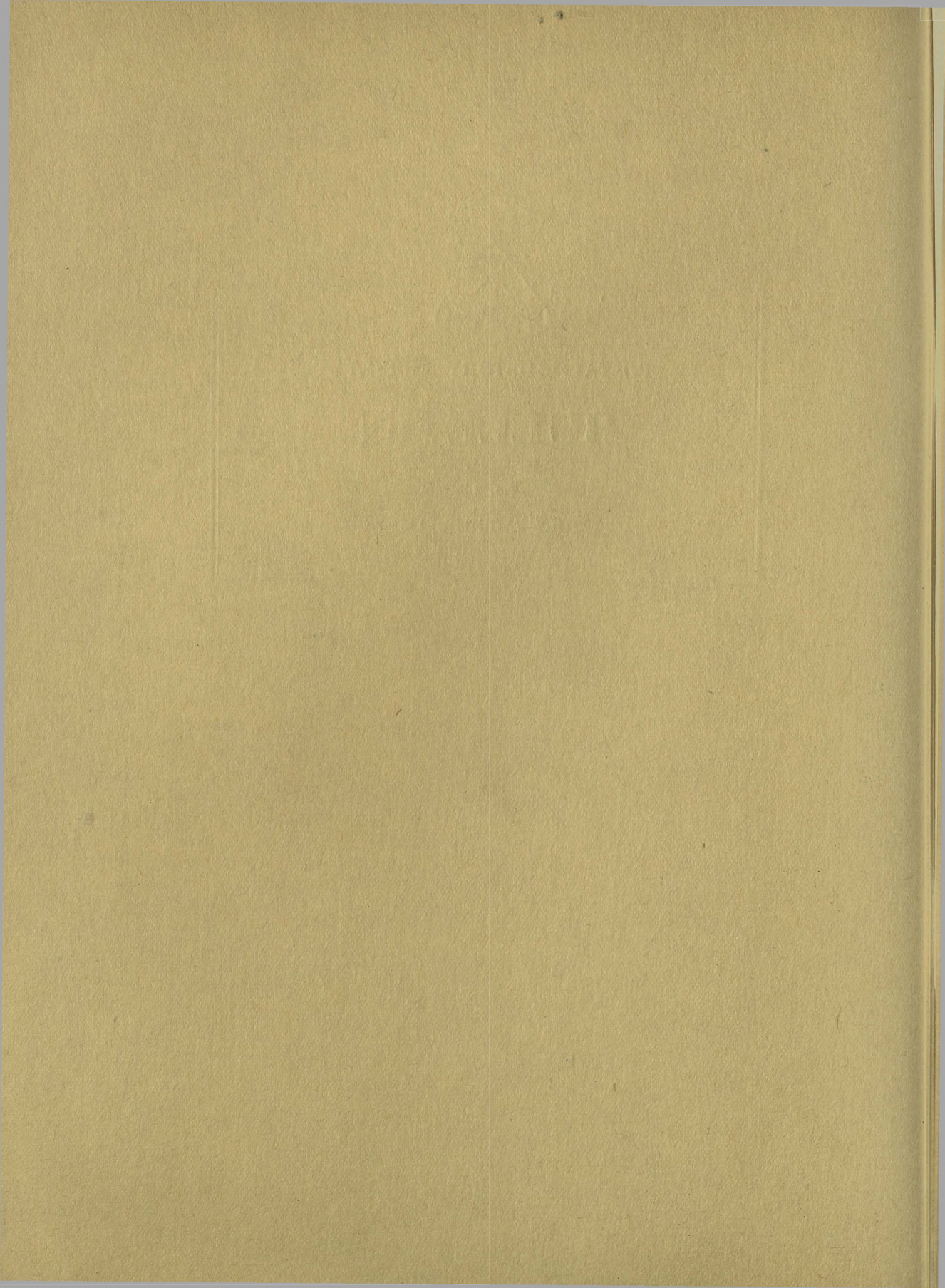


POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BULLETIN

No. 63.

JULY—AUGUST, 1952



POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

INAUGURATED 1936

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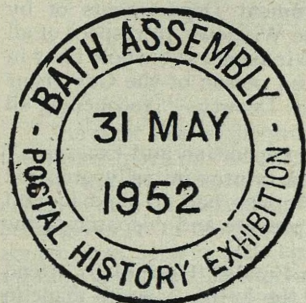
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Ormonde House, Sion Hill, Bath, Somerset.

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Temporary Editorial Office : Ormonde House, Sion Hill, Bath, Somerset.

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A MILESTONE IN POSTAL HISTORY



THE Fifth Bath Assembly is now only a memory, but it has made a very definite contribution to Postal History. The Exhibition which was staged in the Octagon, Milsom Street, is noticed elsewhere in this issue, but no apology is needed for Editorial comment in addition.

It is very certain that nothing of the same quality or scope has been seen in this country outside the London International Exhibition of 1950. The setting was superb and the lighting, which left so much to be desired at Grosvenor House, was absolutely beyond criticism. It may justly be claimed that the quality of the exhibits was higher than International standard, because the many hundreds of pages of adhesive postage stamps were

selected from gold medal exhibits, and therefore consisted entirely of cream.

Through the good offices of Mr. S. H. Hunter, the Head Postmaster of Bath, the co-operation of the General Post Office was magnificent. The exhibits provided from the Records Room at the G.P.O., the Tottenham Postal Museum, and the Bath City Archives combined to present to the public a comprehensive story of the development of the Postal system of Great Britain and therefore of the world.

The Press has been most appreciative, and in addition to an excellent account in *Stamp Collecting*, "Peterborough" of *The Daily Telegraph* and "Jennifer" of *The Tatler and Bystander* made friendly comment. This is certainly the first occasion on which Postal History has featured along with Fashion and Society, so perhaps Jennifer will forgive our quoting her.

"Numerous exhibitions were staged during the Bath Assembly. Two of these I enjoyed most were the exhibition of Postal History and Postage Stamps in the Octagon, in Milsom Street, and the exhibition of paintings and drawings by Robin Kilroy at the Willis Gallery in Broad Street.

In the Octagon I saw some famous stamps, including the first adhesive postage stamp ever to be used. This was postmarked "May 2nd, 1840." The general issue did not go into circulation until May 6th of that year, but one of the Bath postal officials, having received his issue of these new stamps, used one to put on a letter to Peckham, which was delivered on May 4th. When the first mail coach ran from Bristol to London, in August, 1784, in seventeen hours, physicians of the period prophesied deaths from apoplexy owing to the excessive speed! From London to Bristol today, Rail-Ex., a letter would take approximately four hours.

