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THE LONDON PHILATELIST

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THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

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<i>From the Editor.</i>		178
<i>The Sandbach Correspondence. Part 1.</i>	Richard Stock FRPSL	179
<i>Cameroun: Plating the 1961 Sterling Issue of 1961 - A Summary.</i>		
	Martin Bratzel, Jr.	187
<i>Census of Dated Items Bearing New Zealand Chalcans.</i>	Klaus Möller	202
<i>The Story Behind the Cover, Number 5.</i>	Ian Balcombe	206
<i>Egypt 1866-67: Census of First Issue Covers Used at the Consular Office in Gedda (Jeddah), Saudi Arabia</i>		
	Gregory Todd AIEP FRPSL	207
<i>Letter to the Editor.</i>		211
<i>A VE Day Letter from London to Colombo.</i>	Richard Stock FRPSL	212
<i>Additional Covers from the Warren Expedition, 1885.</i>		213
<i>The Gazette.</i>		215
<i>Accounts of Meetings. Season 2019–2020.</i>		218
<i>RPSL Publications.</i>		220
<i>Book Reviews.</i>	Dr. D. Gwynne Harries FRPSL	225

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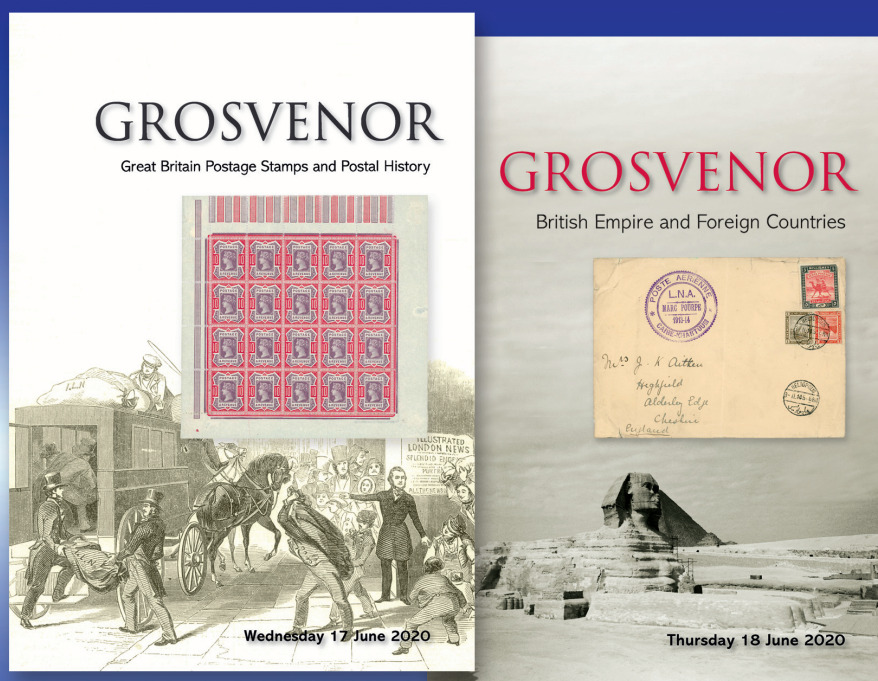


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CONTENTS

<i>From the Editor.</i>		178
<i>The Sandbach Correspondence. Part 1.</i>	Richard Stock FRPSL	179
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From the Editor.

Philately's Captive Audience.

Tony Bard FRPSL

The philatelic community could have been forgiven for making pessimistic forecasts for the future of the social aspect of our hobby, when Coronavirus restrictions were put in place around the world. This resulted in the wholesale cancellation of many long-awaited meetings and national and international exhibitions, and in particular, for all of those who had planned their trips to, and entries for, London 2020.

The understandable pessimism was to be short-lived, thanks primarily to the ease of using what used to be termed video conferencing, and the heroic efforts of philatelic society members (in particular those of the Royal) who organised an ongoing calendar of high-profile and absorbing online presentations. One of the most important aspects of these online presentations has been their geographical inclusiveness. It will be very interesting to see the statistics relating to the number of overseas members who have attended online. Indeed, much of the initiative for these displays has come from overseas, and this illustrates the real desire expressed by non-UK residents to be more actively involved in our Society's activities. It is somewhat ironic, therefore, that thanks to the lockdown internationally, our widespread membership has actually been able to come closer together.

Initially, many of us used the enforced restrictions to catch up on long-neglected tasks, such as finally writing up those exhibit pages we had been putting off for too long, or sorting through our holdings of ancillary material in the hope of finding an overlooked treasure. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of articles submitted for publication, so personally I am very grateful for this unexpected windfall!

The battle against the pandemic has been characterised as a war against an invisible enemy. This month's issue contains some reference to previous battles against both visible and unseen foes, be it in the requisite disinfection (and toasting!) of mail from Gedda in the mid-1860s, as described in Greg Todd's article, or combat of a very violent nature, when opposing forces fought hand-to-hand, as graphically recounted in the first part of Richard Stock's article on the Sandbach brothers. In contrast, and as a potential foretaste of our eventual victory over Covid-19, there is the ebullience and relief conveyed in a VE Day letter sent from London which was finally at peace, after the end of the fighting in Europe.

Our other features this month include (as is typical for many contributions published over the years in the *LP*) the results of long-term research projects, specifically Martin Bratzel's summation of the revaluation of the 1961 Cameroun definitives. Klaus Møller's Chalons census (published in conjunction with the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand), will hopefully shed light on more material. There is also what may prove to be the most contemporary subject of our 'Story behind the Cover' feature, a 2018 attempt to defraud Royal Mail. Hopefully, there is plenty of interesting and varied content to occupy philatelic brain cells during this strange period of enforced leisure.

We all look forward to the gradual unwinding of lockdown regulations and to our eventual liberation and a return to something approaching a recognisable version of the normality that we all used to take for granted. Exactly what that will look like, none of us know. Our experience to date, however, bodes well for our hobby in that it has demonstrated its ability to evolve in times of unparalleled crisis. Stay safe and enjoy your philately!

The Sandbach Correspondence. Part 1.

Richard Stock FRPSL

Introduction

DURING THE LATE 1980S AND EARLY 1990S numerous covers addressed to and from H. M. and A. E. Sandbach appeared on the philatelic market. They came from a significant military correspondence comprising three cases full of letters, covers and telegrams purchased from the Sandbach family by a postal history and archive dealer.

The correspondence relates to the brothers Henry Martin Sandbach and Arthur Edmund Sandbach who were, respectively, the second and third sons of Henry Robertson Sandbach of Hafodunos, Denbigh, by his second marriage (on 13 November 1855) to Elizabeth Charlotte Williams, daughter and co-heir of Martin Williams of Bryn Gwyn, Montgomeryshire.

An unusual feature is that both brothers served in Eastern Sudan during the operations around Suakin in 1884-85 and Arthur in the 1898 campaign for the recapture of Khartoum. In 1895 tragedy struck when Henry was killed by a lion whilst hunting in Somaliland. Therefore, any 'Sandbach' covers after that date obviously relate to Arthur.

The majority of covers contained the original letters, however, the family, whilst willing to sell all the covers were reluctant to part with certain letters and this explains the appearance on the market of covers with photocopies of the original letters. The fact that photocopies are available is due to the efforts of the dealer who purchased the correspondence.

Many of the covers, particularly those from the Sudan campaigns, are in fine condition, having been stored by the Sandbach family for 80-100 years, although it must be said that some emanating from the Indian Frontier are 'tired'.

In this and future articles the careers of both brothers are examined in a postal history context. Inevitably, much military and social history is also included. Also, the emphasis is on Arthur because most of the correspondence relates to him. Not unexpectedly, the Sudan campaigns are also prominent.

The following is a brief biography of the brothers:

Henry Martin Sandbach.

Henry was born on 2 June 1858, educated at Eton and commissioned Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 14 August 1876. He was promoted Captain on 13 March 1885 and Major on 4 January 1894. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, being present in the engagement at Shekabad (for which he was mentioned in dispatches), in the operations around Cabul in December 1879 and in the engagement at Charasiab on 25 April 1880. Henry served in the Sudan campaign in 1885 and was present in the engagement at Hasheen and at the destruction of Tamai for which he received the Egypt Medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star¹.

On 28 November 1895 a Reuter correspondent reported from Aden that Henry Sandbach had had both hands and arms crunched by a wounded lioness whilst shooting in Somaliland. The animal had been driven out of a thicket by beaters and Sandbach severely wounded her. The head Shikari, who was beside Sandbach at the time, discharged both barrels of the second rifle, but the lioness sprang upon him and killed him by a blow on the head from her paw. Sandbach fired another shot which brought the lioness upon him. Not having another cartridge, he rammed the barrel of his gun down the animal's throat. The jaws closed on his arm and in trying to force them open his other hand and arm were bitten. The lioness was finally speared.

Sandbach was taken to Aden for medical aid, the journey taking ten days. By that time gangrene had appeared in one arm which was amputated².

It was later reported that Major Sandbach died of his injuries at Aden, on 5 December 1895, aged 37³.

Arthur Edmund Sandbach.

Arthur was born on 30 July 1859, educated at Eton and commissioned Lieutenant in the Corps of Royal Engineers on 6 April 1879. He saw service in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882 and was instrumental in the formation of a Mounted R.E. Section which joined the Mounted Infantry at Suakin in April 1885 a few days after the action at McNeil's Zareba (at this time his brother Henry was also serving with General Graham's force at Suakin). The force was withdrawn in May 1885.

Subsequently Arthur Sandbach served in Upper Burma in 1886, the Sikkim Expedition 1888-89 and the Black Mountain Expedition 1891, followed by two years special service at Gilgit.

On the last day of 1897 he embarked for service with the Egyptian Army where he was employed for eleven months on staff and lines of communication work. He was successively Assistant Adjutant General, Dongola District, Commandant, Wadi Halfa and A.A.G., Lines of Communication. He finally served at the front as A.A.G., Headquarters Staff in time to be present at the Battle of Omdurman.

After a short period of service in India he embarked for South Africa and on 28 December 1899 was appointed A.A.G. Intelligence to the Natal Army. For his service in South Africa he was awarded the D.S.O.

In 1902 he returned to India and later saw service during the Great War and in Ireland. In recognition of his work during the early stages of the Great War he was promoted Major-General⁴. He died in London on 28 June 1928, aged 68.

(A 'Memoir' of the Life of Major-General Arthur Edmund Sandbach, C.B., D.S.O., appeared in *The Royal Engineers Journal* for December 1929, pp657-677).

Early Military Life.

Arthur passed directly from the V1 Form at Eton (where, as the youngest of three contemporary brothers, he was dubbed 'Minimus', a title which stuck to him all his life) into Woolwich in 1877. Here he proved to be a smart and efficient cadet.

A contemporary and subsequently a comrade in the Sudan, Francis Reginald Wingate said that Arthur Sandbach was called "the lordly stag" at Woolwich.

Twenty years later whilst serving in the Egyptian Army (where everyone had a nickname) he was christened "the stately stag" on account of his bearing and walk. The most lasting nickname however, and obvious to the Corps of Royal Engineers, was "Sandbags". This was used by Field Marshal Douglas Haig (at the time a Brevet Lt. Colonel) in a letter to Sandbach in 1898.

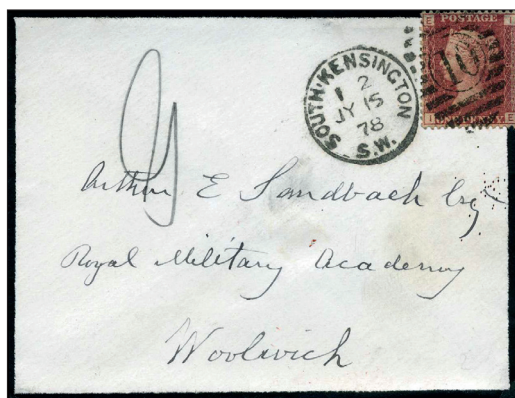
Covers to Arthur at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich dated 15 July 1878 and Henry, Royal Artillery, Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich dated 4 March 1881 are illustrated at figures 1 and 2 respectively.

The Egyptian Campaign 1882.

Arthur Sandbach was appointed to "A" Troop (Pontoons) R.E. and in 1882 with "C" Troop and the Field Park went to Egypt in the ship *Oxenholme*.

The Pontoon Troop performed useful service in the Sweetwater Canal area and was in close support at Tel-el-Kebir. Figure 3 is a cover sent by Arthur to his father at the family home at Hafodunos in North Wales bearing a G.B. 2½d tied by the very rare "B.A./E." British Army, Egypt barred oval cancellation with "British Army Post Office, Egypt" code "B" c.d.s for 24 September 1882 alongside. It is believed to be unique on cover.

Arthur Sandbach returned to England for a period of home service at Aldershot. He served with "A" Troop for a total of three years. In the summer of 1884, he qualified for a further period of foreign service and on 3 September embarked to join the 11th Field Company, which had just arrived in Cairo and expected to go up the Nile as part of the expedition to relieve General Gordon. Only a



Figures 1 and 2.

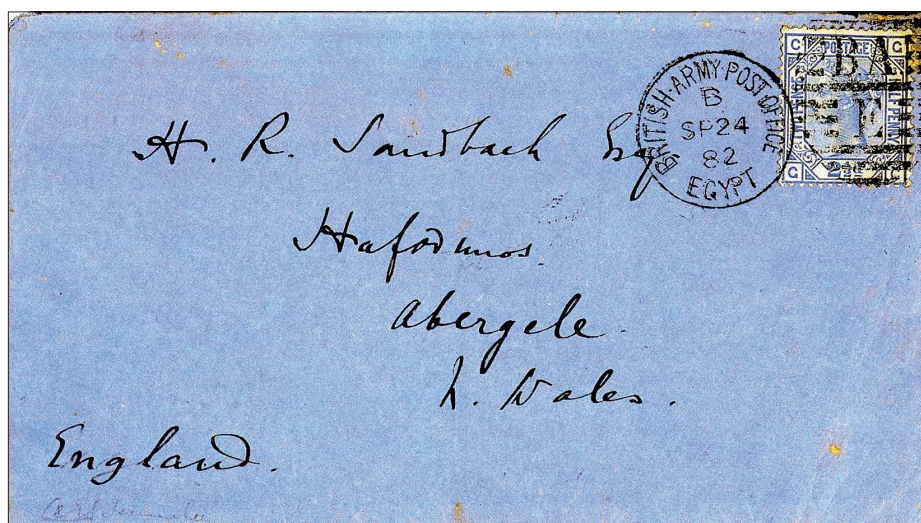


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

section of the company took part and Sandbach, as the junior subaltern, remained behind in Egypt.

The Suakin Campaign.

Following the fall of Khartoum, it was decided to send a second expedition to Suakin to crush the Dervish forces commanded by Osman Digna. The force, under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Gerald Graham comprised the following troops:-

- 5th Lancers (2 squadrons - 13 officers, 270 men)
- 20th Hussars (2 squadrons - 13 officers, 270 men)
- 24th (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (6 officers + 194 men)
- 10th (Railway) Company, Royal Engineers (6 officers + 149 men)
- 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards (31 officers + 816 men)
- 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards (31 officers + 816 men)
- 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards (31 officers + 822 men)
- 1st Battalion, Shropshire Light Infantry (27 officers + 813 men)
- 'G' Battery, 'B' Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery
- 1 Mounted Battery
- 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment (24 officers + 818 men)
- 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment (28 officers + 713 men)

The force totalled nearly 7500 men including Commissariat and Transport, Medical Staff Corps, Ordnance Store Department, Veterinary Department, Telegraph Section and Balloon Detachment. To this was added the 9th Bengal Cavalry, 15th (Ludhiana Sikh) Bengal Native Infantry, 17th (Loyal Poorbeah) Bengal Native Infantry and the 28th Bombay Native Infantry. The British Government also accepted an offer of a battalion of infantry and a battery of artillery from the New South Wales Government.

The Berkshire Regiment, which had arrived to garrison Suakin in January was substituted for the Yorkshire Regiment, which joined Wolseley instead⁵.

On 4 March 1885 Major G.C. Sturgeon and 20 men of the Army Post Office Corps embarked on the S.S. *Navarino* for Suakin and arrived about 25 March. Prior to the opening of the British Army Post Office soldiers' mail was handled by the Egyptian Civil Post Office and covers are found franked with Egyptian stamps of the 1881/84 series.

The cover and letter (fig. 4) from Henry Sandbach was written at Sandbag Camp, Suakin on 9 March 1885 to his sister at the family home in Abergele. He states 'Arthur (his brother) is, I hear, coming for certain with the Mounted Infantry'.

The cover is franked with a 1 piastre adhesive cancelled by a SOUAKIN c.d.s. (Stagg type 4) for 10th March 1885.

A further letter written by Henry at Sandbag Camp on 19 March, to his brother Arthur, then with the 11th Field Company, Royal Engineers in Cairo, contains an account of a parade of troops for General Graham and a reconnaissance by cavalry and infantry towards Hashin:-

'We did not see much of the enemy, as they retired before us. We came into action once, but did not fire a round. The mounted infantry were out and did very well. One of their officers, Birch, was slightly wounded by a spear in the throat. Our total loss was one man killed and three wounded including Birch. We captured three prisoners and one camel. One of the prisoners was wounded by a lance. We dressed his wound and then let him go'.

At Tofrek on 22nd March, approximately 5000 Dervishes attacked a force of 3300 British and Indian troops commanded by Major General Sir John M'Neill, whilst the latter were cutting mimosa bush for the construction of a zereba. The action is described by Henry in a letter to his mother dated 27 March written at 'Baker's Zereba, in the Bush'. The cover enclosing the letter is endorsed on active service, no stamps available' and bears the British Army Post Office, Egypt, datestamp,

code 'C' for 29 March 1885, a boxed 'T' tax mark and was charged 2½d on arrival (fig. 5).

