

Bordeaux, Rue du Pavé des Chartons N. 2

May 20th 1814

Postal History

The Journal of the Postal History Society

www.postalhistory.org.uk



Attack on the Redans, gallant conduct of Major Wyndham

My dear ...
to Hollan
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be unreasonable to desire promotion, nor wrong to aim at it by
your services, yet I am forced to entertain the persuasion, that
any hope of it, on my part, would only lead to disappointment.

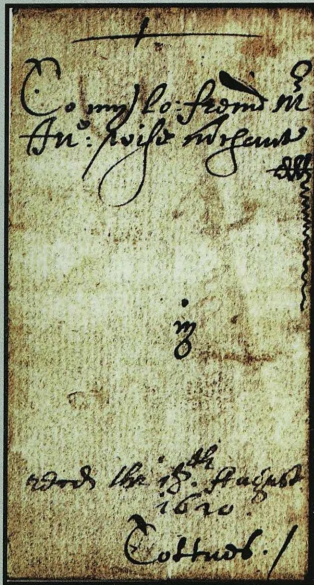
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GB REGISTERED MAIL 1860. An entire from Germany to London with framed "Recomandirt", fine "Prussia/crown/Registered". "Registered" in an arc with large crown above, an encircled "P" and "London Paid" cds, all these in bright vermilion. Boxed "Beverungen" in black. £125

GB - T.P.O. 1928. An Advice of Delivery form for a letter packet sent from Manchester to Albania, with v. light red boxed London Official Paid d.s., and the scarce "London/Travelling Post Office Section" cds. Korce arrival cds. £200

GREECE - ITALY, 1902. Greece 10l p.s. picture p.c. (Corfu) to Italy, cancelled by violet "Serbia/Piroscafo Postale Italiano" cds, with another strike top left. £300

NETHERLANDS INDIES 1864 An entire letter from Batavia to London, endorsed "via Marseilles", "India Paid", rated 2/4 in red, and datestamps of Batavia, Singapore & London, boxed "Franco" and the scarce boxed "India Paid/by Batavia". £475

NEW SOUTH WALES 1899. A stampless cover sent within Sydney with frank stamp of Governor NSW lower left. Flap has Government House red seal. £65

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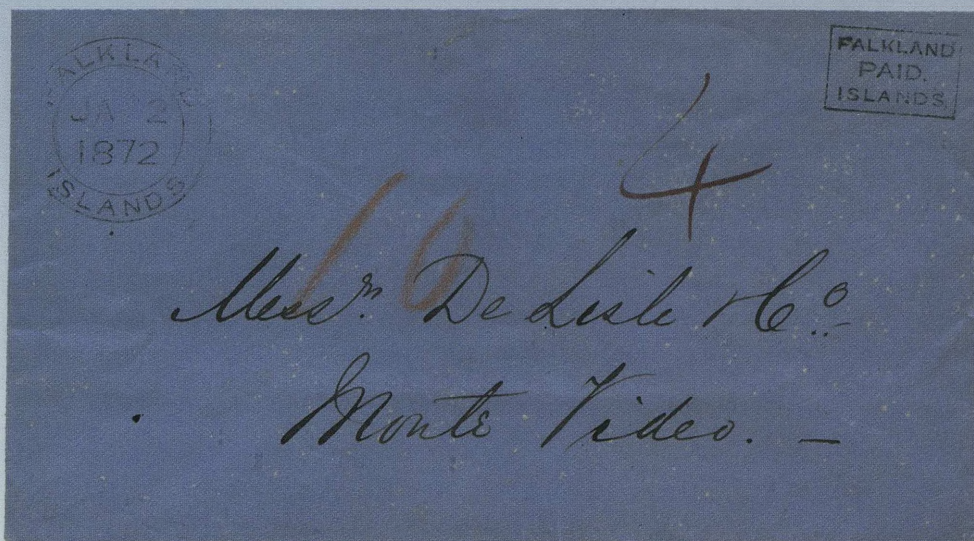
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Postal History

The Journal of The Postal History Society

Number 343, September 2012

Hon Editor: CLAIRE SCOTT

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EDITORIAL

Thank you to those of you who have responded to my plea for one page articles - I would appreciate some more if any of you have an interesting cover that you would like to share with the members or a cover with a question such as Bob Galland's in this Journal.

The AGM weekend and auction is fast approaching there are some some fascinating items not seen on the open market for a very long time in this year's auction. Overseas members are asked to view the auction list online. It is interesting to see what someone paid for things and where they bought them as many of us do not keep records of what we paid, when or where. The article by Matthew Payne on the Pengelly correspondence resulted in several emails which have been passed on to him so it is good to know that the Journal is read and thank you for responding.

The front cover shows the Storming of the Redan taken from a sheet of writing paper published by Rock & Co. of London in commemoration of a military success that led to the allies entering Sebastopol on 9th September 1855. The earlier allied defeat at the same location is referred to in Major Inglis letter which forms Lot 55 in the auction of Richard Burton's collection.

MY FINAL WORD

This will be the last journal to feature my Word from the President before I hand over to Hugh Feldman as my successor at the Annual General Meeting in October where I look forward to meeting old friends and new. Elsewhere in this edition you will read of the estate sale from the family of a long-deceased member of the Society which has provided some real gems for this year's Conference Auction at buy-me prices, but you are only guaranteed to win your prize if you are there in person to see off the competition!

Despite all the doom and gloom from the media, the Olympics have proved beyond doubt that not only do our athletes excel, particularly in relation to our total population, but we can really deliver on venues and organization. Much of this success was attributable to the army of volunteers and the hope is that this spirit of giving to the community will be a lasting legacy of the games. Hopefully at least some of our members will share in this inspiration and be willing to offer their time and energy to help our Society to flourish in the future.

One of the themes of my Presidency has been to increase the awareness of postal history among the wider community. Our 75th Anniversary began with the Lord Mayor's Show and continued on the Village Green at Stampex and the collective display to the Royal in London. But all is not quite over yet. On Saturday 3rd November we will be privileged to host a wonderful display by Anthony Eskenzi of his unique and rarely shown material associated with the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in the historic surroundings of Guildhall. There will be an opportunity to visit the Roman Amphitheatre, the Great Hall and Crypt as well as the Guildhall Art Gallery so members are encouraged to bring along family and friends for a memorable day in the company of the Lord Mayor. April next year sees a joint venture between the Society, the Business Archive Council, the London Metropolitan Archive and the Museum of London which will include a Reception for members in Guildhall, of which more in the New Year.

In conclusion can I thank everyone for their help and support in what has been a hectic year and end by renewing my exhortation to encourage everyone to introduce a new member - we have the best Journal, the most comprehensive Library and, this year at least, a great Auction, so let's all spread the word.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Hallmark Hotel Gloucester (GL4 6EA) at 1715 hours on Friday 5 October 2012.

Notice of matters you wish to raise under Any Other Business or Nominations for Officers should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Steve Ellis.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM.
3. President's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Appointment of the Auditor.
7. Any other business.