There was a very fine example of that classic rarity, the Post Office Mauritius, on view, which I was told was valued at £5,000. There was also an interesting display of postmen's uniforms throughout the years. I must say the postman of Georgian days, with his top hat and scarlet jacket, must have been a picturesque figure."

This was the first occasion on which a Postal History Exhibition has had its own Post Office and distinctive cancellation. The souvenir envelopes carried the Assembly symbol, which features the bronze head of Minerva, that glorious Roman antiquity which was unearthed in 1727 alongside the Roman Baths, since when it has survived more than two centuries of comings and goings and turmoil to be the City's proudest treasure today.

GENERAL SURVEY OF THE POST OFFICE—1677

THIRD PART

(Continued from No. 60).

IV. THE INLAND OFFICE.

THE Inland Office was, of course, that part of the General Post Office in London which handled all the mails to and from the Provinces, Scotland and Ireland. It was in 1677 controlled or administered by a Comptroller, an Accountant and a Treasurer, assisted by a staff of eight Clerks, three Windowmen, three Sorters and thirty-two Letter Carriers. There was also a Stamper of Letters, and a Return Man who dealt with Dead or undelivered letters, taking them "abroad" and checking up whether they had been correctly made dead by the Letter Carriers. The salaries of these Officials varied according to their rank and work, but the Letter carriers were paid a flat rate of 8s. a week.

It was the responsibility of the Comptroller to see that the Clerks and all the rest of the staff attended punctually both morning and evening. He also had to check the daily bills respecting the incoming mails and the postages collected, preparatory to the reference of the bills to the Accountant and Treasurer, and to supervise the taxing of letters, whether they were sent by the Court and Government Departments or by merchants, bankers, etc. He received the money taken at the Windows, in respect of all Paid letters handed in on post nights, and in general had "to influence the whole body in all circumstances of their duty, representing the authority and person of the Governour of the Office"—that is to say, the Postmaster General—or his Deputy—"reconciling all Matters duly in his absence."

The Accountant had "propper Books mostly printed for expedition and exactness" in which he entered particulars of the daily income from the returns initially prepared and signed by the Comptroller and Clerks of the Road. He also had to hold himself available to answer all questions about the accounts, and to prepare and despatch to the Postmasters their monthly and quarterly accounts.

The Treasurer had "in trust" the whole of the Office Funds. He had to attend promptly each post morning to receive the collections from the Letter carriers made in respect of the letters delivered by them on the preceding day, the amounts due being shewn on statements prepared by the Comptroller in a manner which will be described later. He also had to gather all funds arising from Bills of Exchange received from Postmasters—which statement seems to explain adequately how the Postmasters remitted their balances to London—. The Treasurer also paid all salaries and other charges on the Office after proper authorisation by the Comptroller. In effect he was the officer now known as the Cashier in the Accountant-General's Department of the General Post Office.

Incoming mails were received on the mornings of Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the officials concerned had to attend at 4 a.m. from April to October and at 5 a.m. from October to April unless the Comptroller "commanded a sooner appearance." On the arrival of "the paquetts" or mails the "opening clerks" or as we should now term them, the bag openers, took up their stations. Then the Comptroller handed to each clerk or bag opener an equal number of bags so that they should finish this part of the work at about the same time. No bag opener was allowed to open the same bag, or rather the bag from the same office, on consecutive days, a precaution against collusion between the bag opener and the Postmaster.

Each bag being opened after an examination of the seal to ensure that it was intact, the paid and unpaid letters were checked against the particulars on the letter bill. These particulars were then summarised on a general bill or statement for the whole road in the manner shewn on the following form in respect of the Yarmouth Road.

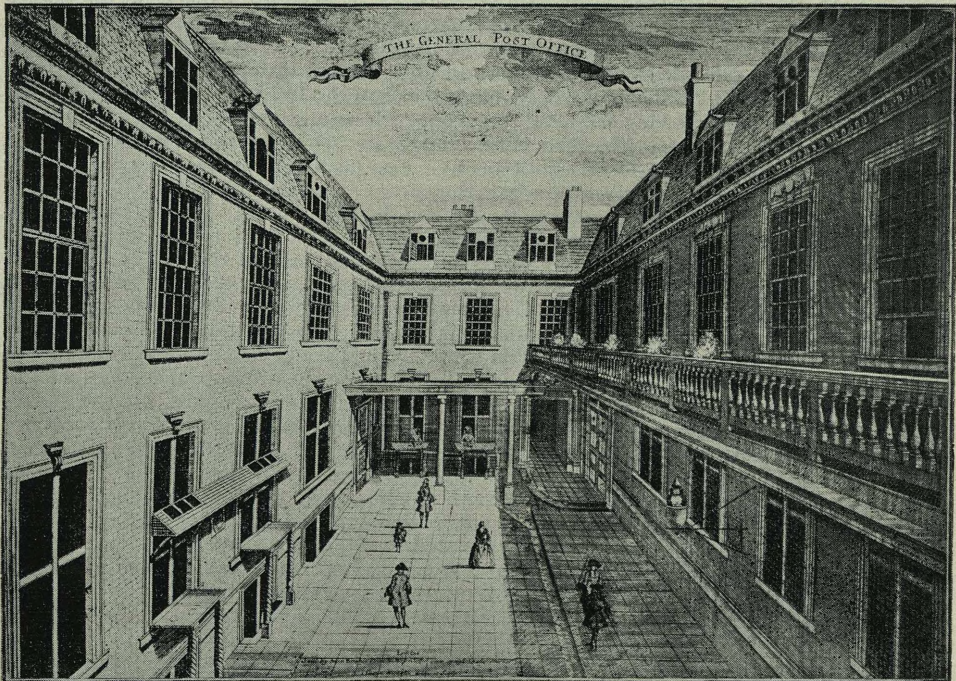
The division of the received letters under this arrangement is obvious. The By and Paid letters, having had postage paid elsewhere, were of minor importance at this stage. The important letters were the unpaid ones, which were in effect C.O.D. items. These were thus entered twice, once under the heading of the name of the office from which they had been despatched and again under the name of the Letter carrier to whom they were handed for delivery. If, however, the letters were for the callers' service, or what today is known as the Bankers, Private Box or Bag service, they were entered against the heading "Merchants," if for onward transmission to some other provincial office they would be entered under "Country," whilst unpaid letters on Post Office, Government and Parliamentary business were entered respectively under "Office," "States" and "Members." These dual allocations of the totals of unpaid postage had, of course, to balance in terms of money and to be identical in amount.

