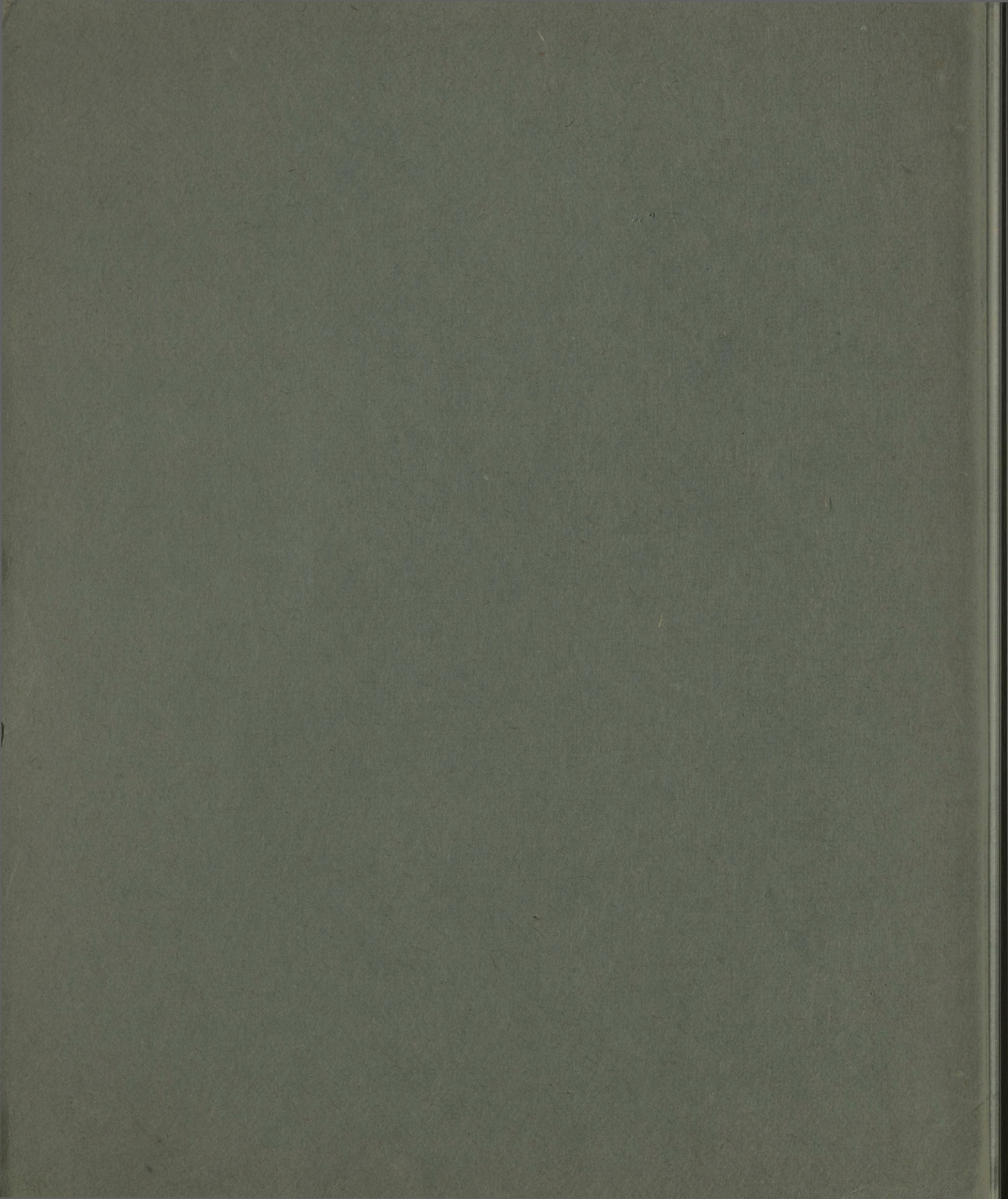


POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BULLETIN No. 14

April 1940.



THE PENNY POSTAGE CENTENARY BOOK

published by the Postal History Society at 10/6d
will be on sale in the CONGRESS OFFICE
or will be obtainable through the usual channels.

Contents:

- Milestones in Postal History
 - The Birth of the British Postal Service
 - The First Post Office Stamps
 - Rowland Hill and his Reform
 - The Mulready and some Caricatures
 - The 1939 Treasury Competition Essays
 - Essays and Proofs of the Penny Black
-

Edited by SAMUEL GRAVESON.

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ORDER FORM

Please send me copy of The Penny Postage Centenary Book at the special price to Members of the Postal History Society of 5/6d., post free. Remittance enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

When completed, this Form should be sent to the Editor, Ravenhurst, 15 Queen's Road, Hertford.

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inaugurated 1936

BULLETIN No.14 - APRIL, 1940

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All communications with reference to the Bulletin should be addressed to:

The Hon. Editor, S. Graveson,
Ravenhurst, 15 Queen's Road, Hertford.

Members are invited to send Notes and other contributions.

NOTES AND NEWS

Since the last Bulletin was sent out to members, the Society has suffered two irreparable losses by the death of its first President, Fred J. Melville, and of Lt. Colonel Samuel Anderson of Paignton, who had acted as Secretary of the Ireland Study Circle and supplied the Notes of the findings of the Circle for the Bulletin. Some biographical details with appreciations of the work of our deeply mourned friends will be found elsewhere in the Bulletin.

...

Congress. All our thoughts are now concentrated on the 27th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain to be held at Bournemouth from Friday, May 3 to Monday, May 6. The Postal History Society is the inviting body, so we are all more or less responsible for the success of this year's Congress. Our Congress Hon. Secretary, Mr. Robson Lowe, has put in a tremendous lot of thought and energy into the arrangements for the Congress itself and also for the Centenary Stamp Exhibition to be held in connection with it. He is to be congratulated on the excellent Programme that has been issued, and we all look forward to great success crowning the efforts of himself and his many friends at Bournemouth and elsewhere. Here is the Programme.

Friday, May 3rd

Delegates assemble at Congress Headquarters.

8.30 p.m. Reception at the Pavilion by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth.

Saturday, May 4th

10 a.m. First business session in the Ballroom at The Royal Bath Hotel.

10.30 a.m. Paper: "The Production of Line-Engraved Stamps", by P.L. Pemberton Esq., R.D.P.

11.30 a.m. Paper: "The History of the British Army Post Office", by Colonel Guy R. Crouch, M.C., T.D.

2.30 p.m. Lantern Lecture in the Pavilion: "A Hundred Years of Postage Stamps", by Dr. William Byam, O.B.E.

8 p.m. Congress will be the guests of the Postal History Society at the theatre.

Sunday, May 5th

8.30 a.m. Philatelic Writers' Breakfast.

11.15 a.m. Philatelists' Service at St. Peter's Church, conducted by the Rev. Canon Hedley Burrows; preacher: the Rev. C.S. Morton.

2 p.m. Motor Tour through the New Forest, with tea at Lyndhurst, when Congress will be the guests of the Bournemouth Philatelic Society.

7.45 p.m. Concert at the Pavilion, when Congress will be the guests of the Bournemouth Borough Council.

Monday, May 6th

- 10 a.m. Second Business Session.
10.30 a.m. Paper: "Congress and the War", by Leslie R. Ray Esq.
Noon. Opening Ceremony of the Postal History Society's
Exhibition in the Pavilion, to Commemorate the Centenary
of the Adhesive Postage Stamp.
3 p.m. Ceremony of the Signing of the Roll of Distinguished
Philatelists.
7.30 p.m. Banquet at Congress Headquarters.

The Exhibition at the Pavilion will remain open from May 6th to
11th, and the profits will be given to the British Red Cross and the
Order of St. John Funds.

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New Members. The following have been elected members of the Society since
the last issue of the Bulletin:

Bournemouth and District Philatelic Society.

Mrs Foster Bond	George Hubbard
Miss Leah Chalmers	James Marshall
Arthur G. Davis	Charles C. Palmer
A.J. Ecclestone	Lt. Col. Rose-Hutchinson
L.C. Elger	W. Renouf
Colonel H.W. Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O.	P.C. Swan.

... ..

January 10th Centenary Dinner. Although now nearly three months ago, the
Centenary Dinner held to commemorate the
inauguration of uniform penny post, is still a real and pleasant memory. An
account of it will be found elsewhere in the Bulletin, including a full report
of our President's speech on the occasion.

... ..

Dockwra's Penny Post. Mr. C.F. Dendy Marshall having supplied for public-
ation a list of the recorded copies of Dockwra
broadsides and pamphlets, we have taken the opportunity to illustrate Mr.
Marshall's list with actual reproductions of the original documents. Photo-
graphs of these have been supplied for the purpose by the Guildhall, City of
London; Bruce Castle Postal Museum; whilst the Keeper of the Printed Books
at the British Museum gave permission for a reproduction of that very rare
pamphlet "The Practical Method of the Penny Post".

Centenary Exhibition. In connection with Congress, but arranged by the Postal History Society, a Centenary Exhibition is being held in the Exhibition Hall at the Pavilion, Bournemouth, from Monday, May 6th to Saturday, May 11th. Here are further particulars taken from the Official Programme:

There will be a Post Office open in the Exhibition Hall in the Pavilion, and mail posted there will receive the special Exhibition cancellation.

The opening ceremony will take place at noon on the centenary day, May 6th, and the Exhibition will remain open until 9 p.m. on each day until the Saturday, May 11th, when it will close at 7 p.m.

The exhibits, which are confined to Great Britain, will be entirely provided by members of the Society, and will comprise:

- | | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| Frames | 1 - 9 | Early British Postal History. |
| | 10 - 12 | 1840 Handstruck Provisional Stamps. |
| | 13 - 18 | Mulready Wrappers and Envelopes. |
| | 19 - 22 | 1839-40 Essays and Proofs. |
| | 23 - 30 | 1840 1d. blacks and 2d. blues. |
| | 31 - 52 | 1841 - 1940. |
| | A - E | British Post Offices Abroad. |
| | F - I | The Postal History of Bournemouth and Poole. |

In addition, there will be a special exhibit of postal relics loaned by the Bruce Castle Postal Museum.

Admission to the Exhibition is 1/-, with the exception of the opening ceremony, which is 2/6. A season ticket for the week costs 5/-. Thursday and Friday mornings, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., will be reserved for the schools.

... ..

Centenary of Penny Postage Souvenir Book. The Council of the Postal History Society has sponsored a Souvenir Book to commemorate the Centenary of Penny Postage, which it is hoped to have ready for the Bournemouth gatherings from May 3rd to 11th. Full particulars will be found on the prospectus enclosed with this Bulletin. Special terms have been arranged for members of the Society.

BOOK REVIEWS

By the Editor.

From the C.W. Daniel Company, Ltd. I have received a book of Essays by E. Dingwall entitled "Things Grave and Gay, including a Century of Postage". The grave side of the Post Office is depicted in a well written biographical sketch of Rowland Hill, and the gay side in a chapter entitled "Bits of Paper", in other words adhesive postage stamps! In a third chapter the Universal Postal Union is instanced as an example of international co-operation in the service of the public. The price of the book is 3s.6d.

In her book entitled "How the Adhesive Postage Stamp was Born", Miss Leah Chalmers, grand-daughter of James Chalmers, the Dundee printer and postal reformer, has presented a summary of the claims made by her father, Patrick Chalmers, some sixty years ago, that James Chalmers should be credited with the invention of the adhesive postage stamp. Miss Chalmers has put the case with such simplicity and charm as to almost disarm criticism. James Chalmers was a good man, a useful citizen, esteemed by his fellow townsmen in Dundee for the success of his efforts in improving the postal service to Scotland. But the fact remains that his particular suggestion for an adhesive stamp was not adopted, and Rowland Hill's was. Adhesive stamps were in use on patent medicines before an adhesive postage stamp was ever thought of. Therefore it seems clear that the adhesive postage label or stamp was an adaptation of the patent medicine label.

