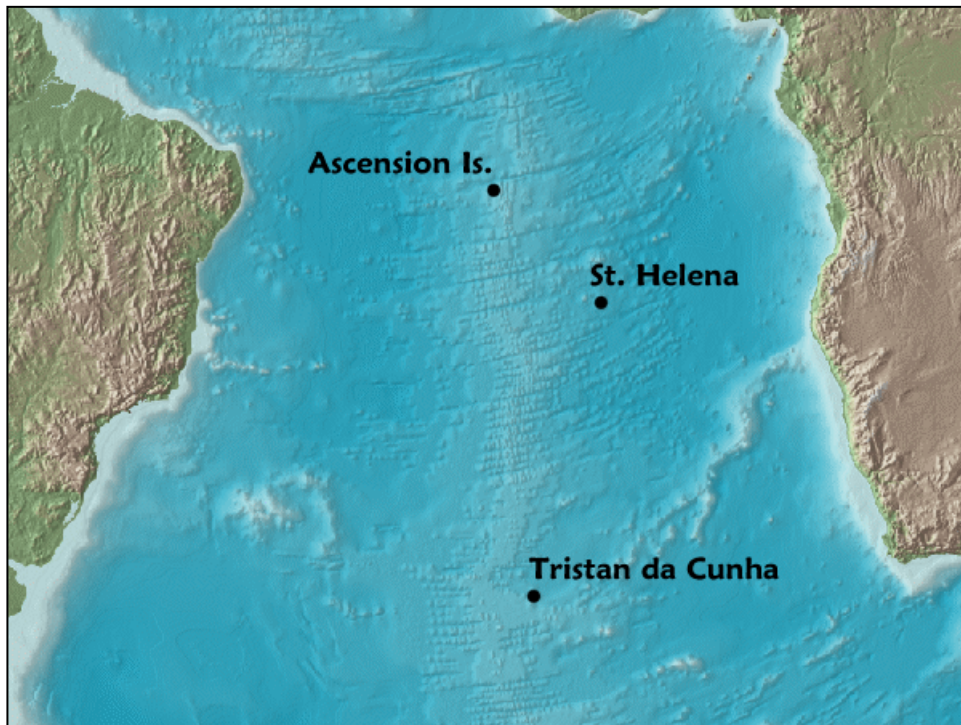




St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha



A Display given to
The Royal Philatelic Society London
by Members and Friends of the
West Africa Study Circle

Thursday 10 November 2016

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Introduction

About two years ago Frank Walton, then Vice President of the Royal, asked me in the small library if I could arrange a display of St Helena and Dependencies to be held during his term of office as President. Naturally, I was delighted and honoured to accept.

We have in the West Africa Study Circle (WASC) a very strong membership who collect this area and I have therefore been able to assemble a very enthusiastic team, including two overseas members who are with us today. I have also enlisted the help of two non-members (friends) who have particularly strong material from their collecting areas. Unfortunately a couple of willing participants have had to decline for personal reasons but, even so, I hope you find the range and quality on show to be quite exceptional.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the help of all involved. In addition to our team of fourteen, this includes encouragement from Frank and help from Nick Martin, together with the staff at number 41.

Despite living in (North) Yorkshire, home of the 'nodding donkey' style of presentation, today we are arranging the sheets conventionally as in the normal exhibition style. I'm aware I'll be branded a traitor for this decision, but as many of the team will have written their sheets with exhibition in mind it's the safest way.

It has indeed been a privilege and pleasure looking through the various submissions and compiling this brochure, which I hope will be a good souvenir of today.

We all thank you for attending and hope that you enjoy the show.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Barry'.

Barry Burns FRPSL

Frames 1 to 5

St Helena - Pre-stamp Postal History

Stefan Heijtz FRPSL

Stefan's displays are extracts from his International Large Gold medal collection of St Helena.

THE EARLY YEARS (1677-1814)

The display starts with the early pre-stamp period and shows the earliest known mail from St Helena (1677), the earliest known postally handled letter from St Helena (1703), as well as many examples of other rare eighteenth and early nineteenth century covers to a number of different destinations.



1703:
*The earliest known
postally handled mail
from St Helena*

PRE-STAMP AND STAMPLESS MAIL (1815 onwards)

The first Post Office on St Helena was established in 1815, the same year that Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the island. Four of the 14 known letters with the ST HELENA PACKET LETTER handstamp are shown, including the earliest (1816) and latest (1820) known examples.

The display then shows 1817 and 1819 early inland mail, 1819 and 1860 Soldier's Concessionary mail, examples of early inward and "bootleg" mail, India and Ship letters, the earliest (1855) and latest (1870) known examples of the oval ST HELENA datestamp, letters with different Anglo-French Accountancy markings, 1878 the earliest known Official Paid cover, as well as a large number of covers to many different destinations.

Frames 6 to 8

St Helena - Forwarding Agents Mail and Cachets 1807-1877

Stefan Heijtz FRPSL

In the nineteenth century St Helena became an important point for forwarded mail and several Forwarding Agents established themselves on the island. A Forwarding Agent is a person or firm who undertakes to see that the goods or correspondence of another are transported without himself acting as the carrier.