the Accountant by whom the charges were transferred to the ledger for the respective offices. Letters also came in from several Receiving Offices, namely at Westminster, Charing Cross, Pall Mall, Covent Garden and most of the Inns of Court. These Receivers received a regular salary or stipend, given in order to avoid the delay which would arise if the receipts had to be accounted by the Receiver on the one hand and the Post Office on the other in order to determine the amount of the 10% commission usually paid. Commissioned receivers actually operated in the remoter places, such as Greenwich, Deptford, Blackwall, Southwark. According to Thomas Gardiner—and he should have known—unlike the centrally situated Receivers, who were forbidden to receive any gratuity beside the postage, they were allowed to receive “besides the post a penny for every man’s parsell more or less.”

Every Letter Receiver was given a different stamp in order to distinguish the letters received from his Receiving House, “least,” as Thomas Gardiner explains, “when wee come to examine their parsells and finding paid letters mixt with unpaid, letters under-rated and the like, they pretend ignorance of such letters to the prejudice of the Office and sometimes to the owners of them.”

The Clerks having booked their letters, their last task was to bag off the bundles tied with packthread, together with a Bill shewing numbers and value. Then when the King’s letters arrived, which Thomas Gardiner says naively “is usually somewhat too late,” the bags were sealed with the office seal and placed with the others for the same road in a large leather Mail or portmanteau in which they were conveyed to their destinations by the post boys. The Office window was apparently constantly attended, the duty being carried out in turn by the Clerks and Window-men. Refreshment during the night was apparently provided by the Post Office administration, for in later years there is a reference to a “feast and drink allowance” given at that later period in lieu of an allowance of Irish beef and small beer.

It may be useful to observe that in 1677 there was no Penny Post Office. This came into being about three years later.



The General Post Office, Lombard Street, about 1750

From an old print in the possession of the G.P.O., by courtesy of S. R. Turner.
(The entrance at the end of the courtyard is today known as Post Office Court, Lombard Street)

GIBRALTAR
HANDSTRUCK AND MANUSCRIPT MARKINGS TO 1860
 By Ronald Ward

THERE are many books dealing with various aspects of life in Gibraltar, history, geography, etc., but none dealing with the early postal history of the nearest colony to the homeland. In *The Story of Gibraltar* by H. W. Howes, Director of Education, Gibraltar, published 1947/8 he uses the phrase "FIRST OUTPOST OF EMPIRE," which is very much to the point.

Sir Geoffrey Duveen published in 1932 a well illustrated book on the stamps from 1855 to 1931, but did not include earlier examples, so I propose to deal with the hand-struck markings basing these on my own specimens.

For several months prior to the publication of Volume I of *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps* I had been in correspondence with Gibraltarians to try and discover the possible location of the earliest post offices or clearing houses for mail, but no trace could be found. This is confirmed in the *Encyclopaedia*, which also states that from 1807 (if not earlier) the post office was a branch of the G.P.O. London.

Handstruck and manuscript markings denoting that the mail has passed through the British, Spanish, French or Italian post offices are found, often several on the same entire, therefore I have divided these into the sections concerned with the first handling of the mail. Where the name of a particular vessel is given in manuscript this has been shown.

It is not my intention to enumerate the stamps of Great Britain used from 1855 and cancelled with the letter "G" in a transverse oval of horizontal bars, but only to place on record items which do not appear to have been previously noted. The cancellation "G" can be found in blue as well as the familiar black. A forged "G" is on 1d. Red Plate 102, this has three bars below "G" instead of two.

The circular date stamp is also found in blue, as is the obliterator "A.26"; this latter I have only seen on one cover dated 27th July, 1859.

In the following "F.A." refers to Forwarding Agents, details given in Section (IV), and "q" to a charge in quartos or more correctly in Spanish "cuartos."

(I) MANUSCRIPT.

My earliest entire is dated "Gibraltar le 15 Decembre 1752" addressed to Mon. Roux, Marseille, and has no markings even as to charge.

1st December, 1823. Letter to Dr. Hennessy, Malta. "Taken by Mrs. Brown—received 18th December."

10th January, 1824. Letter to Dr. Hennessy, Malta, but no note as to route.

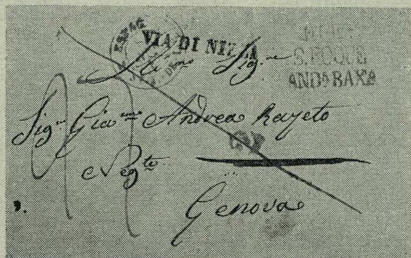
October 1866, and January 1867. Entires to Malta with charge of 4d. and the latter dated entire "p. P. & O. Str."

(II) SPANISH HANDSTRUCK TYPES and ITALIAN.

Spanish markings are found earlier than British, and this section also has certain Italian route handstamps.

Date.	Handstamps.	Colour.	Date Stamps.	Charge.
3rd Jany. 1769	Andalucia Alca (41 × 7 mm.)	Black.		M/S 20.
28th Sept. 1778.	„ „	„		M/S 20.
10th Augt. 1789.	ANDALUCIA VAXA (50 × 7 mm.)	Black.		M/S 20.
15th Sept. 1821.	EZIXA FRANQUEADA (post paid) (42 × 6 mm.)	Orange-red.		M/S 8d.
Disinfected.	ANDALUCIA BAXA (framed) (36 × 6mm.) ESPAGNE PAR BAYONNE (40 × 4 mm.)	Orange-red. Black.		
15th Decr. 1824.	„ (44 × 4 mm.)	Black.		M/S 2/9d. to London.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Handstamps.</i>	<i>Colour.</i>	<i>Date Stamps.</i>	<i>Charge.</i>
20th Novr. 1828.	E1. GIBR. S. ROQUE ANDA. BAXA.	Red.		M/S q.7 on face. M/S 1 q on reverse.
	S. ROQUE FRANCA	Red.		
	11 GIUGNO	Red.	Genoa receiving stamp.	
	ESPAGNE PAR ST. JEAN-DE-LUZ. (47×4 mm.)	Black.		
	TE	Black.		
	NIZZA MARITE.	Black.		
31st Decr. 1832. Disinfected.	E1. GIBR. S. ROQUE ANDA. BAXA	Red.		M/S 2/2 to London.
	ESPAGNE PAR ST. JEAN-DE-LUZ.	Black.	" Por Franira."	
29th March 1842	E1. GIBR. S. ROQUE ANDA. BAXA	Red.		M/S q 7 to Genoa. M/S 1 q on reverse.
	2	Red.		
	VIA DI NIZZA	Black.	14 APRILE Genoa receiving.	
21st Decr. 1854.	E1. GIBR. S. ROQUE ANDA. BAXA	Green.	Cette c.d.s. 1 Janv 55.	H/S 1 30 mm high
2nd Oct. 1855.	„	Blue-green	Espagne St. J. de-Luz 10 Oct 55. Cette 12 Oct 55.	H/S as above



29th March, 1842



7th December, 1861

(III) BRITISH.

