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The Cape of Good Hope 1882 to 1884

Robert Johnson FRPSL

THE YEARS 1882, 1883 AND 1884 WERE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT in terms of the development of the stamps and postal services of the Cape of Good Hope (CGH) in four respects:

1. The Crown Agents gave notice that they would cease to be responsible for the manufacture, printing and distribution of CGH postage and revenue stamps;
2. The CGH Government asked De La Rue for a comprehensive report on how CGH postage stamps were and could be printed;
3. The CGH applied for membership of the UPU but failed in that application;
4. The beginning of steps towards a Postal Union of Southern African countries.

All four points have principles and details that will be of general interest to those with a desire to know about the production and provision of postage and revenue stamps in this period as well as matters concerning the difficulties faced by British colonies when wanting to join the UPU and the difficulties in regard to how the Southern African countries should be treated in their own right and together.

1. Transfer from the Crown Agents to the Government of the CGH

The information in this part of this article is derived from a project that Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL and the author are working on at the present time. The correspondence books of De La Rue relating to the CGH have been digitally photographed and the task of indexing the pages is under way. The correspondence that follows was discovered during that process. The intention is to make the printed index and a memory stick with the photographs generally available for purchase in due course to get a great deal of postal and revenue history into an open record.

The main points to be found in the De La Rue correspondence that follows show:

- what arrangements were put in place between the government of a colony, the Crown Agents and De La Rue for the ordering of postage and revenue stamps, the production of paper for those stamps and the printing and distribution of those stamps
- why there was a change in watermark for CGH stamps only two years after the CA watermark had replaced to the CC watermark in 1882 [CA for Crown Agents and CC for Crown Colony]
- the revelation for the first time that a mistake was made in the construction of the dandy roll for the Anchor watermark [the variety is not catalogued].

The De La Rue correspondence concerning the new Anchor and Rope watermark in 1884

De La Rue letter 30 November 1883 to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope: Main letter

With reference to our Mr De La Rue's conversation with you yesterday we understand that the Crown Agents have intimated to you that on account of a re-organisation of their controlling staff here it will not be possible for them to continue after the end of February next to control the manufacture of the stamps which we supply to your Government.

It, therefore, becomes necessary that we should set apart a room for that work, and that a gentleman should be appointed by you to undertake the control thereof. We will provide the necessary accommodation and afford the officer whom you may appoint every facility in

the execution of his duties. You informed Mr De La Rue that the Crown Agents are willing that your officer should receive instructions in his duty from their Head Controller, Mr Bartlett, and we will supplement these instructions by such hints and suggestions as we can offer.

Our hours of work, during which it would be necessary for the officer to attend, are from 8 o'clock in the morning to $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 in the evening, with an interval of one hour (1 to 2) for dinner and half an hour (5 to 5.30) for tea.

Two large fire-proof safes will be required specially fitted for the reception of the printing plates and a fire and thief-resisting safe will be required for the reception of the dies.

Further, two dandy rolls will be required for the preparation of the necessary watermarked paper – one for the stamps of the Postage size and the other for stamps of the large Revenue size. Hitherto, the safes of the Crown Agents have been used for the custody of the plates and dies, and their dandy rolls have been employed in the production of the paper (Ref. 1).

We have prepared two designs showing the watermark which we suggest for the stamps. This consists of an anchor with a piece of rope attached thereto that being as we are informed by Mr Todd (Ref. 2) an emblem of the Cape of Good Hope. Mr Todd suggested to Mr De La Rue that in addition to the anchor three rings might be shown in the watermark; but we find it would be impossible to represent these features satisfactorily in so small an area and we would recommend, therefore, the simpler watermark which we have designed upon the lines of the sketch which Mr Todd was good enough to make for us.

The price of each of the two dandy rolls carried out after the enclosed designs would be £105, and that of each of the fire-proof safes, specially fitted for formes, they being 66" x 54" x 32" outside dimensions, would be 3110; and the price of the safe for the dies, 24" x 18" x 17" outside dimensions would be £35. These prices are the same as we have charged to the Crown Agents for similar articles.

With regard to the stamps themselves we beg to explain that the Crown Agents have hitherto supplied the paper for printing them, but as we should in future have to supply the paper, we should have to augment the charges for the stamps by the following amount, in order to cover the cost of the paper:-

Postage stamps	2d per sheet for extra paper
Small revenue ditto	2d per sheet for extra paper
Large Revenue on white paper.....	4d per sheet for extra paper
Ditto on coloured paper.....	5d per sheet for extra paper

These charges amount to less than those made to you by the Crown Agents, besides which should have to bear the expense of the paper spoiled in manufacture instead of it being charged to you as heretofore.

We will undertake to make arrangements with the Inland Revenue Department for the paper to be made under the supervision of their officers, as in the case of the paper made for the Crown Agents, so that very ream of paper will be carefully controlled in manufacture and counted and sealed by the officer at the mill, and consigned by him to your officer here, who will count it out to us and obtain our receipt before he hands it over to us to be prepared for printing.

Upon its being returned to the officer, it will be counted by him before he allows it to be printed. The printing process will be carried out under his immediate supervision, and indeed the system of control throughout will be that which has been applied for so many years to the stamps which we manufacture for the English, Indian and Colonial Governments, which as you know, amount to a vast quantities annually, representing in the aggregate many millions of pounds.

We beg that you will favour us with an early reply to this letter, as no time is to be lost in the preparation of the safes and dandy rolls, if the transfer of control is to be made by the time specified by the Crown Agents.

We are etc.

De La Rue & Co.



Figure 1. The drawing of the new watermarks appearing in the De La Rue correspondence.

Subsidiary correspondence that relates to the subject matter of this letter:

The Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope's letter 3 December 1883 to De La Rue

Control inspection of the manufacture of Revenue and Postage stamps

I have to thank you for your letter of the 30th November in reference to the above subject and for so courteously offering me your valuable assistance in re-arranging for the due performance of this service. This offer, as well as that since made by Mr Bartlett to instruct the new Inspector in minor details and to render any assistance in his power to facilitate the new arrangements that now become necessary, I gladly accept on behalf of my Government.

1. No time will be lost in selecting a fit and proper officer for the post of Inspector
2. The designs submitted for watermarks for the Postage and Revenue stamps are approved [the text margin is marked: 'Herewith returned']
3. Presuming that the prices quoted by you, viz. For 2 dandy rolls, each £105, 2 fireproof safes 66" x 54" x 32" fitted specially £110, 1 fireproof safe for dies, 24" x 18" x 17" £35, are those of the manufacturers you are authorised to procure thereof?
4. The following additional charges are approved in consideration of your supplying the paper and bearing the loss of that spoilt in manufacture viz:

Postage stamps 2d per sheet extra

Small Revenue stamps 2d per sheet extra

Large Revenue stamps on white paper 4d per sheet extra

Large Revenue stamps on coloured paper 5d per sheet extra

I thank you for undertaking to make the needful arrangements with the Inland revenue Department for the paper to be made under the supervision of its officers and for promising that the arrangements shall secure a system of control identical with that which is exercised in the manufacture of stamps for the Imperial, Indian and other Colonial Governments.

I have the honour etc

Agent-General

De La Rue letter 4 December 1883 to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope

We are obliged for your letter of yesterday and we will immediately put all the work in hand.

With reference to the third paragraph of your letter we should explain that all the essential elements of the dandy roll are made by ourselves, and that the elaborate fittings of the safes will be carried out in our own engineers' shop, so that the prices we have quoted are our prices for the articles in question.

We will use every possible exertion to get everything ready by the required date, and we will apprise you upon completion of the work

We are etc.

De La Rue & Co.

The Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope's letter 5 December 1883 to De La Rue

Control of Postage and Revenue stamps

Safes and Dandy rolls

Referring to your letter of the 4th, in reply to mine of the 3rd instant, and specially to the 3rd paragraph of the letter, I would intimate that under the circumstances stated the prices submitted by you for the dandy rolls and safes are approved.

Thanking you for your promise to have everything ready by the appointed time

I have the honour to be etc.

Agent-General etc.

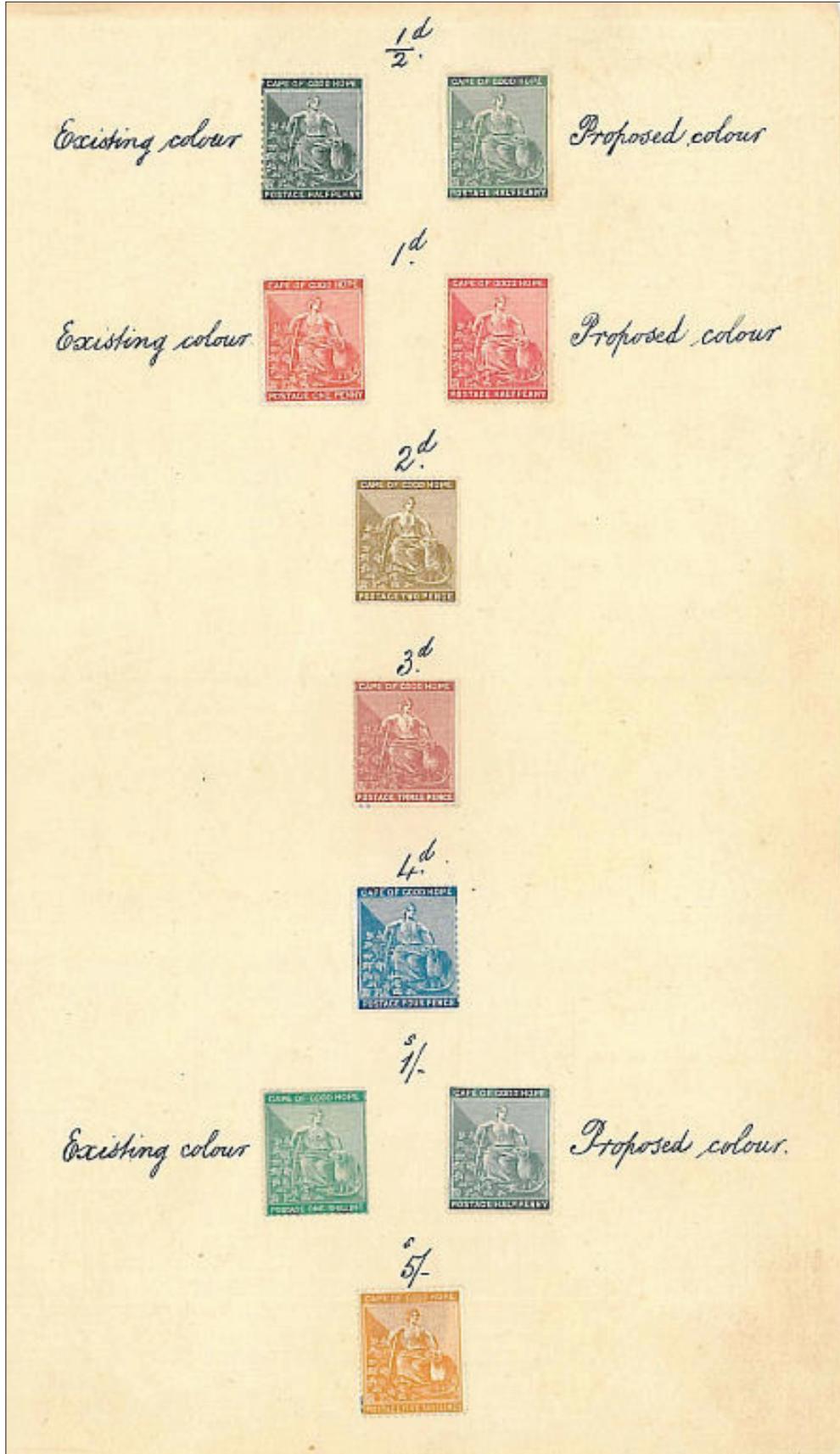


Figure 2. This cut down item was formerly the major part of Appendix C in the De La Rue Report of 1883.

De La Rue letter 13 December 1883 to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope

We duly received your letter of the 5th Inst., and we have the pleasure to append copies of a correspondence which we have had with the Secretary to the Board of Inland Revenue, in respect of the controlling of the manufacture of the Cape of Good Hope Postage and Revenue papers by the Revenue officers. You will see from this that the arrangement we undertook to make in respect to that control will be carried out.

We are etc

De La Rue & Co.

De La Rue letter 5 December 1883 to the Board of Inland Revenue

As Mr De La Rue explained to you some few days ago, instead of the watermarked paper of the Crown Agents for the Colonies being employed for the printing of the Cape of Good Hope Postage Stamps as heretofore, a distinct paper is in future to be used and the manufacture of the stamps is to be supervised by an Officer appointed by the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope instead of by the controlling staff of the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

We have, therefore, to ask that, as a favour to ourselves, it may be permitted for your officer at Roughway Mills (Ref. 3) to superintend the manufacture of the Cape of Good Hope Postage and Revenue Papers. The quantity which would be required annually is very small, and would therefore, throw but little work on your officer.

We trust that we may receive a favourable answer to this request, in which case we will in due course transmit to Mr Dallimore the Cape of Good Hope Postage and Revenue Dandy rolls.

We are Sir etc.

De La Rue & Co.

The Board of Inland Revenue letter 7 December 1883 to De La Rue

R 8601 Stamps/ 1883

Referring to your letter of yesterday's date [query mistake for the day before 5th December 1883], I have to acquaint you That the Board have no objection to their officer at Roughway Mills being employed to superintend the manufacture of the Cape of Good Hope Postage and Revenue Papers, and the necessary instructions have been issued accordingly

I am gentlemen etc

For the Board of Inland Revenue

The next important exchange of correspondence occurs in 1884 and concerns a mistake in the dandy roll for postage stamp paper.

The Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope's letter 4 July 1884 to De La Rue

Wrongly watermarked postage paper

Mr Gates having reported that he is in possession of the under-mentioned paper which was by accident supplied with an erroneous watermark

106 reams "CC"*, of which 5 reams and 50 sheets have been converted into stamps, and 10 reams gummed and perforated [*CC?] the Agent-General directs me to request that you will be so good as to take the necessary steps for relieving Mr Gates as soon as possible of the custody of this paper and take steps that the cost of it is not charged to the Cape Government.

I am etc.

De La Rue letter 9 July 1884 to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope

With reference to your letter of the 4th inst., we beg to say that, owing to the very great pressure under which the work was carried out, a mistake was made by us in the construction of the Cape of Good Hope Postage Dandy roll, in so far that the roll was made to produce paper in panes of 120 stamps instead of 60 stamps with a slight interval between the panes. The matter will be made clear by referring to our Appendix hereto [see next page]. Diagram A shows the paper as wrongly made, whilst Diagram B shows the proper arrangement of the sheets. We unfortunately made 106 reams of the paper before the error was discovered, but rather than raise any question at the time with you, we immediately took steps to correct the dandy roll, as until we had proved its correctness by making a small quantity of paper from it we did not wish to trouble you on the matter.

The watermarks in the incorrect paper are so slightly out of their true position that one mark would unfailingly appear in each stamp, although not quite centrally thereon. This is illustrated by Diagram C, and as it has always been held that as long as a watermark falls in each stamp perfect security is obtained, we hope that you will allow us to proceed with printing on the paper incorrectly made, for, apart from the very serious loss which we should sustain were the paper to be rejected, we do not see how it would be possible to prevent the work being very much delayed, had another supply to be prepared. Owing to the great efforts we have had to make to meet the urgent demand for Newspaper Wrappers, the quarterly supply of stamps which should have been shipped by the first mail in this month will be somewhat delayed, and the next quarterly supply of stamps, due for shipment by the first mail in October, should be put in hand immediately, whereas there is hardly any of the correct make of paper in stock to deal with, and a further supply could not be got through in time; so that we venture to ask you to be kind enough to authorise your controlling officer to allow the incorrect paper to be used up. If you will instruct him to send you a few sheets of the stamps printed upon it, you will see how very slight the inaccuracy is, and we feel sure you will then kindly acquiesce in the request that we have made.

We are etc (Ref. 4).

The Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope's letter 5 August 1884 to De La Rue

Wrongly watermarked Paper for Postage Stamps
(see letter of 9 July 1884)

The Agent-General directs me to inform you that he has this morning received a telegram from the Prime Minister in the Cape in which he sanctions the use of the above paper, prepared before the error in the Dandy roll was discovered. Mr Gates has been advised of this decision.

I am etc

2. The 1883 De La Rue Report commissioned by the Government of the CGH on the production of its postage and revenue stamps.

This report, while not newly recorded here, emerged as important during the course of research being done, by Emil Buhrmann and the author, for a new handbook on the rectangular sitting Hope stamps of the CGH. It is of interest as it does not envisage any change from the Crown Agents, any change to the CA watermark or any proposed UPU membership [via the values of the stamps considered in the Report]. This is probably because De La Rue produced the Report from their point of view and on a technical basis only.

The request to De La Rue for the Report had come in a letter from the Treasurer of the CGH via the Agent-General for the CGH in London [not the same thing as the Crown Agents] dated 17 October 1882. The letter began:

'As present there is a demand for information on the subject of stamps, which is not easily gathered into one complete record some advantage would result if you could kindly afford some

details in the form of a Report. I am directed to suggest that such a Report may be supplied giving samples of all the descriptions in use with explanations of the advantages to be obtained by the adoption of a particular character of colours, cost per sheet of 240 for postage and per sheet of 120 for revenue stamps....'

The margin of the first page of the letter has been annotated at De La Rue with the following headings: fugitive colours; chemical preparation; effect of defacement; descriptions of ink; preservation; resistance to damp; advantage or disadvantage of particular colours; proposed change of colours; samples of the various sorts and shades; protection against the effects of excessive heat; adhesive gum – cracking avoided.

The main point in reproducing this report is to set on the record

- how a printer of postage stamps, such as De La Rue, went about considering the best inks for manufacturing and using inks used for printing security papers such as government bills, bonds revenue stamps and postage stamps
- what physical steps were taken to secure the production process from manufacture of the paper to delivery of the finished product

A letter was sent by De La Rue to the CGH enclosing the 1883 Report with copies stamped at the foot individually for The Legislative Council, The Legislative Assembly, The Treasurer, The Assistant Treasurer, The Postmaster-General, The Distributor of Stamps at Cape Town and the Agent-General [CGH in London] and with an explanation that the cause of the delay in sending out the Report was the arrangements for printing the stamps in Appendices D, E, F and G.

MESSRS THOS. DE LA RUE & CO'S REPORT
UPON THE ADHESIVE STAMPS USED AT
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

May 1st 1883

There are two descriptions of Adhesive Stamps in use by the Government of the Cape of Good Hope, viz. Postage Stamps and Revenue Stamps.

