

The

LONDON PHILATELIST

The Journal of THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

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Dr Alan Huggins MBE, RDP, FRPSL

Election to Honorary Fellowship

On 24 January 2002 the Council approved the recommendation from the Fellowship Committee that Past President Dr Alan Huggins should be elected an Honorary Fellow.

Alan joined the Society in 1973, becoming a Fellow in the following year. In June 1975 he

joined the Council and has acted in various capacities. At very short notice Alan took over as Editor of *The London Philatelist* from January to April 1983, after Stuart Rossiter's untimely death. This is but a single example of the way in which Alan has always made himself available to help in the Society's affairs. He became Vice President from 1986 until election as President of the Society in June 1990 for two years. Since 1994 he has acted as Chairman of the Society's Collections Committee and has taken personal responsibility for arranging many exhibits from the collections to promote the Society at home and overseas.



Alan Huggins (right) receiving congratulations from the President on his election

President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, Chairman of the Postal Stationery Society, Chairman of the National Stamp Competition Jury and he was a member of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee. His collection of postal stationery has been exhibited widely and in 1979 Alan was the first exhibitor to gain an international large gold medal for postal stationery. He has won gold and large gold medals on several occasions. In 1994 Alan was nominated for the Grand Prix in the Championship Class at the international exhibition held in Korea.

Alan is well known for his authorship of the definitive work on *British Postal Stationery*, published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society in 1970. He co-authored with the late Marcus Samuel *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain* published in 1980. For this work he was awarded the Crawford Medal in 1981. In 1981 after the Post Office established the British Philatelic Trust as an educational charity to promote the study of stamps and postal history, Alan was appointed a Trustee and held the Chair from 1985 until 1996.

In international philately, he has been no less active, serving since 1974 on some 25 juries at international exhibitions and as Secretary to the Jury at no less than eight of these. In 1990 Alan was Chairman of the Stampworld London 1990 Exhibition and its organising committee. He was one of the founders of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, FEPA, its first chairman and is now its Honorary President. In 1992 he was elected as President of the Commission for Postal Stationery in FIP, the world body governing international exhibitions.

Alan has achieved many outstanding awards. In 1983 he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. He received the MBE in the New Year Honours List in 1996, recognising his contribution to philately, and was awarded the Lichtenstein Medal by the Collectors Club in New York in 1993. Alan should also be congratulated on another recent award in his professional role as a Pro-Provost of University College London, being elected to Fellowship of the College in December 2001. Consideration of this award also took account of Alan's philatelic activity.

The Society bestows its highest accolade on Alan for his work for the Society, for promotion of philately and his other achievements and received the welcome of Fellows and Members to his election to Honorary Fellowship of the Society.

Gavin Fryer, Honorary President

RPSL Society Medal Awards

At a meeting of the Medals Committee on 22 January 2002, the following Society Medals were awarded:

The **Crawford Medal** to Dr Ulrich Ferchenbauer for his book *OSTERREICH 1850 - 1918*.

The **Tilleard Medal** to Professor Barrie Jay for his display 'London's Postal History' given before the Society on 23 March 2000.

The **Tapling Medal** to Dr Christopher Board for: 'The Union Commemorative Stamp of South Africa 1910 and its Designer, Henry Straughan Wilkinson' published in *The London Philatelist* July/August 2000, Volume 109 Whole Number 1277 pages 183-201.

Honorary Fellowship - Dr Alan Huggins MBE RDP FRPSL.

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

There were no awards made this year for either **Honorary Membership** or for **The Royal Philatelic Society London Medal**. It was also decided that in future the Tilleard Medal would be awarded for 1.00pm meeting displays, which may include consideration of a joint display by two persons, and that a new **Lee Medal** be awarded for a 5.00pm paper and display in memory of the late R.A.G. Lee and Mrs Alma Lee.



Ceylon Illustration Captions

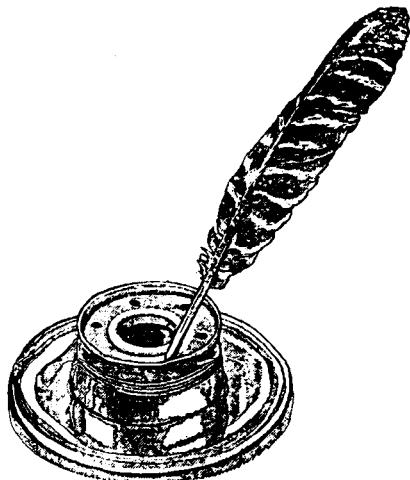
I must apologise Charles Goodwyn in particular, and to members in general, for the gremlins that crept into the illustrations / captions in last month's article on Ceylon (*London Philatelist*, January / February 2002, Volume 111 Whole Number 1292, page 20).

As I hope most readers will have realised, the pictures of Figs 4, 5 and 6 needed rotating once anticlockwise to match the captions.

All of the illustrations for the *LP* are now scanned by myself and electronically inserted into the correct position in the magazine without need for the printers to be involved - apart from any illustrations that are originated from transparencies where I do not have the appropriate equipment. For this article low resolution images of the correct figures were positioned by myself in the version of the *LP* that went to the printers.

Unfortunately Figs 4, 5 and 6 were mixed up when the colour transparency images were set by the printer to replace the draft ones set by myself. Just to compound the difficulties I was out of the country on a business trip when the final printing stages were being undertaken, making late corrective action impossible.

Frank Walton
Honorary Editor



Letters to the Editor

Correspondence on any subject is always much appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, telephone or email. My addresses are listed on the front page of all *London Philatelist* issues.

Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the editor.

Any correspondence received will be assumed to be for publication unless specifically stated to the contrary.

Frank Walton

✉ A Warm Welcome...

Dear Frank,

As an Overseas Member, I am prompted to respond to your article in the December *LP*, "A Warm Welcome...".

Thank you for valuable encouragement to Members who wish to visit No. 41 Devonshire Place and for helping to "demystify" the facilities for visitors.

My recent experience during several days visiting the RPSL was very positive - I was welcomed and given much assistance and support by several of the kind people introduced in your article. People are the most valuable resource in any organization.

The physical resources accessible to philatelic researchers who come to the RPSL also are outstanding. As the RPSL addresses future needs, I support a priority to share details of the vast Library holdings.

A review of the website indicates that our Library Committee is planning a computer database of handbooks and I trust other holdings (periodicals, auction catalogues and others) soon also will be described on the website. Using this detail, potential visitors with internet access will be able to plan visits more effectively.

Congratulations also for the quality and improvements evident in the journal. The Supplement written by W. Iain Stevenson was an excellent exposure of Fawcett's character and impact. I also delighted in a "family

link" through the illustration of a Parcel Post label, which originated adjacent to great-grandfather's shop!

These sorts of personal connections and opportunities to link people, communicate and share diverse interests through philately are the core of our hobby.

Peter Newroth
Victoria, British Columbia



✉ Thailand - Bangkok '03

Dear Frank,

This exhibition will be held in Bangkok 4 - 13 October 2003; it will be held under FIP patronage and will include all competitive classes.

I am the UK Commissioner. The first bulletin and provisional entry form are not yet available, but I shall be pleased to send intending exhibitors information as soon as it is available on receipt of postage stamps to the value of £1 to defray the cost.

Keith B. Fitton
50 Firlands
Weybridge
Surrey KT13 0HR
☎ 01932 840549





The Price of Rarity?

Dear Mr. Walton,

Recently, several national newspapers have described the Queen's Post Office Mauritius as being 'worth' £2m. I believe that there are eight of these in existence.

I have, in my collection, the only known example of the Kosti-Geteina TPO (a Sudan Travelling Post Office), as a cancellation on a commercial cover. Thus suggests, on scarcity grounds, that the cover should be 'worth' some £16m! I doubt that anyone would even think of offering me a price anything like that. In fact, I acquired the cover about a year ago at auction, paying about £100.

This further suggests that single stamps,

however rare, are grossly overpriced, while even more rare postal markings are seriously undervalued.

Discuss - if you dare!

J.F. Dight
Swanage

Editor's comment: As I mentioned some months ago, I am quite happy to introduce most topics members wish to raise in this column - this is what it is for!

In my Sierra Leone postal history collection, I have a postmark that I believe has not been recorded elsewhere; I paid all of 10p for this...

I look forward to other views on the difference between scarcity, rarity, desirability and value.



Forthcoming Displays at No. 41

Saturday 9 March 2002 at 2.30 pm - Members Joining since January 1997

From those members who joined after 1997, 24 people have indicated their willingness to provide material for this afternoon's display. The classics will be well represented, as will more modern issues and postal history. Together the exhibits will provide a wide range of material. This meeting should provide an opportunity to view some first class collections drawn from all parts of the United Kingdom.

Thursday 21 March 2002 at 1.00 pm - New Zealand Society of GB 50th Anniversary

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain welcomes the opportunity to display aspects of New Zealand philately to members of the Royal. This society has displayed just once before, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary in 1977. The display by their UK members will feature extracts from some of the outstanding collections formed ranging from pre-stamp material of 1855 through to the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II eras.

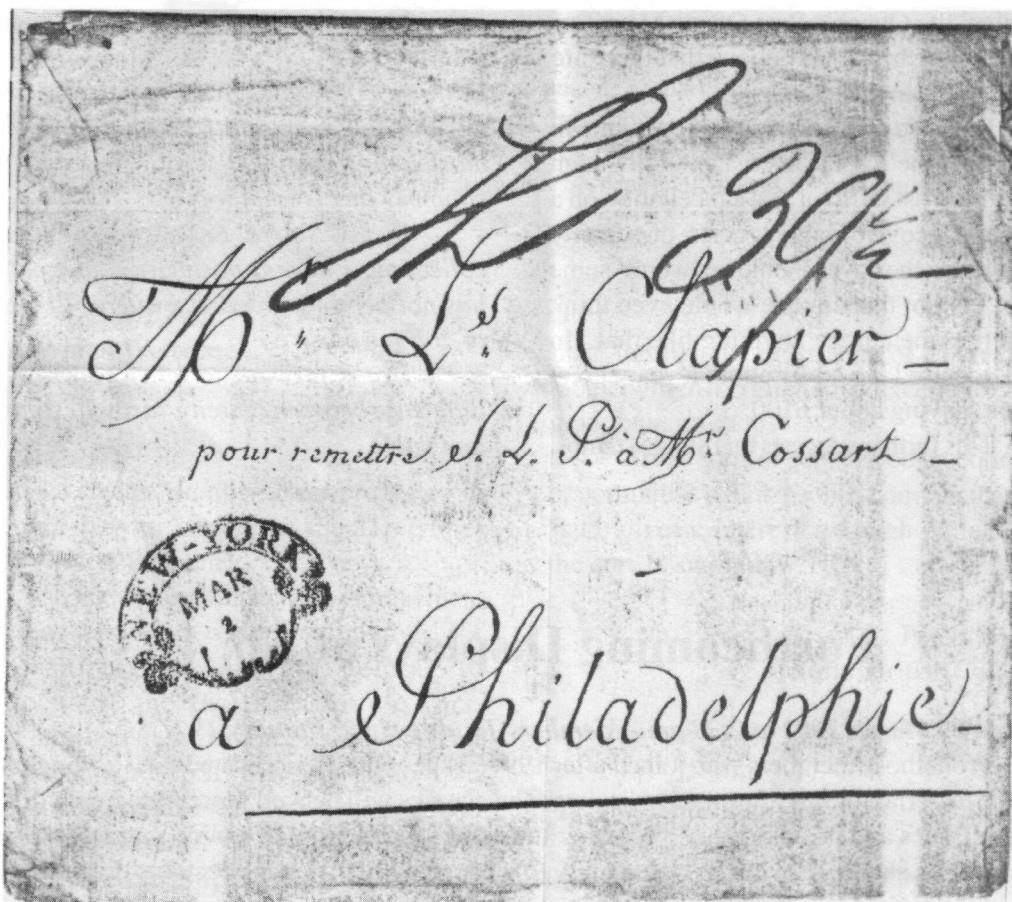
Thursday 11 April 2002 at 5.00 pm - Raymond Goebel: Luxembourg 1851-1866

The subject of the display and talk will be Luxembourg, the two first imperforate issues, the Guillaume III issue (1852) and the 'Armoiries' issue (1859). The display will show in 12 frames on 144 pages a selection of a collection representing the most important items, stamps and covers, assembled until today on those two issues. The talk will give a brief summary of the historical background and the technical details of the printings, as well as a survey of the postal rates and frankings, followed by a review of the display with comments and explanations.

Thursday 25 April 2002 at 1.00 pm - Tarik Alireza: Saudi Arabia and Hejaz from 1916

New York Ship Letter Act 1799

R.J. Kroesen



Early letter addressed in French, presumably from France, to Philadelphia

This interesting letter has a NEW-YORK / MAR / 2 / FREE handstamp, as well as manuscript endorsement *SL 39½*. The charge of 39½ cents is made up of a triple rate charge of 12½ cents plus a ship landing tax of 2 cents. The cover probably dates from the period between 1799 and 1805 when the New York post office used this marking.



Back Copies of the *London Philatelist*

The Society maintains a substantial stock of old LPs. Although some issues are out of stock, many are still available and can be purchased by members either as odd numbers or in year lots. The years after 1945 are well represented in stock, but some odd issues going back as far as the 1890s can be ordered.