The official Postal system prior to 1874 for the transport of mail from one country to another was unreliable, expensive and slow, and the public, and particularly business houses, frequently preferred to use private means of communication rather than the Mail Packets. The Forwarding Agent would hand a letter directly to the captain of a ship for transmission either to its destination or to another forwarding agent en route.

1836:
The only known
example of the boxed
T BAKER cachet



The display shows letters with manuscript endorsements from all the different known Forwarding Agents, including the earliest known example (1807), Saul Solomon (nine), William Carroll (three), the US Consul (two), Solomon & Moss (two), Thomas Baker (the only known), the Swedish & Norwegian Consul (the only known), and Nichols Bros & Erridge (two known).

Examples of all the six different Forwarding Agents cachets: boxed S. SOLOMON (five known), SOLOMON MOSS GIDEON (two known), boxed T BAKER (the only known), circular T BAKER & Co (the only known), GEORGE W KIMBALL (three known), and boxed CARROL & KIMBALL (the only known).

Frames 9 to 13

St Helena - Queen Victoria Stamps

Barry Burns FRPSL

The first stamp issue of the island was a single six pence value of 1856 which was line engraved and printed from a single plate, in sheets of 240 (12 x 20), by Perkins, Bacon & Co. on Large Star watermarked paper.



When new duties were required in 1863 the contract was transferred to De La Rue & Co., who used the same plate but printed the stamps in different colours on paper watermarked Crown CC, and surcharged them with new values - a precedent in stamp production. Courtesy of Bernard Mabbett I show an example of a Four Pence essay from several designs produced by De La Rue for these surcharges.



In addition to the change to paper watermarked Crown CA in 1884, there were many variations in perforation and type of surcharge during the long life of the plate.

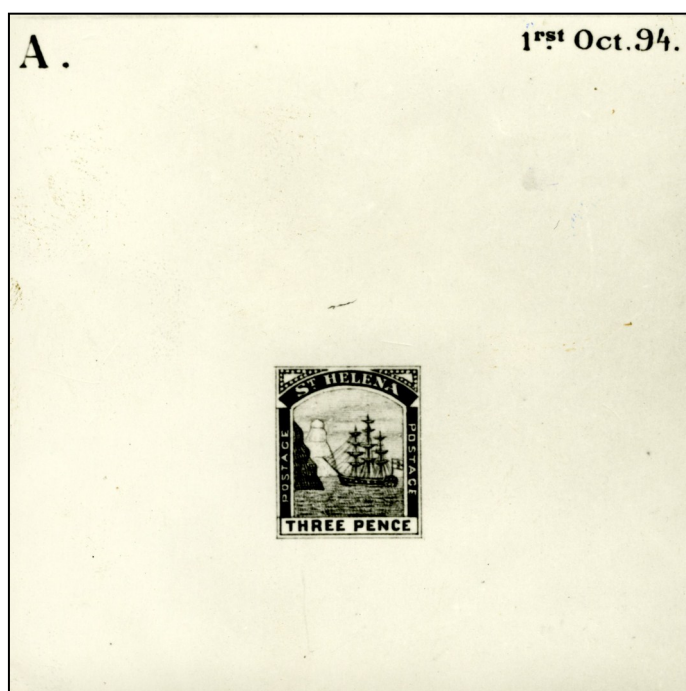
These four frames (including the first free standing 'A' frame 13) follow these changes until the stamps were gradually replaced by the letterpress printed keyplate type from 1890 onwards.

Included are Specimens, mint and used stamps in positional pieces, and some of the errors of perforation and surcharge. I also show a number of forgeries, and the four misplaced roller impressions found on the plate.

The following table shows the dates and issues of this rather complex period:

1856	Watermark Large Star	Imperforate	6d
1861	Watermark Large Star	Perforation 14 - 16	6d
1863	Watermark Crown CC	Imperforate	1d, 4d
1864 - 1871	Watermark Crown CC	Perforation 12½	1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 5s
1876	Watermark Crown CC	Perforation 14 x 12½	1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s
1880	Watermark Crown CC	Perforation 14	1d, 2d, 6d, 1s
1884 - 1894	Watermark Crown CA	Perforation 14	½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s

In 1890 when a new 1½d value was required De la Rue persuaded the Crown Agents to use the Universal Postage keyplate, and several other values followed in 1896-97. But in 1894 the suggestion of a new design had been contemplated and two essays labelled 'A' and 'B' were produced by De La Rue.



1894:
Essay 'A' for unadopted design by De La Rue
(shown by courtesy of Bernard Mabbett)

1871:
Block of perf. 12½ thick bar with double surcharge (2nd row) and missing surcharge (bottom row)
(shown by courtesy of Gerald Bodily)



Frames 14 and 15

St Helena - Early Queen Victoria Postal History 1856-1883

Stefan Heijtz FRPSL

The display shows a comprehensive range of early stamped covers, many of which are unique. It starts with an 1856 cover showing early use of the first stamp (only three pre-1863 covers known), followed by an 1864 cover with a pair of the first stamp. Next, an 1863 cover to Canada with all the three different imperforate stamps 1d + 4d + 6d (one of the most spectacular and important St Helena covers - illustrated).



1863:

Cover to Canada with all the three different imperforate stamps

Then follows an 1864 cover with 6d + 4d imperforate on the earliest known registered cover, 1861 and 1871 covers with single and pair of the 1861 perforated 6d, 1867 and 1869 single 8d and double 1s 4d rate covers to France, 1867 and 1869 covers with different combinations of the 1s 5d rate to USA, three 1868 covers with the '2' accountancy markings.