Of the Postage Stamps there are seven duties (the 6d rate will become obsolete in October next, and so is not referred to in this Report), viz. ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 1/- and 5/-. All these stamps are of the same size – that known as the "Postage" size. Of the Revenue Stamps there are forty duties, viz. ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, 1s 6d, 2/-, 2s 6d, 3/-, 4/-, 4s 6d, 5/-, 6/-, 7/-, 7s 6d, 8/-, 9/-, 10/-, 12/-, 12s 6d, 15/-, £1, £1 5/-, £1 10/-, £2, £2 5/-, £2 10/-, £3, £4, £5, £6, £9, £10, £20, £30 and £50. These stamps are all of the size known as the "Large Receipt" size, excepting the following duties, 2d, 4d, 8d and 8/-, which are of the same size as the Postage Stamps.

The Postage Stamps are supplied to the Colony in sheets of 240 multiples. The Large and Small revenue Stamps are supplied in sheets of 120 multiples. The Postage Stamps and Small Revenue Stamps are printed upon paper watermarked with the initials C. A. Surmounted by a crown; the Large Revenue Stamps upon a paper watermarked with a crown and the initials C.C. at the base thereof.

The paper is made under the control of officers attached to the Inland Revenue Department, and it is forwarded from the mill under their seal to the officer controlling the Crown Agents' work here. The paper, after being counted sheet by sheet by him, and checked in like manner on our behalf, is issued to us for the purpose of being gummed, glazed and otherwise prepared for printing, when it is counted back into the officer's custody. It is then printed under his control, and the final counting, parcelling and packing of the stamps is superintended by him, so that there is a most complete control in the manufacture of the stamps throughout. Needless to say the dies and printing plates are kept in the officer's charge, and for safety they are placed in iron safes provided by the Crown Agents for that purpose.

The manufacturing charge for the Postage Stamps is about two and four-tenth pence per sheet of 240 multiples; for the small-sized Revenue Stamps 2½d per sheet of 120 multiples; and for the large-sized Revenue Stamps two and seven tenth pence per sheet of 120 multiples.

To these charges must be added those for paper, freight, and the control of the officers at

the paper-mill and here, which we are informed amount to about 1d per sheet for the Postage and Large revenue Stamps and to ½d per sheet of 120 for the Small Revenue Stamps.

The gum which is applied to the back of the stamps is of such a nature that it will not deliquesce in a humid atmosphere, and is made as pliable as possible, so that it may not crack in hot climates. It is, however, impossible to guard against the influence of heat in this respect, although a special ingredient is mixed with the gum, for the purpose of imparting to it a property which shall so far as possible prevent its cracking.

It need hardly be stated, however, that the stamps should be kept in a cool dry place; moreover that the receptacle in which they are placed should be so constructed that neither mice, insects nor other vermin can obtain access to the stock, seeing that the gum forms a very attractive food for such creatures.

The inks in which Adhesive Stamps are printed are of two kinds, viz. "Fugitive" and "Doubly Fugitive"

Fugitive Inks

Those inks, of which we have a great variety of colours, are termed fugitive, because they retreat or disappear under the attacks of solvents such as could be used to remove from a stamp a printed obliteration; that is to say, they are soluble in the hydrocarbons and similar liquids. Postage Stamps are cancelled by the impress of an obliterating mark with a handstamp – such a mark is shown at the top of Appendix A.

The ink employed for that purpose is of a peculiar description termed 'obliterating' ink, and, when dry it has the property of being nearly insoluble in benzine. If, then, a stamp, printed in fugitive ink, be obliterated with the obliterating ink, the obliteration cannot be removed without destroying the stamp, as will be seen by referring to Appendix A. The second example is a stamp obliterated with the obliterating ink and so left: the following one, a stamp similarly obliterated, but subsequently treated with benzine. As will be seen, the effect has been to destroy the stamp, whilst the obliteration is but little disturbed.

Consequently if stamps printed in such fugitive ink be efficiently cancelled by a printed obliteration, they cannot by any possibility be cleaned for fraudulent use a second time.. It is, then, of the utmost importance that Postage Stamps be printed in fugitive ink, so that the obliteration may be a thoroughly efficient agent of destruction.

We should state that although the primary object of using fugitive ink is to render the stamps secure against being used more than once, another important advantage is gained from the use of such ink, viz. The impossibility of reproducing stamps printed therewith by the transfer process. The success of the transfer process of forgery demands that the stamp to be copied should be printed in an oleaginous ink, and since the fugitive ink is not oleaginous, it sets that process at defiance.

Our fugitive ink, in short, being entirely free from those properties which render ordinary printing ink so unfit for stamp printing, it follows that the stamps printed therewith by the most perfect system (i.e. the Surface) are as undoubtedly secure against forgery as it is possible to render them.

Doubly Fugitive Inks

In the case of Postage Stamps, the obliteration is always made by the Post Office officials, and it is, therefore, possible to enforce the use of a handstamp such as we have described; but with the stamps that have to be used upon various documents, such as Revenue, Customs and Law Stamps, the case is different, as the duty of cancelling the stamp usually devolves on the user thereof, and it is often found convenient, therefore, to permit of their being cancelled by the simple process of writing across them. The ink in which such stamps are printed has, consequently, to fulfil a totally different function to that in which the Postage Stamps are printed, which is fugitive only under the treatment of such liquids as could be employed for the removal of a printed cancellation; whereas in their case it is imperative to employ an ink which would be fugitive to such reagents as could be used to remove a written cancellation. Nevertheless, although a written cancellation may be allowed, it is in some cases a matter of convenience to cancel by a printed obliteration (in Law Courts, for instance, where handstamps are always within reach).

Consequently in order to be fully protective, the ink in which stamps subject to either one

or other mode of cancellation are printed must not only be fugitive to reagents calculated to remove a written cancellation, but also to such as would remove a printed cancellation. This necessity has brought into use what we term "doubly fugitive" inks. We only have three "doubly fugitive" inks, viz., a light purple, a green and a dark purple, specimens of which will be found on Appendix B.

As will be seen by referring to those specimens, we give by the side of perfect stamps two examples of cancelled stamps, one obliterated by writing and the other by printing. We have treated those obliterated by writing with oxalic acid and those obliterated by printing with benzine. It will be noted that the former treatment destroys beyond restoration the colour of the stamp, while the latter treatment washes the body of the stamp away. In each case, the obliteration is much less disturbed than the stamp which it covers.

Here the Report ends. De La Rue were thanked in fulsome terms for their Report. Nothing happened as a result of the Report. The watermark was changed on all the values of the CGH postage stamps [the 4d and 1s 0d values had not been printed on CA watermarked paper] and details of the issue dates between 1884 and 1890 can be found in Allis (Ref. 5). Allis also records the proposal for a 5d postage stamp for the $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce rate to the UK which would have been needed if the CGH had joined the UPU in 1885; this was not to be.

3. The attempt by the CGH to join the UPU

The CGH did not join the UPU until 1 January 1895. Before then, but mainly from 1891, the CGH had made an attempt to reduce its foreign postage rates towards equalisation with UPU rates. The rates to European countries and the United States had been: 1 October 1888 - rate reduced to 6d from 7½d; 1 January 1891 - reduced to 5d (for the USA, Ref. 6) and 3d (for European countries); 1 January 1892 - reduced to 2½d and 1 January 1895 - 2½d (UPU rate). The rates to the UK had been: 1 July 1876 6d; 1 October 1888 4d from 6d; 1 January 1891 2½d from 4d. All rates are for letters by the $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. The Europe and USA rate reductions are shown on the covers Figs. 3 to 11.

There were two problems: the sea transit rate to the UK from CGH and the transfer postage cost from a non-UPU country (CGH) to a UPU country via a UPU Country (UK). The 7½d rate above for example represented the 6d CGH to UK rate plus the UPU rate of 2½d less 1d as both rates included internal UK postage and it was not right to charge twice for internal UK delivery (either to an addressee in the UK or to the port of exit from the UK for the letter).

Sea transit charges to the UK from the CGH and postal shipping contracts for UK to the CGH and the CGH to UK had a long and complicated history and in practice lasted until 1 January 1892 when rates equivalent to the UPU rates were adopted: for this subject readers are directed to the entries in the RPSL Catalogue Index of Society Journals to find all John Dickson's articles in the Natal & Zululand and the Cape & Natal journals on this subject (Ref. 7).

One of the UPU problems was voting: should Natal and the CGH (and indeed the Orange Free State and the Transvaal) be given an equal vote with say the US or Germany or France? The problem applied equally to the Australian states. The question related to independence: were the countries free of control by a mother country? It was not just the UK that was involved in this question as France, Denmark, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands for example all had colonies. By 1906 there were 17 groupings of non-sovereign countries (Ref. 8).

Postage had become an important issue, or rather, a more important issue because since the discovery of gold and diamonds in Southern Africa from the late 1860s the quantity and quality of CGH commercial and personal interests had changed in volume. There was much more trade involving many more people living in the CGH and from 1869 the opening of the Suez Canal had dramatically altered trade and postal routes and the costs involved.

From this point it seems appropriate to set out quotations from the CGH Postmaster-General's reports for 1882 and 1883.



Figure 3. 7½d rate. This registered letter to Germany was posted in King Williams Town on 29 January 1886. It was a double rate letter for which the postage was 1s 3d and the registration fee 4d making 1s 7d in all. The colour of the 1d carmine and 3d claret stamps is very similar and, in sorting in gas light or bad light, gave rise to confusion. Why the 3d colour [the 3d value was issued after the 1d value] was chosen is a story in itself bearing in mind that the preceding 3d rose stamps had to be overprinted '3' or 'THREE PENCE' to help distinguish them from the 1d value. Readers should consult pages 98 and 99 of Allis to read more about this farce.



Figure 4. 7½d rate. This cover is included in order to make readers alive to the fact that many letters to the USA and Europe were prepaid 8d but only because of a lack of ½d stamps at the time of posting. ½d stamps were available as they were needed for internal reduced rate postage but the sender did not necessarily have them at the time of posting if a post box was used and, bearing in mind distances and small populations, some postal agencies or post offices in small places would run out; sometimes supplies were late in arriving from the UK or not enough had been ordered from De La Rue. In this case the sender made a mistake as four ½d stamps were used and in Cape Town. Posted in Cape Town on 2 September 1880.



Figure 5. 7½d rate. This cover shows two 7½d rates to make up the postage of 1s 3d on a registered letter to the USA posted in Port Elizabeth on 17 March 1883. The registration fee of 4d is paid by the embossed stamp on the back of the envelope. The envelope shows an 'R' of a small type and is more uncommon than the type in Figs. 13 and 15. While the CGH had a handstamp for the 2½d credit (see Figs. 6 and 9) there must have been a decision not to afford a 5d stamp so the double accountancy credit to the UK appears on this cover as a red manuscript 5 underneath the red oval London registered mark. The 2 in red probably indicates two credits. The blue manuscript numbers relate to registration numbers. The cover was marked 'via England' so that it went by the packet and was not treated as a ship letter. There were no other means of getting mail to the USA.

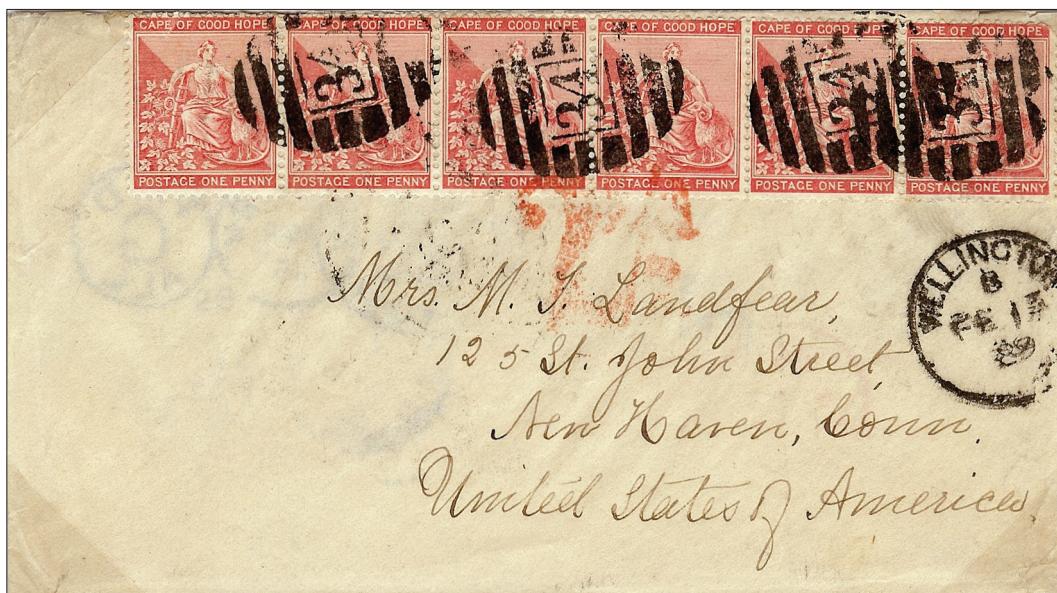


Figure 6. 6d rate. The rate to the USA was reduced to 6d ½ oz, at the same time as the rate to European countries, on 1 October 1888. This cover was posted in Wellington on 13 February 1889. See Figure 9 for an explanation of the 2½d mark.



Figure 7. 6d rate. This cover to Germany, posted in the Lady Grey Division at Aliwal North on 3 January 1890 shows the 6d ½ oz rate to European countries and the USA introduced on 1 October 1888. The 2½d mark in red is the CGH to UK accountancy mark crediting that sum to the UK for the UPU postage from the UK to Germany, as if the letter had been posted in the UK. The remaining 3½d was kept by the CGH for internal and sea transit to the UK postage.



Figure 8. 5d rate. This rate appears only to have applied to mail to the USA between 1 January 1891 and 31 August 1892 [unlike the rate to European countries for which see Figs. 10 and 11]. Two rates were paid in this case to make up the 5d rate. It is a scarce rate to track down. There is no evidence of accountancy marks on this type of mail by this date.



Figure 9. 3d rate. This cover was sent by the Agent of the Union Castle Line in Port Elizabeth to the Agent of the Union Castle Line in Hamburg in Germany on 2 April 1892. The Union Castle Line had the contract to carry mails between the CGH and the UK and vice-versa. Apart from the 3d ½ oz rate paid the cover is one which was posted directly on to the Midland TPO at Port Elizabeth Station. The fee for posting straight into the TPO carriage was 6d. The stamps are cancelled with the Midland TPO cds. Mail of this type is sometimes seen with a 'LATE FEE' handstamp. The 3d ½ oz rate was in force between 1 January 1891 and 31 August 1892.



Figure 10. 3d rate. This cover shows the 3d per ½ oz rate to Sweden, a European country. Four rates of 3d [1s] have been paid for a letter 1½ ozs to 2 ozs. The registration fee was 4d. The postage to continental Europe was reduced from 5d to 3d on 1 January 1891 at the same time as the postage to the United Kingdom was reduced to 2½d for each ½ oz. The cover was posted on 5 October 1891 in Kimberley. There was no current 2½d value to pay this rate, and so De La Rue were asked to supply a stock of the 3d value printed in magenta surcharged with '2½d'. This was typical of *ad hoc* arrangements by the Cape Post Office as the 3d magenta value was not issued in its own right until September 1898.



Figure 11. 2½d pre-UPU rate. The rate to European countries and the USA, in this case Denmark posted in Oudtshoorn on 4 September 1893, was reduced to 2½d for each ½ oz on 1 September 1892 and lasted until 31 December 1894. The postage of 2s 2½d paid on this item is made up with nine rates of 2½d and the registration fee of 4d. Yet another provisional surcharge appears on this cover – the ONE PENNY on the 2d value. The plate for the 1d ‘Hope’ value had become very worn and it was decided to introduce a new design. Delay occurred in shipping the first printing of the new design and it was decided to use up 10,000 sheets of the 2d value by overprinting them in case there should be a shortage of the 1d value. The overprinting was done in the CGH.

From the CGH Postmaster’s Report in 1882

Postal Union

The Colony has hitherto been debarred from entering the Universal Postal Union, as under the provisions of its Ocean Mail Contracts it could not do so without sustaining a serious monetary loss. These Ocean Contracts, however, expire on the 30th September next, and in entering upon new contracts provision was made for removing the obstacles to joining the Union. The Colony will accordingly become a member of the Universal Postal Union from the 1st October next, by which it not only participates in the advantages already flowing from the Union, but in those conferred by reforms introduced at the quinquennial conferences.

The effect of this, as far as the individual public is concerned, is that the rates of postage on mail matter for places in the Union will be reduced and be uniform, not only from the Colony, but in the opposite direction from all countries comprised in the Union.

[Note: This Report then went on to set out postage rates that would come into effect when the CGH joined the UPU but they are not set out as they did not come into effect.]

Postal Union

An application was made for this Colony to enter the Universal Postal Union upon the termination of the Ocean Mail Contracts, which lapsed by effluxion of time on the 30th September last. In view of important proposals which the German Post Office had announced its intention of making at the next Postal Congress to take place at Lisbon in the month of October, 1884, it was thought desirable to qualify the application for admission into the Union.

The proposal to be submitted by the German Post Office are to reduce the rates payable by one country to another for its conveyance of Mails over a distance of 300 miles by sea from 15 francs a kilogramme for letters and post-cards to 5 francs, and from 1 franc a kilogramme for other articles to 50 centimes, and at the same time to reduce from 25 to 10 centimes the sur-tax which any country of the Union can levy over and above the fundamental Union rate of 25 centimes, on letters subject to the above-mentioned sea-transit rate.

This measure if carried would have the effect of greatly reducing the receipts of postal revenue to which the Colony looks for recouping it for the heavy expenditure incurred for the Ocean Mail Service.

With a view therefore to afford Great Britain and her Dependencies a more adequate representation at the Congress, and enable them to oppose a scheme so inordinately detrimental to their financial interests, the application to enter the Union was coupled with two stipulations:-

1st. That the rates of payment for sea-transit and sur-taxes fixed by the Convention of Paris, shall not be reduced at all events until after the next quinquennial Congress to that of 1884.

2nd. That the South African Group of Colonies shall have a separate voice in the affairs of the Postal Union.

The Australian Colonies (which had held aloof from the Postal Union on similar grounds with this Colony as given by me in previous reports), I find from the proceedings of a Postal Conference held at Sydney in May, 1883, proposed similar stipulations, with this difference, however, that each Australian Colony claimed a vote in its own right at the Congress.

The application from this Colony to enter the Union not being unqualified, the International Bureau at Berne was unable at once to accede to it, and the several Administrations of the Postal Union had to be addressed by the Swiss Government as to whether they could concede the Cape Colony's demand of adhesion coupled as it was with two important stipulations.