15th August 2012, Steve Ellis, Honorary Secretary

AN UNUSUAL COVER

BOB GALLAND

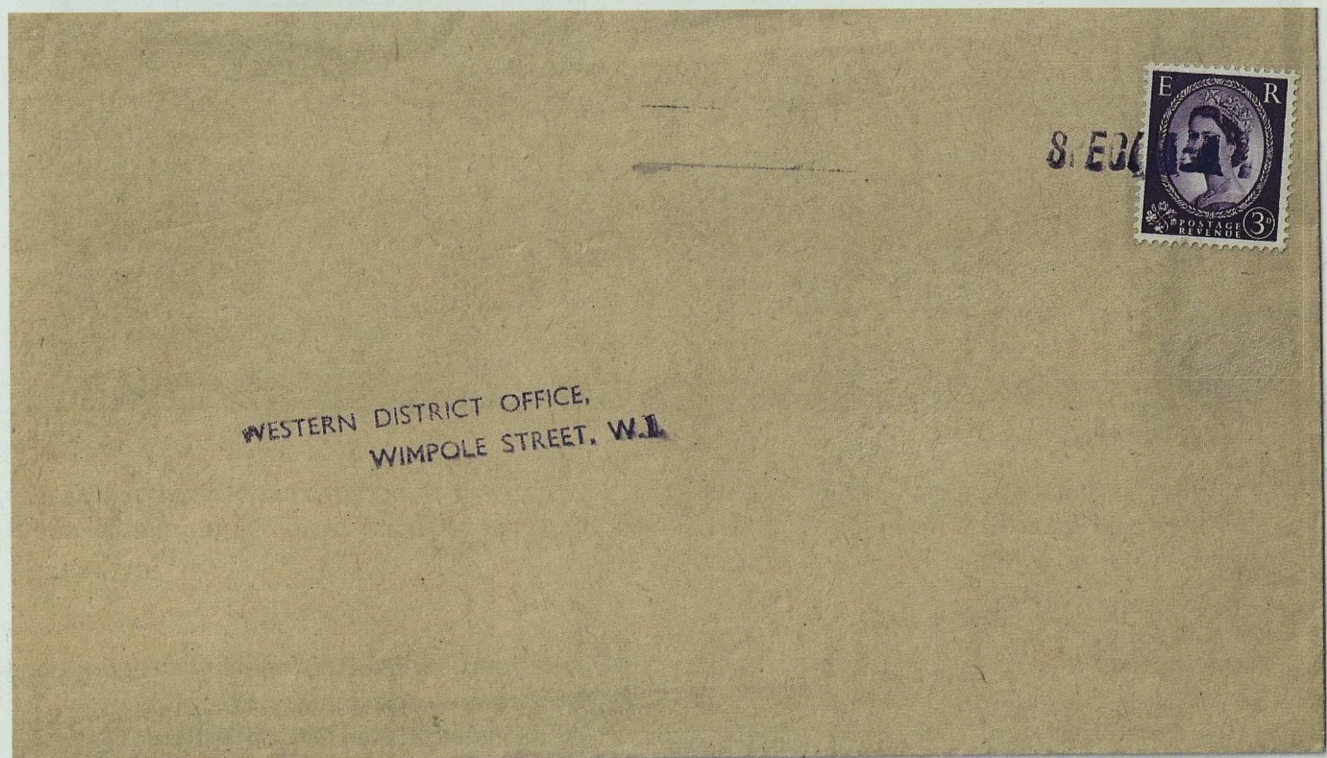
The cover shown is unopened with a sheet of paper as a 'filler'. The stamp is a Wilding 3d with two blue 8mm phosphor bands on white paper (SG 76, issued 14 October 1962). The SPECIMEN cancellation is in the same purple ink as the handstamped address. It is not similar to other items from the Dollis Hill archive

I would be interested in any thoughts as to the nature of this item.

Reference

(1). Holt M

The 'Dollis Hill' Wilding Experimental Phosphor Trials
GB Journal 2007 45 128-138



THE ROMANIAN STEAMSHIP LINE (S.M.R.) – Sequel

RICHARD WHEATLEY

Since writing an article under this heading in the June 2010 issue of *Postal History* more information has come to light.

Orient Express

By sheer co-incidence on 6 September 2010, at the time of my original article, an issue of stamps featuring the Orient Express was jointly made by the postal authorities in Romania and Austria. Each country issued two stamps depicting a locomotive passing a castle, plus a miniature sheet of the stamps with a background of the Orient Express route across Europe. The designs are the same for both countries, only the country name and denomination change. (Fig. 1)



Figure 1. The 2 Romanian stamps. 2.40 Lei features an Austrian 4-4-0 loco in front of Salzburg castle. The 4.70 Lei value features a Romanian C.F.R. 4-6-2 loco in front of Sinaia castle. The miniature sheet as issued by Austria, with two 65 cent stamps.

I recently came across an Austrian 5 Kr. postal stationery card surcharged "20 PARA 20" which was used to England from the Austrian post office at Constantinople on 6 April 1896. The message on the reverse is important, for it gives the postal situation in Turkey at that time and furthermore, the timings of the Orient Express! (Figure 2).

The message on the reverse reads:

"All the stamps here for us to use are some ordinary stamps surcharged & there is no proper post office but each country has its own. I may post this somewhere for potty if we pass any post office.

We are all well & send love to all.

Yrs truly G.T.

Monday evening at 4 o'clock the Orient express leaves here & gets to Vienna on Wednesday morning at 7."

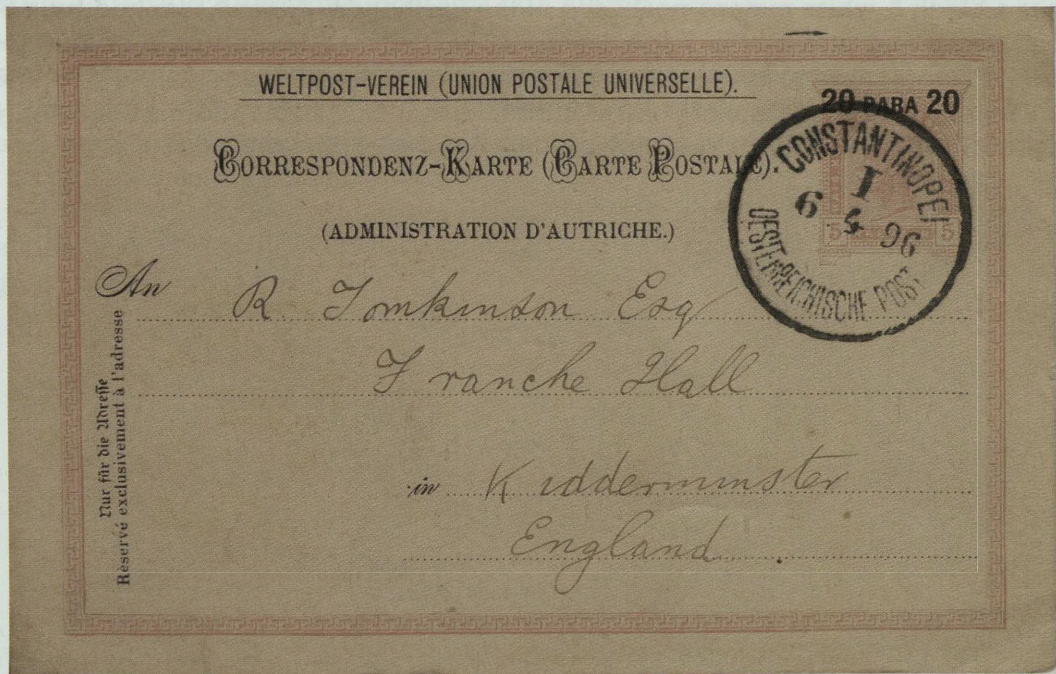


Figure 2. Austrian Post Office Constantinople cds 6 April 1896, the 6th was a Monday - the day of departure as in the message.

S.M.R. postmarks

Type 1

Two interesting items were purchased recently, both of which are worthy of a mention. First is an envelope with the two different Type 1 postmarks! (Figure 3) The first cancellation, Alexandria -

Figure 3. The two different Type 1 postmarks on same envelope, 1907.



Constanta is dated 1 Oct 907, this ties the Romanian 25 bani King Carol stamp. The 1st October was a Tuesday which at that time was the arrival day at Constanta of the SMR ship. Next in date order comes the Constanta – Alexandria mark dated 3 Oct 907, this was a Thursday and the departure day of the SMR ship bound for Constantinople. On the reverse is the Galata transit mark of the 5th and the arrival cds at Bebek the same day. Note how the Romania post office at that time did not include in their datestamps the initial numeral in the year.

