

Bordeaux, Rue du Pavé des Chartreux N° 22

May 20th 1814

Postal History

My dear feeling

The Journal of the Postal History Society

on all occasions, to my situation & interests. Your private letter of the 4th is in a high degree of interest, as an additional proof of a friendship

www.postalhistory.org.uk

I am also particular to me in which, you

to Holland. Even if at my option - & we



Miss Eric & Darby.
Victoria Crescent



"HOME CHAT,"
2, Carmelite House,
Carmelite Street,
London, E.C.

We've come a-carol-singing, but we don't want any pay;
It's our only way of wishing you a happy Christmas Day.

Thank you so much for helping with the Christmas Tree. We have a splendid lot of things in this year - better than ever.
The Editor

have at times
wor at some
to struggle by
series of mis-
tho' it may not
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.

No 356

December 2015

To: Feeling Ex:



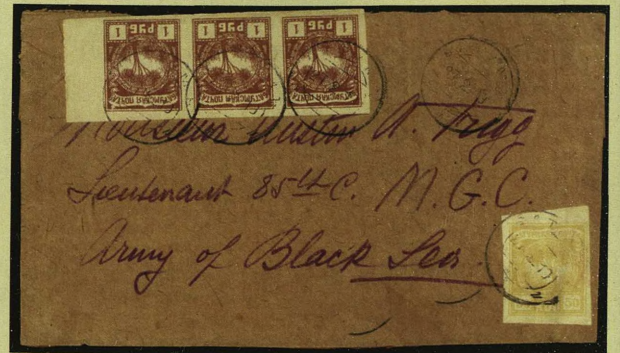
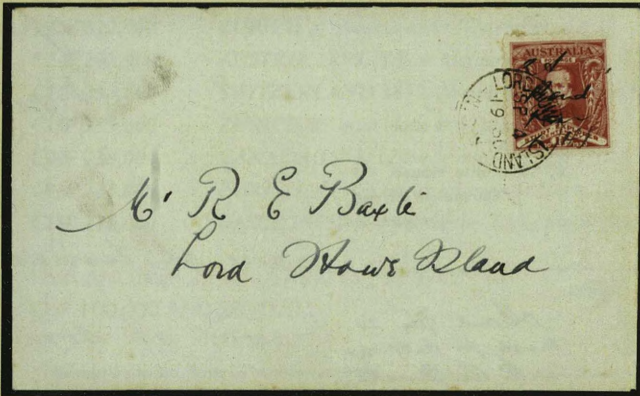
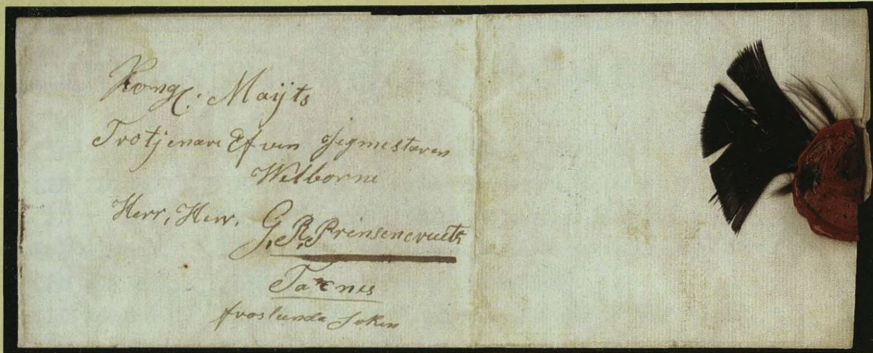
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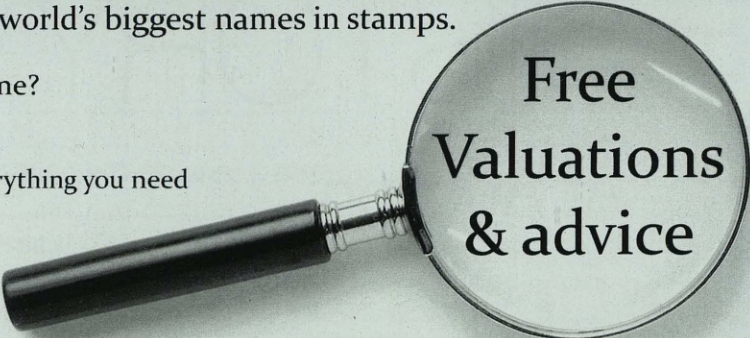
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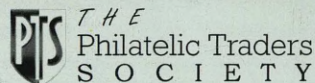
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OFFERS FROM STOCK

BERMUDA 1941 A printed Prisoner of War Parcel Label (minor faults) from the YMCA New York, addressed to a p.o.w. at the Princess Hotel at Hamilton, Bermuda, sent post free, New York parcel post cds.

£225

BRAZIL 1872 An entire letter from Pernambuco to Portugal, franked by Don Pedro 10r & 50r, each cancelled by Pernambuco in an oblong of dots, and with Pernambuco cds & "150" (reis) charge mark on front.

£225

BRITISH GUIANA 1931 A 2c p.s. envelope (opening front at foot) unrated 4c and cancelled by violet boxed "K.N.S.M. / S.S. ORANGE NASSAU" / 29 DEC 1931" Dutch seapost d.s.

£110

WRECK MAIL 1899 A Canada 1c p.s. postcard sent from Montreal to UK, water - damaged, handstamped with violet boxed "DAMAGED BY IMMERSION / IN SEA WATER". From the S.S. "Labrador", wrecked in the Hebrides on 28 Feb. 1899. Mail reclaimed and sent to Glasgow where cds applied.

£350

VICTORIA c. 1897 City Express Messenger Co. Ltd local stamp without value, second printing light green, two copies, one unused, no gum, the other used with part cancel "Messenger Despatch (Boyd's) . . .", etc, in green. (2 items).

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Postal History

The Journal of The Postal History Society

Number 356, December 2015.

Hon Editor: CLAIRE SCOTT

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Colour: full page £150, half page £90

Copy dates for 2016 - March issue February 5th, June issue May 5th, September issue August 5th, December issue November 5th.

EDITORIAL

This edition has the first article from our sister Society in America by Steven Berlin - this is a new relationship which I hope will increase the diversity of articles; ideally we need some of our overseas members to contribute to widen the subject areas in the Journal.

The Journal was entered into the New Zealand exhibition and it was awarded a vermeil medal - I have not yet received the comment sheet, however that means the Journal has received two vermeils this year. Congratulations to all the contributors.