Out of twenty-three Administrations which have expressed their views on the subject, no fewer than fifteen have given an unqualified assent. On the other hand Germany, France and Luxemburg are willing to concede to the Colony the condition of maintaining the present sea-rates and sur-taxes until after the next Congress to that in Lisbon, but not to allow her a vote and representation in the affairs of the Union, while Denmark, Italy, Holland and Portugal are ready to concede the vote but not the maintenance of the sea-rates and sur-taxes.

Belgium alone objects to both conditions. The net results is that there are twenty Administrations, including Great Britain, which find no objection to the exercise of an independent vote by this Colony.

In the constitution of the Union no provision exists for a qualified demand of entry such as that preferred by the Cape Colony, and as its conditions are opposed by some countries, it cannot be contended that the majority in favour of these carries the admission, but there seems good reason for hoping that were that matter discussed by a conference of plenipotentiaries both demands of the Cape would be conceded in virtue of a majority of voices.

As the next General Congress is to be held at Lisbon in October, 1884, it was thought unnecessary to summon a special session to consider the question, which there is every reason now to anticipate will be favourably disposed of shortly.

The question of the undesirability of entering the Postal Union has been again mooted. To the objections made I reply:

1st, that while it is true that there will be a pecuniary loss to the Postal Revenue resulting from it, the reduction of rates which will be simultaneous in the Colony and in every Member of the Union, will have the effect of fostering correspondence, and the increase so arising will soon make good the falling off in revenue, which in the first instance must ensue;

2nd, that while there may be this temporary loss to the public exchequer there will be a gain in the reduction of rates to the individual tax-payer;

3rd, that if the high rates on foreign correspondence be continued to be levied, the increased payments fall upon the tax-payer without benefiting the Colonial Public Revenue, these rates having to be remitted to the Imperial Government in payment of the transmission of such correspondence from England to the Foreign Parts addressed;

4th, that unless the Colony enters the Union it cannot share in the advantages of the International Parcels Post, which would debar the public from much benefit;

5th, that hitherto the Australian Colonies and the Cape Colony are the only two important administrations that have not given their adhesion to the Union, both being withheld from doing so by the heavy pecuniary loss that would follow under the then existing Ocean Mail Contracts.

These objections having now been removed, there is no obstacle to their entering the Union, which it has been found in the interests of the whole civilized world to be a party to.

4. Steps towards a Postal Union of Southern African Countries

Further comments by the Postmaster-General can be found in the Reports for 1884 and 1885 and in the context of voting rights and weight for voting rights the grouping of the Southern African territories became important. The 1883 comments by the Postmaster-General about a postal Union in South Africa are relevant. Figures 11 and 12 illustrate covers at the UPU and non-UPU 2½d rates.

South African Postal Union

During the year [1883] although the formal Postal Conventions have not been entered into, arrangements have been made with the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (Transvaal), under which uniform rates (with the exception of the letter rate to the Transvaal),



Figure 12. 2½d UPU rate. This registered cover to Romania posted in Gardens PO in Cape Town on 26 February 1895 eight weeks after the CGH had joined the UPU shows the UPU rate substituted for the earlier Europe and USA rate, which happened to be the same. Three rates paid to give 7½d postage. The registration fee of 4d was paid by the 4d blue embossed stamp on the back of the envelope. As usual the CGH had not got its act together and changed the colour of its UPU single rate letter stamp to blue; that was achieved in May 1896 17 months late, no doubt to save money by using up the excess stock of the sage-green 2½d value which had been introduced (late as usual) in June 1892 to cope with the rate to the UK introduced on 1 January 1891 and the rate to European countries and the USA introduced on 1 January 1892.



Figure 13. This cover, addressed to the Kaap Gold Fields in the Transvaal (ZAR), was posted in Bowden on 20 May 1887 and shows the single letter rate of 2d introduced between the CGH and the Transvaal in July 1883.



Figure 14. This cover, posted on 30 October 1893 shows a five times the 2d $\frac{1}{2}$ oz rate to the Transvaal introduced in July 1883. The registration fee was paid by a 4d blue embossed stamp on the back of the envelope. The extra 1d was a late fee for letters posted up to 15 minutes after the closing of the normal mails. The rate to the Transvaal went down to 1d on 1 January 1898. See the caption for Fig. 10 for a description of the 2½d stamp.

assimilated to those in force in the Colony, are chargeable on mail matter passing between the Colony and those States.

A similar arrangement is about to be entered into with the Colony of Natal, the exceptions being that with Natal and the South African Republic there will be no reciprocal use of Post Cards, those countries being not as yet supplied with Cards, and that the Parcels Post will not extend to Natal. It, however, does now to the South African Republic, as also to the Free State. In the latter State Post Cards have been introduced and are exchanged with this Colony.

The most rapid strides in postal progress have lately been made in the Orange Free State which now enjoy an interchange of Money Orders, a Parcels Post and an exchange of Postal Cards with this Colony.

At the request of the Postmaster-General of that State I keep him fully informed of any new business undertaken by this Department, which puts him in a position to introduce it into his Department, should it meet the requirements of the public there. The Postmasters of the Orange Free State are supplied by their Postmaster-General with copies of the Cape Postal Guide, and the Officials there are in this way fully informed as to the mode of circulating correspondence through the Colony and have a ready reference at hand for their guidance on any point of postal duty Formal Postal Conventions will shortly be entered into with Natal and two neighbouring States.

Author's comments

By 1886 the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz letter rate between Natal, the Orange Free State, the Transvaal and the CGH had been reduced to 2d. Whether this was the equivalent of two 1d rates i.e. one for the internal rate of the sending and one for the receiving country or whether the sending country kept all the postage is, at the moment unclear as the terms of the CGH/OFS convention seen by the author make no reference to accounting between the two countries.

The 2d rate was introduced within Natal on 14 May 1882; within the CGH on 1 July 1882; within the Orange Free State on 1 July 1883; within the Transvaal on 1 April 1885. A postal convention

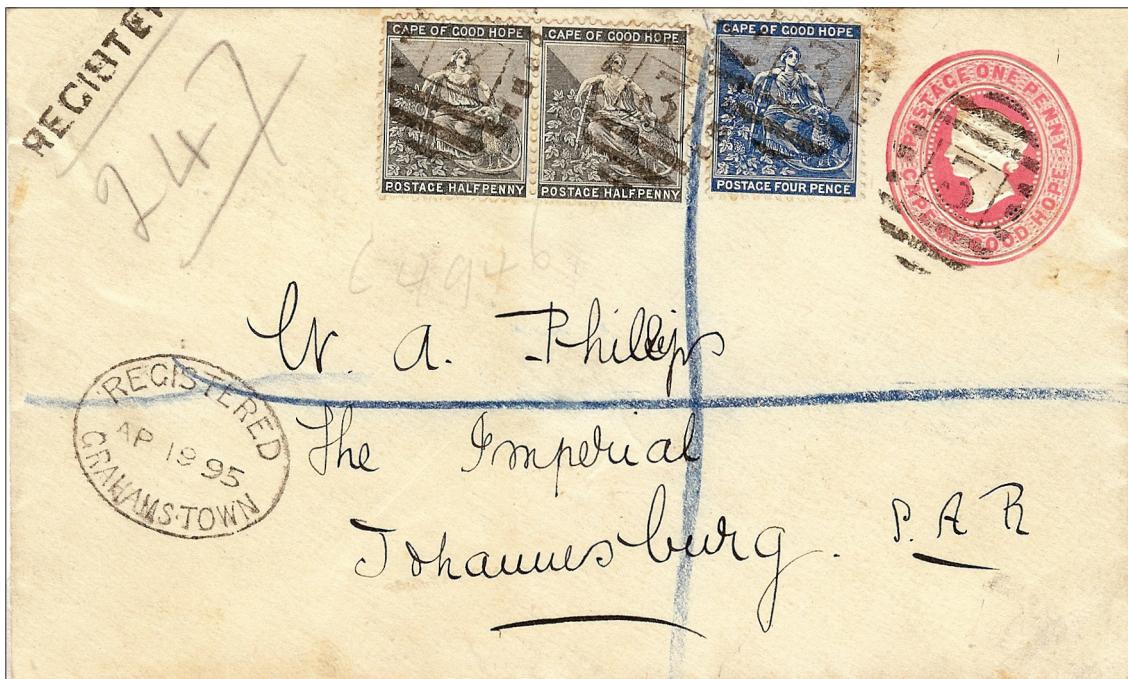


Figure 15. Transvaal entered the UPU on 1 January 1893 in its own right; CGH on 1 January 1895. The point of this cover is that despite the fact that both countries were in the UPU the Southern Africa Postal Convention arrangements made in the 1880s kept the postage at 2d and 2½d for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Posted in Grahamstown on 19 April 1895 this cover bore 2d postage and a 4d registration fee.

between the CGH and the Orange Free State in 1884 and likewise with Natal in 1885 established an inter-colony letter rate of 2d for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The CGH and the Orange Free State 1883 Postal Convention also established common rates for other postal matter. 1884 is mentioned as well as 1883 as the year, and the dates of application were different in CGH and the Orange Free State.

A 1d rate between the CGH and the Orange Free State came into operation on 1 September 1892 and for Natal it came into operation on 1 November 1896. The 1d rate with the Transvaal (ZAR) had to wait until 1 January 1898.

Natal had joined the UPU ahead of the CGH on 1 July 1892. The CGH letter rate to all countries had been fixed at the UPU rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz on 1 September 1892. All other UPU rates were adopted by the CGH on 20 September 1892. From 1894 CGH started to exchange mails with those countries to which its inhabitants mostly communicated directly instead of via the UK

The full story of the South African Postal Conventions of 1883 and 1898 and the individual conventions between the four states/colonies and the joining of the Portuguese Colony of Lourenço Marques in 1899 is another matter deserving a separate article.

References

1. By this is meant that the watermark used prior to the new arrangements was the Crown Agents CA watermark.
2. Mr Todd is presumed to be the employee of the Crown Agents to whom Mr De La Rue spoke the previous day.
3. Roughway Mills were near Plaxtol in Kent, England. They were used by De La Rue for the manufacture of special paper types especially for postage stamps and for the Bank of England £5 banknote. Papermaking ceased at Roughway Mill in 1930. A full description of the Mill, its history and its operation, and with photographs, is to be found in *The London Philatelist* Vol 117 October 2008 [No. 1359] pp285-293 in an article by David Gurney FRPSL, "Roughway Paper Mills".
4. The Argyll Etkin sale 15 April 2004 contains a lot [lot 416] described as follows: 'De La Rue Appendix page dated "July 9 84" bearing drawings on tracing paper showing two different sheet formats lettered A and B, a third drawing C showing these two sheet formats overlaying each other. Copy letters from De La Rue to the Agent-General for the Cape explain that the dandy roll for cape stamps was incorrectly made in two panes of 120 stamps [drawing A] instead of four panes of 60 [drawing B] resulting in a slightly incorrect watermark position shown in drawing C'. The De La Rue archive photographs has another copy of these drawings, and, while not illustrated here, a scan can be supplied on application to the author via the Editor to anyone interested in seeing the visual effect of the mistake.
5. *Cape of Good Hope: Its Postal History and Postage Stamps* by Gilbert Allis, 1930 published by Stanley Gibbons London, at page 105.
6. A 5d rate from the Orange Free State to European countries in 1891 is discussed in *The Orange Free State Bulletin* page 2338, March 1995 issue in the context of the rate going down to 4d in 1892 [when the CGH rate to European countries was reduced to 3d and then $2\frac{1}{2}$ d in similar years] but mail to the USA is not mentioned.
7. *The Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal* [formerly *The Natal & Zululand Post*] is the journal of The Cape & Natal Study Circle [formerly The Natal & Zululand Study Circle] published quarterly.
8. For further reading on this subject see *The Universal Postal Union* by Codding G.A., 1964, New York University Press..



Philatelic Shade Discrimination Based on Measured Colour

David L. Herendeen FRPSL, James A. Allen and Thomas Lera

Introduction

Colour shades are an important aspect of philatelic study for a number of reasons. The two most important of these are the identification of specific printings and printers of stamp issues, and the discrimination of fraudulent stamps. For nearly a century, the identification of colour shades has been done using two basic methods: firstly, by having reference collections of shades that can be compared to an unknown specimen; and, secondly, by training individuals with innate or intrinsic skills in colour-matching to recognise the accepted shades as defined by earlier generations of such colour experts. Note that the term shade is being used throughout this paper because it is the philatelic tradition. In fact, from a colour science point of view, *shades* herein represent different *hues*, or mixtures of colour.

This paper formulates a new methodology for shade identification using spectrographic measurements and colour science. The methodology is then applied to a test case in order to validate its applicability.

Definitions

Presented below are the definitions of a number of terms that are used throughout this paper.

Colour System: this is simply a system for arranging and describing colour. At present, the most widely accepted colour systems are those established by the CIE (*Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage*) in 1931 based on visual experiments. These colour systems have been modified and improved (e.g. 1960, 1976) to better reflect human visual perception of colour (Refs. 1, 2).

Colourimetry: the science and technology used to quantify and describe physically the human colour perception, which was also established by the CIE in 1931. Even though limitations are well recognised, the CIE system of colourimetry remains the only internationally agreed metric for colour measurement. This definition is taken from Ohno's excellent and recommended overview of colourimetry and the CIE colour standards (Ref. 3).

Colour Categorisation: also called 'colour naming' or 'colour quantisation' is the process of determining whether two colours can be visually discriminated, and then developing categories into which similar colours are placed (Ref. 4).

Philatelic Colour

One of the most difficult technical issues facing advanced philatelists is the identification of stamp shades. A minor shade difference may translate into an economic value that may vary by several orders of magnitude from other stamps of different shades.

In early 1978, a study by Tyler and Peck (Ref. 5) used diffuse reflectance spectroscopy to discriminate between genuine, reprinted and forged stamps of the 1867-1868 Roman States issues. This was an application of colourimetry in which results were obtained by simple comparison of reflectance curves. The final sentence of this paper notes that:

It may be concluded that the method has considerable potential for application in the philatelic field, permitting absolute characterisation of shades of colour which previously could be determined only by subjective means.

In 1979 the Philatelic Foundation followed with a comprehensive effort to perform quantitative studies of colour in philately (Ref. 6). In this work, Norby (p116) notes, 'The indiscriminate and in

some instances incongruous naming of stamp colours must be resolved.' Unfortunately this situation persists now, more than 30 years later. This reference work presents excellent background information on: colour theory; ink chemistry; paper manufacture, printing techniques; and nondestructive methods for colour measurement and analysis. It also includes eleven case studies of colour in specific stamps from a variety of countries. These studies only addressed colourimetry tangentially. Instead, they focused more on aspects of various x-ray emission spectroscopy techniques that allow chemical analysis of inks.

The only substantive recommendation was a proposal to adopt a very complicated set of colour designations defined in the *Munsell Book of Color* (Refs. 7, 8). The findings of Kelly and Billmeyer (Ref. 7) were modified again in 1982, but the resulting complexity was far from 'user friendly,' and it is doubtful if any collectors ever adopted any of the proposed conventions (Ref. 9). In the UK, a similar set of colour guides was given in the *Methuen Handbook of Colour* (Ref. 10) and used in numerous applications. It appears that the increased proliferation of newer digitally basis colour systems has led to its falling into lesser use. The last edition found by the authors was 1984.

Several subsequent studies used similar approaches (Refs. 11, 12). Chaplin, Clark and Beech (Ref. 11) in particular gained widespread notice by using spectroscopic analysis to solve a long-standing controversy by attempting to distinguish between genuine and forged Hawaiian Missionary stamps.

The Science of Colour

Physics and Psychology

Colour science encompasses two distinct areas. The first is the pure physics of light and its measurement. For simplicity, this will be called spectrometric analyses. The second is the psycho-physical manifestation of colour by the human vision system, often called perception. Both of these areas have been widely studied because of their many applications including: pigments and dyes; inks; digital television; computer monitors; photography and many more. While extensive discussion of these areas is well beyond the scope of this study, specific important concepts and findings are presented as needed.

One of the most important aspects of spectrometry is the ability to measure colour in an objective manner which, as noted earlier, is called colourimetry. Unfortunately, while the actual measurement of certain characteristics such as reflective or absorptive spectra is a well-defined physical phenomenon, the perceptual interpretation of this electromagnetic radiation by the human eye is far from exact. The identification and comparison of colours may vary dramatically between observers (Ref. 13), under different circumstances for the same observer (Ref. 13), between sexes (Refs. 14, 15) and between the young and the elderly (Ref. 16).

Thus, by definition, there is no exact answer to questions addressing human colour perception. Instead, semi-empirical methods, often related to a specific problem domain, must be developed and used to approximate an exact meaning of 'colour.' In this study, the manual techniques used by a trained philatelic colour expert are analysed.

Colourimetric Analysis

As introduced above, it is generally accepted that colour is a result of a psycho-physiological perception rather than an independent physical phenomenon. Specifically, it is the stimulation of the human visual system by what is called visible light. This light is simply electromagnetic radiation having wavelengths ranging from 380 nanometres (nm) to 780 nm.

While colour cannot be measured directly, the conditions leading to our perception of colour sensations can be measured. As noted, the method for doing this was introduced in 1931 by the CIE. To measure the variables that create colour sensations, the CIE established a reproducible, spectrophotometry based, device-independent colour model constructed from a light source, an observer, and an object. The results of a CIE-compliant measurement and transformation are coordinates that locate the specimen in a horseshoe-shaped colour space representing human colour perception. Such colour spaces are called chromaticity diagrams; an example of such a diagram is shown later in Figure 2. A more detailed discussion of these, and other, models is again beyond the scope of this paper (c.f. Refs. 1 and 2).

Philatelic Colour Categorisation

The authors became involved in analytical colour studies for philately in a recent study performed with partial funding from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum (Ref. 17). Preliminary study had suggested that the identification of stamp shades was a problem in colour matching. However, after collecting reflectance data for hundreds of samples, it became apparent that nearly every stamp (yes, even those in multiples) were different 'colours' from a purely spectrographic perspective, at least in terms of chromaticity co-ordinates. As described in the following sections, the traditional manner in which shade determination has been made is actually through colour categorisation rather than matching. Therefore, the remainder of this paper formulates and validates the theoretical basis for creating such categories.

The manual determination of shades for a family of similarly coloured stamps is a straight-forward process. However, this simple observation understates the requirement that one must have an expert philatelist whose colour acuity has been honed by thousands of hours of training. This requirement is supported by the extensive literature previously cited showing that the ability to distinguish and differentiate colours is extremely variable between individuals (Refs. 13-16).