17th Oct. 1807.	GIBRALTAR Framed arc R.L.3. H.S.21.	Red.	London FOREIGN 1807 NO 11. Aberdeen NO 14 1807.	M/S 3/2 can- celled new charge 3/4.
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<i>Date.</i>	<i>Handstamps.</i>	<i>Colour.</i>	<i>Date Stamps.</i>	<i>Charge.</i>
28th Novr. 1815.	GIBRALTAR Framed arc R.L.3. H.S.21.	Red.	London. FOREIGN 1815 DE 19.	M/S 8/6d.
13th March 1820. Disinfected.	"	Orange-red.	London Dotted circle F.P.O. MR 27 1820.	M/S 8/6d.
per H.M.S. Rochefort				
13th July 1823.	"	Red.	London Dotted circle F.P.O. AU 12 1823.	M/S 2/10d.
3rd Oct. 1823	"	Red.		
	To Malta received 15th November 1823.			M/S.
12th Decr. 1839	GIBRALTAR arc framed PAID R.L.1. H.S.2. To Cadiz p Vapor "Royal Tar."	Black.		H/S 9.q in red. 24 × 25 mm. at widest points.
10th June 1840.	GIBRALTAR arc framed. R.L.3 H.S.22.	Black.	London F 29 JU 29 1840.	M/S 1/2 can- celled. new charge 1/- F.A. 1.
8th Decr. 1840.	"	"	London I 22 DE 1840.	M/S 1/-.
	Addressed to Coldstream, Berwick, regarding arrival of "Star of the West."			
27th Sept. 1842.	TO PAY frame 20 × 12 mm.	Black.		M/S 1/-.
	Addressed from Coutts & Co. London (oval cachet in black) to Lieut. Nowell, H.M.S. Formidable, Gibraltar.			
Sept. 1843.	R.L.3 H.S. 22.	Black.	London W. 2 OC 1843.	
	Addressed to the Right Honble Lord Lowther Postmaster General, London. From G. Gibraltar—the Right Reverend George Tomlinson, D.D., Lord Bishop of Gibraltar, consecrated 1842.			
January 1845.	R.L.1. H.S.2.	Black.	Drumsna JA 23 1845.	M/S 1/-.
25th Sept. 1848.	GIBRALTAR PAID circular. R.L. (G) H.S.3.	Black.	Gibraltar SP 25 1848.	M/S 1/- in red.
7th Sept. 1850	GIBRALTAR 7 SP 1850 SHIP LETTER R.L. (S.C.) H.S. 11.	Blue.		M/S 4d in red.
9th Octr. 1850.	R.L. (SC) H.S. 10. 21 OC 1850. LIVERPOOL SHIP R.L. 634 Type 252	Black.	Gibraltar c.d.s.	M/S. 8d to Nottingham.
		Black.		

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Handstamps.</i>	<i>Colour.</i>	<i>Date Stamps.</i>	<i>Charge.</i>
29th Oct., 1851	GIBRALTAR 29 OC 1851 SHIP LETTER R.L. 2. H.S. 13. VIA DI MARE (E)	Blue. Red.		M/S 4d to Genoa, in red M/S 1 q in black. F.A. 2.
28th April 1852.	R.L. 2 H.S.13. " by screw steamer " in manuscript.	Blue.		M/S 4d in red, and 14 in violet.
August 1856.	Per " Alhambra " M/S to Plymouth via London.			H/S 6 black. F.A. 3.
16th Feby. 1858.	Per " Alhambra " M/S to Plymouth via London.			H/S 6 blue. F.A. 3.
5th Sept. 1856.	R.L. 2. H.S. 13. LIVERPOOL SHIP SP 17 1856. A. R.L.637. Type 254.	Blue-green. Black.		H/S 6 blue- green.
19th Nov. 1857.	R.L. 2 H.S. 13. Liverpool R.L. 639. Milestone type. 25th Novr.	Green. Red.	London 26 Nov.	6d lilac. "G" canc :
5th Jan. 1858.			Several incl. Bayonne a Bordeaux 13 Jany. 58	H/S to Cette F.A. 4.
1st Sept. 1858.	VIA DI MARE (E) " per the vessel ' Danube ' " to Genoa. M/S.	Red. Black.		2d Blue (Pl 6.) cancelled G. H/S 1 qcmi..
16th Oct. 1862.	" Voie d'Espagne " to Paris. M/S.			H/S 6 black 35 mm high.
7th Decr. 1861.	80. To Lisbon " pr Ville de Lisbonne " M/S.	Black.	Gibraltar c.d.s.	2d Blue (Pl. 9) A.26. F.A. 5.
29 Jany. 1861.	80. C. Est. de N. (oval frame).	Black. Black. Black.	" Lisbon date 31. 1. 61. (see copy square frame.	F.A. 5. letter).
25th Oct. 1861.	VIA DI MARE (E) M/S to Genoa " Vapore ' Olympus ' ".	Red.		2d Blue (Pl. 9) A.26. M/S 1 q.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Handstamps.</i>	<i>Colour.</i>	<i>Date Stamps.</i>	<i>Charge.</i>
17th July 1865. Disinfected.	VIA DI MARE (E)	Red.	Genova 26 JU 65.	2d Blue (Pl. 9) A.26.
		Red.	sq. frame.	M/S 1 q.
17th March 1867.	1d.	Red.	Gib. c.d.s. Guysborough N.S. AP 12 67.	1s. (Pl. 4) 2d. blue (9) A.26.
Captain's Fee on letter to Nova Scotia via London.				
25/27th Feb. 1872	' 6'	Black.		6d lilac on each.
Two covers from Glasgow, re-addressed at Gibraltar to Glasgow.				
27th Feby. 1873.	M/S " p. Delhi." to London.		Duplex type (b)	6d Pale Buff (Pl. 11) F.A. 6.
30th July 1873.	M/S " p. Hindostan " to London.		"	6d Grey (Pl. 12).
29th July 1875.	To Genoa " per Vapor ' Europa ' " M/S.			1½d Rose-red (Pl. 3)
This entire being understamped postage due of 40c was collected on arrival. 30c and 10c labels.				
29th Oct. 1878.	To Paris.		Duplex type (c).	2½d Rosy-mauve (Pl. 12). F.A. 7.
10th Feby. 1879.	To Madrid.		Duplex type (c)	1d Red (Pl. 212) F.A. 8.

