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

Cyprus Green?

Douglas N. Muir FRPSL

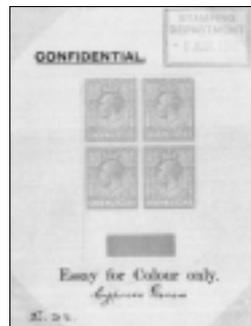
Curator, Philately, Heritage Services, Consignia

THE TERM 'Cyprus green' has always intrigued me. Not because I am ever likely to own one of the KGV profile ½ds of that shade, but rather because I could see no reason why a shade of green should be termed 'Cyprus'. The discovery of the issued stamp was originally announced in *The British Philatelist* in October 1914 where it was described as 'Cyprus green'. The term has been used ever since but it may have been misdescribed.

Recently, I was remounting some of the KGV colour trials held in the collections of Heritage Services, Consignia (formerly The Post Office). There were extensive trials of the King George V profile head values dated 6 June 1913, printed in blocks of four from specially prepared plates. The cards to which they are stuck are all annotated in manuscript by 'E' numbers. E.212 is clearly described as 'Cypress Green' and both the 5d Pillar and 9d Wreath designs have been printed in it.

Could this be the source of the mysterious name 'Cyprus' green? It certainly makes rather more sense, to me at least, and of course it is pronounced the same.

Editor's note: A quick Web search using Google revealed that Cypress Green is used today as a colour name for cars, ceramic tiles, ovens and clothing, although the colours are nothing like the KGV essays. ☒



Wattses' Underprints

IN TERRY PUSTERLA'S NOTE (GBJ Vol. 39, p. 75) on this underprint (*Fig. 1*) he states that it is only known in black and that the 17.5 mm variety is unrecorded. Both statements are incorrect as they disregard the list compiled by R. M. and R. W. Willcocks (GBJ Vol. 4, p. 58) which includes 17½ mm prints in brown, blue and green as well as in black, while an article by Reg Powell (GBJ Vol. 13, p. 14) records that he had a copy in red.



Fig. 1

Stamps were underprinted (over the gum) by W. H. Everett & Son Ltd which had produced an inked roller (price £1) with which to underprint sheets of stamps (*see Fig. 2*). The firm used this device to underprint its own stamps but the *SG Specialised Catalogue* (Vol. 2, 10th edn, p. 408) asserts that the Wattses stamps were '*evidently from a metal plate*'. What kind of plate was it? Was it for recess or

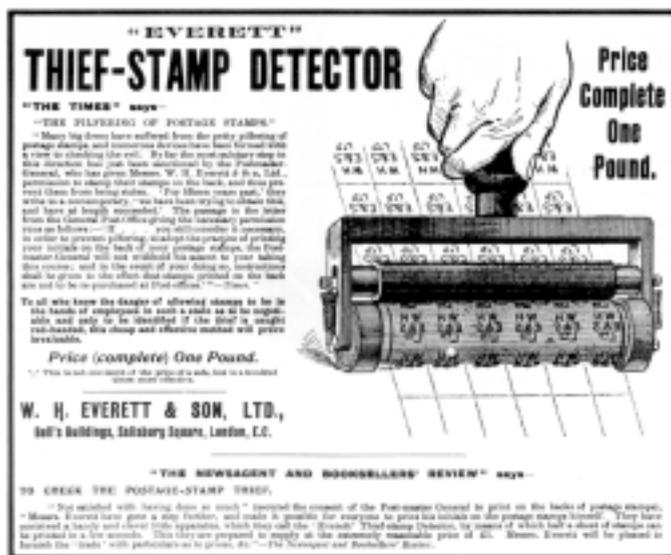


Fig. 2 — Advertisement for Everett's inked roller device (*see GBJ Vol. 7, p. 15*).

surface printing and from what original was it made? Moreover what is the evidence that a *plate* was used? The easiest way to make a printing surface would have been to set up the words in type in a forme and to print directly from that.

Since some examples read upwards and some read downwards, I think that it was very probable that the plate or forme was only the size of half a sheet so that the sheet had to be inverted between the two impressions.

HARRY DAGNALL FRPSL

In GBJ 39/75 Terry Pusterla asked for comments regarding the 'Wattses' underprint on the KEVII One Penny stamps. I have just three examples of this underprint (on ½d, 1d and 3d KEVII stamps) all with the recorded 18 mm underprint. One however — 3d purple on yellow — has the underprint in blue-green rather than black. Whether this is due to being printed on yellow paper or some external agent reacting with the ink I cannot say as I have yet to locate another example. I would be interested to hear from anybody who could shed further light on the matter.

ANDY DONALDSON

Donald Forbes-Smith

AS MANY OF YOU will know Donald Forbes-Smith died earlier this year. He had been a stamp dealer for over 30 years, starting his career in Bristol with Urch, Harris. He soon left to set up his own business, first in the Mall in Clifton and later on Christmas Steps. He quickly gained a reputation for possessing a precise knowledge of GB line-engraved philately. His occasional lists of about 10 a year were eagerly looked forward to by his clients. His last list was numbered 281 and went out a few days before his last admission to hospital. I am told that these have been collected as useful works of reference.