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

What an enjoyable Conference we had, wonderful material kicked off by Patrick Maselis who had to leave early as his uncle, who is a missionary in Africa, was over on his biennial visit and had arranged the family get-together that night so Patrick was on a very tight schedule that day. The weather could not have been kinder for the outing along the famous Dorset coast and we celebrated a birthday and a wedding anniversary. I am not sure we could have packed much more into the weekend.

As many of you will know Francis Kiddle had asked to give his display of Bournemouth to us on the Saturday morning but was not well enough and his brother Charles covered for him. The Mayor of Bournemouth attended and discussions are underway to arrange for it to be displayed in Bournemouth library. I am sure Francis would have been delighted.

So far seven members have indicated that they will be in New York and have offered to help out on our American sister society's stand, if anyone else is able to assist please let me know. Nick Martin has joined the Council with the job of forging links with like-minded European societies and possibly arranging a joint meeting at a future date. This Society has worked hard at its outreach to other organisations and recent developments extend this beyond the UK.

Graham is in the process of organising the 2016 Conference which will be in York from Friday 30th September to Sunday 2nd October - more details will follow in the next Journal.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Claire,

This item may be of interest to David regarding his recent article on "Written in.." endorsements. It is a printed illustrated envelope to New York from Cuba with Havana My 16 42 machine cancel 10c (the air mail rate to USA). There is a censor seal probably applied in Jamaica. On the front is a Spanish Language cachet.

Regards,
Chris Proctor



Dear Claire
Response to Challenge 2, p88 of PH 355.

The upper cover, from Ghazir 14 May 1945, was censored at Beirut by the Free French Authorities. There two markings in red: "C (cross of Lorraine) P" over number 51, all under a long arc - this type (Robertson 3A1) was used only in 1945. The numbers recorded go as high as 999. The second marking, number 57 0, is a random code for the date of censorship. This cover appears not to have been opened as it does not carry a CONTROLE label.

The lower cover from Aley 10 July 1943, does not appear to have been censored locally. The violet circular DEPUTY CHIEF FIELD CENSOR (Daynes type FC304) was applied at a Headquarters, possibly in Cairo, along with the number 17 (front and back) in the same shade of ink. Camp 217 has not been located, nor its nature known (PoW, Internee or Refugee).

References:

W C Robertson: Syria and Lebanon, Free French Censorship World War II, pub 2011, by the Civil Censorship Study Group, ISBN 9780 9517444 99.

J Daynes: World War Two Censor Marks, pub 1986, by the Forces Postal History Society, No ISBN

Graham Mark

Dear Claire,

First, congratulations on such a lovely-looking & interesting issue! Nice paper, good, un-cramped layout, super illustrations, metric size. I wish some other Editors would follow your example!

Your Challenge 2. A partial answer to your Fig 1.

Seeing the cross of Lorraine in the red circular handstamp, I thought the administration must be French. So it must be Lebanese. So I looked in Google for Lebanese Censor mark 1945 and get one (@ War Covers).



This 1945, cover to the USA, has the same Lorraine cross / C P as your cover. Alas, yours is partly obscured by the "57 0 51" of a different handstamp (or two?). The War Covers example has a separate numerical handstamp similar to yours.

Because this cover is to the USA (not involving any other Middle East country), both red/purple handstamps must be Lebanese. Your Fig 2 front has a censor mark almost identical to one on my Fig 14 (page 49). I think this was a British HQ Cairo mark but am not sure.

I hope a partial answer is better than none.

David (the Intrepid!)

Dear Editor

Lost in the post a previously unrecorded India Letter/Bristol in red on entire from Calcutta to Birmingham dated November 1819, also enclosed in the packet was an example in black. Posted in Derby mid-September and failed to arrive in Worcester.

Anyone who sees this item or has any knowledge of its whereabouts, is asked to contact Brian Purcell on 01905 452415 or Sam at Cavendish Auctions on 01332 250970.

Thank you

Brian Purcell



OBITUARY

FRANCIS KIDDLE, Hon. FRPSL, RDP

On the Saturday morning of our Conference, Francis had been due to give us his display of Bournemouth where he grew up and two of his ancestors had been Mayor. He had discovered in the summer that he was terminally ill but had hoped that he would have been well enough to attend our Conference and give his last display. Sadly, this was not to be and his brother Charles valiantly took his place. The present Mayor of Bournemouth was in attendance and was so fascinated by the display that he is planning for it to be displayed in the main library in Bournemouth and discussions are under way as to how this can be achieved.

Francis worked in the space industry, retiring in 1997, as Assistant Director of Space Technology Research, at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency in the United Kingdom.

His philatelic contributions include:

1977 Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society London
1979-1994 Honorary Librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society London
1994-1996 President of the Royal Philatelic Society London
1996-2005 Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust
2000-2008 Chairman of the FIP Philatelic Literature Commission
2001 Royal Mail Lifetime Achievement Award
2006 Signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists
2006 U.S.A. Smithsonian Museum Lifetime Achievement Award
2008-2015 Chairman of the FIP Revenue Commission
2009 Honorary Fellowship Royal Philatelic Society London
2012 The Lichtenstein Award

He was a frequent philatelic judge at FIP Exhibitions and at exhibitions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world, and was Curator of the Perkins Bacon Archive held by the Royal Philatelic Society London until his death.

He was a great friend to philately, and philatelists everywhere, and will be sorely missed.

WAR REBELS & MAIL ROBBERY 1745 – 1899

Dr. STEVEN J. BERLIN

The mail is particularly vulnerable to robbery in times of social unrest. Three of the following communications were stolen from government mails and opened by rebels (for possible valuables and money, in some cases to help finance wars, and/or for military intelligence in the areas of conflict), and the fourth bears a threat to anyone who might steal it.

Jacobite War

Two Jacobite Rebellions in 1715 and 1745 involved religious and political differences in Britain. The term "Jacobite" derives from the Latin Jacobus and refers to all those individuals determined to put James back on the throne. In 1685 King Charles II was succeeded by his Roman Catholic brother, King James II, who was also King James VII of Scotland and King James II of Ireland. James showed

religious tolerance to the Roman Catholics and to a lesser extent to the Church of Scotland which was primarily Presbyterian. The Glorious Revolution beginning in 1688 culminated in the defeat of King James at the "Battle of the Boyne" in 1690. The throne was then claimed by his daughter Mary and her Protestant husband William of Orange, who was his nephew. The first Jacobite Rebellion, also referred to as "The Fifteen" (1715) was an attempt to regain the throne for King James II.