Prices are very reasonable, and whole years can be purchased at a discount. Contact the office at No. 41 with requests for specific back numbers or whole years.

Forthcoming Regional Meetings of the RPSL

19 Mar 2002	Dorset, Hants & Wilts at Bournemouth	
23 Mar 2002	East Midlands at Radcliffe on Trent	Mike Siversn T 0115 933 3697
18 Apr 2002	Hertfordshire at Baldock	Robert Barnes T 01462 892675
21 Apr 2002	South West Counties at Tiverton	Graham Mark T 01984 624527
25 May 2002	Scottish Counties at Perth	Margaret Morris T 0141 849 7375
22 Jun 2002	Northamptonshire at Northampton	Neville Watterson T 01604 627323
27 Jul 2002	Yorkshire at York	
7 Dec 2002	Essex and Suffolk at Chelmsford	

Any member, irrespective of where they live, wishing to attend one of these meetings should please make contact with the appropriate county representative.

Forthcoming Philatelic Events

27 Feb - 3 Mar 2002	Spring Stampex, Islington, London
28 Feb - 2 Mar 2002	Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society Hall, London
7 - 9 Mar 2002	Munich International Stamp Days, Germany
13 Mar 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
22 - 24 Mar 2002	Milanophil 2002, Milan, Italy
4 - 6 Apr 2002	Essen-Messe International Stamp Fair, Essen, Germany
6 Apr 2002	Kent Federation Spring Rally, Ashford
10 Apr 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
13 Apr 2002	Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies Spring Event, Croydon
8 May 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
17 - 20 May 2002	French National Exhibition, Marseille, France
1 Jun 2002	Yorkshire Philatelic Association Annual Convention, Pudsey
12 Jun 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
29 - 30 Jun 2002	Thematica Exhibition, Carisbrooke Hall, London
26 - 27 Jul 2002	York Stamp Fair, The Racecourse, York
17 Jul 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
2 - 11 Aug 2002	Philakorea 2002, Seoul
7 Aug 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
30 Aug - 3 Sep 2002	Amphilex 02, Amsterdam
11 Sep 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
18 - 22 Sep 2002	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
7 - 13 Oct 2002	Espana 2002 Salamanca World Youth Exhibition, Salamanca, Spain
12 Oct 2002	Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Convention, Burgess Hill
16 Oct 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
22 - 29 Oct 2002	Cyprus-Europhilex '02, Nicosia, Cyprus
31 Oct - 2 Nov 2002	Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society Hall, London
15 - 16 Nov 2002	Leeds Annual Stamp Fair, Pudsey
20 Nov 2002	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
22 - 23 Nov 2002	Thematica Exhibition, Carisbrooke Hall, London
29 - 30 Nov 2002	Chester 2002, The Racecourse, Chester
29 Nov - 1 Dec 2002	Monacophil 2002, International Exhibition, Monaco
26 Feb - 2 Mar 2003	Spring Stampex, Islington, London
17 - 21 Sep 2003	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
4 - 13 Oct 2003	Bangkok '03, Thailand

The editor would be delighted to include information on forthcoming dates in this section to help advertise major philatelic events.

St. Lucia: Albino Impression of War Tax Overprint

James Podger



The 2002 edition of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue lists the St Lucia 1916 1d scarlet overprinted locally WAR TAX as SG89 (Ref. 1) and in a footnote to this issue explains:

"For the overprinting with Type 17 the top margin of the sheet was folded beneath the top row of the stamps so that the marginal examples from this row show an inverted albino impression of the overprint in the top margin".

At the autumn Stampex 2001 exhibition, John Davis displayed 'War tax and Surcharged Stamps'. This included a bottom marginal example of the 1912 1d carmine-red with an inverted albino impression in the margin. The Bridger & Kay catalogue states that it is believed that only one sheet of the 1d carmine from plate 1 was locally overprinted War Tax (Ref. 2).

The superb publication by Peter Fernbank (Ref. 3) repeats the information found in the Bridger & Kay catalogue and lists the 1912 carmine-red as being printed from plate 1b. In the plate checklist, for the War Tax overprints, the 1912 carmine-red overprinted in June 1916 is not listed as either being in the Royal Collection, or existing, not in the Royal Collection.

Plate 1b was made up as 120 stamps per sheet, divided by an interpanneau margin into two panes of 60 stamps, with one plate number at the bottom of each pane and no plate number at the top. The example illustrated, from plate 1b, shows inverted albino overprints in the bottom margin, indicating that the lower margin was folded over before the overprinting was executed. Thus, although a non-plate number example was previously known with inverted overprint, and plate 1b was believed to have been used for War Tax overprints, the illustrated example reinforces the former and proves the latter. If Bridger & Kay were correct in their catalogue that only one sheet was overprinted, this makes the 1916 War Tax overprint from plate 1b the rarest King George V plate number, with just two examples possible.

References

1. Stanley Gibbons, *Stamp Catalogue Part 1 British Commonwealth 2002 Edition Volume 2*, p459, Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Ringwood 2001
2. Bridger & Kay, *Commonwealth Five Reigns Catalogue*, 1980
3. Fernbank P.E., *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design*, p281, West Africa Study Circle, Banbury 1997

Philatelic Cartes-de-Visite

Ron Negus FRPSL

The practical development of photography dates from just prior to the appearance of the Penny Black. In 1839, the Parisian artist Daguerre perfected a process by which an image could be transferred on to a polished metal plate. These pictures, known as daguerrotypes, were easily damaged and required to be protected by a sheet of glass which was held away from the image by a brass surround. It was necessary to house the finished covered print in a stout card case to prevent the glass being broken in transit. Over the next fifteen years, further processes were discovered which helped to popularise photography and the names of men like Niepce, Scott Archer and Fox Talbot were prominent pioneers in this field.



Fig 1. Edward Stanley Gibbons

All these early attempts suffered from the disadvantage that to obtain more than a single copy of the photograph was very difficult, or impossible. In 1854, however, another Frenchman, Andre Adolphe Disderi patented a new technique that overcame this problem. He devised a camera with four lenses and a sliding plate holder that enabled eight negatives to be taken on a single 8-inch x 10-inch glass plate. With this plate as a negative, eight prints could be made at a time, so that the cost was greatly reduced. By this time, photographic prints were able to be produced on paper that had been treated with a suitable coating, rather than on metal, and Disderi employed this cheaper technique. The lower costs and increased productivity soon made his invention popular amongst professional photographers, and it was adopted throughout France and in countries across Europe and in America.

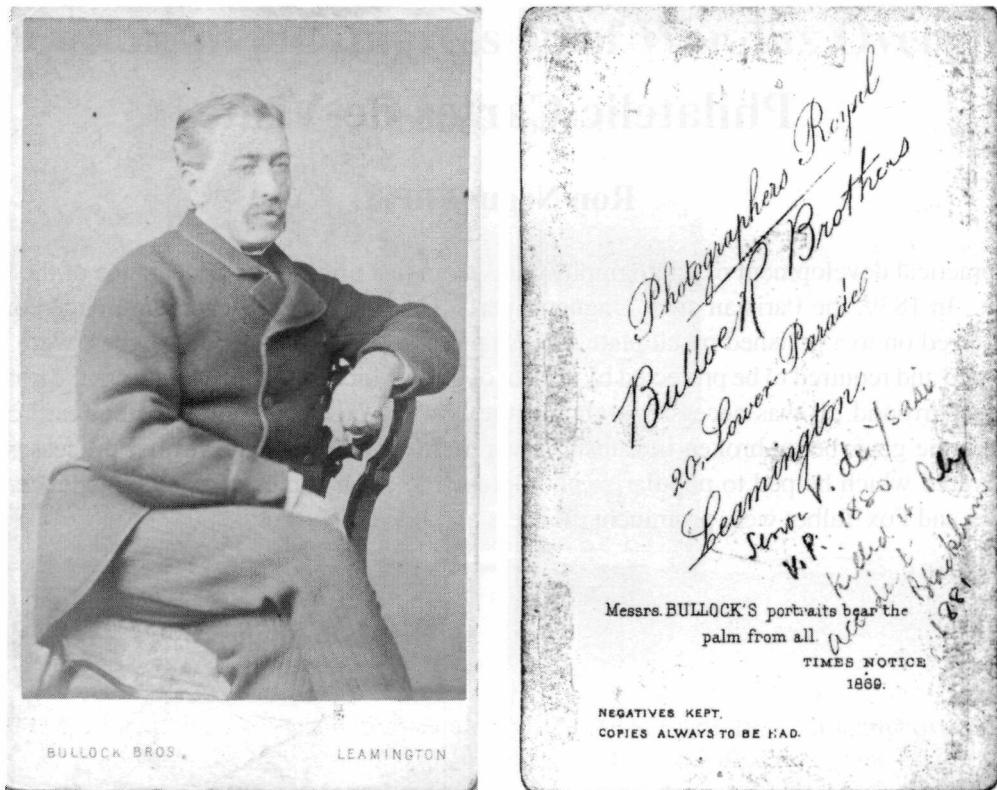


Fig. 2 Victoriano de Ysasi

However, the paper prints would not stand up to much handling, so they were pasted on to small stout cards that measured 4 by 2½ inches (10.2 x 6.4 cm) each, and this size was universally adopted. On the backs of these mounting cards, the photographers of the day were able to advertise their services. Because of the size, which was slightly larger than the conventional calling cards used widely at that time in polite Victorian society, these photographic cards became known as 'cartes-de-visite'.

During the 1860s, in Britain, the craze for collecting these cards became widespread. In 1860, J.E. Mayall was given permission to take carte portraits of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their children. Contemporary reports say that he sold over 100,000 copies of them. This seal of Royal approval was enough to encourage people to want their own cartes taken and the idea of sending them to friends and family soon became commonplace.

A further boost to the popularity of cartes-de-visite in America was the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861. For the first time, portraits of ordinary soldiers and their loved ones were available to the soldiers themselves and their families. They were small and durable enough to be carried into battle and formed an emotional bridge between the home and the war zones. Prior to this upsurge in personal portraiture, war had always been depicted in pictures painted in water colour or oils. In these images the central person shown was usually some well known commander and, if troops were included at all their faces were completely anonymous.

It was estimated that in England three to four hundred million cartes were produced each year in their heyday from 1861 to 1867. Every respectable Victorian parlour had a place reserved for an album of cartes-de-visite. This was often expensively bound in order to resemble that other important volume which was displayed - the family bible. Visitors were expected to study the various portraits the album contained, and to leave their own carte to be added to the collection. As well as family and friends, the albums contained cartes of notable celebrities of the day, such as actors and actresses, politicians, famous soldiers and sailors, etc. These latter images were



Fig. 3 Dr Emilio Diena

sold in stationers' shops in a similar way that picture postcards are nowadays. Queen Victoria herself was reputed to be a very keen collector and had no fewer than 100 albums.

We are fortunate to possess a small number of these Victorian ephemera in our archives with portraits of famous philatelists. We also have a few other cartes-de-visite with photographs of gentlemen who were presumably members, but who are not identified. Some of the cartes have the name of Edward Loines Pemberton written on them as having been sent to him. It is probable that they were acquired by the Society from his estate when he died in 1878 along with one of his unique notebook/diaries that is now located amongst the rare books in our Library. Pemberton was, of course, a founder member of the Society in 1869, and was described in an obituary as 'the greatest intuitive philatelist the world has ever seen'.

The four cartes selected for illustrative purposes in this article show the following famous members. Their portraits and the reverse of each card are shown:

Edward Stanley Gibbons (Fig. 1): The famous founder of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. was admitted to membership of the Society in February 1884. He was previously unable to join as the Statutes prevented dealers becoming full members – a rule which was not modified until 1881. The reverse of the carte shows the number of the negative (21332B) and 'S.Gibbons', both probably written by the photographer. The year of his admission to the Society has been added in pencil at some point, and the photographer is shown as J.N.O. Hawke of 8 George Street, Plymouth. Gibbons left Plymouth and moved his stamp business to London in 1874, and so it is probable that this carte was produced before then.