Donald was socially a generous companion, viewed as something of an eccentric, a reputation I think he thoroughly enjoyed. What has struck me as his co-executor, together with his partner Gundi, the high regard with which his customers held him. Their communications have been full of praise for his integrity, his knowledge and his willingness to share it. His abilities to spot and accurately describe his beloved offerings and the way he would scold his customers into better collecting practices all came through.

All who were aware of his illness admired his quiet courage. I spent many hours with him over recent years and never once did he bemoan his poor health and all that it entailed. Philately has lost an eccentric, that is not so serious as there are always plenty to replace him, but as a gentleman of some courage and generosity he will be sadly missed. Our sympathies go out to his partner Gundi.

BILL BIRD

Airmail Etiquettes

Harvey J. Russell

FOLLOWING ON from Michael Lockton's article in GBJ Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 14/15, I had a look at my 'oddmans' album recently and found that I had four of these early airmail labels on covers ranging in date from 1920 to 1923.

Michael made no mention of the colour of the labels, but of my four, three are printed in black on light blue self-coloured paper and one is printed in black on a very deep blue-surfaced, white paper. They were all produced in sheets, as one of the light blue labels has a straight edge at left, and the dark blue copy has straight edges at top and right. All other edges are perforated, the light blue labels being clean-cut perf. 11, and the dark blue label having rough perf. 10. The two earliest labels, both in light blue, are on covers postmarked 'STOCKWELL S.W.9/1.15 PM/6 Oct 20' by Krag machine, (to Paris, endorsed 'P.P. Rate' in manuscript) (*Fig. 1*), and 'STOCKWELL, S.W.9/3.5 PM/16 Oc/20/5' double-circle c.d.s. (to Brussels, endorsed with a type-written 'P.P.RATE') (*Fig. 2*).

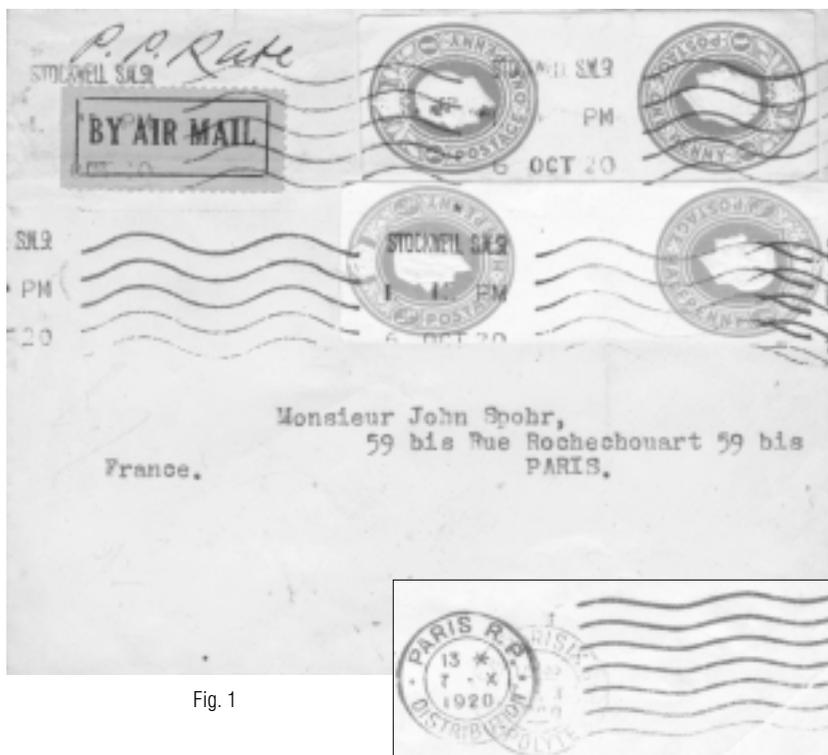


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Both covers have the postage paid by *tête-bêche* impressions of the then current postal stationery embossed ½d and 1d stamps, which were available to the public for the stamping of their own paper. The Paris cover is paid 3d, and the Brussels cover 2½d, with the odd halfpenny being paid by a Simple Cypher ½d adhesive.

I am a bit doubtful that these two covers actually went by air, as the cover to Paris has the receiving stamp on reverse: 'PARIS R.P./13*/7.X/1920/DISTRIBUTION' which I take to mean that the item was received at 1300 hours on 7 October 1920. The Brussels item shows the postman's number '466' in circle struck twice on the front, and 'BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL/12-13/17.X/1920' on reverse. I have interpreted this as meaning that the letter was received at 12:30 p.m. on 17 October 1920. In both cases, the receiving office stamp is the day after the day of posting, so there was no obvious advantage from the air mail service!