Generally, the colour expert samples many hundreds of stamps of a given face value and issue, say the USA 1851-1857 3c red stamps. For the vast majority of these stamps, there are many possible shades resulting from: different printings; different ink batches; different treatment of the printing plates such as cleaning and inking; different dampening of the paper; different plate pressures during the print run; and many more environmental considerations. Each sample stamp is then placed in a specific category to which a name is traditionally given. While many of the colour names were first defined in the 19th century, they are still in common use today. For example, shades including orange-brown, deep orange-brown, copper-brown, dull red, claret and others are used. The result of this categorisation is still more complex. Within each of these categories, which are generally determined by chroma, or basic colour, there are many gradations, for example from light to dark.

While this primarily ad hoc procedure has been refined through the years, the question remains: can a theoretical basis for this methodology be defined?

I. Mathematical Development

Hypothetical Example

Consider the manual procedure outlined in the previous section as applied to a universe, or population, of 38 samples of a specific stamp that appear to be shades of red. Assuming that the CIE 1976 u' , v' chromaticity coordinates for each sample are known, the plot shown in Figure 1 may be constructed. Although not considered in this manner, some envelope of the points defines a colour gamut, G , in this chromaticity space. The colour expert has determined that the 38 points represent three perceptual colours. These fall into three subsets of the gamut, A , B and C . As expected, the colour categorisation has partitioned the gamut into three equivalence classes such that:

$$G = A \cup B \cup C$$
$$A \cap B = \emptyset ; A \cap C = \emptyset ; \text{ and } B \cap C = \emptyset$$

By philatelic convention, these colours have been named carmine-red, red-brown and carmine.

Further, suppose that two of these 38 points, labelled P and Q , lie outside of the three sets. The expert feels that the colours represented by the two points are inconsistent with the other colours. This problem could arise from many circumstances, examples of which include: too small a data sample to encompass all of the possible shades; environmental changes to the colour of samples which have permanently changed them; or counterfeit or forged samples printed in the wrong colour. In any case, before continuing the analysis, it is necessary to resolve the problem with such points. For this hypothetical, the points will simply be ignored, i.e. eliminated.

The following steps present a methodology that is the equivalent to the manual approach except all of the steps are performed by colourimetric analysis of spectrophotometry results.

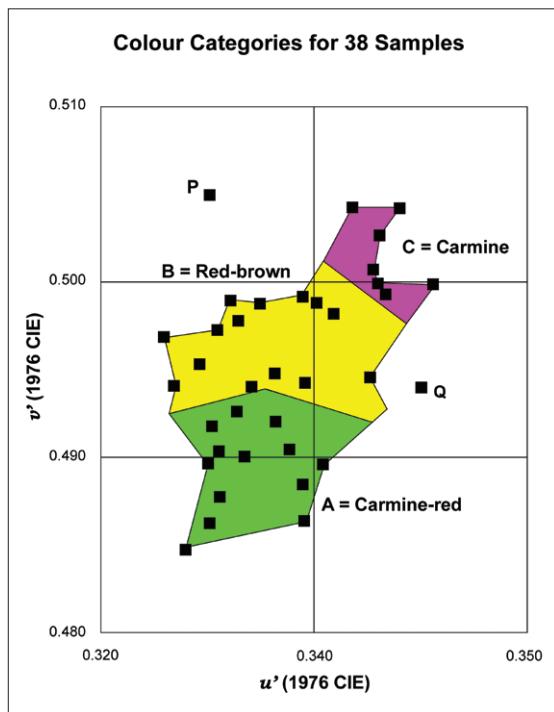


Figure 1. Three colour categories defined by a colour expert.

Determining Chromaticity Coordinates

First, each stamp is sampled using a spectrophotometer. This device measures the resulting tristimulus values and converts them into points in the various CIE colour model spaces. Without loss of generality, the CIE 1976 colour space is used in this paper. Figure 2 shows where the test samples, including the two eliminated points, lie in this full colour space using the gamut defined by the colour expert.

Now, in order to simplify the exposition, a mathematical idealisation of this process is posed. Consider the polygon drawn in Figure 3 to represent the colour gamut covered by these samples. It has been constructed by determining the convex hull (CH) of the set of data points. The CH is the minimal convex set containing the data points (Ref. 18). Other models are possible, and some were tested during this work.

The convex hull was selected for simplicity. For any set X of chromaticity points, define $H(X)$ as their convex hull.

The 36 data points, and the corresponding CH, are shown in Figure 3. This is a very small area within the entire colour space, as seen in Figure 2. The small shaded ellipse shown in Figure 3 is the proximate MacAdam ellipse (Ref. 16). This is the MacAdam ellipse closest to the algebraic centre of the CH translated to that centre. In terms of the colour matching process, points within a MacAdam ellipse are usually considered to represent the same perceptual colour. Note that the dispersion of the hypothetical stamp shades, represented by the convex hull, is considerably larger than the MacAdam ellipse indicating that there are several perceptual shades.

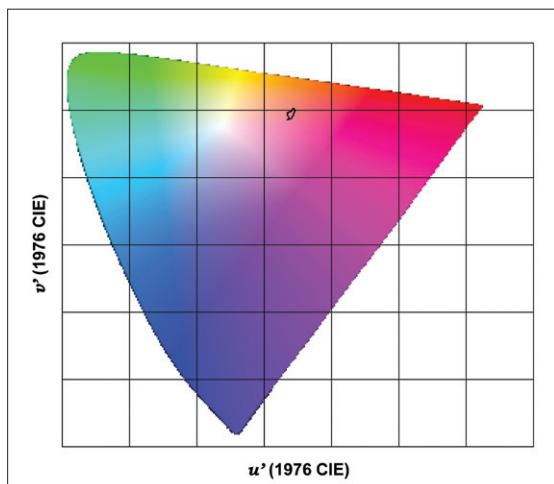


Figure 2. The colour gamut for the hypothetical sample space.

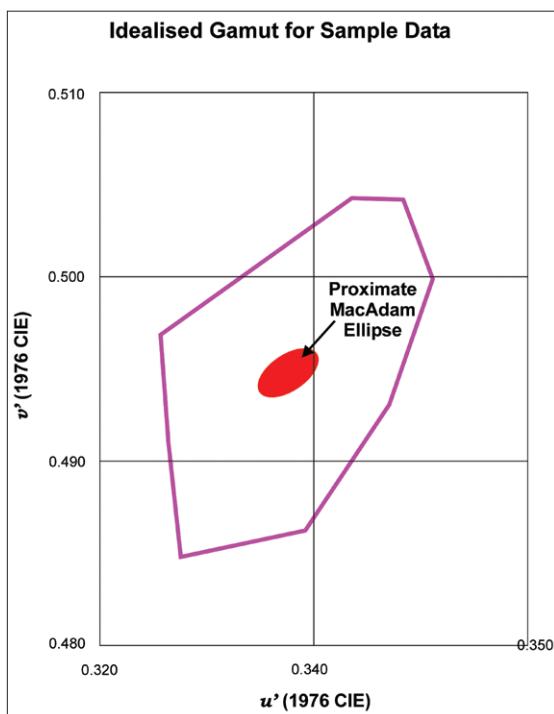


Figure 3. Convex hull colour gamut of 36 hypothetical sample stamps with MacAdam ellipse.

Next, the colour expert sorted the 36 validated samples into a (modestly) finite number of colour categories based on barely perceptible differences. For the hypothetical, it is assumed that this inspection results in three shades, or categories, that are denoted S_1 , S_2 and S_3 . Three CHs are then drawn using the chromaticity points within each of the categories:

$$H_1 = H(S_1)$$

$$H_2 = H(S_2)$$

$$H_3 = H(S_3)$$

Figure 4 shows the three resulting hulls. Not surprisingly, these three hulls representing the shade categories do a good job of partitioning the set of all data points into disjoint subsets, the ideal situation.

Fuzzy Sets - A Natural Model

The analyses of the previous sections used standard set theory to describe the process of categorizing stamp shades. However, such 'crisp' sets are not a realistic model for the uncertainty encountered in the perceptual colour problem. An extension to set theory, called fuzzy set theory, is well-suited to describing the colour category model (Ref. 19). Fuzzy sets were so named because the usual bivalent requirement for set membership (i.e. a given element is either an element of a set, or not) is relaxed. Instead, the notion of 'degrees of membership' was introduced. This allows gradations such as light and dark, or fast and slow to be represented.

This is easiest to see if the functional model of set theory is considered by defining the membership function such that:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_A(x) &= 1 \text{ if } x \in A \text{ and} \\ \mu_A(x) &= 0 \text{ if } x \notin A\end{aligned}$$

This relationship describes crisp set membership. Now, define a different membership function:

$$\varphi_A(x) \in [0,1] \quad \forall x$$

This less precise statement allows membership to be measured such that for each x , might be 0, 1, or any real value in the closed interval $[0,1]$. While this function appears to be probabilistic, the proponents of fuzzy sets are quick to point out that it does not represent a probability, but rather a 'possibility' that a given element is within a set.

Applying the Fuzzy Sets

In fact, the fuzziness of the shade categorisation is self-evident in both Figures 1 and 4. There are many different 'colours' in the spectrometric sense, but only three in the perceptual sense. The colour expert has already applied *de facto* fuzzy membership functions. When one considers the size of the CHs relative to MacAdam ellipses it is clear that different experts might well disagree on which shades fit which categories as the chromaticity moves away from the centre of the individual CH.

This situation is illustrated in Figure 5 which enlarges the data of S_1 of Figure 4 along with the original data points. Since it is already conceded that some of the outlying data points could well be considered to be a different colour by another expert, the CH K is constructed. This is called the kernel of the set. The kernel represents the set of data that experts would agree are the same shade.

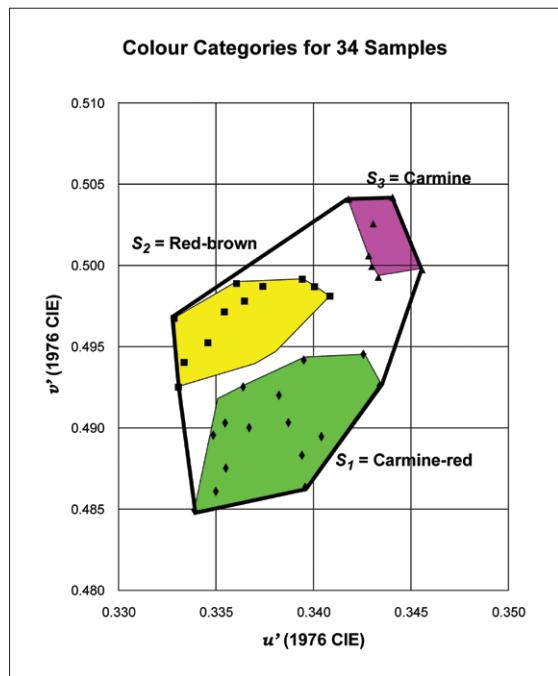


Figure 4. Three colour categories defined by a colour expert.

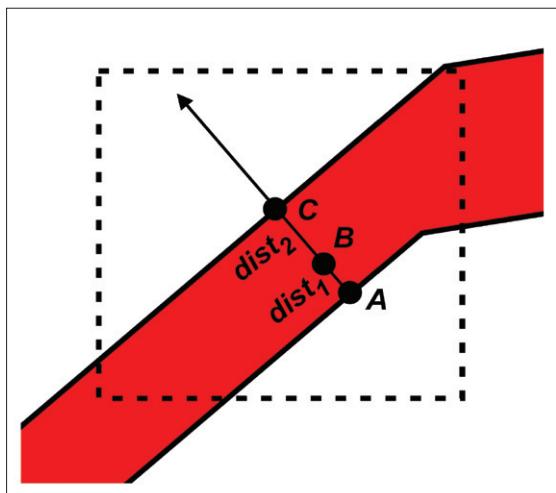
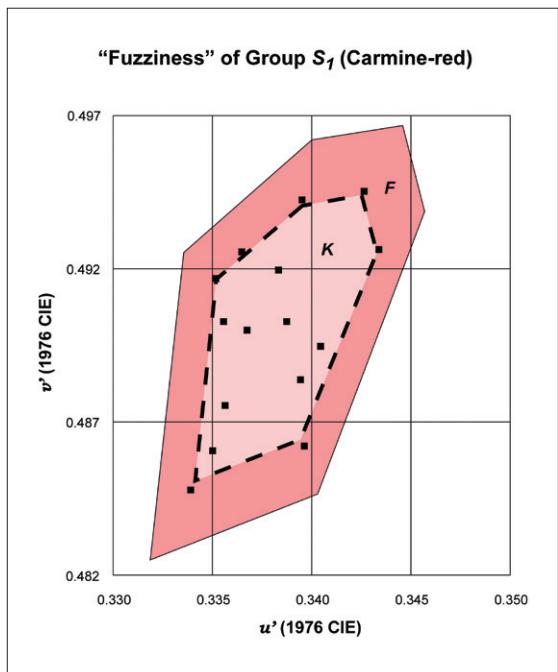


Figure 6. Parameters defining the similarity function.

Left: **Figure 5.** Fuzzy boundaries of one of the colour categories identified by the expert.

In Figure 5 the kernel, which is shown by the dashed line, has been constructed by reducing the CH by 10% of the length of the major semi-axes of the proximate MacAdam ellipse of the colour gamut. The intent is that K would form a greatest lower bound for the colour category. Similarly, a larger CH, F , shown by the solid black line in Figure 5, is constructed. At a distance of 90% of the major semi-axes of the MacAdam ellipse, F represents a least upper bound on the shades that might be identified as ‘red carmine’.

While rational, the selection of the tolerances on the two hulls is somewhat arbitrary and may vary depending on the family of stamps being analysed. The justification is for the total width between K and F to correspond to the major axis of the MacAdam ellipse, thus representing a region in which colours can be identified with less than certainty. The proportion assumed to represent the ‘inside’ tolerance has been arbitrarily set to 10%.

The Membership Function

The membership function for the family of hulls shown in Fig. 5 may be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } (x, y) \in K \text{ then } \varphi_F(x, y) &= 1 \\ \text{if } (x, y) \in F \text{ then } \varphi_F(x, y) &\in [0, 1] \\ \text{if } (x, y) \notin (F \cup K) \text{ then } \varphi_F(x, y) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The actual similarity function for points lying between the inner and outer hulls is defined by:

$$sim(x, y) = 1 - \left(\frac{dist_1}{dist_2} \right)^2$$

where $dist(PQ)$ is the Euclidean distance between any two points P and Q in the CIE-1976 chromaticity plane. The actual manner in which this function is applied to three typical points A , B and C is shown in Figure 6. The CIE-1976 colour difference is measured accurately by the simple Euclidean distance. The sim function varies with the square of the distance ratio from 1.0 on the boundary of the inner CH to 0.0 on the boundary of the outer CH. This function had been selected to facilitate developing this methodology. Other metrics could be used such as the Gaussian distribution suggested by Regier *et al* (Ref. 20).

The Fuzzy Intersections

Fuzzy envelopes are then determined for each of the CHs shown in Figure 4. They are all constructed in the manner described above. An idealisation of the resulting hulls is shown in Figure 7.

The figure shows the three kernels, K_1 , K_2 and K_3 , along with the outer hulls, H_1 , H_2 and H_3 . The intersections of the envelopes are defined by:

$$F_1 = S_1 \cap S_2$$

$$F_2 = S_2 \cap S_3$$

Clearly the interesting sample points are those that lie inside the two fuzzy intersections, F_1 and F_2 . There are seven such points (P_1 - P_7) as seen in Figure 7. By virtue of being contained in the intersections, the perceived colours for these samples become argumentative. An understanding of the colour perception phenomenon virtually insures that multiple observers might well place the points into a different colour category. This is analytically illustrated in Table 1. For each of the points shown in Figure 7, the membership function is computed for the three categories. Referring to the table, all six of the samples would objectively be placed into the categories selected by the expert. Only P_2 has a membership function exceeding a possibility of 30%.

As seen, the model developed appears to agree with the heuristic results obtained by the human expert while having a sound basis in analytical colour measurement. In the next section, the method will be validated by applying it to a case study.

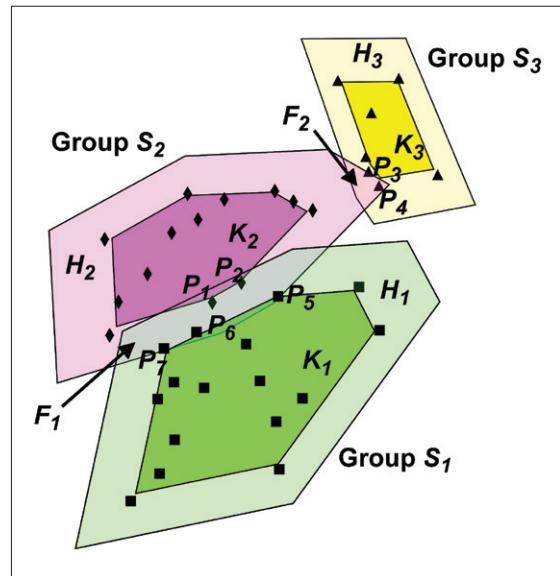


Figure 7. Idealised fuzzy set boundaries for hypothetical colour categories.

Table 1. Allocation of Colour Categories based on the membership function, *sim*.

Sample	Chromaticity Coordinates		Expert Allocation	Membership function, <i>sim</i> , for Convex Hull		
	x	y		H_1	H_2	H_3
P_1	0.3381	0.4948	H2	0.222	0.900	—
P_2	0.3370	0.4940	H2	0.308	0.900	—
P_3	0.3433	0.4993	H3	—	0.079	0.900
P_4	0.3351	0.4917	H1	0.900	0.026	—
P_5	0.3364	0.4926	H1	0.900	0.223	—
P_6	0.3395	0.4943	H1	0.900	0.064	—

II. Experimental Validation

To test the validity of the theoretical model, a colourimetric analysis of actual stamps was performed. The results of the analytical testing were then compared to the results obtained by a philatelic colour expert. The experimental procedures are described in the following sections.

The Stamps Sampled

There are many worldwide stamp issues which exhibit a wealth of colour shades. For this validation, a subset of the postage due stamps issued in Slovenia (a former Yugoslavian territory) from 1919-1921 (Ref. 21) were used. These stamps were produced first in Vienna, Austria, and then in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The low (vinar) values were printed in shades of red, with some brown components, and the high (kruna) values were printed in shades of blue. The red stamps printed in Ljubljana were selected for testing. Four distinct shades of these stamps are presented in Figure 8.



Figure 8. The four shades of the experimental stamps.

The definitive reference work on these issues (Ref. 22) indicates that there are nine identifiable shades. While some of the shades are quite distinct from one another, some are, at best, subtly different. (The author is especially intrigued by the murky brown brick red shade - someone clearly had a vivid imagination.) The stamps selected are known to have been produced by only two printings in Ljubljana. This would account for some, but not all, of the wide variety of shades. Other sources of shades may include: completely different ink batches, adding ink from a new batch to a part-full the ink pot, pressure differences during the transfer process, non-uniform cleaning of the printing plates, and many others. Although at the outset of this study it was hoped that a sampling of all nine shades could be used, this was not possible. As a result, sufficient samples were available to consider four shades.

