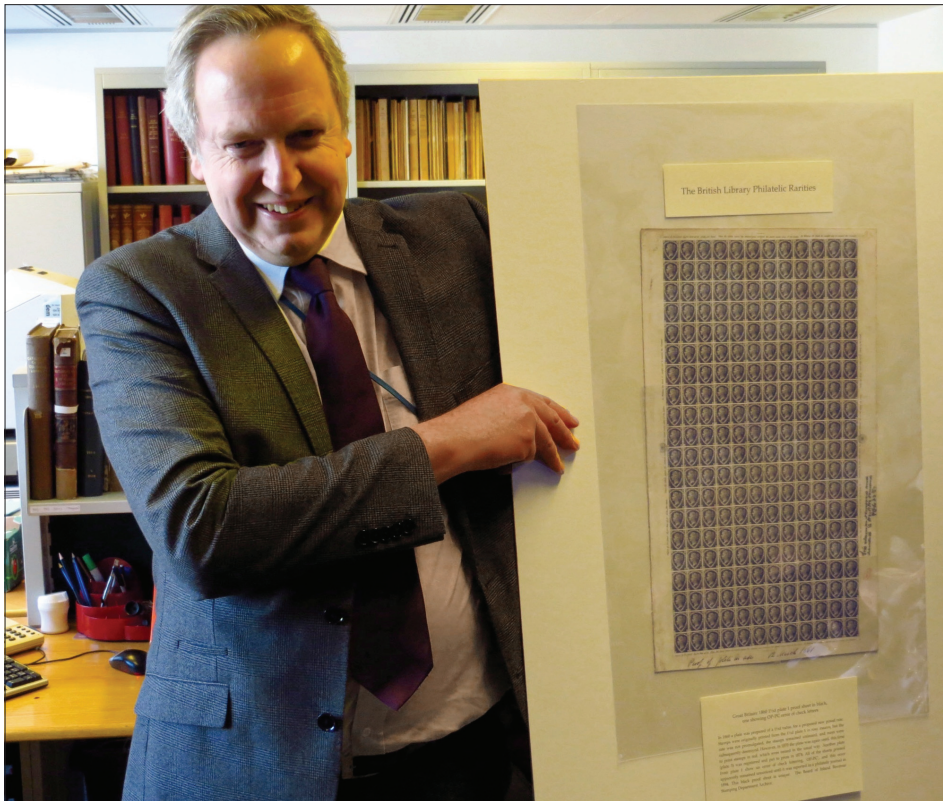


Photo 4 — Paul Skinner holding the 1½d Proof Sheet.

Saturday allowed more time to look around Stampex then join Max Melrose for lunch before his afternoon display 'High Values — Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II'. I made a nuisance of myself scanning Max's pages while he was talking about them, and kept scanning until he was late for his train.

Sunday was spent visiting Ian Harvey in Putney. First order of business was some updates to Lt.-Col. J. B. M. Stanton's booklet card index, re-scanning cards where new discoveries have been made. This was followed by Sunday lunch at the local pub, then an afternoon looking through Ian's fantastic material, resulting in several pages of notes to bring home and digest. The Stanton updates are available in the same

place as last year: <http://1drv.ms/1dwrK3x>

And just like that, the week was over, with no time for the Shard, the Gherkin, or St Paul's. **PAUL**

DATES — 2015

Saturday 30 May

Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1

11:00 a.m. **The President's Guest: Classic British Private Posts – College Stamps**

– Chris Harman RDP FRPSL

2:15 p.m. **Aspects of Postal Mechanisation**

– Ray Downing

Dealer: Andrew Lajer

Saturday 27 June

Grosvenor Auctions, 399–401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT

11:00 a.m. **Philatelic Mail – Maurice Buxton**

2:15 p.m. **Annual General Meeting** followed by **Members' Displays**

Dealer: Candlish McCleery Ltd

Saturday 4 July – MIDPEX Regional Meeting

Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Nr Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1XN

3:00 p.m. **GB Line-Engraved – Chris Grimshaw**

NEW MEMBERS

Eric Beechey	Kellington, North Yorkshire
Robin Hoyland	Seaton Delaval, Tyne & Wear
Gareth Jones	Crawley, West Sussex
Ian Killick	Friston, Eastbourne
Graham Mobbs	Erith, Kent
John Scott	Blandford Forum, Dorset
Ms Shefaa Ahmad	Sharjah, UAE
Robert Benninghof	New Jersey, USA
John Isles	Michigan, USA

A warm welcome to you all.

THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

Stampex and the 60th Anniversary celebrations have come and gone. What a wonderful time we all had! The week was a great success and I hope that raising the profile of the Society in this way will increase our already large membership. The exhibits (more than 300 frames) were excellent and I would like to congratulate all those who took part, particularly those who have never exhibited before. In addition to publishing a brief history of the GBPS the Stampex catalogue included one-page descriptions of exhibits. This provides an illustrated record of what GBPS members were able to contribute to this year's celebrations. Winners of GBPS cups and prizes, all of whom also received a commemorative medal, were listed in the March/April *Newsletter*. Many exhibits will be partly illustrated in forthcoming *Newsletters*. Similarly, the various Stampex awards will also be documented in other journals. Therefore there is no reason for results to be described here. Nevertheless it is worth pointing out that the judges were both surprised and delighted with the quality of exhibits shown. However, Howard Hughes deserves special mention. His exhibit 'The Maltese Cross' won the Martin Willcocks plate, a Large Gold medal and was 'Best in Show'. Congratulations!

This competition also marked the end of Edward Caesley's tenure as Competition Organiser. Edward held this post for many years and on behalf of the Society. I would like to thank him for the hard work that he has put in during that time to make the competitions both successful and enjoyable for all those concerned. We all wish Edward well for the future and at the same time welcome Robin Cassell as his successor.

In addition to the exhibits there was also a series of PowerPoint lectures. I have briefly mentioned advantages of this type of presentation before (*Newsletter* 351). One or two of these involved exhibits on display elsewhere and a traditional display would not therefore have been possible. Others illustrated points that would have been difficult without using modern technology, such as superimposing images which John Horsey showed with great effect. Finally, it is possible to describe the scientific background to stamp development which would not have worked at all well in any other format. Austin Barnes provided us with the science behind phosphor development. The room seemed to be full of chemists! Having said that, it was still a pleasure to see the material that Max Melrose brought for the Saturday afternoon display. Clearly there will always be a place for careful scrutiny of described material. Although I have named one or two people in this section, our thanks go to all who took the trouble to prepare lectures and educate and

entertain us.

It was a pleasure to see so many old friends and meet new ones at the Anniversary meeting. Many people coming from abroad took the opportunity of combining the meeting with a holiday. In particular I would like to thank Tom Slemons and the Great Britain Collectors Club for inviting Jan and me to their dinner at the RAF club. A splendid evening in a splendid environment. Later in the week Steve McGill and Tom went on to present data on Machin development and Suffolk postal history at the Royal Philatelic Society. About 150 fellows, members and guests attended; the room was packed!

The Anniversary Dinner at the Royal Over-Seas League provided a fitting climax to the social side of the week. We were particularly fortunate to have David Gentleman and his wife Sue as our guests. In his speech David gave us a brief insight into his career as a stamp designer with some inside stories to make it both interesting and entertaining even to those who do not collect modern stamps. The menu was particularly attractive, illustrating some unaccepted designs submitted by David for the Philypia 1970 issue.

That the week was such a success is due to hard work by many people. However, I would like to extend particular thanks to Howard (and Helen) Hughes and Ian (and Jenny) Harvey. Their efforts, over many months, were a major factor in the rest of us having a thoroughly enjoyable time.



BOB GALLAND

JUBILEE FESTIVAL

Peter Newroth writes about the Jubilee festivities in London:

My experience with the special speakers and meetings, the Exhibition and the Banquet were all first class, and provided a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with great folks with similar enthusiasms! Many thanks to all the GBPS organisers who contributed to a special, fun philatelic occasion.

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FORTHCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

By **Andy Donaldson**

Our meeting on **Saturday 30 May 2015** will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY from 11:00 a.m. Our President's guest this year is **Chris Harman** RDP HonFRPSL who will be giving a display entitled **Classic British Private Posts — College Stamps**. Chris says that the British Post Office has had a monopoly on the delivery of letters from its foundation in 1635. However, there were certain exceptions to this monopoly. These are the subject of this display.

1. Deliveries of parcels and goods were carried by a network of private carriers, several of which issued stamps. No Post Office parcels service existed until 1883.
2. The Circular Delivery Companies challenged the Post Office in 1865 with a cheap, local delivery of 'junk' mail that was challenged by the Post Office, who forced the companies to cease operation.
3. The University Cities of Oxford and Cambridge had, since their foundation in the thirteenth century, enjoyed an exemption from the Post Office monopoly. This local post operated over the centuries but only for the period from 1871 to 1886 were adhesive stamps and stationery issued.

The display will show a comprehensive coverage of these important alternatives to the Post Office carriage of letters.

The afternoon session, commencing at 2:15 p.m., will be a display from **Ray Downing** entitled **Aspects of Postal Mechanisation**. Ray says 1857 was an important year in the history of the post: Pearson Hill demonstrated the first machine for cancelling the stamps on letters and London was divided into postal districts. The alphabetic postal district abbreviations being the first postcodes. Since then the postal system has become increasingly mechanised and electronicised.

The display will show aspects of the early development of cancelling machines, mechanical sorting both direct and indirect and the development of integrated mail processors. It will include items from laboratory trials and live mail tests as well as related ephemera and material selected to give some idea of the range of material available.

Our dealer for the day will be **Andrew Lajer**.

Our meeting on **Saturday 27 June 2015** will be held at Grosvenor Auctions, 399–401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. The morning session will commence at 11:00 a.m. where we will see a display from **Maurice Buxton** entitled **Philatelic Mail**. Maurice says that the genesis of this display goes back to when he started collecting postal history, and he explains:

'I acquired some intriguing items from Edwardian stamp dealers in a mixed lot, and wondered vaguely whether that might be an interesting theme to collect. Many years later, further inspired by Richard Stroud's *Diplomatic and Consular Mail* display, I decided to have a go at "Philatelic Mail" — which for the sake of offering plenty of scope (possibly too much!) I'm defining broadly as "mail that exists in the form it does because people collect stamps".

'Mail sent with at least one eye on collectors is something we often regard as a bit of a Cinderella in postal history circles — just not quite the same as "commercial mail". When you look at it as a subject in its own right though, it branches out into and crosses over with many different areas, with plenty of interesting little quirks — from early letters between collectors to special arrangements by post offices, via a range of often odd prepared covers and mail generated in connection with the hobby itself. So this collection attempts to survey the wide range of philatelic mail items and bring them up from below stairs in order to attend the ball!

'Since philately is a global hobby, the scope of the collection is world-wide. However, there will be a strong GB representation on show, partly because of the material I tend to encounter, and partly because this is, after all, a display to the GBPS! In particular, in the 'Restricted Access' section looking at rules and regulations that have affected sending stamps by post, I've taken the opportunity to include a comprehensive look at the "Passed by BPA" covers recently discussed in the *Newsletter*, together with other wartime considerations.'

The afternoon session, commencing at 2:15 p.m., will consist of our **Annual General Meeting** followed by **Members' Displays. Can I ask that you all bring along something to show please (1–2 frames based on 20 sheet frames of 4 rows of 5 sheets each).**

Our dealer for the day will be **Candlish McCleery**.

REGIONAL MEETING AT **MIDPEX** — Saturday 4 July 2015

By **Andy Donaldson**

Since the production of the 2014–15 programme, I am pleased to say we have been able to add a regional meeting to this season's calendar. This meeting will be held at **Midpex** on **4 July 2015** from **3:00–4:00 p.m.** where **Chris Grimshaw** will give a display entitled **GB Line-Engraved**. Chris says that on the introduction of Penny Postage on the 6 May 1840 the Post Office issued a number of pre-paid stationery items (envelopes and letter sheets) to the values of 1d and 2d. At the same time, it made available the first GB adhesive postage stamps, the penny black and the twopenny blue, to be affixed to outgoing mail. Postage rates at this time were 1d for up to ½ ounce in weight and 2d up to 1 ounce. Over time, there were changes in stamp colour (from black to red), stamps started to be perforated and letters in all four corners were introduced. On 1 October 1870 the final two values of the line-engraved period was issued: the halfpenny 'bantam' and the three-halfpenny.

To the casual observer, a cursory glance might indicate that a collection of line-engraved stamps could be encapsulated into just four stamps: one each of the halfpenny, the penny, the three-halfpenny and the twopenny. They may concede the difference between the penny black and the penny red, but the search for, and the research of, the countless variations and combinations of colour shades, watermarks, perforations, plate numbers, corner letters and re-entries which go to make a good basic collection of many hundreds or even thousands of stamps may be difficult to appreciate; it is hoped that this brief glimpse creates a little more understanding.

Midpex, sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, is to be held at the **Warwickshire Exhibition Centre**, The Fosse, Fosse Way, nr. Leamington Spa,

Warwickshire CV31 1XN from 10am to 5pm. This event is bigger than ever with over 70 dealers and 40 specialist societies in attendance.

The GBPS will have a stand at the show where many of our publications will be available for purchase. Aside from the GBPS, regional meetings are being held by The Revenue Society, Oriental PS of London, British Postmark Society, TPO and SeaPost Society, The Railway Philatelic Group, The Cinderella Stamp club and The Pacific Island Study Circle during the one-day event.

Stamp Active, the voluntary group that promotes stamp collecting to children, will also have an area to hand out free goodie bags to youngsters with activities for them to complete to win prizes. They will take in any donations from visitors who wish to support their programmes.

There is free parking on-site, free admission and a free brochure. There is also a free shuttle bus to and from Leamington Station (Chiltern Line) throughout the day.

Visit the Midpex website (midpex.wordpress.com) for further details (list of dealers, other organisations and specialist societies attending). Follow the link to the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre for further instructions on how to get there and for an up to date listing of local accommodation.

This regional meeting is a great way for members to meet informally, particularly those members who find it difficult to get to meetings in London. It would be good to see as many GBPS members (and guests) at the meeting as possible, please come along for the display and say 'Hello!'

DISPLAYS BY **GBPS MEMBERS**

By **Andy Donaldson**

As always, I am on the lookout for members who are willing and able to give a display to the society. **Could this be you?**

If you have a display of around 240 sheets this would be suitable for a full morning or afternoon session. If you have around 60 sheets then this could form part of an 'ensemble' display where we combine several smaller displays into a themed day, as we have done in the past with great success. The material does not even need to be specially mounted and written up for a display; it can simply consist of existing album pages, with minimal write up, as long

as they are in protectors to safeguard the material while on display.

Even if, as of today, you do not have such a display but you have the material then I would still be interested in hearing from you. The programme has to be planned so far in advance (I am currently booking people in with dates more than a year in the future), there is plenty of time to put the display together between agreeing a date and the event actually happening. To be honest, the only reason I ever managed to get my initial display put together was having a GBPS display deadline to aim for! I would heartily recommend displaying to the

GBPS . . . and I am not just saying that because I am the Programme Secretary!

If this is something you would be interested in (or you would just like to know more at this stage) then please get in touch with me via programme@gbps.org.uk providing me with the following information:

- Your name
- The proposed title for your display
- A brief description of the subject matter/material to be included and a general idea of the number of sheets for the display.

I look forward to hearing from you.

GBPS DIAMOND JUBILEE **DISPLAY TO THE RPSL**

By **Andy Donaldson**

Single Frame Displays

As part of our **GBPS Diamond Jubilee** celebrations, we will be giving a display to the **Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL)** on **Thursday 10 December 2015**. The intention is for the display to consist of a collection of single or dual frames of material submitted by as many members as we can accommodate. We will be aiming to create a balanced display covering as wide a variety of subjects as possible within the frames available to us.

We will have 52 frames in total; the frames at RPSL come in two forms with the 12 wall-mounted frames holding 9 sheets (3 x 3) and the 40 free-standing frames holding 12 sheets (in 3 rows of 4).

Any member wishing to offer one or two frames of material to form part of this display, please make yourself known (I can be contacted via programme@gbps.org.uk) so we can start to plan the display.

When offering material please provide the following information to enable the creation of a balanced display:

- Your name
- The proposed title for your display
- Whether you would like one or two frames (and whether 9 or 12 sheet frames).
- A brief description of the subject matter and material to be included.

Obviously, we have many more members than we have frames available to us so, depending on the response, we may not be able to accommodate all those members who offer material. Additionally, we may have to restrict displays to a single frame but please do come forward if you would like to be part of the GBPS Diamond Jubilee display; **I'm waiting to hear from you!**

Those selected will need to provide a 250-word description of their display for inclusion in the display handout and ensure their display is delivered (by hand or post) to the RPSL shortly before the display date. The details will be finalised and communicated to those displaying nearer the time.

EARLY GBPS **MEMORABILIA**

Does any member have any interesting memorabilia from the early days of the GBPS suitable for display in a frame or cabinet as part of our presentation to the Royal? If you do then please let me know (via programme@gbps.org.uk) what you have, along with the approximate dimensions.

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SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 31 January 2015
at the Royal Philatelic Society London
(Morning Session)

Postage Dues by Patrick Frost

The meeting was well-attended with more than 30 members or guests despite fears of adverse weather, it even snowed in Berkshire! New members or those attending for the first time, included Stephen Tuema, Nigel Perrins and Peter Newroth (from Canada). In addition both Patrick Frost and Frank Walton admitted to attending a GBPS meeting for the first time!

Patrick Frost gave the first display of the day and also brought copies of the handout prepared for his display at the Royal Philatelic Society London in June 2012. The display comprised two laydowns, each of 11 frames of 16 sheets; nearly 400 sheets in total. Patrick explained that the aims were to show why underpaid mail was charged, how charges were calculated and to show some of the charge and explanatory marks used.

Until the Uniform 4d Post was introduced on 5 December 1839 postage could be paid by the sender or recipient and the rate was the same. However, although this still applied to letters below 1 oz weight, from this time heavier letters were charged double rate if not pre-paid. Thus the precedent was set that it was advantageous to pre-pay letters and 'postage due' ceased to be the normal state of affairs (**Fig. 1**).

Examples were shown of letters weighing more than 1 oz sent during the 4d post period; one was pre-paid 1s 4d others were charged 2s 8d to the recipient. During this time postage due rates below 4d for letters carried for less than 8 miles or delivered by local posts continued. The rate for pre-paid mail was set at 1d. Examples of London local post 2d and 3d charges were shown (sent within central district or outer country district respectively).

Uniform Penny Postage was introduced on 10 January 1840, superseding the experimental Fourpenny Post period.