The third cover, with the dark blue label, is paid 3½d by 3d and ½d adhesives cancelled by single-ring 'ARMY POST OFFICE/S.40/24 JY/23', addressed to East Twickenham but with no receiving office stamp. The postage was 1½d for up to 2 oz, plus 2d air fee. This service was operated by the British Army of Occupation between London and Cologne via Brussels. (Is it possible that the dark blue labels were to distinguish Service mail from civilian mail?) (*Fig. 3*).



Fig. 3

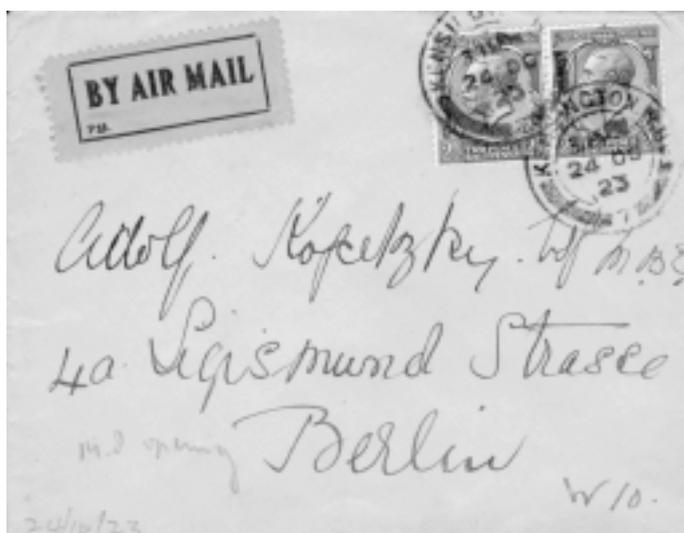


Fig. 4

The fourth cover is prepaid 5d by a pair of 2½d stamps cancelled 'KENSINGTON. W.8/7/3.15 PM/24 OC/23' addressed to Berlin, again with no receiving office stamp. A previous owner (the sender?) has endorsed the back: 'LONDON-COLOGNE/EXT TO BERLIN'. For this route the fee should have been 1½d postage plus 3d air fee, so the postage is overpaid by a halfpenny (Fig. 4). ☒

1883 Ninepence Green on Cover

Theo Brauers

THE 9d GREEN STAMP, which is part of the lilac and green series printed in highly fugitive colours, was issued eight months earlier than the rest of this series, because it was needed for fiscal purposes. This indicates that this stamp, which was equally valid for postal and revenue purposes, was primarily used to pay revenue taxes. In fact there was no postal rate of 9d at that time, neither for inland postage nor for letters going abroad. This seems to be the main reason why this stamp is so very scarce on cover. I have so far only seven recorded examples of the 9d green on cover in my list, all of them going abroad and only one single franking.

Three of the seven covers are registered letter envelopes and have an extra 1d stamp (two covers) or 6d stamp (one cover) affixed to make up the 10d or 1s 3d postage. The 2d registration fee was paid by the printed 2d stamp on the envelope. The letter to Paris is almost the same, except that it was not registered but the postage of 10d, for a letter above 1½ oz, was made up with a 9d and a 1d stamp.

The fifth envelope is plain and has an extra ½d stamp affixed and is also registered. The postage was 7½d for a letter above 1 oz plus 2d registration fee.

The remaining two envelopes are a little more tricky concerning the postage rate. The one to Monte Video has a single franking. Postage to Monte Video was 4d for a single letter at that time which means that we obviously have a postage of 8d plus 1d late fee.

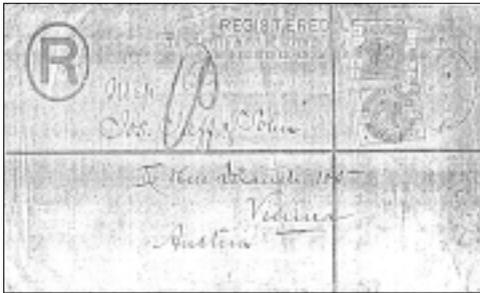
The last cover went to Melbourne (Australia) and bears a pair of the 9d stamp which made 1s 6d postage. As the postage rate to Australia via San Francisco and Suez was 6d per ½ oz we can assume that this letter weighed over 1 oz.

I'm sure that more 9d covers still exist, although, as pointed out, the use of the 9d stamp on cover at that time was quite unusual. It seems that many auction houses are not aware of the scarcity of this stamp on cover, which makes it quite likely that further covers were sold in larger lots and thus cannot be detected in auction catalogues. If any of the readers of this article have covers which are not on my list or a better photocopy of the cover to Vienna I would be very grateful for photocopies, preferably in colour, to my address below.

Theo Brauers, Landwehring 52, B-4731 Raeren-Lichtenbusch, Belgium

This article was first published in the Rundbriefe of Forschungsgemeinschaft Großbritannien, Nos 114, 117 and 124. 

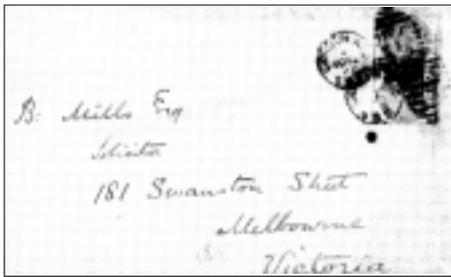
1883 NINEPENCE GREEN ON COVER



AI — used 17 December 1887 to Vienna.