The Instrumentation

To perform this validation equipment manufactured by the English company Foster + Freeman was used. Called the Video Spectral Comparator 6000 (VSC 6000), it allowed the examination of samples in the visible and near ultraviolet regions of the spectrum carried out with incident and transmitted UV, visible and infrared illumination up to 1000nm (Ref. 23). The device used, a photo of which is shown in Figure 9, is located at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum (NPM) in Washington, DC. The RPSL Expert Committee has the same equipment.

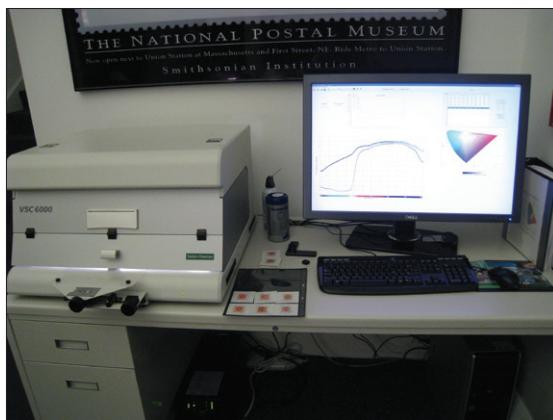


Figure 9. The VSC 6000 experimental hardware.



Figure 10. Sampling points for stamps.

Sample Preparation and Measurement

All of the samples were mounted on grey card stock measuring 6.4 cm square. Standard stamp mounts were used, but a large (2.5 cm diameter) hole was punched into each mount. This was done so that after mounting the exposed surface of the stamps was available to be tested without any interference from the mounts.

Each stamp was placed in the VSC6000 and enlarged using a magnification factor of 2.5 (250%).

This magnification was selected so the sensor area (represented by crosshairs) was able to average the colour over a small (0.03 mm^2) area. Then, five selected inked points were sampled for each stamp. The location of these points is shown in Figure 10. Four points conformal to the inner elliptic design were sampled, as was the centre of the stamp. An attempt was made to sample ‘pure’ colour, i.e. a region with no apparent white admixture, while remaining in a close neighbourhood of the locations shown.

For each of the five points, the spectral reflectance curves were plotted to verify that the readings were yielding consistent results. During the data collection procedure, a visual inspection of each graph was made to insure that no highly inconsistent measurements were obtained. In the event that inconsistent data were recorded, one or more of the data points for the sample would be retested.

For each of the samples, a full range of colourimetry data were collected, and reviewed, including:

- chromaticity diagrams (both CIE 1931 and CIE UCS 1960)
- all tabular data including tristimulus values, CIE 1931 x,y coordinates, CIE UCS 1960 u,v coordinates and Colour Space 1976 L*a*b* coordinates
- All of the spectral reflectance curves in digital format

Note that the CIE-1976 chromaticity coordinates u' , v' are not reported. When needed, they were computed directly from the measured tristimulus values using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Seventy Ljubljana stamps were tested, and the spectrographic results processed. These results are described in the following sections.

Sorting by Colour Expert

Concurrently with the colourimetric analysis, the second author, a recognised philatelic colour expert, sorted and categorised all of the samples by hand in a controlled environment with the samples illuminated with a 5000K daylight source (Fig. 11). Samples were held at a constant angle of inclination with respect to the light source. This manual operation resulted in the identification and naming of four easily discernible shades:

- carmine
- deep brownish carmine
- brick red
- light brick red

During this procedure a number of anomalous results were encountered. Naturally, these problems had to be resolved before generating the analytical model of the test results.

Preconditioning the Expert Data

While the expert sorted and collated the shades of the test samples, a number of difficulties became apparent. These included:

- Samples that were poorly inked resulting in a certain level of ‘blotchiness.’ This addition of underlying paper colour results in the eye interpreting the stamps as a shade different (generally lighter) from that identified by the VSC 6000 (or other colourimetric equipment).
- Other samples were heavily inked resulting in visible ‘mounds’ of ink. The roughness of the stamp surface resulting from this caused oblique light reflections during data collection.
- Damaged stamps including paper and gum creases, gum ‘soak-through’ and other inconsistencies in printing also resulted in poor spectrographic results *vis-à-vis* the expert.

Chromaticity Results

As mentioned above, the VSC 6000 currently does not support CIE 1976 u' , v' chromaticity coordinates. The measured tristimulus values (X, Y, Z) were used to compute these coordinates using the standard transformations:

$$u' = \frac{4X}{X + 15Y + 3Z}$$

$$v' = \frac{9Y}{X + 15Y + 3Z}$$

After preconditioning the data, the CIE-1976 chromaticities were treated as they were in Figure 4. The analogous figure is shown in Figure 12. The four identified shades are also labelled in the figure, and called A, B, C and D to simplify reference to them.

From these data, the inner and outer convex hulls were generated using the same parameters as those used in the hypothetical example. The results are shown in Figure 13.

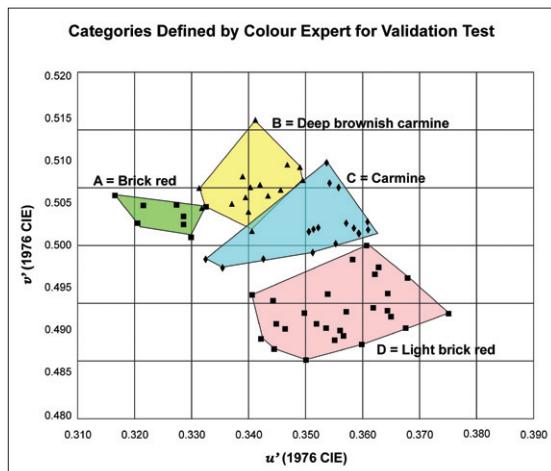


Figure 12. Expert Colour Categories.

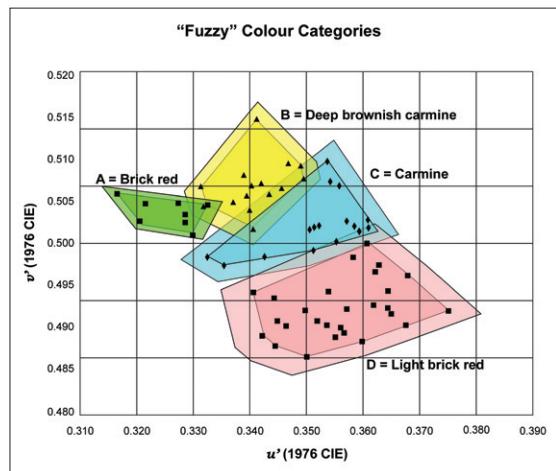


Figure 13. The Fuzzy Colour Categories.

While there are a number of data points that fall into the fuzzy intersections of the hulls, the results are all reasonable. Enlarged views of all four sets, A, B, C and D, are presented in Figures 14a-14d. These figures also highlight points from other sets that fall within their respective convex hulls and kernels.

The data for the points falling into the fuzzy regions of adjoining sets are summarised in Table 2. These results are well-behaved and indicate that the original colour categories were correct.

Table 2. Allocation of Colour Categories based on the membership function, sim , for validation test.

Sample	Chromaticity Coordinates		Expert Allocation	Membership function, sim , for Convex Hull			
	x	y		H_1	H_2	H_3	H_4
P ₁	0.3433	0.4993	H_B	—	0.900	0.139	—
P ₂	0.3401	0.4980	H_B	—	0.900	0.168	—
P ₃	0.3457	0.4998	H_B	—	0.900	0.402	—
P ₄	0.3497	0.5007	H_B	—	0.900	0.841	—
P ₅	0.3609	0.4950	H_D	—	—	0.359	0.900
P ₆	0.3617	0.4958	H_C	—	—	0.900	0.162
P ₇	0.3626	0.4960	H_C	—	—	0.900	0.373

Any points that present a disagreement between the theoretical model and the human expert may arise from several problems, the most likely of which are:

- Problems with the physical printing of the stamps described earlier in this paper.
- Experimental error in sampling stamp colour.
- Data reduction error in processing chromaticity measurements.
- Classification error on the part of the expert.

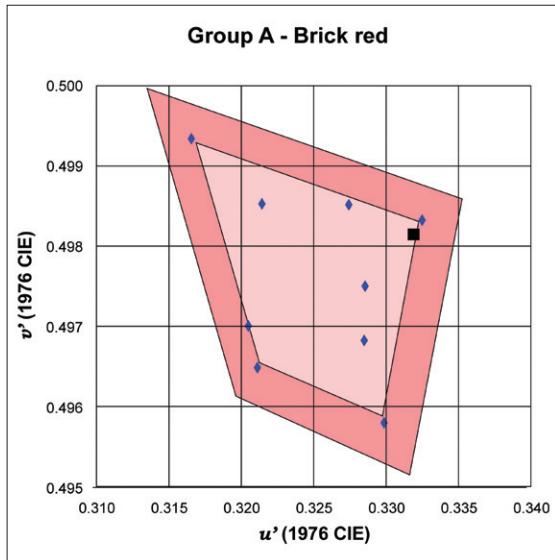


Figure 14a. Points in the outer hull of Group A.

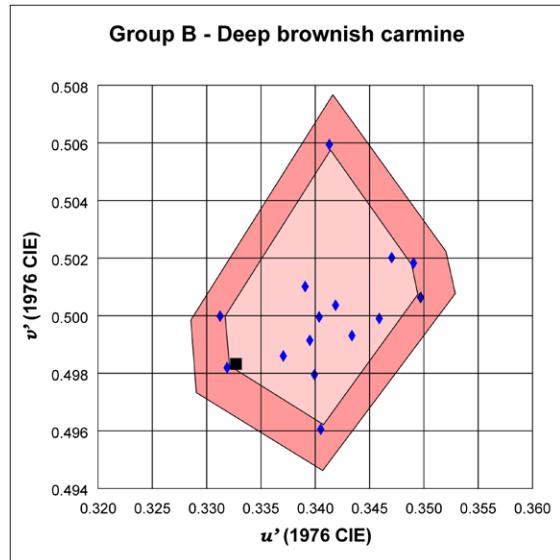


Figure 14b. Points in the outer hull of Group B.

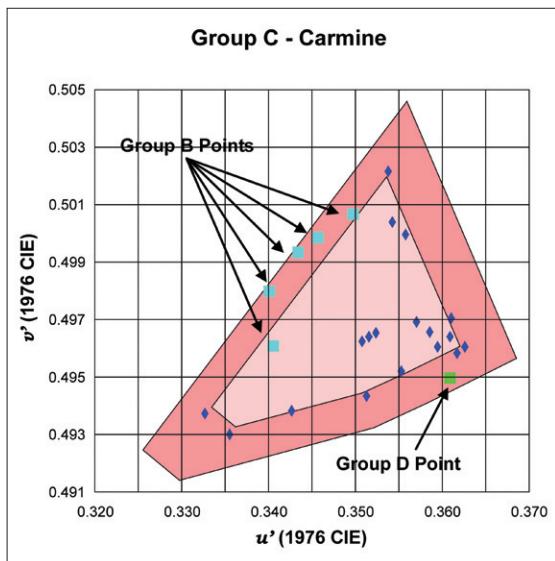


Figure 14c. Points in the outer hull of Group C.

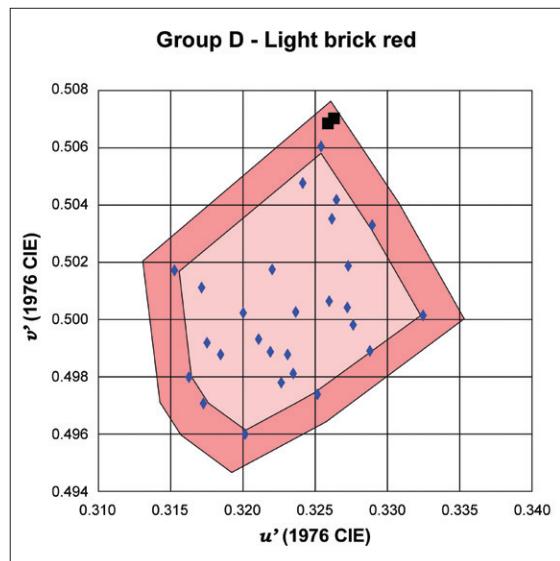


Figure 14d. Points in the outer hull of Group D.

Conclusion

This paper has described a method for measuring stamp colours using colourimetry. It developed a model of colour identification using colour categories determine through spectrographic analyses of sample stamps. The categories themselves were defined by a human colour expert, and then fuzzy logic was applied to model the variability of human colour perception. Finally, the model was validated by applying it to the analysis of 68 stamps printed in shades of red.

Acknowledgements

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RPSL Catalogue ~ 100 Cumulative Indexes

Frank Walton FRPSL & Steve Jarvis FRPSL

Since the www.rpslcatalogue.org.uk website was launched in January 2010, there have been numerous improvements and extensions to the functionality and breadth of data available. The one area that has grown more than most is the single database that holds cumulative journal indexes.

We have approached most specialist societies based in the UK to invite them to join, and Neil Donen FRPSL has been active in North America doing the same. We hit a milestone in March 2011 when the 100th index was uploaded; more are in the pipeline.

Most societies have supported this effort wholeheartedly, as they benefit from having their data available online, as well as reaping the rewards of active researchers clicking through from a hit on an index to the owning society's website. We know that several societies have recruited new members from this initiative.

The management of this data is undertaken by the RPSL as a key part of its charitable objectives to support philatelic research. There is no cost to the journal publishers whatsoever.

The following list is a snapshot of the data loaded on the website in March 2011. It provides the names and journal titles of the participating societies, as well as giving a count of the number of indexed articles and the scope that is covered.

If you are involved in any society that has a journal that isn't on this list, please contact Steve Jarvis at steve@jarvis-psv.me.uk for information on how your society can get involved in the ever-expanding project. We are delighted to take indexes in foreign languages as well as English.

Although the total number of indexed articles is currently just under 300,000, we believe the sky is the limit - it could easily grow to over a million before too long.

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Publisher/Society	Journal	Indexed Articles	Vol	No.	Volumes/ Whole Nos.	Years
Aguilar, Everard	<i>British West Indian Philatelist</i>	540	Vol	1	9	1949 1958
Albania Study Circle	<i>Skanderbeg, The</i>	526	Vol	1	7	1997 2004
American Helvetia Philatelic Soc	<i>Tell</i>	3,178	Vol	1	33	1975 2007
American Philatelic Congress	<i>Congress Book</i>	1,106	Vol	1	74	1935 2008
Australian Cmnwlth Spec Soc of GB	<i>Australian Commonwealth Spec Soc of GB Bulletin</i>	2,129	Vol	1	21	1946 1967
Austrian PS	<i>Austria</i>	1,502	Vol	1	165	1966 2009
Belgium Study Circle	<i>Belgapost</i>	2,814	No	1	22	1981 2007
Belize Philatelic Study Group	<i>Belize Collector, The</i>	167	Vol	1	8	1987 1994
Bermuda Collectors Society	<i>Bermuda Post</i>	1,221	No	1	69	1986 2003
British Postmark Society	<i>British Postmark Soc Qrtly Bulletin / Journal</i>	3,182	Vol	1	51	1958 2008
British Soc of Australian Philately	<i>British Soc of Australian Philately, Bulletin</i>	3,608	Vol	22	64	1967 2009
British Thematic Association	<i>Themescene</i>	436	Vol	1	26	1984 2009
British West Indies Study Circle	<i>BWI Study Circle Bulletin</i>	3,850	No	1	221	1954 2009
Cape and Natal Study Circle	<i>Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal</i>	154	Vol	11	13	2007 2009
Carriers And Locals Society	<i>Penny Post, The</i>	7,642	Vol	1	16	1991 2008
Channel Island Specialists' Society	<i>Journal Les Iles Normandes</i>	1,087	Vol	1	28	1975 2009
Channel Island Specialists' Society	<i>CISS Bulletin</i>	2,003	No	1	197	1950 1990
China PS of London	<i>Chinese Philately, Journal of</i>	2,718	Vol	1	39	1944 1992
Civil Censorship Study Group	<i>Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin</i>	2,015	Vol	1	38	1973 2010
Confederate Stamp Alliance, The	<i>Confederate Stamp Album</i>	65	Vol	1	4	1956 1959
Confederate Stamp Alliance, The	<i>Confederate Philatelist, The</i>	1,552	Vol	5	54	1960 2009
Cyprus Study Circle	<i>Cyprus Study Circle Papers</i>	14				1978 2009
Cyprus Study Circle	<i>Cyprus Circular Post, The</i>	1,957	Vol	1	18	1974 2010
Czechoslovak Philatelic Soc of GB	<i>Czechoslovak PS of GB Bulletin</i>	50	No	1	10	1975 1978
Czechoslovak Philatelic Soc of GB	<i>Czechout</i>	2,039	No	11	137	1978 2009
Danmarks Filatelist Forbund	<i>Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift</i>	1,076				1961 2010
Dansk Post Historisk Selskab	<i>Post Historisk Tidsskrift</i>	848				1977 2010
Derbyshire Postal History Society	<i>Derbyshire Messenger</i>	877	Vol	1	6	1982 1998
Disinfected Mail Society	<i>Pratique</i>	813	Vol	26	33	2001 2009
East Africa Study Circle	<i>BEA</i>	1,198	Vol	1	13	1979 2007
Egypt Study Circle	<i>Egypt Study Circle Quarterly Circular</i>	1,595	No	1	238	1938 2009
Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group	<i>Upland Goose, The</i>	12,022	Vol	1	20	1970 2009
Faroe Islands Study Circle	238	1,336	Vol	1	4	1991 2009
Forces Postal History Society	<i>Forces Postal History Society Newsletter</i>	6,921	No	201	276	1989 2008
France & Cols Stamp Club	<i>France & Cols Stamp Club Newsletter (1st Series)</i>	32	No	1	7	1948 1949
France & Cols PS of GB	<i>France & Cols PS of GB Newsletter (1st Series)</i>	14	No	8	11	1949 1950
France & Cols PS of GB	<i>France & Cols PS of GB Newsletter (2nd Series)</i>	685	No	1	97	1950 1966
France & Cols PS of GB	<i>France & Cols PS of GB Bulletin</i>	182	No	98	120	1967 1972
France & Cols PS of GB	<i>France & Cols PS of GB Journal</i>	2,932	No	121	254	1972 2009
France & Cols PS of GB	<i>France & Cols PS of GB Newsletter (3rd Series)</i>	676	No	1	58	1972 1985
German Colonies Collectors Group	<i>Vorläufer</i>	9,619	No	1	151	1973 2008
Glenn Morgan	<i>Dummy Stamps</i>	149	No	1	15	2006 2009
Hellenic PS of GB	<i>H.P.S. Bulletin</i>	858	No	1	107	1968 2003
Helvetia Soc for Cols of Switzerland	<i>Helvetia Bulletin</i>	1,040	Vol	1	20	1938 1957
Helvetia Soc of US for Cols of Switzerland	<i>Helvetia Alphorn</i>	346	Vol	21	26	1969 1974
Holyland PS	<i>BAPIP Bulletin, The</i>	4,215	No	1	162	1952 2010
Hungarian PS of G.B.	<i>Stamps of Hungary</i>	1,542	No	1	183	1968 2010
India Study Circle	<i>India Study Circle News and Notes</i>	78	No	1	5	1950 1950
India Study Circle	<i>India Study Circle News Sheet</i>	654	No	1	20	1951 1954
India Study Circle	<i>India Study Circle News Bulletin</i>	1,089	No	21	78	1955 1965
India Study Circle	<i>India Study Circle Bulletin</i>	97	No	79	84	1966 1966
India Study Circle	<i>India Post</i>	9,228	Vol	1	37	1967 2003
Indian Ocean Study Circle	<i>IO</i>	1,792	No	1	116	1970 2009
interNational Assoc for Philatelic Exhibitors	<i>Asia Pacific Exhibitor, The</i>	13,147	No	1	75	1987 2008
International Philippine PS	<i>Philippine Philatelic Newsletter</i>	55	Vol	1		1974 1975
International Philippine PS	<i>Philippine Philatelic Journal</i>	217	Vol	2	12	1976 1990
International Philippine PS	<i>Philippine Philatelic News</i>	210	Vol	13	26	1991 2004
International Soc for Japanese Philately	<i>Japanese Philately</i>	55,936	Vol	1	63	1946 2008
Irish Philatelic Circle	<i>Irish Philately</i>	1,237				1963 2009