(IV) FORWARDING AGENTS IN GIBRALTAR.

<i>No. in above list.</i>	<i>Frame.</i>	<i>Colour.</i>	<i>Legend.</i>
1.	Single oval.	Black.	Forwarded by (fancy design) Horatio Sprague " " Gibraltar.
2.	Dotted oval. Double.	Black.	Giacomo Revello. Gibraltar.
3.	Single oval.	Green.	Carver Brothers Gibraltar ∴ at each side.
4.	Double oval.	Black.	Dominco-Garesse & Sons, Gibraltar. Ship Chandlers (centre)
5.	Double oval.	Green.	Liverpool & Mediterranean Screw Steamers (four dots each side) Centre in 3 lines Carver Brothers, Agents, Gibraltar.
6.	Double outer oval. Single inner.	Green.	Bartolome Mascardi Gibraltar.
7.	Double oval.	Green.	J. Bartteas Gibraltar.
8.	Double oval.	Green.	Y. Bergel Gibraltar. (4 dots each side).

(V) COPY LETTER FROM CARVER BROTHERS, GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR. 23rd Jany 1861.

Messrs. G. A. Hancock & Co., Lisbon.

Dear Sirs,

On 21st inst. we recd your favor of 19th Dompredo—

We have seen our Post Master Mr. Creswell respecting the demand made by the Captains of Steamers for payment for mails which should be carried free & find it was Captn Biggs of the Danube on her last voyage from Lisbon, he was no doubt ignorant of the regulation & without our knowledge took the bag himself to the post office & claimed the fee which Captns are accustomed to get for mails from foreign ports.—Mr. Creswell promises to write an explanation to the director of the Post Office at Lisbon & we shall do what we can to avoid cause of complaint for the future.—

Your telegram of 15th reached us on 17th at 10 a.m. advising that you had engaged for the fruit at St. Ubes. The "Albanian" went home on 20th inst. with abt 100 Tons of room.—Our supply of Coal here and on pafsage will be ample for the Steamers expected.

We are,

Dear Sirs

Yours truly

(Signed) Carver Brothers.

The notes appearing in the foregoing are not intended to be fully representative of all markings to be found on mail from Gibraltar, as there are several in the *Encyclopaedia* not mentioned above; also the Forwarding Agents named must have been only a small number of those in existence during the period covered, although all may not have used a cachet.

For postal historians who have done quite an appreciable amount of research into ships which have carried mail during the past century I can only hope that the notes given will be of further use.

THE SEFTON FIDDIAN CUP

THE closing date for entries this year is September 1st, 1952. Competitors should arrange for their entries to be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary on or before this date. The rules governing the Competition are as follows:—

1. Entries are to be the property of the competitor.
2. No display which has previously won the Competition shall be eligible.
3. No entry can be accepted unless the exhibitor is a member of The Postal History Society.
4. Exhibits shall not exceed twenty sheets or items and/or a paper dealing with the subject of the exhibit not exceeding two thousand words or thereabouts.
A title page counts as one of the twenty.
5. No award can be made unless four or more entries are received.
6. The Judges of the Competition shall be appointed by the Council, and the decision of the Judges shall be final.
7. Unused postage stamps have no part in a Postal History display, and exhibits dealing with postage stamp design and similar subjects shall be excluded.
8. Writing up must be done by the exhibitor.
9. Each entry shall be marked with a nom-de-plume, and the name and address of the owner shall be placed in a sealed envelope similarly marked.
10. Any paper submitted with an entry for the Competition (whether successful or not) shall be made available for publication in the Society's *Bulletin*, if so desired by the Editor. It shall not be published or offered for publication in any other journal unless and until it has been rejected by the Editor of the *Bulletin*.

The award will be announced at the meeting on September 9th, 1952, when the winning exhibit will be displayed, together with selected pages belonging to the unsuccessful competitors.

THE 34th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Held at Southampton, 20th to 23rd May, 1952 under the auspices of the Southampton and District Philatelic Society

WHEN the Southampton Society first invited the Philatelic Congress to meet in Southampton in 1952 the suggestion was made that perhaps an Ocean liner could be used to house the whole concourse of members and delegates with their friends and relatives but the project was abandoned as too costly. But it was a good idea because Congress is now growing to such a size that it is most difficult to find accommodation in the large boroughs. Southampton also suffered greatly in the last war and there are few large hotels available. With these difficulties to face, the Committee did a wonderful job and if a few did have to suffer some small inconvenience over accommodation, well, the excellence of all the other arrangements made up for it.

Work started for most officials on committees as early as 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon when the Melville Memorial Junior Awards Sub-Committee met in one of the public rooms of the Polygon Hotel, the Headquarters of the Congress for this year. The Permanent Congress Executive Committee met an hour later and the final business for the year was completed.

War scars have largely been effaced from the Civic Buildings which suffered so badly. The pride of Southampton is justifiably the Guildhall, a building of stone in the perpendicular style reminiscent of the St. George's Chapel at Windsor. The dance floor must be one of the finest in the country if not in Europe. Those invited to the Civic reception were able to test the resilience during an evening of dancing. This was the Mayor's first official function for he had only been installed the previous day and he seemed delighted to welcome and take part.

The Reception was a brilliant affair, and an ideal inauguration of a most successful Congress. Those not able to participate in the dancing find this evening the opportunity to renew acquaintances, because most present have not met since the previous Congress. This is not the case, however, so far as the Postal History Society's contingent is concerned, for most of them are able to meet together at least twice a year and at each successive Congress more and more of our members are in evidence.