Dating from 1868 the only known example of the ST HELENA three line marking, 1869 and 1870 covers showing the first REGISTERED handstamp, 1870 and 1875 1d Soldier's Concessionary rate covers, 1874 7d rate to France and 1s 4d rate to Italy, the rare 8d foreign rate in use only between July 1876 and March 1877, 1881 and 1883 covers showing the single 1s 2d and double 2s 3d foreign rates, and 1882 1s 4d rate to India.

Frames 16 and 17

St Helena - Later Queen Victoria Postal History 1884-1903

Stefan Heijtz FRPSL

In 1884 there was a general reduction and simplification of the postal rates. This display shows single and double rates to GB and foreign countries including registered mail, ship, official, and taxed mail, as well as many of the interesting markings used during this period. These include the Tax, Post Office, Castle, Postage Paid and Official Paid markings, as well as the Swedish & Norwegian Consulate handstamp and the French Consular Agency handstamp.



1890:

Double rate registered cover to USA, from the US Consulate

In 1896, when St Helena joined the UPU, there were further reductions in postal rates, and these are shown through single and double rate covers both to GB and foreign countries, including registered mail.

There are also examples of printed matter, postcards and reply postcards; the use of foreign reply postcards from St Helena, as well as the earliest known example of Insured mail from St Helena, introduced in 1900.

Frame 18

St Helena - Instructional and Other Markings

Stefan Heijtz FRPSL

The Government offices are located in the Castle in Jamestown. Several different markings 'THE CASTLE, ST HELENA' with the date have been used on mail from the Castle, the earliest example being from 1887.



1900:

The first Official Paid marking. Rare, with only three examples known.

A number of Post Office markings have been used, starting in 1864, and several Official Paid markings have also been used, the earliest known example being from 1898.

There is a group of Tax markings, mostly the letter 'T' in various shapes and combinations used from 1878 onwards, as well as several Unclaimed/Returned markings, many of which are rare. There is a large group of Instructional Markings, but this frame also shows other markings found on mail, such as Official Paid, Post Office and The Castle handstamps.

Frames 19 and 20

St Helena - the Cork Cancellations

Bernard Mabbett

The twenty four pages in these two frames are from a much larger collection of St Helena cork or dumb cancellations. I illustrate some 54 of the over 100 cancellations so far recorded to date.



1897:

*Registered cover to Leicester at the
4½d rate (2½d GB and Empire, 2d registration) dated 10 May 1897
with the stamps being obliterated with the 'R' cancellation*

The cork or dumb cancellations were in use from the issue of the first St Helena postage stamp in 1856 and were used to obliterate the stamp, with the St Helena date stamp being applied elsewhere on the cover.

For a short period between 1864 and 1865 stamps were pen-cancelled. Cork cancellations were then used right through until the end of the Boer Prisoner of War period, and can even be found cancelling the Edward VII key types and pictorial stamps.

The cancellations take many varied forms including Dots, Blocks, Bars, Sunbursts and Maltese Crosses to name but a few.

Frames 21 and 22

St Helena - Anglo-Boer War Camp Censorship

Barry Burns FRPSL

These two frames show a selection of the cachets and signatures of the censors used on mail to and from Boer prisoners of war who were detained at the island during the two years between May 1900 and July 1902.



1901:

Cover with BW1 censor mark initialled FWA, undelivered, with 'Post suspended aw' and the RETURNED/ LETTER cachet applied at St Helena

During the second Anglo-Boer War 1900-1902 many of the captured Boer prisoners were sent to overseas camps, notably Bermuda, Ceylon, India and St Helena. On St Helena two main camps were set up, the first being on Deadwood Plain in the exposed north-east of the island. Following disruptions between some of the prisoners from the Transvaal with those from Orange Free State, another camp was set up at Broad Bottom, several miles to the west, where most of the Freestaters were detained.

The prisoners mail was subject to censorship and a number of cachets were used. On outgoing mail it was customary for most of these markings to be signed by the censor, and here I am showing most of the marks and identifiable censors involved. (In frames 23 and 24 Kevin Darcy is displaying the other two censorship marks, plus censor tapes and a range of covers between the camps).

Both Deadwood and Broad Bottom Camps also used a straight line cachet of the camp name, made from what appears to be cork or wood. It is thought they were used to identify the source or destination of mail before dedicated censor marks for the two camps were introduced.

Frames 23 and 24

St Helena - the Anglo-Boer War

Kevin Darcy

This display continues the range (started in Frames 21 and 22) of censor initials, completing the censor markings and cachets including the censor seals.



1901:

4 January 1901 cover from a Sergeant guarding
Boer Prisoners at Deadwood Camp to
colleague in regiment at Bristol.
GB stamps refused for use.

Following this there is a range of inward mail addressed to High Knoll Fort and Jamestown Hospital, together with outward mail from POW's on Parole, Camp Guards and Scandinavian Corps mail.

A range of inter-camp mail from St Helena to the overseas camps in Ceylon, India and Bermuda, and also the POW and Refugee camps in South Africa.