Victoriano de Ysasi (Fig. 2): Another early member of the Society, whose actual date of joining is not known for certain because of some confusion in the original membership records. He was a Spaniard who had settled in London. His name came to prominence in 1871 when he read a paper before the members that was a translation of an original by Don Mariano Pardo de Figueroa of Medina in Spain. This Spanish nobleman had been a collector for some time and

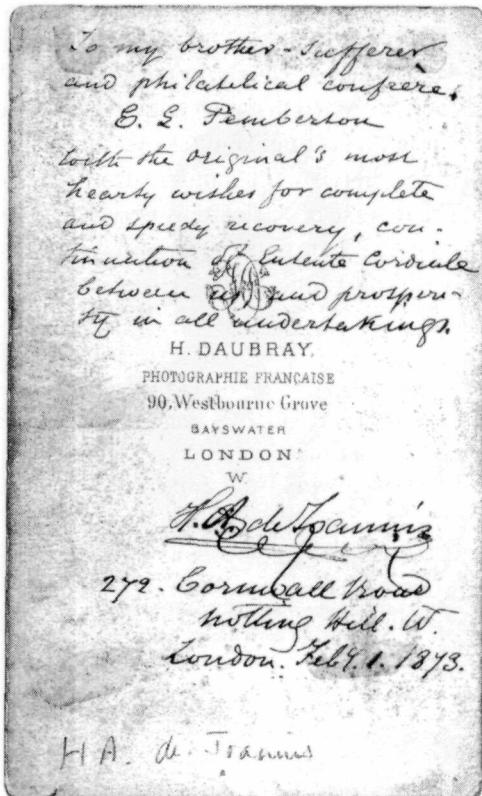
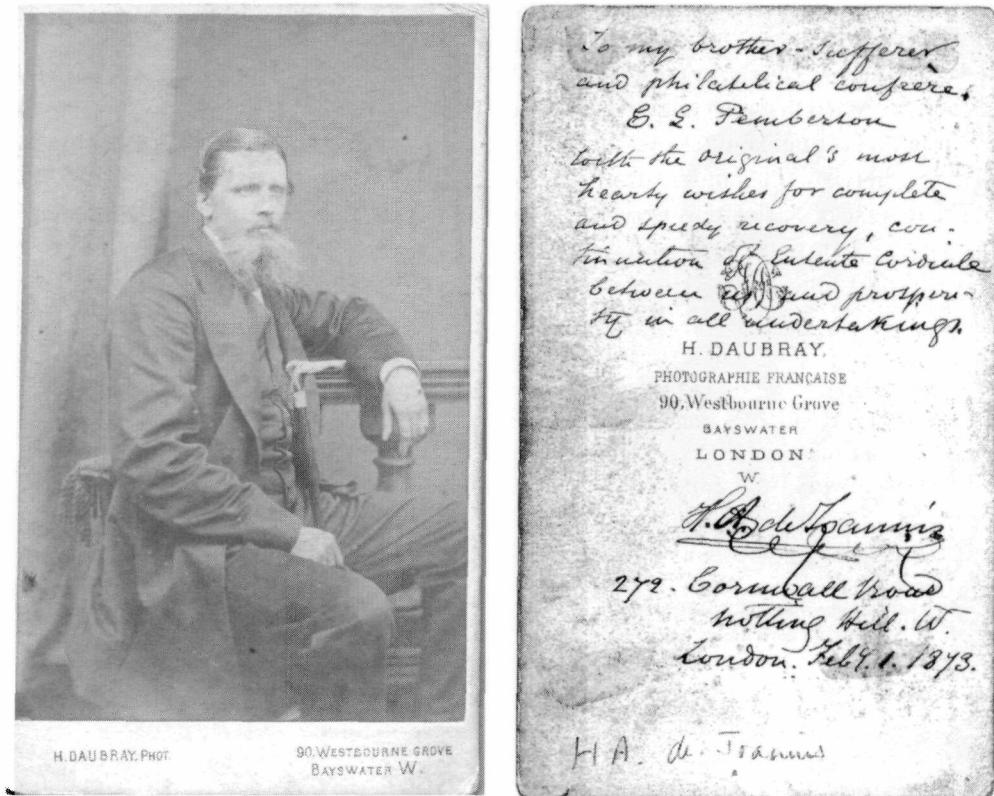


Fig. 4 H.A. de Joannis

wrote articles under the pen-name of Dr Thebussem. The translation by de Ysasi was subsequently printed and distributed to members in 1873 under the title *Obliteration Marks, Mata-Sellos, on Spanish Stamps*. This extremely rare two-page illustrated pamphlet can claim to be the Society's first printed publication.

After giving much of his time to Society affairs, de Ysasi was elected as a Vice-President in 1880. Unfortunately, just a year later, whilst sitting in Blackburn station awaiting to start his journey, his train was struck by another and he was killed in this tragic railway accident.

On the reverse of this carte the photographer's imprint reads 'Photographers Royal - Bullock Brothers, 20 Lower Parade, Leamington'. Although undated, this imprint includes a quotation from an advertisement in The Times of 1869 that says 'Messrs. Bullock's portraits bear the palm from all'. This together with de Ysasi's death probably dates the carte from the early to mid 1870s.

Dr Emilio Diena (Fig. 3): One of the most eminent Italian philatelists, who joined the Society in 1895 and became the leading expert on the stamps of his native country. His signature on a stamp was the undisputed guarantee that the specimen was genuine in all respects, and he served on the juries of most International Exhibitions throughout his lifetime. His interest in literature led to his philatelic library being claimed to be the largest held in private hands. He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on its inception in 1921, and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Society in 1931. His sons, Alberto and Mario, and his grandson Enzo were all notable specialists in Italian philately.

This carte is signed on the reverse 'With best compliments. E. Diena. Rome - October 3rd 1899' and can thus be dated exactly. Unusually, the elaborate advertisement for the photographer that is printed in gold ink on the reverse is also repeated on a transparent cover over the portrait itself, and probably indicates that it was more expensive than normal.

H. A. de Joannis (Fig. 4): A teacher of French living in London who joined the Society in

1870 shortly after it was founded. He was an active participant in all the early meetings, many of which were held in his house in West London. He was appointed as Hon. Secretary of the Society in 1875 and occupied that post until the end of 1879. During his term of office he was responsible for revising the original statutes and clarifying the grades of membership. He also presented a seal to the Society which could be used on letterheadings.

The reverse of this carte is very interesting because of the message it contains written in de Joannis's own hand. This was written a few weeks after E.L. Pemberton had been struck down with severe rheumatic fever – a disease from which he never really recovered. The message reads:

To my brother sufferer and philatelic confrere - E. L. Pemberton - with the original's most hearty wishes for complete and speedy recovery, continuation of entente cordiale between us and prosperity in all undertakings. (signed) H.A. de Joannis, 272 Cornwall Road, Notting Hill W., London. Feby. 1, 1873.

The carte had been taken by a local photographer in Bayswater, H. Daubray, whose advertisement on the reverse uses the description 'Photographie Francaise'. It was six years later that de Joannis returned to his native France to try to improve his health, but without success. He came back to London in November 1879 but was too ill to continue as Hon. Secretary and he resigned. (This was just one year after Edward Loines Pemberton's death at the tragically early age of 34 following a second attack of rheumatic fever.) One of the interesting things about de Joannis is that although he is mentioned extensively in the two histories of the Society that have been written (in 1919 and 1969) his forename name is never quoted – he is always referred to as 'H.A.'

These small photographs are elegant reminders of a more leisurely age as well as bringing to mind some of our illustrious past members. Cartes can often be found in antique dealers' boxes of old photographs and it is always worth turning them over in case anything has been written on the back. An excellent small booklet, *Victorian Cartes-de-Visite* by Robin and Carol Wichard (Shire Publications, 1999, ISBN 0-7478-0433-8, paperback, price £7.99), although non-philatelic, provides an excellent introduction to the subject and is well worth reading.



Cape of Good Hope Patent and Proprietary Stamps

Brian Trotter

Preamble

In September 1908 stamp duties were imposed on patent and proprietary medicines. The reason for the introduction of this stamp duty (and a series of other taxes), was that the Cape's finances were in a poor condition, and coming up to the National Convention to discuss a constitution for the Union of South Africa, the Cape's Prime Minister feared that the Cape's influence would be weakened at the Convention if the financial position was not being dealt with (Ref. 1). Initially the stamps for this use were printed locally, probably by The Cape Times Newspaper Limited. The values of these stamps were 2d, 4d, 6, 2s 6d, 4s 6d, 10s and £1. The stamp was designed by a man called Sturman, Chief Clerk of the Government Post Office, and the design was selected by the Cape Prime Minister, John Merriman, as the most suitable of the six designs submitted by Sturman. These revenue stamps were the only stamps issued during the Edwardian period that were also printed locally.

The reason for the initial local printing and the subsequent switch to De La Rue, with all the associated cost, is not clear. Perhaps the Cape Government were not totally satisfied with the printing quality and so decided to make the change. If, however, the patent and proprietary medicine duty had been rapidly introduced, or had not been well planned for, the local printing may have just been intended as a temporary measure until arrangements could be made with De La Rue.

In any event, it is not clear why special stamps were required at all. Either the normal revenue stamps could have been used, or if separate accounting was required by the Treasury, the normal revenue stamps could easily have been overprinted for this purpose. The official reason for this separate issue as quoted in *The South African News* of 1 October 1908 was "The existing revenue stamps do not include some of the required denominations and the oblong shape is convenient for cancelling by hand, and will facilitate departmental apportioning of the revenue". None of which is very convincing.

The law was amended in 1909, which then also required a 1d duty. This was supplied by overprinting the 1d postage stamp for this purpose, a far more practical solution.

Only the De La Rue printing is dealt with in some detail.

Development

Act 39 of the Cape of Good Hope dated 18 September 1908 introduced the stamp duty on patent and proprietary medicines. The locally printed stamps were issued on 1 October, and on 30 October 1908 the Agent General of the Cape in London sent a letter to de La Rue:

"I am directed to forward herewith for favour of early execution, an Indent for the supply of Patent and Proprietary Medicine Stamps, also a copy of a letter from the Treasurer, Cape Town. The Treasurer particularly desires the earliest possible shipment of these Stamps, and I am to draw your attention to the remarks in the accompanying letter with regard to the design of these stamps. The specimen stamps and sketch have been handed to Inspector Standridge."

It is not known whether this sketch has survived. The specimen stamps referred to were the ones locally printed in the Cape. Inspector Standridge was the person employed by the Cape Government to inspect the Cape stamps printed by De La Rue. This was undertaken by the Crown Agents for the other three South African Colonies, but since the Cape was a self-governing colony, it worked directly with De La Rue.

The letter enclosed from the Cape Colony Treasurer was dated 7 October 1908, less than three weeks after the Act came into force, and asked for rapid completion of the order. This would support the suggestion that the locally printed stamps may have been a temporary measure. After listing the denominations and number of stamps required by the Indent, he continued:

"Specimen stamp of each denomination, printed in this Colony is enclosed for the guidance of Messrs. De La Rue & Company in manufacturing these stamps, the design and colours of these stamps should be followed by the manufacturers in executing this Requisition. It is however to be noticed that in the design forwarded the Springbok's tail is erect, this is an error, as this buck when leaping lowers its tail, and I am to ask you to instruct Messrs. De La Rue & Company to correct the inaccuracy when engraving the plates for these stamps, the following further points should be observed in the preparation of the plates:- the second foreleg to be shown slightly; to show some white on the forehead, under the mouth , and along the under portion of the body and also to reduce the girth of the latter, sketch herewith."

De La Rue responded on 3 November 1908, and enclosed their proposed design (Fig. 2) based on the instructions given, and pointed out:

"This design is larger than the specimens sent, as we have all the necessary machinery for producing such sized stamps, whereas we could not produce stamps to the exact size of the specimens. Further your special watermarked paper could be brought in for the stamps of this size."

De La Rue was geared to produce stamps of either what they called postage size or what they called receipt size. In this case they were proposing a "double" stamp, the equivalent of a pair of postage size stamps side by side (Fig. 1). This way, the Cape's paper for postage size stamps with the Cabled Anchor watermark could be used, and would result in two watermarks per stamp.

The costs were advised to be £65 for the original working die, £85 for a 120 set key plate "of the superficial area of a 240 set postage stamp plate", and eight duty plates at £20 each. The stamps were to be printed in doubly fugitive ink, and the duty plates in singly fugitive ink. With De La Rue only offering doubly fugitive inks in green and lilac, these, like with the other revenue stamps were the only colour options.

However, the Cape Agent General was not satisfied with the design proposal (Fig. 2), and the next day, 4 November 1908, returned it and asked De La Rue:

"To submit further designs showing rather more life and action. Being aware that the design submitted by you is a faithful copy of the small drawings received from the Colony, but the animal as depicted in the stamps made in Cape Town is much truer to life in its springing action."

On 10 November 1908 De La Rue provided a further design. This too was not considered satisfactory, and the request came back from the Agent General asking:

"Whether it would not be possible to make the head and neck, (especially the latter) of the Springbok, a little smaller? The neck appears to be far too thick for the rest of the body, and the head and neck slightly too upright. The stamp is sure to be much commented upon in the Colony where the Springbok is well known to everyone, and it is therefore desirable to have as natural and correct a representation as possible. The 'life' and 'go' in the latest design is a great improvement."

De La Rue's third design attempt was submitted on 16 November 1908. Again this was not accepted, but the further corrections are not recorded, as these were done verbally. On 25 November 1908 the fourth design was submitted (Fig. 3). No doubt to De La Rue's relief, this fourth design was approved on 27 November 1908.

The depiction of the Springbok in the accepted design certainly was a significant improvement over the one first submitted.

Material from the De La Rue Records

Material was preserved in the De La Rue Records, with much of the Cape (and indeed the other Colonial material) surviving the bombing and resultant devastating fire that destroyed the De La Rue Works and headquarters in London on the night of 29 December 1940. With the material now dispersed, it is worth attempting to record what is still believed to be in existence.

There are three main categories of material. That from the Striking and Work Books, which were De La Rue's internal work records. That from the file records, which were the various die proofs in their various states. That from the Correspondence Books, which were the proposals sent to the Colony for selection and approval. The Correspondence Book material was often prepared in duplicate, one copy being retained, while the other was sent to the Cape Agent General.