It appears that the endorsement found on many letters 'no stamps available' was often untrue because the Postmaster General had decided to charge unpaid correspondence from the Sudan at a normal rate and this had quickly become known⁶.

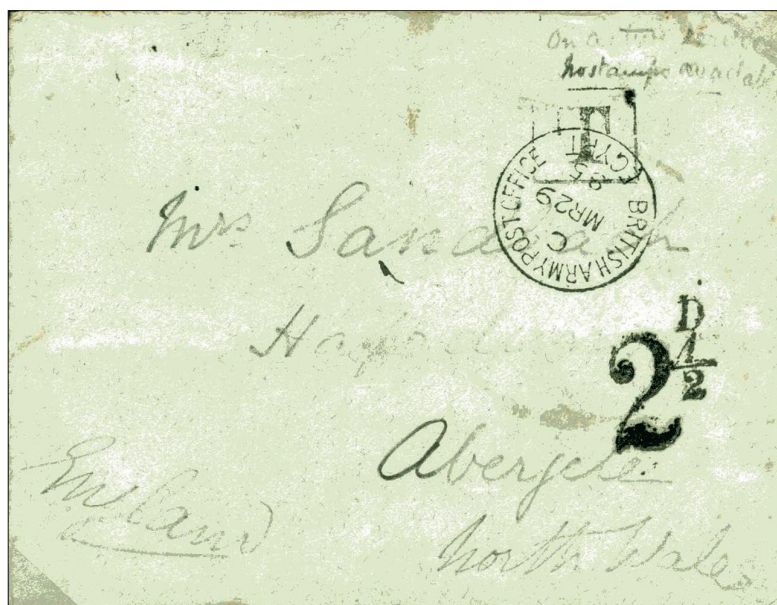


Figure 5.

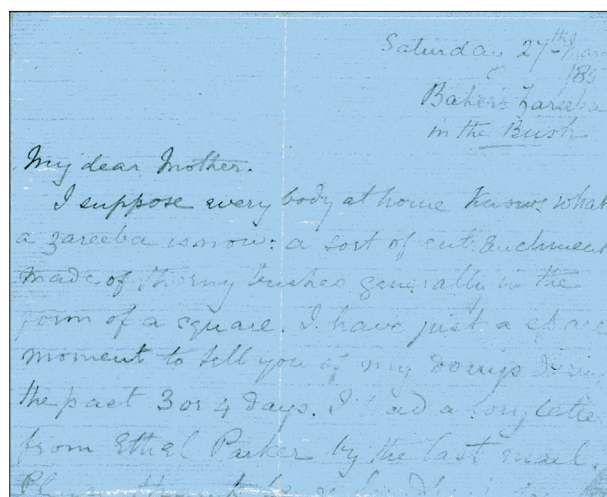


Figure 5.1.

Henry Sandbach served with 'G' Battery 'B' Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery and his letter (figure 5.1) contains an interesting account of Victorian campaigning:-

'There was a great fight here last Sunday which was very nearly being a disaster for us. As it was we lost about 700 camels and 300 men killed and wounded, chiefly camp followers. Our men were out cutting bush when the enemy rushed upon them and for a few minutes all was confusion. Luckily the 49th (Berkshires) and the 15th Sikhs behaved splendidly and drove the enemy out of the half formed zereba at the point of the bayonet.

One Indian Regiment, which shall be nameless did not do well and began fleeing in all directions hitting a good many of our fellows. A great many of them were shot by our own people, as being out in all directions, they were used for cover by the enemy. I came out here yesterday with two guns sending

the horses back to Suakin and about two miles off. A few of the enemy attacked us on the way out and we killed about 50 of them. Two or three of the Guards were hit, I believe, no casualties among our own men. We took 6 hours doing 6 miles; we brought out 9000 gallons of water on camels, and cut the bush as we went along. The Guards had a fight all to themselves 3 days ago on this road killing 500 of the enemy and losing about 30 themselves including their Brigade Major, Dalrymple wounded, shot through the shoulder. It seems rather butchery but these fellows will be killed in their religious fanaticism. They walk up to the square and never think of retiring under the hottest fire.

They all wear the Mahdi's uniform, white with red edging and blue patches. We have already killed of them,

at Hashen	150
on Sunday	1500
Guards	500
yesterday	50
	2200

besides odd ones. I suppose our loss must be at least 500.

Yesterday, coming out here there were 20 cases of sunstroke. Thermometer 100 in the shade. Do not be frightened about me. I take the greatest care of myself. The stench from the camels and dead men who are lying about in all directions is almost unbearable sometimes. A great many have been buried but the rest are too far gone to touch now. The doctors say it is not unhealthy. I never saw so many dead bodies before.

On the final page (fig. 6) he states - 'There are no stamps to be had in Suakin. They say at the post office that you will only have to pay single at your end. I hope that is the case'. - and he includes a sketch of the zereba. A map of the Theatre of Operations around Suakin is set out at fig. 7.

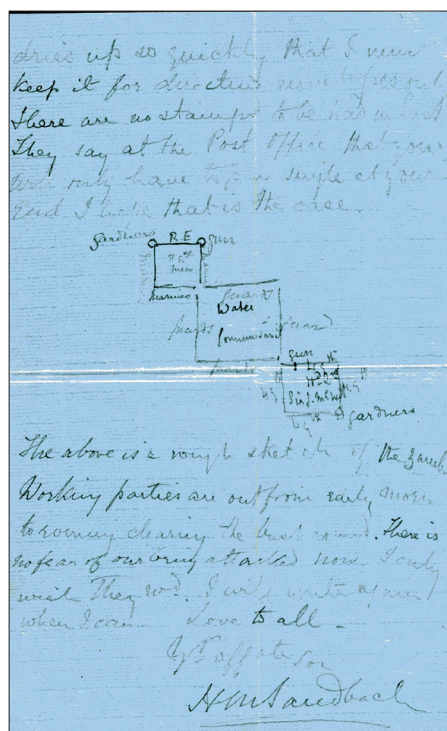


Figure 6.

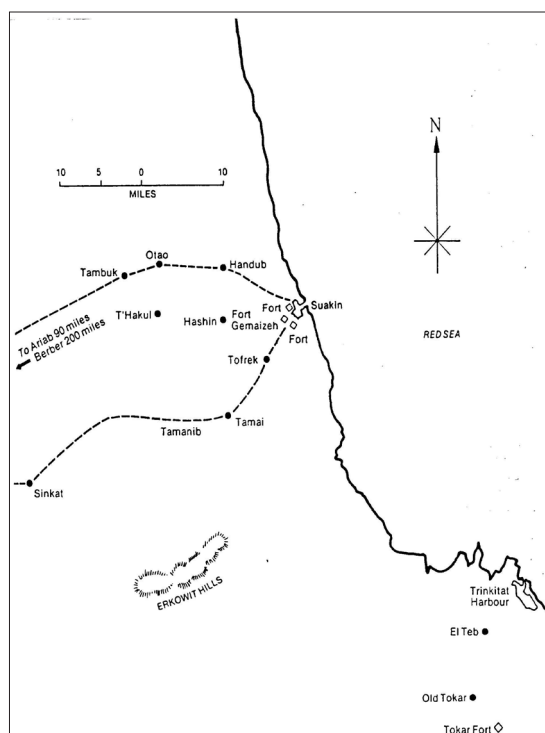


Figure 7.

Another letter, written on 6 April at Sandbag Camp and addressed to his sister refers to the

advance on Tamai which took place on 2 April 1885.

'We advanced in a square about one mile long. It was a wonderful sight. The Grenadiers formed the front face of the square and we were immediately behind them.

The balloon came a short distance but came to an untimely end by getting a small tear in it which soon spread and then the balloon collapsed altogether.

The enemy fired into the camp during the night and wounded two men of the Berkshire Regiment severely. The infantry piquet where I was had a scare and one of them (70th Regt.) shot the man next to him through the head. He was buried the next day.'

Reference is also made to the Australian Contingent which had two or three men wounded.

The cover with this letter bears similar postal markings to those illustrated in fig. 5.

On 27 May 1885 Arthur Sandbach wrote to his mother from Quarantine Island, Suakin informing her 'we embark this afternoon in S.S. Queen for Suez'. The letter was posted at the British Army Post Office, the envelope being franked with a 2½d lilac stamp of 1883 cancelled by the code 'A' datestamp for 27 May (fig. 8).

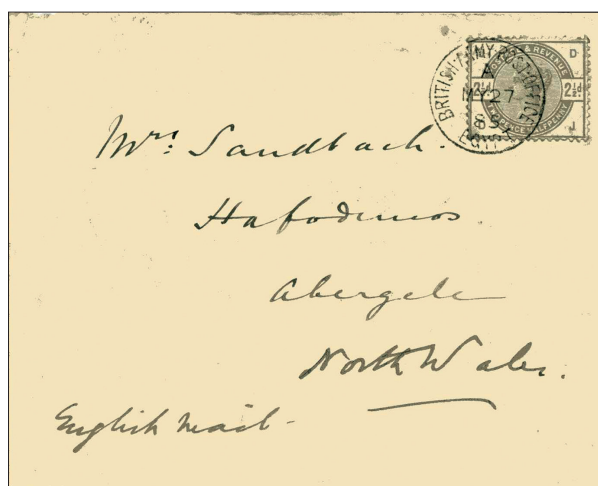
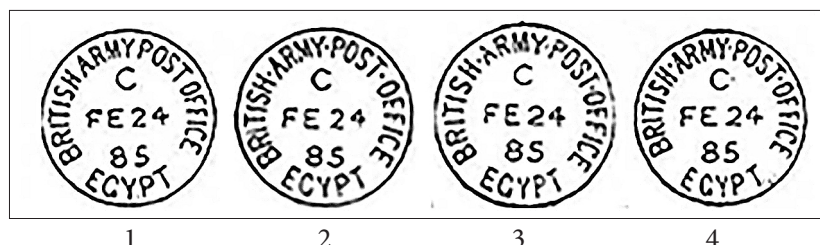


Figure 8.

Stagg⁷ states that the type 16 cancel with code 'A' above the date has been recorded with dates between 1 April and 27 May and the type with code 'C' between 1 April and 9 May. These dates are wider than the ranges recorded by Col. Danson in whose collection (sold by Robson Lowe international, Geneva, 28 April 1977, lots 557-563 there were 12 examples with code 'A' and 5 with code 'C'. Stagg records the former as scarcer, a view supported by examination of recent auction offerings. I have not seen a type 16 cancel with a date later than 27 May (Stagg's latest date) although Danson states that the detachment of the Army Postal Corps at Suakin did not return to England until 28 July. This conflicts with Proud⁸ who states that the Army Postal Service closed on 30 May and the detachment proceeded to Suez and embarked on the S.S. *Erin* on 10 June, reaching London at the beginning of July.



Proud further states that 'a Base Post Office opened in the Egyptian Post Office and a Branch Post Office was established on Quarantine Island. A Field Post Office was established at the H.Q. Camp and a further F.P.O. with the 2nd Brigade and moved with it to the Handub area'. He illustrates 4 cancellers, all code 'C' (there is no reference to the existence of code 'A') and tentatively allocates them as follows (although the illustration of the fourth one is not numbered):-

1. Base Post Office
2. Field Post Office No. 1. (Quarantine Island)
3. Field Post Office No. 2. (H.Q. Camp)
4. Field Post Office No. 3. (2nd Brigade - Handub/Otao/Tambuk).

It should be noted that the dates chosen by Proud for the illustrations are earlier than any recorded example. Both cancellers are found with stops between the words 'British Army Post Office' and the code 'C' canceller without stops. There is no evidence from the covers I have seen to support the tentative locations allocated by Proud. I would therefore be interested to receive information which may prove or disprove his theories.

The final item in this article consists of inward mail to Arthur after he embarked for Suez on 27 May. It is a spectacular and much travelled cover, containing a letter to Arthur at Suakin from an Officer in the Warren Expedition, Bechuanaland Field Force and was written at Mafeking on 3rd June 1885 (fig. 9). The envelope is franked with a 6d Cape adhesive cancelled "Barkly G.W." and a handstruck "T" and manuscript "1d" both erased. The cover was redirected to Chatham and received inward and outward strikes of the Indian Field P.O. cancel (Stagg type 17) for 10 August and 12 August 1885 respectively. The letter contains interesting references to Telegraphs, Mounted Infantry and a Special Mission by C.E. Haynes to Chief Lobengula.

To be continued....



Figure 9.

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Cameroun: Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961 - A Summary.

Martin Bratzel, Jr.

Introduction.

THIS REPORT SUMMARISES A TWENTY-YEAR STUDY of the sterling revalued stamps (Scott 343-351 and C38-40, Yvert 320-328 and PA49-51, Michel 332-343, Gibbons 286-297) used in Cameroun between 1 October 1961 and 31 May 1962. The stamps are listed in Table 1. Details of the study are contained in a series of 15 articles published between 2004 and 2020 in *Cameo* (Refs. 1-15). Three other articles investigate when and where the stamps were printed and their availability (Ref. 16), the numbers printed (Ref. 17), and backdated postmarks (Ref. 18). The specific articles describe the analysis and present incontrovertible information to substantiate the findings and conclusions presented in this summary. During the course of the study, more than 10,000 stamps were examined. The key findings presented in this final, summary instalment are:

- A total of 20 different stamps were prepared.
- The initial 12 stamps were placed on sale at postal counters in West Cameroon on 1 October 1961. First day postmarks are known for all 12.
- Six stamps underwent a second printing, which can be distinguished from the first printing, and two stamps underwent a third printing, which can be distinguished from the first two printings. The reasons for the additional printings were investigated. Their probable dates of preparation can be established by postmark dates.
- Of the initial release of 12 stamps, nine were also available in quantity at the philatelic bureau in Paris and three in limited quantity.
- Five of the stamps that underwent a second printing were not available at postal counters in West Cameroon but only through the philatelic bureau. Postal use – albeit entirely philatelic – is known for only three.
- One of the stamps that underwent a second printing and the two stamps that underwent a third printing were prepared for use at postal counters in West Cameroon. They were probably also available at the philatelic bureau.
- Proof impressions are known for 5 of the 12 initially released stamps.
- Because each plate used to overprint the stamps was prepared by hand from loose type, it is possible to uniquely characterise and plate each stamp position in each of the 20 plates, a total of 650 positions.
- Using the unique characteristics of each position of each stamp in each plate, it was possible to establish the order of stamp preparation and how overprint plates were transformed from one arrangement to another, or components used, to prepare other denominations.
- The circumstantial evidence leads to the conclusion that the overprinting was done under the auspices of the Cameroun P.T.T. at Yaoundé.
- The proposed number of stamps to be printed for four of the initial 12 stamps is available but the actual number printed for all 20 different stamps is unknown. The very early second printing of three of the stamps supports the contention that some of the initial estimates were too low.
- Three different colours of ink were used for the overprints – vermilion, carmine, and black. Four of the 12 initial stamps received overprints in both vermilion and carmine.
- Examination under ultraviolet light revealed different paper for two of the stamps.

- Three major overprint varieties have been confirmed and three others reported in the literature, but not seen by the author.
- The stamps were valid for postal use only in West Cameroon and only between 1 October 1961 and 31 May 1962. Many postmarks have been recorded after the end of validity, on loose stamps and on covers that went through the mails by favour or indifference.
- Substantive information is now available for the four major catalogue publishers – Scott, Yvert, Michel, and Gibbons – to revisit and revise their listings to include all 20 of the issued stamps, with consideration to the 12 that were initially released on 1 October 1961.

Interest in these stamps was initially stimulated by two articles published by May and colleagues in *Cameo* in 2000 (Ref. 19-20). Then, in 2001, Nick Carter provided a large quantity of used stamps with many multiples that he had acquired “on the streets” in Lagos in 1961-62 (Ref. 21). It was quickly recognised that the overprint plates had been composed by hand using loose type and that the characteristics of the overprint were different for each position in a sheet. The challenge to plate each position of each stamp in the series was accepted, but little did we know that the study would consume almost two decades! More than once we were asked, “Why?” and the answer being “Why not?”

The necessity for stamps valued in sterling currency.

On 1 October 1961 the Southern Cameroons joined the République du Cameroun as the state of West Cameroon to form the République Fédérale du Cameroun / Federal Republic of Cameroon. On that date a set of 12 Cameroun stamps, revalued in sterling currency, were placed on sale at all post offices and postal agencies in West Cameroon (Figure 1). Sterling-revalued stamps were necessary because the territory, formerly under British administration, used pounds, shillings and pence, whereas the République du Cameroun used CFA francs. The stamps remained in use until currency conversion, at the rate of 692 CFA francs to £1, was completed.

Unoverprinted stamps in CFA francs were placed on sale in Victoria on 1 May 1962 (Refs. 16 and 22). Whether this was a uniform official release date throughout West Cameroon has not been determined. Sterling-revalued stamps continued in use during May, as stocks in private hands were used up. They remained valid for postal and fiscal use until the end of that month. Sterling currency ceased to be legal tender on 30 June 1962.

The stamps and their examination.

With regard to the 12 stamps released on 1 October, four varieties have been confirmed: the ½d on 1 franc stamps exist both perf. 12½ x 12 and perf. 12½, both having been drawn from available stock for overprinting; the ½d on 1 franc stamp (Perf. 12½ x 12) with inverted overprint; the 1½d on 5 franc stamp with inverted overprint; and the 6d on 20 franc stamp with double overprint (Figures 1 and 2). Yvert lists two additional varieties – the 5/ on 100 franc [note that ‘5/’ is how the value is expressed on the Type 1 stamp] and the 10/- on 200 franc Type 1 stamps with inverted overprint – and Gibbons lists one additional variety – the 1d on 2 francs with double overprint – but the author has not seen the stamps, indeed, has seen no other reference to them.