The other item is a black & white picture post card of the Parthenon, Athens, franked by a 5 lepta green “Hermes” stamp and tied by the Type 1 mark, Constanta – Alexandria, dated 20 Oct 910 (Figure 4). The Bucharest arrival mark is the 23rd October, a Wednesday, ie the day after the ship’s arrival at Constanta. One additional point of interest is that the card is addressed to “Engineer CFR” at Bucharest, CFR being Cailor Ferate Romane, the owners of the SMR shipping line.

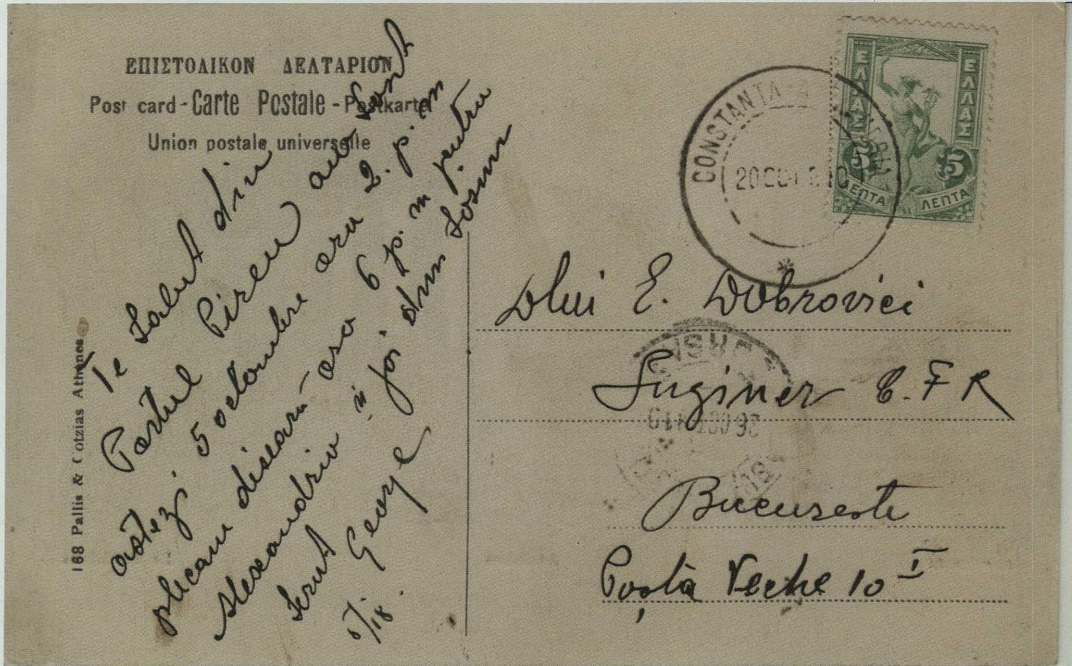


Figure 4. Card franked by a Greek stamp & tied by Type 1 postmark, 1910.



Figure 5. The rare Type 2 postmark, ALEXANDRIA PORT, 1912.

Type 2

In the Kohler auction catalogue of September 2010, Lot 2171 illustrates a Type 2 postmark ALEXANDRIA/ PORT/ 28 JUN 1912. This mark is on a picture postcard written at Alexandria and addressed to Bucharest. The description in the catalogue reads "-----card with some imperfections and slightly soiled, only two examples of this cancellation have been recorded – a major rarity!" The sender franked the card with a 2 mills Egyptian stamp. The UPU postcard rate at that time was 4 mills, so when the card arrived in Bucharest it attracted a 10 bani Romanian postage due stamp.

The same auction catalogue illustrated a similar mark (Lot 2170) on a postcard written at Alexandria and franked with an Egyptian 2 mills stamp. This mark reads DARDANELLES/ PORT/ 23 SEP 1912 and cancels the stamp. It is addressed to the German post office at Constantinople, arriving there on the 24th. As the card was written on the 15th at Alexandria, it would suggest that the ship dropped the card off at Dardanelles (Figure 6). Again this item was underpaid and the postal authorities have marked in blue manuscript "½". This ½ would be half a piastre = 20 para, the foreign postcard rate at the time.

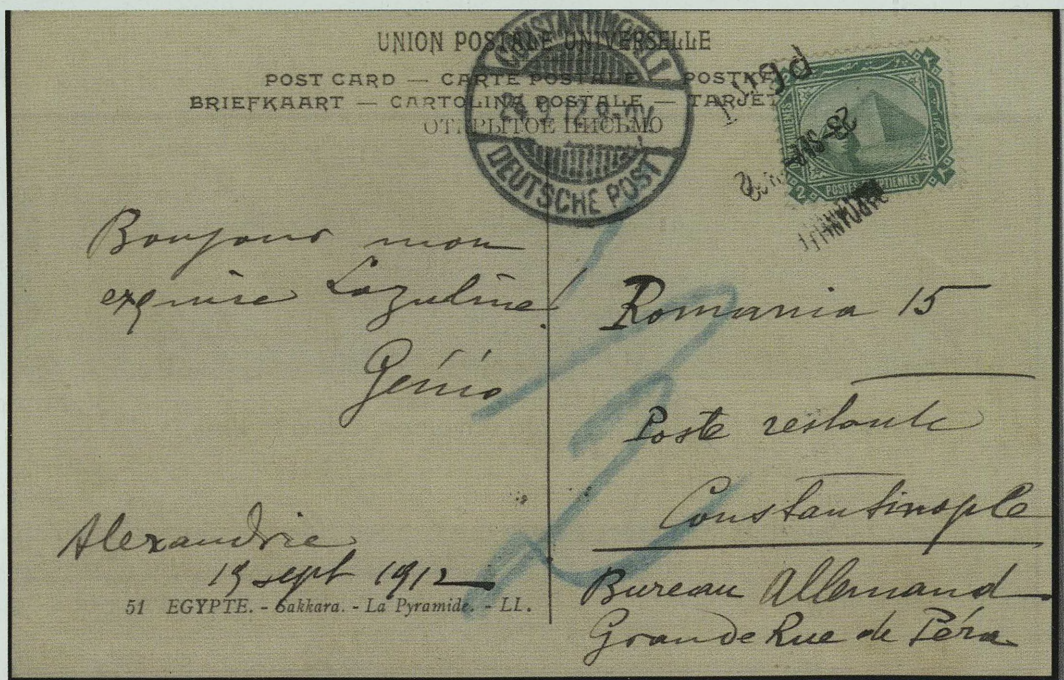


Figure 6. The scarce Type 2 postmark, DARDANELLES PORT, 1912.

Type 3

In my original article on this subject I could not provide an illustration of my Type 3 postmark. I am now able to do so thanks to Paul Hirsch who has produced an excellent computer generated image (Figure 7).

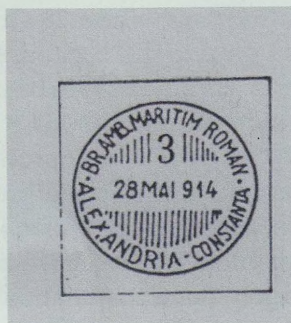


Figure 7. The elusive Type 3 postmark, generated by Paul Hirsch.

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W i e n III

Hintere Zollamts-Str. 1

Figure 8. S.M.R. Agency printed envelope, Cairo to Vienna, 1935.

S.M.R.

At Stampex this year I bought this envelope with the printed heading Service Maritime Roumain, Agence Du Caire. This agency is writing to The First Donau Steam Navigation Company in Vienna. The 30 mills airmail stamp is a convenience franking, for the UPU letter rate was 20 mills plus the airmail fee 9 mills for carriage by K.L.M. via Athens. (Figure 8).

RICHARD BURTON'S HIDDEN GEMS.