Striking and Work Books

The Striking Book items were single copies of die proofs stuck into the Book, with the work instructions written alongside, often dated, sometimes with both the date the job was placed into the work programme, and the date it was completed. Once the job had been completed the die proof usually had a red line ruled across it, designating that the job was now done, and had been written up in the Private Day Book. These are among the more scarce items, as there was only one copy in existence for each plate made. They are usually cut down, presumably to not take too much space on the Striking Book page (Fig. 4)

The instructional markings were often across a larger piece, applying to more than one die proof (Fig. 4). Each of the duty plate dies has the manuscript note “120 leads & 2 extra”, the key plate die has the note for 120 leads as well, but has “& 6 extra”. The second key plate has “Mar 24, 120 leads, No.2, to replace No.1, plate cracked, no charge”. So a new key plate was made around the end of March 1909. Although the year does not appear on the proof piece, the last printing of these stamps was 3 June 1909, so it could only have been in 1909.

Die Proof	Work Date	Completion Date
Key plate	Jan 9 1909	Feb 10 1909
Key plate	Mar 24 1909	Not known
2d plate	Jan 11 1909	Feb 10 1909
4d plate	Jan 14 1909	Feb 10 1909
6d plate	Feb 6 1909	Feb 10 1909
1s 6d plate	Jan 26 1909	Feb 10 1909
2s 6d plate	Feb 1 1909	Feb 10 1909
4s 6d plate	Jan 29 1909	Feb 10 1909
10s plate	Jan 21 1909	Feb 10 1909
£1 plate	Jan 18 1909	Feb 10 1909

Similar cut down die proofs to those shown for the postage stamps must have also been included in the Work Book for the Patent and Proprietary stamps, but none of these have been traced. These were the ones believed to have been approved by De La Rue before proceeding with the hardening process. They were initialled and dated, then cut down and stuck into the Work Books. The postage items are reported to be survivors from a Work Book that was partially destroyed in the fire of 29 December 1940. If this is correct, then the Patent and Proprietary equivalents may not have been so fortunate, and may have been destroyed.

File Records

These were die proofs normally on the standard De La Rue glazed card (92 mm wide and 60 mm high). They usually showed the state of the die (Before Hardening, After Hardening, or After Striking), and the date the proof was made. The die state, as well as the date, were usually hand stamped in black, or occasionally in blue. These were sometimes initialled, and some had some other information noted in manuscript as well. However, only one of these has so far been noted for the Cape of Good Hope Patent and Proprietary stamps. The others may have been destroyed or lost, or they may just not have come to the public view.

The one so far noted is on the usual card, marked Before Hardening, and dated 7 Jan 09. It is a die proof from the key die, with the value tablets left blank. This was in the De La Rue reference collection.

De La Rue usually had file copies of the issued stamps stuck into the records book, and they also usually had similar file copies handstamped “Specimen”, but neither of these has been noted for the Patent and Proprietary stamps, so we do not know if they existed.

Correspondence Books

These were the stamp designs prepared by De La Rue. There were no colour trials involved, as the stamps all used the same colours for each denomination as the locally printed issue did. Not all of the designs may have survived. Whatever is known about the material is noted.

3 November 1908: A manuscript dated design proposal mounted on a card 114 mm wide and 90 mm high (Fig. 2). The design was for the 4s 6d value, and was marked in manuscript as a duplicate, and that the colours in the sample stamp submitted were landscape in purple and duty in green. The de La Rue design had these reversed. Since this was marked as a duplicate, we know that two were made, but no mention is made of a photographic copy (which tended to be the norm at the time), so it is not clear whether one of these was also made.

10 November 1908: Since the Cape Government was not satisfied with the last design, this improved one was produced. This was on a similar card with similar manuscript notes to the previous one, and was presumably an improved version, with colours remaining unchanged. Again, two copies would have been made, and there is no mention of a photographic copy.

18 November 1908: The second design was again rejected, with further small improvements being requested, so this third version was produced. This I have not seen. The assumption is that it would have been produced in duplicate, and again, no mention is made of a photographic copy.

25 November 1908: After yet another rejection, this further improved fourth design was produced and accepted (Fig. 3). It is similar to the first and second ones (and presumably the third as well) in that it is on the same size card, with similar manuscript notes, and in similar colours. The central vignette of the leaping Springbok (a second one was added in the background as from the second design) shows a very significant improvement in appearance from the first effort.

The Stamps

The Cape Government entered a requisition for these stamps on 7 October 1908, along with the request for the designs. By the time the designs were approved and plates made for printing, it was already February 1909. Since so much time had elapsed between the printing and the requisitions, printing did not take place as originally envisaged. The first printing was completed by 18 February 1909, and was for the 2d value only, while the last printing was 3 June 1909, and again only for the 2d value. As far as the 4d and 6d values were concerned, De La Rue did not follow their usual pattern of producing a few more sheets than were actually ordered, and then invoicing the full printing. So, in the case of these two values, the number printed was somewhat different from that on the requisitions. The exact number printed and shipped is available in the De La Rue Private Day Books, and since they do not match the requisitions very closely for these values, they are recorded here. The other six values have the usual few additional sheets that were typical of the De La Rue practice. The numbers printed and shipped were:

2d	4,085,400	2s 6d	502,800
4d	4,893,600	4s 6d	513,600
6d	3,230,400	10s	517,200
1s 6d	1,032,000	£1	258,000

In summary, the stamps were printed and invoiced between February and June 1909. They were printed in sheets of 120 stamps, but the exact configuration of the sheets is still unclear. The paper finally used appears to be without watermark. Several printings were made of the three lower values during this short period, presumably to meet urgent shipping schedules. There were six printings of the 2d, five printings of the 4d, and three printings of the 6d. All other values had only a single printing.

Some mystery shrouds these De La Rue printings as, so far, only the 2d has been seen but

not the other seven values. It is possible, considering the short life of the duty on patent and proprietary medicines, that the locally printed stamps in stock were sufficient for the need, and the rest of the De La Rue stamp values were never issued, and subsequently destroyed.

The 1d value postage stamp was overprinted "Patent and Proprietary" vertically in black, reading upwards (Fig. 5). It is also known with a broken or damaged base of the letter y and no stop. The overprinting was probably done by the *Cape Times Newspaper* (who did various stamp overprintings for the Cape authorities), sometime in 1909.

Stamp Usage

Cape of Good Hope Act No. 39 of 18 September 1908 imposed a duty on patent and proprietary medicines. This duty was to be "collected by means of stamps". The definition provided for such medicines is of interest, and reads as follows:

"In this Act the expression 'patent and proprietary medicines' shall mean any medicine
(a) protected in the Colony under current Letters Patent; or
(b) prepared, or purporting or professed to have been prepared from some secret formula; or
(c) prepared, or purporting or professed to have been prepared by some secret or occult
art, whether or not the formula is professed to be secret; or
(d) sold under a name or trade mark registered specially in regard thereto; or
(e) sold under any description which by reason of the use of the possessive case, or otherwise,
implies or indicates proprietary rights."

Using the word "occult" incorporates the supernatural, mystical or magical art of the African witch doctor, as well as any other medicines of potentially dubious effectiveness. The Treasury was not missing any opportunity to collect duties on medicines! The rates of duty introduced, based on the retail price of each bottle, packet, box or other containers were:

Retail Price (up to)	Stamp Duty	Retail Price (up to)	Stamp Duty
1s 6d	2d	£1	2s 6d
2s 6d	4d	£1 10s	4s 6d
4s	6d	£2 10s	10s
10s	1s 6d	Over £2 10s	£1

This explained the duty value of the stamps required. This Act had only been in force a little more than a year, when it was amended by Act No.16 of 30 November 1909. This changed the stamp duty on patent and proprietary medicines to 2d if the container retailed at less than 1s 6d, as per the existing legislation, then "an additional stamp duty of 1d for every additional 6d or part thereof of such price".

This change of regulation had a serious impact on the stamps required. Firstly it now required a 1d denomination, which had not been printed either locally or by De La Rue. The answer was to overprint the 1d Cape postage stamps for this purpose, thus avoiding the whole design and approval process required for a new denomination. The other major impact was that a somewhat unusual denomination like 4s 6d, would seldom be needed. This is presumably why none of the higher denomination De La Rue printings have been seen.

Since the stamp would have been affixed to the bottle, box, packet or some other kind of container, they would have been discarded with the empty container, making used copies scarce. The duty on these medicines was short-lived, as the duty was repealed by the Union of South Africa Act No. 30 of 1 July 1911.



Fig. 1 De La Rue stamp size compared to the Cape local printed example



Fig. 2
De La Rue's first
design proposal



Fig. 3
The accepted
design

Fig. 4
Striking Book die
proofs for all the
plates (reduced)



Fig. 5 Overprinted 1d Cape postage stamp

References

1. Thompson, L.M., *The Unification of South Africa 1902-1910*, p140, Oxford University Press, London 1960
2. De La Rue Records held at the Post Office Heritage in London.
3. Government Gazettes and Acts of Parliament of the Cape of Good Hope and the Union of South Africa.

The First Three Issues of Poonch

Frits Staal FRPSL



Top and bottom left, Figs 1 & 4 - 1876, 6 pie (SG 1);
Top and bottom centre, Figs 2 & 5 - 1877, ½ anna (SG 1a)
Top and bottom right, Figs 3 & 6 - 1879, ½ anna (SG 2)
(Illustrations enlarged to almost double size)

Introduction

It does not happen often that a major auction catalogue illustrates a major rarity but identifies it as another that is slightly less rare. Yet that is precisely what happened in the Spink catalogue of "India and States Stamps and Postal History" of 18 October 2001 (Ref. 17). It illustrated its lot 857 with a cover that carries the Poonch ½ anna of 1877 (SG 1a), but described it as if it were its younger sibling, the ½ anna of 1879 (SG 2). It is not an isolated instance of the difficulty that even expert philatelists experience in differentiating some of the stamps of Poonch from each other. Both this stamp and the confusion about it came from the Couvreur collection which was offered by Robson Lowe on 11 March 1981. Lot 716 of the auction catalogue illustrated it almost as clearly - in black and white and without showing the rest of the cover - and misdescribed it in almost identical terms. The misattribution is probably older as we shall see.

The Couvreur stamp is tied by light manuscript markings, "somewhat defectively printed" (Robson Lowe) or "partially printed" (Spink). It is true, especially of the stamps of the first three

issues of Poonch, that the difficulty of identification is often compounded by surviving examples being defective, badly printed, heavily obliterated and not infrequently all of these. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue does not illustrate the SG 1a but distinguishes the three issues from each other in terms of size, an uneasy criterion when margins are indistinct or missing. The Couvreur stamp has broad margins and if the measurement test had been applied, it would have been obvious that there was, in both auction catalogues, a mismatch between illustration and description. Why does Stanley Gibbons provide measurements but no illustration of SG 1a? The answer is that copies of that stamp are not only hard to identify but also hard to find.



Fig. 9 : 16 April 1880. Combination cover to Rawalpindi in British India. 1879 stamp tied with Imperial cds. On the reverse a faint strike of the sorting seal.

these stamps (as in Fig. 6). These cancels help identify early used copies of the first three issues which would in many cases be impossible if they were obliterated by the intaglio seal.

Kahuta is in British India and the Imperial cancels are explained by the need for Poonch stamps on the colourful "combination covers" that are addressed to destinations in British India outside the state (Figs 8, 9 and 12). Fig. 9 depicts the cover on which the stamp of Fig. 6 occurs. Dated 16 April 1880, it may be the earliest known cover carrying the 1879 stamp. The Kahuta cancel leaves much of its design intact, the printed stamp of the India envelope is cancelled by the L-6/7 and the reverse displays a faint impression of the intaglio seal used for sorting purposes.

Chief offender among Poonch oblitors is the first intaglio seal, a large circle (30 mm diameter), often indistinct, which "if at all heavily applied, plays havoc with the condition of the stamp" (Ref. 3). Fig. 7 illustrates its impact on a 1876 copy (SG 1) that is also tied by handwriting and badly printed. With so many variables, we may have a pleasant surprise. That same stamp exhibits outer framelines, a feature of all three issues that is rarely visible.

The reverse of the cover of Fig. 8 displays a benign manifestation of the seal. Fortunately, although "its period of recorded use is from 19 September 1877 to 27 June 1887" ... "until at least early 1880, the seal was used only to *endorse* outgoing covers, and the Punch stamps were either cancelled in manuscript or by the L-6/7 obliterator of the Kahuta Indian Post Office" (Ref. 1).