The second Jacobite Rebellion of 1745-1746, called "The Forty-five" was led by Prince Charles Edward Stuart who arrived in Scotland from France on or about July 23, 1745. He landed on the sands of the Outer Hebridean Island with seven companions known as "Seven Men of Moidart" and went on to raise an army throughout Scotland including such well known followers as the MacDonalDs and MacGregors. Prince Charles met with Lord George Murray and appointed him Lt. General of the Jacobite army.

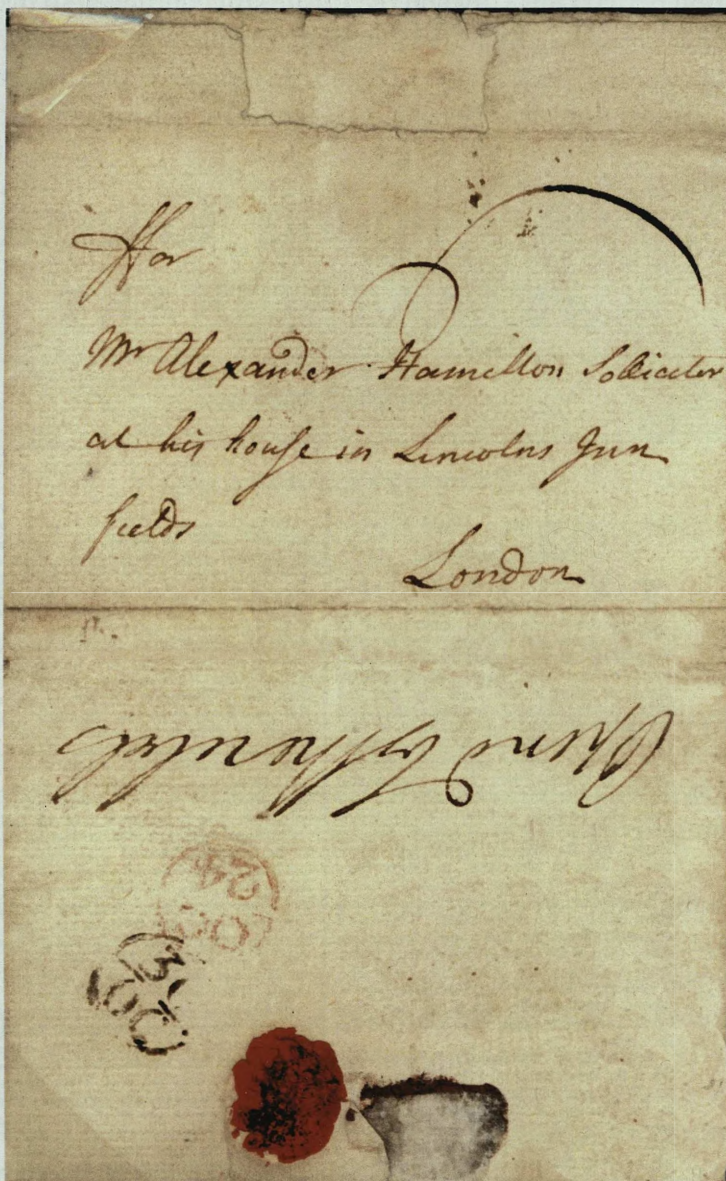


Figure 1: 1745 letter. Circular handstamp in red, OC 24, indicating when the letter was sent from Edinburgh, under the Great Mail System, rated six pence in manuscript (1711-1765 Edinburgh to London); manuscript mark in black "Opened by the rebels" with loss of original black wax seal. Apparently recovered and resealed in red wax; receiving handstamp in black, 30 OC. [earliest known documented mail robbery].

The Jacobite Army entered Edinburgh on September 17, 1745. On September 21, Lord George Murray attacked the British Redcoats in the south completely surprising the British troops and the Battle of Prestonpans lasted all of 15 minutes. Other battles early on were also won by the Jacobites (*figure 2*). However, at the Battle of Culloden (1746), Lord George Murray was badly defeated. The British hunted down those who had escaped and many of them were executed. Others died on prison ships, and some prisoners were even sold as slaves to American plantations. The rebellion ended on 16 April 1746.

In the midst of this turmoil, on October 24, 1745, a letter was sent from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Alexander Hamilton, a solicitor, addressed to his house in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. The cover (*figure 1*) was interrupted when, according to a black straight line manuscript notation, it was broken open by the rebels. The letter, which combines personal greetings with business, emphasizes that the rebellion has not affected them: "The communication betwixt this City and the Castle still continues, so that we live in great peace I return you thanks for your kind invitation to me and my daughters of coming to lodge at your house. I don't think there is any occasion for that as yet." There is no indication that the letter contained valuables; the rebels may have thought Hamilton was passing on information detrimental to their cause.