Between late September/early October 1961 and May 1962, new overprint plates were prepared and additional stamps overprinted. Six of the stamps underwent a second printing and, for two, a third printing, resulting in a total of 19 face-different stamps. The stamps for the original printing released on 1 October are identified as Type 1 and those for the second and third printings as Types 2 and 3 respectively. The differences among the printings relate to the size of the value numerals in the overprint, the relative placement of the overprint components, and/or the spacing of the letters comprising the words REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE (Table 2). One exception – the same format and spacing was used for the two printings for the 4d on 15 franc stamps, identified as Plates A and B. The stamps appear the same on the macro scale but different on the micro scale.

The eight stamps arising from the second and third printings are shown in Figures 3-5, grouped by their probable dates of preparation, as discussed anon.

In all, 20 different plates were prepared to overprint the stamps. Because the plates were composed by hand using loose type, it is possible to uniquely identify each position in each plate, primarily by the relative position of the two bars that obliterate the old value and the specific characteristics of the bars. Other differences, such as broken letters and spacing anomalies among the overprint components, also contribute to position identification. Some differences can be easily seen with an ordinary magnifying glass (macro characteristics) but other differences can be seen under 30X magnification (micro characteristics).

The stamps selected for overprinting were originally issued in sheets of 50 or 25, depending on the denomination. For this study, with an inconsequential exception for a small portion of one sheet, stamps were eventually obtained for each position of each sheet of the 20 different stamps arising from the 20 different overprint settings. Each stamp at each position was examined at both the macro and micro scale and the characteristics uniquely and unequivocally identified, allowing full plating of each, a total of 650 different stamp positions. The examination and identification was undertaken in conjunction with proof imprints, discussed below, prepared for five of the overprints. Multiples of stamps from different positions were available for study, allowing certainty in the findings. In toto, more than 10,000 stamps were examined. The findings for each of the 20 stamps are illustrated and discussed in Refs. 1-15.

By way of example, through macro and micro examination, it is possible to determine whether a particular 4d on 15 franc stamp came from Plate A or Plate B: compare the overprint bars for stamps from three selected positions from each plate (Figure 6). The 4d on 15 franc stamps that were placed on sale on 1 October are designated as being from Plate A, since it was prepared first. These stamps are confirmed on first day covers. For details, see Refs. 13-15.

Seven proof imprints were made on blank paper for five of the stamps slated for initial release. Representative portions of each different proof imprint are shown in Figures 7 and 8. Six were cut into pieces and all the imprints made their way into the philatelic market. Original pieces or high-quality scans were obtained for study and, as a result, in addition to the one uncut proof, two of the cut-up sheets were fully reconstructed and four others are missing only small pieces.

Tracing the order of stamp preparation.

Using the materials to hand as a point of departure – the five different overprint proofs in conjunction with the issued stamps – the overprint characteristics associated with each position in each denomination were examined and tracked across all 12 stamps released on 1 October. As a result, it proved possible to establish and track how the overprint plates were used, then transformed, reconfigured, and/or components used to prepare plates to overprint other stamps. Plate adjustments were necessary for several reasons: the denominations were different and value numerals had to be changed; some stamps were different sizes and components required respacing and repositioning; and the bars required repositioning to obliterate the CFA values which were in different positions on the basic stamp.

The schematic findings are presented in Figure 9. One plate was used only to prepare the 1/- on 25 franc stamp. A second plate was used, firstly to prepare the ½d on 1 franc Type 1 stamp, then adjusted to prepare three other stamps. A third plate was used to initially prepare the 5/- on 100 franc Type 1 stamp, then adjusted, transformed and/or components used to prepare five additional stamps and two other intermediate proofs. From careful examination of its characteristics, there is no evidence to indicate that a fourth plate, used to prepare the £1 on 500 franc Type 1 stamp, is related to any of the other overprint plates.

Interestingly, components of one of the original proof plates were also used to prepare three of the Type 2 overprints, lending credence, as discussed below, to the belief that they were prepared early on. The two stamps with Type 3 overprints were prepared later in 1961 from one plate, suitably

modified; that plate showed no connections with any of the earlier plates. The plates used later, in 1962, to overprint three other stamps showed no connections with any other plates.

Overprint ink, stamp colour shades and paper differences.

Three colours of ink – vermilion, carmine and black – were used to overprint the stamps (see Table 1). The ink generally did not transfer well to the stamps selected for overprinting, and vermilion less so than carmine. In an apparent attempt to overcome the problem for four of the stamps, both vermilion and carmine were used during the print run. The carmine ink was, however, more viscous, often resulting in somewhat smudged overprints and with letters filled in, and there were still adherence issues. For some impressions, the overprint plate was underinked. The resulting artefacts and anomalies in the overprints for all three ink colours, plus the somewhat thicker overprints with the carmine ink, confounded but did not preclude analysis to plate and track each position for each denomination. As a further observation, slightly different shades of vermilion and carmine ink were used for some of the later Type 2 and Type 3 overprints.

Several of the basic stamps selected from stock for overprinting were in production for several years – the 1 franc, 2 franc and 10 franc stamps for a decade or more – and others, such as the World Refugee Year stamp, had only short production runs. Since some of the stamps selected were from different production runs, some stamp colour varieties might be expected. Indeed, several stamps exist with different shades, some subtle, others quite distinct. Two in the latter category are the 2d on 10 franc stamps – a long production run – and the 1/- on 25 franc Ahidjo stamps – a short production run (see Ref. 15).

All available stamps were examined under ultraviolet light. For a given denomination, the stamp printing ink and the paper, with two exceptions, were internally consistent. For example, the paper for all the 1/- on 25 franc stamps was “bright” – the term is relative, but the operative consideration was that all the stamps appeared the same. The two exceptions under ultraviolet light are:

- For some 2d on 10 franc stamps, the paper shows no response and the printed image appears green; for other stamps, the paper is moderately bright and the printed image appears grey.
- For all three overprint types of the 10/- on 200 franc stamps, the paper is moderately bright, except for some Type 3 overprinted stamps which show no response.

Numbers printed.

Official documentation regarding the number of stamps that were overprinted may well exist in postal or other government archives in Yaoundé but, until that information is located, the only indications as to the numbers to be printed are manuscript notations on the back of four of the proof impressions, tabulated in Table 3: see, for example, the notation on the back of the ½d Type 1 proof impression (Figure 7). Similar printing numbers can be inferred for the other eight denominations slated for initial release.

These seem rather low, and indeed they are, considering that the stamps would be distributed among six post offices and 21 postal agencies in West Cameroon, and more would be required for the philatelic bureau in Paris, to service the worldwide philatelic market. Furthermore, the revalued stamps would be required until the currency conversion was complete, ultimately a seven-month period (212 days) extending through to 30 April 1962. If only 25,000 stamps were printed, as indicated on the backs for two of the workhorse denominations that would be in heavy demand, and if the stamps were ONLY distributed to the six post offices and 21 postal agencies for use for 212 days, the number of stamps available per day per postal establishment is only about four! This would not take into consideration any of the requirements of the philatelic bureau and the demand for first day and other souvenir covers.

Clearly, the manuscript notations for press runs were rather naive, especially for workhorse denominations. That particular denominations saw heavy use is indicated by the number of used

stamps in the Carter accumulation, which represents only a small portion of the total mail dispatched. And the number of sterling-revalued stamps routinely offered on the eBay and Delcampe websites, and by dealers at bourses, argues for higher print runs.

The number of stamps ultimately overprinted for release on 1 October 1961 is not known, but the quantities were apparently sufficient for some denominations – there was only one print run before the plates were disassembled and/or reconfigured, as indicated in Figure 9, to prepare other denominations. However, the authorities quickly realised that for three of the denominations the numbers were insufficient. Likely, among other factors, they did not take philatelic demand into account and planned to prepare only what they considered sufficient to meet actual postal demand in West Cameroon. They could not, however, go back and overprint more stamps, as the overprint plates as originally composed no longer existed. However, pieces of the plates were still available, so new plates were composed, leading to the Type 2 overprints for the 2/6 on 30 franc, 5/- on 100 franc, and 10/- on 200 franc stamps, all of which were shipped to Paris and none for postal counters in West Cameroon. The additional quantities printed are unknown.

Some months later, in late 1961 and early 1962, as discussed below, to meet demand, new overprint plates were composed to prepare five additional stamps, two exclusively for the philatelic bureau in Paris and three primarily for use in West Cameroon but also for Paris. Again, the quantities overprinted are unknown.

Where were the stamps overprinted?

No official documentation has been located, but three locations have been suggested as to where the stamps were overprinted: Paris, Buea, and Yaoundé. Circumstantial evidence rules out Paris and Buea and points to Yaoundé.

Gibbons and Michel assert that the initial work was carried out by the government printer at Buea, then a second printing by the government printer in Paris in 1962. Gibbons further asserts that “It is almost impossible to distinguish between the local and French surcharges on the [$\frac{1}{2}$ d through 1/-] values, except that the ones produced in Paris are a slightly deeper red.” Overprinting at either Buea or Paris is unsubstantiated speculation.

As discussed earlier, all 20 plates and/or settings prepared to overprint the stamps were composed by hand from loose type and the overprint characteristics are unique for each position in each sheet of stamps. Further, a plate was used to overprint one denomination, then adjusted, transformed, and/or components used to prepare another denomination, and so on. If the work had been done in Paris, one would have expected high-quality plates, not composed by hand and with a uniform appearance – and not misaligned and sloping rows (see examples in Refs. 1, 4 and 13) – across each position in a sheet, and separate overprint plates for each denomination, i.e. no disassembly and/or reconfiguration required. Issues regarding adherence of the overprint ink to the stamps would most likely have been circumvented, and the overprints would have been more consistently well-positioned on the stamps, rather than the “wandering” often seen. If prepared by the government printer in Paris, one would have expected that the print runs would have been sufficient to supply the philatelic bureau before shipment of the balance to West Cameroon. Further, if and when additional quantities were required, the overprint plates would still be available, with no need to prepare a second or third setting, especially considering that three of the Type 2 overprinted stamps were prepared almost immediately. Paris, in all likelihood, can be ruled out.

Regarding Buea (Refs. 23-24), the printing press was set up there circa 1955 primarily to print the *Southern Cameroons Gazette*. Personnel who were on the ground in Buea in 1961 recollect that the equipment was not capable of overprinting stamps. Further, work would have had to have been put into hand some weeks ahead of the reunification date of 1 October, and there was no awareness of any such preparations. Additionally, stamp preparation would not have been a concern of, or entrusted to, the British administration which was responsible for the Southern Cameroons up until 30 September. If done at Buea, the British would have been preparing stamps provided by

a foreign (i.e. Cameroun Republic) government for use in a territory which they would no longer administer. Buea, in all likelihood, can also be ruled out.

The circumstantial evidence provides support for the overprinting to have been done in the Cameroun Republic. Although capability resided with various commercial printers, it may well be that the work was carried out by the government printer in Yaoundé. From the minutes of a meeting held at Buea on 7 September 1961 among representatives of the Southern Cameroons, the Federation of Nigeria, and the Cameroun Republic, it was “Noted that arrangements were being made by the [Cameroun] P.T.T. to ensure that stocks of the new [sterling-revalued] stamps would reach Buea not later than the 20th September 1961” (Refs. 24-25). This provides further weight that the overprinting of Cameroun Republic stamps was not carried out at Buea, but by the postal authorities in the Cameroun Republic.

Based on the weight of circumstantial evidence, the conclusion is that the overprinting for all the stamps was done under the auspices of the P.T.T. in Yaoundé.

When were the stamps overprinted and where were they available?

As noted above for the minutes of the 7 September meeting (Ref. 25), stocks of the twelve stamps scheduled for release on 1 October would be delivered by 20 September 1961. In a report dated 27 September, J.O. Field, the Commissioner for the Southern Cameroons, advised that “Supplies overprinted Republic stamps and other postal equipment [had been] distributed for use after 1st October” (Ref. 26). Thus, printing was likely done in September, perhaps earlier, but definitely after the referendum in the British Cameroons, held on 11 February 1961, confirmed that reunification was going to take place. The stamps remained in use throughout their period of validity. The 12 stamps were available not only at postal counters in West Cameroon, but also at the philatelic bureau in Paris, but as noted below, three of the set were only available in limited quantities.

Six of the stamps underwent a second printing and two a third printing. The earliest recorded dates of use for these eight stamps are summarised in Table 4. As discussed above, the 2/6 on 30 franc, the 5/- on 100 franc, and the 10/- on 200 franc Type 2 stamps were all printed using components of the plates used to prepare the Type 1 overprints, and the overprinting for these three additional stamps was probably done in late September or early October 1961, almost immediately after printing was completed for the 12 stamps scheduled for release on 1 October.

There is no evidence that these three stamps were ever available at postal counters in West Cameroon. All of the postally used 2/6 on 30 franc stamps in the Carter accumulation are of the Type 1 variety, and all of the 5/- on 100 franc and 10/- on 200 franc stamps are either the Type 1 or Type 3 variety. All postally used stamps of these three denominations with Type 2 overprints are found only on philatelic covers, or on loose stamps. The earliest recorded date of use for all three is 9 November 1961. One can conclude that the entire production run of the three Type 2 stamps was shipped to Paris to meet the requirements of the philatelic bureau. If the stamps had been available in West Cameroon, then use between 1 October and early November would have been expected – but there is none! The earliest use of these stamps is approximately five weeks after they were available for purchase in Paris. That much time would reasonably have been required to acquire the stamps, affix them to covers (especially covers originating across the Atlantic in the United States), and ship the covers to West Cameroon for postmarking and processing.

The 5/- on 100 franc and the 10/- on 200 franc stamps with Type 2 overprint are known on first day covers postmarked Buea, 1 October, but the covers have clearly backdated postmarks (Ref. 18).

The 4d on 15 franc Plate B stamps, the 5/- on 100 franc Type 3 stamps, and the 10/- on 200 franc Type 3 stamps were all available at postal counters in West Cameroon – the Carter accumulation contains numerous used stamps dating from their first appearance through to the end of the period of validity. All three were prepared because of legitimate postal need. The stamps were also available at the philatelic bureau in Paris.

For all three stamps, the time between overprinting and availability at postal counters could have been only a few days. The earliest recorded date of use for the 4d Plate B stamp is 30 January 1962. The date that Plate B was prepared cannot be established with certainty, but the evidence presently to hand indicates that it was prepared no later than January 1962. The earliest recorded dates of use of the 5/- and 10/- Type 3 stamps are both 8 December 1961, which supports a case for their having been prepared in late November, or very early December 1961. The same overprint plate, suitably adjusted, was used to prepare both stamps.

For the final two stamps, there is no confirmed use of the ½d on 1 franc Type 2 stamp during the period of validity, and the only recorded use of the £1 on 500 franc Type 2 stamp is a loose stamp postmarked on 31 May 1962, the last day of postal validity. That postmark, while technically within the proscribed time frame, is clearly philatelic, as legitimate postal use of £1 stamps was quite limited, with very few of the £1 on 500 franc Type 1 stamps in the Carter accumulation. This would imply that both were prepared no earlier than March, more likely April 1962 and that they were only available at the philatelic bureau in Paris to meet philatelic demand.

Postmarks after the end of validity.

The sterling-revalued stamps were valid between 1 October 1961 and 31 May 1962. Postmarks with later dates have been recorded for virtually all of the stamps – including the ½d on 1 franc and the £1 on 500 franc stamps with Type 2 overprints – from numerous locations throughout West Cameroon, later in 1962, through the late 1960s and into the 1970s. The postmarked stamps have been found both loose and on covers that went through the mails, the latter by favour or indifference. Postmarks have also been recorded for Douala and other locations within the Federal Republic where the stamps were never valid. With few possible exceptions (Refs. 15 and 22), any postmarks after May 1962 are philatelic souvenirs, collectible as curiosities, but of little philatelic value.

Four of the 12 stamps released on 1 October 1961 are also known on a philatelic registered cover, postmarked Buea on 30 September 1961, one day early (Ref. 15). Quite likely, the stamps were cancelled on 1 October but the canceller date had not been adjusted, but it was later in the day.

Catalogue listings and concordance.

The four major catalogues – Scott, Yvert, Michel, and Gibbons – all list the sterling revalued stamps. The assigned catalogue numbers are compiled in Table 5. However, none correctly identify all the stamps that were released on 1 October 1961 and none list all 19 face-different stamps. This is understandable since, until now, the story about these stamps was not known. Now that the stamps have been painstakingly studied and researched, the requisite information has been developed and is available to provide catalogue publishers with the substantive basis to prepare a proper, comprehensive organisation and listing. In light of the information presented in this two-decade study, all four would be well advised to revisit and update their listings.

Stamp valuations also should be reviewed, with consideration given to those stamps available at postal counters in West Cameroon and those only available through the philatelic bureau in Paris and especially for the two stamps for which no confirmed use has been recorded during the stamps' period of validity. Note should also be made about the relative lack of value for the numerous souvenir and favour postmarks recorded after the period of validity.

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arcane and boring material that could perhaps induce an insomniac to sleep! That said, all the information presented, when taken collectively, paints a rather comprehensive picture of a fascinating set of stamps. This study has covered a lot of ground, but more remains to be done by others. Accept the challenge, and carry on!

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21. The Carter accumulation is a large quantity of used Cameroon stamps that Nick Carter acquired "on the streets" in Lagos in 1961-62. Nick passed away on September 11, 2008. His stamps have been, and continue to be available for study. Numerous articles based on his accumulation have been published in

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26. 'Despatch from Southern Cameroons Commissioner [J.O. Field] to S. of S. [the British Secretary of State for the Colonies], 27th September 1961,' Secret and Personal, Personal No. 100, National Archives, Kew, London, File No. CO554/2440.

Table 1. Listing of sterling-revalued stamps.