BG — used 16 May 1885 to Monte Video.



CQ-DQ — used November 1886 to Melbourne.



ES — used 15 May 1886 to Paris.



FT — used 17 November 1886 to Nice.



KS — used 25 January 1884 to Cleveland.



LM — used 27 April 1886 to Philadelphia.

1883 9d GREEN ON COVER — RECORDED EXAMPLES

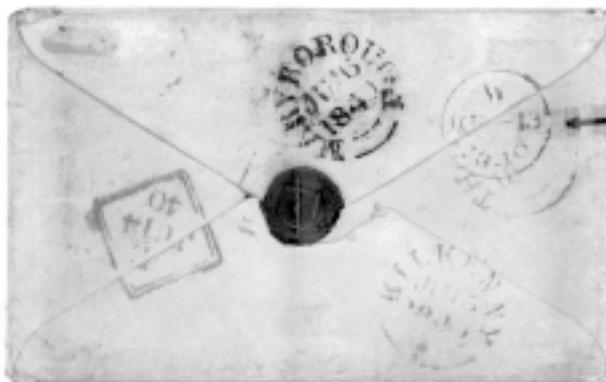
Corner letters	Date/ To/ From	Additional frankings	Other postal markings on front of cover	Auction house/ Date of auction/ Lot number/ Est./ Real. price	Remarks
AI	17 Dec. 1887/ Vienna/?	6d dull-green, SG 194, Michel 79			Registered letter envelope. Formerly in the Gilbert Wheat Collection
BG	16 May 1885/ Monte Video/ Manchester			Köhler/ 27–30.09.2000/ Lot 1639/ 280 DM/ 1,250 DM	
CQ-DQ	Nov. 1886/ Melbourne/ London			Phillips/ 22 June 1989/ Lot 468 7 Sept. 1989/ Lot 675 £500/ unsold	The envelope is a little foreshortened at left and the stamps are not perfect.
ES	15 May 1886/ Paris/ London	1d Lilac, SG 172, Michel 65	French TPO postmark 'CALAIS A PARIS' 16 May 1886	Phillips/ 7 Sept. 1989/ Lot 676/ £150/ £184	Large part of the front of the cover only
FT	17 Nov. 1886/ Nice/ Cardiff	1d Lilac, SG 172, Michel 65	Oval registered London and French incoming postmark of Calais	Phillips/ 1 Sept. 1988/ Stoneham Collection/ Lot 114/ £100/ £420	Registered letter envelope Ex. Oliver Ffooks Collection
KS	25 Jan. 1884/ Cleveland (USA)/ West Central District Office (London)	½d slate-blue, SG 187, Michel 72	R in Oval		Ex. Gilbert Wheat Collection
LM	27 Apr. 1886/ Philadelphia (USA)/ Ipswich	1d Lilac, SG 172, Michel 65	Oval registered London 28 Apr. 1886		Registered letter envelope. Ex. Daniel Y. Meschter Collection

Early Use of Penny Black Plate 1b

IN RESPONSE to the article in the last issue (GBJ, Vol. 39, p. 71) in which I illustrated a cover sent in by Geoffrey Eves bearing a Penny Black Plate 1b used on 13 June 1840 Mr M. A. Sayeed has sent me photocopies of this cover in his collection which has a Plate 1b used on the same date. It bears Penny Blacks from Plates 1b and 4 and is addressed to County Kilkenny in Ireland but redirected. It has the following marks:

Date	Mark
	'T.P./Sloane St.'
13 June 1840	London morning duty 'W' code c.d.s.
14 June 1840	Dublin transit mark — double-lined diamond
15 June 1840	Kilkenny c.d.s.
	MS '2'
	MS 'Try Thonastveran'
16 June 1840	Maryborough c.d.s.
	Thonastveran c.d.s. (indistinct)

The two adhesives were affixed at Sloane Street and paid 2d for the letter which must have weighed over half an ounce. The black MS '2' indicates a further charge on redirection — the normal rate of 2d again but this time not prepaid. The Maltese Cross cancellations are similar in colour and shape, helping to confirm that the two Penny Black stamps were affixed and cancelled at the same time. The Penny Black, Plate 1b, lettered NH shows a strong extended left frame-line at bottom, characteristic of NH from Plate 1b. As Mr Sayeed points out in his letter, this cover is full of character: two different plates; redirected in Ireland; early use of Plate 1b; and an early use of an envelope (in 1840 most people were still using folded sheets of paper).