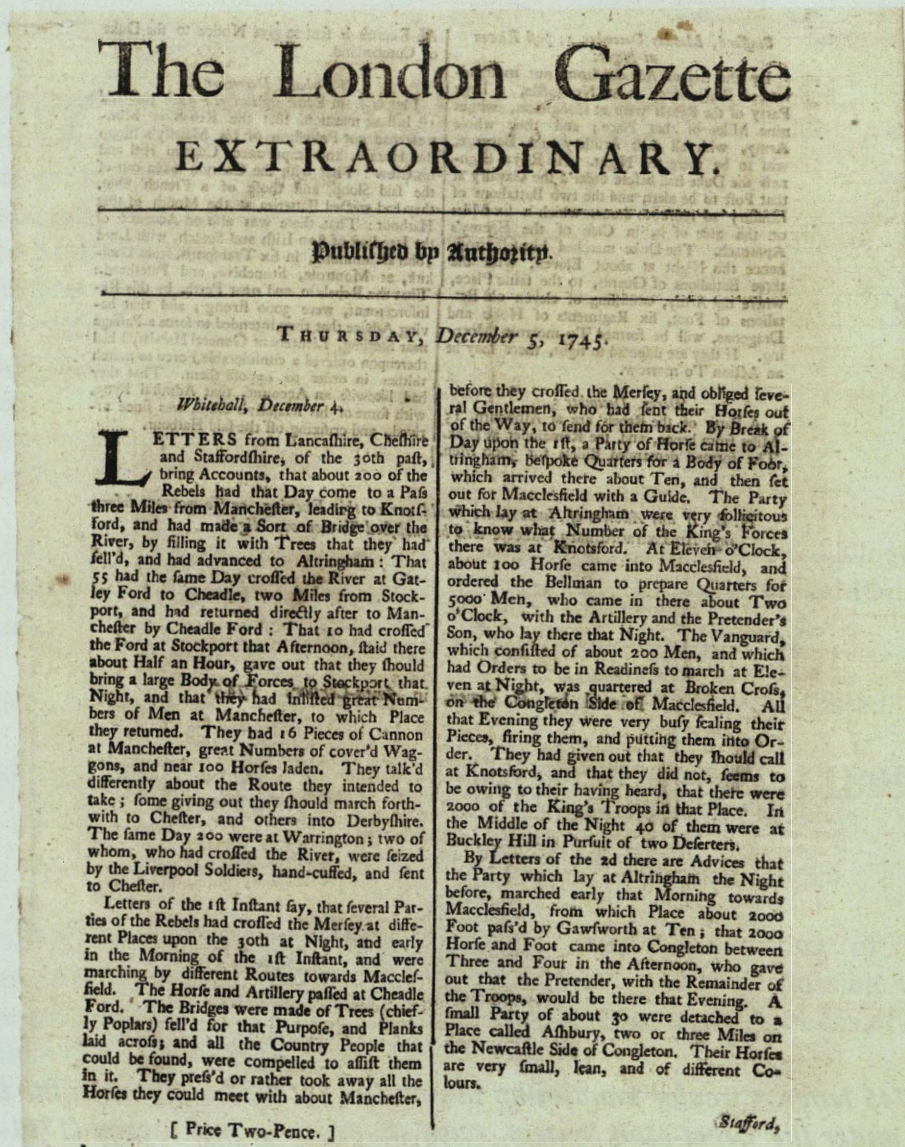


Figure 2: The London Gazette Extraordinary, Thursday, December 5, 1745 describes the rebels organizing forces, equipment and manpower, horses and lodging of their men in preparation for their forthcoming battles with the British.

U.S. Civil War

The American Civil War exploded in 1861 when seven Southern states seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America and several other states joined them. Severe tensions between the northern and southern parts of the United States concerning expanding federal authority and States' rights and antislavery issues pitted families against families and neighbours against neighbours. The war was the costliest war ever fought on American soil both in material and loss of American lives from both the North and South. The Confederate Army surrendered in 1865.



Figure 3: Julius Bien & Co.'s 1895 map of the United States as of December 1864, showing the Confederacy, and with Cairo indicated. [Courtesy David Rumsey]

Cairo, Illinois, had a population of over 2,000 inhabitants and was a major steamboat port along the Mississippi River. This was of major importance for the transportation of goods to military forts along the river as both Generals Grant and Foote of the Union Army had headquarters there. The Mississippi River was also a route for the Confederate armies who would attack and try to close the river, shutting down the northern army's ability to move troops and supplies. The Mississippi River was reopened on Saturday, January 24, 1863, just two days after the mailing of the letter in Figure 4.

On January 22 1863 a letter mailed to Miss Sophia J. Webster in Wausau, Indiana, from Cairo, Illinois, was delayed and a black manuscript notation; "Opened by the Rebels" was applied. A circular Cairo datestamp Jan. 23, 1863 may have been the recovery date. It was noted in Harper's Weekly, Saturday, January 24, 1863 that there were: "raids of the rebel guerillas upon our supply trains and railway communications out west" but that in time they will reopen the Mississippi River. The delay in mailing was just a day making it unlikely that this robbery happened in Southern Indiana where Morgan's Raiders were causing havoc. In some instances, Confederates interrupted the mail to see what type of intelligence could be found. Cairo, as well as other areas in Illinois, had many Southern sympathizers to help with needed information on troop and supply movements. An area of special concern to the Confederates was Camp Douglas near Chicago, that became a permanent prisoner of war camp from January 1863 to the end of the war in May 1865.



Figure 4: Letter, circular datestamp Cairo Ill Jan 22 1863; black manuscript “Opened by the Rebels”; circular datestamp Cairo Ill Jan 23 1863. [Only known cover to be marked as “opened by the rebels.”]



Figure 5: Woodcut illustration from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* of September 28, 1861, captioned: “Arrest of the U.S. Mail coach by Lieutenant Wilson, U.S. Cavalry, fifteen miles from Washington, on the line of the Potomac, and capture of a load of Secessionists. - From a sketch by our special artist with Gen. M’Clellan’s command.”

The Matabele Wars

As with the Jacobite Wars, there were two Matabele Wars. The 1st Matabele War, in what was often called Matabeleland but became part of Rhodesia 1893-1894, pitted the British South Africa Company against the Matabele Kingdom. The Matabele nation feared the white British military with their powerful weapons – the natives had a huge number of spearmen representing as many as 80,000 and perhaps as many as 20,000 riflemen who were poorly trained. In 1893, Wilson’s Patrol, a British force, was massacred by the rebels at Shangani – just one of the attacks along the Gwelo River on wagons that might have been carrying the mails or messages between the British forces. Even though the British were outnumbered, their experience and training was too much for King Lobengula and his people and the war ended very quickly.



Figure 6: A map of Matabeleland (Rhodesia) showing the political situation in the 1890s. (Courtesy, the Baden Powell Library)

The 2nd Matabele War, 1896-1897, also known as the Matabeleland Rebellion took place in what was considered Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). In Rhodesia, this war was also called the First Chimurenga. The revolt started in March 1896 when the Ndebele people revolted against the British South Africa Company for taking liberties, causing disease and other insults. The spiritual leader of the Ndebele people was Mlimo who was credited with fomenting this confrontation. Prior to this British settlers were privy to rumours that settlers were being killed by several young Ndebele natives. Over 2,000 British citizens and other warriors came in from the countryside to Bulawayo, developing a defensive position that led to the “Siege of Bulawayo.” There were very few police or British troops in the area as many of them had disbanded after the 1st war to join the Klondike Gold Rush and the first Boer War, but Mlimo was assassinated prior to the siege and his death caused his followers to lose faith. The major error of the Ndebele forces however was their failure to cut the telegraph lines connecting Bulawayo to Mafeking where a large number of British soldiers were stationed, just a ten day wagon trip away. This gave the forces the information needed to protect themselves until relief came. However, we know some of the mails were interrupted by the native rebels called “Shangani Rebels”.

On March 21 1896 a letter was sent from Umtali, Rhodesia, to London, with arrival back stamp dated July 11, addressed to Henry Sargent, Esq. at the Admiralty in London. He was a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve and may have also worked as a postman for the British Admiralty. This cover left Umtali the day that the 2nd Matabele Rebellion broke out, was stolen, and then recovered from the rebels at Shangani. The mail coach was attacked by rebels around the same day the 2nd Matabele Rebellion took place. The mail coach was reported looted and the mail scattered over the road. Six weeks later this letter was retrieved - the cover muddy and the adhesive stamps washed off – and the situation explained by an endorsement in red ink. The war ended in October 1897.