This study	Description	Overprint ink colours
1	½d on 1 franc Type 1 – Perf. 12½.	Vermilion, carmine.
1a	½d on 1 franc Type 1 – Perf. 12½ x 12.	Carmine (and vermillion?).
1b	½d on 1 franc Type 1 – Perf. 12½ x 12, inverted overprint.	Carmine.
2	½d on 1 franc Type 2.	Carmine.
3	1d on 2 francs.	Vermilion, carmine.
3a	1d on 2 francs – double overprint.	
4	1½d on 5 francs.	Vermilion.
4a	1½d on 5 francs – inverted overprint.	Vermilion.
5	2d on 10 francs.	Vermilion, carmine.
6	3d on 15 francs.	Vermilion, carmine.
7	4d on 15 francs Plate A.	Black.
8	4d on 15 francs Plate B.	Black.
9	6d on 20 francs.	Vermilion.
9a	6d on 20 francs – double overprint.	Vermilion.
10	1/- on 25 francs.	Carmine.
11	2/6 on 30 francs Type 1.	Carmine.
12	2/6 on 30 francs Type 2.	Vermilion.
13	5/ on 100 francs Type 1.	Vermilion.
13a	5/ on 100 francs Type 1 – inverted overprint.	
14	5/- on 100 francs Type 2.	Vermilion.
15	5/- on 100 francs Type 3.	Carmine.
16	10/- on 200 francs Type 1.	Vermilion.
16a	10/- on 200 francs Type 1 – inverted overprint.	
17	10/- on 200 francs Type 2.	Vermilion.
18	10/- on 200 francs Type 3.	Carmine.
19	£1 on 500 francs Type 1.	Vermilion.
20	£1 on 500 francs Type 2.	Vermilion.

Table 2. Distinguishing overprint characteristics.

Number	Description	Characteristics
1, 1a	½d on 1 Franc Type 1.	'½d' offset to left from right edge of 'REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE'
2	½d on 1 Franc Type 2.	'd' of '½d' aligned with right edge of 'REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE'
11	2/6 on 30 Francs Type 1.	Small '2/6'
12	2/6 on 30 Francs Type 2.	Large '2/6'
13	5/ on 100 Francs Type 1.	Small '5'
14	5/- on 100 Francs Type 2.	Large '5'; right edge of '5/-' vertically aligns with left edge of overprint bars.
15	5/- on 100 Francs Type 3.	Large '5'; '5/-' offset to left.
16	10/- on 200 Francs Type 1.	Small '10'
17	10/- on 200 Francs Type 2.	Large '10'; right edge of '10/-' vertically aligns with left edge of overprint bars.
18	10/- on 200 Francs Type 3.	Large '10'; '10/-' offset to left.
19	£1 on 500 Francs Type 1.	'REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE' 17½ x 6¼ mm.
20	£1 on 500 Francs Type 2.	'REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE' 22½ x 6½ mm.

Table 3. Number of stamps to be overprinted. Notations on the back of proof impressions.

Proof and stamp to be overprinted	Colour of proof impression	Notation
½d on 1 franc Type 1.	Vermilion.	1,000 sheets x 50 stamps per sheet = 50,000 stamps.
1½d on 5 francs.	Vermilion.	1,000 sheets x 25 stamps per sheet = 25,000 stamps.
1/- on 25 francs.	Carmine.	1,000 sheets x 25 stamps per sheet = 25,000 stamps.
2/6 on 30 francs Type 1.	Carmine.	Notation could be interpreted to be 40 sheets x 25 stamps per sheet = 1,000 stamps. Another notation could suggest a five-fold increase to 5,000 stamps.
5/ on 100 francs Type 1.	Vermilion.	No number.

Table 4. Earliest recorded dates of use of stamps from 4d Plate B and with Type 2 and Type 3 overprints.

Number	Denomination	Earliest date	Observations
2	½d on 1 franc Type 2.		No confirmed use.
8	4d on 15 francs Plate B.	30 January 1962	Commercial use.
12	2/6 on 30 francs Type 2.	9 November 1961	Philatelic use only.
14	5/- on 100 francs Type 2.	9 November 1961	Philatelic use only.
15	5/- on 100 francs Type 3.	8 December 1961	Commercial and philatelic use.
17	10/- on 200 francs Type 2.	9 November 1961	Philatelic use only.

18	10/- on 200 francs Type 3.	8 December 1961	Commercial and philatelic use.
20	£1 on 500 francs Type 2.	31 May 1962	Philatelic use only.

Table 5. Catalogue concordance.

This Study	Description	Catalogue Numbers			
		Scott	Yvert	Michel	Gibbons
1	½d on 1 franc Type 1 – Perf. 12½.	343	320	332	286
1a	½d on 1 franc Type 1 – Perf. 12½ x 12.				286b
1b	½d on 1 franc Type 1 – Perf. 12½ x 12, inverted overprint.	–	320a	–	–
2	½d on 1 franc Type 2.	–	–	–	286a
3	1d on 2 francs.	344	321	333	287
3a	1d on 2 francs – double overprint.	–	–	–	287a
4	1½d on 5 francs.	345	322	334	288
4a	1½d on 5 francs – inverted overprint.	–	–	–	–
5	2d on 10 francs.	346	323	335	289
6	3d on 15 francs.	347	324	336	290
7	4d on 15 francs Plate A.	348	325	337	291
8	4d on 15 francs Plate B.				
9	6d on 20 francs.	349	326	338	292
9a	6d on 20 francs – double overprint.	–	–	–	–
10	1/- on 25 francs.	350	327	339	293
11	2/6 on 30 francs Type 1.	351a	328a	340 I	294
12	2/6 on 30 francs Type 2.	351	328	340 II	294a
13	5/ on 100 francs Type 1.	C38a	PA49a	341 I	295
13a	5/ on 100 francs Type 1 – inverted overprint.	–	PA49b	–	–
14	5/- on 100 francs Type 2.	C38	PA49	–	295a
15	5/- on 100 francs Type 3.		–	341 II	
16	10/- on 200 francs Type 1.	C39a	PA50a	342 I	296
16a	10/- on 200 francs Type 1 – inverted overprint.	–	PA50c	–	–
17	10/- on 200 francs Type 2.	C39	PA50	–	296a
18	10/- on 200 francs Type 3.	C39b	PA50b	342 II	
19	£1 on 500 francs Type 1.	C40	PA51	343 II	297a
20	£1 on 500 francs Type 2.	C40a	PA51a	343 I	297



Figure 1. Set of 12 stamps placed on sale at postal counters in West Cameroon on 1 October 1961. Both perforation varieties of the ½d on 1 franc Type 1 stamp were available.

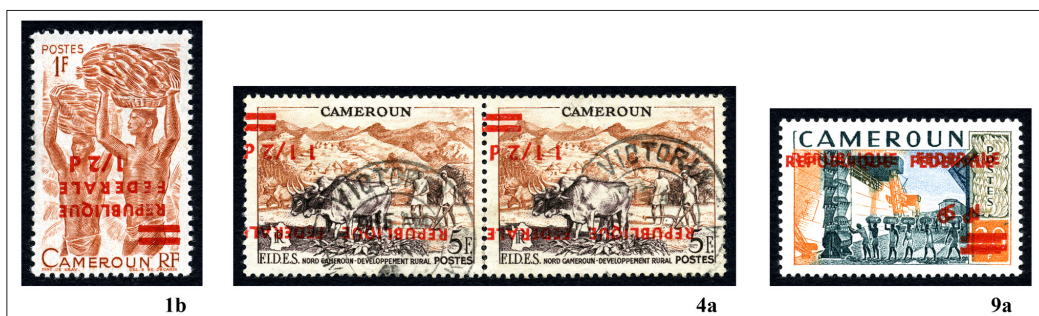


Figure 2. Overprint varieties. For the ½d on 1 franc Type 1 stamp, one sheet of 50 received an inverted overprint; the stamp is known only mint. For the 1½d on 5 franc stamp, one sheet of 25 received an inverted overprint; the stamp is known only used. For the 6d on 20 franc stamp, one sheet of 25 received a double overprint; the stamp is known only mint.



Figure 3. The 2/6 on 30 franc, 5/- on 100 franc and 10/- on 200 franc stamps with Type 2 overprints, prepared late September/early October 1961 and only available at the philatelic bureau in Paris.



Figure 4. The 4d on 15 franc Plate B stamp and the 5/- on 100 franc and 10/- on 200 franc stamps with Type 3 overprints, available at postal counters in West Cameroon. The 4d on 15 franc Plate B stamp was prepared no later than January 1962 and the two Type 3 stamps were prepared circa November 1961.



Figure 5. The ½d on 1 franc Type 2 and the £1 on 500 franc Type 2 stamps were prepared in March/April 1962 to supply the philatelic bureau in Paris. No postal use during the period of validity has been recorded for the former and only a single loose copy of the latter is known, postmarked on the last day of validity.

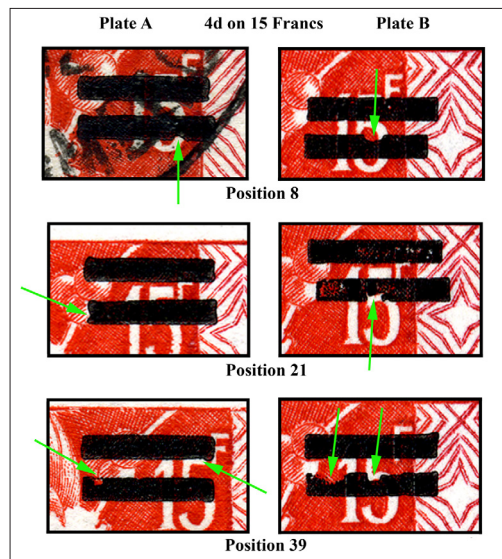


Figure 6. Characteristics of the overprint bars for the 4d on 15 franc stamps for Positions 8, 21 and 39 from Plate A and Plate B. The differences allow determination of which printing a particular stamp came from. The characteristics are not artefacts related to poor ink adherence.

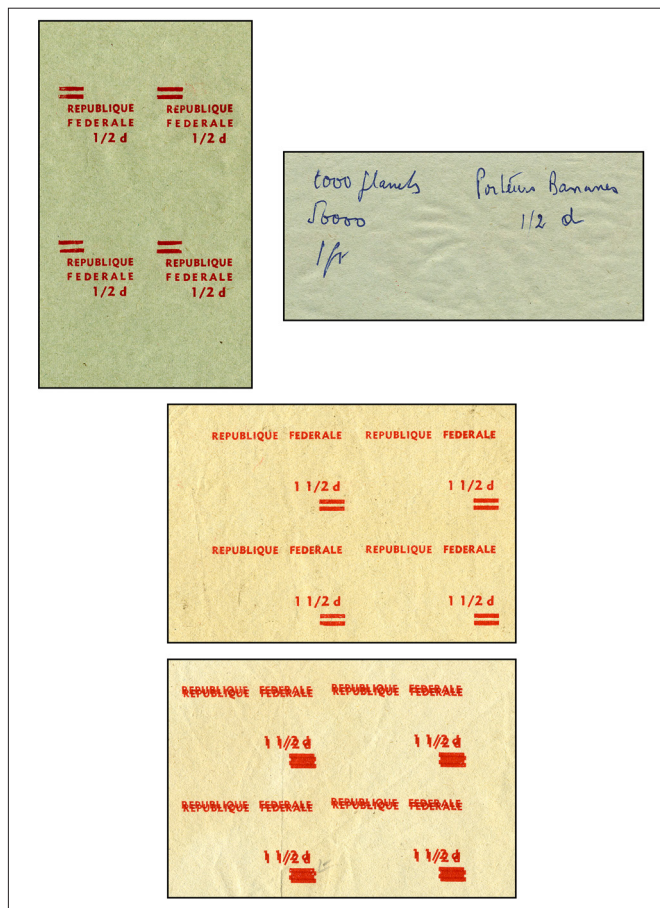


Figure 7. Representative pieces of the proof impressions. The ½d Type 1 is vermilion on greenish paper and the 1½d is vermilion on tan paper. Also shown is the notation on the back of the ½d Type 1 proof impression. The overprint was to be applied to the 1 franc banana porters stamp, 1,000 sheets x 50 stamps per sheet = 50,000 stamps.

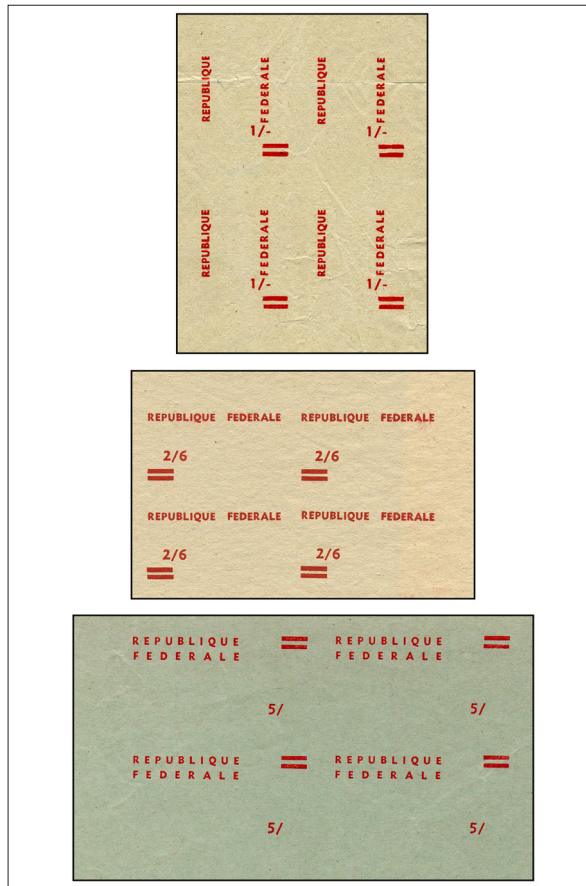
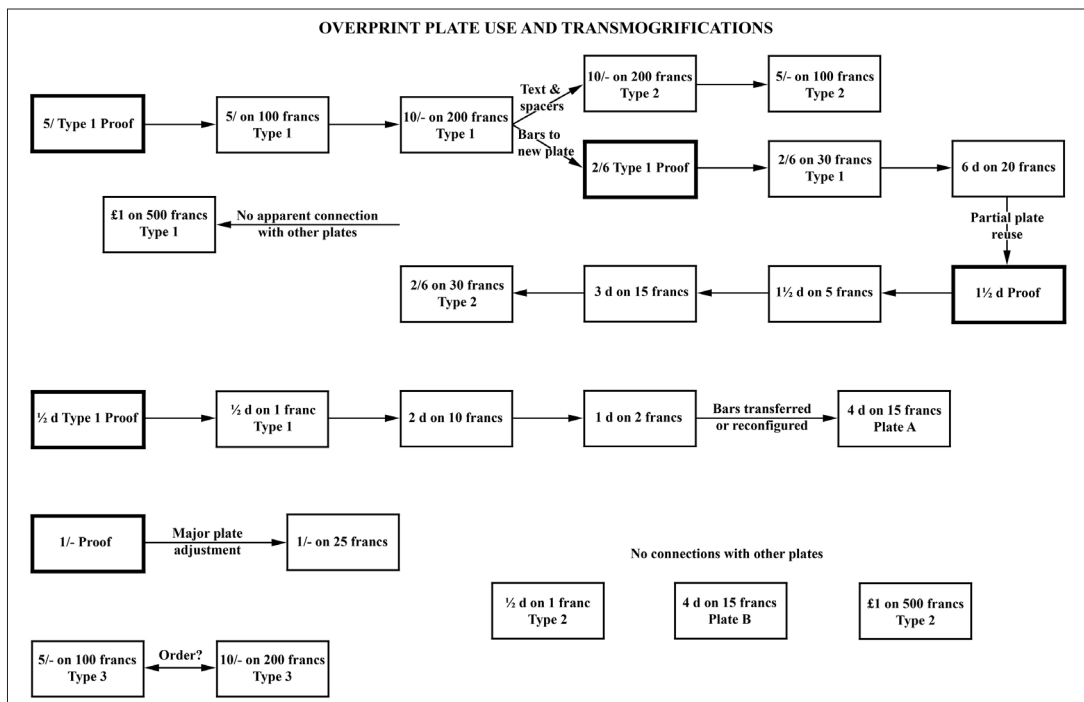


Figure 8. Representative pieces of the proof impressions. The 1/- and the 2/6 Type 1 are both carmine on tan paper and the 5/ Type 1 is vermilion on greenish paper.



Census of Dated Items Bearing New Zealand Chalons.

Klaus Møller

THE DATES OF USAGE OF THE NEW ZEALAND CHALONS have been of interest for well over a century. In his book *Collecting New Zealand Stamps*¹, Robin Gwynn wrote (Appendix 1, p140): “When the question of dating was investigated for *THE LONDON PHILATELIST* in the 1890s, of over 5,000 imperforate stamps examined, only 165 had dated cancels or were on dated envelopes”.

Little more was done to elaborate on this important aspect of the country’s philatelic history until Robin published a list of dated items for the first year or so of stamp usage in New Zealand in Appendix 1 of his book, published in 1988. He followed this up with updated versions, most recently in 2005².

Over the last two and a half years or so, the author has extended Robin’s earlier work by carrying



out a census of known dated items (covers and pieces) bearing Chalons (issued between 1855 and 1873) using a variety of accessible sources - mainly auction catalogues, books, and journals.

This census was initially restricted to items bearing Chalons printed and supplied by Perkins, Bacon in London (the “London Prints”) and items bearing the first stamps printed in the Colony (the “Richardson Prints”), spanning the years 1855 to 1862. This first version was published on the RPSNZ web site³ in December 2018, with an abbreviated version being published simultaneously in *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, the journal of the RPSNZ⁴. A total of 556 distinct items were registered in that initial version.

The census has since been extended to also include Chalons printed by the first Government Stamp Printer in the Colony (the “Davies Prints”), issued between 1862 and 1873. This new version can now be consulted on (and downloaded from) the RPSNZ web site³. The number of distinct items that have been registered in this second version has grown to almost 3,700.

Information listed in the Census for each item.

Details pertaining to each distinct item (as much as they are available) are tabulated in 28 columns (15 main columns and 13 sub-columns) in an Excel spread sheet. This means that the matrix now contains over 100,000 cells (not all filled).