Colonel H.W. Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., has brought out a tribute to the memory of his grandfather in the form of a Scenario for a film with the title "Rowland Hill and the Fight for Penny Post". The scenario forms only part of the book, for there are also chapters on "The Difficulties of Postal Reform", "Coaching Glasses", "The Stamps of 1694", and the Chalmers Claim. The last named I have already dealt with. As regards the Scenario, Colonel Hill is to be congratulated on a lively description of the postal service as it was before Rowland Hill came on the scene, and also of the changes that his plan brought about. Even to read through the 36 Scenes is worth a 3s.6d. seat at a cinema, and as this is the price of the book I am sure there will be a great demand for it. Of the other chapters of the book, I like best chapter XII which brings out the real greatness of Rowland Hill in many fields of service.

Horace N. Soper has produced a most attractive looking brochure entitled "A History of the Postmarking of Mail in Great Britain 1661-1939". The reproductions of old letters in red and black are excellent. Unfortunately the letterpress that accompanies the illustrations is not so accurate as it might be. The brochure, which is really an introduction to the machines of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., is obtainable at 5s. a copy.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE

DINNER IN LONDON

Organised by the Postal History Society, the Dinner was held at Oddenino's Hotel, Regent Street, on January 10th, and, in spite of the black-out, proved an unqualified success. It is true that Major Tryon, Postmaster General, was not present, owing to the exigencies of the war, but he gave recognition to the occasion in a remarkable announcement to the press at the time the dinner was being held that it had been decided to issue a set of commemorative postage stamps.

Captain Hopkins, M.C., President of the Postal History Society, was in the chair, supported on his right by Colonel H.W. Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., grandson of Sir Rowland Hill, and on his left by the Misses Chalmers, granddaughters of James Chalmers, who promoted special reforms in Scotland and suggested in 1834 the use of an adhesive postage label. Among the other guests present were other members of the Hill family, and C.G. Ammon, M.P., ex-Postmaster General. The company numbered close on one hundred and was thoroughly representative of philately in London and the home counties.

An attractive menu card and toast list had attached to it a first impression of the label that had been prepared for the 27th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, showing the Die Proof of the Penny Black of 1840. During the evening sets of these labels were on sale at 2s.6d. a set.

CAPT. HOPKINS'S SPEECH

In proposing the toast of the Centenary, Capt. Hopkins said:

"Among the many disappointments which the war has caused, postal historians and philatelists all over the world have been deprived of what was to have been the outstanding event in the history of their pursuit, namely the recognition of the centenary year.

The Jubilee of Penny Postage in 1890 was commemorated not only by various official functions and a conversazione at Guildhall, but by the issue of official souvenir postage envelopes, cards and special postmarks. Such is the spirit of defeatism in official circles at the present time that the Centenary is being commemorated by the Postal History Society alone.

It was obvious that with the outbreak of war many of the activities and much of the publicity which would have been attendant upon the centenary year of the introduction of uniform cheap postage would of necessity go by the board. The International Stamp Exhibition which was to have been held in May in London to celebrate a hundred years of adhesive postage stamps was an early casualty.

It was also the intention of the Post Office officials, with the acquiescence of the Postmaster General, to abandon the special issue of postage stamps which was announced early last year and which was in active preparation. Fortunately the wiser counsels of the Postal History Society have to-day prevailed, and the stamps will appear after all. The psychological effect of such a stamp issue will be very great, as it will indicate to the world that in spite of our prosecution of the war we can review normal happenings in their proper proportion.

The Postal History Society had undertaken last year to sponsor the 27th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain which was projected in June next. Preliminary arrangements had been made for the Congress to meet at the Royal Empire Society's headquarters in Northumberland Avenue, London. It was considered inadvisable to carry on with this intention, and the Council of the Society decided to plan a wartime Congress to be held early in May at Bournemouth, and which should take the place of the cancelled International Stamp Exhibition.

This then was the situation which confronted me when I succeeded to the Presidency of the Postal History Society, a proud responsibility at any time, but particularly so in the Centenary year. It is perhaps fitting that the City of Bath, which has been so prominent in postal reform throughout the years, should provide the leader of the Postal History Society at this time. We remember with pride Ralph Allen of Cross Post fame, and John Palmer the mail coach pioneer. Isaac Pitman, the inventor of phonography (shorthand) was one of the 49 who suggested adhesive labels in response to the Government's offer of a £200 reward for the best method of collecting the postage on letters in connection with Rowland Hill's scheme.

On May 2nd 1840 the world's first adhesive postage stamp was post-marked in Bath, four days prior to general release. In May 1912 the first air mail carried over a distance of more than 100 miles was flown by B.C. Hucks from Bath to London. These are well known facts, but I quote them as indicative of the relationship of the City of Bath to the purpose for which our Society exists.

On December 5th 1939 the Postal History Society organized a small dinner to mark the centenary of the introduction of the first uniform rate of postage in Great Britain - 4d - a temporary expedient until the main scheme was brought into operation. Now on January 10th we are doing our best to celebrate in a modest way the introduction of uniform penny postage just a hundred years ago today. A local penny post in London had been introduced by William Dockwra in 1680, but 160 years were to go by before the country as a whole was to receive this boon.

In 1837 Rowland Hill published his pamphlet "Post Office Reform". Ignored by the officials in office, it roused public opinion to an amazing extent. The popular outcry resulted in the setting up of a Committee of the House of Commons. From this followed one of the greatest advances in modern civilization. As the event proved, it was a social revolution which changed the face of society throughout the world.

One hundred years ago the post was a luxury for the rich. Rates were prohibitive. It cost 9d to send a single sheet from London to Birmingham. If a second sheet were enclosed the charge would be as for two letters. In all there were forty different rates for inland letters, and the custom was to collect on delivery. Commercial enterprise was affected in countless ways. For example, a firm's travellers would delay sending in orders until they could send several on a single sheet. Bills for small amounts often were not drawn. Samples were not sent by post. Communications between banks and their branches were reduced to a minimum. Remittances were often accompanied by the request not to return a receipt.

The upper classes were partially relieved of the burden of high postage because Peers, Members of Commons and officials had wide "franking" privileges. It was easy for an M.P., however useless in other ways, to earn a goodly living by joining the Board of a large Company and then spending his time franking their correspondence.

The real tragedy of the old system, however, was that to all intents and purposes it placed the postal services beyond the reach of the poor, that is to say, the masses of the people of Great Britain. For them social correspondence was practically non-existent.

When the post did enter their lives it did so as a terrible burden, and the receipt of letters was dreaded because they would require the payment of high postage on delivery. Daniel O'Connell, who was taking a prominent part in the agitation for reform, calculated that an Irishman in England would have to use up one fifth of his month's wages in order to send a letter home and receive a reply.

The system had given rise to every sort of evasion. Practically every carrier's cart in the country carried letters surreptitiously. Invoices and other commercial communications would be enclosed with goods. Coachmen and guards, in fact travellers of every description, became unofficial postmen. It was calculated that five sixths of the letters from Manchester to London and half the letters carried by private ships from foreign parts did not pass through the Post Office.

The parliamentary spokesman for the new agitation was Mr. Robert Wallace, who came from Clydeside, the home of so many movements "agin the Government". He succeeded in getting a Commission of Enquiry appointed to consider the postal system. Such a step did not mean, any more than it does now, that anything was going to be done, but it happened that there was at the offices of the South Australian Colonization Society a secretary who was to seize the opportunity which the Commission presented and fight the battle for reform through many bitter years until final victory was won.

This was Rowland Hill, a schoolmaster, a mechanic and a sociologist. The reform of the postal system was his abiding passion, and in 1835 he began devoting all his spare time to the problem. As is so often the case with reformers his efforts were blocked at every turn. He endeavoured to get into

a London Post Office to examine its working, but his request was refused. So he assembled "over half a hundredweight of raw material", blue books and the like, and began a serious and sustained study which culminated in the publication of his famous pamphlet in 1837.

That pamphlet has been rightly called "the most important pamphlet in the world". Never before or since has the publication of one had such far reaching results. Briefly the two chief points of his plan were a uniform low rate of postage, and prepayment. The P.M.G., Lord Lichfield, declared that "of all the wild and visionary schemes of which he had ever heard this was the most extraordinary". In parenthesis the Postmaster General today seems equally enthusiastic, and it is a matter for comment that none of the high officials of the Post Office is present tonight, although all were invited. The 14th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke seems to fit the occasion.

It may be thought that I am bestowing fulsome praise on such a simple matter as penny postage. Postal services are so cheap and convenient today that everyone takes them for granted, but when we realise that it was only a hundred years ago that the conditions which I have outlined were in existence everywhere, the significance of the change can be appreciated. No one can deny that this centenary is a centenary worth commemorating. Napoleon once said of himself "I shall go down in history with my Code in my hand". Sir Rowland Hill might well have said "I shall go down in history holding in my hand a letter bearing a receipt for one penny". Such a letter is pictured on the invitation cards for the commemoration of THE CENTENARY OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE which everyone present has received.

When the uniform penny rate was introduced throughout the British Isles on January 10th 1840, neither stamped envelopes nor the adhesive labels (later called postage stamps) were ready. These did not materialise for another four months, and in the interim the sender of a letter had to take it to the Post Office and pay to have it stamped there with a handstruck stamp. These usually took the form of a figure "1", sometimes together with the letter "d" to denote one penny, and in addition a dated paid mark was applied.

Apart from London about 250 towns employed their own stamps, some combining their name with the amount paid. The members of the Postal History Society have got together an exhibition of covers used in this interim period between January 10th and May 6th 1840, and these are displayed for your inspection tonight.

The use of the adhesive label was not made compulsory until 1853. The uniform rate of penny postage lasted until 1918, and although at this present time there is little hope of its return, the great New Year's gift of January 10th 1840 merits the enthusiastic appreciation of everyone.

The Press of January 11th was by no means unanimous in its praise of the penny postage. Everyone whose personal interests were in some way affected

was in vocal opposition as is the case with every great reform. There was indeed a loss to the revenue, and it was thirty-five years before the receipts of 1839 were equalled. Cheap postage is not the goldmine some of its protagonists imagine. The amazing figures indicating the growth of correspondence under the new system are, however, proof of its success. In round numbers 82 million paid postal packets were delivered in the United Kingdom in 1839; in 1840 169 million; in 1850 327 million, and today the number of articles of one kind and another posted during the year is approximately 8,000 million. A fitting result of a century of cheap postage and an everlasting memorial to the dogged efforts of a great man."

Mr. C.R. Clear of the G.P.O. and Vice-President of the Postal History Society, proposed the toast of the Memory of Sir Rowland Hill, and referred to the magnitude of his reform and the many qualifications he had for carrying it through. The toast was responded to by Colonel W. Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., who quoted many incidents in the life of his grandfather.

In proposing the toast of the Memory of James Chalmers, Mr. S. Graveson recalled that Sir Rowland Hill received support from many quarters, both outside and inside Parliament. He coupled with the name of James Chalmers, Sir Henry Cole and W.H. Ashurst of the Mercantile Committee, Richard Cobden, Robert Wallace of Kelly who promoted the reform in the House of Commons, Charles Knight the publisher, and Mr. Spring Rice, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Melbourne, Prime Minister. In responding to the toast, Miss Leah Chalmers expressed her pleasure at being present and at the acknowledgment that had at last been made of the work of her grandfather.

The health of the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

Among those present were: Captain Adrian Hopkins, M.C., in the Chair; C.G. Ammon, M.P.; Mr. and Mrs D.B. Armstrong; Dr. and Mrs E.F. Armstrong; Mrs Clifford Bailey; Charles Bein; Mr. and Mrs Foster W. Bond; C.F. Bowman; Mr. and Mrs G. Bradley; J.H. Brebner; D.M. Brown; G. Buckeridge; C.G. Bull; Mr. and Mrs R.C. Cade; Mr. and Mrs Bromley Carter; Miss Leah Chalmers; Miss H. Chalmers; Charles Clear; Miss Clear; G.W. Collett; Colonel and Mrs Guy Crouch; W.P. Daniel; P. Dennistoun; Percy DeWorms; T.J. Edwards; Mr. and Mrs G.H. Goodson; Samuel Graveson; Brigadier Glyn Grylls, O.B.E.; W.E. Hadlow; Miss D. Hadlow; N.F. Hamilton; Miss Ethel Harper; A.H. Harris; Frank Harvey; Mr. and Mrs W.S. Haynes; Colonel H.W. Hill, M.C., D.S.O.; Miss J. Hill; Dr. R. Hill; Mr and Mrs G. Hubbard; Mr and Mrs D.R. Hunt; E.F. Hurt; Mrs Helen Isaac; Mr. and Mrs J.H. Jennens; Captain Charles Jewell; R.S. Johns; R.V. Johnson; The Rev. Eton Jones; J.A. Kilpatrick; Adolph Lang; B. Lillywhite; L.J. Gilbert Lodge; Mr. and Mrs Robson Lowe; S.J. Marriott; The Rev. C.S. Morton; K. Nordall; Mrs Pattison; Frank Pratt; Leslie R. Ray; J.A. Rosevear; Dr. and Mrs K.J.L. Scott; R.A. Snook; C.R. Snow; Mr. and Mrs J.K. Stevenson; Dr. Dudley Stone; Lady Struthers; Miss Rose Titford; R.F. West; A.T. White; Colonel G.C. Wickens; M. Williams; L.N. Williams; Mrs Margaret Wiltshire; Miss Vivienne Wright; Dr. Paul Wolf.