Back in 1946 a less famous Richard Burton joined the Society with a special interest in Campaign Covers and the postal history of Hertfordshire and Essex. He had married Florence Burton (née Howes), the Postmistress of Sawbridgeworth during the First World War, and became Postmaster himself on his return from the war. The accumulation of Robson Lowe catalogues from the 1940s show that he was an active buyer during that time when 33 Crimea War letters could be bought for £12.00. In those days far less attention was paid to the content of these early letters which offer a fascinating insight into military life and history and these will be offered individually as part of the auction. His intention had been to enjoy his retirement with his purchases but sadly, on his early death in 1961, five trunks were put in the loft, more or less as purchased, and were only rediscovered by his granddaughter's family in 2011. Fortunately among the accumulation was a letter of condolence sent by Frederick Walker, the Society's Secretary, to Florence in 1961. Through the wonders of modern technology this led the family to our website and we have been asked to dispose of the collection as individual lots so that collectors once again have the chance to buy this long-lost material.

As with any collection of this nature, the task of sorting and describing the postal history for our Conference Auction this year was made more enjoyable by the variety – one moment you were

groaning over a very philatelic concoction while the next you were admiring a rare India Soldiers Letter (Figure 1).



It would be impossible to describe the variety in this short piece (for that you will need to read the auction list enclosed with this Journal), but there is particular strength in the Boer War, including an illustrated propaganda cover of Steyn's Pantechnicon (Figure 2).



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At what Office:—

Whether }
crossed }

Date }
sent }

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To the Postmaster General

10/-

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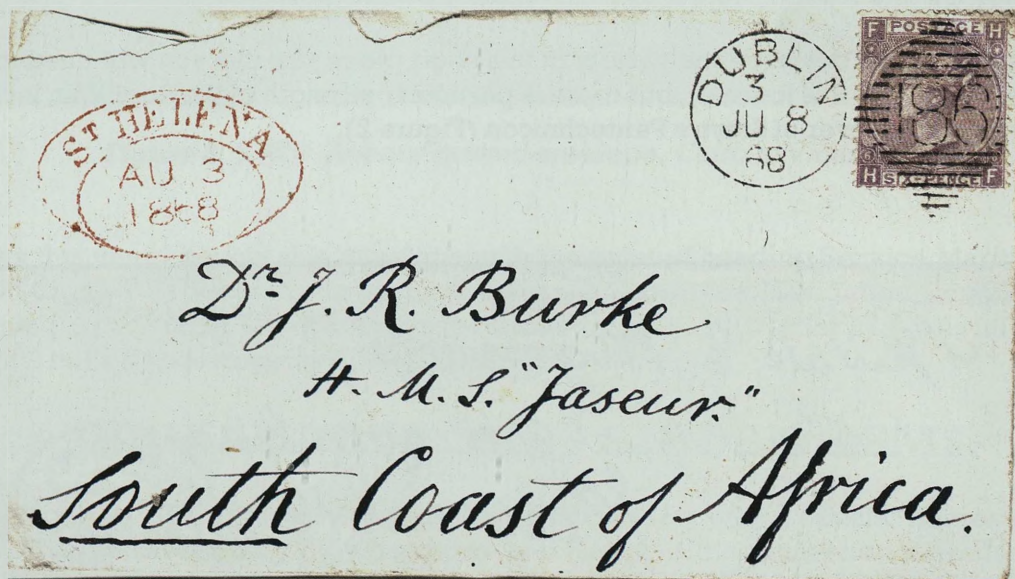
For Regulations—see back.
RECEIVED the sum due

Postage: Stamps
not exceeding two; in number may be affixed here but not elsewhere
(i) up to 5d. for orders up to 4s. 6d.
(ii) up to 11d. for orders above 4s. 6d.
Odd halfpennies are not permissible.

POSTMASTER.
ISSUING OFFICE STAMP
SIGNATURE
WITH DATE

POSTAL ORDER CANCELLING THIS ORDER

The 10/- Postal Order may well be a unique survivor, possibly a proof, which lacks the usual black printed number (Figure 3), while the Officer's Letter from Dublin to St. Helena in 1868 is a counterpart to that illustrated in Geoff Osborn's book on Naval Officers' Letters (Page 94) to the same Assistant Surgeon on the same vessel in September 1867 (Figure 4).



Back on 12th January 1944 this letter was offered as Lot 278 in Robson Lowe's auction No. 81 where Richard Burton paid £2 against the estimate of £1 10/- with the proceeds going to the Red Cross and St. John Fund. As another example of the breadth of the collection Figure 5 shows a cover from the MacRobert Air Race to Australia in 1934 signed by the pilot of the de Havilland Dragon which is one of several first flights in the sale, including three from the 1911 Aerial Post at Windsor. It is anticipated that these letters will fetch considerably more this time round and, as with any estate sale, the estimates are intended not only to attract bidders but also to ensure that all the material finds a new home with a new generation of collectors.



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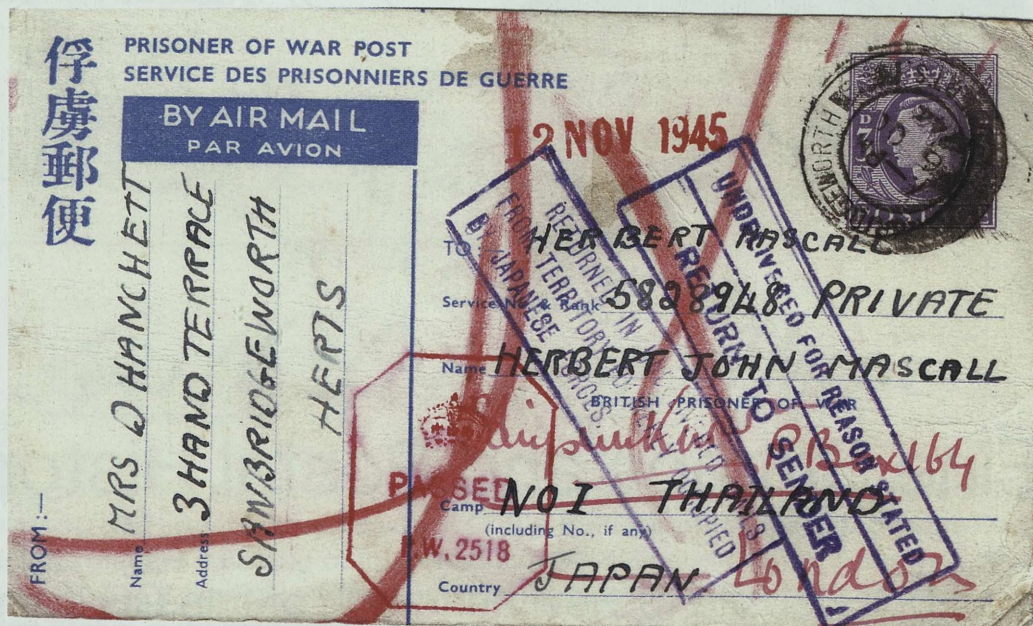
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For those familiar with David Tett's magnum opus on Prisoner of War mail in the Far East, there is a chance to acquire a piece of this poignant postal history in the shape of the card below (Figure 6) which was found when the allied forces advanced through the region despite being posted over a year before.



This is the first mention of the Society's very own Richard Burton in our Journal and our thanks are due to him and his surviving family for ensuring that his successors as members of this Society have such a wonderful opportunity to acquire market-fresh covers and letters. Please bid generously and preferably in person at this year's Conference.

CRAYON MARKINGS ON NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Dr JOHN K. COURTIS

Crayon markings appear on post office newspaper wrappers from time-to-time, especially on wrappers that have been marked Registered. A question that arises is what properties does a crayon possess that made it preferable to the use of a coloured pencil or pen? According to Wikipedia, a crayon is a stick of coloured wax, charcoal, chalk or other material used for writing, colouring, drawing and other methods of illustration.