The information included in this huge matrix can best be appreciated by using one of the items registered in the census as an example (see Figure). This renowned cover is illustrated (on p.145, on p.269, and on the dust cover) and briefly described in Bob Odenweller’s superb reference book on the NZ Chalons⁵ - and in

more detail in articles dealing with the New Plymouth duplex (Perkins, Bacon ‘6/9’ obliterator coupled with a c.d.s.) strikes used to cancel the stamps.^{6,7}

The Table shows the contents of the 28 columns (here shown vertically), as in the census.

Main Column Title:	Sub-Column Title:	Contents (for the example shown in the Figure):
Despatch (origin):	On:	660208
	No:	
	From:	New Plymouth
	CDS:	f/s
Arrival (destination):	On:	660412
	At:	Bridgend
	CDS:	b/s
Type:		C
Stamp(s) Used:	Denomination(s):	2d; 4d; 6d
	SG Cat. No(s):	113; 119; 122
	Description:	HPr; Sgl; Sgl&HPr
Cancellation(s):		P,B ‘6/9’
Transit(s):	On:	660209
	Location(s):	Nelson
	CDS(s):	b/s
Postal Markings:		Unframed “LATE FEE” h/s on f/s
Route and Route Markings:		“Via Marseilles”
Carriage and Carriage Markings:		
Addressee:	Title and Name:	Mrs Nicholl
	Profession / Vocation / Company / Care of:	
	Street / Local Address:	Merthyr Mawr
	Town:	Bridgend
	County / State / Province / Shire / Region:	South Wales
	Country:	
Illustrated:		1989(1) Lot 1292; 2009(a) P.145, P.269 & Back Cover; 2009(1) Lot 1420; 2015(1) Lot 2280
Provenance:		Hackmey; Jury
Offered:		1989(1) Lot 1292; 2009(1) Lot 1420; 2015(1) Lot 2280
Certificate(s):		
Miscellaneous / Notes:		See 2009(a) P.145; NZSC 97(3) September 2017; NZSC 98(4) December 2018

Notes to the table:

1. The “Swedish” date format (YYMMDD) has been used in order to facilitate registration of new items, and to list items in chronological order. Thus this item was despatched from New

Plymouth on 8 February 1866, transited in Nelson on 9 February 1866, and arrived in Bridgend on 12 April 1866. The second column (labelled “No.”) is used to distinguish between items despatched on the same date - if such exist.

2. Extensive use has been made of abbreviations. See the matrix 1 for a full list. The ones used in the example in the table are: CDS = Circular Date Stamp (c.d.s); f/s = front (obverse) side; b/s = back (reverse) side; C = Cover; HPr = Horizontal Pair; Sgl = Single; P,B = Perkins, Bacon; h/s = handstamp.

3. A year followed by a numeral or alphabetic letter in parentheses (as used here in the “Illustrated”, “Offered” and “Miscellaneous / Notes” columns) define sources. For example, 2009(1) denotes the catalogue for the auction “The Joseph Hackmey Collections of New Zealand 1855-1872 – Part I” held by Spink Shreves Galleries on 19 February 2009 in New York. See the matrix³ for further details.

Applications.

This census constitutes a comprehensive database that can be used in many ways by collectors, philatelists and postal historians. For example for:

- Determining where items are illustrated and described, and what is already known about them.
- Research (leading to publication of articles) for furthering our knowledge of the Chalons (there are over 350 recognised varieties of them); where, when and how the stamps were used and cancelled; and the postal and social history behind them. The new version of the census³ has already been used for this purpose prior to its publication⁸.
- Determining who has owned an item in the past, when and where it has been offered and sold - and estimates, reserves and prices realised for these transactions.

Appeal.

While every effort has been made to register as many of the known (surviving) dated items as possible in this census, there are many more out there that have yet to be “captured”.

Likewise, it is inevitable that the census “as is” contains a number of errors and omissions. These can range from simple typographical mistakes, to cases of mistaken identity (especially shade identification), misread names and addresses (old handwriting is sometimes difficult to discern), and missing information about addressees and postal markings (on the reverse in particular).

The census should therefore be regarded as a “living document”, subject to continuous improvement. Readers would therefore be most welcome to write to the author (moller.stamps@gmail.com) with corrections and additions regarding items that they own or have seen. In the case of “new” items, front and back scans would be appreciated. Updates of the census will be published regularly, when a significant amount of new information has come to hand.

Acknowledgements.

The following have all supported and contributed to this work in various ways:

Dr Robin Gwynn RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ,
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 Tony Thackery FRPSL FRPSNZ,
 Grant Clifford,
 Andrew Gould FRPSNZ,
 Alan Craig FRPSNZ
 and Bob Watson.
 Thank you!

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2. Gwynn, R., "The Early Use of Stamps in New Zealand 1855-56", *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Volume 85, No. 2, June 2005, pp33-37, .
3. <https://www.rpsnz.org.nz>
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5. Odenweller R. P., *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand: 1855 – 1873, The Chalon Head Issues*, The Royal Philatelic Society London and The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, London and Wellington, 2009.
6. Møller K. and Odenweller R.P., "Were the Perkins, Bacon '6' Obliterators Ever Distributed and Used on the New Zealand Chalons? Part 1: Introduction and the 1855-1858 Period", *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Volume 97, No. 3, September 2017, pp98-105.
7. Møller K. and Odenweller R.P., "Were the Perkins, Bacon '6' Obliterators Ever Distributed and Used on the New Zealand Chalons? Part 2: Introduction and the 1858-1873 Period", *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Volume 98, No. 4, December 2018, pp124-131.
8. Møller, K., "New Zealand Chalons cancelled using the Perkins, Bacon Obliterators – What more is there to learn?", *The New Zealand Stamp Collector - Celebrating 100 Years! 1919–2019*, pp39-78, The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 2020.



A Further Call for Papers for Publication in *THE LONDON PHILATELIST*.

ONE OF THE UNFORESEEN EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT PANDEMIC has been the additional demands that placed on the 'stock' of articles for publication in the *LP*. Under normal circumstances, anything up to half of the total number of pages in each issue are devoted to Gazette matters, i.e. Society events, announcements and meeting-related reports. Currently, this section has, understandably, reduced significantly, with the additional space being used for articles.

The recent appeals for contributions have resulted in a steady in-flow of excellent submissions, for which I thank both their contributors and also those members of the Society who have actively canvassed authors on behalf of this journal. However, as a result of the reduced Gazette section, these articles are being published at a far greater speed than normal – hence this further call for papers.

As the (July–August) *LP* is a double issue, I would be grateful if those who have presented online would perhaps consider producing an article based on their displays. Despite the excellent number of online attendees, the audiences have only represented around five percent of the membership. So the potential reach of an article based on a presentation could far exceed the live audience numbers, and the *LP* provides the perfect medium through which this can be achieved.

Tony Bard FRPSL, Editor.

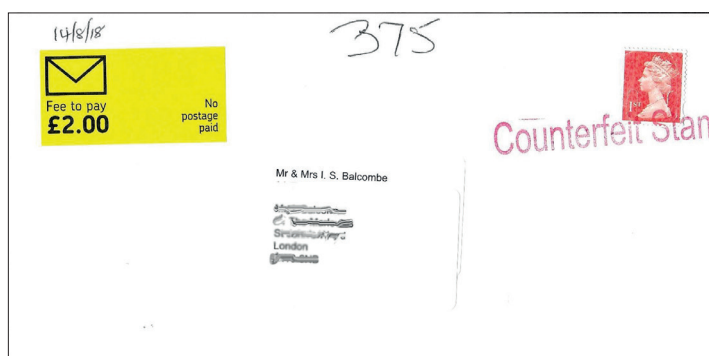
A Failed Attempt to Defraud Royal Mail.

Ian Balcombe

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF AN ORGANISATION to which I and several thousand members belong, still insists on sending renewal notices by mail. In order to assist in cutting costs, I put it to him, back in 2018, that there were a number of reputable dealers who sold 1st and 2nd class stamps at a discount, and that I would be happy to contact them on his behalf. He told me that this was not necessary, as he had already struck his own deal.

I was then surprised to receive a general email from him, advising that a recent notice which had been sent out may be being held at my local sorting office, but that it was not necessary to trouble myself with going to collect it.

Intrigued by this information, and armed with the red card which the postman had just left, I duly went along to my local sorting office where I was presented with the envelope illustrated. The post office employee informed me that I did not need to pay for the letter if I did not want to, but if I did not then I would not receive it. As an ardent philatelist, and never having seen a 'Counterfeit Stamp' cancel before, I thought that the £2 surcharge was well worth it! Inside the envelope was the renewal letter form the organisation, but why did the envelope receive this unusual handstamp? On inspection, the stamp was clearly lighter in colour than the current definitive and somewhat battered.



Clearly this was not a stamp that had been in mint condition before it was stuck on the envelope. At the end of last year, a husband and wife appeared in court charged with washing 700,000 used stamps and then selling them, as if new, on Amazon and eBay and thereby defrauding Royal Mail of over £400,000 of revenue, over 18 months. Upon being found guilty, the husband was given a four-year prison sentence and his wife a suspended prison sentence for money laundering. The Court had been told that tests revealed that the stamps had no traces of the phosphor that is applied to enable machine sorting, which, as we philatelists know, always shows up under ultraviolet light.

So technically not a forged or counterfeit stamp, but one that has been deliberately washed to remove it from its original envelope, and enable its fraudulent reuse. This is potentially a big problem for Royal Mail, as so many letters now appear to pass through the mail without cancellations. The introduction of security die-cuts may have put off casual attempts at reuse, but the fraud from which my cover originated was obviously conducted on a huge scale. As we all know, the problem of preventing unscrupulous attempts to reuse stamps has been a major security printing concern since the appearance of the 1d Black, so this cover definitely has its place in philatelic history.

My subsequent discussions with the Administrator have not, unsurprisingly, included the topic of where he obtains his source of supply of stamps, but I certainly do not expect any more surcharges on any correspondence that he sends me!

Egypt 1866-67: Census of First Issue Covers used at the Consular Post Office in Gedda (Jeddah), Saudi Arabia.

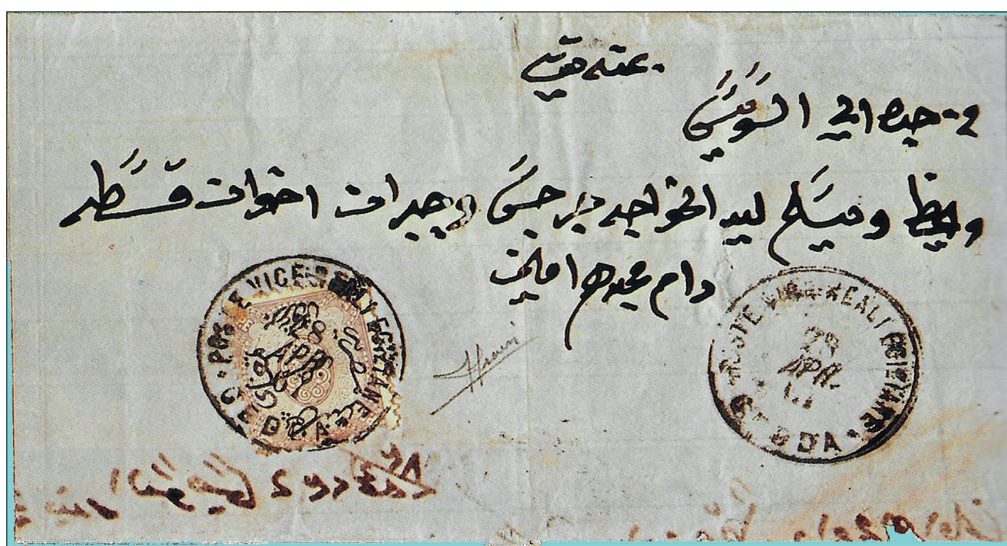
Gregory Todd AEIP FRPSL

THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN COVERED PREVIOUSLY, the listing below having been originally made by Baron Jacob von Uexkull FRPSL and published in *The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia*¹, in 1998. This handbook lists the seven known covers and no more have surfaced in the last twenty years. However, only one cover was actually illustrated in this publication, albeit on the front of the handbook. The covers were originally listed in the order used below and whilst this is somewhat illogical, I felt it more sensible to retain the original format to avoid confusion.

Background.

The Egyptian Post Office in Gedda was opened on 8 June 1865, during the Government Post period. Thereafter, on 1 January 1866, the first Egyptian adhesive postage stamps were issued. Stamps were supplied to Constantinople, Smirne and Gedda overseas offices by early March 1866². However, values other than the 1pi. claret and 2pi. orange-yellow of the first issue appear not to have been regularly issued in Gedda³. Mail was carried by the Azizieh Line between Suez and Gedda. Rates were applied at the 1866-67 standard tariff of 1 piastre for a letter weighing under 10 grams.

If mailed from Gedda, a 'Port to Port' single rate cover to Suez or Alexandria would cost 1 piastre. A letter mailed from Gedda to Cairo would be carried at the 'Port to Port' rate of 1 piastre, plus an additional 1 piastre for the Alexandria-Cairo leg of the journey. The sole cancellation used is the POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE / GEDDA datestamp (Feltus I-1), found only in black on the 1866 issue. The earliest cover recorded is dated 28 April 1867 (Fig 1), however, the earliest recorded usage of the PVRE / GEDDA datestamp is still as listed by Peter Feltus in *Egyptian Postal Markings*, namely 17 October 1866.



Cover Number 1.

Prepaid at the 'Port to Port' rate to Alexandria, bearing 1 pi. claret, SG 4, cancelled by 28 April 1867 cds with information strike at right. Suez and Alexandria datestamps on reverse, these dates

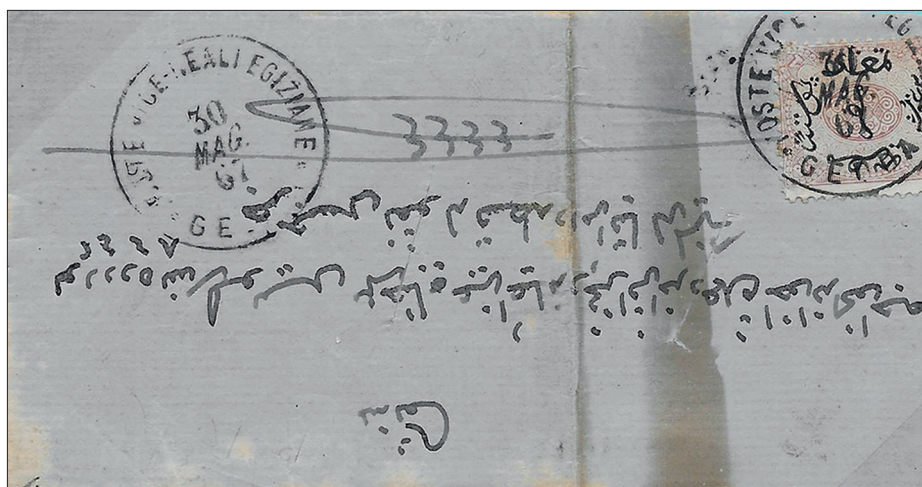
being unrecorded in the cover's previous auction descriptions.

The earliest recorded cover. Signed Sorani.

Illustrated in *Egyptian Maritime Postal History* by Hany Salam, on page 51.

Ex Harmers, London, 11-12 June 1956, lot 367.

Ex Collection Emile Antonini, D. Feldman, Zurich, 10-15 April 1983, lot 32311.



Cover Number 2.

Prepaid at the 'Port to Port' rate, bearing 1 pi. claret, cancelled by 30 May 1867 cds with information strike alongside. Slit and toasted for disinfection.

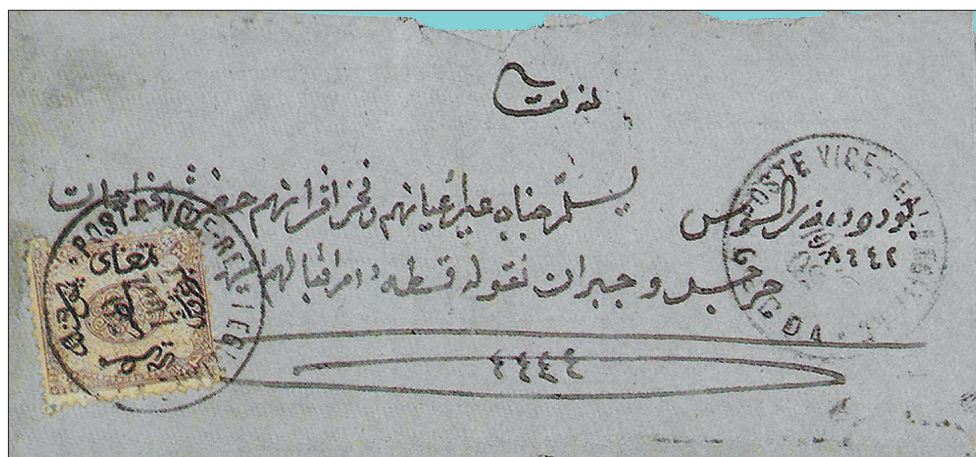
Originally formed part of the Heddergott collection of Egyptian covers.

Cover inverted in the illustration to show the cancellations reading the correct way up.

Certificate G. Todd AIEP.

Ex Exclusiv Philatelie, Munich.

Carmichael & Todd Ltd., List, 1999.



Cover Number 3.

Prepaid at the 'Port to Port' rate bearing 1 pi. claret, cancelled by 30 July 1867 cds with information

strike alongside. The 30-LUGL-67 in the datestamp is inverted. Slit for disinfection.

Ex Collection William C. Hinde, Robson Lowe, London, 16-17 Oct 1957, lot 445.

Ex Wingfields (A.L. Michael).

Ex Collection Harry Hibbert, Harmers, London, 10-11 March 1987, lot 1.



Cover Number 4.