DOCKWRA PAMPHLETS AND BROADSIDES

By C. F. Dendy Marshall, M.A.

Among the rarest and most interesting items which it is possible for a Postal History collector to acquire are the broadsides, etc. issued in connection with the London Penny Post of 1680-82.

Melville, in his "Origins of the Penny Post" does not give a complete account of these documents, and the three he does mention are mixed up with quotations from newspapers of the period, which compared with the pamphlets and broadsides, are of much less interest and value.

I have found evidence of there having been six, as follow:

1. The original advertisement, dated April 1680, single sheet, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. broad by 14in. high, printed on both sides, beginning A PENNY WELL BESTOWED. This is referred to in Melville's book, p.51.
Copies known: Guildhall Library; Postal Museum, Bruce Castle, Tottenham; P.L. Pemberton; my collection; one in U.S.A. One which belonged to Eliot Hodgkin was described in "Rariora". Mine came from Dropmore.
2. A description of the post, dated 1681. Evidently issued in April, as the "Protestant (Domestic) Intelligence", No.109 (March 29th, 1681) said full information will be published "in a few days". Sheet (folded), 8in. wide by 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, printed on all four sides, beginning THE PRACTICAL METHOD OF THE PENNY-POST. Transcribed by Melville pp.55-64, and Gladstone, "Great Britain's First Postage Stamp".
Copies known: British Museum (2); Guildhall; my collection; one in U.S.A.
3. Handbill, size not known, dated 1681. Printed on one side only, headed "By the PENNY POST, Lyme-Street". Not mentioned in Melville. The Postal Museum at Tottenham has a photograph.
4. Another description, generally similar to 2. Evidently issued before September 1682. Sheet folded, about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 13in. printed on all four sides, beginning THE PRACTICAL METHOD OF CONVEYANCE OF LETTERS. Not in Melville.
Copy known: Guildhall. The date of issue may have been cut off.
5. "AN ANSWER TO MR.DOCKWRA'S CASE CONCERNING THE PENNY-POST". Anonymous. Issued between 1682 and 1689.
No copy known, but it is mentioned in 6.
6. "AN ADVERTISEMENT on the behalf of William Dockwra, Mercht. Concerning the PENNY-POST". Sheet, 8 by 12in., printed one side only. Melville, p.75.
Copies known: British Museum; Postal Museum, Bruce Castle, Tottenham. The second is dated (by hand) "London Printed August 26.--LXXXIX".

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Note by the Editor of the Bulletin.

Comparing items 2 and 4 mentioned in Mr. Dendy Marshall's Notes, the following interesting facts, some of them new to me, are brought out:

That in 1682 Dockwra and his partners were still meeting with opposition and discouragements, "vexed with unreasonable and very expensive lawsuits". A new action at law was pending of "Ten thousand pounds" at the instigation of the Duke of York. That he and his partners had lost £1000 per annum on the post. They were "out of purse some thousands of pounds".

It will be noted that in the title of the later broadside on advertisement the words Penny Post are relegated to a place of less prominence, Conveyance of Letters being substituted as the principal title.

Another fact brought out is that Coffee Houses and Shops were called Penny Post Houses.

Complaints as to delays produced the excuse that the Dockwra service did not pretend to give such quick dispatch as by special messengers. There is a reference to Bell-men, which suggests that Joyce in his History of the Post Office was wrong in giving Povey the credit of introducing to London the postman with a bell.

As regards the regulations to be observed, the following deals with the complaints that had been made that an extra penny was demanded on the delivery of a letter: "3. A Penny (ready changed) must be left with every Letter or Parcel, when put into the Penny-Post-house, and nothing will be demanded or taken, if offered, by the messenger that delivers it; Penny-Post paid being stampt on every Letter and Parcel, according to the Triangular form on the front of this sheet".

A P E N N Y

Well Bestowed,

Or a Brief Account of the *New Design* contrived for the great Increase of *Trade*, and Ease of *Correspondence*, to the great Advantage of the Inhabitants of all sorts, by Conveying of *LETTERS* or *PACQUETS* under a Pound Weight, to and from all parts within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*; and the Out Parishes within the *Weekly Bills of Mortality*,

For One Penny.



Here is nothing tends more to the increase of Trade and Business than a Speedy, Cheap, and safe way of *Intelligence*, much being obstructed and more retarded in all Places where that is wanting. For as Money like the Blood in Natural Bodies, gives Life to Trade by its Circulation, so Correspondence like the Vital Spirits, gives it Sense and Motion; and the more that these abound in any Place, the more doth that Place increase in Riches, Strength, and Vigor.

But in this Age it is not to be expected that any New Design can be contrived for the Publick Good, without meeting many rash Censures and Impediments, from the Foolish and Malicious; therefore 'twas not likely this should escape that common Fate. Yet We hope to all the reasonable and Candid, who are willing to understand their own Interest, this Paper may be Satisfactory.

For 'tis undertaken by the Methods of that Correspondency settled, that any Person may promise himself his *Letter* or *Pacquet* shall safely come to any place directed to, lying within the Cities and Suburbs of *London* and *Westminster*, and all their contiguous Buildings; also to *Wapping*, *Ratcliffe*, *Lyme-house*, *Poplar* and *Blackwall*; to *Redriffe*, *Southwark*, and so to *Newington* and *Lambeth*; to *Hackney*, *Islington*; and all other places within the *Weekly Bills of Mortality*, be it farther or nearer, to and from any of the aforesaid Places,

For One Penny.

The times for issuing out of *Letters* to any of the aforesaid Places, to be in the Summer time from Six in the Morning to Nine at Night, and at reasonable hours agreeable to the Winter Season.

To the most remote Places *Letters* shall be sent at least Five times a day.

To Places of quick Negotiation within the City, and in the Term time for service of the Law Business, &c. at least Fifteen times a day.

No *Letters* that come after Nine at Night, to be delivered till next Morning (except such *Letters* as are for the *Post-Office General*.)

By this means all Persons, as well Gentlemen, Lawyers, Shop-keepers, and Handicrafts Men, that make and deal in Commodities vended by Patterns and poor Prisoners, and all others, have that dispatched for a *Penny*, which usually costs Three Pence, Six Pence, or a Shilling. Now to oblige Men to pay more when they can hereby be cheaper served, were to impose an illegal Tax upon the Inhabitants without their Consents.

Besides many Journeys of Taylors, Weavers, and other poor Artificers, and their Servants, will be spared, who now consume much time abroad in going to and fro, to the impoverishing of their Families, because they cannot extravagantly pay a Porter for a Message,

or

or Carrying a Letter. But now their time will be employed in their Callings at home, to the better Maintenance of their Charges.

And therefore all Gentlemen, Citizens and others, for their own sakes, are obliged to encourage this Undertaking, and discourage all those who only for their private Interest, endeavour to interrupt the progress of it, to deprive them of so great a benefit.

For notwithstanding the Objection that seems to sway with the Vulgar, on the behalf of the Porters, whose Clamours and Riotous Proceedings is a great Scandal to their Society. There needs not much be said in Answer.

But for Satisfaction to the well meaning among them, and all others, We Answer :

1. That most of the Employment in this Undertaking, had never been without it, by reason of the great Charge of Portridge, Messages being usually dispatch'd by the Masters themselves, their Apprentices or Servants, to the great loss of their time.

2. More Business increasing will occasion much more Burthens (being their proper Employments) to be carried, then their Loss by Letters can amount to.

3. They have no Authority to Monopolize the Delivery of Letters to themselves, it being by Law free for any Man.

4. Divers of the Ticket-Porters, and many poor Freemen, are employed in this Undertaking, who have been good Citizens, and deserve more Encouragement than most of those that pretend to suffer by it.

5. But if no Man must be suffered whom the Porters apprehend injurious to them, then should the Hackney-Coachmen, Carmen, and Watermen, be put out of their Callings, that the Porters may have the more Business; and every Shop-keeper for fear of displeasing their Servants (the Porters) must spend more, and gain less, than they might to humour them; for what is by any Man saved by this Expedient, must infallibly again be spent amongst the Tradesmen.

Nor can it be esteemed a wrong to any, none being compelled, prohibited, or restrained hereby, it being left free to all Persons either to imbrace the benefit of this Undertaking, or to employ Porters at their Pleasure; so that in good earnest the Porters Quarrel is against the whole Body of the Inhabitants in these Cities.

For if they employ Porters and not make use of this Contrivance, then is there no ground of Complaint; but if they find a Benefit in Conveying their Letters, &c. this way, and do not send the Porters, then is their Quarrel really against the Inhabitants, and not the Undertakers, who will have more cause to lament (if it miscarries) than the Porters.

But if it were granted prejudicial to the Porters (which is not allowed) yet the Lesser ought to yield to the Greater, and the Private to the Publick, seeing in all well-regulated Governments Publick Good was never forced to stoop to Private Convenience; for if so, Printing and Guns must have been Suppressed for Writing-Clerks and Fletchers, Navigable Rivers for Carriers, Publick Water-Works for the sake of Tankard-Bearers, and the Jack-Smiths of London put down to set up a new Generation of Turn-spitts; yet though these and other Laudable Inventions may damnify some sorts of Callings, they seldom hurt the Persons for we have hitherto seen they have found new ways of Living, for indeed they serve to heighten Industry, which is a great and Publick Good also. The same Objection (or greater) lies against the Post-Office General, and especially against the Pettit Officers Employed up and down the Town to Carry their Letters, they not being Porters nor some of them Freemen of London; so that whatsoever is said against this Undertaking reflects upon that Publick Office.

Some of the Conveniences of this Undertaking are as follows :

All Country Gentlemen, Traders, &c. can hereby give notice to Friends of their Arrival to Town. Lawyers and Clyents correspond about necessary Occurrences in Law.

Much time saved in Solicitation for Moneys.

Easy notice given of all meetings between men of Business at a remote distance.

Parents may converse with their absent Children at Boarding-Schools &c.

Children with their Parents to the Improvement of their Hands, Stile, and Learning.

Mathematick, Musick, Singing, Dancing-Masters and Teachers of Languages, to give notice of all disappointments to their Schollers.

The sick Patients frequently to Correspond with their Doctors and Apothecaries.

And many more profitable and pleasant uses may be made of this cheap way of Correspondence, too many to enumerate.

Therefore we shall leave all the Ingenious to find out wherein our Invention may be serviceable to them, and refer all people to be convinced by Time and Experience,

The True Touch-stone of all Designs.

L O N D O N,

Printed for the Undertakers, by Thomas James at the Printing-press in
Mincing-Lane April. M. DC. LXXX.

10/ (1) 1180 824596.

The Practical Method *Dockwra (W.) and others* OF THE PENNY-POST:

Being a Sheet very necessary for all Persons to have by them,
For their Information in the Regular Use of a Design so well Approved of, for quickening Correspondence, Promoting Trade and Publick Good.

With an Explanation of the following Stamps, for the Marking of all Letters.