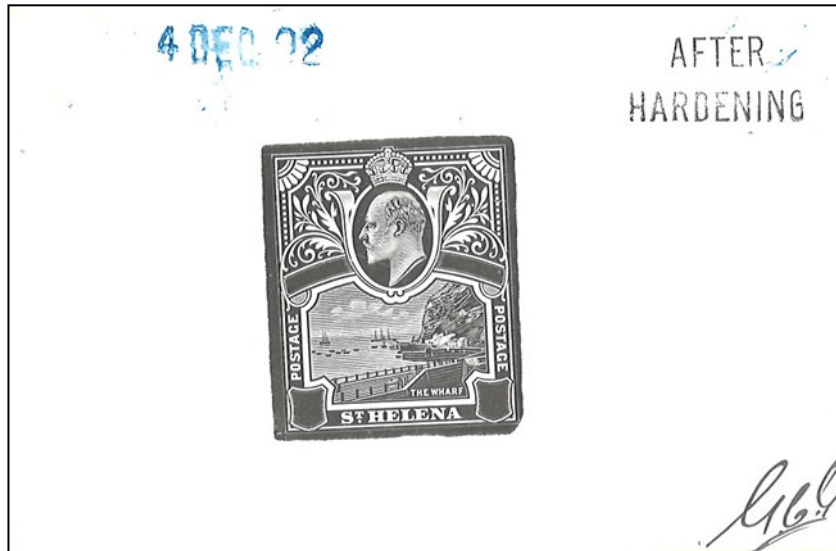
The display concludes with ephemera including lists of names of Boer Prisoners on documents with scarce administrative camp cachets.

Frame 25

St Helena - the First Pictorial Stamps

Alan Watson

St Helena's first pictorial stamps were issued in May 1903. This frame shows examples of the production work, issued stamps and varieties as well as usage.



1902:
*Die proof of the Master Die, uncleared,
showing vignette of The Wharf*

St Helena issued its first postage stamp in 1856. It used the same plate (printing in different colours and overprinting for different values) for the next forty years. In the 1890s the keyplates were introduced, with two keyplate designs being introduced for the reign of Edward VII. In 1902 it was decided to design the first pictorial set.

By September 1902 the Governor had chosen two views to be used for the new stamps - Government House and The Wharf. There would be six values. The ½d, 2d and 1/- values would use the Government House vignette and the 1d, 8d and 2/- values the Wharf vignette.

The precise date of issue has never been established. Covers bearing the 1d stamp exist dated 30 May and 31 May 1903, so a date late in May seems likely.

The stamps were used throughout Edward VII's reign. They continued until at least 1912 when the new George V stamps, using the same design but with extra values, were issued.

Frame 26

St Helena - KGV 1912-1922

Bill Thorpe

This frame covers stamps and postal history of the George V issues from 1912 to 1922. De La Rue issued no radical new designs during the period, relying on the established key plate designs and the St Helena pictorial issues of 1903, with the substitution of the image of the new King.

There were two issues of the former, and two of the latter - in both cases with additional new values. Colours were also changed, and the 1912 two colour low value pictorials were issued in single colours in 1922.



1916:
*Uncensored mail with early use (30 September)
of the War Tax stamp*

Reprints of the pictorial 1d were overprinted for two War Tax stamps; these being issued in 1916 and 1919.

Whilst censorship was in place during the First World War, it was not rigidly applied, and uncensored letters are quite common for the period.

Frames 27 to 30

St Helena - the KGV 'Badge' Issues

Bill Thorpe

These frames cover the King George V 'Badge of the Colony' issues from 1922 to 1937. The authorities thought that the previous issues produced by De La Rue were unsatisfactory, so they turned to the current Postmaster, Thomas Bruce.

He produced a design that is still considered one of the best ever from a British Colony. One possibly unique item is the complete Multiple Crown CA watermarked set overprinted SPECIMEN, all with the Torn Flag, as only seven copies can exist for each value.

The higher values - in particular the odd denominations of 7/6d and 15/-, were issued for Revenue purposes. They cannot therefore fulfil a real postal need and are rarely seen on cover.



1937:

7/6d from the second scarce printing on cover to Southern Rhodesia, postmarked 18 August 1937

Two such examples are, however, in the display. One of these covers, with the very scarce 1937 printing, is currently thought to be the only recorded copy on cover.

Frame 31

St Helena Miscellany

Barry Burns FRPSL

This frame shows a selection of my own material, together with some interesting items from another member who wishes to remain anonymous (marked *).

It starts with the original pages from the collection of L. Norman and Maurice Williams, the two well respected brothers and authors. The three sheets of the 1938 St Helena KGVI set are as they wrote them up, probably in the early 1950s. Interestingly, the issue date and accurate gauge of perforation is noted alongside each stamp.*

I then show some examples of Specimen stamps which come from the official archives of Madagascar, Mauretania and Tunisia.



A 'grille card' of the St Helena 1970 set commemorating the death of Charles Dickens is also shown. The stamps are handstamped 'SPECIMEN' in black, Type SH2, and the card would have been displayed in the Post Office to advertise their availability.*

The frame is completed by the 1961 Tristan Relief set of 4. These were released on St Helena following the volcanic eruption on Tristan da Cunha which led to the evacuation of all the inhabitants. Locally overprinted in Jamestown, they were withdrawn after just one week as the Postmaster had acted improperly in surcharging them without authority. Only 434 complete sets were sold. Shown here are a mint set, a used set* and a set of forgeries*.