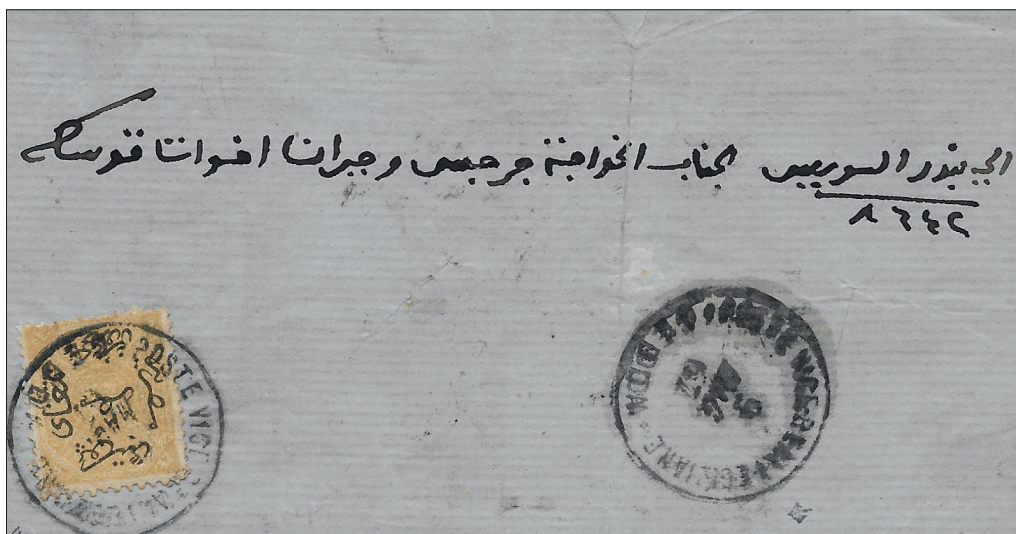
Prepaid at the triple 'Port to Port' rate bearing 1866 2 pi. yellow, SG 5, in combination with 1867 1 pi. red, SG 14, cancelled by 20 August 1867 datestamp. Information strike at left. Reverse with Suez arrival cds of 6 Sept 1867. The first issue adhesive used during the 'grace' period and the 1867 1 piastre used in the first month of issue. The sole known mixed issue franking.

Illustrated in Peter Smith *Egyptian Stamps and Postal History* on colour plate 3 and in *Egyptian Maritime Postal History*, by Hany Salam, p51.

Signed G. Todd AIEP.

Ex Collection William C. Hinde, Robson Lowe, London, 16-17 Oct 1957, lot 447.

Ex Collection Peter A. S. Smith, Corinphila sale 198, Zurich, 28 May 2015, lot 5615.



Cover Number 5.

Prepaid at the double 'Port to Port' rate to Alexandria bearing 1866 2 pi. yellow, SG 5, cancelled

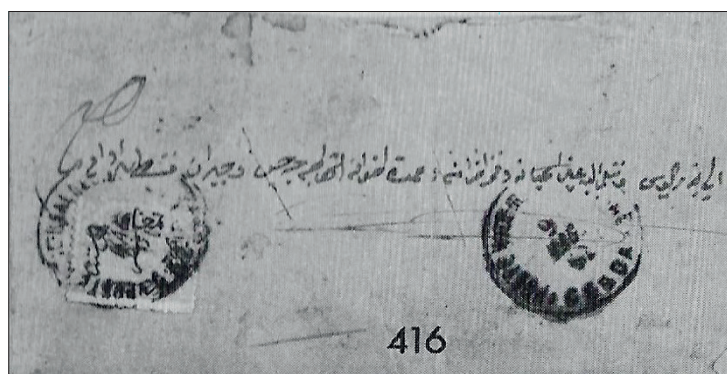
by 9 May 1867 cds. Information strike at right. Arrival datestamp of 14 May 1867 on reverse. Slit for disinfection. Listed by Uexkull as 9 March 1867, this being erroneous or this would have been the earliest known cover. The Arabic text shows the date '5 Moharram 1284' (9 May 1867), mentions two enclosures and that it was to be carried on the Azizieh Line Motor Ship *Desouk*.

Certificate G. Todd AIEP.

Ex Harmers, New York, 19-21 Oct 1953, lot 489.

Probably ex Collection Alberto Bolaffi.

Ex Soler y Llach, Barcelona, 29 April 2020, lot 159.



Cover Number 6.

Prepaid at the double 'Port to Port' rate to Alexandria, bearing 1866 2 pi. yellow, SG 5, cancelled by 9 May 1867 cds. Information strike at right. Arrival datestamp of 14 May 1867 on reverse. Slit for disinfection. Mailed and carried on the same day as cover no. 5, the stamp being applied sideways. Best available picture shown.

Ex Harmers, 1942.

Ex Collection William C. Hinde, Robson Lowe, London, Oct 1957, lot 446.

Ex Collection Cotta-Kehr, RL, London, 27 Jan 1965, lot 352.

Ex Collection Georges Gougas, Robson Lowe, Basel, 28 Feb 1973, lot 832.

Ex Collection T. Kuyas, Stanley Gibbons, London, 31 May-1 June 1979, lot 416.

Collection Max Mayo.



Cover Number 7.

Prepaid at the double 'Port to Port' rate to Suez, bearing 1 pi. claret, horizontal pair, SG 4, cancelled by 1 July 1867 cds, with information strike at right. Reverse with Suez arrival of 6 July 1867. Clearly dated LUGL (July), and not August, as erroneously stated in the 2011 Spink catalogue description. Sole such usage known.

Ex Collection Dr. Alex Kaczmarczyk, David Feldman, Zurich, 16-21 Nov 1987, lot 30313.

Ex Collection Baron Jacob von Uexkull.

Ex Collection 'Pasha', Spink, London, 19 Oct 2011, lot 2001.

References.

1. Published in a limited edition of 450 copies. Sahara Publications (ISBN 1-903022-10-X)
2. Post Office Circular No. 417, dated 27 Feb 1866, at Alexandria
3. 'Postal Circulars (1865-77)', *L'Orient Philatelique*, No. 109, January 1963, p39.
4. Smith, Peter, *Egypt Stamps & Postal History*, p573. James Bendon, Cyprus, 1999. ISBN 9963579817.
5. Salam, Hany, *Egyptian Maritime Postal History*, Musée des Timbres, Monaco, 2019. ISBN 9789082398748.



Letter to the Editor.

Re: A 2d Blue 'First Day Cover'

I WAS PLEASED TO READ IN *THE LONDON PHILATELIST* (Vol. 129, No. 1474, April 2020, pp102–108) that Alan Druce supports my long-held contention that the 2d Blue **could** have been sold at the Stamp Office and used in London on 6 May 1840. It is unfortunate that Alan Holyoake's response (p108) totally misinterpreted Alan Druce's conclusion.

As well as investigating 6 May 1840 as a possible issue date of the 2d, Alan Druce's article also contains a fine piece of research using mailcoach and railway timetables to establish the plausibility of a letter posted in Liverpool on 7 May 1840 bearing a 2d Blue.

Regarding Alan Holyoake's response on page 76 to my article (*THE LONDON PHILATELIST*, Vol. 129, pp75–76), the second of his two points stated that the notice of 27 April was 'not really relevant to the argument'. I think Alan may have misread my article: my mention of this notice was not to further the argument for the issue date of the 2d stamps, but to demonstrate that the stamps were available to the public from the Stamp Office, rather than the Post Office, a point that I do not believe was made clear in Alan's original article (*THE LONDON PHILATELIST*, Vol. 129, No. 1472, January-February 2020, pp24–25).

Since my article appeared I've realised that, while the London Chief Office and London Receivers were initially denied supplies of the stamps, the same may not have applied to the London Branch Offices — perhaps someone may know the answer to this?

Since writing the above I see that David Feldman's website has a short article by Ricky Verra on the subject: www.davidfeldman.com/2020/05/180th-anniversary-of-the-penny-black/

Mike Jackson FRPSL

A VE Day Letter from London to Colombo.

Richard Stock FRPSL

IN 1945 WORLD WAR TWO ENDED and on 8 May London celebrated 'Victory in Europe' with a huge party. Immense crowds outside Buckingham Palace cheered the Royal Family and Winston Churchill.

During the war, my mother-in-law Nancy Antoinette Drayton ('Toinette' or 'Toni' to her family and friends) worked for the Red Cross in London. On the 9th May she wrote a Forces Letter postmarked 'London 10 May 1945', to her sister Barbara serving with the W.R.N.S in Colombo. In the letter, she described taking part in the 'VE' Day celebrations when she and her young colleagues "toddled off to view London at its maddest."

A transcript of the letter is set out below.

"Darling B,

"Whoopie!! What a day we've had! Our Commandant was grand, we all went mad together. The day started off pretty sober, but it certainly livened up towards the end. The morning started off very soberly, the Commandant went off to see a few sights, and then toddled off to church, and I was left holding the baby and answering the phone, which rang incessantly, then Amelia the sec. turned up and she & I left the telephone to ring, and went down to Sloane Square and had a few gins before lunch. After feeding the troops, we opened a couple of bottles of port we'd had here for ages, listened to Churchill's speech and then us young uns, toddled off to view London at its maddest.



1½d. Forces Air Letter to Colombo, postmarked 'London S.W.1, 10 May 1945.'

Darling B, Whoopie!! What a day we've had! Our Commandant was grand, we all went mad together. The day started off pretty sober, but it certainly livened up towards the end. The morning started off very soberly, the Commandant went off to see a few sights, then toddled off to church, I was left holding the baby, & answering the phone, which rang incessantly, then Amelia the sec. turned up, & she & I left the telephone to ring, & went down to Sloane Square & had a few gins before lunch. After feeding the troops, we opened a couple of bottles of port we'd had here for ages, listened to Churchill's speech, then us young uns, toddled off to view London at its maddest. We managed to get a tube from Knightsbridge as far as Green Park, then we bought some flags, & generally fought our way with the crowd to Piccadilly, where we found inebriated servicemen on top of all the lamp posts, they looked like fixtures and would probably stay there all day. From there we forged our way, singing madly, down Lower Regent Street, along the Mall to the Palace, fought our way through the millions up to the Palace gates, just in time to see the Royal Family & Churchill all come out on the balcony. We yelled ourselves hoarse and waved our flags & sang "for he's a jolly good fellow" until they went in, then fought our way into Buckingham Palace Road just in time to see Churchill come out of the Palace, in an open car, waving & giving the 'V' sign. We were dripping by then & walked slowly back from there to Sloane Sq. again and had another gin and then came back here and had cold baths & a change of clothing. I'd have given anything to be in civvies then!

The first page of Toni Drayton's letter.

We managed to get a tube from Knightsbridge as far as Green Park, there we bought some flags and generally fought our way with the crowd to Piccadilly where we found inebriated servicemen on top of all the lamp posts, they looked like fixtures and would probably stay there all day. From there we forged our way, singing madly, down Lower Regent Street, along the Mall to the Palace, fought our way through the millions up to the Palace gates, just in time to see the Royal Family & Churchill all come out on the balcony. We yelled ourselves hoarse and waved our flags & sang "for he's a jolly good fellow" until they went in, then fought our way into Buckingham Palace Road just in time to see Churchill come out of the Palace, in an open car, waving and giving the 'V' sign. We were dripping by then & walked slowly back from there to Sloane Sq. again and had another gin and then came back here and had cold baths & a change of clothing. I'd have given anything to be in civvies then!



Figure 3. Toni Drayton

We ate a hasty cold supper and the Commandant, opened a bottle of champagne she'd been hoarding up, & we drank to the King and everyone else we could think of. Then off we went again to the Palace, to hear the King's speech. We got there about 9 p.m. & the crowd was so thick you just couldn't move, but as people fainted and were handed over so we moved up one & by the time the Royal family came out again after the speech, we had a very good view. We hung around there watching the fireworks in Green Park waiting for the floodlights to come on, & it wasn't until 11 o'clock that they did and the King & Queen came out again. Then we packed up & came back here, & finished off the evening at a club next door, dancing until 1 a.m. when we just crawled home & literally fell into bed. I wouldn't have missed it for the world, it was terrific. Wish you could have been here too.

Tons of love ducky,

Toni

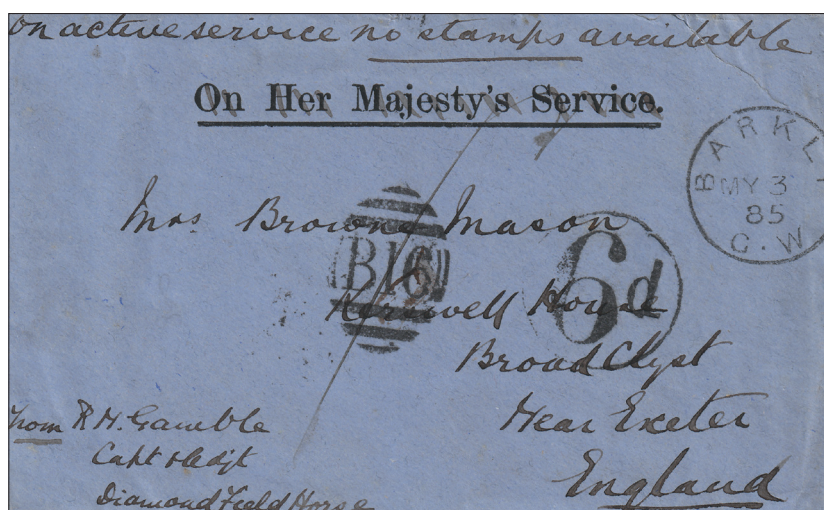


Additional Covers from the 1885 Warren Expedition.

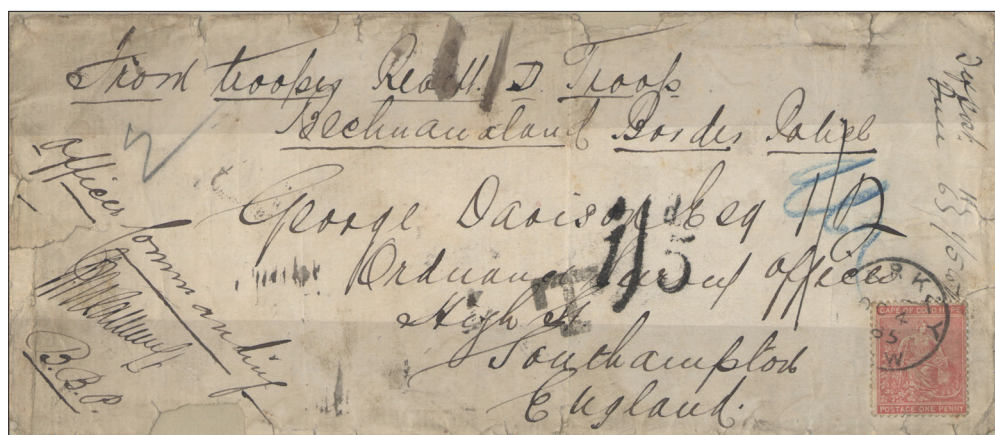
IN RESPONSE TO 'THE WARREN EXPEDITION' ARTICLE by Brian Trotter RDP Hon. FRPSL, published in the May issue of *THE LONDON PHILATELIST*, illustrations of additional covers have been provided by members, and these, together with one other item from Brian's own collection, are shown here.



1 February cover sent from Griqualand to Egypt, paid 6d to the UK. The leg to Egypt from the UK was short paid by 1½d, as this was a UPU destination requiring a total of 7½d postage when originally mailed. The BPO marked it '50c' (5d) in blue, payable to the UK, since the agreement between the Cape and the UK at this time imposed a 6d penalty for underpayments (6d minus 1d transit credit = 5d = 50c). However, the Egyptian PO ignored the charge amount payable to the BPO (which would have added another 2 piastres) and only charged double the deficiency to Egypt (2½d minus 1d transit credit = 1½d x 2 = 3d = 30c = 1¼ piastres). (Courtesy of James Peter Gough RDP FRPSL)



3 May OHMS cover to Exeter, from Captain R. H. Gamble, then serving in the Diamond Field Horse, to England. It entered the Cape Colony postal system at Barkley (the canceller still has the 'G. W.' for the former Griqualand West) on 3 May 1885. It is endorsed 'On active service no stamps available' and was charged the full rate paid by officers, of 6d per ½ ounce. It has a manuscript 1/- (1s) mark for double the deficiency, which has been obliterated on arrival using the barred oval canceller B16. The 6d charge mark is that of Plymouth. It has a transit backstamp of Cape Town of 6 May and an Exeter arrival backstamp of 26 May 1885. (Brian Trotter RDP Hon. FRPSL Collection).



4 October Bechuanaland Border Police soldier's letter (front only) sent from Barkly, Bechuanaland, incorrectly prepaid at the 1d soldier's letter concession rate to Southampton. Countersigned by the officer on duty, possibly delivered unfranked, first charged at 1/5 (1s 5d), then possibly franked in Barkly and charged in England with ½d postage due as overweight. The special 1d soldier's letters tariff of 1d was only valid for standard weight correspondence.

The postal service between Mafeking and Barkly West, a distance of about 350 km, was carried out by the Bechuanaland Border Police in 1885. (Courtesy of Burkhard Schneider).



THE GAZETTE

NEWS, MEETINGS, EVENTS AND REPORTS

Provisional Dates for Forthcoming Meetings and Events at 15 Abchurch Lane.

Please note that revised dates for postponed Meetings are marked with an asterisk.

*Wednesday, 16 September: AGM and Display from the Society's UPU Collection – Germany 1920-1970.

*Thursday, 1 October at 1pm: RPSL East, Regional Display.

Forthcoming Online Meetings. All Meetings Commence at 14.00 BST (13.00 GMT).

Full details of how to access Online Meetings are given at the bottom of this page.

Thursday, 4th June: Markand Dave FRPSL – India: Two Anna Stamps on 'One Anna' Watermark.

Thursday, 18th June: Peter Cockburn FRPSL – Blades, East & Blades in Abchurch Lane..

Thursday, 2nd July: Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL – Mail from Central Africa before 1880.

Forthcoming Regional Meetings of the RPSL – UK and abroad.