Hereas *William Dockwra* of *London* Merchant, and the rest of the Undertakers, (who are all Natives and free Citizens of *London*) out of a sence of the great benefit which would accrew to the numerous Inhabitants of this Great City, and adjacent parts. (with hopes of some Reasonable Encouragement hereafter to Themselves) have lately set up a *New Invention* to convey Letters and Parcels, not exceeding One Pound Weight, and Ten Pounds in Value, to and from all Parts within the Contiguous Buildings of the Weekly Bills Mortality for a Penny a Letter or Parcel, where-by Correspondency, the Life of Trade and Busines, is and will be much facilitated; and having for above a year past, with great pains, and at some Thousands of Pounds Charge, reduced the same into Practice, which does manifestly appear to be for the Publick Good; yet as all new Designs at first usually meet with Opposition and great Discouragements, rarely (if at all) proving beneficial to the First Adventurers, so hath this also incurr'd the same Fate hitherto, especially from the Ignorant and Envious; but the Undertakers do hope that all People will be Convinced, by time and experience, which removes Prejudice and Errors, and renders all New Undertakings Compleat; for the Attainment of which good Ends, they have with great Industry, much expence of time, and at a Chargeable Rate, made such Alterations in their former Methods, as (they hope) will now give Universal satisfaction. And whereas there has been much Noise about the pretended Delays and Miscarriage of Letters going by the *Penny-Post*, which has risen through the great Mistake and Neglect of other People, as the Undertakers can sufficiently Evidence, by many Authentick Certificats which they have ready to produce, for the Justification of their due Performance in General, yet has there been so many Causeless and Unjust Reflections cast on so Useful an Undertaking, that they hold it highly Necessary to undeceive the World, by shewing some of the grounds from whence they spring, *viz.* Some Men suppose, and confidently Alledge their Letters are Miscarried, (or at least Delayed,) because they have not always an immediate Answer, when perhaps

the Party is not then at Leisure to write, or for private Reasons unwilling, or in the Country,) or removed to some other part of the Town, where the Messengers cannot upon the strictest enquiry Learn or find him out; besides some Men will not in many Cafes own the Receipt of Letters duly Delivered into their hands, or in their absence left for them at their Respective Houses or Lodgings, especially where they are Dun'd for Money, which they either will not or cannot Pay.

Some Complain of Delays of Letters, though in their Absence they were duly left for them, and through the careless Neglects of Servants, and others (to whom they were Delivered, have been mislaid and detain'd many Hours (sometimes Days) and to excuse their own fault, do Charge the Delay upon the *Penny-Post*, pretending the said Letters were but then brought; which the Stamps of the Hour will now detect.

It very often falls out that many Persons that have written, do not always put in or send their Letters to the *Penny-Post* at the same instant, but sometimes long after, an Hour, Two or Three, nay the Day after the Letters have been Dated, which upon the Delivery is Charged as a delay proceeding from the Office; which mischief People might easily Prevent, if they would please to be punctual and just, in setting the Day of the Week, and exact Hour of the Day under the Subscription agreeable to the time the same was really put in at the Receiving House.

As for Example,

}	Monid.	}	Wedn.
	Mor. 9. 10.		Aft. 3, 4, 5.

Also Letters that Men sometimes send by Porters to several Parts of the Town, after they have Idely (perhaps in an *Al-Hous*.) kept them some Hours in their Hands, and have Receiv'd 4 d. 6 d. or 12. d. for Carriage of them, have been put in by them to be Conveyed by the *Penny-Post*, (their Stamps of Delivery appearing upon them,) which has Caused much Reflection upon the Office, as if the delay proceeded from Neglects therein.

Others intrusting Boys and other Servants to Deliver their Letters at the Receiving Houses, are often deceived by their Destroying such Letters to keep the Money, though so trivial, and by their Loytering and long Delay before the same be left by them, time is lost, all which is unjustly Charged on the *Penny-Post*.

There are many other Causes of Delays of Letters, which yet ought not to be Charged on the Office, as when Directions are not so plainly Written (as they ought to be,) and when they are very ill Directed; Persons that write do frequently omit to mention the Trade and Sign, or near what Place, Lane, Church, Remarkable Publick House, or Tavern, &c. which is altogether Necessary every where; but especially in long Streets and large Places, such as are in this great City and Suburbs, as the *Strand*, *Covent-Garden*, *Thames-street*, *Wapping*, *South-mark*, &c. all which occasions not only Delays, but Expence of the Messengers time to seek out, and enquire for the Parties, but often times such Letters lie Undelivered, it being sometimes impossible by the most Acute Interpreter to Read, much less find out how, or where to Deliver them, and such short, imperfect and blind Directions, (as are, more or less, daily sent to go by the *Penny-Post*) beget them great Trouble, much Vexation; and unjust Disparagement.

Furthermore, Most Letters that are sent to Carriers and Stage-Coaches, are rejected at the *Inns* for want of two pence, which they require for Carriage, and often times abuse the Messengers that offer them; therefore all Persons are Desired to take Notice thereof, and either to settle the Receipt with Carriers, Coachmen or others, to take them without Money, (by agreement) or to send Two Pence for the future, and Endorse upon such Letters, Carriage Paid 2 d.

As for such as Object the Miscarriage of their Letters, because not come to hand, they are under the greatest mistake of all; for if they please to send or come to the Chief Office in *Lyme-street*, they shall find them there, remaining under their proper Alphabetical Letter, Endorsed with the True Reason why they could not be Delivered, though the Messenger has spent thrice the due time to find them out, which at last has not been possible to do, by Reason of such bad Directions, and for want of Money at *Inns*, as before mentioned; but these Letters lie ready for any that shall please to call or send for them by the *Penny-Post*, though every such Letter has caused Scandalous and unjust Reflections on the Undertaking, among thousands of Persons first and last, yet the *Penny-Post* has been altogether innocent.

Now for Remedy of divers of the forementioned Mischiefs, and to prevent the further spreading of mistaken Reports of the Delays and Miscarriage of Letters, which has not only tended greatly to the Prejudice of the *Penny-Post*; but to the hinderance of the Inhabitants from Embracing the great Benefit that they might have received, by the Use of this Conveyance.

The Undertakers have provided the Stamps aforesaid to Mark the Hour of the Day on all Letters when sent out from their Office to be Delivered, and all Persons are to expect their Letters within one Hour (little more or less from the time Marked thereon,) (excepting such Letters as are to the four Out-Towns, and the Remotest Parts,) which necessarily require a longer time of Conveyance, by these they may be able from time to time to discern, whether

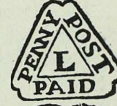


ther the delays that hereafter may happen, be really in the Office, or in their own Servants (or others,) with whom their Letters were left in due time.

This Mark signifies Eight of the Clock in the Morning.



The Second Mark is the Letter of the Chief Office in Lyme-street.



The Third Mark signifies Four a Clock in the Afternoon.



Each Office having its proper Letter, with an acknowledgment that the *Penny-Post* is paid, to prevent the giving of anything at the Delivery, and for the more Regular Dispatch and Conveyance, the said Undertakers have Directed the Hourly Collecting and Delivery of all Letters, from Seven in the Morning, till Nine at Night on Post Nights, allowing all Persons an Hour to send in their said Letters or Parcels, and the Office an Hour to Collect, bring in, Sort and Distribute the same; That is to say, all Letters and Parcels given or left at any *Penny-Post* House after Seven at Night, and before Eight in the Morning, are by the Office Collected, brought in, Sorted, and sent out soon after Nine. all Letters left betwixt the Hours of Eight and Nine, are brought in, sorted, and sent out by the Office soon after Ten, and so successively every Hour in the Day, till Eight of the Clock at Night.

All Letters left as before, betwixt Seven and Eight in the Evening, are Collected, brought in, sent out, and Distributed soon after Nine, (to the nearest, but not to the Remotest Parts, as *Blackwall, Redriff, &c.*) that Night, but no Letters left after Eight can be ascertained to be Delivered at all that Night, (except Post-Letters to *Lumbard-street,*) and indeed very late Delivery of Letters is a great disturbance to the Inhabitants, besides the great Toyle and Slavery that it procures to the poor Messengers.

Yet Letters coming too late at Night, shall be by Seven next Morning sent out, and Deliver'd by Eight, and sometimes sooner; where Note he that leaves his Letter immediatly after Seven, is Dispatcht no sooner than that Letter which is put in just before Eight, and if any Man slips the time, and defers the putting in his Letter, but a very little while after Eight, his Letter by these Rules must lie an Hour extraordinary, till Nine, before it can be Collected; so that for want of due consideration how Letters proceed, the unthinking People do misreckon, and expect their Letters should be run away with as soon as left, whereas by the very mistiming it, two Hours, nay three, in some Cases, may be lost through their own default, and those that be orderly left by these Methods, must have allowed some two, some three, some four hours and more before they can be Delivered. All Persons are therefore desired to contrive their Business so beforehand, as to allow reasonable time for Conveyance as aforesaid, and they are desired not to leave any Town Letters after Six a Clock at furthest in Winter, and Seven in Summer (on Saturday Nights especially) except Post-Letters, to the end that the many Poor Men who are Employed in this Service, may have a little time to provide for their Families against the Lords-Day, having no leisure all the week besides.

But all Letters to the four Towns of *Hackney, Islington, South-Newington and Lambeth,* and to the Remote Parts, must be left much earlier, or they will not be Delivered till next Morning, and if any Person in the four Towns do desire their Letters to be brought to their Houses, they may for another Penny be Accommodated; otherwise they will be left at the Receiving-Houses, to be sent for by their own Servants. And all People are hereby given to understand, that no Letters will be carried to any parts of the Weekly Bills of Mortality, further than the adjoining or contiguous Buildings, nor to any other Town than the Four above-mentioned.

Note that upon the Three Days at Christmas, the Two Days at Easter and Whitsuntide, and the Thirtieth of January, the Penny-Post does not go.

On all Post Nights, due Care is taken to call for, and Convey to the General Post-House in *Lumbard-street,* all Post-Letters, whether Foreign or Inland, left at any of the *Penny-Post* Receiving-Houses, at or before Nine of the Clock at Night. And since the Carriage of Town Letters doth not near Answer the necessary Charge required to support this Undertaking, the Undertakers do hope, that all Persons will so far Contribute to the Continuance of this Useful Design, as to send all their Post-Letters by this Conveyance, to the Post-House in *Lumbard-street,* which they do not Convey thither by Themselves or Servants, but if any Post-Letters be left without Money, that should pay before-hand; they must of necessity be Returned to the Office, and such as do send Money, are desired to Endorse the Postage Money upon their Letters.

And

And forasmuch, as there has been sundry Attempts to Cheat the Undertakers of many pounds, by false Endorsements of Money, and pretences of Loss of other things sent in small Parcels, which really never were sent at all, (an ungrateful return for the Undertakers kindness, such Persons having been shamefully Detected, and thereby the *Penny-Post* as throughly justified.

The Undertakers therefore, for some Expedient to prevent such Evil Designs against them, do Declare, that for the Future, They will not be Answerable for any Goods or Money, sent by them, but what is fast made up, and Sealed under such an Impression, as is plain to be seen, and that the Contents or the Value thereof, be Endors'd fairly to be Read on the out-side. To the end they may know with what they are Charg'd, (excepting such Parcels, as the Contents are open and visible) nor will they make good any Breaking, or Damage of Choice and Curious Things; nor Glasses or Liquid Matter sent by them, it being altogether unreasonable, that such things as are brittle or subject to damage should be carried 2, 3, or 4 mile at the Adventure of the Undertakers for one Penny, to be liable to Pay Five shillings or Five Pounds damage, but all Persons shall be sure to have the honest Endeavours of the Messengers, to preserve them, as much as in them lies from breaking, or any other hurt, and of safe Delivery thereof, breaking and damage only excepted. It is also hereby signified, that the Undertakers, by Packets or Parcels under a Pound Weight, do not intend to accept Things of extraordinary Bulk, as some have been so unreasonable often times to offer to send by this Conveyance.

These being some of the Practical Methods of the *Penny-Post*, all Persons are Desired to Consider how far they may be Applied, or made Useful to themselves in their Respective Occasions, that they may not through their own mistakes meet with Disappointment, especially in expecting to go in lesser time than it is Practical by these Methods, and thereby Causelessly Reflect on the *Penny-Post*; and it is hoped, that all Ingenious and Worthy Persons for the Future will be so kind to the Undertakers, (and good Friends to the Publick) as to Encourage them in their Honest and Useful Design, by all Lawful ways and means; and to Discourage all those that are so Envious and Brutish, as by Word or Deed to Oppose the good Progress thereof, and Discourage all that shall Attempt to intrude the like Practice, to the hinderance of the present Undertakers, who have first Erected this Publick Conveyance by their own great Hazard, Pains and Charge.