Figure 7: Recovered envelope, sent March 21, 1896, circular handstamp Umtali, with endorsement "Recovered from Mail Stolen by the Rebels at Shangani (Initials P.O. Bul, Contents Missing." The initials "CR" are those of C. Ross, Assistant Postmaster in Bulawayo. [Finest example of two known covers from the 2nd Matabele Rebellion. Ex. Michael Knight.]

Uganda

Uganda has a poorly documented history with few records of early settlement. In the 19th century, the Buganda Kingdom, ruled by Kabaka (traditional kings), was prominent and allied to the powerful Shirazis of Zanzibar. The economy relied heavily on the slave trade and in 1894 Buganda was declared a British Protectorate with control extended to Bunyoro, Ankole and Toro. Uganda was not colonized until the Imperial British East Africa Company set up in Buganda with the Kabaka's permission to protect the areas.

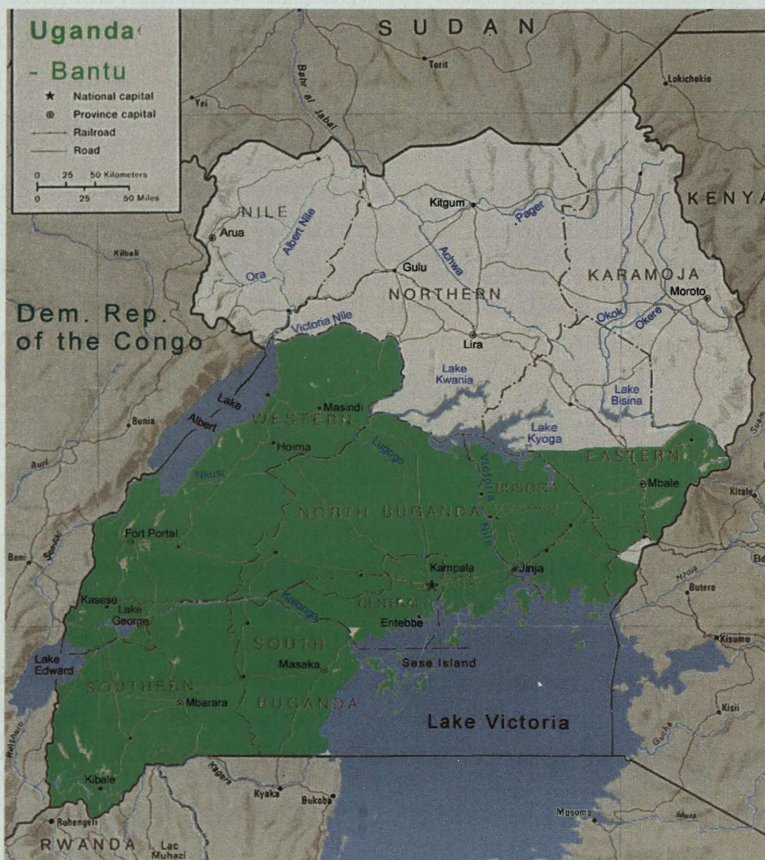


Figure 8: Modern map showing the traditional boundaries of the Bantu in Uganda.

The letter in figure 9 was mailed August 23, 1899 from Toro, Uganda, to Major General Sir Francis de Winton, R.A. (Royal Artillery), CB (Companion of Bath), GCMG (Grand Cross of the Order of St. George and St. Michael) to Ambassadors Court, St. James's Palace in London. This communication was carried for five weeks by a runner to Mombasa. A backstamp was applied on September 30, 1899. It then went by ship to London through the Mediterranean and arrived in London, backstamped October 30, 1899. On the reverse in black manuscript "He is a vile scoundrel who will steal this letter for sale of these stamps!"

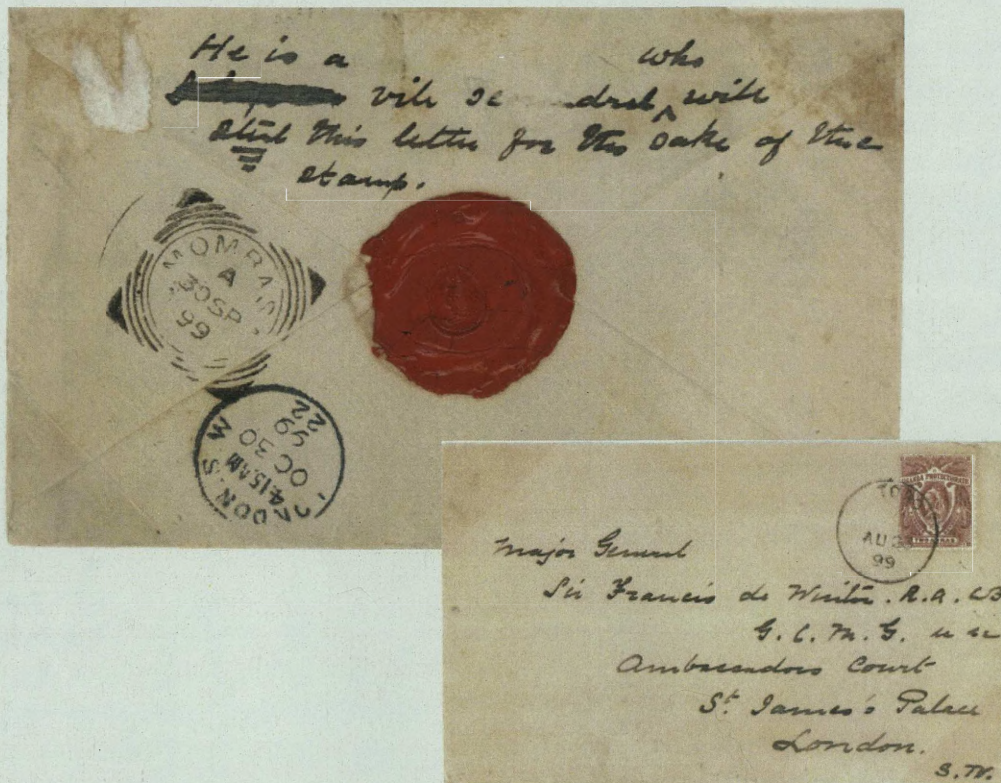


Figure 9: Cover, circular handstamp Toro, Aug 23 1899; backstamp Mombasa 30 SP 99; backstamp London OC 30 99. With manuscript threat about stealing, and a red wax seal, on verso.