The circular date stamp of Kahuta is also found on

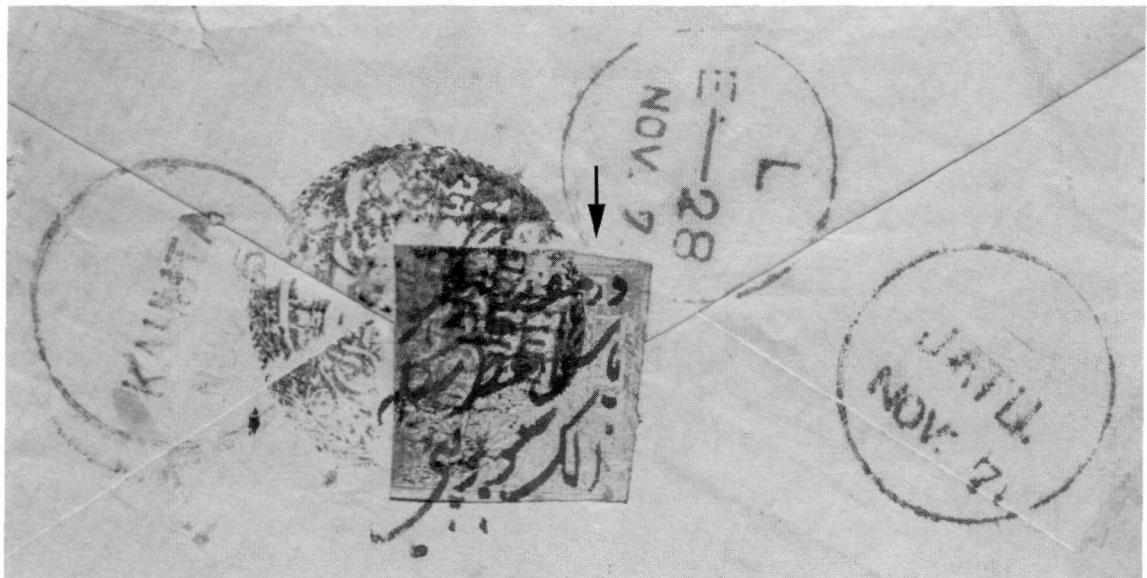


Fig. 7 : 5 November 1882. Bad printing, narrow margins, heavy obliterator and writing play havoc with a 1876 stamp that shows rarely visible double framelines. Ex Gian Chand Jain.

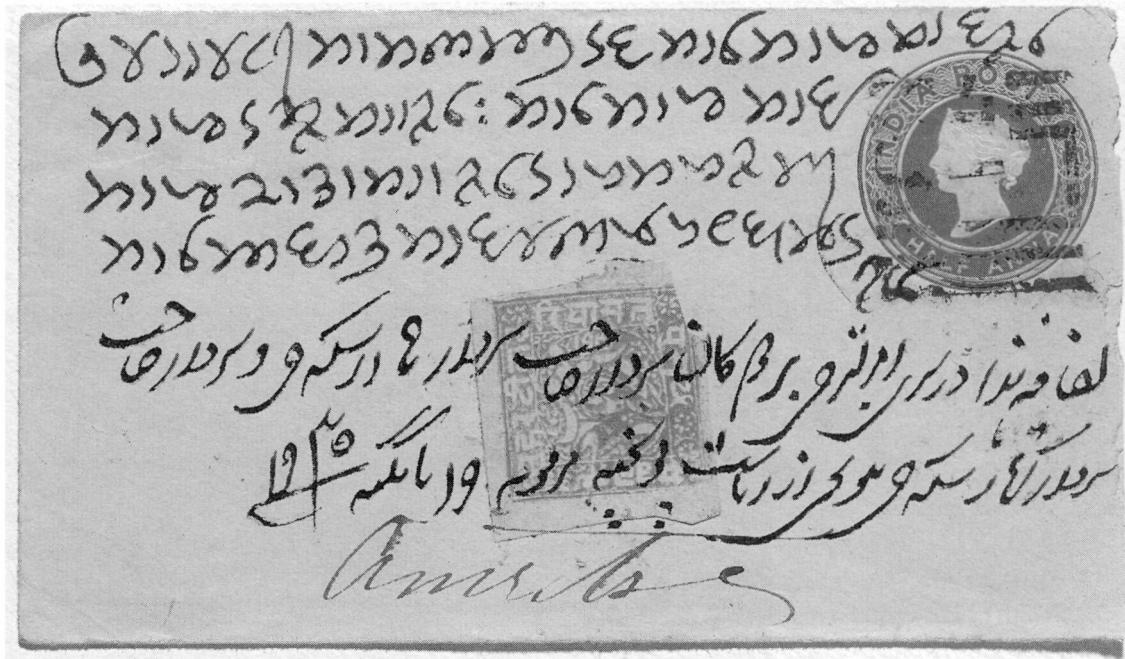
Date cancels are not often harmful but handwriting is what, in general, interferes least with identification or study of the design. In Fig. 8, most of the 1876 stamp is as distinctly visible underneath the writing as the sorting seal on the reverse is clear.

Description and analysis

The stamps of Poonch were described and analysed between 1899 and 1932 by Stuart Godfrey, E.B. Evans, A.J. Sefi and F.M. Douie. Knowledge of the first three issues was scant. Godfrey (Ref. 5) knew only the first and two essays or proofs of a second. Evans added in 1909 (Ref. 4) that it existed as a stamp of which "a few used copies have since been discovered." Sefi (Ref. 8) discovered in 1930 what was really the second issue (which led Stanley Gibbons to add it to its listings as SG 1a). All these great pioneers missed significant features of design and their illustrations were wanting in precision and detail. Sefi wrote: "I am afraid that the illustrations accompanying this article are not very satisfactory, but, as the stamps are printed in red and both the postmarks and MS upon them are in black, it has been a matter of considerable difficulty to get them even as they are."

I think I know something of how Sefi felt, but we are in a better position now than three quarters of a century ago. That pertains not only to the art and technology of colour photography and reproduction as shown by auction catalogues and now our *London Philatelist*, but also to speed and efficiency of communication.

I am still standing on the shoulders of my predecessors, but I could not have attempted to scale the peaks of Poonch without the assistance of an international network of like-minded friends who have provided me with photographs of their treasures: Dr George Harell (for Fig. 2), Johan Veldman (for Fig. 3) and W. Danforth Walker (for Figs 4 - 6, 9 - 11). I call upon the reader to examine the following descriptions with a keen eye on the illustrations. For an explanation of these issues, as distinct from description or depiction, see Douie (Ref. 3) or Staal (Ref. 9).



On the reverse a clear strike of the sorting seal.

1876, 6 pie red (SG 1)

The stamp measures 22 x 21 mm and is printed on yellowish white, wove paper. A small inner circle carries the denomination “6 pai” (6 pies = $\frac{1}{2}$ anna) in Persian:

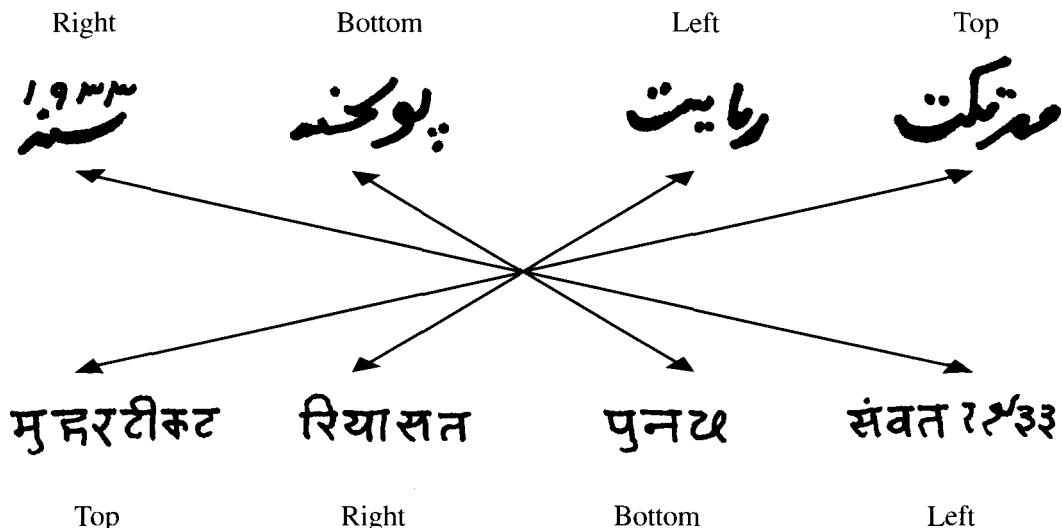
پانچ

It is placed within a plumpish larger circle. The intervening space carries, beginning on top and

going from right to left, anticlockwise in a circle, a continuous (Muslim) Persian inscription.

The larger circle is contained within a square enclosed within a larger square. The intervening space carries, going clockwise from left to right through four panels, a corresponding inscription in the (Hindu) Nagari script. The two inscriptions use different scripts to express virtually the same language and correspond as follows:

PERSIAN (Right to Left)



NAGARI (Left to Right)

muhr tikat
“seal stamp”

riyasat
“state”

punch
“Poonch”

samvat 1933
“1876 A.D.”

The outer panels are adorned with five rosettas: one at each end of the top panel; one within a circle at the bottom of the right panel = the right end of the bottom panel; and two within circles at the left end of the bottom panel. In this and in the following descriptions of rosettas, I concentrate on number and position but am not always certain whether circles surround them. The entire design is surrounded by double framelines that are rarely visible (but see Fig. 7).

1877, ½ anna red (SG 1a)

The stamp measures 19 x 17 mm and is printed on the same paper. An inner oval carries the denomination “½ anna” in Persian:



It is placed within a larger oval with the same Persian inscription as on the previous issue but the date is 1934:



corresponding to 1877 A.D. The larger oval fits in a square enclosed within a larger square and, in between, the corresponding inscription in Nagari. It contains the same readings as before but

with the new date, 1934 (1877 AD):

१९३४

There are two rosettas: one at the left end of the top panel and one within a circle at the left end of the bottom panel. The double framelines are visible in Fig. 5.

1879, ½ anna red (SG 2)

The stamp measures 21 x 19 mm and is printed on the same paper. An inner oval carries the same denomination “½ anna” in Persian but it is much larger. It is contained within a larger oval with the same Persian inscription as SG 1a but the date is 1936:

१९३६

corresponding to 1879 A.D. The oval is contained within a square enclosed within a larger square with the corresponding inscription in Nagari. The four Nagari panels carry the same readings as before but with the new date, 1936 (1879 AD) in the left panel:

१९३६

There is one rosetta almost at the left end of the bottom panel, followed by the first character *sam* of the next panel, i.e., at the bottom of the left. The outer framelines that occur in all three issues are sometimes clear in the third (as in Fig 3).

Proofs and dies

Two proofs were found in the proof book of the engraver and seal-cutter Rahat Ju. That gifted artist had been working at Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, from 1866 or earlier when he designed the Old Rectangular Issues of Jammu and Kashmir (perhaps not the Circulars as stated by Staal more cautiously in 1983 (Ref. 11) than in 1999 (Ref. 9). The Poonch proofs are identical or similar in design to the 1879 issue. Both were in the collections of Dawson (Ref. 13, lots 487 and 498) and H. Garratt-Adams (Ref. 18, lot 869, which I had occasion to see in 1999).

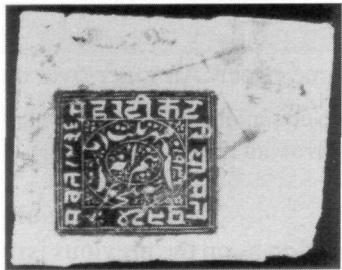


Fig. 10 : Proof from the die-cutter's book for the 1879 issue. Ex H. Garratt-Adams.

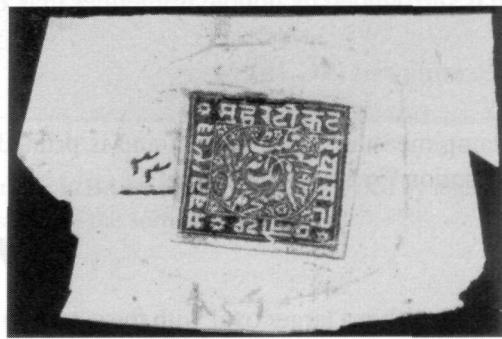
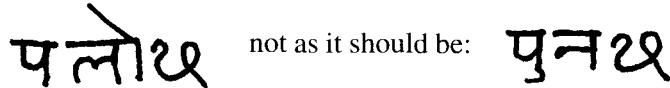


Fig. 11 : Proof from the die-cutter's book for a 1 anna issue. Ex H. Garratt-Adams.

According to their inscriptions, these two proofs were prepared at different dates. The later proof (Fig. 10) is dated 1936 and identical with the issued stamp of 1879. The earlier proof (Fig. 11) is different in four respects: (1) the date is 1933 corresponding to 1876; (2) the denomination

is "1 anna"; (3) there are three rosettas, one at the beginning of the top panel and two on both sides of the name of the state in the bottom panel; and (4), most extraordinarily, the name of the state, which the Persian gives in regular fashion as "Poonch," occurs in the Nagari bottom panel (and therefore upside down) as "Paloch":



The earlier proof must have been prepared shortly after the first issue. It was perhaps intended for use on letters weighing more than half a *tola* (5.83 grams) since an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ anna was levied for each additional half *tola* (Ref. 1). The early date of this proof is confirmed by the fact that it conforms to the pattern of development of the rosettas between 1876 and 1879: a gradual decrease in number from five to one. (Stamps with four rosettas have not come to light.) It looks as if the seal-cutter was instructed repeatedly: "Make the design clearer, larger and omit embellishments!" That this early 1 anna stamp was never issued must be due to the fact that the name "Poonch" had been replaced by "Paloch." Dr Aditya Behl may have put his finger on the reason for that unacceptable substitution when he evoked, in reply to my query, "wild tribesmen from Balochistan!"