Frames 32 and 33

St Helena

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

These two frames are a mixture of stamps and postal history from ancient to modern. A collection of photographic essays from the De La Rue archive was for a new George VI definitive issue but the King died before stamps could be issued. Some of the designs were used for the new Queen Elizabeth II set issued in 1953.

The earliest entire in my collection is dated 1812 and was carried by the East Indiaman ship *Corwell* to England. I enjoy collecting the various cork cancellations used in the island and a selection is included. These are followed by some censored mail from both World Wars.



1901:

Cork cancellations used on a censored cover to Holland

The display concludes with an insured registered letter from 1939 and a 1964 cover with a strike of the four line cachet RETOUR / NOT KNOWN AT / ST. HELENA ISLE. / S.A.O.

Frame 34

St Helena Miscellany

James Podger FRPSL

Please refer to frames 46 and 47, page 25

Frame 35

St Helena - QEII Mail

Bernard Mabbett

The twelve sheets in this frame illustrate some different aspects of the QEII period. The frame starts with the 1d unsealed rate for Christmas cards, then Formula Air Letters, OHMS mail, mail transited through Ascension Island and air mail rates of 1954-1955 (illustrated below).



1955:

*Air mail cover to Scotland sent via South Africa at the 1/3d rate.
This cover is dated 14 February 1955, 4 days prior to the
introduction of the 1/3d postage rate.*

Also shown are taxed mail, newspaper wrappers showing pre- and post-decimalisation, and internal postage rates of ½d and 1d. An item of mail flown home from Lisbon after the engine of the RMS *St Helena* broke down - the cover then being taxed for the additional air mail postage.

Next, a cover posted on the RMS *St Helena* with the Cardiff Paquebot handstamp. The final sheet shows two covers with local Sub-post Office cancellations; one on an internal item of mail cancelled at LONGWOOD, the other to the UK cancelled at ST.PAULS 1.

Frames 36 and 37

Ascension Early Postal History

Mike Brown FRPSL

My main interest in Ascension is the early period, and in these two frames I will be showing nineteenth century correspondence, including sailors mail and GB used in Ascension.

I will probably also include some early St Helena material including some tokens from around 1810 issued by Solomon, Dickson and Taylor.

I illustrate below an entire from a Thomas Butters to his sister at Perth, Scotland. It is dated 17 January 1829 and written from 'Mountain Station'. The transcribed letter will also be on view. Other interesting mail is a letter of 1854 from Honolulu(!) to Ascension and carried on the Whaler *Jireh Perry* (illustrated on the back cover of this booklet)



1829:
Entire letter from 'Mountain Station' to Scotland.

Frames 38 and 39

Ascension - the KGV 'Badge' Issues

Bill Thorpe

These two frames cover the King George V 'Badge of the Colony' issues from 1924 to 1932. Ascension's request for its own stamps was finally granted in 1924 when the St Helena 'Badge' issue was used for Ascension.



*1/- value overprinted SPECIMEN
Row 2, Columns 1-3, left stamp with
'Broken Mainmast'.*

All of the Major Flaws and most of the Minor Flaws transferred to the Ascension printings, and other flaws were found in the frame which are unique to each value and to Ascension. Some of these now have catalogue status. Together with St Helena the design is unique, and new varieties are still being found.



1½d Line Through 'C'



1½d Broken Scroll



8d 'Shamrock' flaw

Frames 40 and 41

Ascension

Mark Buckell

The first frame of King George VI commences with the Coronation issue and is completed with the 1948 Silver Wedding issue.



Attention is drawn to the imperforated 'SPECIMEN' Coronation issue of which only six complete sets are known; this being one of two known sets of singles. Also displayed are three 2/6d values, frame printed double one albino, one of these sheets contain the only known albino with the davit flaw.

The display of King George VI is completed with Specimen issues and familiar flaws on different values and colours.

The frame of the issues of Queen Elizabeth II consists wholly of printing and watermark flaws.

A flaw as yet un-registered, but shown by several examples, is a re-touch to the fork tail of the Frigate Bird on the 1963 7d value.

A similar watermark error occurring on several different issues during the period was the Crown appearing right of CA, in addition to left of CA, and other examples of the watermark inverted.