MJ



Victorian Inland Postal Rates

Austin Davis

MY DISPLAY to the Great Britain Philatelic Society (16 January 1999 at Charterhouse Street) entitled *Victorian Inland Mail, a study of the rates, provision and services of the GPO 1840–1902* aroused some considerable interest from those members present especially regarding reductions in postal rates. There was some debate about recent reductions, such as the reduction of 20p to 19p with Second Class postage and apparently there was a similar reduction of 13p to 12p on 4 November 1985. This viewed against the fact that the Inland postal rates during Victorian times saw progressive reductions, for example a half-ounce letter cost 1d with the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in 1840, this basic rate remained but the weight that could be carried was increased to one ounce in 1871 and to four ounces in 1897. By the end of the century well over 95% of all mail was sent at the 1d rate. In 1840 a four ounce letter cost 8d; by 1871 the same weight letter cost just 2d, being reduced again to 1d in 1897. The introduction of cheaper rates for ½d Printed Matter and Post Cards in 1870 and the Parcels Post in 1883 in fact helped the post office to reduce the number of items sent by Letter Post, which helped greatly in the task of shifting the vast amount of Letter Post sent in the ordinary way.

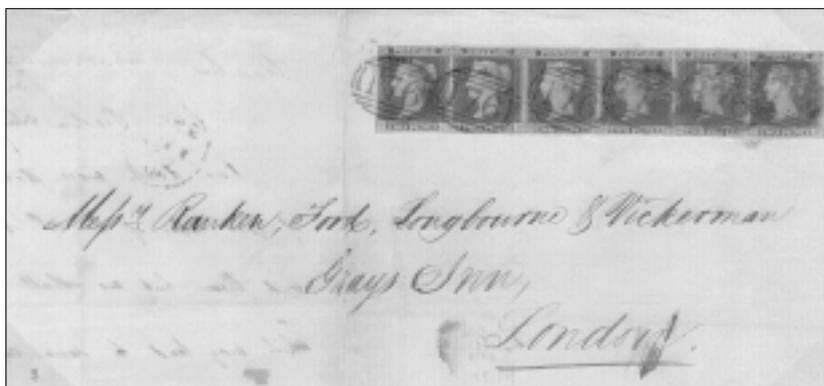


Fig. 1 — A large wrapper to London, franked by a strip of six 2d Blue Plate 3, cancelled by Chemsford '176' numeral. Dated on the reverse 11 September 1845. This four margin strip pays for a 1s, six oz letter post.

The volume of mail and the whole machinery of the GPO increased many times in the sixty years 1840–1900. This is simply illustrated by the fact that the 1d Lilac which saw use during the last twenty years of Victoria's reign 1881–1901 is recorded as being 45% of the total Victorian postage stamp issue and production. The Victorian period saw rapid social, economic and technological advancement and the post office simply had to keep ahead of itself as a service provider.

VICTORIAN INLAND POSTAL RATES

GB INLAND (Domestic) LETTER RATES 1840–97					
oz	1840	1865	1871	1885	1897
½	1d	1d			
1	2d	2d	1d	1d	
1½		3d			
2	4d	4d	1½d	1½d	
2½		5d			1d
3	6d	6d			
3½		7d	2d	2d	
4	8d	8d			
4½		9d			
5	10d	10d			
5½		11d	2½d	2½d	1½d
6	1s	1s			
6½		1s 1d			
7	1s 2d	1s 2d			
7½		1s 3d	3d	3d	2d
8	1s 4d	1s 4d			
8½		1s 5d			
9	1s 6d	1s 6d			
9½		1s 7d	3½d	3½d	2½d
10	1s 8d	1s 8d			
10½		1s 9d			
11	1s 10d	1s 10d			
11½		1s 11d	4d	4d	3d
12	2s	2s			
12½		2s 1d			
13	2s 2d	2s 2d	5d		
13½		2s 3d		4½d	3½d
14	2s 4d	2s 4d	6d		
14½		2s 5d			
15	2s 6d	2s 6d	7d		
15½		2s 7d		5d	4d
16	2s 8d	2s 8d	8d		

PRINTED MATTER RATES (introduced as Book Post)					
oz	1848	1855	1866	1870	1897
2				½d	½d
4		1d	1d	1d	
6				1½d	
8	6d per lb		2d	2d	
10	up to 14 lb			2½d	
12	(7s)		3d	3d	[4]
14		4d		3½d	
16			4d	4d	
		[1]	[2]	[3]	

[1] Then 2d for each addl ½ lb (8 oz) up to 14 lb.
 [2] Then 1d for each addl ¼ lb (4 oz) up to 14 lb.
 [3] Then ½d for each addl ⅛ lb (2 oz) up to 5 lb. Newspapers ½d irrespective of weight.
 [4] Owing to the increase of weight in Letter Post in 1897 the Printed Matter rate was only applied to packets up to 2 oz in weight.

INLAND PARCEL POST (introduced 1 August 1883)			
lb	1883	1886	1897
1	3d	3d	3d
2		4½d	4d
3	6d	6d	5d
4		7½d	6d
5	9d	9d	7d
6		10½d	8d
7	1s	1s	9d
8		1s 1½d	10
9		1s 3d	11d
10		1s 4½d	
11		1s 6d	1s

The 1886 revision (1 May) extended the weight steps to 11 lb and brought in the halfpenny rates 4½d, 7½d, etc. The 1897 revision (1 June) reduced the cost of posting a parcel at all weight steps other than the basic 3d. Registration of parcels was introduced on 1 June 1891.