Publisher/Society	Journal	Indexed Articles	Volumes/ Whole Nos.	Years
King George VI Collectors' Society	GEOSIX	1,092	No 1	178 1960 1995
Kjøbenhavns Philatelist Klub (KPK)	Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift (NFT)	1,107		1960 2010
Malta Study Circle	Melita	5,904	Vol 2	15 1956 2003
Meter Stamp Society	Meter Stamp Soc Quarterly Bulletin	3,781	Vol 12	62 1960 2010
Midland (G.B.) Postal History Soc	Midland Mail	640	No 7	151 1975 2007
Murray Payne	Sixth Sense	1,192	No 1	86 1995 2010
Natal & Zululand Study Circle	Natal & Zululand Post	212	Vol 1	10 1997 2006
New Zealand Society of GB	Kiwi, The	4,315	Vol 1	59 1952 2010
NPS	Stamp Lover	6,144	Vol 1	101 1908 2009
Oriental Philatelic Assoc of London	OPAL	2,017	No 1	222 1950 2009
Pacific Islands Study Circle	Pacifica	3,096	No 1	44 1963 2006
Perfin Society of Great Britain	Perfins Bulletin, The	2,575	No 1	351 1957 2007
PS of South Australia	Stamp Talk	1,809	Vol 1	32 1975 2006
Postal History Society (G.B.)	Postal History Journal	3,476	No 1	332 1936 2009
Postal History Society of Canada	PHSC Journal	1,577	No 1	140 1972 2010
Postal Stationery Society	Postal Stationery Society Journal	437	No 1	51 1993 2009
Postiljonen	Fakes, Forgeries & Experts Journal	310	Vol 1	12 1998 2009
Railway Philatelic Group	Railway Philately	457	Vol 1	44 1966 2009
Royal PS of Canada	Canadian Philatelist, The	5,398	Vol 1	61 1950 2010
Royal Philatelic Society London	London Philatelist, The (major papers only)	4,393	Vol 1	118 1892 2009
Sarawak Specialists Society	Sarawak Journal, The	1,606	Vol 1	50 1947 1997
Scottish Postal History Society	Scottish Post	1,157	No 1	129 1979 2011
South West Africa Stamp Study Group	South West Africa Stamp Study Group Newsletter	1,197	No 1	303 1975 2004
St. Helena Study Group	St. Helena Philatelic Study Group Newsletter	6	Vol 1	1977
St. Helena & Dependencies PS	St. Helena & Deps PS Newsletter	326	Vol 2	10 1978 1986
St. Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha PS	South Atlantic Chronicle	638	Vol 11	34 1986 2010
Stanley Gibbons	Gibbons Monthly Circular	1,151	V/N 1/1	11/49 1919 1923
Stanley Gibbons	Gibbons Monthly Journal	4,526	V/N 1/1	26/307 1890 1927
Stanley Gibbons	Gibbons Stamp Weekly	5,862	V/N 1/1	12/313 1905 1910
Stanley Gibbons	Gibbons Stamp Monthly	20,117	V/N 1/1	83/987 1927 2009
Sudan Study Group	Camel Post	635	Vol 1	80 1977 2009
Swiss-American Stamp Society	Helvetia Herald	237	Vol 1	5 1970 1974
TPO & Seapost Society	TPO	14,211	Vol 1	64 1947 2010
United Postal Stationery Society	United Postal Stationery Society	3,191	Vol 1	50 1948 2008
Waterlow Study Circle	Waterlow Study Circle Journal	1,020	No 1	44 1981 1999
Welsh PS	Welsh PS Newsletter	1,636	No 1	90 1972 2002
West Africa Study Circle	Cameo	2,849	Vol 1	11 1975 2010
West Africa Study Circle	St Helena Supplement	324	No 1	11 1983 1989
West Africa Study Circle	St Helena & Ascension Supplement	560	No 12	39 1989 2003
Yorkshire Postal History Society	Yorkshire's Post	1,460	Vol 1	25 1958 2010
Yugoslavia Study Group	Jugoposta	446	No 1	91 1984 2009



Dress Code on Meeting Days at No. 41

Christine A. Earle FRPSL, Hon. Secretary

Gentlemen are respectfully reminded that jacket and tie are the preferred dress on meeting days.

Letter to the Editor: Correction

Frank L. Walton FRPSL, Hon. Editor

Unfortunately I erroneously attributed the letter in the March edition about the Southampton rail service to John Edwards; it was written by Michael Waugh of Leeds. My humble apologies go to them both.

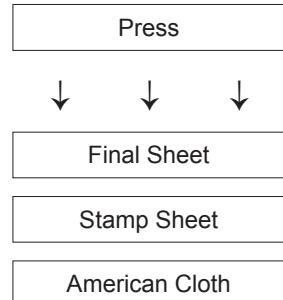
The Decoupage Process

Paul Hirsch FRPSL

THE EXCELLENT PRINTING OF THE POST-CLASSIC STAMPS of France, Greece and Romania is well recognised. In letterpress printing of text, illustrations or, in the present case, stamps there are difficulties in getting a perfectly flat surface on the printing forme. The result is that there are weak parts in the impression on paper. The process of slightly raising the surface of covering on the platten of the printing press to get a stronger impression in the weak areas is known by printers as 'make ready'. What follows describes the very delicate make ready done by means of decoupage when printing these stamps. The decoupage (French: *découpage* literally 'cutting-out') process was used. It was my difficulty in finding a detailed description in English which prompted this short article which claims to throw no new light on the subject but makes it accessible. Romanian stamps are used to illustrate and explain this subject. Edouard Cohen, an eminent collector of Romania, published *Contributions à L'Étude des Essais des Timbres-Poste de Roumanie* in 1945. He notes, however that the material left over from the decoupage process cannot be considered as being essays or proofs although the process is described in his book of that title. Hitherto no colour illustrations were available.

This process was introduced by Anatole Hulot who was director of the State Printing Works in Paris, and who thereby wished to achieve a standard of clarity and neatness not hitherto attained. The process was employed at the Paris mint, not only for the Romanian issues illustrated here, but also for those of France between 1850 and 1875 and for the preparation of Greek issues.

The decoupage process was as follows: Having assembled the *clichés* in a frame (*guillotine*) he used it to print a sheet of stamps on so-called American cloth, an oiled cotton material with a slightly sticky surface. Furthermore he printed several similar sheets on paper of various thicknesses including paper as thin as pelure. From these sheets, using his judgement and experience as to their thickness he cut out parts of the design and then laid a sheet so treated over the original impression on the base, that is, on the stamps printed on American cloth. The French word for such a layers is a *cuissonet*. When the sheet of paper which was to receive the final impression was laid on top of this and the printing



Figures 1 to 7. Single decoupage items.



Figures 8 to 10. A deconstructed view.

press was lowered, part of the design received only a slight pressure whereas part was reinforced by the underlying extra thickness. Thus a careful balance was struck between the finest gentle pressure and print and the heavier impression.

The commonest extant remainders are single stamps made up of several multicoloured fragments on a base of a complete stamp (Figures 1-7 and 8-10). One suspects that these are prepared from the remaindered sheets for the purpose of sale to collectors; nevertheless they are informative and illustrate the printing process.



Figure 11. Part of a decoupage sheet showing several cut-outs. It would have been the layer marked 'Stamp Sheet' in the diagram opposite [reduced].

More difficult to find, but they do exist, are whole sheets or at least multiples of such remainders (Figure 11). They are not as clean as the single items, and show that they have been used in the printing process. Occasionally there is an impression of an inky fingerprint in the margin.



Figure 12. A multiple of three stamps (with cut-outs) overlying a block of four stamps printed rather roughly on American cloth.



Figure 13. A mint block of one value of Romania's 1872 issue to illustrate the excellence of the result of this laborious decoupage process.

UK to Romania Postage Due Cover from 1880

Gabriel Sassower FRPSL

THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE ROMANIAN HANDSTAMPED NUMERAL MARKINGS appearing on the letter illustrated in Figure 1 ranges from 1869 to 1881, thus covering both the pre-postal union and the GPU/UPU years. Their presence on mail triggers off the usual mental exercises associated with the attempted interpretation of charge annotations on unpaid or insufficiently prepaid sendings.

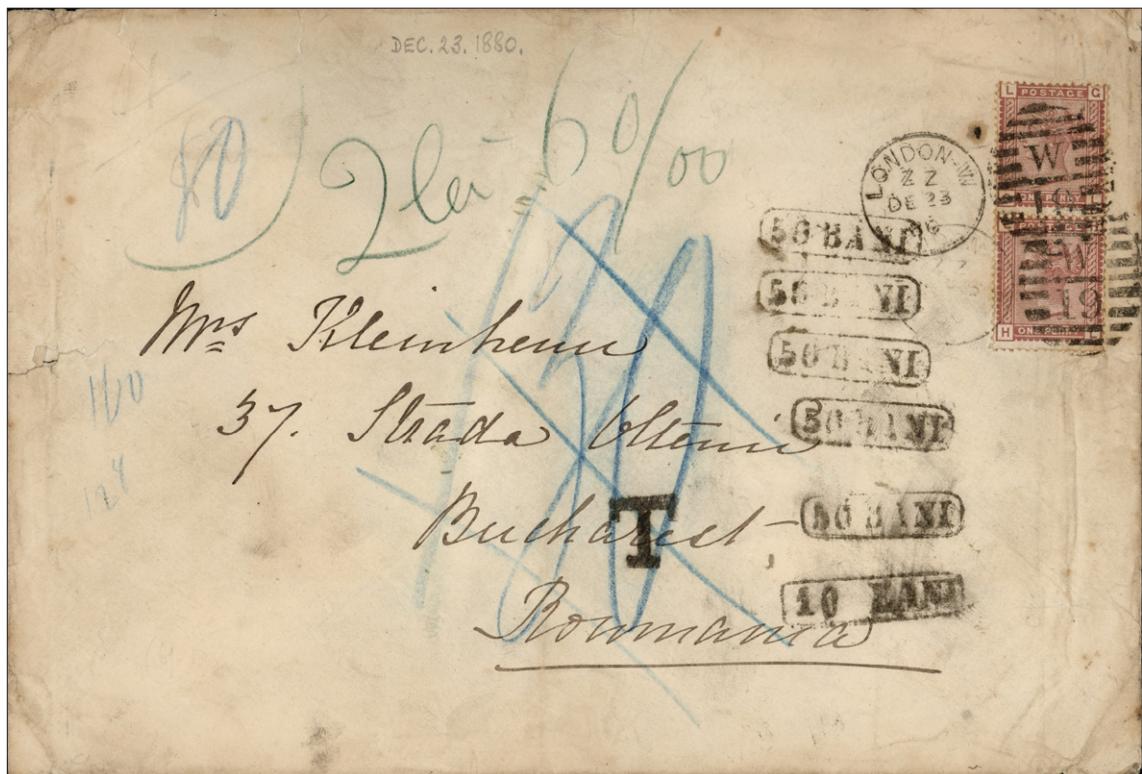


Figure 1. December 1880 underpaid letter from London to Bucharest.

A remarkable example is shown here: the sum of the applied markings to be collected from the addressee, 260 bani (or 2 lei 60), on the December 1880 underpaid London to Bucharest large envelope, represents by far the highest handstamped Romanian postage due amount observed to date. The clue to the explanation can be found in Article V of Ref. 1: "In case of insufficient prepayment, correspondence of every kind is liable to a charge equal to double the deficiency, to be paid by the addressees". This is an innovation; beforehand, the recipient had to pay twice the prepayable amount minus the value of the affixed postage stamps.

The front of the envelope displays the following features:

- Vertical pair of 1d adhesives, very nearly equal to 20 French centimes; 1 shilling (12 pence) = 125 centimes (Ref. 2).
- London dispatch datestamp of 23 December 1880, "T" indicating tax to be paid,

- struck by the office of origin; use stipulated in Ref. 3, Regulation III/2. Possibly the earliest British type of this marking.
- Manuscript crayon figure “80” in the top left hand corner. Although not corresponding strictly with Ref. 3 Regulation IV/1, I take it to mean 80 grammes, thus in the sixth weight step of 15 grammes each.

- Manuscript crayon figure “130”; this represents 130 centimes, the deficiency in the prepayable amount: the charge for six weight steps at 25 French centimes each = 150 centimes less 20 centimes, the value of the affixed British adhesives.
- Manuscript crayon 2 lei 60/00(or 260 bani) in Romanian currency = 260 centimes, being double the deficiency payable by the recipient. The currencies of France and Romania were at parity at the time.
- 5 x 50 BANI + 1 x 10 BANI postage due hand stamps applied in Bucharest, add up to and confirm the above 260 bani sum.

Related articles by the writer were published in *The London Philatelist* of September-October 1978, May 2007 and May 2009. The first of these depicts the hitherto communicated highest handstamped charge, 2 x 85 bani = 170 bani. A second example has since been recorded.

An extract from the introduction to the Canadian Longley Auction's September 2010 sale catalogue could be of interest. The item presented above, acquired at the auction, was in the A.G.G. de Chastelain collection, largely formed in the 1930s when he was in Bucharest, active in the local petroleum industry. During the war he served in the North African campaigns, as well as conducting sabotage actions in the Balkans, being member of the Special Operations Executive. Parachuted into Romania in December 1943, he was taken prisoner on landing, being released following the August 1944 *coup d'état*. Lt. Colonel de Chastelain DSO OBE died in 1974, aged 68.

References

1. The Universal Postal Union Articles effective from 1 April 1879.
2. *Manuel de Conversation pour le voyageur*, Karl Baedeker, Leipzig, May 1880 and April 1884.
3. Detailed Regulations for the execution of the General Postal Union's Articles effective from 1 July 1875.



Accounts of Meetings: Season 2010-11

Thursday 10 February at 1 pm

60th Anniversary Display by Members of the Society of Postal Historians

It is now 60 years since the Society of Postal Historians held its first meeting in the appropriate location of the Postmaster General's dining room in the King Edward VII Building on 10 January 1951. With Robson Lowe as the first Chairman, conviviality combined with erudition has been the keynote of the society whose membership is limited both in number and by invitation. At the first meeting every single member spoke and indeed it has become an expectation that all members do actively participate in the activities of the society. The result has been to create a very eminent and active society and it is little surprise that the display to the Royal set a new record



From left: Mike J. Roberts (SPH Chairman),
Alan Moorcroft (RPSL President & SPH Member)
and Richard Stock (SPH President)

for attendance with 152 Fellows and Members and 32 visitors, a total of 184.

Such was the demand to participate in the event that the 40 members who could be accommodated were limited in most cases to a single frame but this brought with it the ability to demonstrate the range and quality of the material in their possession. It also makes it well nigh impossible to convey adequately and in the space available exactly who showed what but all can be revealed by consulting the expertly designed colour brochure.

The SPH's early minutes reveal a long discussion as to whether displays should be preceded or followed by dinner and so the reception which followed the display was especially appreciated, as was the Royal certificate presented to each of the contributors by the President. Everyone who attended the meeting was invited to enjoy a glass of wine in the large library.

The SPH had arranged a traditional dinner at a neighbouring restaurant, thus satisfying both of the principal requirements of SPH membership – companionship allied to postal history.



A packed viewing room - perhaps not surprising as a record 184 people attended the meeting!

The displays on show were:

Philip Beale	The Recusants
Brian Brookes	Letters of Lord Nelson
Graham Booth	Cayman Islands 1889-1908
Pat Campbell	Printed Matter and Book Rate
John Dickson	Letters from Cape of Good Hope
Tony Eastgate	The early postal history of Tahiti
Colin Faers	German South-West Africa
Gavin Fryer	GB Pattern and Sample Post
Bob Galland	GB returned letter wrappers
Nigel Gooch	Persian reg. labels used as stamps
David Gurney	Southampton Forwarding Agents
Eric Keefe	Finnish pre-stamp mail
Peter Kelly	Use of the French Type Sage issue



The members of the SPH who displayed at No. 41.

David Kindley	Afghanistan 1973-2005
Ashley Lawrence	Paris Pigeon Post in 1870-71
Philip Lindley	Windsor Great Park
Michael Lockton	Penny Pinks – Commercial Usage
Philip Longbottom	Stuiver postmarks 1667-1811
Geoff Lovejoy	Finland – Åland Islands
Gerald Marriner	Spanish Andorra
Susan McEwen	Johore 1890-1898
Margaret Morris	Observatory Mail
Susan Oliver	Færöe Islands
Geoff Oxley	GB to Germany
Robin Pizer	German Exchange Control 1918-25
John Powell	Imperial Airways to Gold Coast 1936-39
Patrick Reid	Tasmania CTMS/T Tax marks
Mike J. Roberts	Gambia: The Travelling Post Office
Mike J.Y. Roberts	Falklands Islands
Claire Scott	Brunei survey flights 1930-31
John Scott	The Life & Times of the Wafer Seal
Derek Seaton	Triangular trade: Antigua & Barbuda
Hans Smith	Austrian ship mail in the Adriatic
Tony Stanford	Ireland's 1922 Transition
David Trapnell	Italian forces in Libya 1911-12
Denis Vandervelde	Disinfection of mail against plague
Frank Walton	Early mail from UK to Sierra Leone
Richard Wheatley	The first postage due label
Alan Wood	Postal Reform
John Yeomans	French Equatorial Africa.