Frames 42 and 43

Ascension Island Mail - the Last 25 Years

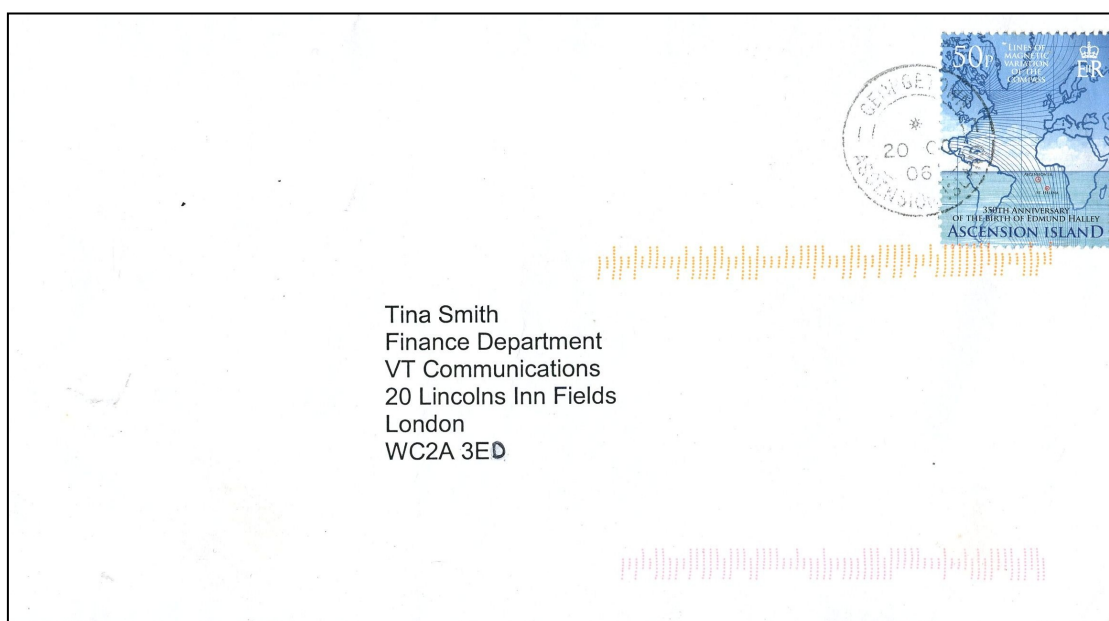
Graham Mytton

My display is of mail from Ascension Island over the last 25 years. I used to work, first in production and later in audience research, at the BBC World Service and we used to get a lot of letters from people on the island where the World Service is played on FM 24/7.

I visited the island for the BBC in 1993 and collected some material when I was there. Since I left the BBC at the turn of the century, I have done a lot of work for Merlin, which became VT and then Babcock, the company that runs all the BBC's transmissions facilities. They have continued to use the mail for matters relating to accounts, personnel, planning matters and the like - things that generally require actual documents to be sent.

So with Babcock's cooperation I have a lot of commercial mail from the island to HQ in London. I am showing mail to the BBC as well as mail relating to the transmitters. I also have the recent issue on a BBC/Babcock f.d.c. commemorating the 50 years that the shortwave transmitter there has been in operation.

The facility probably reaches, even today, a larger audience than any other single BBC transmission site anywhere in the world, and has played a major role in many world news crises, serving mainly West and Central Africa. My main speciality is modern African postal history of which Ascension is a small part.



2006:

Commercial cover from Georgetown to UK rated 50p.

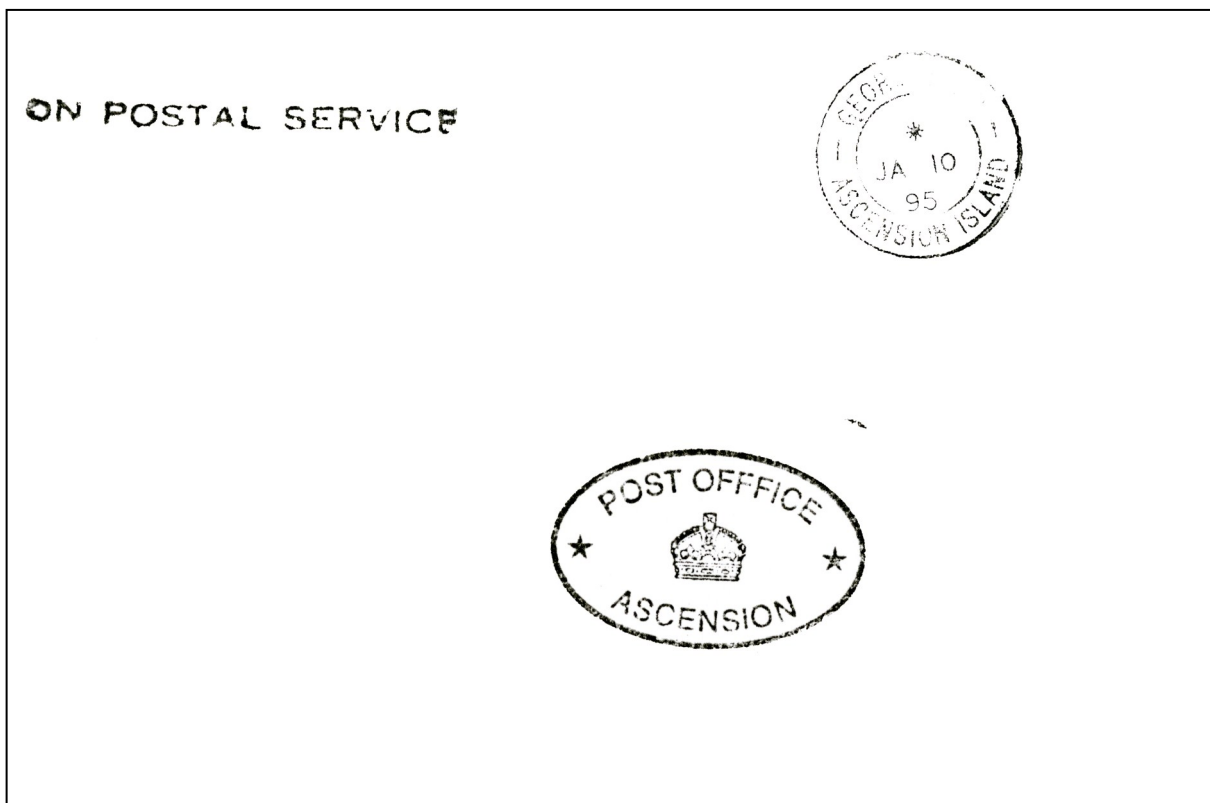
Frames 44 and 45

Ascension

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

The first frame consists of more modern material. The island did not justify having stamped postal stationery so formula registered envelopes and aerogrammes were used.