There shall be now hinted some of the Conveniences of this Useful Undertaking of the Penny-Post.

All Gentlemen, Country-Chapmen, &c. can give notice of their Arrival to Town.

Shopkeepers and Tradesmen send for what they want to their Workmen.

Much time saved in Sollicitation for Money.

Appointments of Meetings among men of Business.

Bills dispersed for Publication of any Concern.

Summons or Tickets convey'd to all parts.

Brewers Entries safely sent to the Excise-Office.

Lawyers and Clients mutually correspond.

Patients sent to Doctors, Apothecaries, &c. for what they want.

All the Town upon the River of *Thames* may send by their Watermen Letters to be delivered to the Receiving-Houses of the *Penny-Post*, near to most Plying-Places, from whence they will be dispersed according to their Directions, and Letters from *London* to be delivered to the Watermen, to send to the said Towns.

And the Poor Prisoners can now address to their Creditors or Benefactors for one Penny, and save 5 *d.* to buy them a Dinner.

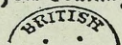
Many other Benefits are to be had by this Conveyance, which (though for brevity omitted) the Ingenious will find out.

The Intention of the Undertakers in this Sheet, being chiefly to present to the Publick the Nature of this thing in its Practice; but hereafter they do intend to publish a larger Satisfaction to all the Impartial; not doubting to demonstrate undeniably the Universal Utility of this Invention, and the Unreasonableness and Invalidity of all the Objections hitherto alledged against it.

Lastly, If any Person desire further Information, or would communicate any thing to the Office, if they please to write to the Chief House in *Lyme-street*, they shall be Answered to all reasonable and just Content, and their Letters shall be taken in free by the Receivers, provided they be thus Directed,

To Mr. Dockwra, and the rest of the Undertakers, at the Penny-Post House in Lyme-street.

London, Printed by George Larkin, in Scalding-Alley in the Poultry. 1681.

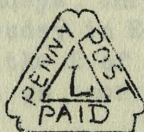


Item 4 in List.

The
PRACTICAL METHOD
Of Conveyance of
LETTERS, Returns of Answers, Replies, &c.
the same day within the Weekly Bills of Mortality;
Commonly called, The

P E N N Y - P O S T

Published for Plain Direction to all Persons, for the better
Maintainance of Mutual Correspondence, being the Life of
Trade and Business.



WHEREAS William Dockwra of London Merchant, and his Partners, have contrived and carried on for above two years past, the Publick and Useful Undertaking above-mentioned; by which means a very frequent, safe, cheap, and mutual Correspondence is maintained, to the great benefit of Trade and Commerce, which is of general Concernment, but of great Expence to the Undertakers to this day.

Yet have they met with many Oppositions and Discouragements, and have been long vexed with unreasonable and very expensive Law-suits, and have lately had new Actions of Ten thousand pounds a-piece brought against them by way of Penalties said to be forfeited by the Statutes of 12 & 15 Car. II that erects The General Post-Office, and gives to his Royal Highness that Princely Revenue; alledging that the Penny-Post is a prejudice to his General Post-Office, when all Mankind (that are ingenuous and impartial) are convinced that 'tis as well a great Improvement thereof, as 'tis a manifest good to all the Inhabitants of London and places adjacent: And those Acts of Parliament were intended for the benefit of the Subject, in providing them all possible conveniency in their Trade and Commerce; which Publick Good, that this Invention of the Penny-Post does greatly promote, is most evident, by improving Mutual Correspondence, the Soul of Trade and Business, which was the chief Design and true intent of the Law-makers. And therefore it cannot be imagined so great and generous a Prince as His Royal Highness, should be pleased with the suppressing this great Benefit, to the people; which will also tend to the ruin of the Undertakers, who have already expended some Thousands of pounds more than ever they received, besides their great pains and loss of so much time in the Managing this Publick Concern.

Now forasmuch as there is a Trial at Bar appointed this Michaelmass Term to decide this Cause, the Undertakers cannot doubt of being delivered from the hardships they groan under, when the true Merits of the Cause shall be thoroughly understood on a fair Hearing, by an honest understanding English Jury, and by the learned, upright and honourable Judges. And they hope that God in his providence will so bless the good intentions of the Undertakers with the peaceable Enjoyment of their own Chargeable Invention, that they may find encouragement for their real Service to the Publick: Innocency and Integrity being naturally confident of a Reward.

And therefore the subsequent lines (reducing the Penny-Post to practice) are published for the good of all: Viz.

1. That the Penny-Post conveys Letters, and Parcels that exceed not a Pound weight, or ten Pounds in value, for a Penny a piece, from any one place to another often-times in the same day, in London, Westminster, Southwark, Ratliff, and the contiguous Buildings of the weekly Bills of Mortality; every day except Sundays, Christmass-day and the three days next following, Monday and Tuesday in Easter-week, the like in Whitsun-week, the 30th of January, and the 2 of September. But beyond the weekly Bills of Mortality, it doth not go, nor never did.

2. For the conveniency of all, the Undertakers have appointed some hundreds of Shop-keepers and noted Coffee-houses about Town, called Penny-post-houses, for receipt of such letters as any one would send, where Messengers appointed for that purpose call hourly to fetch away whatsoever is there left. But the Undertakers pretend not to such quick dispatch in their carriage of Letters, as may be made by a special Messenger sent on purpose (as many by mistake have supposed) their Methods of Conveyance not permitting a quicker dispatch from one end of the Town to the other, than three or four hours, and at a shorter distance, two or three hours, accounting from the time that the Letter is first received by the Penny-post-house. But observe, that a Letter left just before the Messenger calls, will be delivered as directed, an hour sooner than one left just after he has called; for that must lie an hour longer before 'tis fetched away. Letters left at any Penny-post-house, within the contiguous Buildings, before 6 in the Evening, will certainly be conveyed to all places in Town the same Night; and those left before 7 in the Evening, will be conveyed to most places also; but for such as are left betwixt 7 and 8 at Night, altho many of them may be conveyed likewise as directed the same Night, yet some of them will lie in the hands of the Penny-Post, as also all that are left after 8, and not be delivered till next Morning: for tho they may be fetched away from the Receiving-house, by the Messenger that goes betwixt 9 and 10 on Post-nights to fetch the General-Post Letters; yet will they lie in the hands of the Penny-Post all Night.

3. A Penny (ready changed) must be left with every Letter or Parcel, when put into the Penny-Post-house, and nothing will be demanded or taken, if offered, by the Messenger that delivers it, Penny-Post paid being stampt on every Letter and Parcel, according to the Triangular Form on the front of this Sheet.

4. Altho the Undertakers do warrant the safe Conveyance of any Parcel that exceeds not Ten Pounds in value, yet will they not be obliged to give Satisfaction for any things that are inclosed, unless well wrapp'd up either in strong Paper, or otherwise securely inclosed, and fast sealed up with hard Wax, under the Impression of some remarkable Seal (not a Thimble, a Piece of Money, &c.) in such sort, that what is inclosed therein may not drop out, nor so much as be exposed to view, without breaking open either the Seal or Wrapper; and if wrapt up in Paper and ty'd, the ends be sealed as well as

the middle, without which such parcels are seldom secure: because otherwise, either the person that brings it to the Penny-Post-house, or the person to whom the Penny-Post Messenger delivers it in the absence of the Party whom 'tis for, may open the Parcel and take out part of what is inclosed, wrapping it up again, and so deliver it, and yet the Penny-Post be chargeable therewith; and the true Value also indorsed in Words at length, and not in Figures. Nor will they make Satisfaction for the breaking of Glass-bottles, or other brittle things in the Carriage, or for wetting or spoiling any other thing that is subject to Damage in the Conveyance; it being unreasonable, that for a Penny a-piece they should convey things so troublesom and hazardous in the Carriage, and yet be liable to pay the Damage of breaking or spoiling into the Bargain: but if such things are sent, they shall be conveyed as free from Damage, as the crowding them in a Bag amongst Letters and other Parcels can well admit. But altho the Undertakers have published, that they will carry Parcels not exceeding a Pound Weight; yet 'twas never intended by them to convey Parcels of very great Bulk (tho under a Pound Weight) such as great Band-boxes, and other bulky Luggage which is daily imposed upon them; it being impractical for the Penny-Post to convey such Parcels, a few whereof make a Burthen.

5. For the convenience of such as send Letters to the Post-Office-general in Lombard-street, the Messengers do call at the Penny-Post-houses betwixt 9 and 10 within the contiguous Buildings every Post-night, to fetch away the Post Letters. And whereas miscarriages have many times hapned, of such Letters as have been intrusted to Bell-men, and other obscure persons (not imployed by the General-Post) to convey to the Post-office in Lombard-street, and consequently the persons concerned have met with great disappointments: all Letters conveyed thither by the Penny-Post, are Registered at the chief Office in Lime-street, the Clerks that so registers and conveys them being ready to attest upon Oath, the safe delivery of every Letter. But such as come inclosed in Covers, and directed to the Post-office-general in Lombard-street, cannot be Registered, because inclosed, and consequently the Delivery of them cannot be attested on Oath.

Note, That the Undertakers, to support this useful Design of conveying Letters and Parcels for a Penny a piece, being out of Purse some thousands of Pounds to accommodate the Publick; and the Benefit of Town-Letters coming short of a Reimbursement, much more of a Recompence for their Pains, Trouble and Hazard: 'Tis hoped, that all persons who pay for carrying their letters to Lombard-street, will send them thither by the Penny-Post, the better to inable the Undertakers to uphold and continue on foot, this chargeable Design of sending Letters to and fro here in Town. And such as do send money to pay for the Postage of Letters into the Country, are desired to indorse how much they send.

AS 'TIS THE PRAVITY OF MAN'S CORRUPT NATURE TO FIND FAULT, SO HAS THE PENNY-POST BUT TOO TOO MUCH BEEN MADE THE SUBJECT MATTER THEREOF; CAUSELESS COMPLAINTS BEING FREQUENTLY MADE, TO THE PREJUDICE OF THE UNDERTAKING.

Complaints are of Two Kinds.

1. Delays of Letters, lying long before they come to hand.
2. Miscarriage of them, never coming to hand at all.

Delays of Letters happen, 1. Either before they are put into the hands of the Penny-Post. 2. Whilst in the hands of the Penny-Post. Or, 3. After the Penny-Post has delivered them.

1. By sending them to the Penny-Post-house by the hand of a Servant, Child, or some other heedless person, who carelessly delay the Letters some hours, or it may be days, before they are put in. Also, oft-times Porters, who are sent as special Messengers, with Letters, having through drunkenness or other hinderances delayed them so long in hand, that they are ashamed to deliver them themselves; sometimes on purpose to scandalize the Undertaking (to which they have so great a prejudice) do detain Letters long in hand, and then put them into the Penny-Post.

2. Delays are occasioned very often, by means of bad Directions; sometimes directing to a Street, of which there are divers of the same name, without mentioning in what part of the Town the Street lies; and consequently, the Letter tost up and down from one part of the Town to the other, before the right Street be found out. Sometimes directing to one Sign for another, nay sometimes directing to one Street for another, and very often the Direction so bad, as not possible to be read or understood; sometimes directing to such a person in such a Street, without mentioning Christian Name, Trade, Sign, or in what part of the Street, and whether House-keeper, Lodger or Servant; by which means, there being divers of one Name in a Street, and no distinction which of them the Letter is for: 'tis delivered, it may be, into all their hands one after another, and broke open to boot, without which neither of them could tell whether 'twas for them or not. Many Letters having thus been opened, and none of those into whose hands they come, owning them, they are in course returned to the Penny-post-house: and many others through careless and slight sealing, in the very carriage among other Letters in the Bag, have opened of themselves; from whence, the Adversaries of the Penny-Post have taken occasion to spread a Scandal on the management thereof, in that very particular, wherein the Undertakers are most sacredly careful to discharge the Trust reposed in them, as being sensible 'tis highly their interest so to do.