Wednesday broke fair and turned into a glorious English early summer day. Delightfully cool when we came out into the sunshine at noon after the first business session, to have the usual photograph taken. At the business session we had been officially welcomed by the Mayor and had listened to a paper presented by Kenneth Chapman, the energetic editor of *Stamp Collecting*. The number of members present who attended the first Congress in 1909 has now shrunk to three, one being our own Vice-President, J. K. Sidebottom, O.B.E. On the other side of the scale were a goodly number of persons attending Congress for the first time.

With lunch disposed of, a record number set off in coaches for Southampton Water where a steamer conveyed the party to Cowes and back, but whilst the trip was most enjoyable, it was apparent that the fare provided at tea on the Isle of Wight steamers compared in no way at all with that of those other mail boats which run from Southampton—the "Queen's."! As for your reporter, he had the good fortune to be the guest for tea of an exclusive Yacht Club on the Solent, and so had an unfair advantage!

Study Circles completed the activities of the first day. J. K. Sidebottom led the Postal History Circle and there was a very large attendance. It is pleasing to find that Postal History always draws the most support.

We listened to two papers after the business session on Thursday morning but neither had any link with Postal History except in the last dozen or so lines of one. Dr. G. G. Havers made brief reference to our special interests and mentioned that the Southampton Society was forming their own local collection. We gathered that the writer approved of the idea as it might lead to more recruits for Stamp-collecting!

When the afternoon coaches arrived at Portsmouth for a visit to the old *Victory* they found that H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent had also gone for the same purpose, so we were delayed some time and as a result dinner was late and the Study Circles commenced a half-hour behind schedule. It subsequently became apparent that mail posted on board H.M.S. *Victory* was a waste of effort, as the ship's marks were quite illegible. Our member, R. W. Willcocks, led the Postal History circle and reports that he received good support. Your reporter attended the Great Britain circle conducted by Dr. G. G. Havers and this devoted most time to the "Line-engraved" and a happy Postal History discussion developed. We saw a most delightful copy of the scarce "Pearson-Hill Spectacles" in fresh condition. This cover belongs to one of our members and has not

been displayed before as it was acquired privately. The intimate study of the "Line-engraved" has now reached the stage where it is tied up with and often dependent upon the postal marking for verification of data concerning the adhesive.

What may prove to be an entirely new function for Congress was the meeting of Secretaries of Affiliated Societies held on Thursday evening and it was recorded as having brought up some very interesting points for future consideration.

We had been told that one retiring member of the P.C.E.C., J. Nevin, was not offering himself for re-election either for that Committee or for the Board of Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Mr. R. F. A. Riesco was elected to the Board unopposed, and as a result of the Ballot for the Permanent Executive Committee, B. S. H. Grant of Maidstone was elected to fill the vacancy. Readers will be very glad to know that our own member, W. A. Spalding was "runner-up." The remainder of the appointments were confirmed by popular acclamation.

Without exception, none of the Resolutions or the Proposed Amendment of Rules had any connection with Postal History and only one Resolution had any outside significance to organised philately. This was a great pity because one of the foremost functions of Congress is to point the way in the betterment of the pastime. Congress did approve the resolution of the Brighton Society that current issues of Colonial stamps should be on sale only in the Colony concerned and should not be obtainable direct through the Crown Agents in London and New York. Your reporter obtained the assurance that this resolution should be officially conveyed to the authorities concerned, for what it is worth. The other resolutions were on purely domestic matters, and had no bearing whatsoever on philately at large, which fact seems to militate against the whole purpose of Congress.

When Congress reassembled after lunch on Friday afternoon, the first function was the presentation of Cups and awards to this year's winners of the Melville Memorial Junior Competition by Miss Joan Gilbert of the B.B.C.'s Television service. All but one of the prize winners were present to receive their awards and the Mayor also showed his interest by attending. This was followed by the presentation of two of the three persons to be honoured by election to the Roll for 1952. Mr. G. W. Collett, the energetic Treasurer to Congress, and the leading collector of the stamps of Jamaica, was sponsored by Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson whilst Mr. A. S. Mackenzie-Low was presented by Mr. D. B. Armstrong. Adrian A. Jurgens of South Africa, the third philatelist to be enrolled, was prevented by advanced age and distance from attending.

With feelings of regret mixed with pleasure and amusement we listened to Leslie R. Ray who gave the Closing Address. Later, members and delegates went by coach to visit the new Terminal for Ocean liners at the Docks. The Congress Banquet at the Polygon Hotel was attended by a record number. It provided a novelty in that this was the first occasion on which the Congress Banquet coincided with the 21st birthday of a member of Congress. Inevitably, the lady concerned was called upon for a speech, in which she acquitted herself most gracefully.

Whitley Bay is the venue of next Year's Congress and Mr. John Sinton spoke briefly at one of the Business sessions about arrangements already in hand for that event.

Whither Congress? From the results at Southampton it seems that prospects are very bright for the future if every member will do his or her best to promote the ideals of Congress among philatelists everywhere and if delegates will return to their Societies with true accounts of what Congress means and does. The Postal History Society was very strongly represented at Southampton, and our members who were present can do much to help.

We cannot close this account of the Congress gathering without reference to perhaps the most colourful representative there, Mr. James B. Shaner, Snr., the Secretary and Treasurer of the American Philatelic Congress. He said he had had a wonderful time and was going back to tell all the folk over there just how we run Congress over here. Some of our members had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Shaner when he attended our meeting on the 13th of May in London.

F.G.

THE FIFTH BATH ASSEMBLY POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

MEMBERS of this Society will not require to be reminded that the City of Bath has long and very close connections with the story of the development of the Posts in Britain. Ralph Allen and John Palmer were both citizens of Bath and together probably did more for the extension of Postal services in this country than any other pioneers. The City was the fashionable resort of the Quality all through the Eighteenth Century, and it is reasonable to suppose that much written material of importance has survived among family papers and in solicitors' offices. Such in fact is happily the case.

There are a few citizens of Bath who recognise the value of these old records, and others who wish to preserve for posterity the historic buildings, so that as one walks these ancient pavements the care of these modern Men of Bath can be appreciated. Regrettably there is all too frequently the mark of the barbarian, and such a wonder as Ralph Allen's town house has been turned into a tenement within sight and sound of the Abbey. The devastation caused by the Saxons in 577 A.D. was followed up by the Nazis who took a considerable hand in destruction in 1942.