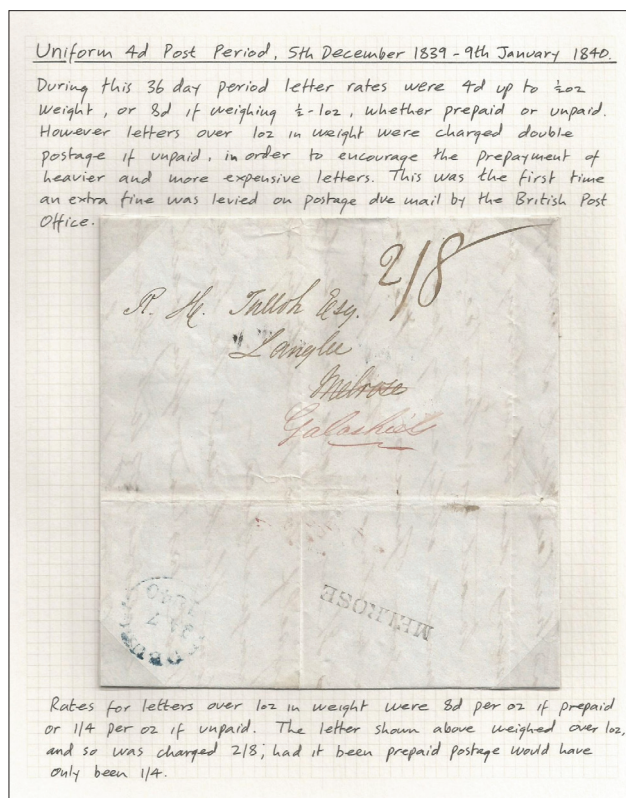


Fig. 1

Circular double-ring 'More to Pay' handstamps were used in London from 1812 and their use continued after 1840 (**Fig. 2**). Charge marks were introduced in 1840, mostly being 2d marks (double unpaid single rate). London used pre-1840 marks and



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 4

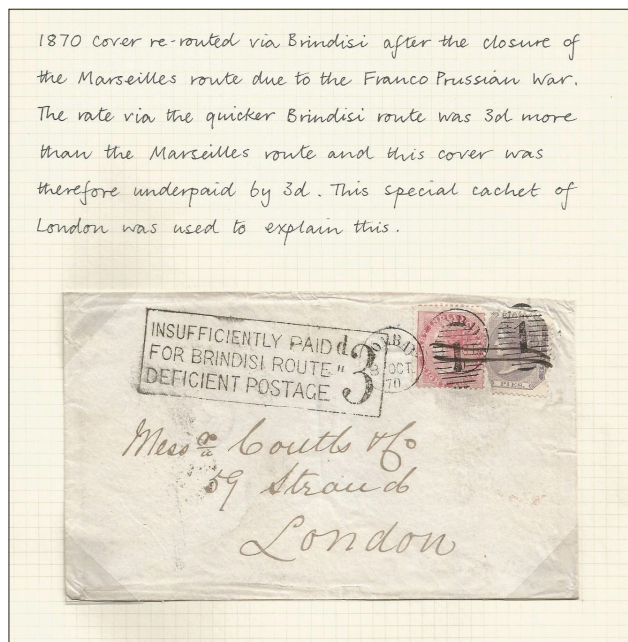


Fig. 6

Edinburgh and Dublin issued standard marks to many of their offices. However, most '2' charge marks were produced for individual postmasters and therefore many different types are known (Fig. 3). This applied also to '4' charge marks (Fig. 4).

GPU and UPU rules stated that for mail going from one country to another pre-paid postage was to be

kept by the country of origin but postage due charges were to be kept by the country of destination. Several items with various handstamps were shown (Figs 5-7).

Numerous other examples of underpaid mail were shown. These included Post Office errors, official letters, jury summons, parliamentary mail, maritime mail (Figs 8, 9), redirected mail (Figs 10, 11), TPOs,

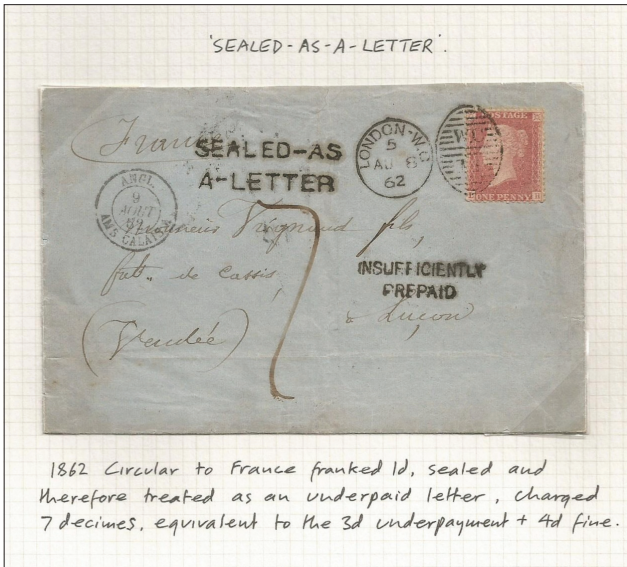


Fig. 7



Fig. 9



Fig. 8



Fig. 10

Diplomatic mail (Fig. 12), postcards (Figs 13, 14) and mail with counterfeit stamps (Fig. 15).

When stamps fell off mail, postage due was charged. However this was cancelled if the stamps were subsequently found (Fig. 16). Aerogrammes had to be in an approved style and contain no enclosure;

failure resulted in extra charges (Figs 17, 18). The same applied to samples (Fig. 19).

The Returned Letter Office had various forms available to inform foreign recipients that further postage was needed if their letters were to be forwarded (Figs 20, 21).



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 15



Fig. 14



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Postage Due stamps were introduced by Great Britain later than many other countries. Examples of first day usage were shown (Fig. 22). From this time onwards no postage due charge could be collected unless stamps were affixed. If Postage Due stamps were unavailable postage stamps were used (Fig. 23).

This report can only describe a small proportion of what Patrick showed. We saw a vast amount of material which was accompanied by an informative and entertaining talk. The morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present who showed warm appreciation at the end of the session.

BOB GALLAND

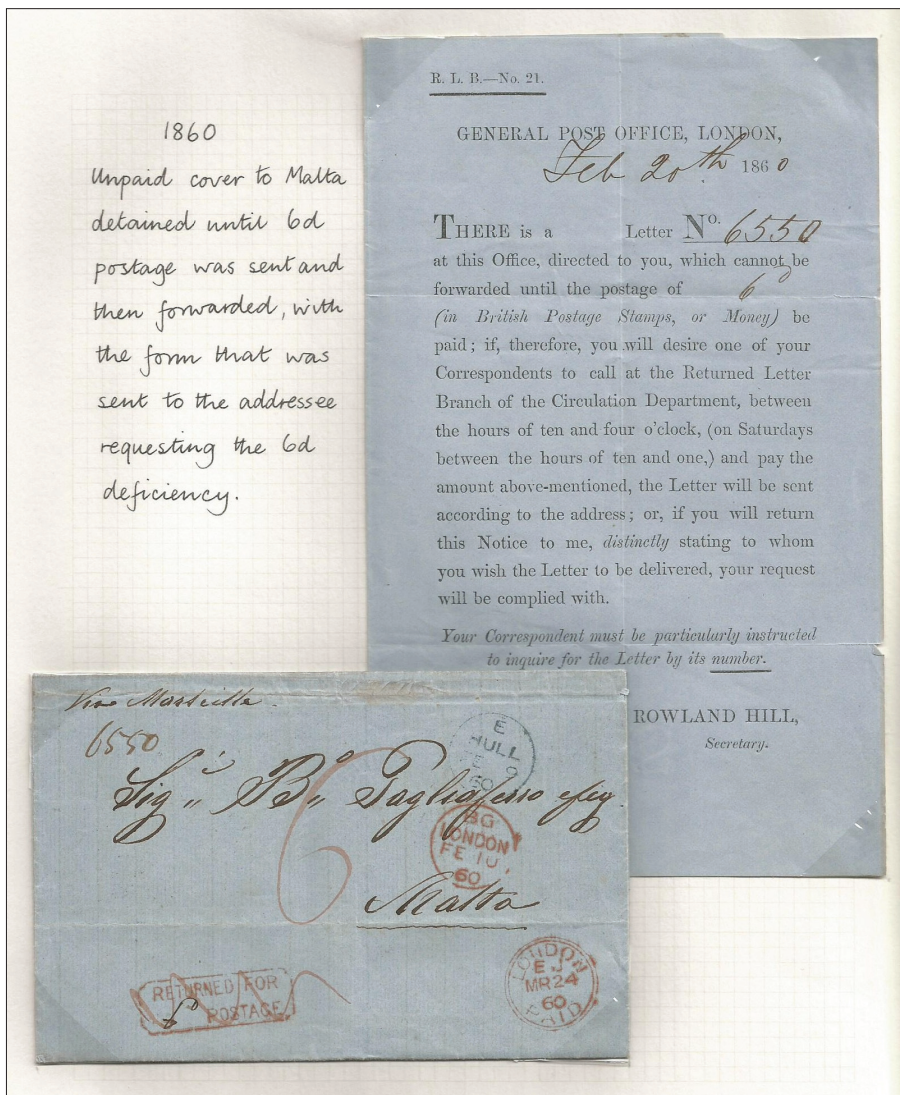


Fig. 20



Fig. 19



Fig. 22

1870 Returned Letter Office notice sent to Victoria advising the addressee that a letter to them is detained in London and will only be forwarded upon receipt of 1/6 deficient postage.

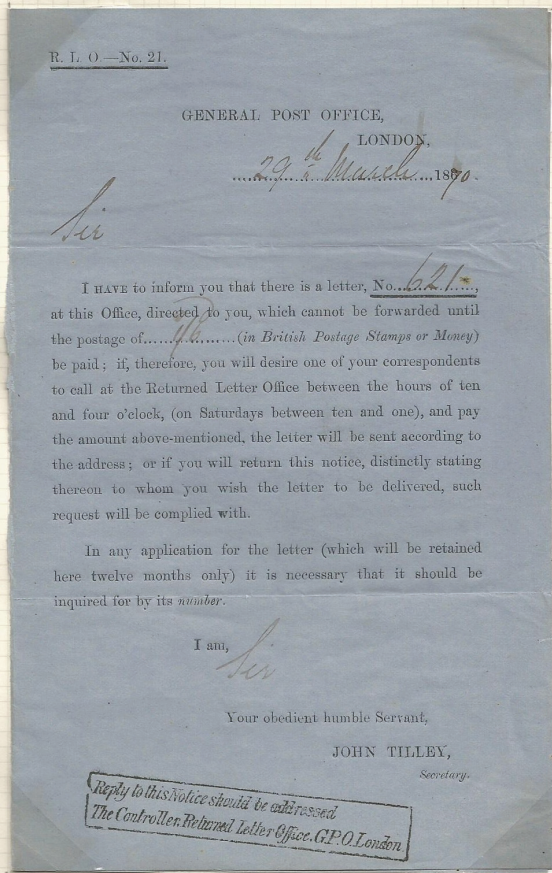


Fig. 23

Fig. 21



Patrick receiving his memento from President Bob Galland.

SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 31 January 2015
at the Royal Philatelic Society London
(Afternoon Session)

Sheffield Postal History by Frank Walton

Having the afternoon display slot after lunch is not an easy job, but Frank kept his audience entertained with a masterful presentation taking us on a comprehensive 'tour' through the postal services of his home-town, Sheffield.

Before the invention of steel, Sheffield was a relatively small and unimportant town postally, so early mail is not plentiful. It might surprise readers to learn that Sheffield is in fact the second largest city in the UK (London being first) in terms of overall geographical size.

The display mirrored the postal development at any large centre throughout the UK with mail from the 17th century up to 1971. Commencing with the early straight-line handstamps and mileage marks, Frank showed all aspects of postal history associated with this great city through the periods of high postal rates pre-1839 and postal reform to comparatively modern times featuring studies of the myriad of handstamps employed.

The overall quality of the material in the display was underlined when Frank commented that Sheffield handstamps are rarely found in 'exhibition' condition, thus poor strikes are the 'norm' — fine examples are very hard to find and tend to be early strikes of the canceller concerned. The ratio between fine and the 'norm' being perhaps as much as 1:100. It seems the PO staff at Sheffield rarely cleaned their handstamps!

Now to put some meat on the bones.

Frank's display commenced with two letters sent in 1667 and 1668 (**Fig. 1**), these featured London arrival Bishopmarks but no postal markings were applied at Sheffield apart from the '3' charge mark. A 1703 Conscription Notice attracted much attention (**Fig. 2**) — the letter appointed 'Stephen Bright' to find and provide sufficient foot soldiers for service in the West Riding Militia. Once again, no postal markings were applied — the earliest recorded Sheffield handstamp being 1707 (this item had eluded Frank at a recent auction, being outbid by a fellow GBPS Sheffield collector who was sitting in



Fig. 1

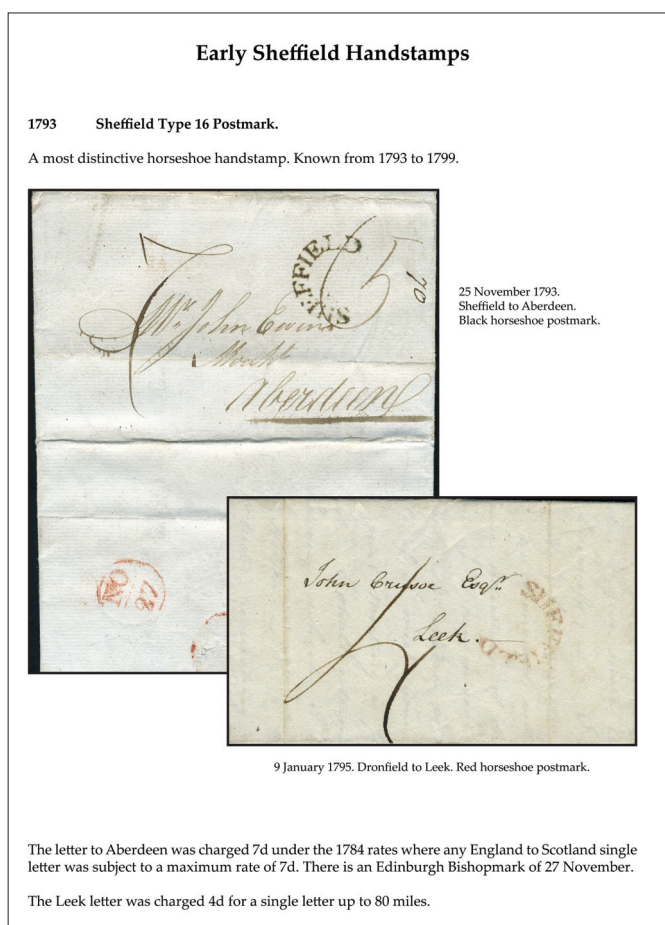


Fig. 3

Early Posts

1703 Conscription Notice



31 August 1703. Letter concerning conscription.

Letter advising Stephen Bright of his responsibilities to provide an armed man for service in the West Riding Militia. There are no postal markings of any kind; the earliest Sheffield postmark was used in 1707.

Fig. 2

the audience!). Examples of the 'two-lined', 'straight-line', 'curved' and 'horseshoe' undated handstamps were shown used in the period 1721 to 1795. I particularly liked the quality of the scarce 'horseshoe' handstamps shown on two covers in black and red (**Fig. 3**).

At this point Frank 'introduced' us to the Wheat family archive. The Wheat family were a Sheffield family business of lawyers and solicitors dating back to 1792. Gilbert Wheat was the doyen of Sheffield Postal

History who sadly died in 2010. In the 1930s Gilbert had the first pick of the material from the family archive; the release of this material greatly added to the postal history knowledge of Sheffield — in fact any study of Sheffield would invariably include a cover or two from the 'Wheat' archive. Gilbert was Frank's mentor in forming this collection and Frank was proud to show the last letter ever written by Gilbert just before his death, in which he was discussing matters philatelic right to the end.

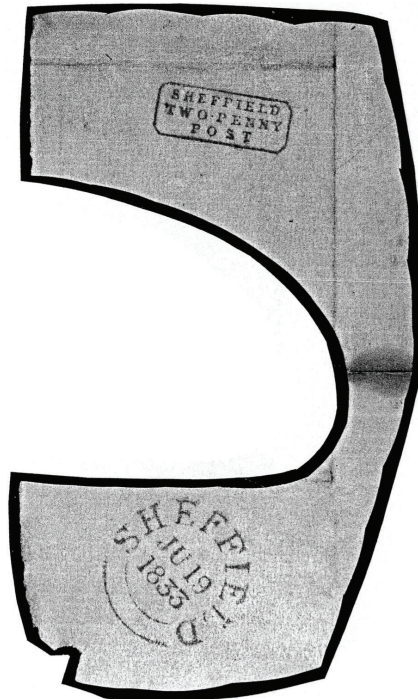
Two-Penny Post

SHEFFIELD / TWO-PENNY / POST handstamp

This is an enigmatic postmark. It was not recorded until 1954, and then only from one piece. On the strength of this evidence, it has since been included in the standard reference books. The item shown here is the only other example that has since come to light.



TWO-PENNY POST and PENNY POST similar handstamps



Copy of the only other known example of the TWO-PENNY POST, alongside similar PENNY POST item

No formal recognition of a local 2d rate has been traced, although it was proposed by the Surveyor, Mr G.F. Karstadt, in a letter to Francis Freeling during December 1831.

Fig. 4

The next section showed a small portion of Frank's on-going objective to acquire a paid and unpaid letter from Sheffield for every rate within the various mileage and multiple rate bands — a work-in-progress snapshot of an undertaking needing much philatelic stamina!

Mileage marks were used in Sheffield during two distinct periods : 1785–1790 and 1801–1827. Examples were shown of the various types with usage of the mileage in a rectangle being particularly hard to find. Interestingly the mileage to London was shown as 160, 163 and 161 miles at various times.

The Sheffield Penny Post, for local delivery within a seven-mile radius of the city, was introduced circa 1817 with three styles of handstamp recorded. This frame included the 'SHEFFIELD/TWO PENNY/POST' major rarity (**Fig. 4**) — the possible existence of a local 2d rate only came to light in 1954 when this handstamp on piece was first recorded. Since then only one other example (also on piece) has been found and now resides in Frank's collection. Strangely, no formal introduction of such a rate in Sheffield has yet been traced.

Postal Reform

Final day before Uniform Fourpenny Post: 4 December 1839

Pressure had been placed on the postal authorities over a number of years to resolve the problems of the expensive mail service. This resulted in radical innovations by Rowland Hill. The reforms were introduced incrementally, with the first step effective from 5 December 1839.