A crayon made of oiled chalk is called an oil pastel; when made of pigment with a dry binder, it is simply a pastel; both are popular media for colour artwork. A grease pencil or china marker (UK chinagraph pencil) is made of coloured hardened grease and is useful for marking on hard, glossy surfaces such as porcelain or glass. Some fine arts companies manufacture water-soluble crayons, whose colours are easily mixed once applied to media. Crayons are easy to work with, they are not messy like paint and markers, they are blunt (thereby avoiding sharp points which are present when using a pencil or pen), they are non-toxic, inexpensive, and they are available in a wide variety of colours.

When most people think of crayons they probably think of children's sets of coloured Crayola. However, the wax crayons now known as Crayola were not developed by the Binney and Smith Company in the USA until 10 June 1903. Crayon rate markings can be found on lettersheets of GB early in the 19th century and on Post Office newspaper wrappers especially from about 1880 through to about 1910. Hence, the crayons used by the British Post Office could not have been Crayola.

I contacted the British Postal Museum and Archives and asked if they could advise the nature of the crayons in use on wrappers in the period 1880-1910 or thereabouts. Although this question was not answered directly, a very helpful Archive/Record assistant supplied a detailed listing of where research could be directed for further information. This listing is included in the References at the end. In addition, a link was supplied regarding an example of a box of blue crayons and this box is shown in Figure 1. The Museum's description reads that inside the box is one dark blue hexagonal crayon, pointed at one end and flat at the other.

The question remains, however, as to the exact kind of crayon used from the 1880s to the end of 19th century. The crayons included in the illustrated box are early 20th century. The references listed in POST 30/2717A refer mostly to "coloured chalk pencils" rather than crayons per se and appear to refer to a time outside that of the golden age of wrapper usage. Further research is needed on this issue but in the meantime, for the purposes of the remaining exposition of the paper, the term crayon is used.

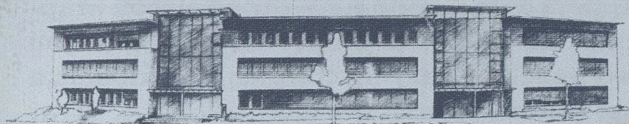


Figure 1: Box of Blue Crayons, supplied by British Postal Museum & Archives

The reasons for the adoption of crayons may have been a combination of producing markings with

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 23rd AUCTION

10th - 14th of September 2012



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 10 th of September Monday | ASIA Special Auction = Special catalogue |  |
| 11 th of September Tuesday | OVERSEAS & THEMATICS single lots = catalogue Vol. 1 EUROPE single lots = catalogue Vol. 2 | |
| 12 th of September Wednesday | AUSTRIA & AUSTRIAN TERRITORIES Special Auction = Special catalogue GERMANY single lots = catalogue Vol. 3 | |
| 13 th of September Thursday | COLLECTIONS Overseas, Thematics & Europe = catalogue Vol. 4.I COINS | |
| 14 th of September Friday | single lots & collections = catalogue Vol. 5 COLLECTIONS Germany & Estates = catalogue Vol. 4.II | |

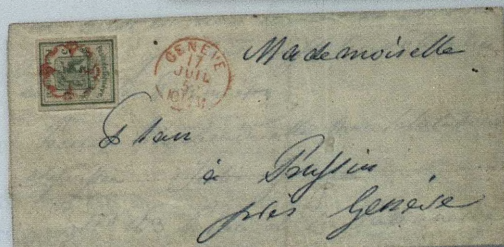
and, as a special Volume, our catalogue "International Rarities" Volume 8



The famous "9"



Channel Islands



PREVIEW

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Warm regards

Yours,

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C.G.

a distinctiveness vis-à-vis the other details on the wrapper, durability and long life, low cost, ease of use on poor quality paper, and waterproof properties eliminating smudging. Crayons require no ink refills, nibs cannot be damaged, and they produce quick, readable or interpretable markings that are easily distinguishable in thick red, blue or black. Crayons are portable and can be used by mail clerks and sorters without ink pads, without having to spend time sharpening broken or dull pencil points, or waiting for the markings to dry.

The purpose of this paper is to examine and illustrate different situations where crayons have been used on the newspaper wrappers of G.B. These uses cover registration, postage due markings, and address clarification and modification. The paper indicates the frequency of incidences of crayon usage in each of these categories from a sample of 3,434 used post office G.B. wrappers. The sample is the same as that used in a postmark census study (see Courtis, March 2012). A careful checking of each wrapper in the sample revealed 98 cases where crayon was used, with a predominance of address alterations (62), followed by postage due markings (26) and registration crosses (10).

Registration

Registered mail is a special and secure service incorporating formal documentation to rigorously track individual items from sender to receiver. It may also entitle the sender to compensation in the event the item is damaged or lost in transit. A registration fee is paid and the item is segregated. A clerical record is kept of the registration and a number is assigned to the item by the sending post office. Postal clerk signatures are recorded as formal documentation as proof that the item has moved along the route from place to place. The addressee is required to sign acceptance of the item (Courtis 2006).

The use of crossed blue crayon lines on the face of some wrappers has interesting origins. Historically, registered letters have been kept apart from ordinary letters in transmission of mail. Originally, at least in the English system, they were enclosed in a green cover on which was a printed receipt for the recipient to sign. By 1866 these covers had been abandoned but the letters were tied with green string. The Registered Letter Envelopes maintained the perception by having lines printed across them. The reason for the shift from green to blue is unknown (Buckley 1952) but may be based on UPU regulations.

*Figure 2: Registered Wrappers with Blue Crayon Cross
Traditional blue crayon cross*



3-line cross in blue crayon



The nature of the enclosure warranting registration is perplexing because regulations relating to wrappers would not permit the conveyance of money orders, banknotes, negotiable securities, jewellery, watches, coins and other small valuables (Buckley 1952). Specially designated Registered Letter Envelopes were introduced 1 January 1878 for the transmission of such items. Other items that could have warranted registration were share certificates, company reports, patterns, samples, architectural blueprints, mechanical drawings, photographs, manuscripts, and private correspondence relating to notification of changes to contracts, especially with regard to insurance matters. Registration guaranteed tracking through the mail system.

The sample revealed ten examples of the use of blue crayon crosses on registered wrappers and two examples are shown in Figure 2. Two of these wrappers revealed unexplained additional numerals (100 and 11) also in blue crayon.

Postage Due Markings

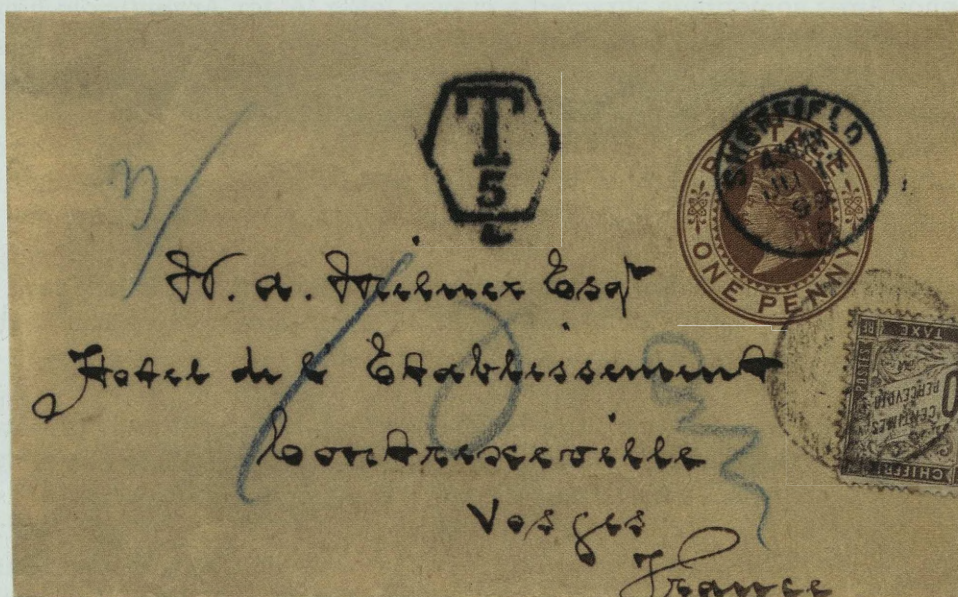
About one-quarter of all crayon markings relate to postage due ratings and charges. Almost all postage due markings are in blue crayon but there are a few instances of black and one of red. The most frequent marking is the amount to be collected in the country of destination denominated in local currency. This marking was applied in the destination country. The twelve different crayon numerals observed for amounts to be collected are: 2 cents blue (USA), 3 pence blue (Australia), 10 pfennig black (Germany), 10 pfennig and cents blue (Germany and Holland), 10 pfennig red (Germany), 12 pfennig blue (Germany), 15 centimes blue (France), 15 centimes black (Switzerland), 20 pfennig blue (Germany), 25 pfennig blue (Germany), 30 centesimi blue (Italy) and 40 centimes blue (Switzerland).