Claire Scott FRPSL

**Thursday 24 February 2011 at 5 pm
David Tett FRPSL: War Prisoners' Mail in East Asia;
Second World War**

The President welcomed 105 Fellows and Members and 17 guests to the meeting. Nine Fellows or Members visiting from overseas were recorded: Klaus Schopfer, Austria; Michel Coulanges FRPSL, France; Jaques Renollaud FRPSL, France; Thierry Mario Mentaschi FRPSL, Italy; Thomas Matha FRPSL, Italy; Lorenzo Carra FRPSL, Italy; Morris Taber FRPSL, USA; Richard Debney, USA; Tom Slemons FRPSL, USA.

Prior to the PowerPoint presentation, the members



David Tett FRPSL

were given the opportunity to see a selection of over 250 items from this outstanding collection of POW mail. Divided into four sections, the first eight frames displayed mail from the prisoners in the various territories including Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Borneo, the Dutch East Indies, Philippines, Burma, Thailand and of course Japan; Frame 9 showed undeliverable mail; Frames 10-15 showed some mail to prisoners, and finally Frame 16 contained mail sent or found during the period of repatriation.

Although I found the postal history aspects of the display fascinating, with many examples of very rare cards, censorship and postal markings, it was the tragic stories behind the covers and cards on display that I found myself wondering about.

I should have known that as an avid student, renowned researcher and author of six books on the subject, David would not disappoint, and his riveting presentation entitled "Stories Behind the Mail" had the entire audience enthralled. So detailed was the research that we heard many stories David had personally investigated, either by direct contact or through relatives and friends of the POWs. One extraordinary story behind a card on display was connected with the book *Judy's Story The Dog with Six Lives* by E. Varley - Judy, a British Pointer, travelled the world as a Naval Mascot, was captured and eventually became

an 'Honorary' POW. We also learnt of the amazing achievements of Captain David Nelson who, whilst incarcerated in Changi, Singapore, created a nominal roll eventually containing the location of 100,000 POWs and civilians; this enabled Nelson and his team, known as the Bureau of Records and Enquiry, to re-direct to the widely dispersed prisoners the all important letters and cards received from home. There was reference to the notorious Thai/Burma Railway with philatelic connections tied to the publication *Towards the Setting Sun - Escape from the Thai/Burma Railway* by James Bradley, once again breathing life into the cards and letters to and from the prisoners during this period of Japan's wartime history.



Tom & Sherry Slemons, David & Huguette Tett and Alan & Linda Moorcroft.

In his summing up, David remarked that one of the most satisfying aspects of his research has been to show how items of postal history can provide an opportunity for proving or 'correcting' history. I believe this display goes even further in that David is not only preserving history, but he is honouring the men and women who perished during those terrible years. For me it was a privilege to have attended the afternoon.

The President thanked David for the detailed handout describing the display, which should be available on the Society's website, and invited the Vote of Thanks to be given, appropriately, by Tom Slemons FRPSL, whom David had previously acknowledged as his great friend and mentor.

Finally the members were invited by the President to enjoy, with David and his wife Huguette, the wine and light refreshments available in the Large Library.

Christine A. Earle FRPSL



The full meeting room for David Tett's presentation.

Thursday 10 March 2011 at 1pm

Iain Dyce FRPSL and John Jackson FRPSL: Mail from the Eastern Seas – The British and Dutch in South East Asia

A splendid attendance of 95 Fellows and Members together with 13 guests gathered at No. 41 for this meeting. Particularly welcomed was Mark Boyce



From left: Iain Dyce FRPSL, John Jackson FRPSL and Vice President Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL

from Canada who was attending his first meeting. Also from abroad were Bob Odenweller from USA, Thomas Bjaringer from France and Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky from Germany.

Iain Dyce dealt with the British in South East Asia commencing with some extraordinary items from the Indian Administration of Penang and Singapore. Although P&O established an efficient route to India and China, mail to other more obscure destinations had to use local forwarding agents and a good range of these was on display, followed by a frame showing the hand stamps of the marine sorters employed on the routes around the Far East. There was a very interesting section on the development of the mail services in Malaya during the period up to the second war and the final part of the display comprised wartime mail in Malaya including a comprehensive selection of British and Indian army mail. Also civilian mail and airmail letters from the same period.

In the other half of the display, John Jackson displayed the story of the Dutch in South East Asia. After intense rivalry with the Spanish and the British the Dutch eventually gained control of the area in 1824. The Dutch had no formal regular postal service of their own until the 1870s. Until then the British P&O service was used to Singapore with the Dutch taking the mail on from there. An example of an 1846 Duiten Landmail Label was shown and examples of the Postagents in Penang and Singapore.

The next few frames told the story of the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland and the Rotterdamsche Lloyd shipping companies which provided a Dutch-owned service to the Dutch East Indies followed by examples of the KPM, the internal Dutch owned shipping company in the area. A natural progression in the next two frames was the development of airmails and railway travelling post offices. And finally the last few frames dealt with the period of the Second World War, both the airmails and also a comprehensive display of internee and prisoner of war mail.

Any display by Iain and John was always going to be of the highest quality and it was clear from the reaction of the audience that this had been achieved.

In the absence of the President, who was unfortunately unable to be present, the society plaquettes were presented by the Vice-president Brian Trotter, who invited those present to continue to enjoy the display and to then adjourn to small library for wine and nibbles.

Michael Fulford FRPSL

Tuesday 15 March 2011

Wessex Regional Meeting at Bournemouth

Our meeting was held at the Hallmark Hotel, attended by nearly 40 Fellows, Members and guests. There was a full programme of displays, and we enjoyed being entertained by the speakers and having the opportunity to see such a variety of fascinating material. The sessions were chaired by Miller McGrath FRPSL and Pat Campbell FRPSL, and the hotel provided an excellent lunch. The following displays were shown:

David Ball	Malta WWII
John Berridge	<i>Hindenburg</i> at 1936 Olympics
Michael Berry	Paris Balloon Posts
John Campbell	Mecklenburg-Schwerin
Pat Campbell FRPSL	GB Hostler Machine Cancellations
Geoff Eibl-Kaye FRPSL	Colour Printing
Gavin Fryer FRPSL	British Censorship in WWII
Norman Higson	Cheltenham P.P.
Ivan Holliday	One Girl's War
John Horsey	Queen Victoria £5 Orange
Julian Jones	1848 Anglo-American Treaty
Francis Kiddle FRPSL	Germany Ukraine displaced persons
Ashley Lawrence FRPSL	Siege of Paris
John Lea FRPSL	Israel, the interim period 1948
Keith Lloyd FRPSL	Chinese Zhuang postmarks
Jeremy Martin FRPSL	Trans-Atlantic Flights
Colin Mount FRPSL	The Ringwood Post
Bill Pipe	New Dorset, and Railway items
Robin Pizer FRPSL	Czech Postage Dues 1919-39
James Podger FRPSL	Ascension in the 1990s
Chris Podger FRPSL	Cyprus Postal Stationery
John Richards	Penny Posts of the Isle of Wight
Peter Richards	West Africa WWII stationery
Wilfred Vevers	South Georgia
Andrew Watson FRPSL	Military Mail from Finland at War
Alan Wood FRPSL	French Prison Mail of 1848
Bryan Wood FRPSL	Peru Early Cancellations

The meeting was organised by Ashley Lawrence. The next Wessex regional meeting will be held at the same venue on Tuesday 11 October 2011.

Ashley Lawrence FRPSL

Membership News

Announcement of New Members as Approved by Council

The following new members, whose membership applications have been duly announced in *The London Philatelist* in accordance with the articles of association of the Society, have been approved by Council. We wish them a long and enjoyable membership.

Name	County/Country	Name	County/Country
David Ball	South Carolina, USA	Russell Boylan	Perth, Australia
Michael Deverell	South Africa	Jin-Song Ding	China
John Du Plooy	South Africa	Louis Fanchini	France
Les Glassman	Israel	Raymond Goebel	Luxembourg
David Gottesmann	Essex	István Glatz	Hungary
Brian Gruzd	South Africa	Donald Gordon	London
Gavin Hardy	Tyne & Wear	Søren Jensen	Denmark
Ketan Kadakia	Buckinghamshire	Lubor Kunc	Czech Republic
John Laurie	New Hampshire, USA	Valentin Levandovskiy	Russia
Paul Mathieu	London	Vernon Mitchell	South Africa
Juraj Pálka	Slovakia	Ray Rabbatts	Hertfordshire
Christopher Rainey	Wiltshire	Graham Searle	Aberdeenshire
Meempat Shankar	Botswana	Mark Thomas	London
Jean Voruz	Switzerland	Anthony Wicks	Leicestershire
Yue Zhao	China.		

Announcement of Membership Applications

The following applications have been received for membership of The Royal Philatelic Society London. All have been duly proposed and seconded as shown. If a member wishes to express an opinion on any of these applications, they should be communicated to the Honorary Secretary at No. 41 in writing or by email to secretary@rpsl.org.uk by the end of the month of the cover date of this *LP*. The application will thereafter be presented to Council for approval.

Name	County/Country	Proposer	Seconder
Georgios Chrysostomou	Cyprus	Akis Kristou	James Bendon
Michael Courtis	E. Fremantle, Australia	Raymond Todd	John Dibiase
Laurence Gibson	Connecticut, USA	Peter Lister	Derrick Pillage
Eric Glohr	Michigan, USA	Robert Odenweller	Nicholas Lombardi
Jean-Christophe Jacquot	France	Michèle Chauvet	Alain Millet
Argyrios Karamitsos	Greece	Christopher King	Brian Trotter
Erik Lunde	Norway	Frank Gilberg	Alan Moorcroft
Susan McEwen	Hertfordshire	John Jackson	Brian Trotter
John Pullicino	London	Alfred Bonnici	Christine A. Earle
Rohit Prasad	India	Maurice Flack	E. William Hedley
Kwok Pui Mak	Hong Kong	Brian Trotter	Christopher King
Arkady Sarkisyan	Russia	Brian Trotter	Christopher King
John Tims	France	Trevor Harris	Ian Harvey
Fumio Yamazaki	Japan	Brian Trotter	Christopher King.

Deaths

Rolf Straus FRPSL of London on 30 January 2011

Rene Van Rompay FRPSL of Belgium in January 2011

Malcolm Hodgson FRPSL of London on 19 February 2011.

Indipex 2011

Chris King FRPSL, UK Commissioner

Indipex took place from 12-18 February in New Delhi. The depth and range of the exhibits was superb and both the opening ceremony, attended by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, and the India Post launch party at the Imperial Hotel for the set of stamps celebrating six legendary actresses of Indian cinema, were splendidly organised. India lived up to its reputation, promoted by its Ministry of Tourism, as being truly incredible.

Listed below are the fellows and members of the Royal who were awarded a Large Gold or Gold Medal; should there be any omissions, we would be delighted to include them in a subsequent edition.

Name	Country	Title of Exhibit	Awards
Luis Alemany	Spain	Spain : Incoming mail to the UPU	LG SP GPI
Wolfgang Bauer	Germany	Large Hermes Heads of Greece 1861-1867	LG
Paulo Comelli	Paraguay	Brazilian Mail to Foreign Destinations	LG SP GPI
Lennart Daun	Sweden	Swedish Postal Stationery 1872-1897	LG
Hugh Feldman	UK	Mails Carried by water within the USA 1813 to 1875	LG SP
Alfredo Frohlich	Colombia	United States of Colombia	LG
Robin Gwynn	New Zealand	Maritime Disaster Mail	LG SP
Geza Homonay	Hungary	Postal History of The 1867 Issue Hungary	LG
Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky	Germany	Afghanistan First issues 1870-1878	LG SP
Kurt Kimmel	UK	Postal Stationery of Ceylon	LG SP
Chris King	UK	Denmark, Slesvig and Holstein	LG
George Kramer	USA	Vignettes of Western Trails and Routes 1849-1870s	LG GPHc
Jan-Olof Ljungh	Sweden	German Eagles 1872-1875	LG SP
David Lu	China	Chinese Airmails & Forerunners	LG SP GPIc
Ake Rietz	Sweden	Great Britain 1840-1870	LG
Stephen Schumann	USA	New Zealand Postal Stationery 1876-1940	LG
Bjorn Sohrne	Sweden	India's and Persia's Postal Relations across two centuries	LG
Bjorn Sohrne	Sweden	Persia Postal History across two centuries	LG FEL
Douglas Storckenfeldt	Sweden	Iceland until 1901	LG SP
Raymond Todd	Australia	Indian Air Mails 1911-1934	LG SP
Jussi Tuori	Finland	The Rouletted Revenue Stamps of Finland	LG SP
Jan Berg	Sweden	The Indian Feudatory State of Rajpipla 1875-1886	G FEL
Marlo Carloni & Vanna Cercena, Italy		<i>Postal History of the Dodecanese</i>	G
Alvaro Castro-Harrigan	Costa Rica	Costa Rica: The Railway Mail 1873-1943	G
Akis Christou	Cyprus	Cyprus: The Queen Victoria Issues 1880-1896	G
John Dahl	UK	1862 to 1864- The First Revenue Stamp Issue of Portugal	G
Hugh Feldman	UK	<i>US Contract Mail Routes by Water (Star Routes 1824-1875)</i>	G SP
Patrick Flanagan	South Africa	Rhodesia Postal History to 1905	G
Frank Gilberg	Norway	Fredersdorf (Bei Berlin)	G
Arthur W. Gray	Australia	George V Issues of Australia : 1927-1936	G SP
Sandeep Jaiswal	USA	India : Dhar Philately	G SP
Sandeep Jaiswal	USA	India : Jammu & Kashmir Telegraph	G
Francis Kiddle	UK	Tasmanian Revenues	G
Willy Lauth	Denmark	Postal Stationery of The Danish West Indies 1877-1917	G
Wolfgang Maassen	Germany	<i>From the First Albums and Catalogues to Publishing Houses...</i>	G
Ian McMahon	Australia	Envelopes and Postcards of Canada	G
Reuben Ramkisson	USA	WWI Trinidad Red Cross Label	G
Roger Schnell	USA	The Roulette Issues of Chile, 1877-1900	G
Peter Suess	Germany	The Postal Stationery of the Mexican Express Companies	G
Vit Vanicek	Czech Rep	Postal History of Austrian Navy 1814-1914	G
Arthur Woo	UK	Guatemala: The 1879 and 1881 small Quetzal Issues	G

LG = Large Gold; G = Gold; SP = Special Prize; FEL = Felicitations; GPI = Grand Prix International; GPH = Grand Prix d'Honneur; c = candidate

The London Philatelist Archival Edition

With critical updates to support changes made in Windows and Acrobat

Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye FRPSL

THE FIFTH UPDATE TO *THE LONDON PHILATELIST ARCHIVAL EDITION* is now available. This update contains all the issues of *The London Philatelist* published since the first edition of the *Archival Edition* in 2006. At the same time there will be a new release of the complete *London Philatelist Archival Edition* from 1892 to 2010. A member who has not previously taken all or any updates will be able to install missing issues automatically from the update DVD.

If you have not updated your original edition of the *LP Archival Edition* you are strongly recommended to do so. The update not only adds the previous year's *LP* but also includes corrections to the database and corrections to installed copies, plus enhancements to the search program.

This year it has been necessary to make changes to the programs to take account of security features added by Microsoft to *Windows* and changes made by Adobe to *Acrobat Reader X*. **These changes are critical to the proper future operation of the LP Archive search program.** These updates take place automatically and are available only by buying the update DVD.

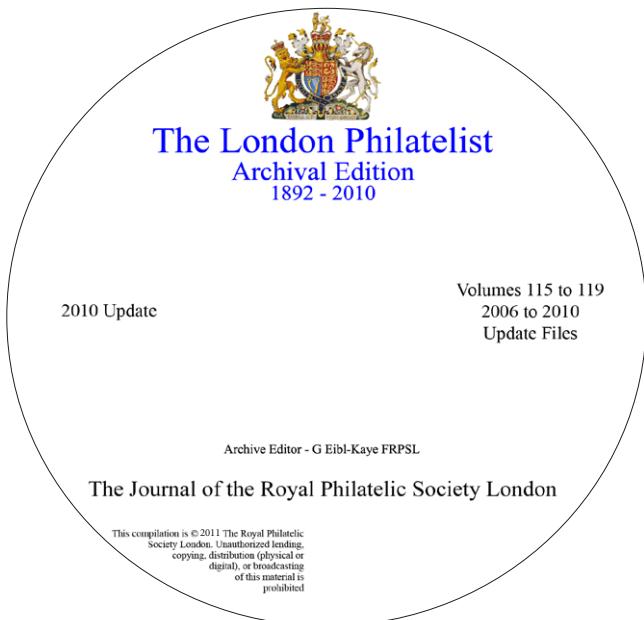
It is unwise to think that you do not need an update if you have the paper copy for the previous year. You cannot search the paper copy with any ease. An important advantage, which is usually overlooked, to having an up-to-date copy is that when a search is made corrections to, and any related discussion of, a published article will be found at the same time.

The prices are:

Full <i>LP Archival Edition</i> up to and including 2010	£90
Update for all years from 2006	£10

These prices include all shipping costs and taxes. No reduction will be made for VAT for customers outside the EU. This will help to cover the extra shipping costs to these countries. Orders should be placed via the Society's office at No. 41, who will take payments on credit cards if requested.

If you do not have a DVD reader, an external one, connectable to a USB port, can be obtained at a modest price from most PC suppliers.



Forthcoming Meetings at No. 41

14 Apr 2011 at 1 pm Display by French Fellows and Members of the RPSL

This full afternoon display is by 24 Fellows and Members from France, who show material of international interest but with (mostly) a French connection: there are unique items - come!

Cette présentation par 24 membres de notre Société résidant en France montre des bijoux philatéliques du monde mais avec des connections françaises - venez nombreux!

28 Apr 2011 at 5 pm Gary Brown: Aden Postal History to World War I

Aden postal history commences with the British landings in 1837 and the display commences with the first three known entires from Aden, proceeding through the pre-stamp period to 1854 with the first Indian stamp usage and the 124 cancel. The display goes through the routes, rates and markings of Aden until 1906.