The sender of this letter was clearly anxious for it to be delivered as indicated by the annotation *To be delivered immediately*. This letter was charged at 10d for a single sheet up to 170 miles; had it been posted the following day it would have cost just 4d.



4 December 1839. London to Sheffield. Final day before the introduction of cheaper postage.

Fig. 5

An interesting cover was shown sent from London to Sheffield endorsed 'To be delivered immediately' (**Fig. 5**) and posted on 4 December 1839 the day before the introduction of the Uniform 4d Post — pity the sender was so impatient as the letter would only have cost the addressee 4d if sent the next morning instead of 10d!

On the subject of the Uniform 4d Post, a cover was shown dated 4 Jan. 1840 (within the Uniform 4d Post period) sent from Sheffield to France (**Fig. 6**) which demonstrated the, perhaps misunderstood, fact that the uniform rate only applied to UK inland destinations — the charges for this letter to France included 10d for UK inland carriage from Sheffield to London, as per the pre-1839 rates, still being based on mileage.

A sheet that attracted much attention featured three 1d black covers (**Fig. 7**) endorsed in the Quaker style of date annotation. In fact one of the covers caused much misunderstanding when previously on the market as the date of despatch endorsed appeared to be 'May 6th 1840'! The correct interpretation of the Quaker manuscript '*London 2nd Mo 6th 1840*' was '2nd Month 6th' or 6 February — to increase the confusion, the year had been incorrectly written as '1840' instead of '1841'!

With the expansion of Sheffield, five Town Receiving Houses were opened in 1841 — Gibraltar St, The Wicker, Glossop Road, South Street, and Duke Street — and a further five in the 1850s. Examples of

Postal Reform

Uniform Fourpenny Post: 5 December 1839 to 9 January 1840

The fourpenny post was essentially a trial for reduced postage costs for inland mail only. This letter to Lille, France, demonstrates that the charges for single rate foreign letters were not affected.



4 January 1840. Letter from Sheffield to Lille via London, Dover and Calais.

Postmarks:

- 4 Jan 1840 Sheffield
- 6 Jan 1840 London
- 7 Jan 1840 Calais
- 8 Jan 1840 Lille

UK Rate:

- 10d Sheffield to London
- less 2d Abatement
- 10d London to Calais
- 1s 6d UK Total = 1f 80c = 18 déc

French Rate:

- 7 déc Calais to Lille



Reduced copy of reverse showing postal markings.

The total to be collected from addressee is 18 + 7 = 25 décimes, which is marked in black in the centre of the front of the letter. The rate changes for the fourpenny post did have one small impact on foreign mail: the UK portion of the charge was based on weight rather than the number of sheets. The manuscript '10' is the cost in pence for the London to Calais portion, and the '18' is the total amount in either pence or décimes due to the British post office.

Fig. 6

Receiving Houses

Hood Hill

The earliest local office served from Sheffield. Hood Hill is probably the farm where horses were changed on the Sheffield to Leeds mail road at the top of the uphill section north of Chapeltown. This unusual mark is known between 1834 and 1837.



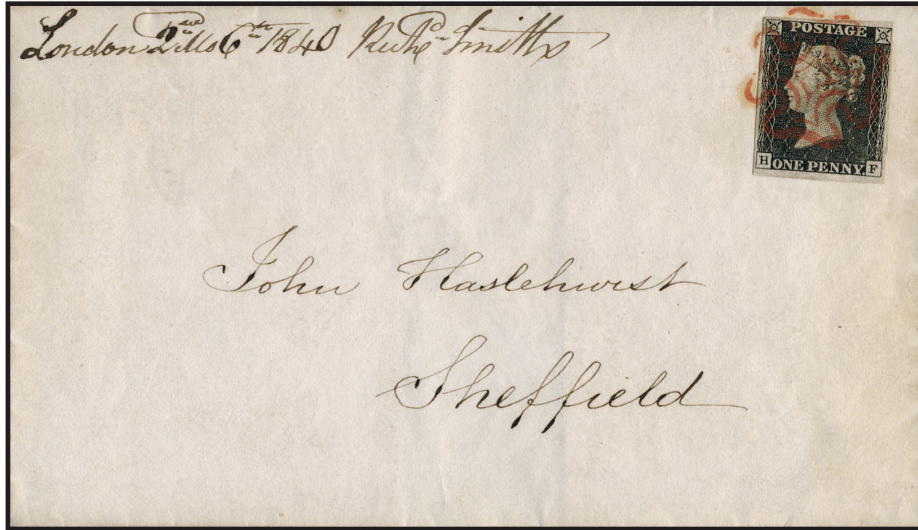
14 April 1836. Hood Hill to London. Rate 10d.

24 June 1834. Hood Hill to Quordon, Derby. Rate 7d.

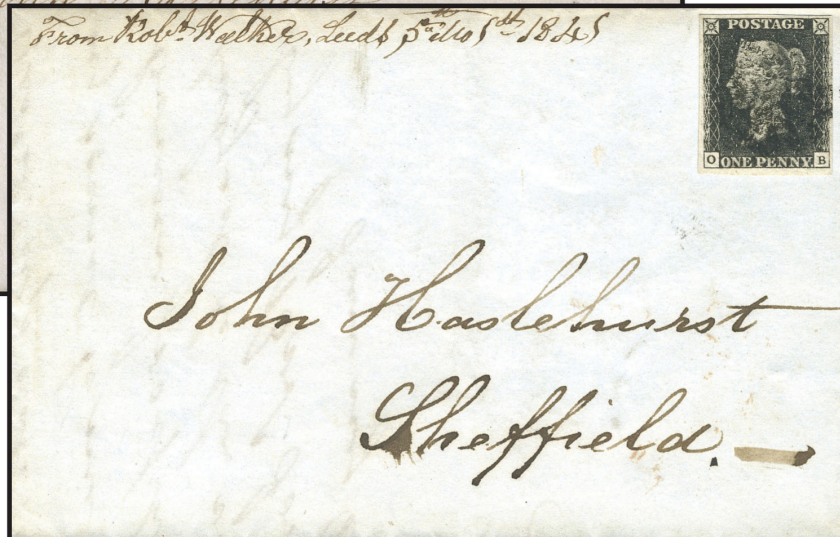
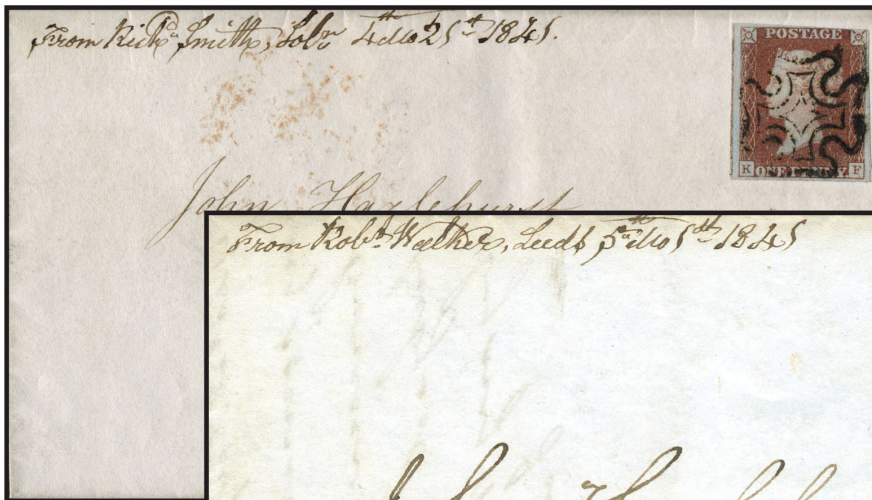
Fig. 8

Quaker Dating

The use of a Maltese Cross to cancel adhesives meant that unless there was another datestamp on the letter, it is not possible to assign a date of posting. The Quaker style of annotation has caused problems of interpretation.



Recipient's annotation: *London 2nd Mo 6th 1840 Rich^d Smith (for 6 Feb). Error of date 1840 for 1841.*



Recipient's date annotations: *4th Mo 25th 1841 (for 25 April 1841) and 5th Mo 5th 1841 (for 5 May 1841).*

Fig. 7

the straight-line handstamp used in each office were shown. However, the earliest local office served from Sheffield was 'Hood Hill' (1834–37) and two covers were shown featuring this scarce handstamp (**Fig. 8**).

The first half display was completed by studies of the undated circle (UDC) handstamp types used in sub-offices of Sheffield (**Fig. 9**). The larger UDCs with double arcs on cover are proving a challenge to find with Frank so far managing to bag examples of only a third of the 42 types available! The hunt goes on . . .

Frank described the second laydown as a 'Sheffield Mish-Mash' but this was far from true as much fascinating material was shown covering the

variety of material and studies possible when collecting the postal history and markings of a major postal centre.

Part two kicked off with studies of the Sheffield double-ring datestamps, sideways duplexes and squared circles (of which no less than 30 different types are known (**Fig. 10**).

In August 1844 a temporary (or 'Travelling') datestamp was pressed into use pending the receipt of a new handstamp and is only recorded in use for five days from 20 to 24 August 1844. The display included two examples of this very scarce marking (**Figs 11a/b/c**).

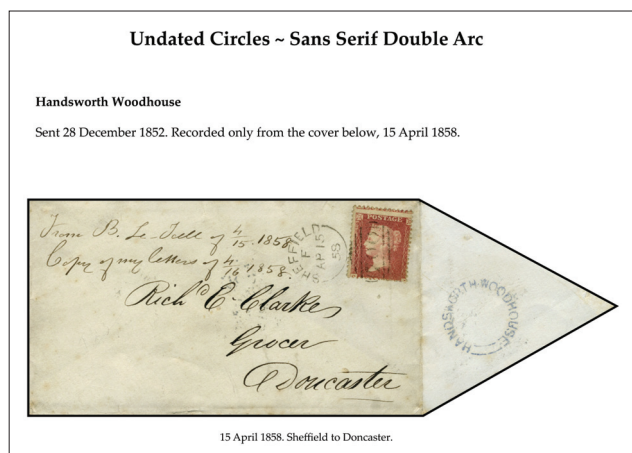


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

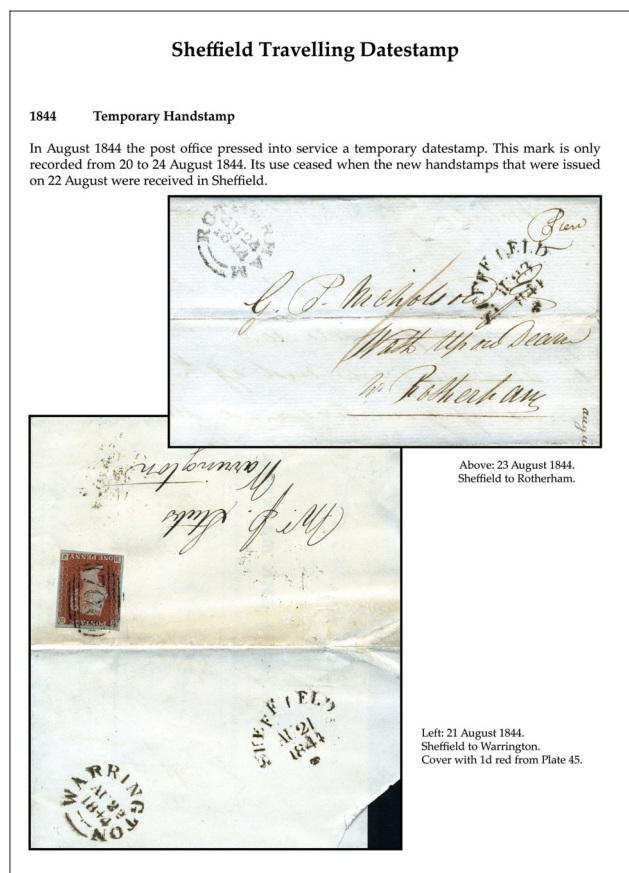


Fig. 11a



Fig. 11b



Fig. 11c

A feature of the second half was the variety of Instructional markings to be found including 'Not to be Found', 'Gone Away', 'Miss-sent', 'Contrary to Regs', etc. The items in this category I choose to illustrate in this report are:

A very fine 'MISSENT TO/SHEFFIELD' in blue used in 1857 (**Fig. 12**), an unusual 'Of the nature/of a Letter/700' handstamp from 1901 (**Fig. 13**) and 'TOO/LATE' handstamps used in 1822 in black and 1830 in red (the former being the earliest recorded use) (**Fig. 14**).

The Sheffield perfin were given the full treatment with a most comprehensive showing.

A selection of Railway stamps were displayed unusually without an example to be seen on cover —

Frank explained that strangely not a single cover has been found to date!

An interesting selection of Registered covers from 1853–77 featured an 1863 item which had been compulsory registered due to the postal clerk noticing that a coin was enclosed — the registration fee being doubled to 8d (**Fig. 15**).

The parcels service in Sheffield was covered by examples of rubber parcel cancellations and 'bus ticket' type labels for parcel carriage on buses.

A quirky revenue item shown was a 1796 annual duty certificate issued in Sheffield covering the annual payment for Hair Powder Duty (**Fig. 16**). This was as a result of a 1795 George III Act, that required everyone who used or wore hair powder to pay a one guinea fee per annum — although a discount was available if the user had more than two unmarried daughters! (I'm sure there is some logic there somewhere but I am struggling to see it!)

Just about the only aspect of GB postal history not included in Frank's superb display was a Sheffield Ship Letter. This is probably due to the fact that Sheffield is pretty well smack in the middle of England, but this little anomaly didn't seem to deter a company in Germany who in 1910 produced a set of labels in a 'Famous Ports' series — with the set including the port of Sheffield (**Fig. 17**)!

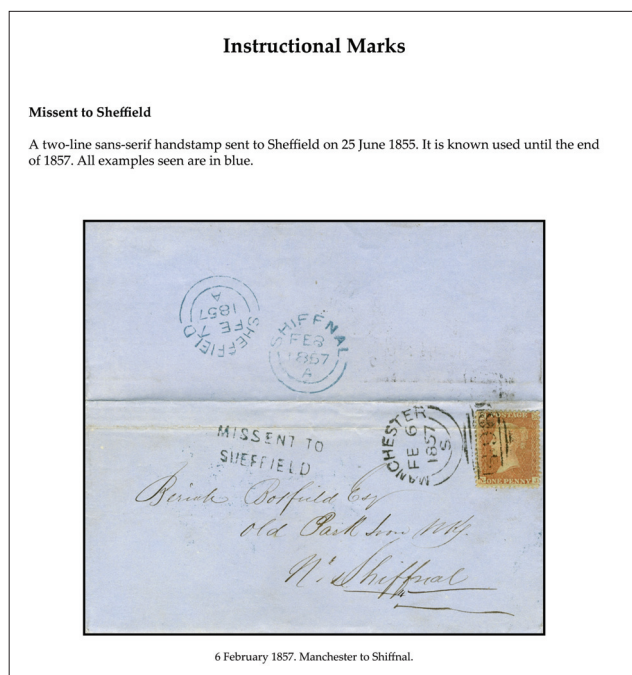


Fig. 12

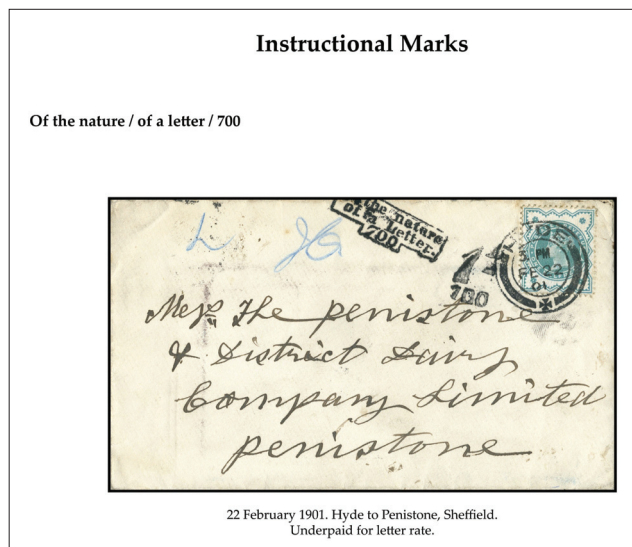


Fig. 13

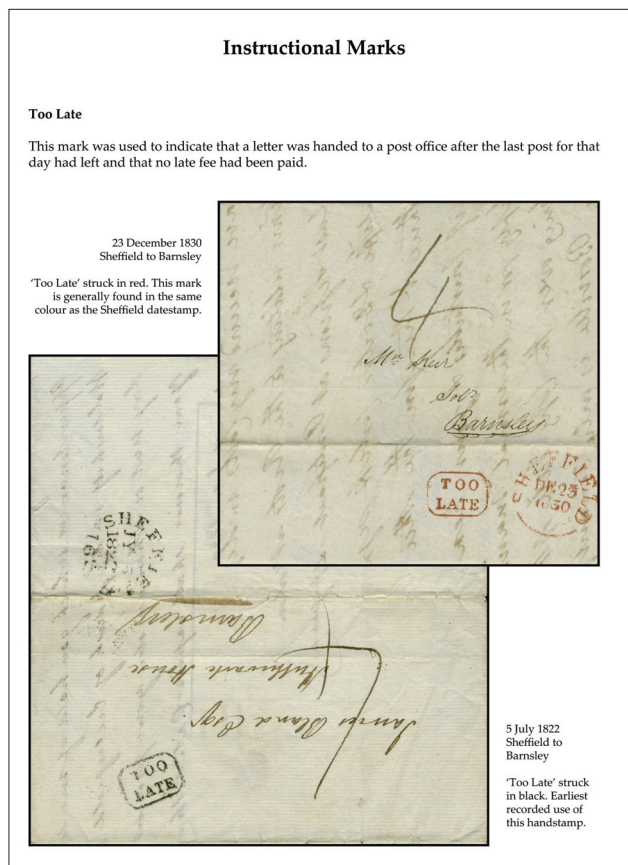


Fig. 14



Fig. 16

Hair Powder Duty. Annual fee £1 1s. [Booth Type 49-1].
 Certificate in the name of Arthur Elliott who was the proprietor of The Tontine Inn.
 The 1795 act 35 G.III C.49 stated that everyone who shall 'use or wear hair powder' had to pay an annual fee of one guinea. There was a discount for anyone with more than two unmarried daughters!

Registered Post

1 July 1863. Local letter with Sheffield.

The sender only prepaid 1d for postage, but a postal clerk spotted a coin enclosure - note circular impressions in bottom left corner - and compulsory registered the letter. The fee was doubled from 4d to 8d. The earliest instructional handstamps were not introduced until 1877.