Fig. 2 — An entire sent to Macclesfield on 12 November 1855, franked by 6d purple and 4d pale bright carmine, Small Garter watermark cancelled by a Sheffield sideways duplex Type Ia. This attractive combination of embossed and surface printed issues pays for 6d registration plus 4d for two oz letter post.



Fig. 3 — An envelope sent to Hockham on 16 April 1874, cancelled with a Leamington duplex. It was posted as an ordinary letter in a box with a 1d stamp, obviously found to be containing an item of value: it was therefore charged compulsory registration at double the normal fee upon delivery and franked by a pair of 4d vermilion, Plate 13.

The study of rates, even when it is relatively uncomplicated, as in the case of Inland rates, may be difficult with unexplained frankings etc. However making use of PO Guides and reliable references are most important. Harry Dagnall has kindly brought to my attention *A History of Inland Postage Rates through the Ages*: this is an excellent work of reference for would-be students.

To build up a collection of such mail, even if moderately comprehensive, is a real challenge, and finding the unusual material in reasonable condition is not easy. Seeing it displayed (200 sheets) was a real pleasure and I thank everyone for their interest, especially James Grimwood-Taylor, Michael Sefi and David Knight for their kind words of appreciation. As

FEES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF INLAND MAIL														
6 Jan. 1841	1s	Postage stamps were not authorised for Registration prior to 1 June 1850. Postage was payable in addition to Registration for all mail.												
23 Mar. 1848	6d	COMPENSATION ON LOSS, PAYABLE FOR EXTRA FEES AND THE BASIC 2d FEE												
1 Aug. 1862	4d	2d	3d	4d	5d	6d	7d	8d	9d	10d	11d	1s	1s1d	1s2d
1 Jan. 1878		[Shaded area]												
1 May 1886		£2	[Shaded area]											
[?] 1888		£5	£10	[Shaded area]										
1 June 1891	2d	[Shaded area]												
1 Dec. 1892		£5	£10	£15	£20	£25	£30	£35	£40	£45	£50	[Shaded area]		
1 May 1898		£20		£30	£40	£50	£60	£70	£80	£90	£100	£110	£120	

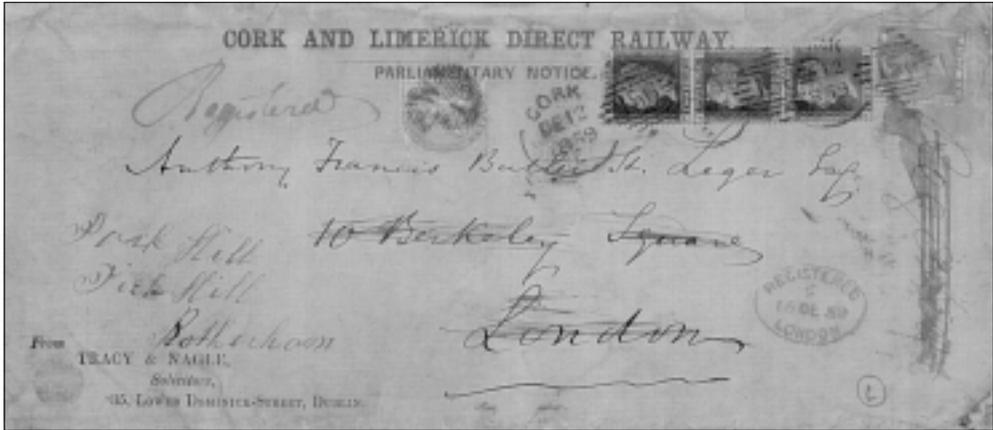


Fig. 4 — A Parliamentary Notice to London, redirected to Rotherham, franked by a 6d lilac Plate 1 plus a 2d blue Plate 7 strip of three cancelled by a Cork spoon for 12 December 1859, paying for 6d registration plus 6d postage, three oz letter post. Redirected with a 1s green, Plate 1, cancelled by a W/1 numeral.



Fig. 5 — An envelope sent to Narbeth on 26 January 1865, franked by a strip of four plus a block of four 1d Plate 90, cancelled by '561' Newport, Mon. numeral. The franking paid for 4d registration plus 4d postage for a two oz letter.

an exercise it is a learning experience not only for those who are viewing but for the one who is displaying.

Uniform Penny Post

The postal rates for letters with the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post on 10 January 1840 saw a weight limit of 1 lb but this was abolished in 1847 allowing really heavy letters to be posted. During the following year Book Post was introduced allowing printed matter to be posted at 6d per lb up to 14 lb — the maximum weight.