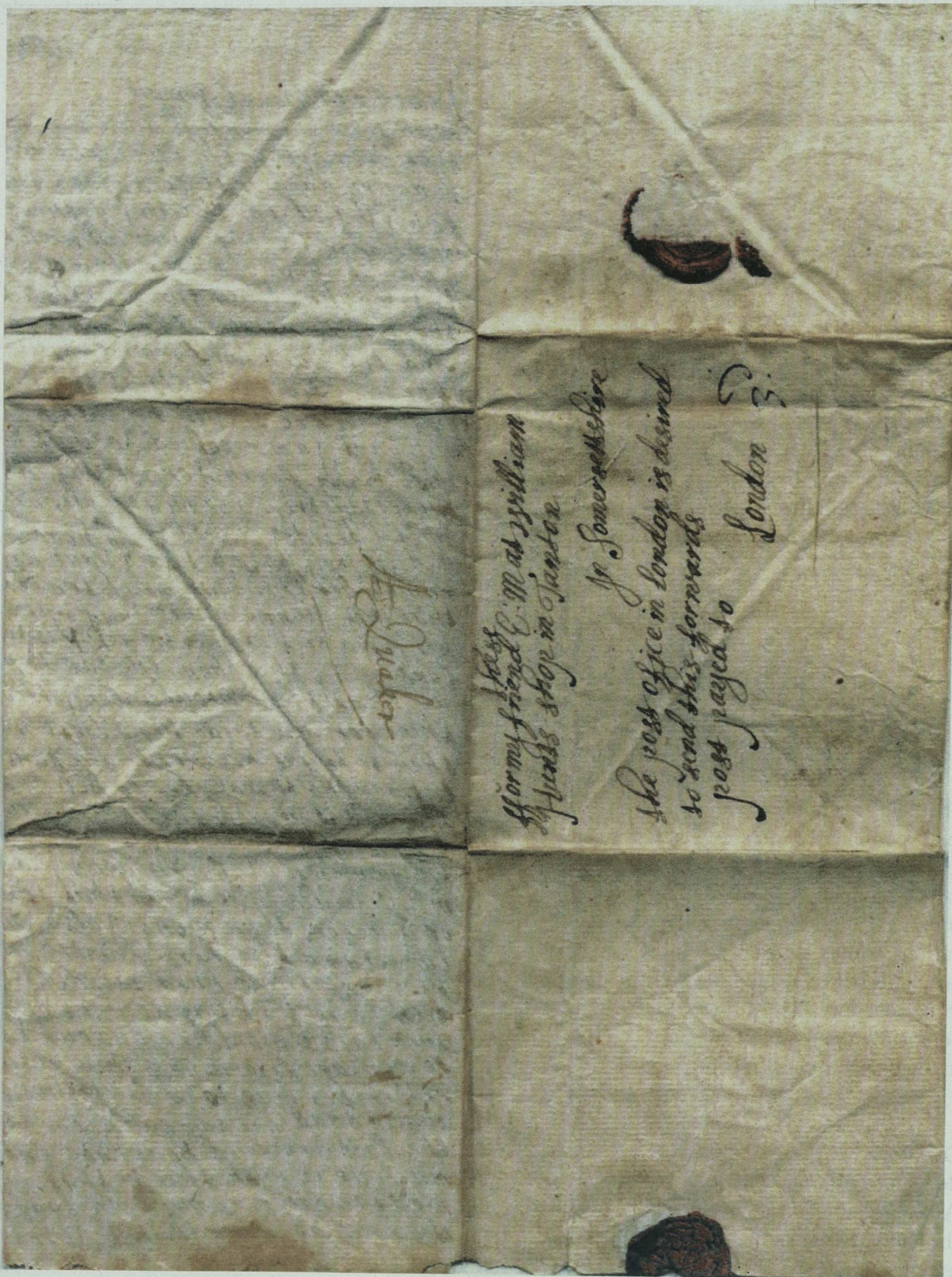
That letters actually were delivered when the outlying areas had so much difficulty in transporting the mail, particularly after a 30 day runner was able to make this connection without being attacked by rebels, is amazing to me. Perhaps all mail during those times might best have issued a similar warning to vile scoundrels. War is an ugly situation causing much death and destruction. It also limits various communication avenues often preventing mailing and/or leading to the destruction of mail. Perhaps various armies even teach the advantages of mail robbery. We have just touched on a small part of postal history as it relates to enemy depredation - the author would be grateful for any information on these covers or any others related to mail robbery during these few times in history, and would like to personally thank Diane DeBlois for help on research and to Becky Duvall who took the task of helping in the preparation of this manuscript.

Dr. Steven J. Berlin is the Medical Director of Ogenix Corporation, a wound care company that has developed new technology for healing diabetic and difficult to heal wounds. He is a life member of the APS, Treasurer of the Wreck and Crash Mail Society. He is also a member of the Postal History Society (of the United States) and several other philatelic organizations. His email address is <drstevenjberlin2916@gmail.com>

A QUAKER LETTER

JULIAN TWEED

This letter was acquired some years ago (Cavendish sale 20 October 2001, Lot 93) and I have finally got round to setting out my thoughts on some of the questions that it raised in my and others' minds.



the 10th of the 3 month (13)

Deare & wellbelov'd friend
with true & faithfull love my spirit salutes thee & my desir is to heare
that thou art safely recovered from thy ague for many loads on it to
be a very dangerous sickness & thinke that the south parts will not
be healthfull for thee: thy father & mother brother & his wife & children
and margret & josis wear all well the second day of this weeke for
I was at Snodd & see them & went into rauenbondack that night &
P.P. & John Adamson hee went to Lancaster on the third day friend
there was very well: P.P. was very loueing & tender to me
And did much confirme that thing which was in my heart
(v) for they did not see that the truth could stoupe to such a thing
unless there should be such a change as I doe not expect: but for
my part I am resolu'd to wait in a godly fear & see what the Lord
will bring forth: for I faithfully beleue he will cause things to
worke together for my good although I am satisfied I must be deeply &
sadly tried: I expect P.P. to come this night or tomorrow: my deare sister
J. is very weak but I have hopes that she will recover: she did
remember thee with much tender love & she said that she thought
that thy sickness was layd upon her: it seemed something hard to us
her being sick at this time: P.P. is too busy & hath spoken more to me
concerning thee then she can beleue for she told him she did be-
lieue that thou would deny those things that he spoke against
thee for she saide her beleue was more for the honesty of thy heart
then to trust his words: she said George had writ to thee about it
P.P. sought to make her so beleue that John Adamson & I would see
him: but it would far otherwise & his spirit was much more
& he was greatly displeas'd & said he knew of thee
that which P.P. writ gods judgments should be layd upon
me: P.P. smiled to see him in that temper & said he should have spoke
of it before thou went: I also saw J. Scaf & he said he had writ
concerning thee here something sharply but he did deny that
he spoke those hard words before any but P.P. but it is easily
seen that P.P. is sowers of division: I could be glad that all
such talks would come souer to an end for they doe much hurt
to my deare friend pass them patiently by & let true love comouer
remember me to A.D. & let me know if thou payed him for the
same: I shall not say much for I thinke thou may have one or long
the last preceved hour date for the 25-27 of the 3 month
my love is with thee in that which thinke no evil but desire
well for even as my own so the Lord benedict thee my friend
the love of many friends is to thee