18 August 1865. Sheffield to Chapel en le Frith. Postage 1d, plus 4d Registration Fee.

The REGISTERED / SHEFFIELD handstamp was issued on 22 March 1865. The registration fee of 4d is paid by the addition of a 4d red adhesive.

Fig. 15

A tremendous display endorsed by Philip Mackey who in his vote of thanks referred particularly to the 'forensic' side of Frank's collection and the awesome Quaker letters — living Postal History indeed.

Hopefully scans of the majority of Frank's display will be loaded onto the GBPS website in due course.

DON DAVIES

The Port of Sheffield

Prior to the opening of a stretch of canal to Tinsley in 1819, Sheffield had no navigable waterway. By 1751 boats could reach Tinsley Wharf from the North Sea via the Trent and Humber river, so for the next 70 years Tinsley was an important port for Sheffield, despite being so far from the coast.

From 1819, thanks to the newly developed canal, Sheffield became a thriving port for supporting its growing industrial operations.

All this changed both dramatically and quickly with the opening of the railways in the late 1830s.

Label issued in Germany around 1910 in the Famous Ports series

Fig. 17



Frank receiving his memento from President Bob Galland.

SOCIETY DISPLAYS

Saturday 21 February 2015
at the Business Design Centre, Islington

100 Years of the Use of High Values by Max Melrose

Max opened his display by explaining he has been collecting high value stamps since boyhood and went on to keep his audience enthralled by the material he was describing. This display was created to show the varied usage of the stamps through the years.

He began with the issue in 1867 of three values required for high overseas postage and payment of telegraph services (**Fig. 1**). With the introduction of the General Postal Union in 1874, new stamps were issued, these being shown on a variety of covers (**Fig. 2**).

Among the many uses of the high values shown, an example of the fiscal use of the 2s 6d and 1s in 1889 proved interesting reading. There were examples of early official departmental overprints, an amazing Parcel Post piece showing the use of 12 x £1 and 1 x £5 stamps, together with a wide range of Parcel Post material for overseas (**Fig. 3**). Uncommon postmarks were made for use at larger offices for parcels pre-paid by 'bulk users' and we were shown a variety



Max giving his talk.

of these. A 1897 cover from Edinburgh to Oldham containing a coin showed compulsory registration, incurring a high additional charge.

One section of the display showed deliberate Post Office mutilation or (almost) total obliteration of the adhesives to prevent improper use (**Fig. 4**). This was followed by a fine range of Diplomatic material including labels, covers and parcel tags (**Fig. 5**). Many examples of pre-payment of Customs Duty with high value stamps from Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney

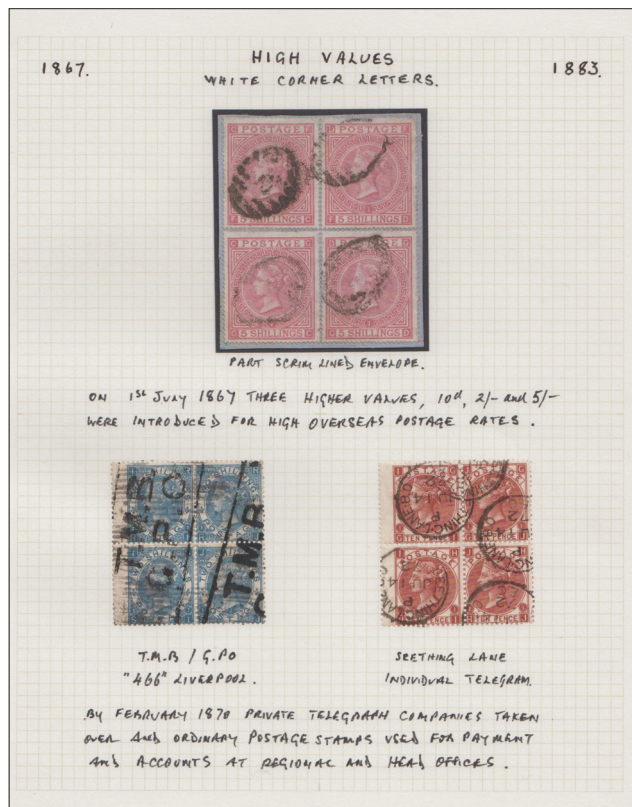


Fig. 1



Fig. 3

ROSSY MAVVE

1-7-75

GENERAL POSTAL UNION.

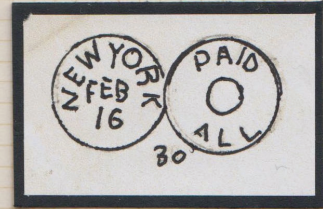
NEW STAMP OF THE VALUE OF TWOPENCE HALF-PENNY.

BLUE

5-2-80



PLATE 17. 23.12.79.



RECEIVED ZOPHAR MILLS
OFFICE 17 FEB 80.

PLATES 1, 2 & 3 WMR ANCHOR ON BLUE AND WHITE PAPER. 1.5.76 WMR DRAB PLATES 3 - 17.

IN 1977 MEXICO WAS
NOT A MEMBER OF THE
G.P.U. SO RATE 1/-.

DOUBLE CIRCLE DUAPEX.
G A

A COMMON TO ALL ON TIME
DAY. G RELATED TO "33".



"UNIVERSELLE"
PARIS 1878

PLATE 17.

POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
1878

DECIDED THAT OVERSEAS
RATE STAMPS SHOULD
BE BLUE.

ISSUED
5-2-80.



Fig. 2

1918-1934

TELEGRAPH PUNCH EXPERIMENT 1919.

BRADBURY WILKINSON.

TO AND FROM
L.O. TRIVETT.

DE 18 19

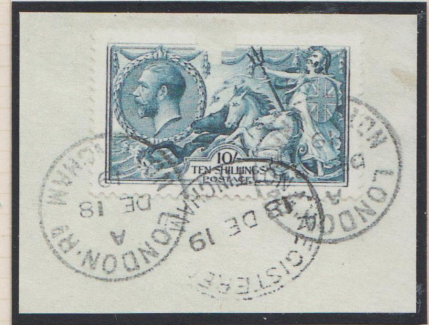


3 COVERS
2/6. 5/- 10/-

NOTTINGHAM.



SOME POSTMASTERS MISUNDERSTOOD THE INSTRUCTIONS AND "PUNCHED" THEIR WHOLE STOCK OF HIGH VALUES. OFFICIAL REPRIMANDS CORRECTED THE SITUATION.



THE EXPERIMENT STARTED IN AUGUST 1919. OFFICES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND WERE INVOLVED. BY AUG. 1925 91 OFFICES HAD CLIPPERS. POSTAL USE IS KNOWN FROM AT LEAST 12 OFFICES.



Fig. 4

were on display (Fig. 6). Use of Overprinted George V and George VI high values were shown from University of Durham College, The Ministry of Aircraft Production and Estate Duty Office.

A fascinating group of items with the theme 'Prescription Charges' proved to be of popular interest. Beginning in 1949, prescription charges were introduced at a rate of 1s per prescription with dispensing doctors remitting charges each month to local Executive Councils. (Fig. 7). By 1956 the charges applied to each item prescribed.

The Seahorse issues used on Post Office 'Special Services' provided a colourful and interesting subject (Fig. 8) including Registered and Express items together with Late Fees. In this period during WWI, mail was undergoing censorship and several items were seen, also examples of an Export Licence and an application to register a business in 1916 showing the use of adhesives as receipts (Fig. 9).

For the Shackleton Rowell Expedition of 1922 a number of stamps were taken for use on each island visited (Fig. 10).

During the railway strike of 1919 emergency airmail services were used and this created mail with high postage, both internally and cross-channel (Fig. 11). With the gradual establishment of airmail routes around the world, the use of high value stamps increased rapidly. The display included covers by air and sea to many destinations, and also crash covers (Fig. 12).



Fig. 5

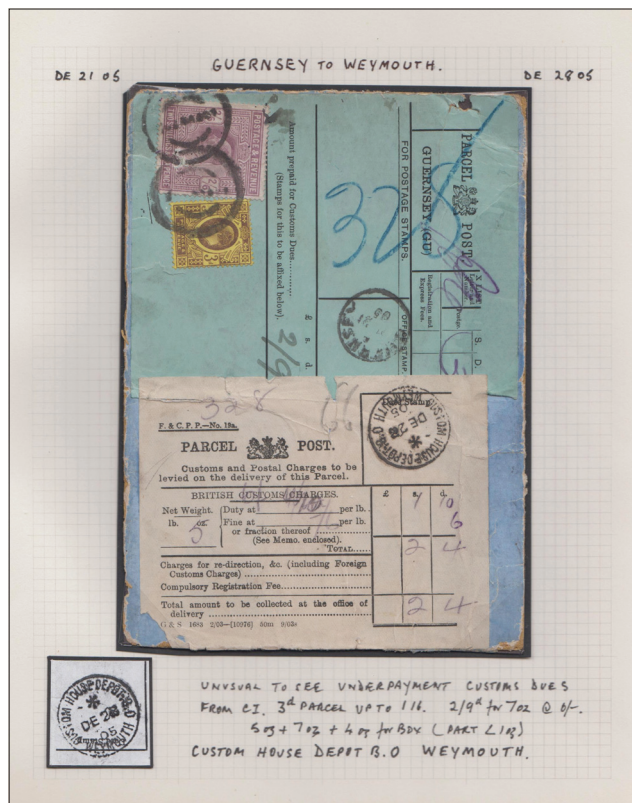


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Max's audience.



Fig. 8

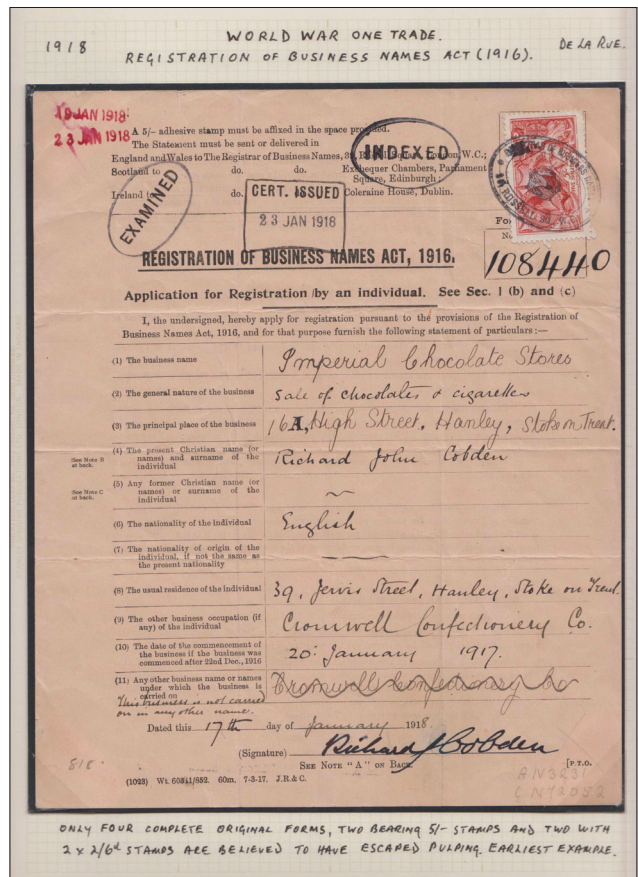


Fig. 9

The Shackleton-Rowett Expedition 1922.

Stamps	Value	Returned	Value	Used
1/2d 480	1.0.0.	268	11.2.	212
1d 1920	8.0.0.	774	£3.16.6	1146
1-1/2d 1440	9.0.0.	604	7. 4. 6.	736
2d 4800	40.0.0.	3840	32.16.0.	3840
3d 480	6.0.0.	118	1. 9. 6.	362
6d 480	12.0.0.	154	3.17.0.	326
1s 480	24.0.0.	49	2. 9. 0.	431
	£100.0.0.		£52. 3. 8.	

IN ADDITION SIR ERNEST REQUESTED 3 SHEETS OF HIGH VALUES 2/6, 5/-, 10/- WITH STOCK VALUE OF £35.



SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS (1921)
S-R ANTARCTIC
EXPEDITION 1921.

AND BOXED HANDSTAMPS FOR EACH ISLAND THAT WAS VISITED eg. GOUGH ISLAND, TRISTAN DA CUNHA, (HENDERSON LAND)



ON THE RETURN JOURNEY MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION WERE ABLE TO CANCEL HIGH VALUES BY FAULTING WITH RELEVANT DATES NO RETURNS.

Fig. 10

AEROPLANE CRASH COVERS,
1954, DECEMBER 25, PRESTWICK, SCOTLAND.



Messrs. Salfour Guthrie (Canada) Ltd.,
Canadian Pacific Building,
69, Yonge Street,
TORONTO 1.

BY AIR MAIL

SALVAGED MAIL
AIRCRAFT CRASH
PRESTWICK 25-12-54

The Reverend Mother Sharry, R. C. E.
Regional Superior,
Religious of Christian Education,
1071, Blue Hill Avenue,
Milton 86,
Massachusetts,
U. S. A.

004C BEING STRUCK BY "CATHAY", LANDING PRESTWICK TO REFUEL ON WAY TO U.S.A. SKIDDED, SPUN OPEN, CAUGHT FIRE. 29 CASUALTIES. HEAVY MAIL LOAD "CHRISTMAS". SOME BURNED, MANY UNDAAGED

Fig. 12

AIR MAIL EXPRESS. LONDON-PARIS.
LONDON Monday 10th NOVEMBER 1919. CHIEF OFFICE E.C. No. 5852



AIRCRAFT TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL LIX (A.T. and T.) WERE GIVEN THE CONTRACT AND THE SERVICE WAS DUE TO START ON 10th NOVEMBER. FOG PREVENTED THE PILOT J. Mc MULLIN FROM TAKING OFF. THE DE HAVAL (LAND) D.H. 4A TOOK OFF THE FOLLOWING DAY BUT THE ORIGINAL MAIL WAS CANCELLED 10th NOV 19.



REGISTERED LETTER.
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICE OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.
THIS ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN IN RED INK ON THESE LINES.

Mr. John Jones
Paris

FIRST FLIGHT REGISTERED COVER.
THE COMBINED AIR MAIL AND EXPRESS FEE WAS 2/6 PER OZ.
WHICH WAS IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL SURFACE MAIL CHARGE.
2/6 + 2/6 + 2/6 = 2S 10 1/2.

Fig. 11

Max included items showing the George VI 'Arms' and 'Festival' issues. The Castle and large Machin head issues of the present reign were not ignored. Examples of payment for Telegrams and the Cable service were shown, together with parcel postage paid by a full sheet of the De La Rue £1 stamps and tags from the High Value Parcel Service introduced in 1930. A truly outstanding display which cannot be fully described in a brief report such as this. For members with access to the Society website, scans are available to view at: www.gbps.org.uk/displays

JANET BYGATE



Max receiving his memento from President Bob Galland.

GBPS **DIAMOND JUBILEE FESTIVAL**

At Stampex 18–21 February 2015

By **Howard Hughes**

Members will recall that the festival, which marked the commencement of our Jubilee celebrations, took place at Spring Stampex and consisted of a number of events. Namely, a wide range of national level exhibits, a series of lectures, outings for partners, a dinner with award presentation, a Saturday display and several ad hoc social events. Members from abroad were encouraged and their entry into the competitive events facilitated. The Stampex brochure was enlarged to contain a section devoted to our society and the displays.

When considering how to write up this cornucopia, I initially intended to write about each event separately but then realised that this would convey no sense of understanding of how frenetic the days were, so instead I have opted for a diary style.

Tuesday 17 February

This was the day before the event proper when members handed in their exhibits. Official hand-in time commenced at 11 a.m. but we were told that a 10 a.m. start was available. Consequently, several hardy individuals shook off their 'pre-event socialising' torpor and shuffled in to the designated room, clutching their precious exhibit material. (By contrast, our previous evening had consisted of an entirely civilised dinner with the Simpsons and Locktons and had only briefly threatened to get out of hand when, on returning to the hotel, we found that Tom and Sherry Slemmons had arrived but, still shaking off the effects of jet-lag, they were not their usual malign influence.) Unfortunately, this level of dedication was not matched by the bin room team who had obviously had a better night out than the rest of us and hand-in got off to a sluggish start with only two volunteers in action. This had the unintended consequence of allowing several members from different parts of the world to be introduced to each other and then begin to form small discussion groups. In the end, it was with some reluctance that many actually left a group when called to the hand-in tables. After 11 a.m. all volunteers arrived and everything ran with great efficiency.

Once relieved of their exhibits, members were free for the rest of the day. Not so your correspondent who remained on site in case of last minute hiccups. The day generally progressed smoothly with members straggling in after the initial rush. One or two confusing incidents occurred where overseas members, used to putting their own exhibits up, wandered in to the exhibition area, bypassing the bin (hand-in) room.

They did not realise it but they had put their very souls at risk. Tony Bosworth is a happy and gentle man but once put in charge of a team of volunteers he metamorphoses into Attila the Hun and the sight of his barely suppressed rage and open incredulity that anyone should have ventured into his domain without a volunteer's badge was enough to freeze the blood. A number of members, no doubt weary but excited, having travelled hundreds of miles, arrived at Stampex ready to display their life's work, made a simple enquiry as to where they should place their exhibit. The answer would have surprised them and may well have required a detailed knowledge of anatomy to be fully appreciated but rather than leave the offender in any doubt as to the nature of their welcome, Tony would follow up with a bellowed 'Howard, remove this person from my floor'. Thus it was that some members were welcomed to England.

As the day wore on, most of the exhibits had arrived. One of the remaining exhibitors had been given permission to put up his own exhibit, as it required a degree of construction. In discussion with Richard Stock, the chairman of the judges, it became apparent that everyone knew this apart from the aforementioned volunteers' Czar. Richard showed true leadership by deciding to undertake the task of informing Tony himself and marched off without a thought of personal safety to so do. Having had opportunities to exercise his look of incredulity, as reported above, Tony's facial muscles were by now well-toned and fully equal to this new challenge. On hearing the news, his eyebrows performed such leaps that the assembled crowd (for, alas, where there is the smell of blood, people gather) did not know whether to applaud or to attempt to recapture them. Thankfully, Richard's brave intervention meant that the exhibitor, when he arrived, was not assaulted although he may have been puzzled by the rictus smile that appeared chiselled upon the face of the floor manager.

All the exhibits were now up barring two, from Tony Walker and Tim Lediard who are two of our more reliable members. A mild concern gave way to controlled panic when it became apparent that both had mailed their entries to the Royal but, apparently had not been received. Thankfully they were tracked down and provision made to put them up the next morning.