During the enlightened reign of Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885), the cities of Srinagar and Jammu experienced a cultural renaissance. It is briefly described in the first chapter of my 1983 book because the issue of stamps was part of it. Poonch, by contrast, was in the eyes of a non-native, "wild and mountainous" (F.B. O'Shea in 1898 as quoted in 1999:45). Did Rahat Ju, a Srinagar citizen, regard it as uncivilized and refer to the country as "Paloch", substituting the "P" of "Poonch" for the "B" of "Baloch"?

According to Godfrey (Ref. 5), Jahat Ru cut beautiful blood-stone dies for the 1876 issue of Poonch and the similar $\frac{1}{4}$ anna introduced in 1884, in addition to preparing the designs for the later issues that I ventured to pronounce his best (Ref. 9). At the time he started on Poonch, Jahat Ru was still working on the J&K New Rectangulars that first appeared in 1878, the year that Poonch did not issue a stamp. It is hard to believe that the master cutter substituted "Paloch" for "Poonch" even if the proof was found pasted in his book. It seems more likely that the extraordinary issue of 1879, and perhaps also the cramped design of 1877, were prepared by someone else. The quality of the Persian calligraphy in SG 1a and 2, which is inferior to that in SG 1, supports that hypothesis.

The three early dies were not included among the dies that were defaced on 7 July 1899, five years after the termination of the postal system of the state. The defacement ceremony included the 1884 stone of the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, on two sides of which a small "nick" was made, and the brass dies of the others on which crossed lines were scratched. Ten impressions were made before and after defacement and the dies were presented to the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Rarity

I used the concept of *rarity* in the beginning. Those who accept as a matter of course that this much abused term must be translated into many-digit figures of monetary value, may be disappointed by the catalogue values of Poonch. The difference is due to the distinction between what Haverbeck (Refs 6 & 7) called "rarity" and "fame." Of real rarity there is no doubt.

1877, 6 pie (SG 1)

In used condition, this is the only stamp that is not rare. Douie had "some 40 copies", 25 on dated covers or pieces (Refs 2 & 3). According to the Robson Lowe catalogue of the Dawson collection (Ref. 13), the number of unused copies is three. I have not been able to spot any others. The Dawson sale included two: lot 488 is depicted on the first page and in colour on the back of his

auction catalogue, and lot 489, illustrated there on page 44 and here in Fig. 4.

The third copy turned up in the Spink auction (Ref. 17, lot 849) mentioned in the introduction and is depicted in Fig. 1.

1877, ½ anna (SG 1a)

The first copy of this stamp, discovered by Sefi in 1930, was in used condition. A second, unused, was discovered by Emmett B. Peter Jr. in 1955 (Ref. 12). Subsequently incorporated in the Midas British Empire collection (Ref. 16, lot 511), it is illustrated there on Plate D and here in Fig. 2. Sefi's used copy reappeared in Dawson (Ref. 13, lot 497) where it was described as "the only known used copy on large piece." The phrase should probably be clarified by inserting a comma after "copy" because Haverbeck listed, six years later, (Refs 6 & 7) only the Sefi and Emmett copies.

As we have seen in the introduction, there is another *used* example: the unrecognised Couvreur stamp. Another *unused* copy also emerged in the recent Spink auction (Ref. 17, lot 856) and is depicted in Fig. 5.

1879, ½ anna (SG 2)

The unused copy of Fig. 3 has never before been illustrated, described or mentioned, as far as I know. It is not listed by Stanley Gibbons in unused condition and is probably unique.

Used copies present a more complex story and we should make a distinction between "known" or "well-attested" and "estimated" or "said to be known":

1879 (SG 2) Used Copies

	KNOWN	ESTIMATED
Sefi (1930: 249) illustrated three from the Douie collection, one on part of a 1/4 India postcard	3	
Dawson (1967) included the latter (lot 500) together with another (501) making up two "of six ... said to be known."	1	6
These do not include the famous pair (ex Hind and Douie) that was exchanged by Ferrary with Tapling for an unused Mauritius 2d Post Office (Dawson lot 499)	2	
Haverbeck's collection included two examples of the 1879 issue, different from any of the Douie/Dawson copies	2	
He estimated accordingly (1973:15 = 1974:238) that "5 - 8 copies" may have survived, including the famous pair		5 - 8
The copy of Spink (lot 858) is ex Douie, but the one of Fig. 6 is different from all the others that are well-attested.	1	
I arrive at a total of nine known copies.		

We are left with some loose ends. Dawson wrote in 1967 that four copies were said to be known in addition to his own two. We may account for three of them by taking them to be the same as the two Haverbeck items and the one of Fig. 6. The fourth must be the Couvreur stamp of our Introduction provided we assume that the confusion about it existed in 1967, fourteen years before Couvreur. Dawson's estimate of six then, was too large by one.

To sum up, the total numbers of known copies for all three issues, unused and used, seem to be as follows:

	1876	1877	1879
Unused	3	2	1
Used	100's?	2	9

Dates of Use

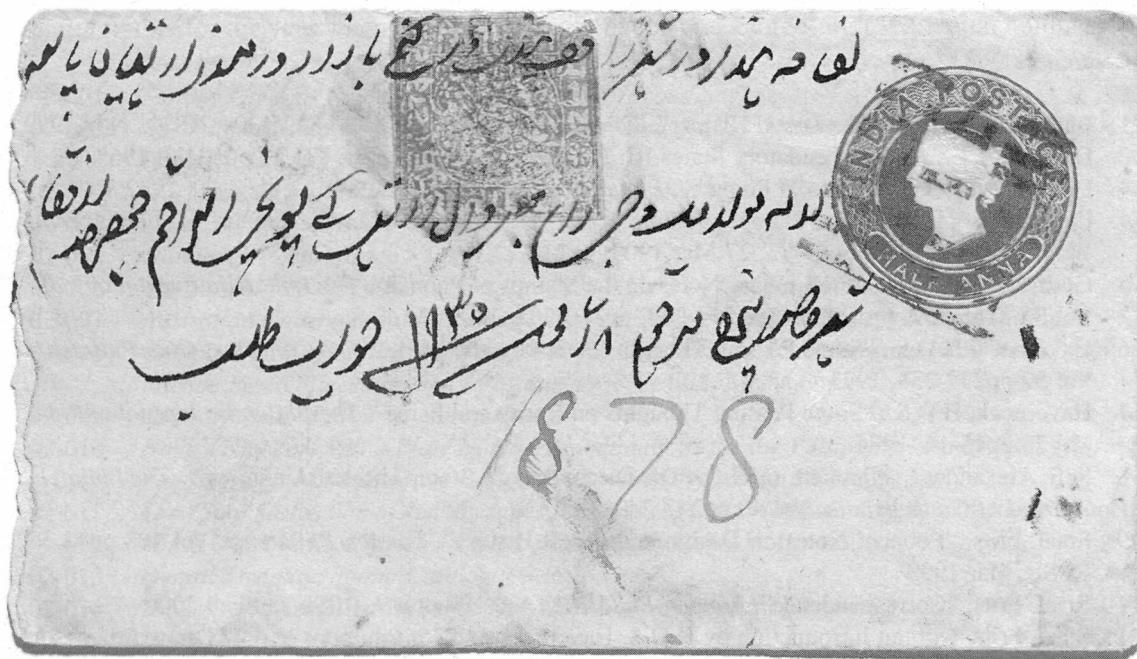


Fig. 12 : 5 August 1878. Early combination cover to Rawalpindi without sorting seal.
1876 stamp tied by manuscript.

The earliest use of the 1876 stamp known to Bard and illustrated in his article (1999:297-8) is on a cover of 20 July 1878. Another early cover, sent a fortnight later on 5 August 1878, has no trace of the seal and is depicted in Fig. 12. The design, especially of the rosettas at the bottom, is clear and largely visible. According to Douie (Ref. 3), the stamp did duty until March 1884.

The earliest dated cover with the 1877 stamp is the Sefi cover of 10 June 1879. The Couvreur cover is dated 1 October 1882.

We don't know the dates of all the nine covers that carry the 1879 stamp. The earliest I have seen is the one of Fig. 9 which is dated 16 April 1880. The Douie covers are dated 8 and 10 June 1881, the Haverbeck ones, 8 April 1884 and 9 June 1885.

The dates of use are remarkably consistent with the dates of issue inscribed on the stamps. The three early issues continued to be used during the early 1880s when the new designs (SG Types 3 - 6) appeared. They petered out after 1884 when the definitives were issued.

We have not studied papers or colours. I have only seen wove, but are all papers *yellowish* or is it only the paper of the first issue which, in Fig. 1, is closer to *pinkish grey*? Are all issues

printed in *red* (or *orange-red* as Sefi called them), or does the second issue possess an *orange* hue while the third tends to a shade of *carmine*? All idle speculation with a sample so small. We might be able to answer such questions if we had more examples of the stamps. If readers find them among their copies it would not be the first time that a discovery was made in Poonch.

Acknowledgements

It is with great pleasure that I express my gratitude to fellow collectors Dr George Harell, Johan Veldman and W. Danforth Walker whose indispensable contributions have already been mentioned. My sincere thanks go to Patricia Stilwell Walker who also helped with the photography.

I am indebted to all for commenting on early drafts, to Dr Aditya Behl for a wonderful idea and, last but not least, to Oakland photographer David Belda.

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14. 1973 (26-29 June): Harmers of New York "Indian Native States" (Harrison D.S. Haverbeck)
15. 1981 (11 March): Robson Lowe in London "Indian Feudatory States" (Dr Pierre Couvreur).
16. 1982 (30 September): Robson Lowe at Christie's Zurich: "British Empire" (The Midas Collection).
17. 2001 (18 October): Spink of London "India and States Stamps and Postal History"
18. 1993 (21 September): Christie's Robson Lowe (H. Garratt-Adams)





Library News

Notes by Philip Lindley, Honorary Librarian

Additions to the Library January 2002

From this issue onwards, all items added to the library will have their RPSL Library Accession Number quoted. This code has been allocated for a number of years now, but previously it has not been used other than by the library team. Quoting this number when referring to a title should enable the item to be found quickly within the library system. The reference is made up of a two-digit number for the year when the item was catalogued and a three-digit sequential number.

- 02-001 *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part II - Scandinavia*
- 02-002 *Specialised Catalogue of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery of Latvia 1990-2001* - Philatelic Society of Latvia
- 02-003 *World Guide of Philatelic Writers 2001* by Osvaldo Mario Giordano
- 02-004 *Stamps of Iran* (CD Rom) - Iran Post Office
- 02-005 *Handboek Postwaarden* - Joh. Enschede
- 02-006 *The Post Office Circulars of Victoria 1854 - 1901* by Geoffrey Kellow & Russell Turner
- 02-007 *Australian Commonwealth Postmark Impressions* by Geoffrey Kellow & Russell Turner
- 02-008 *Complete List of Sailings of Trans-Pacific Contract Mail Steamers carrying New Zealand Marine Post Offices between 1923 and 1938* by K. J. McNaught
- 02-009 *Tales by Mail, Book I* by Karen Cartier
- 02-010 *Napp's Numbers Vol. 2 Plate Number Combinations for the Philippine Islands Issues during the American Administrative Period 1902 - 1946* by Joseph M. Napp
- 02-011 *The "Sun" Collection of Red Revenue Surcharges of China 1897* auctioned by Matthew Bennett
- 02-012 *World War I in East Africa: Civil Censorship* by Regis Hoffman
- 02-013 *Domfil Thematic Stamp Catalogue - Railways*
- 02-014 *Bibliografia Tematica Italiana, Third Edition* by Giovanni Bertolini
- 02-015 *Dutch - English Dictionary* - Prisma
- 02-016 *Swedish - English Dictionary* - Prisma
- 02-017 *Norske Brevportotakster til Utlandet 1743-1855* by Harry Snarvold
- 02-018 *West African GPO Postal Notices* by Philip Beale and Frank Walton
- 02-019 *The Imperforate Sitting Helvetia - Strubel* by Herbert Brach

Recent Additions

The Stamps of Baranya by Jenö Szabó-Antal, edited and annotated by Christopher Brainard and Anthony Müller. The original work published in 1939, has been considerably updated in this new 53-page booklet, translated from the Hungarian by Anthony Müller, and published in 2001 by the Society for Hungarian Philately. Significant additional information has accrued over the last 60 years. Translator's and editors' notes within the text are given in italics, and expansions of the original text in normal font, both within square brackets. New high resolution colour illustrations, supplementing the black and white originals, have also been included throughout this informative work. Copies may be obtained from Anthony Müller at 6541 Orland Street, Falls Church, VA 22043, USA. Price \$55, including air postage worldwide (01-211).

History and Perspective of Diabetes illustrated by Postage Stamps by Eleazar Shafrir, published 1999 by Freund Publishing House Ltd., Suite 500, Chesham House, 150 Regent Street, London WIR SPA. This 29-page booklet traces the discovery of diabetes; early attempts to understand its implications; the breakthrough when a direct link with the pancreas was proved in 1899; the discovery of the use of insulin in the 1920s, and modern research. In every case the text is referenced to 15 pages of stamps, reproduced in full colour, that were issued to commemorate historical events and personalities involved. A bibliography of more detailed medical reference material complements this interesting work (01-216).