The other postage due marking in crayon refers to the rate, usually expressed as (say) 2/5 meaning paid two rates, rated according to weight as 5 rates. A variation is to express the rating with a line beneath such as 9/. In this case the 9 refers to the 9th weight scale which within the context of wrappers translates to $9 \times \frac{1}{2}d = 4\frac{1}{2}d$. The amount prepaid is then deducted to arrive at

the tax and this is converted to double deficiency and the currency of the destination country. Some of the rating marks observed are: 3, 2/5, 5/3, 3/ and 5/.

Two examples of crayon markings on postage due wrappers are shown in Figure 3. The first shows 3/ and 10 centimes in blue crayon. The 3 refers to the 3rd weight scale or $3 \times \frac{1}{2}d$ rate per 2 oz. = $1\frac{1}{2}d - 1d$ paid, therefore underpaid $\frac{1}{2}d$, double deficiency = 1d postage due converted to 10 centimes payable in France and paid with 10c postage due adhesive from France. The second shows 5/3 and 25 in blue crayon. The 5/3 refers to 5 rates or 5th weight scale with 3 rates underpaid, hence $5 \times \frac{1}{2}d = 2\frac{1}{2}d - 1d$ paid = $1\frac{1}{2}d$ underpaid, double deficiency = 3d converted to 25 pfennig payable in Germany.

Figure 3: Postage Due Wrappers with Crayon Markings
 3/ rates; amount due 10 centimes
 5/ rates underpaid 3, amount due 25 pfennig – all markings in blue crayon



Address Clarification

Over half of crayon markings are related to some aspect of the address and delivery. One application of



a crayon marking is that undertaken by a hotel concierge in adding the room number to the newspaper wrapper's intended recipient. There are several hotels noted where this has occurred: The Grand Hotel, Hotel Prince de Galles, Hotel Teneriffe, Hotel Germania and the Hotel Beausite. British tourists travelling or living in hotels for long periods of time sometimes had their mail forwarded, their English-language newspaper being an important part of keeping up with news from home. Anecdotally W.H. Smith wrappers were often involved so it is probable that the enclosure was some type of English-speaking magazine.

The most common crayon markings refer to the addition of street numbers, and in particular to changes of address, where new addresses have been added in blue crayon and old addresses crossed out or mutilated in some way in crayon. Almost half of the examples in this address clarification category refer to change of address details.

Another crayon application is to identify the country of destination. For example, wrappers addressed to Buenos Aires sometimes attracted a crayon letter 'A' for Argentina to help speed mail sorting for overseas destinations. There were three cases where this occurred. A related marking appears in the form of an opening bracket appearing next to Austria on one wrapper and Santa Fe (Argentina) on another. Blue crayon markings also direct routing to regions, for example Districts of Berlin, and areas 2, 4 and 6 of Austria, and the Bohemian region of Germany. The unexplained blue crayon mark 'S/2' appears on a wrapper to Persia and 'al 10' in blue on a Buenos Aires, Argentina, wrapper.

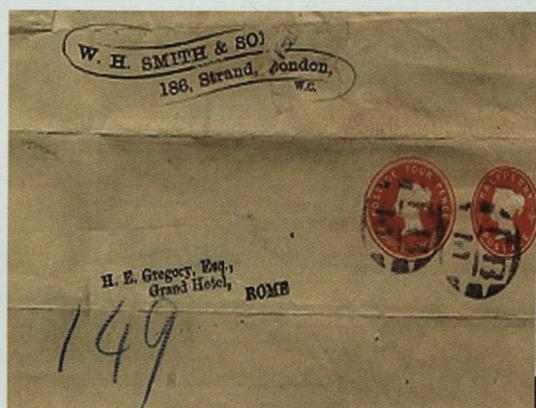
Wrappers to Japan are noted also. One has the address written vertically in Japanese characters in red crayon alongside the English-written address. Another wrapper to Japan has 'Section B' in blue crayon as the location of the named company in the address.

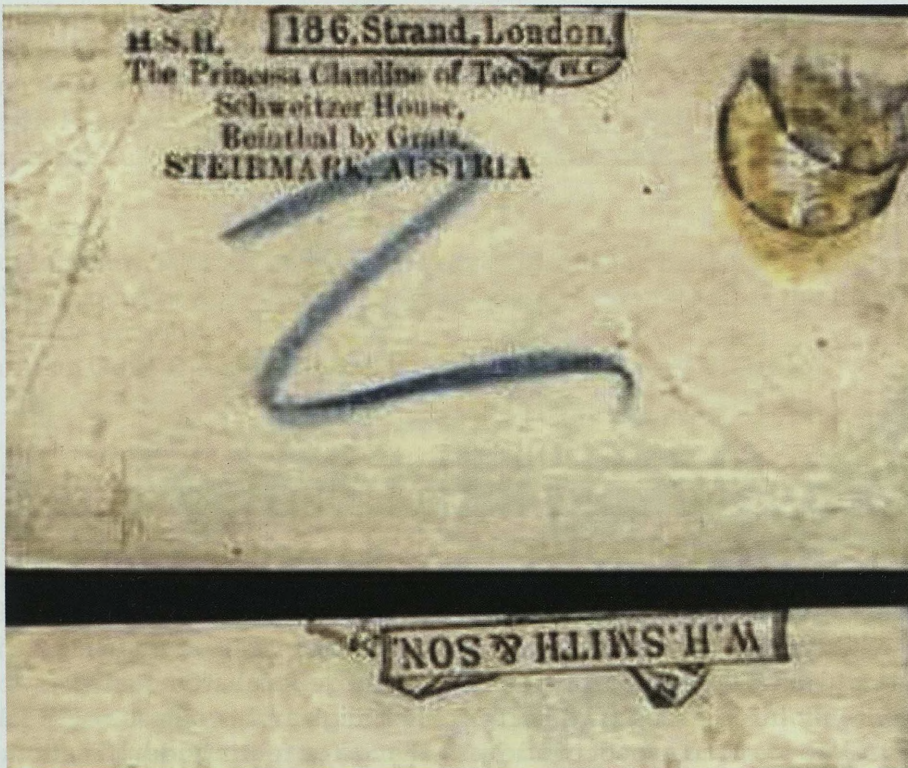
There are two instances where the wording "Gone Away" has been written in crayon, in one case together with the mail carrier's initials. An example is shown in Figure 4 together with examples of the addition of hotel room number, postal district, and the letter 'A' for Argentina.

And finally, there are three different cases where X has been used in blue crayon. Case one shows a large X at the left of a censor label attached to the wrapper. Case 2 shows X next to Bohemia to assist in routing. Case 3 shows an X either side of a remote town address in Transvaal, again to assist in routing and helping speedy delivery.