These are followed by a selection of official cachets, mostly used by the Post Office. Note the spelling 'OFFFICE' on the 1995 cover (see illustration). Some mail bag labels complete this frame.



The second frame includes military and censored mail. Censorship took place in WWI and WWII and various cachets are shown. The 1944 censor label has 'ASCENSION ISLANDS' instead of 'ISLAND'.

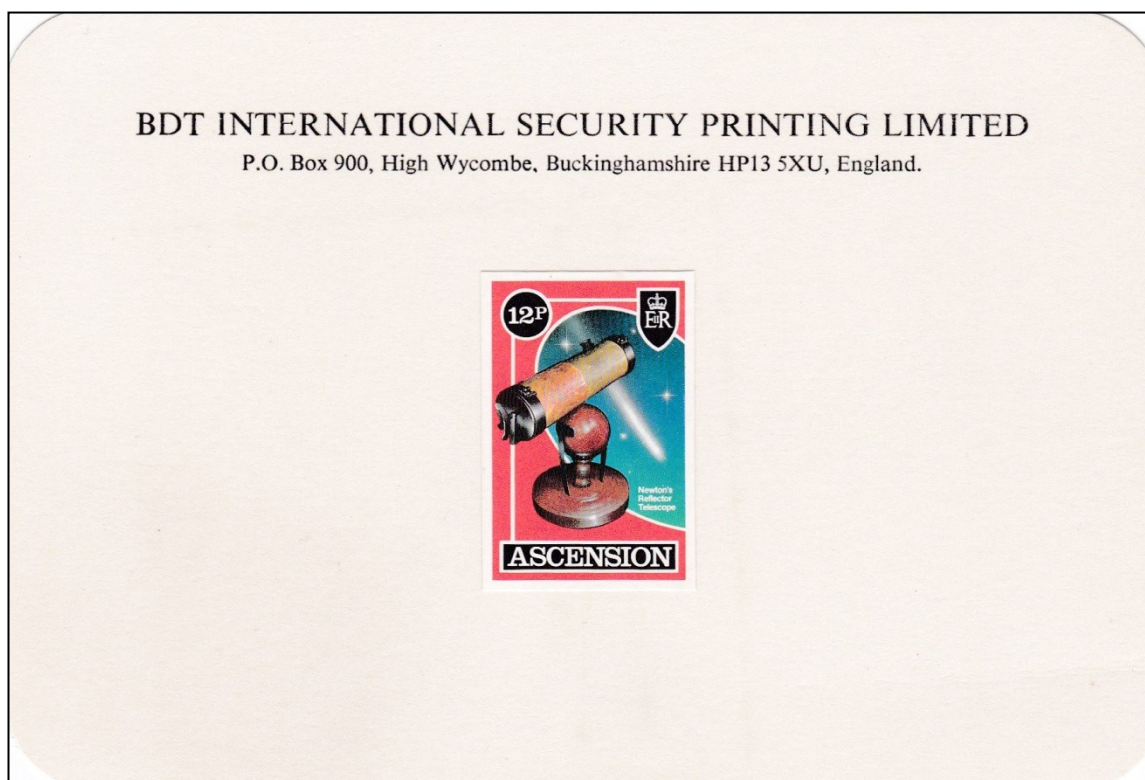
During the 1982 Falklands campaign, Ascension air field was used as a stopping-off point and a Field Post Office date stamp was brought into use. Several examples are shown. FPO 777 was in use initially followed by, amongst others, FPO 998.

Frames 46 and 47 (also 34)

Ascension & St Helena Miscellany

James Podger FRPSL

The two frames of Ascension Island and one frame of St Helena are a miscellany extracted from my collection. Included in the Ascension Island frames are some early picture postcards featuring 'Turtles', and for St Helena the 'A' flaw on the 1896 10d keyplate printed by De La Rue.



*Ascension 1986:
'Appearance of Halley's Comet' 12p imperforate proof mounted on card.*

*St Helena 1908:
2½d blue Plate 1 block with
local 'SPECIMEN' handstamp (SH2)
in violet.*



Frame 48

Tristan da Cunha - Postal History 1894-1919

Chris Rainey FRPSL

The display begins with an officer's 1892 hand drawn map of the Island, together with an 1892 census of the residents. Letters and envelopes from the pre cachet period, before the introduction of the Type 1 cachet in 1908. Also including the earliest known registered cover from the island mailed via Mauritius (illustrated).



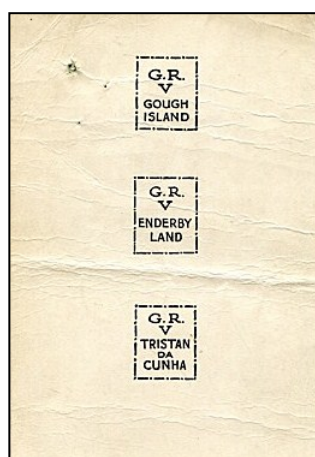
1918:

*The earliest recorded registered cover from
Tristan to the UK, via Mauritius on
28 November 1918.
(shown at 60%)*

Frame 49

Tristan da Cunha - The Shackleton - Rowett Expedition

Chris Rainey FRPSL



This display is of Shackleton's final expedition and includes a 1921 letter from him with the proposed unadopted essay (illustrated) for the overprint.