One of the happy survivals (or should we say, revivals?) is the Bath Assembly, now in its fifth season. During this period of ten days, the City tries to recall some of the gaiety of the past when Beau Nash was Master of Ceremonies and of centuries earlier, when during nearly four hundred years of Roman occupation, the City of Aquæ Sulis was a centre of healing and fashion.

This year's Assembly was marked by a display of Postal History and in support was an array of adhesive postage stamps. If one knows that our worthy secretary is an Alderman of Bath (and twice its Mayor) it is not difficult to guess who was one of the prime movers of this great enterprise.

The exhibition was housed in the recently restored Octagon in Milsom Street. This superb interior, designed by Lightoler in the middle 18th century, is admirably arranged to house such a display for there are eight windows situated high up in each wall so that the centre is a pool of light all day. Running round the building is a wide balcony also well lighted by the eight windows. The whole is graced by one of the magnificent chandeliers made in 1771 by Parker of Whitefriars, which were removed for safe storage on the outbreak of war from the famous Assembly Rooms, destroyed in 1942 by enemy action.

A detailed account of the material displayed would fill far more space than can be spared in this *Bulletin*, but some brief notes were made during two visits. The President of the Postal History Society had sent a large section of his wide collection and this formed the main object of display. Alan Robertson had a fine selection of his Ship Letters whilst Frank Staff contributed his History of the Envelope. C. W. Meredith showed some very choice items including a Mulready cover of the 2nd May and a Penny Black on entire used on the first day of issue, one of three such in the Exhibition. One of these was used on a Mulready for a twopenny rate. Incidentally, there was on display the much publicized Penny Black used at Bath on 2 May 1840, four days prior to regular issue. This is on a large piece showing London arrival mark of 4 May. Nearby was a fine crayon portrait of T. M. Musgrave, Head Postmaster of Bath 1833-1854 whose desire to be first in the field was probably the cause of the world's first adhesive postage stamp being used in Bath.

The G.P.O. sent material from their Records Room and items had come from Bruce Castle at Tottenham. There were some early letters and other documents of both Ralph Allen and John Palmer from the Bath Archives. Portraits of Ralph Allen by Hoare and Hudson, and of John Palmer by Hoare (the only one known) were well displayed in the entrance lobby.

On the postage stamp side, there were frames of essays from Thomas De La Rue & Co., Ltd., never previously shown in public, and by arrangement with Mr. Stanley Godden, of Messrs. Frank Godden Ltd., many hundreds of pages of classic stamp varieties had been selected from the leading collections of today by courtesy of their owners. These were arranged in frames on a series of most admirable screens which extended the whole way round the ground floor. Displays were also provided by many nearby philatelic Societies and it was pleasing to note the Postal History angle featured prominently in the frames of the two local School Societies, Monkton Combe and Dauntsey's, Devizes. The displays from these junior societies showed very great ingenuity and promise. It should be mentioned that the exhibition also contained a very splendid array of coins, arranged by the Bath and Bristol Coin Club.

An illustrated and informative pamphlet was handed to every visitor and it was particularly gratifying to note the words "In association with The Postal History Society" printed at the head of the leading page.

Commemorative Envelopes were on sale, and it was possible to have a letter marked with the special datestamp of the Southampton Congress on the 20th May, sent to Bath and there re-marked with the special datestamp of the Exhibition Post Office on the first day, the 22nd May. It should be noted that this was the first time that a special cancellation has been sanctioned by the Post Office for a Postal History Exhibition anywhere in the World.

F.G.

HONG KONG USED IN LABUAN

By H. M. Campbell

IN November, 1949, Mr. Robson Lowe sprang a bombshell in *The Philatelist*, where he described three covers bearing Labuan datestamps of 1864 in a previously unknown type. Two of these were franked with Hong Kong adhesives, and full details of these are also given on pp. 323-4 of the second edition of the Hong Kong Book (Lobdell and Hopkins). The stamps, a strip of three 8c. in one case, and a single 24c. in the other, were cancelled with diagonal strokes in red ink, and in the first instance were over stamped "B62."

All this was most interesting, but it did not give us any certain means whereby one could recognise a Hong Kong stamp as having been used in Labuan unless one had it on entire.

Then Volume III of Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia came out, in which was illustrated the third Labuan cover, which bore a pair of East India 4 annas. My interest was really aroused then, for these adhesives were cancelled by a circle of rhomboid dots, a cancellation which I had on a Hong Kong 12c. no watermark, and had been unable to identify. It is somewhat similar, but not exactly so, to a cancellation found on Hong Kong adhesives of the Edwardian period, which is associated with Ningpo.

I had some idea that this earlier one might be a Straits Settlements cancellation, and at first glance this third Labuan cover appears to support this theory, as it is endorsed "via Singapore paid." However, there are two objections to this:—

- (1) It would be most unusual to find a Straits Settlements transit cancellation on a Hong Kong stamp at such an early period, as the posting of letters in loose boxes on steamers homeward bound from Hong Kong, for treatment at Singapore, was not authorised until 1882, although, it is true, older Straits cancellations (D14 and B172) are occasionally found on Hong Kong adhesives.
- (2) This circle of rhomboid dots does not correspond with any of the Straits Settlements cancellations described and illustrated in Vol. III of the Lowe Encyclopaedia, and the volume of mail from that Colony, even at that early date, would have been such as to make it highly unlikely that any cancellation from there would have escaped the notice of the compilers of the Encyclopaedia.

Nevertheless, this cover does narrow down the possibilities, and if this circle of dots did not emanate from Singapore, then the most likely explanation is that it was applied in Labuan itself. If that is so, then the cancellor was supplied to Labuan, probably from Singapore, as a "killer" to obliterate adhesives—either Hong Kong or Indian—on letters sent from the former Colony. It was evidently taken into use late in 1864—after 6th September, which is the date of the second cover with pen-cancelled adhesives. This would explain why the adhesives on the third cover were not pen-cancelled.

If this reasoning is sound, then we can, with some plausibility, allocate any Hong Kong stamp (or Indian, for that matter) bearing this circle of rhomboid dots "killer" to usage in Labuan. It would appear from the evidence of the first two covers that the postage rate from Labuan to the Australian Colonies was 24 cents in 1864, in which case my 12c. with this cancellation was probably one of a pair.

Further evidence is needed to put the matter beyond doubt, and the assistance of readers who have material bearing on the problem would be greatly appreciated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FLEETWOOD AND PRINCE OF WALES

SIR,

I hasten to assure you of the existence of the *Prince of Wales* packet boat. Thom's Irish Directories list it as one of the steamers plying regularly between Belfast and "Fleetwood on Wyre."