3. Delays often happen, after the Penny-Post Messengers have made a true delivery: for the person to whom the Letter is directed being not in the way when the Messenger comes with it, 'tis left with some one of the House, who too too often, through careless neglect, layes the Letter by, and so forgets to deliver it till it may be some hours, or sometimes a day or more after 'tis so left; and then to excuse their own neglect, pretend that 'tis but just then come to hand, whereupon the Penny-Post is instantly clamoured against, as the Author of the delay. This being so great and growing a mischief, the Undertakers thought it worth their while to be at the charge of

detecting it, the better to distinguish those Neglects from those of their own Messengers. To which end, the hour of the day at which the Letter is sent out for delivery, is stampt on the back-side thereof, Mor. for Morning, Af. for Afternoon in the form of the Stamps on the Title Page of this Paper; whereby may readily be discovered, at or very near what time of the day the Penny Post Messenger brought it. For if he performs his duty as he ought, the Letter will for the most part be delivered within half an hour or an hour, but never exceeds an hour and a half after 'tis so stampt.

Moreover, if any Parcels are put into the Penny-Post, and not very fast made up, and sealed with some remarkable Impression for security; they will be left at the Penny-Post-house some dayes, before fetcht away, purposely to oblige all that send such things for the future, to inclose them as they ought to be.

Miscarriages also happen, either, 1. before the Letters are put into the hands of the Penny-Post. 2. Whilst in the hands of the Penny-Post. Or, 3. after the delivery of them.

1. By sending the Letter to the Penny-Post-house by some brutish Servant, or else by some silly Child, who for the sake of the Farthings, destroy the Letter.

2. The miscarriages of Letters sometimes happen whilst in the hands of the Penny-Post; yet never by their neglect, but either by means of such ill-written Superscriptions as are not to be read, or such imperfect Directions by which the person is not to be found, or else the Party dead, or gone not known whither, and nobody will take it in; and not seldom the person to whom 'tis directed, knowing (by the hand) that it comes from some one he cares not to hear from, will not receive it from the hands of the Penny-Post Messenger, but rejects it. In all such cases, the Letters are ever returned to the chief Penny-Post-house in Lime-street, where the Parties concerned may find them. And for the more clear conviction of those that write such very bad Directions, many Hundreds of such Letters lie at the said chief Penny-Post-house in Lime-street, as standing Records, testifying that the Writers of those Letters, and not the Penny-Post, are only chargeable with the Miscarriages of them, it being impossible to deliver them.

3. Miscarriages sometimes happen by means of some careless Servant, or other negligent person, who in the absence of the Party whom the Letter is for, receiving it from the hands of the Penny-Post Messenger, laies it by, and quite forgets the Letter or the place where 'twas laid, and so it is lost; or else, if after it has lain by a day or two, it be recalled to mind, yet this negligent person being ashamed (after so long a delay) to produce it, commits a second evil to prevent a detection of the first, and so destroys it.

Letters, tho really delivered, are yet sometimes said to miscarry, because no Answers are returned. But the reason why Answers come not, are manifold: 1. It very often happens, that the Party written to will not take the trouble of writing an Answer, tho the Party who sent the Letter expects it. 2. When a Letter imports a Dunn for Money, and the person so indebted either not able or willing to pay, not only returns no Answer, but when afterwards charged therewith, even denies the very receipt of such Letter, as has been often detected for justification of the Penny-Post: Or, when a Letter is sent to require anything to be done, that the person so sent to, cannot or will not perform, and yet in prudence not absolutely deny the doing of it, either pretends the Letter came too late, or else confidently disowns the receipt of any such at all, tho in truth he had it in due time. And thus disingenuously do too too many traduce the Penny-Post with pretended Delays and Miscarriages, only to cloak thir own ill Principles and Practices.

Notwithstanding Delays and Miscarriages are thus occasioned, yet is the Penny-Post presently censured, as the Author of them, to the great detriment of the Undertaking: which to prevent, 'tis desired that all who find themselves so disappointed in their Correspondencies, would as well out of justice to the Undertakers, as for their own satisfaction, first examine well whether their Letters were not false dated, or the Superscriptions not to be read, or else the Directions faulty. Moreover, whether there was no neglect in the person that carried them to the Penny-Post-house, or in the person to whom the Penny-Post-messenger delivered them; or whether the Party to whom directed, might not out of design disown the receipt: and if after all it appear, that none of them are in the fault, then, and not before, ought the Penny-Post to be chargeable therewith.

And thus, upon a strict enquiry, will the Clamours that are daily made of the Delays and Miscarriages of the Penny-Post, be found to be without any just ground. Nor indeed is it the interest of any one that finds himself accommodated by the Penny-Post, to permit a Complaint of Delay or Miscarriage to reach the ear of any other than the Parties concerned, or the Undertakers, in order to detect and redress it. For, since the Undertaking must either stand or fall, by the good or ill Opinion the World has of it, how imprudent then is it for any one that finds a Benefit thereby, by open Clamours to bereave it of that Reputation, that can only support it for his own Advantage; every Complaint that reaches the Ears of the Vulgar, being as a Dagger to stab its Reputation to the very heart. Besides, open Clamours can never repair such Parties damage (if any he has sustained) but on the contrary, may prove hurtful to himself, by discouraging others from sending by this Conveyance, and consequently by depriving it of a Support, even ruin the Undertaking, which otherwise would daily more and more improve, to the unspeakable benefit and advantage of himself, as well as of the Publick.

Note, All Persons, in their Superscriptions of Letters, are desired to write the Christian Names, Sign, Trade or Profession (if any) and in what part of the Street, or near what noted Lane, Court, Alley, Church, Tavern; &c. Also with heed and care to write the Name of the Person and Street very legible, and the Street to be written by itself at the bottom;

and if the Party be a Lodger, to say, Lodging at such a House; if a Servant, to say, at his or her Masters House, to denote whether Lodger or Servant. All which is so essentially necessary for the more ready Delivery of Letters, that the doing thereof can never sufficiently be inculcated. 'Tis therefore expected, that all Persons, as well for their own, as the Undertakers conveniency, would write the Directions so plain and intelligible, as easily to be read, and readily delivered.

THERE SHALL NOW BE HINTED SOME OF THE CONVENIENCIES OF THIS
USEFUL UNDERTAKING OF THE PENNY - POST.

All Gentlemen, Countrey-Chapmen, &c. can presently give Notice of their Arrival to Town.

Shop-keepers and Trades-men send for what they want to their Work-men. Much time saved in sollicitation for Money.

Appointments made among Men of Business.

Bills disperst for Publication of any Concern.

Summons or Tickets conveyed to all Parts.

Brewers Entries safely sent to the Excise-Office.

Lawyers and Clients mutually correspond.

Patients send to Doctors, Apothecaries, &c. for what they want.

And the poor Prisoners can now address to their Creditors or Benefactors for One Penny, and save five Pence (out of the former Charge to a Porter) which will pay for a good Dinner.

Many other Conveniencies are to be had by this Conveyance, which (tho for brevities sake are omitted) the Ingenious will find out; whereby may be undeniably demonstrated, the universal Utility of this Invention, and the unreasonableness and invalidity of all the Objections hitherto alledged against it.

It is become a general wonder among the most Intelligent and Men of Business, That Mr. Dockwra (or any other) should be thus sued for Carrying and Re-carrying Letters about London and other Neighbouring Places, when to this day the General Post has not settled any thing of that nature for the conveniency of the Inhabitants in any one place round this City nearer than a Stage of 9 or 10 mile; and yet the Informant is for Penalties of 5^l a Letter and 100^l a Week for doing that good to the Publick which the General Post Office never did. And by this Invention has so added to the Income of the Post Office, that it was never before so high as since the Penny-Post was set up; that Revenue being now risen from 21500^l to above 50000^l per annum, though the poor Undertakers of the Penny-Post have lost above 1000^l per Annum out of purse to serve the Publick. But they hope they shall be at quiet in the possession of their own Invention, and that they may be countenanced to carry on the Practice of the Penny-Post whereby they may be enabled to reap the Fruits of their Labour (and great Charge) as a Reward for setting up an Undertaking Manifested to be so useful to all Men, by full Experience,

The True Touch-stone of all Designs.

Note, Upon any Delay or Miscarriage of a Letter, if after such strict inquiry made as aforesaid, there be just ground to charge it on the Penny-Post; 'tis desired that the Party concerned would (by a Line or two) give the Undertakers an account how the Letter was directed, who sent it, at what Penny-Post-house it was left, also what day and hour if possible, and the Undertakers, after a strict inquiry into the matter of fact, will return a satisfactory Answer to the said Complaint. And whosoever has occasion, either on this or any other account, to write to the Undertakers; if left at any Penny-Post-House, it will go free and come safe to hand if thus directed,

TO MR. WILLIAM DOCKWRA AND THE REST OF THE UNDERTAKERS,
AT THE PENNY-POST-HOUSE IN LIME-STREET.

Item 3 in List.

COPY OF HANDBILL OF 1681 CONCERNING DOCKWRA'S POST

By the P E N N Y P O S T, Lyme-street

The Undertakers having at a vast Charge engaged in a very difficult and hazardous Design, for the Accommodation of the City and parts adjacent, in the speedy and safe conveyance of all Letters as well Post Letters to Lombard Street, as Town Letters to other places, for One Penny a Letter or Pacquet; and though some Lovers of Ingenious Designs for Publick Good, to encourage this, have willingly intrusted them with the Carriage of their Post Letters to the Post Office General, on Post Nights, yet some persons through neglect of this useful Contrivance, have preferred the Bell-man and other obscure persons, rather than the use of the Penny Post, on whom they might more confidently rely, than on any other Conveyance whatsoever; they keeping an Exact Registry of all Post Letters, attested under the hand of the Conveyer: whereby they are always ready to vouch the due Delivery thereof. And that seeing the Income arising from the carriage of Town Letters doth not near answer the Charge the Undertakers are at, They do hope all Ingenious Persons will for their future Encouragement, intrust their Receiving Houses with the Receipt of their Post Letters Inland or Foreign, whence they shall be carefully called for, till between the hours of Nine and Ten at Night, and safely conveyed to the Post Office General,

For O N E P E N N Y a Letter or Pacquet.

And any person writing divers Letters, and putting them under one Cover, directed to the Post Office General in Lombard street, the same shall be conveyed thither for One Penny; and for such Post Letters as pay here, the Money is desired to be Endorsed on such Letters.

AN
ADVERTISEMENT
On the behalf of
William Dockwra, Merch^t.
Concerning the
PENNY-POST.

W Hereas the said *Dockwra* did above Nine Years since at his Sole Charge, first set up, that New and Useful *Invention* of the *Penny-Post*, so univerſally approved, and well known to be a Great and Publick good. He was moſt unjuſtly deprived thereof, by the Power of the late King *James*, when Duke of York, under Colour of Law, and kept out of Poſſeſſion in the late Reigns, without any manner of Reparation to this Day; as appears more fully by his Cafe lately Printed.

Therefore finding himſelf obliged, for Vindication of his juſt rights, and in order to the Reparation of his great damages; to make Addreſs to the Parliament for Relief, he did accordingly exhibit his humble Petition, to the Honourable Houſe of Commons, and upon Reading of the ſame there, it was Unanimouſly refer'd to the *Committee* of the whole *Houſe*, for conſidering the Publick Revenue.

Soon after, ſome Unnamed Perſon, did Print, and Diſperſe a Paper, which he call'd; *An answer to Mr. Dockwra's Cafe concerning the Penny-Post*: wherein, by citing Part only of the *Post-Office Statute*, and aſſerting ſeveral untruths, and by framing a Tryſling Parallel, between the *General* and *Penny-Post* (but leaving out the Material, and Eſſential Parts of the Practice, wherein they are utterly diſagreeable and inconſiſtent) he put the whole Cafe in a Falſe Light, and as much as in him lay, uſed his Talent towards the juſtifying of thoſe Illegal and Arbitrary Proceedings, under which the ſaid *Dockwra* with his Family of a Wife, and Eight Children, have been ſo many Years oppreſſed.