Postage Rates

The revision of 1 April 1865 brought in half-ounce steps and for the first time 3d, 5d, 7d, etc. rates. These rates were revised on 5 October 1871 with a new 1½d (2 oz), 2½d (6 oz), 3½d (10 oz) rates with 4d (12 oz); thereafter 1d for each additional ounce, the rates taking in much greater weight steps. On 1 July 1885 4½d (14 oz), 5½d (18 oz), etc. rates were introduced. Finally Queen Victoria's Jubilee was marked by further reductions on 22 June 1897 making it possible to send letters of up to 4 oz for 1d, 6 oz for 1½d and 8 oz for 2d, then ½d for each additional 2 oz. This final Victorian revision lasted until 1918.



Fig. 6 — A 2d Registered Letter to Launceston, franked by 6d plus 9d 'Jubilee' cancelled by 'STRATTON/NORTH CORNWALL/6PM/NO 18/98' double circle c.d.s. The franking (2d stationery plus adhesives) paid for the maximum compensation fee of 1s 2d for £120 plus 3d postage for 10–12 oz. The letter at this weight probably contained coins as it was posted to a bank.

Sample Mail

There are other services with rates and fees that could be listed, such as Sample Mail which was not introduced until 1863 by which samples and trade patterns could be sent at a reduced rate (4 oz at 3d, 8 oz at 6d, 12 oz at 9d, 16 oz at 1s, 20 oz at 1s 3d, 24 oz at 1s 6d. By 1870 a reduction to 2 oz at ½d and a further ½d for every 2 oz as per Printed Matter brought about difficulty in preventing illegitimate use caused the service to be abolished in 1871. The service was revived in 1887 but was abolished again in 1897 and merged with the reduced rates of Letter Mail. Examples of such mail are very scarce, the printed envelope franked by the block of six ½d Plate 5 (Fig. 8) pays for a 12 oz trade sample. The Hull datestamp is indistinct but must date from late 1870 or early 1871.

Giving a display to fellow philatelists is very rewarding as it encourages you to make the actual presentation of material in a most attractive and informative way; it brings about learned discussion and is a learning experience. The display can be preceded by an introductory article which gives intending attendees to meetings some indication of the content of the display, and this can bring about greater attendance and interest. The display can be backed up with a handout giving useful information and a summary of some of the key items. This handout in turn can be taken in due course to produce a follow up article,

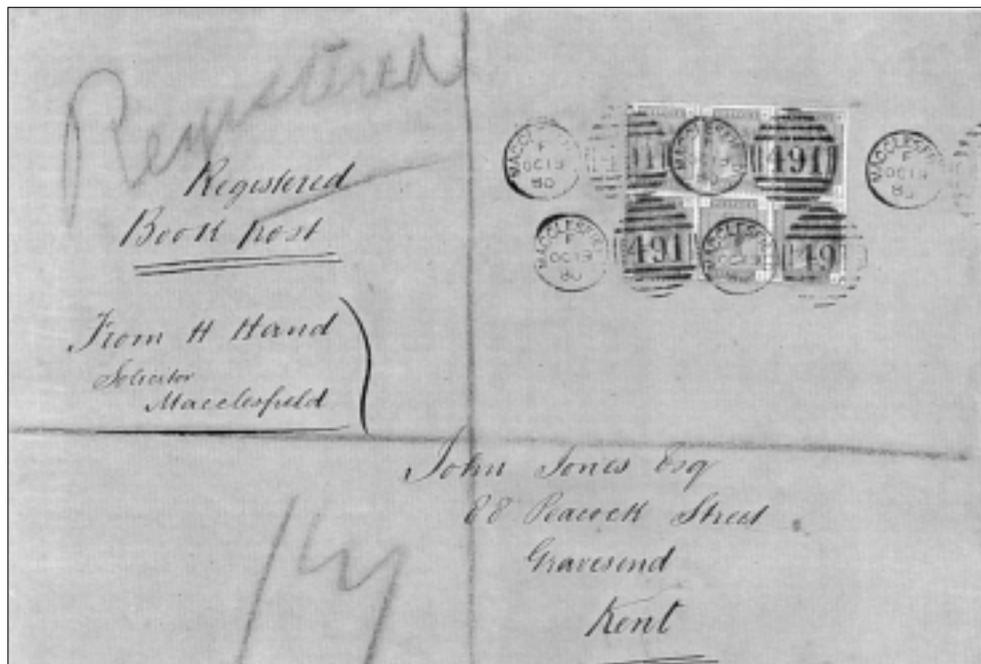


Fig. 7 — A large envelope to Gravesend, endorsed 'Registered Book Post' franked by a block of six 1d Venetian Red, cancelled on 19 October 1880 by a Macclesfield duplex. The franking pays for 2d registration plus 4d Book Post for 16 oz. (This is the largest cover in my collection).