Figure 1 shows the address side of the single folded sheet and Figure 2 the contents. I have transcribed both below retaining the writer's spelling, line spacing and (general lack of!) punctuation. My interpretations of the wording in the small sections of the letter now missing are in brackets with question marks.

these
ffor my friend E:M at William
Hunts shop in Tanton
In Somersetshire
The post office in london is desired
To send this forwards
post payed to
London 3d

On an inner rear flap in reddish ink is written in a different hand, "A Quaker".
..... the 10th of the 3 month (13)

Deare & well beloved friend,
with true & faithfull love my spirit saluts thee & my desir is to heare
that thou art safly recovered from thy ague for many louks on it to
be a very dangerous sickness & thinks that the south parts will not
be helthfull for thee: thy father & mother brother and his wife & children
and Margaret & Josif wear all well the sekond day of this weeke: for
I was at Knottend & see them. I went into Ravenstondale that night &
R:P & John Adamson & I went to Lancaster on the third day. Friends
there was very well: G.F & M: was very loveing & tender to me
And did much confirme that thing which was & is in my heart is(?)
(?) for they did not see that the truth could stoup to such a thing
unless there should be such a change as I doe not expect: but for
my part I am resolved to wait in a godly fear & see what the lord
will bring forth: for I faithfully believe he will cause things to
or be together for my good although I am satisfied I must be deeply &
sadly tried: I expect R F hoam this night or tomorrow: my deare sister
J:A is very weak but I have hopes that she will recover: she did
remember thee with much tender love & she said that she thought
that thy sickness was laid upon her: it seemed something hard to see
her being sick at this time: R:P is too busy & hath spoken more to m:f
conserning thee than she can beleve for she tould him she did bel
eve that thou would deny those things that he spoke aganst
thee. For she saide her belefe was more for the honesty of thy hea(rt?)
then to trust his worde: she said George had writ to thee about it
R:P sought to make her so beleve that John Adamson & I would seco(nd?)
him: but it proved far otherwise & his spirit was much manifeste(d?)
& he was greatly displeased & said he knew if thou sh(ould?) (do?)
that which G.F writ gods judgements should take hould upon thee.
M:F smiled to se him in that temper & said he should have spoken
of it before thou went: I also saw J: Scaf & he said he had writ
conserning the hors something sharply but he did deny that
he spoke those hard words before any but B:P but its easily
seen that R & BP is sowers of desincion: I could be glad that all
such talks would come soun to an end for they doe much hurt
so my deare friend pass them patiently by & lett true love come over
remember myn to A:D & let me knowe if thou payed him for the
saye: I shall not say much for I think thou may have one or long
the last I receved bour date for the 26-27 of the 3 month -

my love is with thee in that which thinks no evil but desires thy
wellfar even as my own so the lord be with thee my friend
the love of many friends is to thee

It is immediately obvious that, whilst quite a number of people are mentioned in the letter, very few are given a full name. Indeed the writer remains completely anonymous. References to Ravenstonedale (in Westmorland), Knottend (the name of several settlements and farmsteads in the north-west of England) and Lancaster suggest that the letter was sent from northern England. The frequent references to "friends", the way the date is presented and other phraseology all support the enigmatic endorsement on the flap that the writer and most of the people referred to in the letter were Quakers.

When was the letter sent?

The immediate impression from the "10th of the 3 month (13)" at its head is that the letter was sent written in March 1713. But that is not the case.

Firstly, before 1752 it was usual in England to number the months using the then generally accepted convention that the New Year began in March. So "the 3 month" here is almost certainly May.

Secondly, postal history suggests that the letter was written much earlier than 1713. The postage rate of 3d applied to distances of less than 80 computed miles after June 1711; further cost 4d. The endorsement on the letter's address panel makes it plain that the letter went via London and that that part of its journey was prepaid. Letters passing through London were charged separately for inward and outward transmission until 1784. Both legs of this letter's journey were well over 80 miles so it must date to before 1711 when, under the Act of 1660, the appropriate rate for each leg would have been 3d.

In addition, there is no "Bishop Mark" date-stamp on this letter. In a note in the Cavendish sale of Barrie Jay's collection in June 2000, James Grimwood-Taylor pointed out the non-appearance of Bishop Marks on virtually all known surviving letters sent before 1664 which were not intended for delivery within London and their almost invariable appearance thereafter. That alone would suggest a pre-1664 date here.

An earlier date is further supported by an alternative interpretation of "(13)" not as a reduction of "1713" but as a reference to the regnal year of Charles II. Charles's reign was not calculated from his restoration in 1660 but from the execution of his father, Charles I, in 1649. That interpretation would date this letter to 1662.

Final support for a date in the 1660s comes from the discovery in the National Archives of the will of "William Hunt, grocer, of Taunton. The document was drawn up on 12 September 1667 and the records show William Hunt died on 18 December in the same year.

It seems likely therefore that the modern form for the date on the letter is Saturday 10 May 1662.

Can any of the people mentioned in the letter be identified?

In most cases the answer remains no despite quite a bit of digging. One of the few surnames mentioned is the unusual name "Scaf" and the surname "Scaife" does occur in surviving records for Ravenstonedale in the mid and late seventeenth century.

Acceptance of a date in 1662, the locations referred to in the letter, its Quaker associations and the context of the references to them all lead to the possibility that "G.F." (and "George") and "M.F." refer to two

key figures in early Quakerism – George Fox and Margaret Fell (later Margaret Fox after her marriage to George in 1669).

George Fox was the founder of the Quaker movement in the late 1640s. He first met Margaret Fell at her home, Swarthmoor Hall, near Ulverston (then in north Lancashire) in 1652. Margaret became a tireless supporter of the movement then and after the death of her husband Thomas, the Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in 1658. Both George and Margaret travelled extensively in the cause and spent spells in prison because of their beliefs; Margaret in Lancaster Castle between 1664 and 1668 and again in 1670/71 and George in several jails, including Lancaster in 1660 and 1663.

It is recorded that Margaret went to London in late May 1662, returning in September, to petition the King with some success for the release of the many Friends then held in prisons around the country. Though it is not certain, it is quite possible that they were both in Margaret's county town of Lancaster in the first week of May 1662.