I will not mention the name of the experienced exhibitor who asked if he could print some of his exhibit pages in the Stampex office at 2 p.m. because that might embarrass a dear friend. I thought I had

been daring, leaving until the previous day to buy some unusually sized mounts from Gibbons, so that I could finish my display, but I was a mere amateur in such company!

And so, somewhat later than anticipated, we were able to leave the Business Design Centre and assemble for a brief Council meeting. The cares of the day began to be lifted as we had inadvertently stumbled upon 'Happy Hour'. For the uninitiated this does not mean that everyone has to have a silly grin on their face, although it may well lead to that, as it means that drinks were two for the price of one. Council members showed great restraint, however, and business was conducted in a professional, if somewhat light-hearted, manner. Afterwards sixteen of us converged on a nearby restaurant for dinner. The presence of more Council members at the dinner than at the Council meeting went, as far as I am aware, unremarked.

Wednesday 18 February

An early start was needed to ensure that the projector had been set up properly and that it had a compatible connection to the laptop. The room turned out to be pleasantly large and airy. It was perfectly set up, so a quick plug in of the computer and I was out to have an initial look at the exhibits. As promised we had been given the entire mezzanine display area (and we had even overflowed on to the first floor display area). Mike Jackson had arranged two frames into a powerful advertisement for the society and the rest of the frames contained a superb selection of GB material. The quality and diversity of material on display illustrated the depth and variety of our members' interests. It was a joy to behold. There was only time for an overview before it was back into the meeting room. Ian Harvey was manning an impressive bookstall where members were treated to the full range of our Society's publications as well as some other gems.

The commemorative brochure was now available. Council had decided to ask Alan Holyoake to transfer his offer of sponsorship of this to a brochure commemorating our December Diamond Jubilee presentation to the RPSL. So the brochure was in a slightly different format to that previously envisaged. In the end, we decided to amalgamate our brochure with the Stampex souvenir programme and the resultant handbook was most impressive with a full page given to each exhibit. The huge print run and circulation can only have benefited our Society and everybody viewing the displays must have had a better appreciation of them than they would otherwise.

The day got underway formally with our President, Bob Galland, welcoming everyone to the presentations and



Tom Slemons.

then inviting **Tom Slemons** to give the first presentation. *Postal History Brought to Life* was a display that did what it said on the tin. Tom showed us how, by researching the people involved in a correspondence, much more can be understood about the context of their letters. We were introduced to John Thorgood, who preferred to spend time in a debtors' prison rather than pay a Church Rate of 5s 6d and to John Dallenger, an auctioneer and insurance agent who had a wonderful (and rare) handstamp he applied to letters (**Fig. 1**). We were also introduced to the Alexander family, pioneers of photography and a source of some rich transatlantic covers, prepaid with 1841 2d blues, sometimes at the correct rate but sometimes overpaying by 2d. Tom finished by talking us through the 7 Ipswich to Yoxford mailcoach ride with the aid of both modern and antique photographs and postcards. A thoroughly researched, highly entertaining and thought-provoking start to the day.

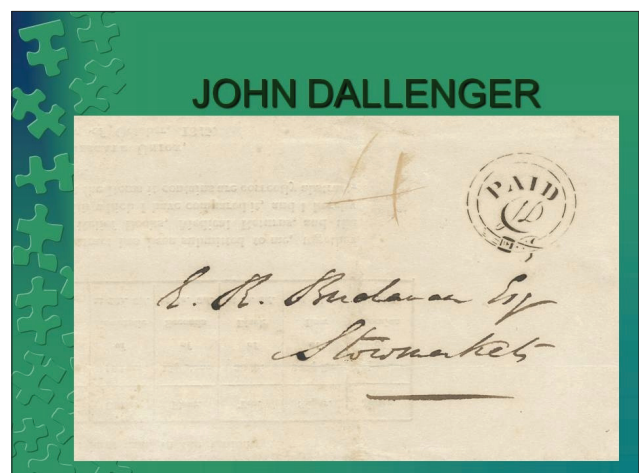


Fig. 1



Tom Slemons giving the first presentation of the Festival.

Next up was **Steve McGill** with *GB Postal Mechanisation: From Transorma to the Modern Era*. After a brief historical introduction, Steve introduced us the Transorma mail sorting machine. Having operated successfully in Holland, two machines were delivered to the Brighton post office in 1935 by Brigadier General F. H. Williamson, the chairman of the mechanical aids committee of the GPO. This machine relied upon the operators becoming 'human software' memorising over 200 destination codes and inputting these using a keyboard with the left hand whilst holding the letter in the right hand. Each operator had an identifying letter or number code. These served as a form of quality control but can be seen on some letters thus proving the use of the machine (**Fig. 2**). A later machine was the Single Letter Position Sorting Machine (SLPSM) which was introduced in 1955 at Bath and in 1957 at Southampton. Steve then took us through various means of using the stamp to orient letters including the use of graphite lines and fluorescent and phosphorescent inks, development of postcodes and modern machines. His explanations of some of the markings on modern envelopes was most illuminating and his fears that a British audience would already be familiar with his subject proved spectacularly unfounded!



Steve McGill in full flow.

Evidence of Use

Range		Font Size	Recorded Ident Use		Notes
			From		
A	Z	3.5mm	Sep 1935		
a	z	3.5mm	Sep 1935	Excluded: c, l, s, v, w	
2	9	3.0mm	Sept 1935	1's without serifs	
10	15	5.0mm	Late 1936	1's without serifs	
16	21	4.5mm	1943		
22	23	4.0mm	1946		
24	32	5.0mm	1948		
33	37	2.5mm	1961		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineer's test mark	

At the time of introduction, there were 55 Idents:
 A-Z
 A-z Excl. c, l, s, v, w
 2-9
 Releases & fonts at left

Ident 'A'

Fig. 2

After our two American guests, came **John Horsey** who gave us *The £5 Orange — A Voyage of Discovery*. This was a sumptuous review of the issue, based upon John's recently published book. John began by considering the Telegraphs version of the stamp and showed us essays, die proofs (including a wonderful demonstration of a computerised way of highlighting the differences between different stages of these proofs, each of which is unique), plate production, colour trials (illustrating how the colour was originally decided to be blue but the potential for confusion with the £5 Probate Stamp scuppered this), imprimaturs, specimens and the issued stamp. Telegraphs were withdrawn in October 1881, leaving no £5 stamp and so, when it was decided that one was necessary, it was decided to adapt the existing Telegraphs plate by removing the word 'Telegraphs' from it and inserting the word 'Postage' by the use of an overprint plate. John showed us various Proofs and the pinning dots necessary to align the plate so that 'Postage' could be printed in the correct position. We were then shown Specimens, comparisons between blue and white paper and then usages including an important £24 10s piece used on a 'STATEMENT of Moneys for Prepaid Postage on the undermentioned Inland Letters, Books or Samples received at the Counter this day' (**Fig. 3**) and on an example used on a £17 postal packet.

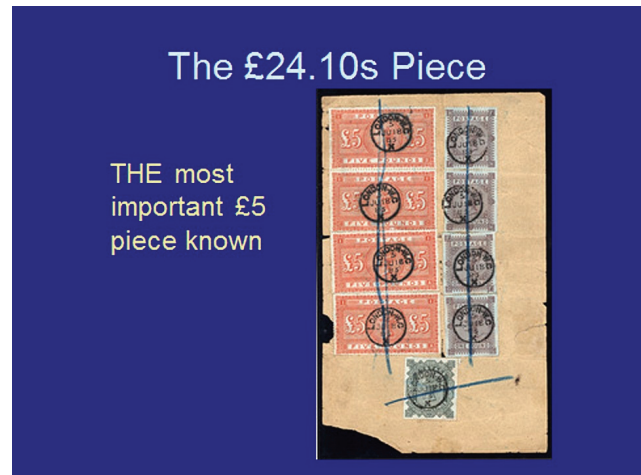


Fig. 3

John summarised the use of the £5 Orange as being on high cost telegrams and accounting for high cost telegrams, accounting for bulk mail, accounting for excise or tobacco duty and, occasionally, for the payment of postage.

John finished his presentation by showing plate varieties and some well-researched alterations giving rise to forged usages. The final slides showed dies of the KEVII stamp that was never printed.



John Horsey's presentation of the £5 Orange.

Next up was **David Turner** with *Ocean and Imperial Penny Postage 1840–1918*. David was another man with an impressive book on his subject recently published. He began by explaining that updates to his presentation and book would be available by email and then online (please let him know you want one at ddtw@btinternet.com).

After giving us a little background information, David dived in to his subject. Elihu Burritt, greatly influenced by an 1849 visit to Skibbereen, where he witnessed the effects of the potato famine, was a man campaigning for cheaper transatlantic postage. He commissioned the production of attractively designed propaganda envelopes to help publicise his campaign. There were eight designs of the Ocean Penny Post envelope and David took us through each of these showing us the design, the different states and usages. He complemented this by sharing charts detailing the number of known examples of each state and their period of use.

The sheer scale of work David had undertaken was breath-taking. He has discovered numerous new states and owns many unique items (**Fig. 4**). His work is a perfect example of how an interest in an area leads to specialisation and then, when one is organised and disciplined enough, to the production of a display and to the publication of research so that all may benefit. One cannot help but feel that Elihu Burritt would have been proud.

David finished off his display with a fun slide showing some of Gerald King's Lundy related covers and then spent several minutes answering questions.

And so we came to the final display of the first day. Our President and your correspondent had an evening engagement and so it was with nervous glances at our watches that **Theo Brauers** got underway with *Miles and More — A Brief Insight into the Complexity of the Postal System in the UK before the Great Postal Reform (1784–1840)*.

Theo began by explaining that, before 1839, all inland letters were mainly charged by distance travelled and by the number of sheets sent. The distance travelled usually involved going via London and so was greater than might be anticipated. Before 1784, the postage from town of posting to London was added to the postage from London to destination. After 1784, the distance from town of posting to London was added to the distance from London to destination, before postage was calculated.

This change meant that clerks needed to know these distances and so a set of mileage marks were sent to the large towns in England and Wales in September 1784 and Theo showed us an example from his collection (Sevenoaks) dated the following month. During this period, the first three postal rates



David Turner receiving presidential endorsement of his tome.

were calculated by the number of post stages (the distance a postboy could travel before he had to change his horse) and this varied from 20 to 30 miles. This was changed in 1797 to a series of banded charges dictated solely by the number of miles and the number of sheets. These rates increased further in 1801, 1805 and 1812.

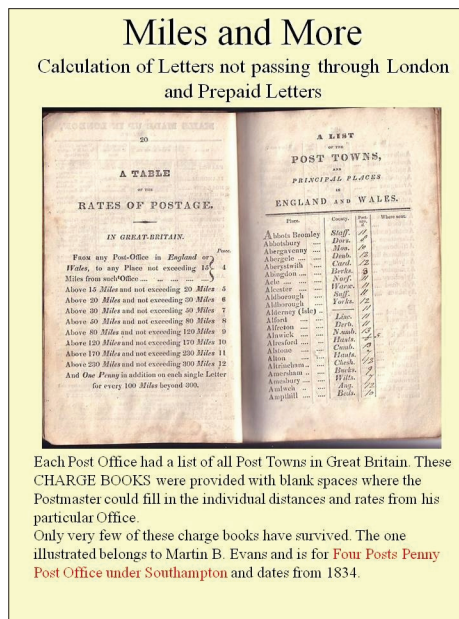
Rates were further complicated because not all mail went through London. A series of cross posts existed that cut down the mileage and, therefore, the cost of postage. Each office, therefore had a charge book which contained all the post towns and which



Fig. 4



Theo Brauers



Each Post Office had a list of all Post Towns in Great Britain. These CHARGE BOOKS were provided with blank spaces where the Postmaster could fill in the individual distances and rates from his particular Office. Only very few of these charge books have survived. The one illustrated belongs to Martin B. Evans and is for Four Posts Penny Post Office under Southampton and dates from 1834.

Fig. 5

allowed the postmaster to manually complete an entry showing the cost to each town (Fig. 5).

Theo showed us examples that had been mis-sorted and mis-charged and illustrated what a complicated system this was to maintain. He then showed us examples sent abroad including examples that qualified for a long distance rebate or that had been sent by a different route due to war. He then outlined the need for postal reform and showed us some early 4d rate covers.

This complex subject was presented in a clear and entertaining manner. As this was the last talk of the day, it was allowed to overrun its time allocation and we therefore had a dash back to the hotel to get changed for the evening dinner. A taxi took us straight to the RAF club where GBCC were hosting a dinner, out of breath but just on time. As we were quickly re-arranging our dishevelment, in the foyer, we were joined by a cool and dapper looking Theo. Given that we had left him answering questions on his display, only a short time earlier, opinions were divided as to whether he had travelled by helicopter, teleport or broomstick!

The evening was a very pleasant dinner in the company of our wonderful friends from America and our thanks go to Tom Slemmons and Doug McGill for organising it. Doug battled bravely through a heavy cold and his exhortation at the evening's end 'I'm going to bed unless anyone wants to go to the bar' was probably not phrased as well as it might have been if he had wanted to get his much needed sleep.



GBCC Dinner at the RAF Club.



Tom and Sherry Slemmons at the RAF Club — butter wouldn't melt in their mouths.

Thursday 19 February

Having survived the nightcap in the basement bar at the RAF club, it was early in to the BDC again on the Thursday morning. We were now in our usual Room C for the rest of the week so the projector, display frames and bookstall had to be repositioned.

First up was **Alan Holyoake**, who gave us *Features of the First Postage Stamp*.

It is always a delight to listen to Alan and this occasion was no disappointment. He began with a look at the lead up to postal reform with a satirical cartoon refuting suggestions that the cost of transporting increased mail would be prohibitive. He continued with examples of the 1838 Sydney postal stationery (based on the campaign in Great Britain but pre-dating the Mulreadys by two years) and then showed us a number of essays including a postally used Whiting 'Post Office Permit' lettersheet essay. Alan then moved on to the introduction of stamps and Mulreadys and showed us an original 1d Black Postal Notice and first day usages of the stamps and also a pair of Mulready covers sent by Henry Cole to test the system on its first day. We also had imprimaturs and examples demonstrating the wear of the plate.

Moving on to the 2d Blue, Alan showed us the master die and the famous 7 May 1840 'Mackay' cover, followed by examples with distinctive Maltese crosses, before finishing with an incredible uprated (with five 1ds) 2d Mulready cover to Constantinople, this being the earliest use of both the stamps and the postal stationery to an overseas destination (**Fig. 6**).

A fabulous display generously accompanied by a high quality printed handout.

After an extensive question-and-answer session with Alan, the next presenter was **Doug McGill** with *The Anglo-French Reciprocity: Movable Boxes and More*. Doug began by considering the lead-up to the 1843 postal communications convention. This convention would help France send mail to the Americas and give Britain better access to Europe.

Doug showed us the introduction of the Moveable Box and illustrated British mail entering a number of French ports (St Malo (**Fig. 7**), Granville, Port-Bail, Carteret, Le Havre, Boulogne and Bordeaux) with a series of maps, along with images of the postmarks of each individual port and some excellent examples of usages on cover.

We were then shown French mail entering the Channel Islands, Southampton, Folkestone and London, including examples destined for Ireland and the United States of America. Doug illustrated his examples with picture postcards of the ports concerned and with some excellent diagrams and templates.



Alan Holyoake's presentation.

The material in his display is remarkable in the number of adhesives cancelled with another country's postmarks and this gives rise to a rich variety and an eye-catching appearance.

Plenty of questions followed the usual round of applause and Doug sent everyone away with the task of finding an example of a Moveable Box from the period, as no-one has seen one.



Doug McGill and President Bob Galland.



Fig. 7

The 1840 – 41 One Penny

Plate 1a - May 1840 Usage to Uprate Two Pence Mulready

May 8th - The Third Official Day of Use

The Earliest Known Usage to an Overseas Destination of both the Adhesive Postage Stamp and the Two Pence Mulready

Mulready 2d. letter sheet a96 sent on May 8th from London to the care of the Consul General of the Queen of England, in Constantinople. Paid at the 1s.7d. rate up to half an ounce via France and Austria fully pre-paid and being made up of 1s. paid in cash, 2d. paid by the Mulready and the remaining 5d. paid by the addition to the reverse of two vertical pairs and a single 1d. plate 1a cancelled by manuscript zig-zags.

A variety of rate and transit markings including London "PAID/8 MY 8/1840" circular datestamp in red confirming the pre-payment, "ANGL/CALAIS/10/MAI/40" (Sunday) transit c.d.s., "A•T•F" (Angleterre Transit Francaise) handstamp in red.

The entire was disinfected (probably against Cholera) prior to delivery, as evidenced by rastel punch holes and the typical chemical discolouration.

The letter reads "This is written on one of the new postage covers - the penny covers are in black ink - this fantastic trick will cost the nation a million sterling of revenue - no one will be able to write a letter except in one of these covers under a penalty of double postage being charged on a letter sent to the Post Office.

No letter nor anything else to go in the official bag even by messenger except official despatches- the object is that no money or as little as possible should pass thro' the PO - the establishment will be reduced - the post man will not have occasion to wait for change at doors and I suppose all persons will be ordered to have letter boxes or slits in the door.'



(E)



Bob and Douglas (second from right) with the team from the BPMA.

As we all had to be at the RPSL in the afternoon for the GBCC display, we only had one more talk and that was by **Douglas Muir and his colleagues from the BPMA**.

We were given an oversight of the work the Archive does and shown some of the items that currently nobody gets a chance to see including a large selection of old post boxes. We were then given an update on plans for the new museum and archive (**Fig. 8**). This will be split in to six zones to cover 'The Royal Mail', 'Communication Revolution', 'Post Office in Conflict', 'Designs on Delivery' and 'Times of Change'. The sixth zone will be for temporary displays. There will be areas for research and for educating school children with an improved use of technology. There will also be a café and an environmentally controlled secure storage area.

There will also be a 15-minute ride through the tunnels around Mount Pleasant illustrating how the Post Office Underground Railway was born, how it worked, who worked there, its significance and its end.

The core funding is now in place but gifts are still being sought to help finalise the project which should take about two years to complete.

Douglas also brought along some preparatory material for the 1955 Castles series. This was thoughtfully apt because this was, of course, the year our Society was founded. The display also included a part-sheet and an original plate and Douglas spent quite a while answering questions about the material.