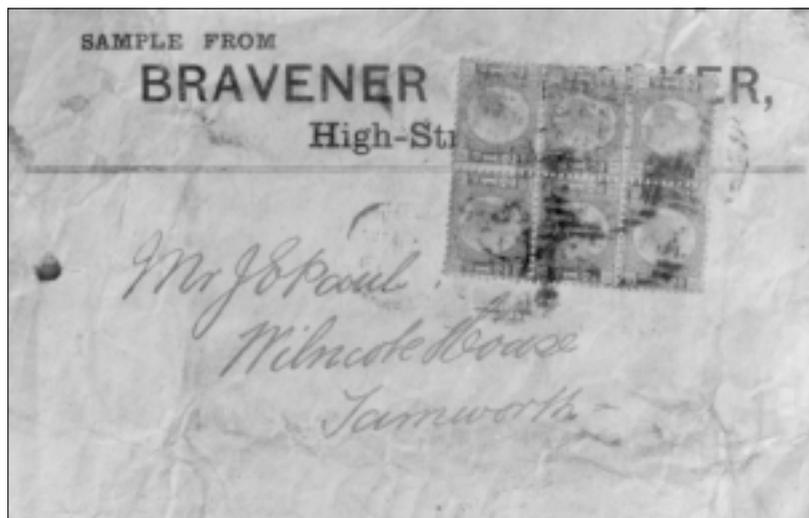


Fig. 8 — Printed envelope franked by a block of six 1/2d Plate 5 paying for a 12 oz trade sample.

thus every member shares the knowledge and the joy of the display. Finally, a word of thanks to all those who have passed on their knowledge, given details of items in their collections and shown a general interest.

References

Davis, Austin. 'Aspects of Victorian Inland Mail', GBJ, Vol. 36, p. 84.

A History of Inland Postage Rates through the Ages. PO Archives, 1982. Ref. HS10.

Daunton, M. J. *Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840*. Athlone Press, 1985. ✉

Book Review

SG SPECIALISED STAMP CATALOGUE, VOLUME 1, QUEEN VICTORIA, 12th edition. Size 216 x 138 mm, 480 pp., soft cover. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 2001. ISBN 0-85259-504-2.

Over the years this catalogue has gradually expanded its coverage of the more peripheral elements of British philately. This year we find the addition of the Circular Delivery Companies: an interesting and innovative period of postal history which has lead directly to today's daily deluge of junk mail.

It is ironic that the Gibbon's catalogues of 100 years ago listed many things we have yet to find a place for in the publications of today but would find useful and interesting. The Private Telegraph Companies, Used Abroad and Stationery might be considered useful.



These suggestions are not in any way to criticise the current product. It is still the most useful compact book available; the text is generally easy to follow and the illustrations, for such small detailed items, are well produced. I have little doubt we could all find plenty to argue about with the pricing, particularly within our pet areas, but for the collector it is the text which is important and this is being constantly refined to take account of the results of new research.

Perhaps the most useful part of any specialised publication is the bibliography, which in this case is headed 'Further Reading'; however, in my capacity as a consultant to this Society, I have found it is the most neglected part of the book.

BILL BIRD

King George V Notes

Steve Bainbridge

I HAVE RECENTLY come across these items which may not have been recorded before. They are illustrated with captions which I hope are self-explanatory.



Royal Cypher 1/2d Plate 69 (two cuts 19th left side, 7, 9½ mm) is not recorded with Control P 20.



Block Cypher 1d
Control B 24 with Perf. Type 2c.

The SG *Specialised* (11th edn) only lists Type 2c on Controls E 26 and P 31 for this value.



Block Cypher 1d Plate 19 (12th right side bevelled at base) is not recorded with Control M 30.



Block Cypher 1d Plate 16 (left of 10th broken away at base)
Control M 30, with flaw 'dot behind ear' on R20/11.



Focus on GB

1d red Die I from Plate 165 lettered AE

We illustrate an impression AE of the 1d red Die I from Plate 165, showing this unit in an hitherto unrecorded second state. Although the State II stamp is centred to the right and is missing part of its right hand check-letter, the stamp has been allocated to Plate 165 by a process of elimination, looking



at both AE and AF impressions. It will be seen that the repair by re-entry has resulted in a strong Transfer Roller Line in the left margin and slight thinning of the checkletter A.

PAUL WITHAM and SCOTT TREACEY

Watermark Viewing

Recently I was given a demonstration of the Viewlite Portable Light Source, a new device to aid the examination of watermarks. In effect it is a small light box 100 x 50 mm in area but only 1 mm thick. It was developed so that it could be inserted between the pages of a book to illuminate the watermark and paper structure of the leaf, and in this application it is very successful but for philatelists it may be less useful. Nevertheless I envisage it could be inserted into an envelope to reveal the watermark on the stamp or, being portable, it could be carried about at Stamp Fairs to provide a much more convenient way of checking watermarks than holding the stamp up to the available lighting.



It comprises an electroluminescent sheet and a battery/control box. The price is rather high, £96 plus VAT, but if you want further details contact Howard Eaton Lighting Ltd, Winterlands, Resting Oak Hill, Cooksbridge, Lewes, E. Sussex BN8 4PR. Tel. 01273 400 670, E-mail helluk@compuserve.co.uk. I am told that information on watermark viewing can be found on the internet at <http://www.christie-miller.demon.co.uk>.

HARRY DAGNALL FRPSL