My earliest directory of the series is that for 1845, which probably went to press in the autumn of 1844. The entry in that gives the steamers on the route as :

"*Prince of Wales*, Capt. A. M'Neillage, Monday and Friday.—R. Henderson, Agent. Also *Princess Alice*, Captain Lamb, Wednesday."

R. Henderson was also agent for services to Whitehaven, Stranraer and Ardrosson (sic).

The 1846 directory shows an extension of the service :

"*Prince of Wales* and *Princess Alice*, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday."

1847 has the same entry ; 1848 differs only in the days—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. That is repeated in 1849. I miss the 1850 volume. In 1851 the sailings are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, but in addition I notice that the *Royal Consort* or *Fenella* sailed every Monday and Thursday via Fleetwood to Londonderry. 1852 as 1851.

1853 reverts to including the Captains' names and shows that the *Princess Alice* has swapped with her father :

"Fleetwood on Wyre.—*Prince of Wales*, Captain M'Neilage ; *Royal Consort*, Captain Humphreys, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.—R. Henderson, Agent."

"Londonderry, via Fleetwood.—*Princess Alice*, or *Fenella*, sails every Monday and Thursday.—R. Henderson, Agent."

There my story ends for the present, but it is possibly enough. It does not explain what mails were carried, and why a postmark or cachet was used. Certainly the boats were not official, although the same directories show that there was an official packet-boat named *Princess Alice* : it was stationed at Dover. The *Prince of Wales* included a Revenue Vessel.

I am puzzled by the reference to Fleetwood, as if it were a ship. The two marks used were "Prince of Wales" and "Fleetwood & Belfast," the latter being merely the name of the route. In the absence of a "Princess Alice," I think that the marks were probably devised by Captain M'Neilage or M'Neillage.

My solitary specimen is of the "Fleetwood & Belfast" on large piece. It bears a 1d. red with unidentifiable Maltese Cross cancellation, a London date-stamp for MR 25 1844, the Dublin ditto for MR 26 and Balbriggan (near Dublin) MR 27. There is no trace of a Belfast mark, and there can hardly have been time for the letter to have travelled so far so quickly. Could the ship have been loaned to the Holyhead route ?

F. E. DIXON.

DUBLIN.

FORGED HANDSTAMPS

SIR,

P.H.S. Bulletin 61, p. 23. No, sir. There is a much older record than 1815, in fact, 115 years older. It is amongst the State Papers, Domestic, and reads :—

1700. Feb. 16. London. A Petition from Jacques Mounar and George Goirand, to James Vernon. The petitioners, poor Frenchmen, took refuge in this country 13 years ago, and have served his Majesty in his late wars. They have carried out the order of the Postmaster for the arrest of one, du Versset, accused of counterfeiting the stamp of the English post : they ask for payment of expenses. (French 1p. SP. 32.12ff 26/7.)

A. E. TROUT.

POSTE RESTANTE

SIR,

Bulletin 60, p. 28. In this connection see *Bulletin* No. 52, p. 45, where are recorded private box or case entries for 1798/1805 at Bradford. See also *Philatelist* (Vol. 10, p. 198), for article on Missent, Undelivered, etc. letters, with photo of D.L.O. letter.

A. E. TROUT.

EAST MOORS

SIR,

In reply to your letter of 17th May, I am pleased to confirm that between 1880 and 1883 there was a Post Office in Cardiff known as "East Moors."

Old records for which there is no further use are usually destroyed, but the reference to "East Moors" Post Office was found in a note book of an officer who has long since retired. He records the name of the officer in charge during that period as "J. Goodman." The precise status of the office is not clear, but it is doubtful if it was a delivery office although this was possible under the arrangements then existing. Delivery work was not so centralized as it is at present.

There is a part of Cardiff still often referred to as "East Moors" but the Post Office in that area is now known as Sanquahar Street, Town Sub-Office.

S. C. YELLAND,

for Head Postmaster, Cardiff.

20th May, 1952.

KIKURGU



SIR,

Regarding the "Two Mysteries" of Dr. Howard K. Thompson on p. 40 of the May-June number of the *P.H.S. Bulletin*, the "KIKURGU" squared circle postmark (?) is a rather well-known forged cancellation usually found on the Uganda "Missionaries." I have never seen nor heard of its being found on any other stamps . . . I quote from an article which appeared in the *Uganda Journal*, January, 1938, by Mr. F. H. Rogers, an old-time collector and resident of Uganda for many years: "Fig. 29 is interesting as the postmark is forged; it reads 'KIKURGU', a mis-spelling of KIKUYU, which place was never in Uganda, and I can only suggest it was applied in London by someone either with a view to authenticating his stock or in order to supply both used and unused specimens; in any case, that type of postmark (squared instead of round) was never in use out here."

Rogers illustrates an example on the 2a, S.G. #56, and I have it on the 8a of the same issue, S.G. #59. On neither specimen is the date discernible, and it would be interesting to know if any of your readers have ever seen dated copies. I will hazard the guess that they will all be the same date!

Incidentally, the above-mentioned article, entitled "The Stamps of Uganda," is probably the most comprehensive treatment of this subject from a not-too-technical standpoint that has yet appeared in print, and I recommend it to anyone interested.

Los Angeles, Cal.

PAUL A. DORN.

May 19th, 1952.

Editor's Note :—By a strange chance, in the May 1952 issue of *The Philatelist* which was published a week after the May/June *Bulletin*, there appeared an article by Dr. W. E. Flood entitled "The Early Cancellations of British East Africa and Uganda." On page 180 Dr. Flood says "The KIKURGU mark is probably a forgery. I have it on a B.E.A. Queen's Head stamp, but it is more commonly found on Uganda typeset stamps. I have seen a Uganda stamp showing parts of four of these marks (dated JU 3 98) apparently applied at one operation! As far as I know, no place of this name exists; the nearest genuine spelling is KIKUYU. (The Encyclopaedia records KIRGU; I wonder if this is an error?)"

The Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia, Part II, Africa, page 177, records "In 1892 a squared circular date-stamp (several sizes known) was introduced, and is found for Mombasa, Kilindini-Mombasa, Escarpment and Kirgu." On page 186 it is stated "Normal date-stamps (on the typeset Uganda issues) are either forgeries (Ankoli, Kikurgu) or cancelled to order at a later date. Both the forgeries are mis-spelt."