5 July: South East at Uckfield – Nigel Gooch, 01424 251169, nigelrngooch@gmail.com

19 Aug: RPSL reception and dinner, Hartford, Conn, USA – Alex Haimann, haimannat@gmail.com

*17 Oct: Thames Valley at Oxford – Patrick Reid, pge.reid@gmail.com

*18 Oct: South West at Tiverton – Ian Pinwill, i.pinwill@btinternet.com

28 Nov: West Midlands at Solihull - Gerald Marriner, 0116 240 2064, gerald.marriner@gmail.com

*28 Nov: East at Chelmsford - Alan Moorcroft, 01255 851003, anmoorcroft@btinternet.com

Forthcoming Philatelic Events.

17–18 Jul:	UK	York Stamp and Coin Fair at the Grandstand, York Racecourse.
10–12 Jul:	Estonia	ESTONIA 2020 Estonian National Museum, Tartu.
4–6 Sep:	Sweden	NORDIA 2020 Nordic Philatelic Exhibition, Malmö.
30 Sep–4 Oct:	UK	Autumn STAMPEX, The Business Design Centre, London N1.
30 Sep–4 Oct:	Bulgaria	BULGARIA 2020 World Stamp Championship Exhibition, Sofia.
*5–10 Nov:	Indonesia	INDONESIA 2020, Parliament Building, Jakarta.
17–20 Mar 2021:	South Africa	IPEX 2021 FIP Exhibition, Cape Town.
6–9 May 2021:	Germany	IBRA 2021, Messe Essen.
25–30 August 2021:	Japan	PHILANIPPON 2021. Pacifico Yokohama Hall B/C, Yokohama.
19–22 Nov 2021:	Greece	NOTOS 2021, Peristeri Exhibition Centre, Athens.
*19–26 Feb 2022:	UK	LONDON 2022, The Business Design Centre, London N1.

International and National exhibitions, UK Federation events, large London or UK multi-day fairs, will be listed. For US shows, go to <http://stamps.org/Show-Calendar>.



Accessing RPSL Online Meetings.

THURSDAY ONLINE MEETINGS are an increasing feature of RPSL activities and members worldwide may access them from anywhere. Meetings will be held live on 4 June, 18 June, 2 July, 16 July and 30 July. If you intend to join a meeting you must first have downloaded ZOOM v5.0 from the internet onto your computer, laptop, tablet or other device.

On the Friday before each meeting a President's newsletter will be sent to all members, which will include details of the presentation and a link to register for the meeting via Eventbrite.

Please note that only those registering on Eventbrite before 23:30 BST (22:30 GMT) on the Tuesday before each meeting, will be able to join. When you have registered you will be sent an ID and Password on the day before the meeting scheduled for the following day.

Membership News.

Announcement of New Members as Approved by Council.

THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS, whose membership applications have been duly announced in *THE LONDON PHILATELIST* in accordance with the articles of association of the Society, have been approved by Council. We wish them a long and enjoyable membership.

Name	County/Country	Name	County/Country
Julian Bagwell	Oxfordshire	James Rock	Massachusetts, USA
Thomas Hernqvist	Sweden	Steven Street	Derbyshire

Announcement of Membership Applications.

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS have been received for membership of The Royal Philatelic Society London. All have been duly proposed and seconded as shown. If a member wishes to express an opinion on any of these applications, they should be communicated to the Honorary Secretary at no. 15 Abchurch Lane in writing or by e-mail to secretary@rpsl.org.uk by the end of the month of the cover date of this LP. The application will thereafter be presented to Council for approval.

Name	County/Country	Proposer	Second
Nicholas Hervey	London	Peter Cockburn	Susan MacEwan
Peter Marshall	West Sussex	Anthony Walker	Terrence Pickering
Zhongwei Zhau	PR China	Peter Cockburn	Huadong Zhang
Chi Fai Ivan Wong	Hong Kong	Andrew Cheung	Ng Wing

We announce with regret the death of the following member:

Murray Gellatly FRPSL of Southwold, Suffolk, died 28th March 2020 (joined 16 December 1982).



Fulfilment of Orders for RPSL Publications during Lockdown.

WITH THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY PRESENTLY CLOSED to members, and despite lock down and travel restrictions, several aspects of the Society are still functioning. One of these is our publications activity. With a staff member coming into the building for a period each day, orders for our books can be, and are being, dispatched regularly. If there are several orders to be shipped out, some may be delayed for a day or two, but philatelic books for us all to enjoy are now readily available. Details of all our books for sale can be found on our website, and in this issue of *The London Philatelist*.

One of our Publications Committee, Charles Oppenheim FRPSL, is undertaking the management of the book sales, coordinating the various activities in place, and adding new ones. Members will no doubt become aware of his activities as they develop.

Earlier this year we published the two-volume book *The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union. The Postal Card: Worldwide 1869-1874* and also *Ceylon: The Pence Issues*. These are both selling well. We also have two new books available from the beginning of June *International Postal Reforms* (in 2 volumes) and *A Jubilee Reminiscence*. These, and our other published titles, offer us insights into new aspects of our philatelic knowledge, and perhaps now we have the time to explore some of those through a new book. Full details of all RPSL publications appear in this issue on pages 220 to 221.

Brian Trotter RDP Hon. FRPSL, Chairman, Publications Committee.

Forthcoming international exhibitions for which applications are invited.

THE FOLLOWING FOUR EXHIBITIONS are currently accepting entries from the United Kingdom. If you would like to enter any, please contact the UK commissioner shown at the bottom of each section. As far as we are aware, they are not affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and are likely to proceed. The previously announced exhibition in Bulgaria has, however, been cancelled.

IPEX 2021. International Philatelic Exhibition, Cape Town, South Africa.

To be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 17–20 March 2021.

Website capetown2021.org This is an FIP specialised exhibition with FIP patronage.

All FIP classes accepted, except astrophilately and maximaphily, at a fee of US\$65 per frame, US\$80 for single frame entries and US\$30 for literature, plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 15 August 2020. Exhibits must already have achieved at least a vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national show. For entries please contact the UK commissioner, Jon Aitchison at britishlocals@aol.com Telephone 01279 870488.

IBRA 2021. World Stamp Exhibition, Essen, Germany.

To be held at the Messe Essen from 6–9 May 2021. Website www.ibra2021.de

A full international exhibition under FIP patronage with FEPA recognition. All FIP classes are accepted at €80 per frame, 110 euros for single frame exhibits and €50 for literature, plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 23 September 2020 but this is extended to 4 October 2020 for anyone seeking to achieve qualification of a new exhibit at Autumn Stampex 2020. Exhibits must already have achieved at least a vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national show. For entries please contact the UK commissioner Frank Walton at Frank@FrankWalton.com

NOTOS 2021. European Philatelic Exhibition, Athens, Greece.

To be held at the Peristeri Exhibition Centre from 19–22 November 2021.

Website hps.gr/notos2021 A full European international with FEPA patronage and FIP recognition.

All FEPA and FIP classes are accepted at €30 per frame and €30 per literature entry plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 21 February 2021. Exhibits must have already achieved at least a vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national show or come with a recommendation from the UK commissioner. For entries please contact the UK commissioner Mike Roberts at mjyr@btinternet.com Telephone 07724 124059.

PHILANIPPON 2021. Japan World Stamp Championship Exhibition 2021.

Held at Pacifico Yokohama Hall B/C, Yokohama, Japan from 25–30 August 2021.

Website www.japan2021.jp A full international exhibition under FIP patronage and FIAP auspices. Probably all classes but awaiting information about that and frame fees. UK deadline for entries not known yet, but likely to be late 2020. Exhibits must already have achieved at least a vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national show. For entries please contact the UK Commissioner nominees Simon Richards at simon@sidebell.co.uk or Ben Palmer at ben_palmer@btinternet.com

UK handling charges have now been standardised on all international exhibitions at £25 per frame, whether single or multiple frame exhibits, and £25 per literature entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits.

Accounts of Meetings: Season 2019–2020.

23 April 2020: Online Meeting.

Frank Walton RDP FRPSL.

The Design, Production and Usages of the Small Format QEII Wilding Definitives. 1952-67.

Report by Mike Roberts FRPSL

THIS WAS IN MANY WAYS AN HISTORIC DAY, as it was the first time the Royal had presented a virtual display in place of a person-to-person meeting. This was done as a pilot to gauge support and was judged to be an overwhelming success. At the same time, we learnt several ways to improve the technicalities of future online presentations.

The virtual audience on the day was unfortunately limited to 100, despite demand being far higher, because of an unforeseen technical issue. It was very good to see wide participation from around the world, indeed far greater than would have been the case for an ordinary meeting.

Frank, of course, made the occasion a complete success because of his usual thorough, logical and well-presented style. We saw the

story from the early essays and design material, through proofs and various trials, including phosphor and different papers. The finished stamps were shown in blocks, accompanied by a well-ordered and interesting talk. I know Frank has taken great care over the years to obtain examples of all the different values used individually to prepay different rates. This has been achieved and all the examples were shown clearly on screen for all to admire.

This is the prelude to an entirely new era brought about by some very difficult worldwide circumstances. Nevertheless, I think it has provided a very positive way forward and has introduced some concepts, particularly of worldwide inclusion, which should be built upon in future whatever the outcome of our present troubles. Well done, Frank.



Featured items from the Display (clockwise from above):

Wilding portrait, ex Enid Marx (cropped);

Wilding 1½d essay No. 1194D;

Wilding 1½d essay No. 1070.

Accounts of Meetings: Season 2019–2020.

7 May 2020: Online Meeting.

Richard Stock FRPSL

Sudan: The De La Rue Years 1897–1991.

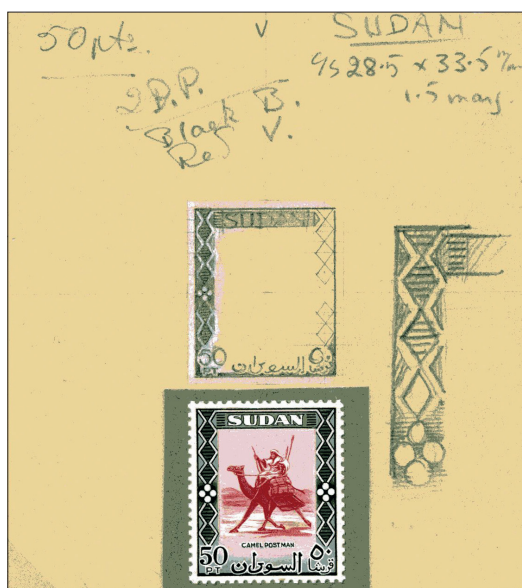
Report by Jon Aitchison FRPSL. Hon Secretary.

This was the second RPSL online display, introduced to replace physical meetings during the coronavirus lock down. They have already started to develop a character of their own and any technical teething problems have been eliminated. With almost 190 viewers, this online display was better attended than actual meetings at the Royal and attracted a large percentage of overseas viewers, who would normally not be able to attend.

Richard's display examined the stamps of the Sudan, produced by De La Rue over almost a century. It was extensively illustrated, with thirty-seven slides that showed die and plate proofs, essays, errors, appendix sheets, colour

trials and many of the great rarities of Sudan philately. The background to the design and introduction of the iconic Camel Postman was explained with several amusing anecdotes about the characters involved. It is interesting to note that the Camel Postman design continued even after the De La Rue years, with its latest use in 2005, one hundred and eight years after its introduction! Richard had in fact written the definitive book on the subject some years ago.

Richard's erudite presentation and clear graphics made a most absorbing display, that I feel sure was of great interest to all, not just the Sudan specialists, and sets the bar high for those that follow.



Featured items from the Display:

1951 Sketch and handpainted essay, similar to the issued 50pt stamp (above left).

1897 Postage Scheme sheet in issued colours by De La Rue & Co. Ltd. (above right).

RPSL Publications		
Title	RPSL Members	Retail Price
<i>International Postal Reforms. (In 2 Volumes). NEW — Available end of May 2020.</i>		
James Grimwood-Taylor RDP FRPSL	£105	£115
<i>Slipcase (limited availability)</i>	£20	£20
<i>A Jubilee Reminiscence. NEW — Available end of May 2020.</i>		
John Davies FRPSL	£49	£55
<i>The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union. The Postal Card: Worldwide 1869-1874. (In 2 Volumes).</i>		
James Peter Gough RDP FRPSL	£105	£115
<i>Slipcase (limited availability)</i>	£20	£20
<i>Deluxe edition with matching slipcase</i>	£330	£370
<i>Ceylon: The Pence Issues.</i>		
Kurt E. Kimmel RDP FRPSL and Patrick C. Pearson VRD RDP Hon. RPSL	£65	£72
<i>Deluxe edition</i>	£165	£180
<i>Morocco: The History of the Local and Sherifien Posts.</i>		
Richard J. M. Garcia MBE FRPSL and Maurice Hadida FRPSL	£60	£65
<i>Tibet: Stamps & Postal History.</i>		
Steve Chazen and Danny Wong FRPSL	£55	£65
<i>A History of The Royal Philatelic Society London 1869-2019</i>		
Edited by Charles Oppenheim FRPSL	£70	£76
<i>The Fathers of Philately Inscribed on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.</i>		
Brian J. Birch FRPSL	£60	£65
<i>The Court Bureau: a London Company and its Stamps 1889-91.</i>		
Vincent West FRPSL	£16	£18
<i>The 1840 One Penny Black.</i>		
Michael Chipperfield	£100	£100
<i>(Published by Michael Chipperfield in a leather-bound edition)</i>		
<i>British King George V Definitive, Profile Head and Seahorse Stamps Overprinted for NAURU.</i>		
Robert Stein FRPSL	£45	£50
<i>Perkins Bacon Great Britain Line-Engraved Postage Stamp Printing 1840 to 1846. (In 2 Volumes).</i>		
Alan Druce FRPSL	£112	£125
<i>The Paper Trail: World War II in Holland and its Colonies as seen Through Mail and Documents.</i>		
Kees Adema RDP FRPSL & Jeffrey Groeneveld FRPSL	£63	£70

Title	RPSL Members	Retail Price
<i>Baghdad in British Occupation: The Story of the 1917 Provisional Stamps.</i>		
Freddy Khalastchy FRPSL	£45	£50
<i>Returned Letter Offices of Great Britain to 1912 and Beyond.</i>		
J. Kenneth Snelson & Robert Galland FRPSL	£63	£70
<i>Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806–1916.</i>		
Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL	£65	£72
<i>Forgeries of the Great Britain 2s Brown of 1880.</i>		
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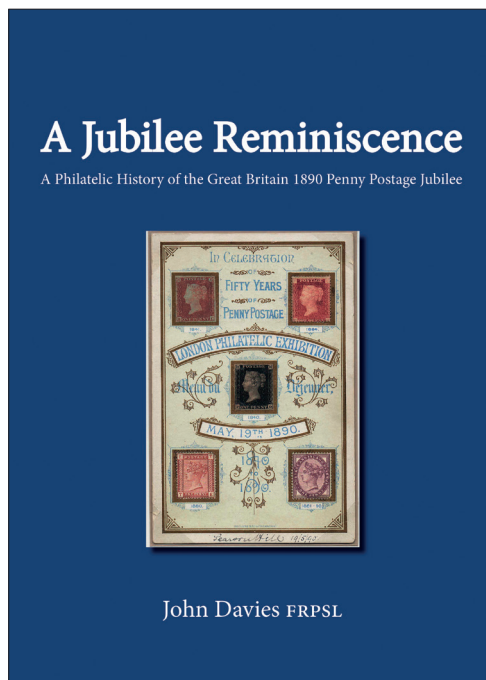
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New RPSL Publications.

A Jubilee Reminiscence.

John Davies FRPSL



IN 1889 A GENERAL OPINION WAS EXPRESSED that the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in Great Britain “ought not to be allowed to pass without some indication of the feelings which must actuate all who looked back at the great reform introduced in 1840”. Arrangements were made for various Jubilee celebrations to be held in 1890. Although a plan for a commemorative stamp was initiated, it was later abandoned.

The year began with a Penny Postage Jubilee Dinner on 15 January with nearly 300 gentlemen present including the Postmaster General, Henry Cecil Raikes. Other major events took place including an Exhibition at the Guildhall organised by the City Corporation of London from 16 May to 19 May, visited by over 20,000 people, and other regional exhibitions.

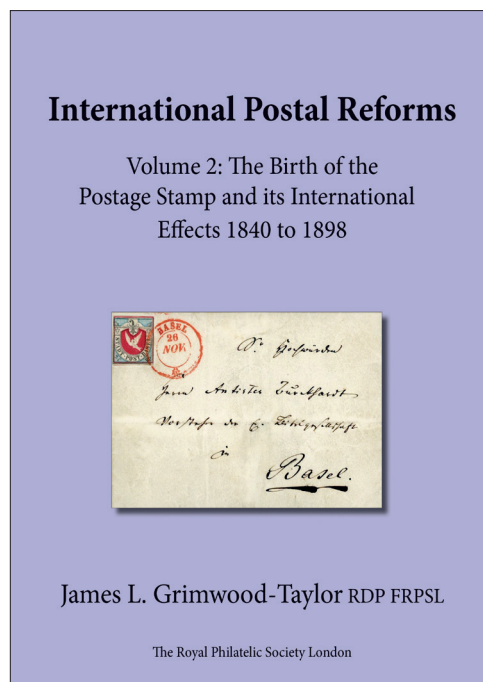
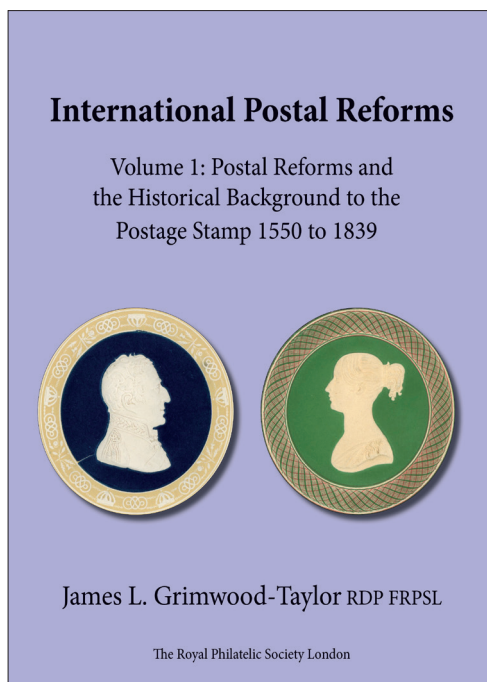
There was an official Post Office celebration in the form of a grand *Conversazione* at South Kensington Museum on 2 July when nearly 4,000 people attended. A number of innovative displays and exhibits were assembled for these events. They were important in GB philately for the introduction of the first commemorative postal stationery and the first decorative special event handstamps. The Jubilee envelope was imitated in the same way as the original Mulready envelope fifty years earlier. The events also led to the use of special event cancellations and cachets, which could also be applied by favour, thereby establishing the practice of the “philatelic souvenir”.