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

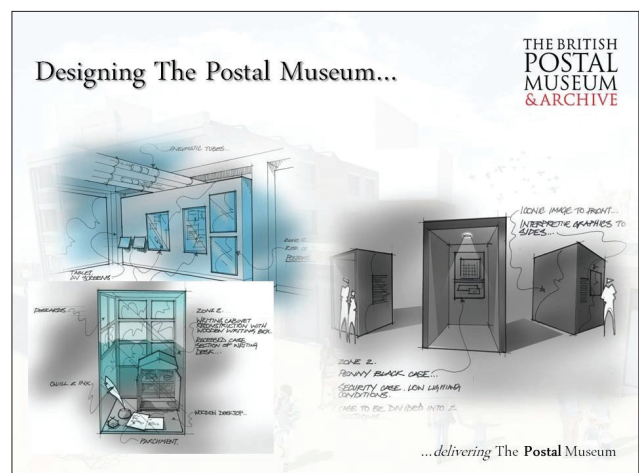


Fig. 8

Having finished the displays for the day, members now had a chance to view the exhibits which had now been marked. These were quite exceptional and have received favourable coverage in the philatelic press, from which I shall unashamedly quote.

Guy Thomas in his *Stamp Magazine* editorial wrote *'It was fitting that the Great Britain Philatelic Society (itself celebrating its Diamond Jubilee) should set the agenda for Spring Stampex. Its members had more than 200 frames on public display, and I spent some hours marvelling at both the breadth and the depth of the exhibits. Everyone's eye will have been caught by something different in a truly eclectic mix. For my own part, I was particularly struck by Ray Simpson's comprehensive history of stamp perforation up to 1880, the impressive 'Bosworth' collection of first day usages starting as early as 1839, Mike Jackson's study of the plates, paper and perforation of the Downey Heads of King George V, Ian Harvey's array of advertisers' voucher copies of early 20th century booklets and Lawrence Haber's very thorough examination of the 1/2p Machin as a make-up value on modern covers. But if there was one display that left me gobsmacked it was Chip Gliedman's. At first sight it looked like a traditional exhibit of the imperforate line-engraved issues, showing singles, multiples, plate numbers, shades, varieties, covers, cancellations, you name it. But then it dawned on me that every single item included a Penny Black, Penny Red or Twopenny Blue with the corner letters CG, the collector's initials. Some people just refuse to do things the easy way!'*

Meanwhile the report in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* went as follows: *'Of course, one of the main attractions at Stampex is to view the National ABPS exhibition, and if you are a GB enthusiast then you were in for a real treat. The exhibition was dominated by some exceptional GB material exhibited by the Great Britain Philatelic Society which celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 2015. A total of 320 frames of competitive and non-competitive material were on display courtesy of GBPS members. The huge range of material on show acted as a superb showcase of what British stamps and postal history has to offer and included excellent displays of cancels. German occupation of the Channel Islands, royal household mail, parcel post, postal stationery and decimal and pre-decimal Machins — to name just a few. Amongst the many highlights was a display of commemorative stamp issues of the King George V era. Five frames showcased unadopted designs, essays, die proofs, issued stamps and varieties of the three sets of commemorative stamps issued during the King's reign: the British Empire Exhibition of 1924, the 1929 Postal Union Conference issue — which included the largest known used block of the PUC £1 — and the Silver Jubilee issue of 1935. Another impressive display*

entitled 'A Penny Black — One in Sixty Million' showcased examples of Penny Blacks from all 11 plates, along with Penny Reds printed from black plates and rare examples of distinctive Maltese Cross cancels.'

It is a testimony to the strength of the displays that the two articles mentioned entirely different exhibits.

I provided a list of GBPS prizewinners last time, so I will not repeat all the entry names here but on top of the GBPS prizes **Large Gold medals** were awarded to Peter Aveyard, Ian Harvey, Mike Jackson (Felicitations for Research), Mary Pugh, Allan Jones, Steve McGill, Ray Simpson, Graham Booth (Felicitations for Research), Maurice Buxton, Howard Hughes (Mail Coach Award and Felicitations for Material), Alan Holyoake, Nick Wraith, Jon Aitchison and John Davies

The following received **Gold medals**, Martien Blank, Phil Cheetham, David Leathart, Steve McGill, Chris Jones, Alex Papadopoulos, Paul Phillips, John Sussex, Tom Slemmons, Ton Voorbrak, Martin Strack, Maurice Buxton and David Turner.

A total of 14 large gold and 13 gold medals, an incredible haul. A full list of all the prizes is available at http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Downloads/Spring_Stampex_2015_Results_list.pdf

Sincere apologies to Gero Schmitz le-Hann who exhibited *King George VI Arms High Values — Their use via various Postal Routes to Overseas Destinations during WWII and Later* non-competitively and whom I missed off the list last time. A lovely display.

Having concentrated on the displays for an hour or two, it was time to head off to the Royal for the 5 p.m. display given by our friends in the GBCC, more specifically, Tom Slemmons and Steve McGill. The display can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5ZSjwIF5zQ.

Ian Harvey had arranged tables at the nearby Getti restaurant and so it was late before some members finally got home that night.

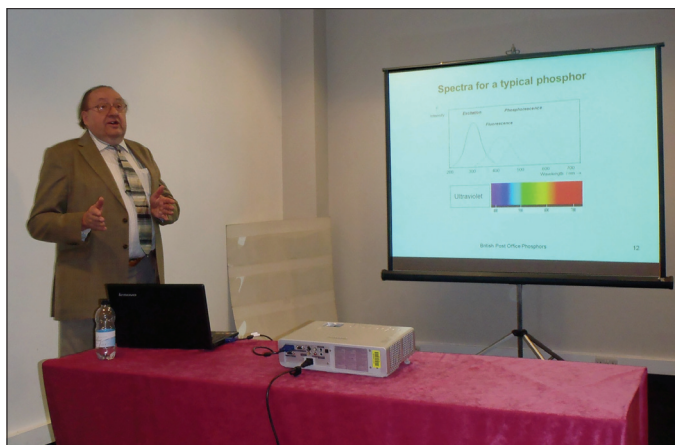
Friday 20 February

Friday brought us another early start in Room C, this time to see **Paul Phillips** and his *Reform of British Overseas Mail System 1840–56*. This talk was based on Paul's exhibit. He began the display though by talking us through the history of the types of ship involved in the delivery of mail across the seas and accompanied this with superb illustrations.

This brought us up to 1840 when, Paul explained, postal reform only had a partial effect on the cost of overseas mail. This was because it only affected inland mail with other rates determined by the countries involved. The prepayment to destination, an important foundation for cheaper postage, required treaties on the exchange of funds and, currency issues aside, some countries had different weight steps. This



Paul Phillips during his presentation.



Austin Barnes giving his talk..

state of affairs, could be changed in three ways. 'Do what you can unilaterally', 'Negotiate bilateral treaties' and 'Negotiate transit rates to other countries'. The result was that European rates remained complicated whilst intercontinental rates became simpler.

Paul then took us through a breath-taking series of destinations to illustrate the rates and routes involved. This included British West Indies, Jamaica, Foreign West Indies, Mexico, Cuba (to France), North America (including a series of slides showing SS Royal William and SS Great Western and covers illustrating the various rates at different times including a retaliatory rate cover (**Fig. 9**, apologies to Tom Slemons for showing this!), South America (including the West Coast), India and the Far East, Malta and the Mediterranean, Australian colonies, New Zealand and the Cook Islands.

Paul then finished his presentation by considering mail to Europe. He showed mail to France before and after the 1843 convention and then examples of the 1855 additions to the convention, including reciprocal all-in rate of 4d per 1/4 oz. and the introduction of postage due penalties. We then had Belgium,

Netherlands, German States, Russian Empire, Southern Europe and the Ottoman Empire.

Around the world in 80 minutes; an educational whistle-stop tour.

Paul was followed by **Austin Barnes** who brought us *British Post Office phosphors*. This display neatly complemented Steve McGill's from the first day. Austin began by telling us that phosphors were used to tag stamps so they could be automatically cancelled and also to print coded address information on the envelope. He explained that he would mainly concentrate on the first of these purposes. His introduction then looked at 1950s research and briefly explained magnetic marking, electrical marking, optical recognition, fluorescence and, finally, phosphorescence.

Research started at Dollis Hill in 1957 by Charles Forster led to the development resins containing one of two phosphor activators which produced either a yellow or a blue emission. These were used with automatic letter facing (ALF) machine trials in Southampton and then Luton.

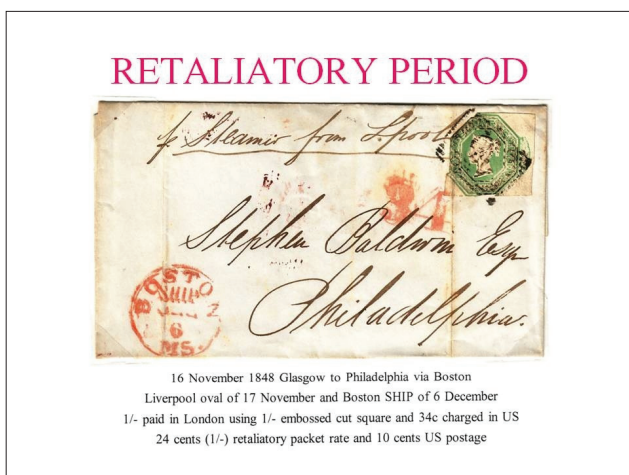


Fig. 9

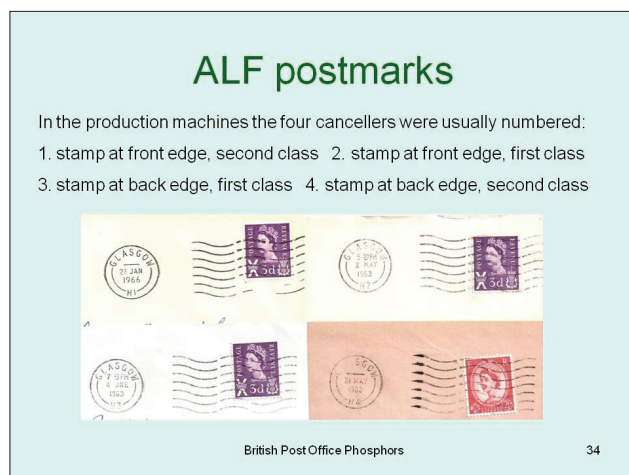


Fig. 10



Tom Slemons after his talk.

Austin described problems encountered due to the combination of machines and phosphors and that this led to new phosphors being developed and to the expansion of automatic letter facing to London, Liverpool and Glasgow in the early 1960s (**Fig. 10**). From 1965 there was widespread use of TPA violet phosphor in conjunction with ALF machinery.

He explained that photogravure was the usual method of printing phosphor bands but that typography was used for cut sheets and flexography was used on some special issues. All over phosphor began with the 1972 Royal Silver Wedding 3d value.

The 1970s saw the development of phosphor-coated paper being used for stamp printing and the 1980s saw advanced coated paper and use of a new phosphor band ink. The 1990s saw the introduction of commercial fluorescent additives (for quality control and security) and the use of phosphor ink (to work with the newer Toshiba machines being introduced).

This was a well-presented, highly detailed study, very well received.

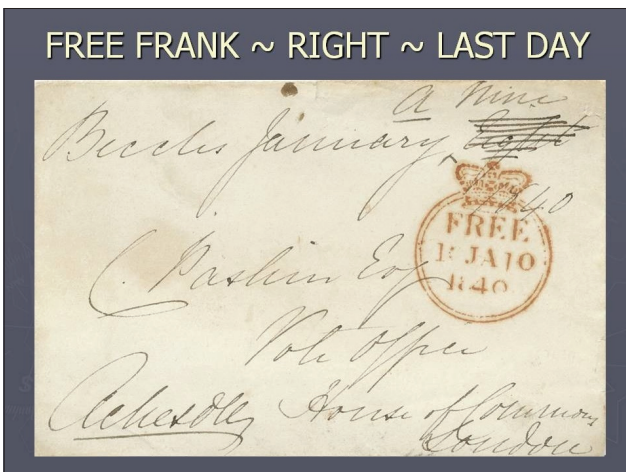


Fig. 11

After a short break we had **Tom Slemons** again, this time with *Great Britain Postal Reform 1837–1840*. Tom began by telling us about Rowland Hill and his role (and goals) in the campaign for reform, his 1837 pamphlet, the mercantile committee and public pressure. He then considered the lead up to reform by showing us examples of the rates in place before 1839. These were illustrated by a contemporary mileage chart and various covers including a lovely pair of matched 20–30 miles 6d rate covers to Saxmundham. One had a manuscript '6' in red to indicate postage paid and the other had it in black to indicate postage due. We were also shown a 50–80 miles 8d cover, a London Twopenny Post cover and a local 1d Post cover.

Tom then told us of a limited reduction in the price of postage in November 1837 and showed us paid and unpaid examples of the new 2d rate for towns eight miles or less apart.

He then illustrated a second reduction, in September 1838. Rates were then calculated by the shortest distance on public roads, rather than by the route travelled by mail coach thus he was able to illustrate covers to Norwich charged 7d and 5d that now travelled shorter distances.

Next we had the 'real reform' of 5 December 1839 where letters were charged by weight and not distance, with the standard charge being 4d, although previous cheaper rates were still allowed. Tom showed us a first day 4d rate from Ipswich and examples of handstruck '4' marks of Woodbridge, Melton and Ipswich and then a last day (9 January 1840) free frank (**Fig. 11**).

This led us nicely to the reforms of 10 January 1840 where postage up to ½ oz was reduced to 1d if prepaid and free franks were abolished. Tom illustrated this with various examples including handstruck '1' marks of Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Newmarket and Ixworth and '2' marks of Ipswich and Woodbridge. One cover beautifully illustrated the effects of the reform. It was from Hadleigh to London, a distance of 81 miles. Under the old 80–120 mile rate it would have cost 9d. It contained two sheets, so the charge would have been doubled to 1s 6d. Instead this was simply marked with a manuscript '1' indicating 1d paid.

Tom then finished with the introduction of the 1d black and Mulreadys on 6 May 1840.

A clear, concise and easily understandable account of this important change illustrated, incredibly, by covers that were nearly all from Suffolk.

Friday was the day of our dinner, so knowing how philatelists like to take their time in sprucing themselves up, the last talk of the day began at 3:15 p.m. and was provided by **Robert Benninghoff**. He



Robert Benninghoff

gave us *The Collection of Postage Dues in Ireland 1914 to 1926*.

He told us that Postage Due labels were issued in Great Britain and Ireland on 20 April 1914 and that British labels were used in Ireland until February 1925 when they were replaced with Irish labels. Ireland was, of course, part of the United Kingdom until 1914 and was, therefore, under the British Post Office administration until April 1922 when the Irish Free State took control. The six counties of Northern Ireland remained under British control.

Bob began showing us a second day of use 2d cover (**Fig. 12**) and then moved on to a rare 3d label with a block cypher watermark (rare because they were issued in 1924 and, therefore, were little used in Ireland). He then showed us a ½d example used during WWI (on a censored postcard) when the double, postage due, rate was not applicable to military mail from abroad. We then had incoming mail from the United States before moving on to the period after 1922 when the Irish Free State took over but continued to use British Postage Due labels.

Bob showed us the use of these labels to collect Customs and parcel delivery fees up to the value of 5s (above that, postage stamps were used) and then examples of unstamped mail due to the IRA raids on post offices in County Cork. On pair of covers showed '1d' to pay on a postcard sent 2 January 1823 but '½d' to pay on 26 January after a complaint had been made.

Bob explained that although Irish Postage Due labels were produced, the use of the British ones continued until stocks ran out and he finished his talk by giving us examples of a combination of a 1d label used together with an Irish ½d



Fig. 12

definitive to collect 1½d (6 June 1925) and of the scarce combination of Irish (2d) and British (½d) Postage Due labels used on 3 July 1926.

Bob, despite having an exhibit downstairs, also brought along some live material so we were able to spend time after the presentation examining this and 'chewing the cud' with him. A most unusual and much-appreciated presentation.

Another dash across town to get back to the hotel in time to change for Dinner and then it was off to the Royal Over-Seas League for the drinks reception prior to dinner. Your correspondent made a point of arriving early to help our competitions' organiser, Edward Caesley, and our President ensure that all the cups and prizes were ready to be presented and the list of winners was clear. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I found the ante-room already full and buzzing, with many seasoned members apparently already on their second glass of wine.

Eventually the 120 members and guests were herded in to the Princess Alexandra Hall for dinner. Jenny and Ian Harvey, in organising this, had taken a risk by allowing members a choice of meals but had then cleverly mitigated this by writing the choices of each diner on the back of his or her place setting card. Everyone appeared to get what they ordered and no disagreements broke out over who had the best dish, so all was well.

Before the dinner was served our president, Bob Galland, showing no signs of the strain of hosting all the week's meetings, smoothly presented all the Society



Alan Huggins.



Alan Holyoake receiving the Postal History One-Frame Award.



Larry Haber receiving the Secretaries' Cup.



Howard Hughes receiving the Martin Willcocks Plate.



The RAG Lee Cup finds a worthy home with Ray Simpson.



Robert Benninghoff receiving his Traditional One-Frame Award.



Bob Galland congratulating John Davies on winning the Theo Jones Salver.

Cups and prizes (see last *Newsletter* for the prize winners). Each winner received a new Society medal with a design based upon the Dumfries Maltese Cross, entered in Alexander Kirkwood's Proof Books on 20 June 1842. The medal, incredibly, was made by the same firm 173 years later.

Alan Huggins, as one of our longest serving members, fittingly gave us an historical introduction.

Our Master of Ceremonies for the night was John Davies who, no doubt fortified by his years of dealing with unruly young collectors, handled the baying crowd with ease. After a very enjoyable meal, he was in action again as he introduced the famous stamp designer **David Gentleman**, whose job was to propose the toast to our Society, and then sat down with the rest of us to listen to a fascinating insight into the

machinations of the stamp design world in the Tony Benn era. David is a gentleman in more than name, so his story of the Queen's response to his proposal to remove the head of the monarch for only the second time in history, was suitably respectful and humorous. He was happy to sign menu cards which contained his rejected designs for Philympia 1970, including one lacking the Queen's head! No doubt these will become collectable in their own right. Our President responded and presented flowers to David and his wife Sue and then proposed the toast to a large number of guests and concluded by inviting members stay and talk as long as they wished. Fortunately no-one saw this as a challenge and the catering staff regained possession of the room before midnight.

A delightful evening in convivial company and

delightful surroundings. Many thanks to Gero Schmitz-Le Hanne who presented the Society with a number of mementos of previous dinners and these will be shown as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations later in the year. (See Andy Donaldson's appeal for such material on page 8.)

Apologies that some members are not on the photographs, I have an ageing photographer who just couldn't keep up with the flow of members. Thanks to Chuichi Ota for filling a couple of the gaps. (The **Table Plan** indicates who was sitting where.)