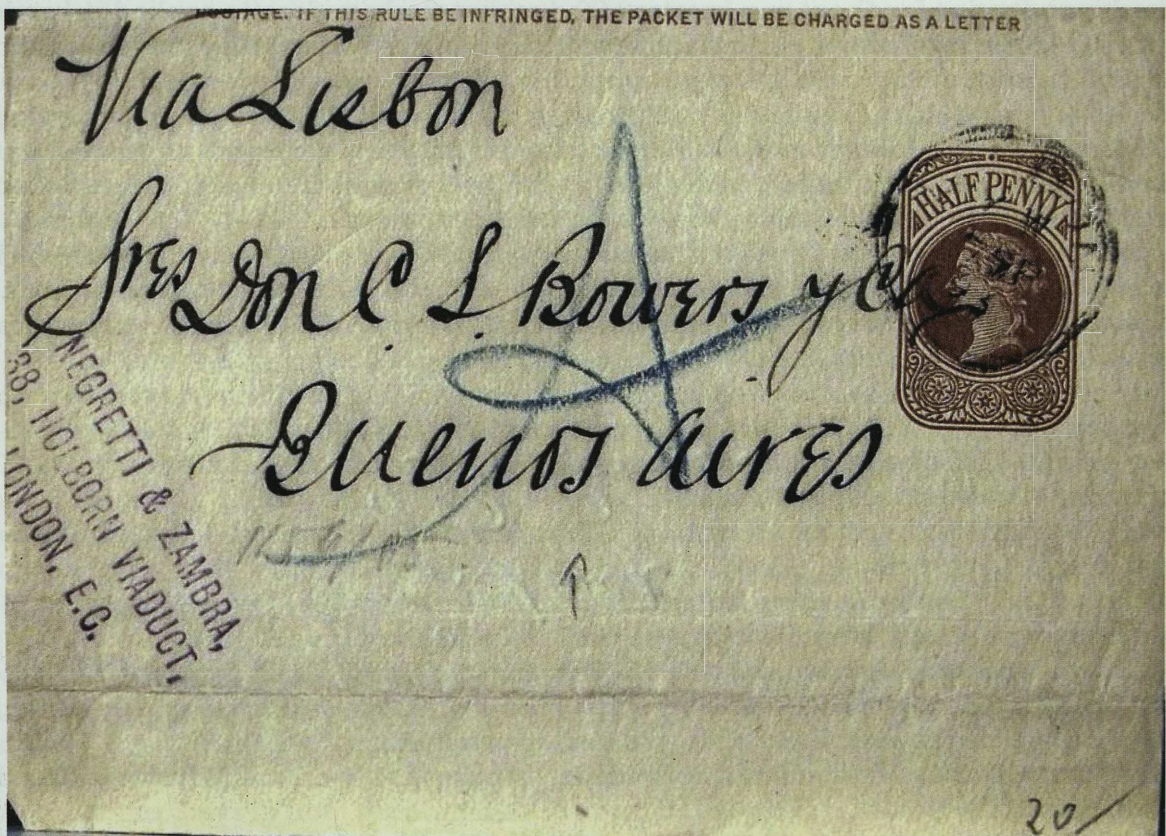
Figure 4: Address Clarification/Direction added in crayon

Room number "149" added in blue crayon for occupier



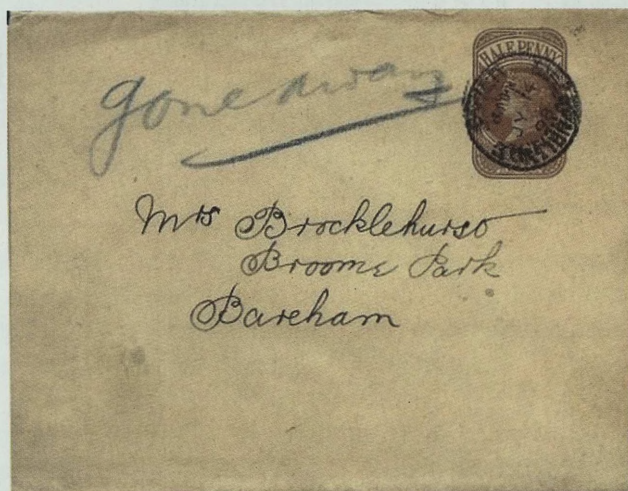


District "2" added in blue crayon for Steirmark, Austria



"A" added in blue crayon to indicate Argentina

"gone away" underlined in blue crayon



Conclusion

Are crayon markings common on wrappers? From a sample of 3,434 G.B. wrappers, 98 were identified as showing some type of crayon marking. This frequency of appearance is 2.8% of the sample, i.e. a ratio of about 1:35 wrappers. Crayon markings in general are not scarce, although the sample revealed only three cases of red crayon markings and two cases of black. Two-thirds of crayon markings relate to some aspect of address change or routing identification. The location where the crayon marking occurred depends on whether the wrapper's destination was domestic or foreign. At least a third of all address markings refer to a destination in Germany. Postage due markings account for about one-quarter of the crayon marks with rates applied in London and amounts due in the local currency applied in the country of destination. Registration markings are essentially the crayon blue cross and were applied at the point where the registration fee was paid.

Of more significance, however, is the fundamental question whether crayons were used or whether some kind of coloured chalk pencil. Those with appropriate technical skills are invited to research this question by analysing actual wrapper markings of the 1880-1910 period in much the same way as paint pigment on adhesives has been subjected to spectral analysis. It may well be that in the fullness of time with more information the paper should be retitled 'Coloured Chalk Pencil and Crayon Markings on Newspaper Wrappers of G.B.' The role of the indelible pencil is an area also that needs to be researched.

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Courtis, John K. (2012), An Analysis of Postmarks on Great Britain Post Office & Stamped-to-Order Postal Stationery, Philately from Australia, Vol. LXIV No. 1, March, pp. 4-16.

British Postal Museum & Archive, POST 30/2717A, P 30/4778, Coloured chalk pencils: solid blue crayons tried, c.1913

Within this file there are several sub-files with the following titles:

'Coloured Chalk Pencils: London Postal Service: Use of pencils of 17 different shades in "Blind" Division. Authorised. 1884'

'Coloured Chalk Pencils: Improved specimens submitted by Messrs. J. Faber. Unsuitable. 1886-7.'

'Coloured Chalk Pencils: Use of blue chalk pencils for registered letter work. Authorised. 1889.'

'Coloured Chalk Pencils: Use in "Blind" Division. London Postal Service authorised (File 1). Further supplies obtained. 1885-8.'

'Coloured Chalk Pencils: Use for blue-lining Registered Letter Packets: General adoption approved supply obtained. 1911-13'

'Coloured Chalk Pencils: Registered Letter work etc.: Hexagonal crayons substituted for screw pencil-holders and blue leads. Blue pencils to be used in Registered Letter, Inland section and Eastern Central Section. Notice in Post Office Circular. 1913.'

'Coloured Chalk Pencils. Solid Blue Crayons: Suggestion by Mr J. W. Bird, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Peterborough for substitution of wood-cased pencils. Not adopted 1914-15.'

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to Penny McMahon, Archive/Record Assistant, British Postal Museum & Archive for sending me details of what appears in their files on this topic as well as the link to the illustration of an early box of blue crayons.

Thanks too to Allan Gory who read and commented on an earlier draft.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

The Charge of the Light Brigade is one of the most infamous episodes in British military history and one of which every schoolboy of a certain age is familiar. As postal historians in later life we are all too aware that the interest of a letter can often lie more in its contents than in the envelope in which it is contained. Nowhere is this more true than in letters from the Crimea which were often written on poor quality lightweight paper which tears and crumples easily with letters usually being sent unstamped or cancelled on arrival in London. Even the postmarks were often poorly struck which leaves us relying upon the contents and the cover surviving together to provide the historical background. At the time when Richard Burton was buying letters from Robson Lowe in the 1940s no one took the trouble to decipher the scrawls inside the letters and so it is only now that the story related by W. Inglis in a series of letters to his mother in Bushmills, Northern Ireland, can be told.