The Deſign of which Paper, beſpeaking the Author; to be a Man of as little Senſe, as good Principles. The ſaid *Dockwra* is well ſatisfied the preſent Governour of the *General-Post Office*, had no hand therein; as knowing his Abilities too great, and (believing his Ingenuity and Juſtice) to be far above thoughts ſo low, and attempts ſo malicious.

Now whereas the ſaid *Dockwra*, had prepared a *Reply* to that pretended *Answer*, which he had by him ready to waſh off the Varniſh of that Officious Undertaker, and ſolidly to Evince to the Parliament his Legal Title to this *New Invention* (never known or practiſed in the World before) and to expoſe the wicked Practices that were made uſe of to Divelt him thereof, (after he had ſpent ſo many Years time, and ſo many Thouſand Pounds juſt to bring the *Penny-Post* to Perfection) and having Dutifully attended the *Houſe of Commons* to that End. The Parliament adjourned, before the Revenue was ſettled; ſo that the ſaid *Dockwra's* Cafe came not on to a Hearing this Seſſion, for which Reaſon, he did not think fit to Print his *Reply*.

(Aug: 20. - 89.)

But finding ſince the Adjournment of the Parliament, the ſame ſort of Papers have been thrown into *Coffee-houſes* and other Places, and Care taken, Induſtriouſly to ſpread falſe reports about Town, concerning the Iſſue of the ſaid *Dockwra's* Petition, which may beget undue Impreſſions.

The ſaid *Dockwra* thinks it Incumbent upon him, to Adverſe the Publick hereby, that he has not met with any ſort of Diſcouragement from the Parliament in his Application to them for Relief: But on the contrary, hath found an Honourable and Univerſal Countenance therein, and doubts not (at the next meeting of the Parliament) but that he ſhall receive from their great Wiſdom and Juſtice, ſuch Generous Reparation for his Sufferings, and ſuch due Reward for the Publick Service he hath done his Country; as will be not only to his intire ſatisfaction, but to their *Eternal Honour*.

London Printed Auguſt 26. - Lxxxix.

CONTEMPORARY PRESS NOTICES OF DOCKWRA'S PENNY POST, 1680

By the Editor.

Supplementing Mr. Dendy Marshall's Notes on Dockwra Pamphlets and Broad-sides, and the reproductions included in this issue of the Bulletin, the following press notices and advertisements are taken from two contemporary news-sheets, original copies of which are in my possession. In comparing the notices in the two sheets (each consists of a single folio sheet printed both sides) it will be noted that whilst "Mercurius Civicus" favoured the undertaking, its rival, "The Currant Intelligence", gave unstinted support to the charge that Dockwra's Penny Post was part of a Popish plot!

The following facts emerge from these notices in the press: (a) that the earliest recorded mention of Dockwra's project appeared in "Mercurius Civicus" on March 22, 1679/80 (under the old Calendar the new year commenced on March 25). (b) According to the same paper, Dr. Hugh Chamberlain was associated with Dockwra in starting the post, but "The Currant Intelligence" mentions the name of Mr. Henry Nevill, alias Pain, in this connection. (c) The same paper gives Saturday, March 27, as the date when the offices of the Penny Post were opened (Joyce, in his History of the Post Office, mentions April 1 as the date). (d) By the advertisement in "Mercurius Civicus" on April 6, it appears that Coffee Houses were used for the receipt of letters and packets intended for the Penny Post. (e) That Time Tables were posted up and later torn down by London porters. (f) That the names of the editors of the respective news-sheets were: "Mercurius Civicus", Nathaniel Thompson; "Currant Intelligence", John Smith. Both the papers appear to have been started about the year 1680.

In addition to the Broad-sides listed by Mr. Dendy Marshall, mention should be made of the notices of the Penny Post which appeared a year later (1681) in "The True Protestant Mercury" and De Laune's "Present State of London", both of which notices were accompanied by blocks illustrating the Penny Post Paid stamp used at the Chief Office (Dockwra's own house) in Lyme Street and the morning and afternoon time stamps which had been introduced. As these notices were described in Bulletin No.2 (1937), there is no need to go into details here.

Here are the Notices:

From MERCURIUS CIVICUS: or, A True Account of Affairs both FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Monday, 22 March, 1679: (The first issue of this news-sheet)

We are informed some ingenious persons and good Citizens, for the benefit of the City and Suburbs in point of Charge and quick conveyance of Notes and Letters, have projected a method for doing the same throughout for 1d a Letter one with another, further or nearer, which may be termed a Foot-post, whereof our next may give you a more particular account.

(This is the earliest recorded notice of William Dockwra's projected post.)

in the rest, Viz.

From Westminster through the Strand and St. Paul's Church-yard, through Cheapside and Cornhil to Aldgate. From Ratcliff-cross through the Highway to Little Tower-Hill. And from Ratcliff-cross the Lower way through Shadwell and Wapping to the Hermitage, and so through St. Katharines to the Iron-gate. From St. Georges Church in Southwark to London-bridge; Then from the Bridge, through Grace-Church-street to Shore-ditch Church. Also from St. Giles's through Holborn to the Entrance of Cheapside. And lastly in Chancery-lane.

And all persons, who leave their Letters at any of the places abovesaid, may be sure to have them speedily dispatch'd for

ONE PENY

And the Undertakers do intend, in a few days, to settle many more places of Receipt for the accommodation of other parts of both Cities and Suburbs.

Wednesday, April 14, 1680.

From the Undertakers of the PENY Post.

Whereas in Smith's Intelligence of Saturday last, there was an account of the delay of a Letter, directed to himself, and a Peny given by him for it at the delivery (who as well as any man knew he needed not) which Advertisement is observed to be maliciously closed, with reflection on the Undertakers of that good design

The said Undertakers do own the fault, and that the same was done by the unfaithfulness of a Servant, who was recommended to them for an honest man, whom they have turned out of their Service, and do desire Mr. Smith to find him out another employ, fearing he might be accessory to his loss of this, by tempting him to take a Peny, for it's certain he did not deny to deliver the Letter without a Peny. And after all this great damage sustained by Mr. Smith, he might have been redressed at a much cheaper rate, than his Printing such an Invective Narrative thereof, if he had applyed himself to the Undertakers.

Yet notwithstanding his evil design by his publication, it hath done the Undertakers a double kindness; first by detecting a dishonest Servant, whom they have discarded; and secondly himself owning the usefulness thereof, when settled, for 5d. out of 6d. being saved, may be no harm to him, especially to distribute amongst the Porters (whose Advocate he is) or to give to the poor.

And further, the Undertakers do hope this discovery will prevent all People for the future, to give any thing on receipt of Letters; and they do declare, that if any of their Messengers shall dare to exact any thing on delivery of a Letter, on complaint thereof they will forthwith discharge the offender. and make all reasonable satisfaction to the party grieved.

Tuesday, April 27, 1680.

For as much as the Design of the penny Post Letters is not thoroughly understood, 'tis thought convenient to give this following Account.

They will receive all Letters at their several receiving Houses from 7 in the morning till 9 at night; but not after, unless the next morning will serve turn for their delivery.

Tuesday, March 30, to Saturday, April 3.

London, April 2.

(Notice of March 23-27 repeated with following addition)

This having been lately contradicted in Thompsons Domestick Intelligence, and made as if Dr. Oates were so far from disliking the undertaking, that he owned the same to be very convenient. In answer to which, the author of the said Intelligence, though he doth not pretend to prove, that the Dr. did direct the printing of the above said relation, yet he doth privately affirm, that he spoke those words in White-hall, in the hearing of his own father, and at least 20 Gentlemen more, which he undertakes to prove with much less difficulty, than these Gentlemen projectors can make this project practicable, or those others that we have formerly heard of, sailing against the wind, or paying debts without money

(In another paragraph in this issue, Mr. Smith, for Currant Intelligence is now designated Smith's, brings other charges against Mr. Thompson, proprietor of Mercurius Civicus, the rival Intelligence.)

Tuesday, April 6 to Saturday, April 10.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

A Letter delivered at Garraways Coffee-house on the 7. instant, at one in the afternoone to be sent by the penny Post, and directed to John Smith (Author of this Intelligence) in great Queen-street, was not delivered till the next day at 5 afternoone; and though there was a penny paid to Mrs. Garroway at the delivery of the same, yet the messenger that brought it to him demanded two pence more, and would not part with it till he had received a penny. This we think fit to publish to satisfie the world, of the great expedition as well as of the exaction of this pretended penny Post.

(The above is repeated in issue April 13 to 17.)

SOME SCOTTISH SHIP LETTER STAMPS

According to the Catalogue of Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire, the earliest Scottish Ship Letter Stamp was put on in Edinburgh in 1770. From then on there have been a variety of types from various ports, very few of which conform to the general type used in England. The Head Office in Edinburgh would have its own ideas and some may even have been made locally with permission from Headquarters.

There was not perhaps so much need for these marks to be put on in Scotland, but the most used ports would have as expected, the greatest number, e.g. Greenock and Leith. The others have one or at the most two, with the exception of Port Glasgow which has four.

By Act of Parliament ships had to land their mails at the first port at which they touched, and, owing to stress of weather and other circumstances, ships put into small ports where otherwise they might not have gone and these had to have their hand-stamps. Some only used their town stamp and wrote in the words "Ship Letter" by hand, e.g. Irvine and Bowmore.

It is difficult to date the hand-stamps as they were used so little that they lasted a long time, with the result that you find a very early type at a very late date. Troon and Peterhead are good examples of this. Aberdeen too, I believe, has the same type still in use, though I have never seen one. Greenock, too, used the unframed type from 1794 to 1852. It has been said that Port Glasgow introduced the Crown Type with G.R. during the war with France 1808 to 1815, but why that should be so, I do not know. Dundee has the same mark used in 1833.

Leith types are practically always struck in green with an occasional blue, Greenock also has blue and with Edinburgh the only one to have red. All the others are in black. The examples shown on accompanying plate are from my own collection. Others mentioned in accompanying Checklist are illustrated in "Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire", Second Edition, page 150. Mr. Auckland (Glasgow) has also a number and confirms the dates when they were used.

I hope in the next edition of H.P.S. Mr. Lowe will illustrate one or two more types, as the dated type and Aberdeen are quite distinct. I thought Aberdeen was an isolated example, but I have discovered the same in Liverpool, so to my mind worthy of illustration.

If anyone has any other type of Scottish Ship Letters in their collection I would be delighted to hear of same, as it is only by co-operation that a comprehensive collection can be built up.

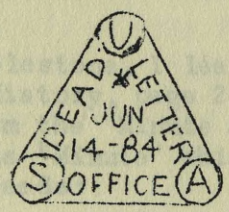
Some Scottish Ship Letter Stamps - 2

CHECK LIST OF SCOTTISH SHIP LETTER STAMPS

<u>Type</u>	<u>Illus</u> <u>Ref. H.P.S.</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Used at</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Ship with Town	p.150 247, 251	Black		Greenock. Port Askaig	1788 1812
2. Port Ship Lre	p.150 246,248,250	Red Black		Pt.Glasgow Edinburgh, Greenock Cambelton, Stranraer	1770- 1822
3. Oval with Crown	p.150 S.A.	Red Black	-	Greenock Aberdeen	1801- 1819
3a. Oval with Crown G.R.	p.150 253	Black	-	Pt.Glasgow Dundee	1820- 1841
4. Port Ship Letter	p.20 S.C.	Black Green Blue	Various	Greenock, Leith Pt.Glasgow	1794- 1852
4a. Ship Letter Port	p.20 S.D.	Black		Greenock	1826
5. Framed	p.150 S.D.252	Black Green	Various	Greenock, Leith Montrose, Pt.Glasgow Rothesay, Troon, Peterhead.	1815- 1912
5a. Framed with date between		Black Green	Various	Greenock Glasgow Leith.	1837- 1845

The Secretary of Uniform Postage produced several articles on the subject; but with one exception they all, including my own, decided against the pre-payment of the postage was made compulsory on December 31st 1838. The exception was Mr. A. J. Doole's writing in "Golden's Weekly". Mr. Doole stated that the letters had to be pre-paid.

In writing to Mr. Doole I asked him to send me the source of information was Handy's History of the Post Office, and Doole's notes, the letter having been taken from the collection of the Treasury November 12th 1838. I have a copy of the letter which came from the collection of the late Mr. Doole.