In addition to the Guildhall and South Kensington events, other exhibitions were held at home and abroad. These included the first British International Stamp Exhibition, organised by the London (later Royal) Philatelic Society at the Portman Rooms. This book brings together details of the events and the philatelic material related to them as well as the ephemera and other items of interest.

The author, John Davies FCIM FRPSL, is President of the GBPS, a Council Member of the Royal, a member of the ABPS Executive Committee, Past Chairman of the Stamp Active Network and Secretary of Banbury Stamp Society. His 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee exhibit won the first Large Gold and Best in Show awards together for Open Philately at national level, and won Best in Class at Stockholmia 2019.

International Postal Reforms. (In 2 Volumes).

James L. Grimwood-Taylor RDP FRPSL



THE FIRST VOLUME OF THIS NEW EXAMINATION of the history of international postal reforms, *Postal Reforms and the Historical Background to the Postage Stamp 1550 to 1839*, examines in detail Rowland Hill's 1837 Post Office Reform; its Importance and Practicability pamphlet. It is usually cited as the sole source for the reduction of postage rates and the introduction of postage stamps – both labels and postal stationery – in Britain. This publication places Hill's work in its true historical context and traces the origins of the high postal rates that he sought to reduce, starting from the posts of the Elizabethan Court and the European merchant princes of the 16th and 17th centuries. It then describes the early 19th century postal rate inflation in Britain and elsewhere, along with the careers of many reformers before Hill (including those in Britain, France, America, India and Australia). It shows that Hill was directly inspired to take up the study of the Post Office by earlier reformers including John Palmer and Robert Wallace.

Detailed analyses are given - for the first time in print - of the five different 1837-38 editions of Hill's pamphlet, showing that the idea of postage labels was very much an after-thought, when compared to his assumption that postal stationery would be used for almost all prepaid letters, once uniform postage had been introduced. The international effects of Hill's pamphlet – in France and in Australia in particular – are then outlined, along with the successful two-year campaign for Uniform Penny Postage that was undertaken by London's 'Mercantile Committee on Postage'. The latter's astonishing array of printed propaganda, the Mercantile Papers that were masterminded by Henry Cole, are catalogued in detail for the very first time.

Also included is an analysis of the 17th century origins of Postage Stamps and an examination of early 19th century security printing. This volume concludes with three chapters on the famous 'Treasury Competition' of 1839, giving the most comprehensive listings yet to be published of the extant "Post Office Stamp" competition entries (some having been submitted by Americans and by Frenchmen).

The second volume *The Birth of the Postage Stamp and its International Effects 1840 to 1898*, traces the story of the introduction of cheap postage in Britain and around the world following the August 1839 “Penny Postage” Act. The most detailed analysis yet to be published of the experimental and very short-lived (5 December 1839 to 9 January 1840) “Uniform 4d Postage Period”, is followed by the story of how Uniform Penny Postage operated before the 1d Black and ‘Mulready’ stationery were made available in May 1840.

After a brief description of the creation of the world’s first postage stamps, a wide range of their 1840-41 usages is illustrated. This leads into three chapters describing exactly how the use of postage stamps by the ‘Early Adopters’ spread around the world up to mid-1850, most notably in Brazil, Switzerland and the U.S., but also in remoter areas such as Mauritius, Trinidad, Batavia, Peru, Bermuda and Australia.

Studies of the further postal reforms in Britain and elsewhere after 1840 follow, tracing Rowland Hill’s later career, and showing how the ‘Ocean Penny Postage’ campaigners inspired the worldwide movement for uniform postal rates that led to the formation of the General (later Universal) Postal Union in 1875.

The final chapter is by way of an Epilogue and focuses on the “unexpected legacy of Postal Reform” – Philately. It makes it clear that many of the earliest collectors of postage stamps (including some of the author’s own ancestors) were women rather than men. It then brings the story of philately up to the late 1860s, when the first ‘philatelic’ covers appear to have been created, specifically to enable their senders to obtain used examples of scarce or interesting stamps.

The author’s intention is that this two-volume work will, for the first time, place the early history of the postage stamp in the context of the ‘pre-stamp’ period, and show that they are both parts of the wider subject of Postal History.

The author, James G-T, has been a stamp collector from the age of three and a full-time professional Postal Historian since the age of 22. He always intended one day to write the definitive study of how and why Rowland Hill’s reforms succeeded; this two-volume book is the result, illustrating more than 800 items from his own collections.

James has written two other books and over 200 Postal History articles over four decades. He has exhibited competitively since 1981, gaining International Gold Medals for his “British Offshore Islands” and “English Postal History” exhibits, while his “Postal Reforms” exhibit achieved an International Large Gold medal at ‘New York 2016’. His one-frame study of “Sydney’s early Overseas Mails to 1850” - won ‘best in show’ with a National Large Gold at York in 2015. He has been a National Judge at British philatelic exhibitions since the 1980s and has also judged overseas.

In 1982 James joined the Society of Postal Historians, was their Secretary from 1987-91, a Fellow from 1996, and President in 2002-03. He has also been Chairman of the British Philatelic Congress (2005) and President of the GBPS (2006-08). He joined the RPSL when professional philatelists were first admitted in 2005, being elected FRPSL in 2008. Just as this book went to the printers, he accepted the invitation to sign the prestigious Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Book Reviews.

Compiled by Dr D Gwynne Harries FRPSL

Batum Under Occupation - the years 1917-21.

Hans G. Grigoleit and Edward Klempka, 2017.

British Society of Russian Philately, David Feldman SA. ISBN 978-2-940595-08-2

Softback, 149p, colour ill., tables, maps, 30cm.

ID Number: 21386

Reviewed by Andy Gould.



TODAY, BATUM (NOW BATUMI) is a city and the major port of the former soviet Republic of Georgia situated on the eastern coastline of the Black Sea. In addition to being a beach resort, the working port remains very important to the Georgian economy for exports and imports. This book looks at the stamps and postal history used in and around the city of Batum roughly one hundred years ago, during periods of Turkish and British Occupation that followed the First World War and were set against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution and subsequent civil war.

Updating previous works from the likes of

Barefoot, Ashford and Ceresa, the 149 pages of this book give us the historical context to the occupations, the postal history of the first Turkish Occupation, the stamps, postal stationery and postal history of the British Occupation and take us up to the establishment of the Soviet Socialist Republic in 1921. The detail also includes notes on travelling post offices, ship mail, interrupted mail, postage rates and plenty more. In addition to the stamps and overprints of Batum, the British Occupation period also covers the Army Post Office, the Field Post Offices (including the Indian FPO) and the Consulate Mails.

The British Occupation issues fill the majority of the pages. With illustrations of postmarks, stamps, overprints and postal history from the collections of the authors; the coverage appears comprehensive and useful and there is a helpful page of references for further reading. There are, as many of us will know, a great number of forgeries of the stamps and overprints of Batum and the authors have provided useful and detailed illustrations and descriptions to help identify the genuine from the counterfeit. The many illustrations of postal history throughout the book are a treat – this is material that most of us rarely ever get to see.

This book makes a very useful addition to the library and is recommended reading for anyone interested in finding out more about this fascinating area.

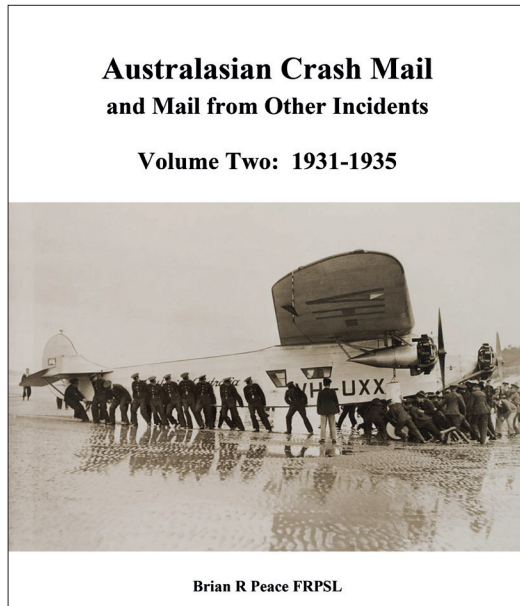
Australasian crash mail and mail from other incidents: volume 2, 1931-1935.

Brian R. Peace FRPSL, 2019.

Published by the Author. No ISBN, softback, xvi, 417p, ill, 30 cm.

ID No: 25379

Reviewed by Andy Gould.



CONTINUING ON FROM VOLUME ONE (published in 2015), which covered the period 1917 to 1930, this book provides an in-depth look at the crashes and other incidents that involved an interruption to the delivery of mail by air to, from and within Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea for the period 1931 to 1935. The incidents may have happened anywhere in the world, but if the mail affected was to or from Australasia, it warrants inclusion.

The 417 pages include separate chapters covering internal mail within Australia, within New Zealand, within Papua New Guinea, and

(the largest section of the book at some 248 pages) the International mail flights carrying mail to and from Australasia during the period. Each of these four chapters includes an in-depth look at the flights, the aircraft, the people and the circumstances of the incident - all profusely illustrated. Using the now standard date format of YYMMDD to help identify the flights, makes for easy cross-reference with other sources of information.

Chapter Five covers the Additions and Amendments to Volume One. Chapter Six has the references, including a very useful bibliography for further reading, as well as lists of the newspapers, journals, auction houses and other sources of information. Equally useful are the Appendices; the first is all about the De Havilland DH86 Bi-Plane and the remaining appendices cover details of the pilots and crew, the aircraft, notable people and an index of place names.

Bringing together a great deal of research over his many years of collecting, the author has brought the stories behind the flights and the mail of the crashes and other incidents well and truly to life. The level of detail within this book (and in Volume One) is immense. This book is a very useful and informative addition to the library, and a worthwhile investment for anyone interested in the air mails of this period.

Brasilien 1843-1870. Die Ochsen-, Ziegen- und Katzenaugen Konigliche Post ab 1727, Vorphilatelie ab 1798.

(Brazil 1843-1870 : The Bull's, Goat's and Cat's Eyes Royal Post from 1727 and Pre-philately from 1798). Fritz Heimbüchler RDP FRPSL, 2019

Published by the Author in a limited edition of 100. No ISBN, hardback, 152p, colour, 31cm.

ID No.: 25434

Reviewed by Leslie Bergman FRPSL

Most readers of *THE LONDON PHILATELIST* will be familiar with the great classic issues of the first decade or two following the appearance of the first postage stamp in 1840. They form the bedrock of philately. Included in this select genre undoubtedly are the 'Bull's Eyes' of Brazil with their beautiful curled numerals against steel grey patterned backgrounds. Less well known are their successors - the Goats Eyes and Cats Eyes.

Fritz Heimbüchler recounts how he started his Brazilian collection in the 1980s, after a long involvement in the classical issues of Romania. There follows a brief history of Brazil's evolution from a colony, with a complex array of postal regimes, to an independent state with its own postage stamps.

Then come a random series of vignettes; a brief section on postage rates and revenue usage, and rates dependent on the mode of carriage; speculation on the scarcity of genuine franked letters; how to determine if multiples are genuinely "unused" rather than detached from documents and letters, together with the impact of humidity in causing the loss of gum prior to use, and then a description of the printing process of the of the first issue.

These are interesting, but disorderly - a paragraph or two, in sequence. They are followed by two pre-stamp postal history sections dealing with incoming letters from the Portuguese Royal Household and the postal system established in colonial Brazil, but context and order are lacking.

The 'Bull's Eyes' section proper begins with the first issue of 1 August 1843. The author illustrates the only known example of a first day usage, on piece - surely a philatelic gem. This is followed by "unused" in multiples, used large

multiples, used combinations of the various denominations, and the different types of provincial cancellations employed. Many are true philatelic rarities with impeccable provenance. Heimbüchler then estimates the number remaining in circulation, by calculating those used on known letters and taking into account the remainders destroyed by the Brazilian Mint on 30 March 1846, and in particular why the 90 Reis is so rare.

The second issue, the 'Goat's Eyes' or '*Inclinados*' (reclining or slanting numerals) starts with a confusing section on their joint usage with the first issue, as revenues. This seems out of context and is difficult to follow. The 'Goat's Eyes' section contains no statement of the various denominations or dates of issue. Illustrated are magnificent examples of the 10, 30 and 60 Reis, but by reference elsewhere I was left to determine that denominations from 10-600 Reis were introduced in stages from 1844- 1846.

Next come the 'Cat's Eyes' or '*Verticais*' of 1850, with a breathtaking used block of 21 of the 60 Reis, perfectly cancelled. Finally, we have the '*Coloridos*' or the 'Cat's Eyes' issued in coloured denominations, in 1854/61. A particularly rare combination use on cover of both *Verticais* and *Coloridos* is shown.

This is a beautifully-produced, if often frustrating book. I am sure I am correct in saying that this is not the methodical guide to these issues that a serious collector of Brazil would expect. It is rather the embodiment of an esteemed philatelist's joy in displaying the great items that he has collected, with interesting if somewhat disjointed commentary inserted into his personal and publicly-recognised philatelic 'journey.'



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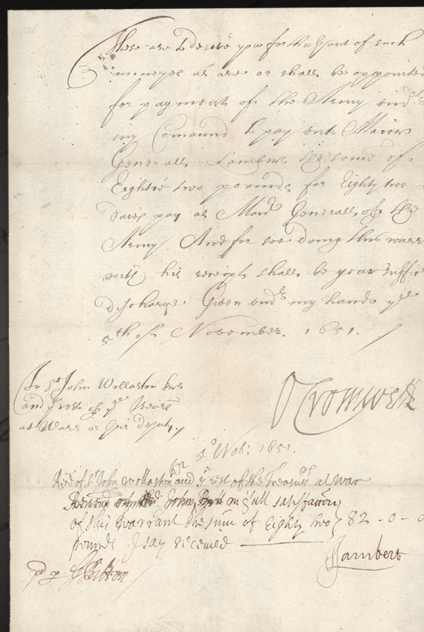
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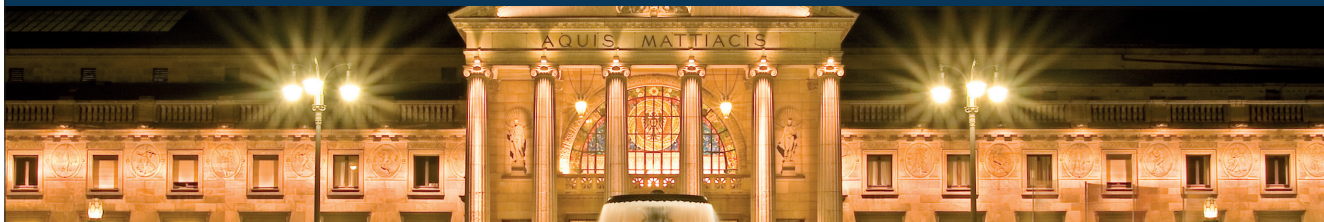
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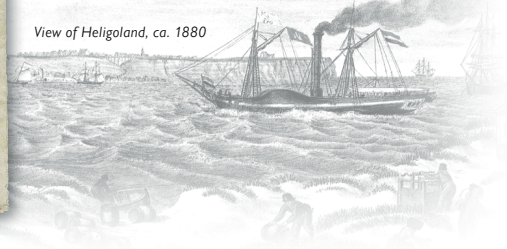
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View of Heligoland, ca. 1880



▲ **Heligoland** 1866, four Hamburg 3 schilling stamps cancelled by British Post office "HELIGOLAND 2 SP 1866" postmarks on a cover to Halle/S.

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Provenance:

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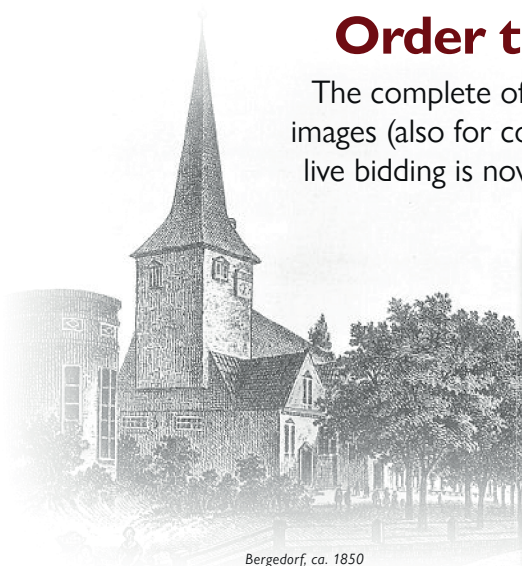
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Bergedorf, ca. 1850



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◀ **R.O.P.I.T** 1868, The famous cover with a block-of-four and two pairs of the 10 para from Chios to Constantinople – The most important cover of Russian Levant and one of the most important covers of Russian philately!

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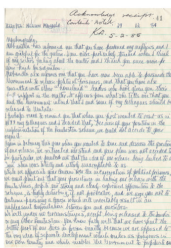
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