The Postal Stationery Society is publishing a series of monographs covering many aspects of postal stationery worldwide. The first three titles, *Great Britain: Victorian Private Stationery impressed with Embossed Stamps*; *Great Britain: the Mulready Postal Stationery* and *The Real Cost of the Penny Post*, all written by Colin Baker, have been donated to the Society's Library. These useful monographs are in A5 stapled format and include black and white illustrations and a list of references for further research. Copies may be obtained from the author, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7AY, price £2.75 (No.1), £4.00 (No.2), and £2.50 (No.3), postage extra. (01-217, 01-218, 01-219).

The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries & Bogus Posts of the United States, Volumes I and II written and published 1998 by Larry Lyons. The first two volumes of this substantial work have been donated to the Library to complement Volume III, which was the subject of a detailed review in the November 2000 edition of the *London Philatelist*. This study of the identification of the local stamp adhesive from the forgeries and bogus posts follows the same format as the third volume. Numerous illustrations again complement the text (01-227).

Napp's Numbers Volume 2 - A Study of the Plate Number Combinations and of the Quantities for the Philippine Islands during the American Administrative Period 1906 - 1946, by Joseph M. Napp, ring bound, 344 pages. This volume is in similar format and style to the first volume reviewed in the *London Philatelist* of July - August 2001. Copies available from 5 Knollwood Drive, West Orange NJ 07052, USA (02-001).

The "Sun" Collection of Red Revenue Surcharges of China, 1897, auctioned by Matthew Bennett in New York on 23 June 2001, hardbound, 106 pages. The comprehensive catalogue includes the history behind the issue and a chart showing the surcharging sequence. Numerous high-quality colour illustrations make this catalogue a valuable reference guide (02-011).

World War I in East Africa: Civil Censorship, by Regis Hoffman, Softbound, 23 stapled pages, including a bibliography. A further monograph in the series published by the Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW (02-012).

Catalogues Received

Stanley Gibbons Simplified Catalogue of Stamps of the World. The 2002 edition has been divided into four soft-bound volumes with a total of over 2,700 pages listing more than 375,000 stamps with nearly 90,000 illustrations. It was published in November 2001 and each volume retails at £29.95 (01-204).

Karpaten-Ukraine Spezialkatalog published by the author, Georg von Steiden, Lautererstrasse 3, D-81545 München, Germany. This new catalogue covers Transcarpathia: the area between

the Carpathian Mountains and the Theiss River. The 192 pages, with colour illustrations, are in German and Ukrainian, with a lexicon of technical terms in German, English, French and Russian. Copies may be obtained from the author, price DM100 (01-213).

Ballonpost Schweiz published by Verlag Peter Muggler, Postfach 8228, CH-8036 Zürich, Switzerland. This comprehensive catalogue on balloon mail in Switzerland contains an exhaustive index of information on both Swiss balloon mail and balloon mail abroad carried by balloons registered in Switzerland. It aims to cover all balloon mail services (official, semi-official or private), and the publisher would be grateful to receive communications indicating any omissions for possible future publication. Prices quoted are based on other publications, auction realisations and the publisher's own experience, and should serve as a point of reference (01-212).

Dallay - Catalogue de cotations de Timbres de France 2001-2002 by Luc Dartois and Jean-Bernard Pillet. This first edition of a new catalogue of French stamps, produced by two long-term stamp collectors, gives realistic prices in euros. It includes a thematic index, and will be updated annually (01-200).

Cérès Catalogue des Timbres-poste de France - 59e édition 2002, published by Cérès Philatélie, 23 rue du Louvre, 75041 Paris. This latest edition of the well-known Cérès catalogue is in the usual format, with prices given in euros. An alphabetical summary lists the wide range of contents, giving a comprehensive cover of French philately. A table of conversion from francs is also included (01-228).

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 11 Scandinavia. The fifth 2001 edition covers the Åland Islands, Danish West Indies, Denmark, Schleswig, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (02-001).

Specialized Catalogue of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery of Latvia 1990-2001. This 8th Edition covers systematized stamps, postal stationery and maximum cards, as well as a chapter on postal rates. Published by the Philatelic Society of Latvia in Latvian and English (02-002).

Domfil Thematic Stamp Catalogue - Railways, by Jordi Domingo I Gemenó, soft bound, 739 pages. The second edition of this catalogue has been completely updated. It includes photographs of every stamp in Part 1 in full colour and is cross-referenced with Yvert & Tellier, Michel, Scott and Unificato catalogue numbers. Values are shown in euros and US dollars. Part 1 includes all the stamps whose main theme is railways, and Part 2 all the stamps that have a connection with railways (02-013).

Research Aids

A Post Office Identification Handbook. A new series of works written and published by Larry Goldberg is in production to help in the identification of post offices from partial cancellations. The author has developed a system of listing all possible two, three and four letter combinations found in a territory's post offices. The combinations are listed alphabetically and referenced to the potential post office names using that particular combination. Armed with these useful listings, it should be possible to identify the full office name from the majority of partial cancellations on a stamp or cover. To date, four volumes titled *Identifying the Cancellations of ...* have been donated to the Library for Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Basutoland. Copies may be obtained outside the USA from the UK distributors, Murray Payne Ltd., Axbridge, Somerset. Further

volumes are in preparation for Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, the Bahamas and other British West Indian territories. Anyone interested in the publication dates of future volumes, or a particular country not yet planned, is invited to contact LMG Communications Inc, PO Box 7170, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7170, USA (01-206, 01-207, 01-208, 01-209).

New Zealand Reference Material. *Complete list of Sailings of Trans-Pacific Contract Mail Steamers carrying New Zealand Marine Post Offices between 1923 and 1938*. The information complied by K. J. McNaught in 1964 was extracted from "the registers of ship movements held by the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, supplemented by typed information supplied by the Company". The 21 pages include a summary of the Vancouver Service 1923 to 1938 and the San Francisco Services 1923 -1936, with detailed lists of sailings and transit data. The handbook, No. 46, was published in 2000 by the Postal History Society of New Zealand Inc, PO Box 99673, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand, ISBN 0-908-38846-9 (02-008).

Bibliografia Tematica Italiana compiled by Giovanni Bertolini, published by CIFT, the Italian Centre for Thematic Philately, perfect bound, 354 pages, A4. The third edition of Italian Thematic Bibliography lists 11,000 articles and about 1,000 books, catalogues and monographs under 76 main topics arranged in alphabetical order. This comprehensive new compilation is available from Centro Italiano di Filatelia Tematica, Batistini Alviero Via A.Tavanti, 8 - 50134 Firenze, price US\$30 including postage (02-014).

Book Reviews

The following books have all been donated to the Society's library and are available for consultation by members. Any new books that readers wish to have reviewed should be sent to No. 41, addressed to the Hon. Librarian. Please do not send them to the Hon. Editor of the *LP*.



Norske Brevportotakster til Utlandet 1743 - 1855 (Norwegian Postage Rates for Letters to Foreign Destinations 1743 - 1855) by Harry Snarvold. Published in 2000 by Oslo Filatelistklubb. ISBN not known. Hardbound. Illustrated, some in colour. 55 pages, 29.4 x 20.7 cm. Price NOK 350 + postage. Available from Oslo Filatelistklubb, PO Box 298 Sentrum, N-0103 Oslo, Norway. Mastercard accepted. Reviewed by Rolf J. Scharning (02-017).

Written in Norwegian, this book fills a gap in the study of mail from Norway to foreign countries during the pre-stamp period. It gives an overall picture of the very complex, but interesting system of postage rates which has previously only been partially researched. During this period, letters from Norway had to be prepaid mainly to Hamburg, Copenhagen or Gothenburg, but also to any other mail exchange centres abroad. More often than not, these prepayments were unfortunately not marked on the letters.

The book is split into two main parts; the first deals with mail sent through Sweden and the second with mail sent through Denmark. Although some mail could occasionally be sent as "captain's letters" either to England or The Netherlands, Norway had no direct mail connections by sea routes. From 1647, mail between Norway and Denmark was usually carried through Sweden, but during periods of war, the mail was transported across the Skagerak. With the use of tables and listings, the author gives a clear and unambiguous explanation of the various foreign letter rates. Also included are postal circulars and historical facts to explain some of the rates and routes. The 26 illustrations with comprehensive analysis of the postage rates are examples of letters sent to various destinations during the period.

To find a particular postage rate, the reader should first determine whether the letter went through Sweden or directly to Denmark, and then go to the relevant section of the book, determined by the date of the letter. The book contains a comprehensive index and a conversion table from some of the most

common currencies to English *Pence Sterling* and Prussian *Silbergroschen* during the period. The relationship between the Norwegian *Skilling Specie* and these two currencies can thus be calculated. A bibliography on European postage rates and postal history is included.

The book would be a great asset to anybody with an interest in Norwegian postal history, and is an essential reference work for all collectors of the pre-stamp period.



West African GPO Postal Notices of the Nineteenth Century by Philip Beale FRPSL and Frank Walton FRPSL. Published in 2001 by the West Africa Study Circle. ISBN 0-9537474-3-3. Hardbound. 254 pages, 29.7 x 21.0 cm. Price £35.00 or US\$56.00. Postage & packing UK £4.50, airmail Europe £6.00, Zone 1 (USA etc) £11.00 or US\$17.00, Zone 2 (Australia etc) £12.00; surface mail worldwide £6.00. Available from Richard Payne, Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead, Saffron Walden, United Kingdom CB10 2NU. Reviewed by Jeremy Martin FRPSL (02-018).

This book contains a wealth of information for collectors of West Africa and the islands of Ascension and St Helena. In the volume can be found Postal Notices from 1795 through to 1900 which provide background information about the postal services of the area. These Notices will enable the researcher to check when changes came into effect.

For example, Notice No. 14 of 1858 advises that from 1 April 1858 postage of letters addressed to Bonny, Lagos and Old Calabar conveyed by British Mail Packets will be reduced to 6d per half ounce.

There is an index of all the places referred to in the Notices. The book is an essential work for collectors and is recommended.



Australia Post Delivering More Than Ever by Marcella Hunter. Published in 2000 by Focus Publishing Pty Ltd. ISBN 1-875359-710. Perfect bound. 224 pages, 29.5 x 24.0 cm. Price not known. Available from the publisher at PO Box 518, Edgecliff, NSW 2027, Australia. Reviewed by Philip Lindley (01-175).

This large-format publication traces the development of the postal system in Australia from the first settlements to modern times. The first chapters deal with the establishment of the postal system in the colonies; expansion after the discovery of gold; the first regular steamer deliveries; the development of road and rail and the building of the telegraph system.

The following chapters cover federalisation; the first steps towards establishing air routes in the 1920s, and pioneer airmail flights and expansion in the 1930s. The final chapters cover postwar developments and the split of a Government department into two statutory bodies, up to the present commercially orientated and customer-focused enterprise. The text is complemented by copious illustrations in colour and black and white, many of them contemporary photographs. There is an index.



Tales by Mail, Book 1 - A collection of stories retold by Karen Cartier. Published in 2000 by Legend Lady Press. ISBN 0-615-11758-9. Perfect bound. 195 pages, 21.5 x 14.0 cm. Price US\$14.93 plus postage. Available from the publisher at PO Box 13111, Arlington, Texas 76094, USA. Reviewed by Philip Lindley (02-009).

This book, dealing with themes with a difference, will be enjoyed by children and adults alike. The author has hit on the idea of collecting and retelling the stories illustrated on stamps depicting fairy tales, folklore and legends from around the world. The task appeared simple when she first visited her local library, but as more stamps were acquired, it became increasingly difficult to locate their stories.

Ultimately it was necessary to travel worldwide to research their background. This book contains 32 stories depicted on stamps from many countries, which are all reproduced in colour. Further volumes are planned.



The Imperforate Sitting Helvetica - Strubel by Herbert Brach. Published in 2000. ISBN 1-891395-98-X. Hardbound. 277 pages, 30.5 x 22.9 cm. Extensive colour illustrations and numerous tables. Price US\$125 plus US\$35 airmail, US\$25 sea mail to United Kingdom. Available from Elizabeth K. Brach, 13803 Crown Bluff, San Antonio, TX 78216-1929, USA. Reviewed by Charles J. LaBlonde (02-019).

An exceptional philatelic book would combine a very popular and complex stamp issue with a lifetime of work by a dedicated and meticulous researcher. It would also appeal to both amateurs and advanced collectors alike. This book achieves all of these goals.

The Strubel issue of Switzerland has fascinated collectors for many years, not just Swiss specialists, but also worldwide collectors of classic stamps. It was the first truly national stamp issue of the young Swiss Confederation, learning how to cope with a unified currency and an increasing demand for postage stamps. The incredible complexity of the Strubel was caused by the scramble to bring together the necessary printers, inks and paper supplies for volume stamp production. Over the life of the issue each of these items changed often, giving rise to a very complicated cataloguing task.