The Charge took place on 25th October 1854 and Lord Raglan's intention had been that the cavalry should pursue a retreating Russian artillery battery, instead of which the Light Brigade was launched into a frontal assault upon a different well-entrenched battery at the end of a long valley. The responsibility for the debacle is often laid at the feet of Captain Nolan who delivered the verbal order to Lord Lucan but since the former died in the battle it remains unclear why the mistake occurred.

Inglis, writing from Balaclava Camp on the day after, told his mother that "in the afternoon poor Nolan of the 15 Hussars took a wrong order to Lord Cardigan & the Light Brigade were ordered to charge the guns, with heavy guns firing at them from both flanks...they were nearly cut to pieces, after doing their duty like men and though only 190 men came back..out of 800". While Inglis was scathing about his commanders our Turkish allies came in for equal criticism: "to understand our position you must recollect the ridge of hills I once told you of...which protected our camp & Balaclava and along which we have thrown up four batteries and foolishly manned them with Turks - I joined my regiment and saw these Turks, so much talked of, run out of these batteries without giving a shot, like rabbits out a hole. The Russians of course turned the guns on us, no infantry to support us, and slowly under a heavy fire of shot & shell we fell back beyond our camp - Lucan formed us up at last rather out of sight and a huge column of cavalry some 3,000 came down the plain and rushed on a large line of Turks near Balaclava. They bolted when the Russians got close and uncovered the 93rd Highlanders...I suppose they thought we were afraid of them and turning towards us down they came, a solid mass of Hussars and Lancers. We let them come within about 300 yards and crash into them we went; the Greys in front supported by the 5th...for about five minutes there was a melee... but at last they turned and ran - Lord Raglan sent down an aide de camp to say well done admirably - it is seldom such a thing has been seen as cavalry charging cavalry and a glorious sight it is - they must have been four to one and we killed ten to one". But that was in the morning and the success was soon eclipsed by the fateful Charge and fortunately the order to retreat reached Inglis before he entered the crossfire - as it was two men and horses were killed in his squadron with a further twelve wounded "by the balls (which) have been hopping about like cricket balls - some you could

avoid, others you could just see as they whistled past". His fellow officer, Neville, "a shockingly bad rider, somehow came off and was stabbed three times with a lance...Scarlett was the first man in, laying about him like a man...the poor devils of Russians that were killed had their heads and arms nearly cut off". Fortunately for the final outcome of the war, when the Russians attacked the Second Division on the following day they "got a great slaking, 1,000 killed & wounded, 30 of ours", as Inglis reported in his letter of 2nd November.

By 12th November Inglis had been gazetted as major, then the youngest in the Army, after only just



over five years service. In August 1855 Inglis embarked on the "Prince of Wales" before transferring to the "Earl of Aberdeen" for a period of leave in Constantinople from where his last letter in this series was written on 12th August 1855 before returning to the Crimea. His promotion continued apace as he is listed as Lieutenant Colonel in 1855 but by 1864 seems to have disappeared from the record. There are some nineteen letters from him in the auction, most of which contain a fascinating account of army life at this time, and this is the first occasion on which they have been recorded for posterity.

Written on the day after the Charge of the Light Brigade, and describing the events of the day in graphic detail, this envelope is mundane from many aspects – the 6d rate is unusual but the cover is torn and fragile with a poor Post Office/British Army cds in green on the reverse but the contents are outstanding as an eye-witness account of a soldier on the battlefield.

An envelope with a strip of three 1d reds cancelled O X 0 bought by Richard Burton from Robson Lowe as Lot 140 on 24th March 1943 for £3 10/- and now offered as Lot 63 in this year's Conference Auction.



LIBRARY NOTES.

Members may be aware of the great initiative launched by the Smithsonian, the American Philatelic Research Library and the Royal Philatelic Society London to create an on-line Global Philatelic Library. I am delighted to say that the Society has been invited to contribute and so our logo joins other illustrious participating organizations with our Library listing now reaching a much wider audience.

New titles added during the summer have included the following:

Stamps & Postal History of Lundy Island, Jon Aitchison, Bishop's Stortford, 2009 – generously donated by the author and already into its Fifth Edition which demonstrates the popularity of our off-shore islands.

Japanese Occupation Stamps in Southeast Asia – an unpublished copy in full colour of Masayoshi Tsuchiya's comprehensive collection of stamps and postal history.

Thomas Moore Musgrave, *An Enigmatic Man*, Audrey Swindells MBE, Bath 2012. Kindly donated by the author, an interesting biography of this little-known figure in postal history who served as Mail Agent in Lisbon, Packet Agent & Postmaster in Falmouth, Comptroller of the London Twopenny Post and Postmaster of Bath. Available from the Bath Postal Museum (www.bathpostalmuseum.org) for £3.95 + p.& p.

Government, "Certified Official" and Post Office Cachets of the British Mandate of Palestine, Michael Sacher, 1981.

The Civilian Airgraph Service in Palestine 1941-1945, Julius Fletcher & Hartwig Danesch, 1983.

United States Numbered Military Post Offices – Assignments and Locations 1941-1994, George Cosentini & Norman Gruenzner, 1994

The Postal History of the Oxford Union Society to 1920, Vincent West FRPSL, London, 2012.

British Greetings Telegrams and Telemessage Special Occasion Cards, Ian Wilkinson, Chesham, 1991.

The Greetings Telegram Service, Doris Green FRPSL 1967 & Supplement 1969.

The French Influence on the Saar and its Posts 1670-1959, Doris Green FRPSL.

The Intriguing Postal History of the Saar since the end of the Second World War, Doris Green FRPSL.

Kirkwood's Proof Books 1829-1918, CD only, 2012.

Among the articles in other journals which members may have missed are the following:

The Goodhue Correspondence: Mail to the port of Zanzibar 1866-1868 (The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, May 2012).

The Siege of Przemysl 1914-1915 (American Philatelist, June 2012).

British Medical Missions in Serbia 1914-1915 (The London Philatelist, June 2012).

Disruption of Norwegian Mail in Autumn 1855 (as above).

La Censure du Courrier des Prisonniers de Guerre des Camps de Sainte Helene 1900-1902 (Britannica, June 2012).

The Pneumatic Despatch Company (Cross Post, Spring 2012).

Mails with Foreign Stamps sent through the U.S. Diplomatic Pouch (The Collectors Club Philatelist, July 2012).

Zeppelin "Hindenburg's" Onboard Mail and the Final Flight (as above).

Peruvian Delays of Australian Ship Letters in the 1850s (as above).

The Dover Mail Contracts 1854-1863 (The London Philatelist, July 2012).

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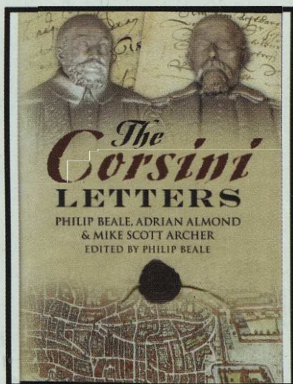
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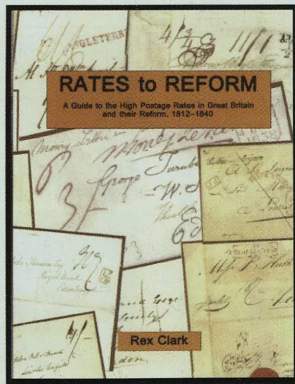
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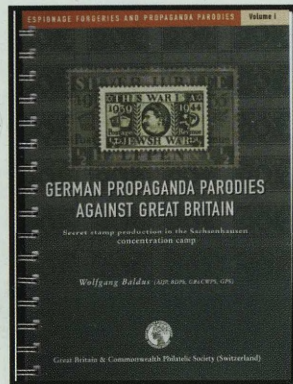
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