

CYCLOPAEDIA OF OVERPRINTED PRIVATE WRAPPERS: A POSTAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

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This is a companion piece to the author's book *Analysis of Worldwide Postal Wrappers* (2021) which was awarded a gold medal at London2022 and short-listed for the Crawford Medal. Overprinted private wrappers are postal history items and not postal stationery. An analysis of 11,000 private wrappers, hand-collected daily from the Internet and elsewhere over 16+ years, is a unique database. The Cyclopaedia illustrates more than 5,000 different overprinted worldwide examples. These, together with address labels, are the essence of the book and provide, in one source, a portable and convenient archive for postal history research. It is an area of philately that has been under-studied. Many of the illustrations are one-of-a-kind.

Arranged in 22 Chapters over more than 600 pages, these illustrated overprinted private wrappers cover 217 countries. They reveal a fascinating assortment of graphics, topics, usage dates and destinations. The book will be of use to country collectors, thematic collectors, social philatelists, postal historians, postal stationery collectors, economic historians, and economic geographers. It will be a useful guide to philatelists seeking a fresh area to collect.