George Fox died in 1691 and Margaret in 1702.

Was the letter delivered to E.M. in Taunton?

The outer panels are consistent to a degree with what might be expected for a letter travelling between Lancashire and Taunton in 1662. The 3d postage to London is marked as having been paid and as already discussed, there is no Bishop Mark. However there is no indication that the further charge of 3d for carriage between London and Taunton was ever raised; usually that would have been shown by a second manuscript "3d" or "forward 3d".

1662 was a very uneasy time in England and the newly restored royal government was much concerned with possible plots by republicans or disaffected non-conformist groups such as the Quakers. It is certain that many letters were being opened whilst in transit through the mails, especially in London. This letter would undoubtedly have raised suspicion because of the cryptic way it was addressed and even more concern would have been felt after looking at the contents with so many partially named people referred to and its obvious sectarian connections.

It is probable therefore that the letter was abstracted, opened and, being thought potentially too dangerous to be allowed to proceed, that it was retained with an explanatory file note. That would explain the appearance of "A Quaker" on part of the letter that would have been within the sealed part of the sheet when folded and so must have been written whilst the letter was open. It is most unlikely if the endorsement is contemporary (as it seems to be) that the letter could have been allowed to travel on as it would have been only too obvious to the recipient that it had been tampered with.

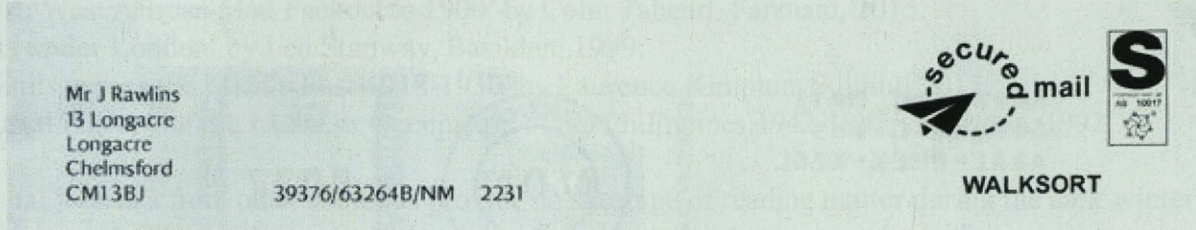
Where does that leave us?

The evidence points to the letter having been written on 10 May 1662 and that the letter was taken from the mails before reaching its intended addressee. However the tantalising identification of two of the people referred to in it as George Fox and Margaret Fell remains speculative. And if it was taken from the mails and never received by E.M. in Taunton, where was it held before eventually appearing on the philatelic market?

Should anyone have anything to add, I would be delighted to hear from them!

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Post Office Green Papers will be familiar to many members beginning in 1933 with The Air Mail service and ending in 1939 with No. 47 on Exchange Equipment Planning. The Library has acquired a complete bound run of these papers in four volumes through the good offices of Graham Mark. Other titles added since the last Journal include:

- 'British West African Mail Packets to 1900' by Colin Tabcart, Fareham, 2015.
- 'Mails under London' by Len Stanway, Basildon, 1999.
- 'Airmails across the Middle East 1918-1930' by Laurence Kimpton, Solihull 2015.
- 'A Postal History of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines 1942-1945', Freeman, 1992.

As usual journals from other societies provide no shortage of reading matter during the dark winter evenings and here is a selection which might interest our members:

- 'Mail Transport to and from Kuwait (1862-1939)' by Douglas Muir, Cross Post, Autumn 2015.
- 'United States-Hapag Mixed Franking Covers' by Matthew Kewriga, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, November 2015.
- 'Air Mail to and from Germany between the End of WWII and October 1948' by Walter Farber, The Collectors Club Philatelist, November 2015.
- 'The Swedish Mail and the War 1939-1948' by Kjell Nilson, The London Philatelist, October 2015.
- 'Aerial Routes between Cairo, India and Australia 1918-29' by Pradip Jain, The London Philatelist, September 2015.
- 'Serbian Post from Malta' by Milan Radovanovic & Slobodan Sokolovic, The London Philatelist, September 2015.

BOOK REVIEWS

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS PAT CAMPELL FRPSL

The public are familiar with the Post Office exhortations to "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS" but few realize that this plea dates back to early Edwardian times when the sending of Christmas cards had reached unimaginable volumes such that the Post Office were struggling to provide their expected delivery service.

One man, Mr. John Philips, Postmaster of Manchester, proposed in 1902 an experiment to relieve the pressure of mail on Christmas Day. Pat Campbell, great-grandson of Mr. John Philips, has researched this experiment with the aid of unique family records and many newspaper reports, from its initial operations in 1902 until its demise in 1909.

It is an intriguing story of a time when it was considered essential to make one or more deliveries of mail on Christmas Day, and at a time when postal workers worked up to 22 hours a day on 23rd and 24th December to ensure that this was achieved. Pat Campbell records the successes and many failures of the "Posted in Advance" service mainly operated in Manchester and Liverpool. The postal markings associated with this prolonged experiment are detailed with a listing of each Post Office involved annually.

To postal historians, this well illustrated book offers an insight into an age prior to the telephone when the written word was king. Christmas cards could be posted up to 10p.m. on Christmas Eve for delivery locally the next morning, Christmas Day.

This is a book that should be on the shelves of all postal historians.

A POSTCARD FROM TANGIER DAVID A. STOTTER FRPSL

With the sub-title: A Postal & Social History 1880 to 1858

When I first became aware that David intended to write this book, I encouraged him, but at the same time tried to steer him towards writing a book with more postal history content. The result has been a resounding success.

David, with his intimate knowledge of the subject, has cleverly woven together 78 years of Tangier history, wrapped up in colourful picture postcards, choice covers, plus diagrams and tables to reflect his deep understanding. Just about every page bears a relevant illustration of some kind or other, so nicely breaking up the text, making it visually attractive and immensely interesting to read.

This book is well written, thoughtfully laid out with indexes at the back and references where they should be - at the foot of the page in hand.

A word of warning. This is not a book to pick up and dip into, for if you should do so, then you will succumb to its delights and become engrossed!

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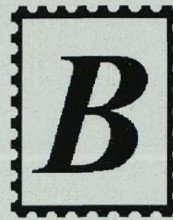
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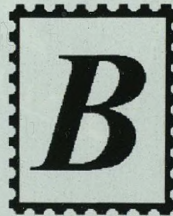
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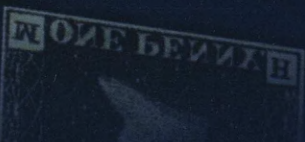


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