Also, the 'South Georgia' trial handstamps, and mail from the island, together with examples from Gough Island and St Helena.

1921:

*The proposed essay for the overprint.
(shown at 60%)*

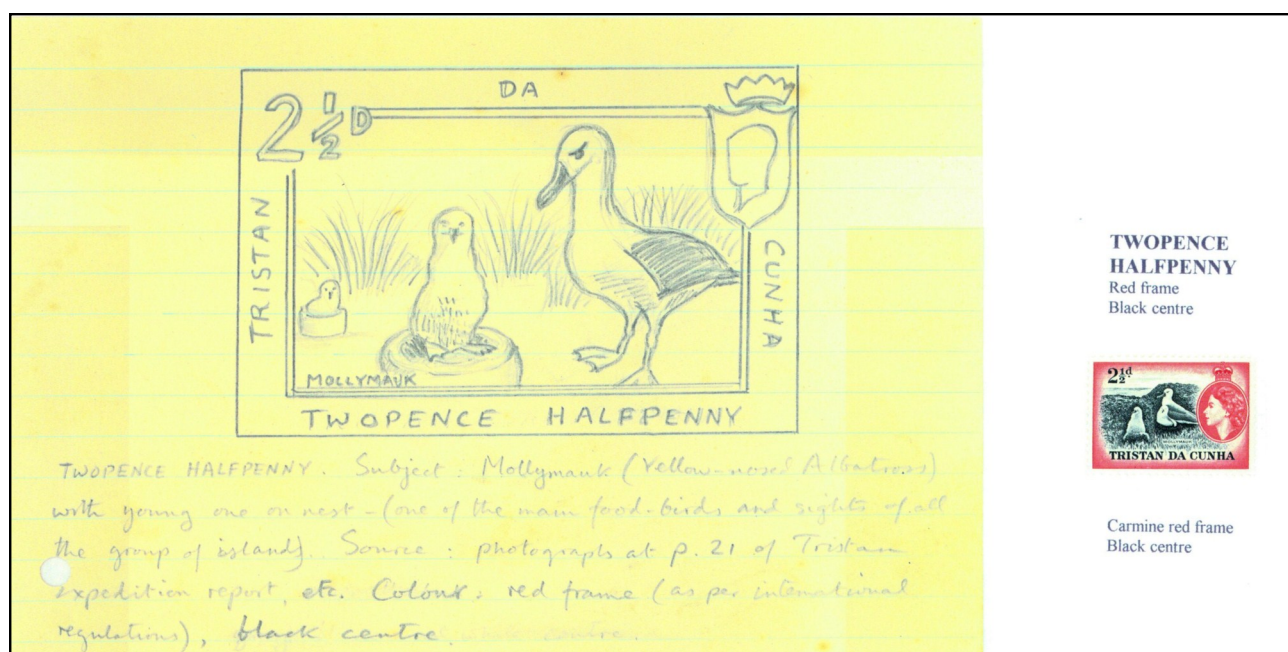
Frames 50 and 51

Tristan da Cunha - Essays and Artwork

Jimmy Crawford

The first frame is of a series of sketches made by Hugh Elliott, who had been sent to the island in early 1950 as Administrator, with one of his remits being to set up the postal service and the establishment of a Post Office.

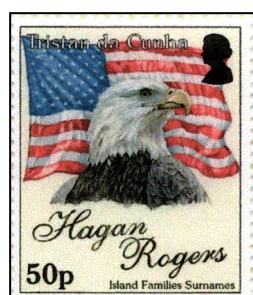
He wrote to the Colonial Office in May 1951, along with his original sketches for 12 proposed stamps. Together with two designs submitted earlier by Alan Crawford, they formed the basis for 14 stamps issued in 1954.



1951:

Drawing of Mollymauk by Hugh Elliott used for the 1954 2½d stamp

The second frame shows some of the artist's drawings and/or overlays for the commemorate set issued 6 September 2010 depicting Island Families Surnames. Designed by Nick Shewring they show both the national flags and native birds of the original settlers home nations.



Frame 52

Tristan da Cunha - the Volcano Period 1961-63

Richard Moss

This display covers events during the 1961 volcanic eruption, the subsequent evacuation and resettlement of the island in 1963. Items from each of the five phases are included together with two important photos of the eruption itself.



1961:
Front and back of the
registered cover of
31 August 1961
(shown at 80%)

Some personal mail sent from Tristan in this period is included, as is a similar item posted by an islander on his way back to Tristan in 1963. Similar but dealer manufactured covers produced on this trip can be found. Other genuine correspondence from the final resettlement journey may exist but does not seem to be recorded.

All the official cachets and postal markings are represented including three interesting Registered markings.

The most important item is not only the one recorded cover with a 31 August 1961 cancellation but it is also the only recorded Registered item taken off at the evacuation, by reference to the arrival date in the USA. This item first came to light in January 2015.

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