MINUTE OF THE MEETING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE

"A MODERN DOCKWRA TYPE"

There are several triangular stamps of one kind and another in use today, or that have been in use in comparatively recent years. Here is an illustration of a type that has been shown to me by Mr. H.D.Helliwell, and which closely resembles the form of the old handstruck "Dockwra Type". The letters in the corners, "U" "S" "A", signify the country of origin, and the dates of the three examples shown to me are 1884, 1900, 1900. All are on letters from Yorkshire to the United States and bear postal markings of various types denoting that the postal authorities had been unable to trace the addressee, and after several attempts the letters reached the Dead Letter Office, and were marked "Unclaimed". The 1884 cover bears in addition to four date stamps, "Paid All", "Advertised May 14", "Unclaimed", "Have Your Mail Addressed to Street and Number".

FOSTER W. BOND.

2. All single postage stamps between which the United Kingdom, which now exceed 10, shall be required to be used; inferior rates to remain undisturbed, but the letters to be charged by weight. Additional charges to which general post letters are now liable if posted or delivered beyond the limits of the general post free delivery, as also the additional half-penny on Scotch letters, and the additional penny for passing the Canal and Conway bridges, to remain.

3. All letters and packets exceeding the weight of one ounce to be pre-paid and delivered in at the window - if not so pre-paid and delivered, to be charged double postage.

THE PREPAYMENT OF THE UNIFORM FOURPENNY POSTAGE

The Centenary of Uniform Fourpenny Postage produced several articles on the subject; but with one exception they all, including my own, avoided saying if pre-payment of the postage was made compulsory on December 5th 1839. The exception was Mr. A.J. Ecclestone writing in "Godden's Gazette". Mr. Ecclestone stated that the letters had to be pre-paid.

In writing to Mr. Ecclestone, I learned from him that his source of information was Hendy's History, page 21, and Daniel's notes, the latter having been taken from the "Minute of the Treasury November 12th 1839". I have a copy of this "Minute" which came from the collection of the late J.H. Daniels. It reads:

XXI. - MINUTE OF THE TREASURY FOR THE REGULATION OF THE
POSTAGE 12th November, 1839.

"My lords read the act, 2d and 3d Vict., cap.52, for the further regulation of the duties on postage until the 5th October, 1840.

etc. etc. etc.

..... Their lordships are pleased to direct that all letters passed on or after the 5th December next shall be subject to the following regulations:-

General post letters shall be charged by weight as follows-

- I. Letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, one postage.
- Do. 1 ounce, two postages.
- Do. 2 ounces, four postages.
- Do. 3 ounces, six postages.

and so on, adding two postages for every ounce up to 16 ounces, beyond which no packet subject to postage shall be received.

2. All single postage rates between places within the United Kingdom, which now exceed 4d., shall be reduced to that sum; inferior rates to remain undisturbed, but the letters to be charged by weight. Additional charges to which general post letters are now liable if posted or delivered beyond the limits of the general post free delivery, as also the additional half-penny on Scotch letters, and the additional penny for passing the Menai and Conway bridges, to cease.

3. All letters and packets exceeding the weight of one ounce to be pre-paid and delivered in at the window - if not so pre-paid and delivered, to be charged double postage."

Then follow some paragraphs with regard to the regulations concerning foreign letters, etc.

It seems strange that the Treasury Warrant of November 22nd 1839 reproduced in the January Bulletin does not mention the prepayment condition. I have not seen a letter of the period concerned charged at double postage, but have one in which the writer states that he is sending enclosures so that the recipient shall have good value for his fourpence. I also have some pre-paid letters of this fourpenny postage period on which in each instance the manuscript "4" is in red.

So the evidence at present seems to indicate that pre-payment was not compulsory until January 10th 1840 unless the letter or packet weighed over an ounce.

FOSTER W. BOND.

FIRST ATLANTIC MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. John Haskell Kemble has contributed to "The Mariner's Mirror", a quarterly journal published by the Cambridge Press, the first part of a series of articles under the title of "England's First Atlantic Mail Line". Mr. Kemble has made a close study of the early records of the British Post Office Packet Service, many of which are in the Record Room of the General Post Office in London. He gives chapter and verse of the records for his statements, which is most helpful to the student of postal history. This first part of Mr. Kemble's own study introduces the reader to Edmund Dummer, Surveyor General of the Navy at the beginning of the 18th century, and operator of the mail packets between Falmouth, Corunna and Lisbon. Dummer was in many ways the outstanding personality of the packet service and his record makes interesting reading. The part that Cotton and Frankland played in their office of Postmasters General is also described in what is a most valuable piece of historical research. I shall look forward to further contributions on the subject from Mr. Kemble.

FREDERICK JOHN MELVILLE.

Tributes from a few of his many Friends.

In the death of Frederick John Melville the Stamp world has lost its greatest propagandist. By the efforts of his facile pen and immense enthusiasm he proved to the world that in the study of postage stamps and postal history, there was an occupation not only of educational value to the young, but worthy of the intelligent interest of even the most brilliant brain. He helped to convert what was considered to be the eccentric interest of a few into the hobby of millions.

Melville was a Scot, born in Edinburgh in 1882, the son of a well-known journalist, Thomas Jopling Melville. Two years after F.J.'s birth his father was appointed to the Press Gallery Staff of the "Scotsman" and the family moved to London. On leaving school he joined the staff of Harmsworth's just at the time when that redoubtable family were about to revolutionize Fleet Street. It was Northcliffe who encouraged the budding journalist to write about his hobby - stamps, advice which led to the establishment of an international reputation.

It was at this time that F.J. tried to become a member of the Royal, but he was informed that he was too young. His dignity outraged; he determined to establish a Stamp Society where youthfulness was no barrier, and the Junior Philatelic Society was born to flourish under his presidency until the day of his death, and we hope it will continue to flourish into the mists of time as a memorial to him, for this great organisation was not the least of his many achievements. Scores of the world's most famous philatelists, including many members of the Royal have shut their eyes to the word "junior" and have joined the many thousands of men and women, boys and girls from all parts of the world, in the enjoyment of the Society's many privileges.

As an Editor Melville was in closest touch with collectors themselves. The "Young Stamp Collector" was his first venture as a boy, and "The Postage Stamp," "The Stamp Lover," "The British Philatelist," and of course the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" will always be associated with his name.

Like his father before him, F.J.M. was a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists, and his pleasant style of literary creation was founded on those twin principles of Scottish Journalism of the old style, a wide knowledge of his subject together with a fine appreciation of all that was best in English literature both classical and modern.

And so passes a much loved figure, we shall all miss him, particularly those who seek to follow him in putting the merits of our hobby before the world, for he was ever helpful and encouraging in anything which was to the betterment of philately, without detracting from its dignity. It is sad to think that he will not be with us in the great Centenary year, but his illness was a long one and we would not wish that his suffering should continue.

Stamp Fortnightly.

To philatelists of nearly two generations the name of Fred. J. Melville has been one of paramount significance. That name has stood for the best and brightest side of philately. On the cover of a book, or at the head of an article, it has been the hall-mark of an entertaining though studious treatment of the subject; beneath the title of a magazine it has meant that the contents have been carefully and efficiently edited; at the head of a society or exhibition committee it has signified that the control of that society or exhibition was in able hands.

Of him it can be said with truth: Philatelically, he knew everybody - and everyone knew him as "Freddie."

By his death, philately has suffered a loss, the full consequences of which it is impossible to weigh.

The Stamp Lover

I knew F.J. Melville in various of his many capacities for more years than I can remember. As founder and President of the J.P.S., as a great philatelic student, as a fount of knowledge gladly available to help others, as a leader of the Philatelic Congress, and then recently as the first President of the Postal History Society.

The philatelic world will be for always in his debt. We mourn a simple unassuming personality whose genuine love of all things philatelic has accomplished much. We are fortunate in that a great deal of the results of his research work has appeared in print for the benefit of others.

Adrian Hopkins

Fred Melville was already a prominent philatelist when I first met him - more than thirty years ago. I possessed and had read all his books. He was my philatelic mentor. My imagination pictured such a prolific author as an old man, and great was my surprise, therefore, on meeting him to find a young man still in his twenties. He was always kind to young collectors, for whom he had a soft spot, and he encouraged me in my youthful philatelic enthusiasms. At that time he affected the very high collars of the period and frequently a frock coat. With his slightly bent shoulders and thick-lensed spectacles he looked the student that he was.

Later, I got to know him well and we frequently dined together, at times at his old house in Sudbourne Road, later at Herne Hill, and sometimes in town. His conversation on these occasions revealed a mind well stocked with philatelic lore and an amazing memory. He had known all the famous collectors, from King George V downwards, and his knowledge of collections past and present was unequalled.

He was an inveterate traveller and few Continental stamp exhibitions were held without his attending, usually as a member of the Jury. Five times

he visited the United States, where he was very popular with all classes of collectors. On several occasions I was with him on Continental trips in Germany, France and Switzerland, and he used to twit me about my French pronunciation. I was able to indulge myself in a retaliatory "leg-pull" on one occasion. We were at a dinner in Paris and F.J.M. was called upon to reply to a toast. He spoke in French (in which language he was very good) and when he had finished I turned to him and said, "Fred, were you speaking French or English?" Ever afterwards he told that story against me and said it was the hardest thing that had ever been said to him!

Naturally, many of the honours that philately has to offer came his way. His name was inscribed on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1921 and the Congress Cup was awarded him at Bath in 1935. Many societies elected him an honorary member.

Of late years he had returned to an earlier love - the study of postal history. In 1908 he had published, in the Stamp Lover, the results of his researches into Dockwra's London Penny Post of 1680 and he also wrote other postal history works. On the founding of the Postal History Society he became its first president.

Fred Melville was a regular attendant at most of the various London philatelic society meetings and he had a host of friends. He will be sorely missed. May the turf lie lightly on him.

- H.R.H. in Philatelic Journal of Gt. Britain.

Fred. J. Melville's name was known throughout the philatelic world. He was popular with everybody in every country and wherever he went. It seems impossible that we shall ever find another to equal him for his remarkable work which will be shared and enjoyed by others for a very long time to come.

- Frank Godden in Godden's Gazette.

As a writer and editor Fred J. Melville showed many qualities, perhaps the greatest being the power of creating interest in what he wrote about. He seemed to retain the outlook of the boy right up to the last, and he loved to lead the young stamp collector along paths where he himself had found much to interest and explore. Had he chosen the career of a schoolmaster instead of that of a writer, there would have been no difficulty of his emulating the success of "Mr. Chips".

It was Fred J. Melville who first made the suggestion to me that a Postal History Society should be started. If writing on philately was his profession, then postal history was his hobby. I do not know to what extent he was a collector of historical documents, but that he had some rare and interesting items we had evidence from time to time. His researches into

the history of the Penny Post resulted in the compilation of records, published in book form, of the greatest value to students. Whilst he was never quite willing to acknowledge that a postmark was also a stamp of the first order, this did not lessen his interest in Bishop and Dockwra stamps or marks!

As first President of the Postal History Society, Fred J. Melville put in a lot of work in providing the Society with a set of rules and a working committee. We shall always remember his cheery presence at the dinners of the Society. There was always the Melville touch about the toasts. Who will ever forget Fred J. Melville, confirmed bachelor, asking those present to drink the health of the ladies!

He rests from his labours. His works remain with us.

- S.G. in The Philatelist.

The funeral took place at Lambeth Cemetery on January 16th. The Postal History Society was represented by T. Todd, F.H. Vallancey, L.N. Williams, and S. Graveson. The floral tributes included wreaths from the Council of the Society and Mr. Robson Lowe.

Lieut.Colonel SAMUEL ANDERSON, R.A.M.C.

We regret to report the death on January 16th of Colonel Anderson, well known as a student of Irish postal history and a prominent figure in philatelic circles in the West Country. He was President of the Torquay Philatelic Society and Secretary of the P.H.S. Irish Study Circle; his painstaking work in the recording of data accumulated in connection with this study circle will provide a long-lasting example for his fellow students.

Colonel Anderson served in the China campaign of 1900, the Waziristan campaign of 1907, and with the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force during the Great War.

The Postal History Society sent a wreath and was represented at the funeral by Mr. John Leaver.