Great Britain Philatelic Society
Diamond Jubilee Dinner – Table Plan

Table 1 Michael Sefi Harriet Sefi Andrew Mansi Doug McGill Dawn McGill Manfred Schmitz-Reutler Austin Barnes Chris Harman Richard Wheatley Yvonne Wheatley	Table 2 Bob Galland Jan Galland David Gentleman Sue Gentleman Theo Brauers Mary Pugh Tom Slemmons Sherry Slemmons Dieter Michelson Richard West	Table 3 John Davies Anne Davies Larry Haber Joyce Haber Martien Blank Chris Candlish David Escott Pamela Escott Simon Moorcroft Peter Newroth	Table 7 Maurice Buxton James Grimwood-Taylor Alan Huggins Mary Huggins Alan Holyoake Mitch Holyoake Gero Schmitz-Le Hanne Lore Schmitz-Le Hanne Rodney Paige Herbert Meyers	Table 8 Howard Hughes Helen Hughes Dave Russum Susan Russum Jonny Reher Victoria Lajer Stephen Weir Andrew Irvine James Heal David Turner	Table 9 Paul Ramsay Michael Lockton Iona Lockton Robert Benninghoff Erich Kirschneck Christa Kirschneck Karl Louis Edward Walker Angela Walker Philip Waud
Table 4 Janet Bygate John Bygate Gale Self Ton Voorbraak Gerda Voorbraak Tonnie Janssen Ross Candlish Peter Shaw Bob Phillifent John Sussex	Table 5 Ian Harvey Jenny Harvey Steve McGill Tony Walker Arno Kolster William Hoitink Burkhardt Beer Brigitte Beer Alan Musry Marion Musry	Table 6 Don Davies Jan Davies David Poynton Janet Connolly Paul Phillips Frans op den Kamp Andrew Lajer Alan Moorcroft Linda Moorcroft Chuichi Ota	Table 10 Ray Simpson Margaret Simpson Jeff Modesitt Leslie Modesitt Ingo Egerlandt Ruth Egerlandt Carolin Egerlandt Ben Palmer Max Melrose René Paschke	Table 11 Andy Donaldson Judy Caesley Edward Caesley Ruth Caesley Richard Stock Jenny Stock Brian Trotter Chris Trotter Martin Strack Detlef Siebert	Table 12 Allan Jones Susan Jones Joel Weiner Linda Weiner Axel Meilinger Jurgen Endemann Frank Walton Liz Walton David Milsted Tony Stanford



Table 1



Table 2 was a hive of activity hosting as it did David Gentleman.



Table 3



Table 4



Table 5



Table 6



Table 7



Table 8



Table 9



Table 10



Table 11



Table 12

Saturday 21 February

The new day dawned and we all dragged ourselves out of our respective beds and off to the BDC again. This time, for many, the morning was free to look at the exhibits or visit the dealers. The exhibitors, though, had a judging seminar to attend.

This was hosted by Richard Stock who had done a wonderful job as chairman of the judges, see the acknowledgements later, and the seminar began with an instructive talk on exhibiting local postal history by Chris King, given to a packed room.

Then we moved on to the prize giving and it was wonderful to see so many members getting their prizes. It was particularly gratifying to see those from overseas, or who were first time exhibitors, who had answered the rallying call and supported the Society. Some of these were exceptional and all were interesting. It was a wonderful touch that, despite it still needing a little restoration, the Philatelic Traders Society Silver Mail Coach Trophy was awarded for the first time in 10 years and an amusing coincidence that the previous winner had been Richard himself.

After the awards, there was a brief lunch before judges led groups around the frames and gave a detailed critique and answered questions. This was particularly valuable to those hoping to improve their exhibit and a chance to better understand exhibits outside their own collecting area.

It was at this point that I had managed to catch up with Chip Gliedman, who had spotted an amazing co-incidence the previous day. I had in my display a

block of 24 (the D and E horizontal rows) of a 1d imperf. Plate 92 cancelled by Maltese Crosses. Somewhat rare as the plate was registered in 1849, some five years after the obliterator had been generally replaced. He, meanwhile, had a strip of four lettered CE-CH from the same plate similarly cancelled. Sure enough, when we examined the way they were cut, these pieces once belonged together (*see illustration*) and have been cancelled by the same Maltese Cross handstamp. It is, of course, impossible to say whether they were once on the same letter or parcel or whether they were used separately but posted at the same office.

One interesting and cautionary aspect for the potential shade enthusiast is that the pieces are



Howard Hughes receiving the Mail Coach Trophy.
(Courtesy FEPA website)

remarkably different in colour in 2015 (but both in themselves unremarkable) despite being identical in 1849.

Thanks to an earlier start than usual we still had time to attend the traditional afternoon display given by Max Melrose, written up elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. After that it was home time for some and exhibit collection time for the rest of us. Like a marathon runner making one final sprint down the finishing straight, some members headed for the nearby Hilton bar for a last glass of orange juice before heading off to dinner. I think everyone was shattered by then but what a week it had been!

Concluding Remarks

When Council discussed the idea of having an international meeting, halfway between the 2010 and 2020 internationals, Europhillex had not been announced. When we became aware that there was to be such an event, in the same year as our proposed event, we decided to go ahead anyway. The focus of our event was to be our members' exhibits, many of whom we knew would not be ready to qualify for a major international and members' presentations. We felt this would be sufficiently attractive in its own right to bring people together but it was a bit of a risk.

In the end, this has been a resounding success, thanks to the response of our membership and also to the support of a number of individuals who have put in considerable effort and merit particular thanks. Apologies to anyone I have missed.

Ian Harvey was tireless in his efforts to make all aspects of this event a success (including biting the bullet and producing a competition entry!). He meticulously organised the splendid dinner and was present most of the week manning the Society bookstall. His wife **Jenny** did a great job in arranging the non-philatelic events. **Edward Caesley** co-ordinated the Competition entries for this, his final event as competitions' Organiser. **Tom Slemons** and **Tim Burgess** promoted and co-ordinated entries from North America and were a constant source of encouragement along with other members of the GBCC. **Theo Brauers** did likewise for continental Europe, achieving a terrific turnout, considering many had not exhibited before. **Richard Stock** did far more than his job description as chairman of the judges. He was accommodating from the first and made sure all



Getting back together.

entries were accepted, dealt with the complications that arose on an ever-increasing basis towards the end and brought the seminar and critiques forward so that members could attend this but not miss the afternoon display on the Saturday. Thanks also to the volunteers who put up and took down the exhibits and to the judges who marked them (many of whom were members), they did a great job of encouraging new exhibitors and their energy and enthusiasm was infectious. **Janet Bygate** did a wonderful job with the publicising of our festival and we received a great deal of favourable publicity for the society both before and after the event. **Mike Jackson** did his usual exceptional job in preparing and designing the GBPS part of the Stampex brochure and preparing two frames of publicity material for the Society. Bob Galland fronted the event in his usual sublime manner. He hosted and sat through thirteen meetings and the dinner and also represented the Society at the GBCC dinner. A considerable effort and much appreciated personally for reasons Bob will understand. **Jenny Harvey**, **Sherry Slemons** and my wife, **Helen** led the daily tours for partners and, thanks is due to all our partners for their support and to **Helen**, **Nick Rolfe**, **Don Davies** and **Chuichi Ota** for their photographic skills

Finally thanks to all members who provided an exhibit, especially those who travelled from overseas, the overall effect was a stunning backdrop to this festival and to all members who gave up their time to provide a lecture, much appreciated by those present and most of these will be on the website for members who cannot attend. Again, wonderful to have so many overseas participants.

Most, and possibly all, the PowerPoint presentations will be available on the website.

YEARLY MEETING OF GREAT BRITAIN AND COMMONWEALTH COLLECTORS

1–4 October 2015 in Wesel, Lower Rhine

Location? In Wesel (NRW) in the 'Welcome Hotel' directly on the Rhine river.

www.welcome-hotels.com/welcomehotel-wesel/info/

Wesel (twinned with Felixstowe) is on the Dutch border; the nearest airport is Düsseldorf.

Who? The Great Britain & Commonwealth Philatelic Society (Switzerland) GB&CWPS is responsible this year for the organisation. The invitation is extended to our friends from other similar societies in Europe and other countries.

Why? Swapping, buying, selling, discussing, meeting friends old and new. Add a great accompanying programme. We are expecting some 60 collectors and specialists covering all aspects of British philately in its widest sense and stamp dealers with appropriate material.

Rough Agenda

As usual we ask members to show one or two frames of material in a permanent exhibition during the weekend. There are no formal requirements for this. However we do ask you to send an informal application to the president of the GB&CWPS, James Heal, with information about what you want to display, if possible by the end of May 2015. The committee will decide if necessary which displays will be shown (limited space and mix of themes). You do not need to give a brief talk on your display but it would be appreciated.

The main presentation of the weekend will be by Mike Williams who will show us some of his Penny Reds. Mike is a leading specialist with a high standing throughout the world in this field, the successor of the first stamp ever the Penny Black.

Reinhard Krause will also show us a larger presentation of his 'Cape of Good Hope Triangles' during the weekend.

The GB&CWPS and FGI will both hold their AGM during the weekend and we are planning an internal non profit-making auction with pre-viewing.

Bill Barrell will be attending as a dealer.

The exact schedule is being worked on and will be confirmed later.

Hotel rooms are available from 4 p.m. for guests arriving on Thursday.

Should you want to overnight Sunday please inform us.

A programme round the event is being prepared for accompanying visitors who do not want to take part in the philatelic aspects. A visit to Xanten is very worthwhile. Also for example a qualified guided tour of the Prussian Museum of North Rhine Westphalia in Wesel can be arranged.

Meals are planned at present as buffets or à la carte depending on numbers except Thursday evening and Sunday lunchtime. All meals and drinks are to be paid for by the attendees. On Saturday evening a BBQ is being arranged in the grounds of the hotel.

Booking, costs, dates

Please do not book directly with the hotel as we need to keep track of the quota! You do not need to pay any deposit and it will be possible to cancel any bookings free up to 4 August 2015, later cancellations with fees. Please contact the organiser directly with any queries.

Single rooms are available at 79 euros per night and doubles at 109 euros including breakfast.

All members of philatelic societies or similar who are interested in Great Britain and her Commonwealth (past or present) are heartily invited to join us. If you are interested please book firmly as soon as possible (latest end of June please) so that we can coordinate the total numbers.

Please include name, accompanying person if double room required, nights required and whether you wish to book all meals. If you wish to display a frame please include that on your application. If you let me know your main collecting interests we will use that as information for the attendees.

Please send all applications or queries to:

James Heal, Falkenseer Chaussee 206, D-13589 Berlin, Fax: +49-(0)3221-117-1043, email:

james-heal@arcor.de

PLATING FOR DUMMIES

Dave Park describes his plating experience:

Your editorial of *Newsletter* 352 struck a responsive chord here. From the age of about nine until my retirement in 1999 I was an accumulator of Victorian stamps, with the vague idea of getting to grips with some serious philately at some point in the future. Come my retirement from my career as a university lecturer in 1999 it seemed that here was a good opportunity to keep the grey matter active — start a systematic study of my stamps.

Step one was to become better informed — so I joined the GBPS! I bought a large number of back copies of the *Journal* from a retiring member, a study of which revealed the enormity of the task I had set myself.

Then I had a piece of luck. I attended a stamp fair at Tonbridge School, where I encountered a genial gentleman standing behind an impressive display of Victorian covers. We talked. It soon became clear that this well-known dealer and I were on the same wavelength in our love for line-engraved stamps, so I explained my problem — i.e. lack of philatelic information — and put myself in his hands. There followed a steady stream of literature on line-engraved from his shelves to mine — all the books you mention in your editorial, including a full set of Brown & Fisher, plus a number of others — which I won't bore you with as they are more concerned with penny reds and later issues. There is no substitute for an extensive reference library.

Sixteen years later, as an octogenarian, I am still learning! However, I can now recognise the more obvious constant varieties, and in that respect you were a little unlucky in the comparative lack of features in the strip FB-FE illustrated. Although both Brown & Fisher and Seymour note the extension below of the right-hand frame-line of FD (as did you) the only other features mentioned are the somewhat vague 'weak SW' for FC, FD and FE in Brown & Fisher (not at all obvious in your strip) and an illustration of the (slightly) misplaced check letters of FC in Seymour. A free standing FB or FE might well have anyone struggling.

If anything, your experience does show the value of having access to as many reference sources as possible, which brings me to the best reference of all — comparison with the imprimatur sheet (or a good same-size photograph thereof if you can't afford £32,000 to £42,000 a throw for black imprimaturs — even if they exist). A good alternative for the missing sheets is the Spink website to which you refer. The only snag is that sometimes the feature you are looking for does not show well on the available images.

The aforesaid dealer very kindly lets me use his excellent range of imprimatur sheet photos whenever I drop in to buy a few more covers, and so far comparisons of my album's stamps with the sheets suggest my diagnoses (I've plated over 1,000 imperf. reds) are in the order of 90% correct, although Brown himself says plating is not an exact science.

An additional aspect of using an imprimatur photo is that in the case of strips and singles with margins wide enough to show adjacent stamps, one can compare the orientation and margin width of the stamp vis-a-vis its neighbours — often a valuable confirmatory observation.

I also make use of an SG digital microscope when examining stamps — not every time, but on those occasions where an x10 loupe doesn't show quite enough.

The best advice I can offer to a would-be plater is to plate as many stamps as you can lay your hands on — even space fillers or good illustrations online or in dealer's catalogues. Look for extended frame-lines; guide dots; guide lines; displaced, doubled and deformed check letters; flaws; blurs; burrs and re-entry marks; recuts and retouches; etc. Read up how such features arose. Lay your hands on the books referred to in the editorial; beg, buy or borrow, and learn to use, the Brown-Fisher system. There is nothing like practice. It can pay off — I recently discovered an imperforate 1d red (B2 Plate 176 Catalogue £2,900) in a job lot bought at a local auction, and an unplated black on cover from another job lot turned out to be a Plate 10. However, plating is not just about finding rarities, it is about understanding more about your stamps and their place in philatelic history — for example, what is the real story behind the deformed and misplaced check letters of 1d Red BS29 Plate 79? Inadequate punches? Unsoftened plate metal? Or the result of the craftsman having imbibed a liquid lunch?

There is, as far as I know, no short-cut to plating expertise. My own knowledge is hard-won, and a long, long way from being complete. I'm still a beginner, so I can't offer much help, but I can offer encouragement — happy plating!

David Kaiserman found a quicker route:

I am such a dummy, but all I can say is that it took me just under three minutes to come up with Plate 2, thanks to a flick through my battered copy of the estimable Litchfield. For those not in the know, he used a simple description of the centring of the letters (e.g. the F in F-C is said to be 'very low to the left') combined with any other noticeable characteristics (e.g. 'ray flaw 7' etc.). Hardly ever fails — especially where you are blessed with ownership of a multiple.

INFORMATION WANTED ON 2s BROWN FORGERIES — Thank You

Karl Louis and I would like to thank all those who have provided information on 2s brown forgeries. Several members have given us details either from their collections or of forgeries known to them. We hope to complete this project over the next six months or so. All who have contributed in this way will be acknowledged in the subsequent publication. In the meantime any further information would be gratefully received.

BOB GALLAND rbgalland@gmail.com

DISASSEMBLING ITEMS

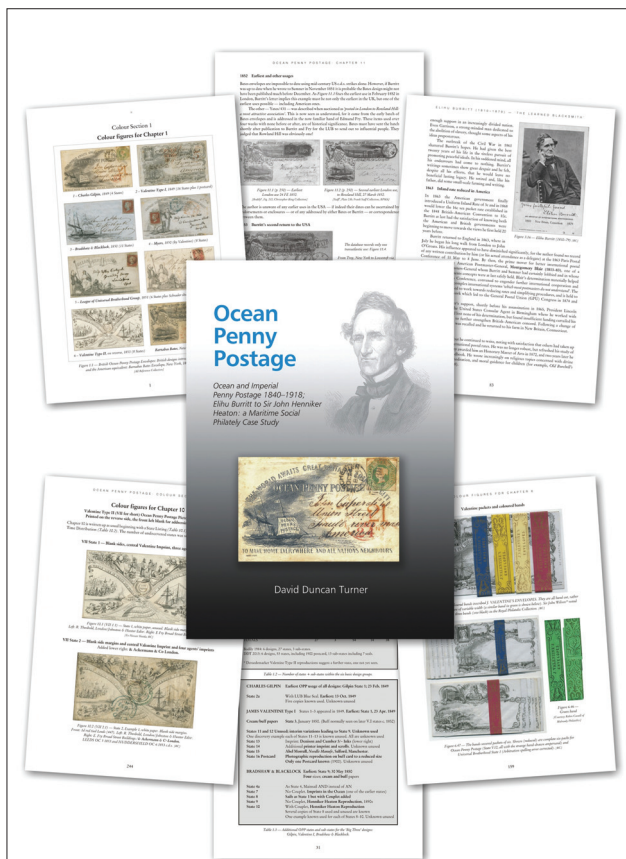
Peter Chadwick writes:

I couldn't agree more with you, about the sinfulness of disassembling items which, one day, someone would prefer to have in the original form.

As a small child, I bought a job lot of penny red covers in a clearance at R. C. Alcock for an unbelievably small sum. I duly tore the stamps off the covers, floated them, and put them in appropriate places in my album. If only . . .

You refer to single sheets from the 'Before and After' book of 1887. Yes, this appalls me. But I once bought a copy of the 'Before and After' book in which someone had gone to a lot of trouble to remove the two rarities, and replace them with similar stamps of the common plate numbers! The vendor knew what he was selling, and priced accordingly: and it served for displays. I could not have afforded a correct one! But whoever was guilty of this vandalism should be registered in philately's Hall of Infamy!

There is a problem with Mulready's. I have a set of four complete sheets — 12 in a sheet. They are cumbersome to carry around, cumbersome and expensive to store, and would be extremely difficult to exhibit! At least one dealer has told me that I would not be able to sell them, nobody wants something this size, and I would do better to cut each sheet down to make six double-sheets. I cannot bring myself to do this, but I cannot escape the belief that this will be their ultimate fate — though not at my hands!



NEW BOOK ***Ocean Penny Postage*** by **David Duncan Turner**

This major study by David Turner explores the history and sociological background to Elihu Burritt's campaign for an Ocean Penny Postage; the narrative extending to the Beechings Imperial Penny Post envelope of 1899.

All the various types and states of Ocean Penny Postage illustrated envelopes are described and illustrated, many in colour. The book includes a database of known envelopes; and an indication of relative rarity, with recent auction realisations.