Over the years much has been written about this stamp issue, but this book is the first Strubel book in English. The author notes 44 major sources in his list of references and there are perhaps hundreds more notes in the philatelic press. The studies of the Strubel have sometimes been controversial and frustrating as numerous attempts have been made to understand, classify and catalogue the issue. The author presents the opinions of previous researchers, then expands their findings based upon his own research.

The author begins with a brief history of the Strubels, followed by an overview of design and production details, including the papers and their silk threads. As the author was a scientist, in depth technical information relative to production methods (printing, embossing) and material (papers, inks, adhesives) identification is offered. Possibly the core of the book is the section on classification schemes. The author presents a succinct overview of the major classification schemes proposed to date, including the numbering system employed in the popular Swiss stamp catalogues. He then evolves the classification, based upon his own observations and conclusions. The tabular presentations in this section are very enlightening and useful to the student of the Strubels.

There follows a unique and very useful textual, tabular and pictorial description of each of the seven Strubel values, by value and not by printing groups. Distinguishing characteristics of the various issues are clearly specified, to include paper thickness, quality of the embossing, cliché separation, printing clarity of the background, text, corner rosettes, frame lines and ink agglomerates. This section is embellished further by a removable colour chart showing the period of use of the various issues.

The book could stop here and be of great value to Strubel collectors, but it does not end. Rather, 139 pages of Strubel postal history follow. This is so important to modern collectors who are very interested in rates, routes and markings. There is a section on domestic rates and usages, nicely illustrated with numerous covers and documented with the relevant postal rate information.

The text concludes with an estimate of the printing numbers for each Strubel issue and the methodology by which the author arrives at the quantities. The author himself notes the difficulty and potential uncertainties of establishing quantities printed. Physically the book is totally first class, with very high quality paper and beautiful colour throughout. It will be a cherished addition to the library of any collector of classic stamps and literature. The fact that it is in English and combines the stamp information with the corresponding postal history makes it especially valuable.

Herbert Brach passed away after completing the manuscript for this book. The book is a fitting memorial to the man and to his exceptional philatelic career.



The Royal Philatelic Society London

Accounts of Meetings : Season 2001 - 2002

No. 9: Thursday 10 January 2002 at 1pm *Ian Greig & Rod Moreton: Victoria 1839-1912*

The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed 70 Fellows and Members together with nine Guests to a most interesting joint display given by Ian Greig FRPSL and Rod Moreton FRPSL looking at the stamps and postal history of the Australian State of Victoria at this first meeting of the New Year.

The 52 frames were filled to capacity and Ian Greig commenced with a selection of material from the Perkins, Bacon & Co issue of Victoria. This included art work by Edward Henry Courbold RI, die proofs, plate proofs, the issued stamps with various uses on cover, the reprint die proofs including an uncut sheet and mint multiples of the issued 1d stamp. Two frames showed a small selection of the 1-Octagonal and the woodblock stamps and three frames contained a study of the Queen-on-throne issues including a part of the original contract for the printing work. Some great rarities were shown in further frames in the complex Laureate design issues incorporating the ½d on 1d on wrappers and the issued stamp, an example of the double red and additional black overprint and the only recorded correct usage of the overprinted stamp used on a *Government Gazette*. Several frames were devoted to the stamp duty issues with selections of die proofs, issued stamps, postal and documentary use as well as unissued art works and die proofs including the 4d error of colour. Of some particular interest were a variety of items from the colour trials prepared in 1898 to investigate fraudulent removal of cancellations.

The postal history frames presented by Rod Moreton were just as breathtaking as Ian's stunning stamp material in the first half and commenced with a range of pre-stamp entires showing various town datestamps and the later the 'butterfly' cancellations, the Geelong handstruck 1d and 2, the barred oval

cancellers, the 'half length' stamps of 1850 and the first 'Registered' and 'Too late' adhesive stamps. The maritime mails included some superb entires with Ship Letter marks, letters carried by P&O steamer from Galle and Suez, the fast clipper ships, registered mails on the European & Australian RMCo and other P&O ships. There were some fascinating letters to and from the goldfield sites from 1851 and other aspects of the goldfield Post Offices. The last section of the display was devoted to aspects of social philately with the development of Victoria and here were shown some most interesting documents and ephemera. The diversity of subjects included was quite extraordinary and included letters and documentation covering convicts, whaling, missionaries, the Eureka Stockade incident, vaccinations, bigamy, mail robberies, the Chinese influence and aspects of mining.

The President was particularly pleased that the two collections had been drawn together to present such a huge array of marvellous material representing a complicated succession of issues of stamps. These included the postal fiscals printed prior to 1884 and from that date authorised for postage. That was how denominations of £6, £7, £8 and £9 came into possible use on mail. Gavin Fryer went on to comment that stamps were divided into three distinct periods: 1) private contracts of 1850-59; 2) Government stamp printing 1860-84; and 3) the postage and revenue period 1884-1913 when Victoria issued a 1d stamp in January 1913 just as the first 'kangaroos' were distributed to post offices for sale. He was particularly taken with the pre-adhesive mails in which there were some most unusual items.

The President congratulated both Ian and Rod for the considerable time and trouble they had taken in preparing the display and accompanying notes and providing such a superb afternoon of entertainment. He took very great pleasure in presenting each displayer

with the Society's plaque in commemoration of the occasion and in return both Fellows invited attending members to enjoy a glass of wine afterwards in the library.



No. 10: Thursday 24 January 2002 at 5pm
Sven and Anna-Lisa Beckeman: Sweden 1855-1872

The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed 68 Fellows and members and nine guests. There was an especial welcome to our overseas visitors Tomas Bjärling RDP, FRPSL (France), Charles Freeland (Switzerland), Bertil Larssen (Sweden) and Gunnar Nilsson (Sweden). The President first announced the awards of the Society's medals confirmed by the earlier meeting of Council and the award of Honorary Fellowship to Dr Alan Huggins MBE, RDP FRPSL. A short summary was given of the many achievements both with Alan's continuing role in this Society and in the promotion of philately generally. The meeting heartily endorsed the President's congratulations in bestowing this highest accolade leaving Dr Huggins quite staggered.

The President then introduced our speakers Sven and Anna-Lisa Beckeman who between them had studied Swedish stamps for some 40 years in addition to other philatelic interests. Present in the room was Tomas Bjärling RDP who provided the last occasion when Sweden postal history to foreign destinations was shown before the Society in May 1988. The 12 wall frames contained a really quite remarkable display of some of the greatest rarities in unbelievably good condition and preservation. Whilst the stamps were mostly pristine and fresh in colour the postal history contained some superb covers with unusual rates and combinations. In addition to a helpful five-page handout the display was magnificently illustrated with the use of projected images and a clear explanation as we were taken through the highlights of the frames. The display commenced with the 1855-58 Coat of Arms issue in mint and used condition and some multiples including the

unique corner pair of the 3 skilling, the first day cancellation and double print of the 4 skilling and the mint grey stamps of the same value which are rare in the undamaged state. A mint corner pair of the 6 skilling and a mint 3 skilling pair are regarded as the greatest Swedish rarities. It was equally extraordinary to see the imperforate 8 skilling value - one of only two known, the other being in the Postal Museum and both cancelled on the same day!

The 1856 1 skilling Local stamp on thin paper was shown in mint condition - remarkable when it was explained that less than ten mint copies had been seen and most were damaged or badly centred. The 1858 öre issues provided as many varieties and rarities with the double printing of the 5 öre and 12 öre values and also the same latter value with the correct print on both sides. There were various blocks both mint and used values, all quite remarkable in condition. The second part of the display was concerned with the postal history and firstly showed first day cancellations of the 4 skilling (two known) and the 24 skilling which is considered unique. A cover with a pair of the 8 skilling stamps in the lemon yellow shade is one of only three known and further rarities were a cover with the scarce turquoise shade and a registered cover with the 1½ rate to Finland. Another registered cover to France had a combination of the 3 öre Lion (Type 1) and the Coat of Arms öre issues, the former only recorded on six other covers going abroad. A cover to London was franked with five 9 öre stamps, a strip of four and one single, and another extraordinary cover had the 17 öre grey value which should have been lilac in colour. Of particular interest to those interested in postal ephemera were two complete used examples of Postal Money Order Forms which are considered to be extremely rare.

Several searching questions were dealt with in great detail by Lisa and Sven and interestingly we were told that the registered covers with black and white string, or silk, attached recognised that the item was in fact an insured letter. The vote of thanks was given by Past President Francis Kiddie who felt that we had been privileged to enjoy a beautiful

and gorgeous display showing a discerning choice with such fresh colours. Almost every page had something that was rare, scarce and unusual. This was seconded by Eric Keefe who emphasised the really magnificent display we had seen that afternoon. In his view most early Swedish stamps are often off-centre etc and

here was the epitome of perfection - some great rarities. In addition to see such rarities on cover is even more commendable.

President Gavin Fryer then took very great pleasure in presenting our speakers with the Society's plaquette as a memento of an outstanding display.



Young Collectors at No. 41 on 26 January 2002

How many Past Presidents of the Royal wore glasses? That was one of the questions in the quiz set for the children by Susan Ellis. About 30 children and almost as many adults created a noisy but friendly atmosphere in the building. All the questions required the children to look in the various rooms and corridors of No. 41.

The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed the children and adults in the Meeting Room at 2pm. He spoke for a few minutes about the history of the Society. He then described the various displays in the frames. Alan Huggins had selected from the Society's collections some Egyptian UPU new issues, including stamps featuring archaeology and sport. Bryan Hawkins had provided some GB cartoon covers, which he had illustrated himself. These raised several smiles. Gavin's own sheets on how to collect were on display and Jean Alexander and Christine Earle had provided sheets from their collections on sport and falconry.



After tours of the Libraries and Museum, Richard West, Chairman of the National Youth Stamp Group, was introduced. Richard mentioned the catalogues available for reference, the items of accessories on the table available for demonstration and introduced the quiz. The children had to write answers onto the quiz sheet and hand them back to Richard. There was a slight hiatus when Richard could not be found, at first, by the time the fastest children had found the answers.

When everybody had gathered back in the Meeting Room, the answers to the quiz were read out and Richard awarded the prize to Ian Fulton. Susan Ellis then ran a word association game for the children, after which the adults completed a philatelic story, each one in turn adding a sentence. Finally a few children stood up and spoke about their collections. Ian Cant collects Space and he felt the judges were too fussy about titles. In his opinion the rules should be thrown away! Catherine Marshall enjoys collecting stamps of flowers from different countries and her collection is entitled the Flower Shop. Another child collects dance music and British monarchy. On a show of hands, about a dozen children did not belong to a school stamp club.

Richard West wound up proceedings with a vote of thanks to Gavin Fryer, David Beech and Susan Ellis who had helped to organise the day's events and to the parents and others who had brought along the children. There was a rush downstairs for sticky buns and orange squash, with cups of tea for the adults. Before leaving, every child was given a Certificate of Participation and a goody bag, courtesy of the National Youth Stamp Group. In view of the success of this second Youth Day at the Royal, a similar event is being planned already for next year.

Report by Brian Sole; photo by Clem Olliver

Membership News

The following new members were elected at the council meeting on 24 January 2002, and are warmly welcomed to the society:

Mr D.A. Armitage, Colchester, Essex
Mr B.M. Burns, Middlesborough
Mr P.A. Campbell, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Mr J.G.M. Davis, Abingdon, Oxfordshire
Dr L. De Zanche, Padova, Italy
Mr P. Fabrizio, Treviso, Italy
Mr P.A. Fletcher, Blaxland East, Australia
Mr S. Forbes, Ceres, Fife
Mr P.B. Helland, Oslo, Norway
Mr H.G. Jessop OBE, Colchester, Essex
Mr B. Nielsen, Randers, Denmark

Mr T. Ouhara, Nagoya-shi, Japan
Mr B.D. Palmer, Sydney, Australia
Mr J.A. Payne, Amersham, Buckinghamshire
Mr F. Rigo, Venezia, Italy
Dr R. Sciaky, Milano, Italy
Mr C.G. Tayar, Lichfield, Staffordshire
Dr K. Wanderley Lopes, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
Mr W.G. Webb, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Mr R.A. Wickham, Fenwick, Ayrshire
Mr S.R.D. Wilson, Bath, Somerset

Two members have rejoined:

Dr E.M. Liston, Belvedere, USA

Mr A.C. Mellaart, Istanbul, Turkey

The following resignations from the society have been accepted:

A. Boerma	O. Greis	E.M. Lavitt	W.H. Schorer
J.E. Cloutman	D. Ko	H. McDonnell	S.A. Sharp
M. Garfinkel	H.G.E. Kollrepp	J.W. Nicholson	G. Sherman

Society Representatives

Paulo R. Comelli FRPSL has been appointed the society's special representative in Brazil. Following the retirement of Dr Victor Hale FRPSL, **John Sussex FRPSL** has accepted the role of County Representative for East Yorkshire.



Euro Bank Account

Following the recent currency changes in Europe, the Society has decided to open an account in euros. With immediate effect members from euro zone countries can make payments to the society for subscriptions, books, merchandise etc in euros. The Society's prices will of course still be set in sterling, so any published prices in euros will possibly be subject to fluctuation with exchange rates. The annual subscription for members living in euro-zone countries for 2002 is EUR98.00.

Alan Moorcroft
Honorary Treasurer