Size A4, hardbound, xvi+416+A16 pp. ISBN 978-0-907630-26-5, published 2014. Price £70 (GBPS members £63). Postage and packing per copy within the UK is £6; for overseas orders please contact us (the book with packaging weighs over 2 kg).

Please make cheques payable to 'MJ Publications' and send your order to MJ Publications, 3 Cottessmore Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0HY, England +44 (0)1664 859199 mike@mjpublications.com www.mjpublications.com

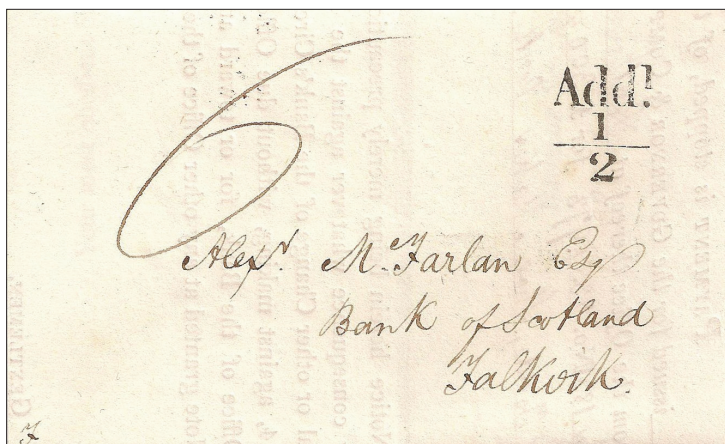
SCOTTISH ADDITIONAL HALFPENNY MAIL TAX

An update request by **Ian Baker**

It is now thirty-one years since K. Hodgson & W. A. Sedgewick (H&S) published the second edition of *The Scottish Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax*. Subsequently, the second edition of *Postal Markings of Scotland to 1840* (PMofS) edited by Ron Stables was published in 1995 and contained a number of new earlier/later dates and a few new marks. In the last twenty years many more new dates have been recorded together with further new marks, such that few of the original H&S dates still stand.

A team of four members of the Scottish Postal History Society (SPHS) are preparing to produce an updated record of all currently known marks by earliest (EKD) and latest (LKD) known dates of use and by colour of ink used; it is also hoped to illustrate as many as possible on cover. To this end it would be appreciated if GBPS members could check their collections for covers to/from or within Scotland for extension of dates and colours not recorded in H&S. Scans or photocopies are not required initially, except as noted below but we may make contact later as specific needs are identified.

Please forward details, quoting the place name, H&S Fig. No. or PMofS No., colour of ink and date and for marks for which the No. is not known or for new marks please forward a scan or photocopy to also show the date and place of origin, to the editor or direct to ianr@bkr13.fslife.co.uk



A cover sent on 28 Sept. 1831, from Edinburgh to Falkirk, charged 6d the then rate for 20–30 miles and having the Addl $\frac{1}{2}$ Mail Tax handstamp of Edinburgh

PENNY BLACK STRIP OF FOUR

Karl Louis finds provenance for my strip of penny blacks:

Having read your 'unusual' Editorial of *Newsletter* 352 with the funny focus on the 1d black Plate 2 strip of four 'plating story' I might add the following:

Your strip is not just an anonymous Penny Black strip of four. It has a history, a provenance! The strip was part of the A. H. Whelan collection built in the 1940s and 1950s. The collector A. H. Whelan decided in 1954 to consign his GB collection to Robson Lowe for sale by auction. The strip was then offered and identified as Plate 2 in the Robson Lowe sale of 17 November 1954 as Lot 107 with an estimate of 12 pounds and was described as '... a fine strip with margins all round' and illustrated on Plate II in the auction catalogue.

Unfortunately I do not have a list of prices realised. But in the journal of the British North America Philatelic Society, *BNA Topics*, Vol. 12, No. 2, Feb. 1955, I spotted a Robson Lowe advert. quoting from a letter sent by A. H. Whelan dated 19 Nov. 1954: 'Dear Sir, thank you for your letter of 18th inst. advising the result of the GB sale of the previous day. I am very satisfied with the excellent prices realized. Yours faithfully, A.H. Whelan'.

I hope you started enjoying the plating of line-engraved Penny Blacks and Reds with your nice strip.

This led me to ask how Karl Louis found this information, and he replied:

My Card Index Register has been built up over a period of 27 years now. It contains approximately 60,000 to 70,000 index cards with illustrations and descriptions of any kind of interesting information, better and valuable items from the GB Queen Victoria period (rare stamps, multiples, covers, frankings, obliterations, any kind of unusual usage) from auction catalogues, dealer's lists and philatelic magazines from the last 100 years.

It is not on PC because when I started in 1988 it was not possible to scan it as the technique and especially the storage possibilities did not exist. Years later, when hardware and software were ready for the storage of such a large volume of data, I decided not to re-start with my records from scratch again as I had at least 30,000 index cards already prepared. And our lifetime is (unfortunately) limited!

PRESS RELEASES

STAMP ACTIVE LAUNCHES 'BRILLIANT BRITAIN'

Stamp Active, the voluntary group that promotes stamp collecting to children has launched their latest STAMP FUN activity book on the subject of 'Brilliant Britain'. The new 16-page booklet contains quizzes, pages to assemble stamps from around the UK, a word search and much more. The activity book was launched at Spring Stampex and is given out free to young collectors. It will also be available at Europhilex, London 2015 in May, where Stamp Active will be providing a youth area.

Brilliant Britain follows on from Stamp Active's other popular STAMP FUN activity books which have also included 'Sport on Stamps' and 'All at Sea'. Commenting on the launch, Chairman, John Davies said 'We are delighted that our Sponsors and Dealer Patrons continue to support us to enable Stamp Active to publish these popular introductions to our hobby.'

Copies of 'Brilliant Britain' can be obtained from Stamp Active by sending a cheque for £3 plus an A4 stamp-addressed envelope to:

Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB

Information about the Stamp Active Network can be found on their website www.stampactive.co.uk



BANBURY TO HOST FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

From **John Davies**

Banbury Stamp Society is to host a major event for stamp collectors in the Spring. This year is seeing a celebration of philately in the UK with the London 2015 International Exhibition in May. Banbury's event will feature the Midland Philatelic Federation Spring Convention annual competitions and a Stamp & Postcard Fair. It will take place on SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2015 at BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER SCHOOL, Addison Road, BANBURY, OX16 9SG from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. There will be 22 stamp dealers taking part. Refreshments will be available all day. Ample free parking is available to visitors. There is also a Railway Station at Banbury on the Chiltern Line (Marylebone–Birmingham) for those travelling by train.

Free Valuations of stamps and postal history will be available from Midlands expert valuer, Tony Lester, for anyone thinking of selling all or part of their collection. There is also a Design a Stamp Competition for children (under 18) being run in association with some local schools with the prize of a Penny Black for the winner.

Commenting on plans for the Festival, Chairman Malcolm Moodie said 'It will be an event not to be missed for all new and experienced philatelists. There will be some displays by some of the leading collectors in the Midlands. It will be a great opportunity to meet fellow collectors, buy some new items for your collections and learn more about the hobby.'

We hope that your members will support the event. This is the first stamp fair in Banbury for many years. If it's a success, we hope for many more. Please support us.

For more information contact John Davies on davies1890@btinternet.com or telephone 01295 255831.

PB175 POST & GO UNDERPRINT

From the *British Postal Museum & Archive*

On 6 May, to mark the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, the BPMA will be introducing a special commemorative underprint on its Post & Go machine. Featuring the Maltese Cross, iconic as the cancellation used on the world's first adhesive postage stamps, it will be available on the 1st and 2nd class Machin designs. The underprint will read 'The B.P.M.A. / Penny Black 175'. This will run until 7 August. First Day Covers and Presentation Packs will be available to purchase through the BPMA's online shop, with a special edition First Day Cover to coincide with Europhilex.



GBPS PUBLICATIONS

GBPS members are entitled to 10% off the retail prices below for one copy of any GBPS publications

Queen Victoria

<i>Joshua Bacon</i> by David Rowse	£25
<i>'Rainbow Trials'</i> by David Rowse	£75
<i>The Line-Engraved Halfpenny</i> by W. de L. M. Messenger	£15
<i>Surface Printed Postage Stamps 1855–1883 Low Values</i> by Robert B. Galland & Karl Louis	£60
<i>The Penny Lilac, Part 2</i> by R. A. G. Lee	£15
<i>The £5 Orange</i> by Dr John Horsey (published by Stanley Gibbons)	£75

Four Kings

<i>KGV Stamps Issued in Rolls</i> by Leslie Wilkinson	£10
<i>Discovering Seahorses</i> by Bryan Kearsley	£60
<i>Study of the Stamps of the Reign of King Edward VIII</i> by A. J. Kirk	£5
<i>Great Britain King George VI Low Value Definitive Stamps</i> by Peter Worsfold	£10

Queen Elizabeth II

<i>The Dollis Hill Find</i> (Phosphor Trials on Wilding Portrait Stamps) by Edward Klempka	£20
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Postmarks and Postal History

<i>Brunswick Star Cancels</i> , Richard Arundel, revised by Russell Taylor & Howard Hughes	£15
<i>Uniform Penny Post: Handstruck Paid Postage Stamps of England and Wales 1840-1853</i> by Steve Walker	£15
<i>English and Welsh Spoon Cancels 1853–70</i> , Richard Arundel, edited by Russell Taylor	£35

Special Categories

<i>Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain</i> by Marcus Samuel and Alan Huggins	£40
<i>The Post Office and the Colleges</i> by Vincent West	£20
<i>Cumulative Index to the British Philatelist</i> by J. W. M. Stone	£3
<i>Ocean Penny Postage</i> By David Duncan Turner	£70

Booklets

<i>British Stamp Booklets</i> by Jean Alexander and Len Newbery: Parts 1–9 (subject to availability) (each)	£4
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A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THESE DISTINCTIVE EXPERIMENTAL DUPLEX CANCELS

By Richard Arundel — Revised edition edited by Russell Taylor

Published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, 2015. Soft covers, size 170 x 240 mm, vi + 174 + A12 pages.

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ENGLISH AND WELSH SPOON CANCELS 1853-1870

BIRMINGHAM TYPE B1



Fig. 47

CHARACTERISTICS: As per the above image with the Stamper Code 1 to the right of the Code but the Town name is NOT in serif. (Most likely a recut of Type A1). From mid-August when Code Q was used there was an apparent break in the Spoon frame below the Code. (Interesting not seen with other Codes so we must assume this particular Code was raised. (Interesting whilst Code O is relatively common on this Original we have not seen it used on either of following recuts). The dates are the best way to differentiate between the B1 Types.

DATE SENT TO TOWN: 24 November 1855.
EARLIEST KNOWN DATE: 24 November 1855 (Confirmed).
LATEST KNOWN DATE: 3 May 1857.
SCARCITY: Common.
VALUE: Cover £25

TIME CODES USED: A*, E, F*, H, J, K*, L, M, N, O, P, Q*, R*. Sidesways: Q* common Codes are N and O. Codes Q and O can be easily confused as discussed.

PERIOD OF USE: (Numbers recorded, including RA's EKD and LKD).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
1855									
1856	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	6
1857	5	5	2	3	1				



Fig. 48

27

ENGLISH AND WELSH SPOON CANCELS 1853-1870

LIVERPOOL TYPE A13 RECUT (A13 R1)



Fig. 149

CHARACTERISTICS: This is the same as A13 Original with the letters remaining in serif. The dates are the best way to differentiate between the A13 Types. As can be seen below, the majority of the previously recorded Time Codes have not been seen by us. The LKD of the Original recorded by RA was 30 May 1855 (for us 23 January 1855) and it is strange that there was such a delay in the handstamp being recut; presumably Stamper 13 was given other work in the interim.

DATE SENT TO TOWN: 27 February 1856.
EARLIEST KNOWN DATE: 12 March 1856. (This is the date stated by RA although the LKD is 16 February 1857, some 11 months later!).

LATEST KNOWN DATE: 18 January 1858 (Confirmed) (Fig. 149).

SCARCITY: Common.
VALUE: Cover £25.
TIME CODES USED: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TT, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VV, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YY, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ.

ENGLISH AND WELSH SPOON CANCELS 1853-1870

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THESE DISTINCTIVE EXPERIMENTAL DUPLEX CANCELS



RICHARD ARUNDEL

REVISED EDITION
 EDITED BY RUSSELL TAYLOR



ENGLISH AND WELSH SPOON CANCELS

BACKGROUND

The huge increase in the volume of mail in Great Britain during the mid-19th century led postal authorities' minds on ways of speeding up the stamping processes and reducing costs; this was prior to machines being used to aid the process. It was extremely sensitive about complaints from the general public regarding the postage stamp was properly cancelled and precisely when the letter was posted.

Previously, stampers used a numeral obliterator to cancel the postage stamp (dispatch office) and then a datestamp, impressed on the reverse of the envelope, the letter being turned over. In 1853 it was decided to experiment with a duplex handstamp (consisting of two separate hands, one for the date and the other for the obliterator) but which were contained in the same handstamp. This seems to be an obvious move forward there were concerns that the much would considerably slow down the stamping and also possibly cause damage to the stamps. The initial trials took place around February 1853 in the London Inland (Figs 1 & 2).

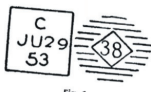


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Whilst we have not seen any direct evidence that these initial trials were considered successful, it was decided to roll the experiment out to the provinces with Hull being chosen as the recipient of a Duplex handstamp in December 1853 (all handstamps were provided by the Post Office). An image of the Hull Duplex handstamp obtained from the Proof Books is shown in Fig. 3.

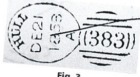


Fig. 3

Unfortunately there is relatively little correspondence in the British Postal Museum & Archives relating to the Duplex (double) stamp experiment but what we have seen there is recorded in Fig. 4.

1

ENGLISH AND WELSH SPOON CANCELS 1853-1870

YORK ORIGINAL



York had only one Spoon which was recut twice. Whilst this spoon and its Recuts were used over a sixteen-year period, examples are quite Scarce and we assume that there was a Spoon being held back either as a reserve or for special uses.

CHARACTERISTICS: As per the image above. The dates are the best way to differentiate between the Original and its recuts.

DATE SENT TO TOWN: 16 March 1857.
EARLIEST KNOWN DATE: 18 March 1857.
LATEST KNOWN DATE: 18 June 1858.

Numbers recorded, including RA's EKD and LKD).

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	M	D	
1857	2	7	1	1	5				2	2	5
1858	3	1	1	4							



Fig. 312



Fig. 313

171

ENGLISH AND WELSH SPOON CANCELS 1853-1870

GALLERY OF COVERS



Fig. 18 — Birmingham A1



Fig. 19 — Birmingham C3

Fig. 5
 Earliest known Spoon — Hull Type A, 24 December 1853.



Fig. 6
 Latest known Spoon — Northampton Type R3, 3 December 1878.

THE ISSUE OF SPOONS AND TYPES

The Duplex experiment spawned many different designs but collectors soon decided to classify the earlier designs as either a Spoon or a Sidesways Duplex (although, of course, the Post Office authorities made no such a distinction; to them they were all just 'double stamps' and were used alongside each other). In many ways, this segregation is regrettable as it would have been preferable for them to be consolidated as a single Experimental Duplex group so that we could follow the likes and dislikes of the designs for each town.

Having said that, it is recognised that this would have been a significant task and, as the classification is now well established little would be gained by changing the status quo despite the fact that at times the dividing line between the two classifications is thin: for example, both the Birmingham F7 and the Reading types often fall into both classifications.

7

PAGES FROM A COMPETITION WINNER

At our annual competitions held during the Diamond Jubilee Festival in February 2015, the Martin Willcocks Plate was won by **Howard Hughes** with his superb display of *The Maltese Cross*.

Experimental Inks

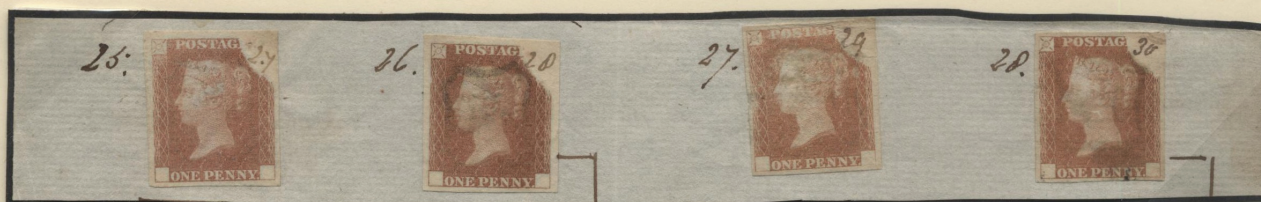
Thomas Watson's Experiments

Manuscript 'V' Cancellation: October 1840



Watson obliterated the stamps with a manuscript 'V' and then attempted to remove the mark. It is presumed he undertook these experiments prior to obtaining his own 'Pin Cushion' obliterator.

Pin Cushion Cancellation: 2 November 1840



On 2 November 1840, Watson undertook a series of experiments to try and remove the black ink applied by, what appears to be, a home made obliterator. Each stamp was numbered and mounted in a notebook. The first page of these trials, numbered 1-16 is in the Post Office Archives. The examples above are 8 of the 11 known examples outside the archives.

Ex Maximus

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

The Official Introduction of Black Obliterating Ink

In Scotland: Edinburgh

17 February 1841

Last Day of Use of Red Ink



18 February 1841

First Day of Use of Black Ink

The transition from red to black obliterating ink in Scotland appears to have begun as the process was concluding in England. Edinburgh was the first office to effect the change and the transition was largely complete within a week.

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

Transition from Maltese Cross to Numeral Obliterators

London Inland Office

17 May 1844

Number 1 in Horizontal Diamond, its First Day of Use.

One of three recorded examples of a Numeral Obliterator used on this day.



16 May 1844: Common Cross. Last Day of Use

It appears that the twelve numbered Crosses issued to the Inland Office were not sufficient to meet its needs. A small number of Common Crosses were apparently re-introduced to that office some time after mid-1843.

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

Unofficial Late Use of the Maltese Cross

A Cursed Royal Letter

Maltby: 7 November 1854



E

Addressed to Queen Victoria and bearing a curse on anyone delaying the mail. It reads 'for Her majesty Queen of england Windsor castle Berkshire or els ware all speed or ~~death~~'. The envelope shows signs of having had two additional seals, possibly due to the obsessive nature of the sender or, more probably, due to having been opened in transit by Post Office staff or the police, before being re-sealed.

Reminiscent of the Elizabethan and Jacobean 'Haste Poste Haste' gallows letters.

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