12 May 2011 at 1 pm Christine A. Earle: The Post Office Went to War

Michael Fulford: The Postal History of the Ottoman Port of Smyrna

Christine's 26 frame display, drawn from an extensive collection of philatelic material and ephemera, is divided into four parts:

- Part 1: Depicts the vital role the General Post Office played during World War II.
- Part 2: 'WWII Diary' - an extended International Gold medal Thematic exhibit following the trials and tribulations of the Home Front.
- Part 3: 'They Also Served' - a Social Philately exhibit honouring the role women played during the War.
- Part 4: The display ends with 'RETURN TO SENDER' - despite the often heroic efforts of the GPO, occasionally the mail just couldn't get through.

The second display traces the postal history of Smyrna from the 17th century, when letters were sent in the care of ships' captains, through the development of the Turkish post office in the 19th century, First World War censorship and finally the post-war period until 1923 when Turkey became a republic and Smyrna was renamed Izmir. There are also sections tracing the history of each of the eight foreign post offices that for various reasons and various periods were opened in Smyrna, plus the military post offices that were situated there after the war.

26 May 2011 at 5 pm The President, Alan Moorcroft: Over the Hills and Far Away 1793-1815

This display sets out to tell the story of the British involvement in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. The course of British military and naval action is detailed and illustrated through the contents of letters and documents revealing individual soldier's and sailor's experiences in those conflicts. Whilst some interesting and important philatelic items are included the reason for selecting almost every item is for its contents. The title comes from the words used in the George Farquhar play *The Recruiting Officer*.

9 Jun 2011 at 1 pm Display by Signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

The Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists met for the 100th occasion on 10 March 2011, and in celebration of this, more than 20 of the signatories will display pages from their collections.

With items from Afghanistan to War time airmails, literature relating to exhibitions, and philatelic medals, it should be a fine and varied display. Most of those displaying will be present, so it will also be an opportunity to seek expert advice; but the real treat promises to be the material, as is usual at our one o'clock events.

23 Jun 2011 at 5 pm Annual General Meeting

The AGM in 2011 will be held on Thursday 23 June. Unfortunately the date was incorrectly printed in the programme card as 24 June.

Library News

Argyll Etkin Again

Our thanks again to Messrs Argyll Etkin for about 15 months' supply of the periodicals they received. As before, these have greatly improved our own holdings of current titles.

London Philatelist Supplements

Mention was made before that we have been reducing our stock of *The London Philatelist*. This includes our back numbers of the occasional supplements. These did not form part of the regular issues, although in the same style and size. Limited numbers of the following are available at £2 each and may be obtained from the Hon. Librarian or by visitors to 41 Devonshire Place:

- 1999 *Our National Philatelist Sir Edward Denny Bacon KCVO (1860-1938)*. A short biographical sketch by Ron Negus.
- 2000 *The Design and Engraving of Perkins Bacon Stamps based on the Chalon Portrait* by John Dickson.
- 2001 'The Man for the Post' Henry Fawcett and Postal Reform by Iain Stevenson.
- 2002 *The Earl of Crawford K.T. A Short Biographical Sketch* by Ron Negus.
- 2003 *The Silver Yardstick 1840-1871 Currencies applied to postal rates in the Nineteenth Century* by Gavin Fryer and John Whiteside.
- 2007 *The Life and Work of Charles Whiting and the Beaufort House Press A Treasury Competition Winner* by Michael Salmon.
- 2009 *The Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Surcharged Provisional and Bisected Stamps* by John Sacher.

Ian D. Crane FRPSL
Hon Librarian

Catalogues Received

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue Eastern Pacific by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2011 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., ISBN 9780852598016, soft bound, xxxi+144p, colour ill, 24cm, price £16.95, 10% discount for ten or more copies, + p&p, available from the publisher, Unit 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH, email: orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk. ID No 15336.

The 2nd edition of this now includes Pitcairn Islands for the first time, with a priced listing of the 'No stamps available' cachets, and New Zealand 'used Abroad' in Pitcairn. Much detail is provided

as before for Samoa Express stamps, and German stamps used at Apia. Updated with regard to issues and prices, collectors will find this a helpful addition to their library.

LAPE 2011 Suomi - Finland 1856-2010 stamp catalogue, Åland 1984-2010 published 2011 by Suomen Filateliapalvelu Oy, No ISBN, soft bound, 360p, colour ill, 21cm, price €14.90 available from the publisher, Satakunnantie 31, PL 5, 20251 Turku, Finland, website: www.stamps.fi and www.filateliapalvelu.com. ID No 15338.

Bilingual in Finnish and English, this catalogue not only covers the Stamps of Finland, but also those of Åland and Estonia. It also includes items such as Maximum Cards and Christmas Seals. This edition includes a new annual feature; the biography of one of the great Finnish collectors and his/her collection, beginning with the late Hetkki Pahlman and his pre-stamp covers, the earliest of which was dated 1566: this (the biography) is an idea that other publishers might wish to copy.

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Part 9, Portugal & Spain (also covering Portuguese and Spanish Colonies) by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2011 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., ISBN 9780852597989, soft bound, xxiii+484p, colour ill, 24cm, price £39.95, 10% discount for 10 or more copies, + p&p, available from the publisher, Unit 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH, email: orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk. ID No 15337.

Part 9 is the 6th edition of this catalogue, with a new easy-to-use format, and has been updated for issues, prices, machine label listings and the design index. A careful comparison with the 4th edition will show that a number of 'areas of interest' have been added to the listing of colonies, including such places as Agra, Ponta Delgado, and Timor (U.N. Transitional Administration). It will prove to be most useful.

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue North America including United States of America, Canada, Bermuda, Canal Zone, St. Pierre et Miquelon and United Nations (New York) by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2011 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., ISBN 9780852597835, soft bound, xxxvi+564p inc index, colour ill, 24cm, price £49.95 + p&p, 10% discount for 10+ copies, available from the publisher, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 3SH, email: orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk, website: www.stanleygibbons.com, or from Vera Trinder Ltd. ID No 15279.

This is an 'umbrella' title, for this new catalogue covers all the areas of North America – Bermuda, Canada and Colonies, St Pierre et Miquelon, the USA (including the United Nations, New York HQ, Confederate States, the Canal Zone, Cuba under Military rule, 1999-1902, the American Occupation of Puerto Rico (during the Spanish-American War), and Hawaii). Gathering countries together graphically should have many advantages, especially for those collecting external mail, and it should prove very popular. Specialist dealers have helped with price revisions; design indices have been updated and expanded, and there are specialist articles on the 1953-62 issue of Bermuda, and the Fourth Bureau Definitives of the USA.

Books Received and Reviewed

Gli aerogrammi del Giro Aereo Internazionale di Sicilia 1950-2009, Rassegna storica delle 60 edizioni della manifestazione e del relativo servizio postale; International Air Giro Aerograms of Sicily, historical review of the 60 editions....and the relative postal service by Nino Aquila, published 2010 by Unione Filatelica Siciliana, No ISBN, soft bound, 256p, 2p index, colour ill, 28cm, price and availability from Nino Aquila, Viale della Libertà 66, I-90143 Palermo, Sicily. ID No 15192. Reviewed by Luca Lavagnino.

In 2009 the 60th edition of the International Air Tour of Sicily took place. This yearly event was born just after the Second World War, in 1950, and only in 1993 was it not run. The two authors, well recognized experts and collectors of the aerograms of this event, have ably chronicled each tour, both from a sporting and, of course, a philatelic point of view. The account of the competition goes with the aerograms, the postcards, the erinnophils, the postmarks, the cachets prepared for the occasion. The result is pleasing; the reader is involved in tracing this sixty-year-old race, and one sometimes gets a taste of deeds belonging to a past epoch. Aerophilatelists will be able to find new ideas for a collection of modern aerophilately, which maybe is not so well studied and appreciated as that of the pioneering and pre-1945 years. The book is completely colour illustrated, and is printed on good quality paper. It is recommended to aerophilatelists keen to expand their collections, and to whoever wishes to increase their knowledge of this event.

Study Paper No. 3, British Guiana Coded Postmarks by Michael Rego, published 2010 by The British West Indies Study Circle, ISBN 9781907481055, soft bound, 65p, colour ill, 25cm, price £15 + p&p, £2 discount for BWISC members, available from David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. Yorks. HG5 8AZ, email:

Pennymead@aol.com. ID No 15183. Reviewed by Charles Freeland FRPSL.

Coded postmarks are fascinating, as anyone who had delved into Heims is aware. In nearly every case PO records or proving covers have clarified their identities. British Guiana was one of the few countries where challenges remained. Shortly after Heims' third edition of 1967, Townsend and Howe's masterpiece appeared, but while this allocated many of the codes, subsequent research established that Townsend and Howe were mistaken in a few cases. The most recent attempts to resolve remaining problems have been Ted Proud's book on *The Postal History of British Guiana* (2000), and some lively exchanges in the *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin*.

Michael Rego's new study is of great depth, describing the history behind the early posts, and allocating the codes to specific locations. It provides a lavishly illustrated record of what exists, showing 41 of the first series and over 350 of the second. He also distinguishes between the sans-serif and serif types of the second series.

The sheer number of towns, villages, and settlements in mid-19th century British Guiana is striking, as is the range of locations for Post Offices. On reading that some of the coded handstamps were transferred from one post office to another, one understands why Proud's book lists some 65 different usages, plus a new East Coast mark that was discovered only last year. The task is simplified by numbering the coastal offices sequentially, but the allocation of codes changes over time, and a single post office may have two or three different codes during its life. Each of these is listed with its date ranges.

A fine work that resolves nearly all the unanswered questions, it is recommended for anyone interested in the philately of British Guiana.

Le contrôle postal et télégraphique Français pendant la première guerre mondiale, 1914-1921; French post and telegraph censorship during the First World War, 1914-1921 by Jérôme Bourguignat, published 2010 by Académie de Philatélie, ISBN 9782952811545, soft bound, 490p inc 6p table of contents, plus priced booklet ID 15284, colour ill, 30cm, price for book and pamphlet €55 + p&p €9.

Fascicule de cotations des marques de contrôle de la première guerre mondiale; Price list for first world war censorship marks by Bernard Sinais, published 2010 by Académie de Philatélie, No ISBN, 12p, 21cm, provided as a supplement to book ID 15283, price for book ID 15283 and pamphlet €55 + p&p €9. ID No 15284.

Both available from the publisher, c/o Robert Absensur, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson,

France, email: brigitte.abensur@wanadoo.fr. ID No 15283. Both reviewed by Robert Johnson FRPSL.

This book constitutes a major reference for French censorship in WWI and afterwards. It starts with an historical context, deals with definitions and sets out clearly how the book is organised. The effect of war on postal services, the start of censorship of correspondence in the war areas of France and the status of POW and internees and foreign mails are set out. The book deals thoroughly with internal censorship and reproduces the official documents which dealt with the censorship. Likewise for the area controlled by the French Army, censorship regulations and breaches of regulations, restrictions on postcards, postage stamps, diplomatic mail and mail with valuables. The section on controlling correspondence with the German occupied areas is particularly interesting. Telegraph services are given the same analysis again with official documentation included [which is a notable trait in good reference works being produced by French authors currently]. The book deals with censorship after the November 1918 Armistice and then goes into detail on the censor slips and markings used with detailed explanations and listings. Illustrations are all relevant and abundant.

The sources consulted are set out clearly and the contents pages serve as a guide rather than an index. Readers would no doubt wish to see an index but one would be difficult to construct except at length; the conclusion was that the contents pages and familiarity with the book would be sufficient to extract information quickly. A postal historian with a knowledge of censorship will find no difficulty with the texts and illustrations, but some basic French and a dictionary will be needed to get the best out of the book. The book is highly recommended and is worth inspecting in the Library.

Forgeries of Greek stamps of the 19th Century by Bill Ure, published 2010 by Alexandre Galinos collectio for the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Great Britain, ISBN 978608859715, soft bound, viii+137p, colour ill, 30cm, price €50 + p&p €9 Europe registered, €11 Rest of World, payment by PayPal (in Euro or US\$), bank transfer (Euro) or Bank cheque (Euro, GB£ or US\$), available from the editor/publisher, P.O. Box 3138, 102 10 Athens, Greece, email: info@galinos.eu. ID No 15342. Reviewed by Patrick Pearson RDP Hon. FRPSL.

Bill Ure has written a comprehensive book on the productions of the famous (perhaps notorious) and less famous forgers of Greek stamps. He does not include forged surcharges on genuine stamps, or genuine stamps which have been fraudulently altered to resemble a more valuable issue.

The five sections into which the book is divided

cover the Large Hermes Heads, the Small Hermes Heads, the Postage Due issues, the 1896 Olympic Games issue, and the King George and Parthenon essays. The forgers include such notables as Oneglia, Fournier and Sperati.

The book is excellently illustrated, and the identifying characteristics well explained, making it easy for collectors of Greek stamps to decide if their stamp is genuine or is one of these productions.

Bill has received support from a large number of collectors, including members of the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Great Britain, and such outstanding philatelists as George Cotsis, Wolfgang Bauer and Alexandre Galinos, ensuring that it is as comprehensive as possible, and includes all currently known information about Greek forgeries of the period. Certainly the book should be on the shelves of all collectors of Greek 19th Century stamps.

Postmarks of the Province of Fiume 1924-1943 including precursors by John F. Gilbert, published 2009 by Italy and Colonies Study Circle (Fil-Italia Handbook No. 7), No ISBN, comb bound, 133p, ill, maps, 30cm, price £20 + p&p, available from the publisher, c/o Andy Harris, 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx. UB9 6NG, email andyharris@blueyonder.co.uk. ID No 15281. Reviewed by Robert Johnson FRPSL.

This book is the seventh in a series of handbooks produced by I&CSC. It deals mainly with the postmarks of each post office in Fiume during the period stated. These postmarks are drawn to a professional standard, and are accompanied by appropriate explanatory text. There are picture postcard illustrations of the places from which the postmarks come, and covers and postcards illustrate the use of the postmarks. There are plenty of maps to guide the reader as well as an index of town names.

The book succeeds as a reference book because it includes an historical overview of Fiume including its birth and historical background, with the summary of events leading up to the annexation of Fiume by Italy in 1924. The book includes a study text by Professor F. Gerini on the postal organisation in the 'Redeemed territories taken from the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of WWI' which includes Fiume, and includes a study of the postal markings used in WWII.

In English, clearly printed and an excellent reference for those interested in this area of the Adriatic.

Royalty on stamps, a celebration of the British Royal Family through stamps 1952-2011 by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2011 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., ISBN 9780852597996, soft bound, 88p, colour ill, 30cm, price £8.95 + p&p, 10% discount for 10+ copies, available from the publisher, 7 Parkside,

Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 3SH, email: orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk, website: www.stanleygibbons.com, or from Vera Trinder Ltd. ID No 15280.

This book has been brought out to mark the engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton, and in preparation for their wedding. There are over 80 pages of illustrations of stamps showing members of the Royal Family, and 22 articles, each one taking a different theme, ranging from Royal events and celebrations to stamp design and designers. This account will not only assist thematic collectors, but will also be a splendid tribute to our Patron.

El Scoutismo en la Filatelia Argentina, Scout, Guías y exploradores de Don Bosco en sellos postales, matasellos y bandeletas; Scouting in Argentinian Philately, Don Bosco Scout, Guides and explorers on postage stamps, postmarks and by Ricardo O. Fernández, published 2011 by Federación Argentina de Entidades Filatélicas, ISBN 9789872651008, soft bound, 144p, ill, 24cm, price and availability from the publisher, Casilla de Correos 3888, C1000WAR Buenos Aires, Argentina. ID No 15275. Reviewed by David Stirrups FRPSL.

This starts with the issued stamps related to scouting including those commemorating Perito Moreno who founded the Scout movement in Argentina. All are fully described including varieties with grey scale illustrations, as is the one booklet. The majority of the book is devoted to fully illustrated and described post marks. Later in the book there is a section on design mistakes, in relation to some of the postmarks. There are short sections on privately over printed postal stationery wrappers and pre-payment marks of scouting publications. There are three short sections on philately in Scouting. Even with no knowledge of Spanish the key information is easily ascertained, a task made easier by the high quality illustrations.

Suffragettes and the Post by Norman Watson, published 2010 by Norman Watson, ISBN 095287624, soft bound, 104p, colour ill, 30cm, price and availability from the author/publisher, Halfway Up, The Brae, Auchterhouse, Angus DD3 0RE. ID No 15104. Reviewed by Margaret Morris FRPSL.

This is a very readable account of a fascinating episode in postal and political history. The author's doctoral thesis on political science with respect to gender representation gives him authority on his subject and he is to be congratulated on having an exhibit of this material displayed in the Women's Library at London Metropolitan University during the Festival of Stamps last year.

The text is generously laid out on A4 pages and

sprinkled with illustrations in full colour. Together with a good listing of references and well indexed, this would be a sound introduction for anyone thinking of finding out more on this subject.

The journalistic style draws one into the excitement of unfolding events and occasionally the dates of events within individual chapters do not quite follow an orderly sequence. It is also noted that, although the whole of Part 3 is devoted to Postcards, there are numerous postcards scattered throughout the other sections. This is perhaps inevitable and is not intended as a serious criticism.

On the other hand, in the very short Part 2 which deals with stamps, poster stamps and labels, it does seem a pity to include a block of 30 of the British stamp issued in 1968 when perhaps illustrations of all the other stamps which are merely described could have been more useful.

These small points do not materially detract from what is an attractive and interesting publication written with passion and involvement

West African Post Offices by Frank L. Walton, published 2011 by West Africa Study Circle, ISBN 9781905647071, 56p, 30cm, price £8 + p&p £2 UK, £3 airmail Europe, £4.50 airmail worldwide, £3 surface mail, payable by Sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank, or by PayPal + £1 administrative fee at wasctreasurer@aol.com, available from the publisher c/o Ian Anderson, 57 Manse Road, Edinburgh EH12 7SR. ID No 15339. Reviewed by Rob May.

For all the territories of British West Africa (including occupied Togo and Cameroons) up to Independence, a search by the author of the previously published literature on postmarks of these countries has found a listing of a total of 3,397 post offices which he has now published in alphabetical order by country in this one place. Then he has created a second list of them in alphabetical order of their last letter - a right-justified listing - so that the collector can more readily identify partial strikes on stamp or cover that show only the latter part of the place name. The book does not provide anything more about the postmarks, such as dates of use, as it is intended to be used in conjunction with the comprehensive list of postal history references.

This is a fine effort that has been rigorously proof-read by Philip Quirk. However, this reviewer cannot help thinking that this could be a last gasp of paper publication of such works. A computer has the flexibility to enable an editor to keep lists up to date and the power to identify postmarks from any combination of letters - start, middle or end. A listing of Nigeria pre-independence postmarks by Graham Murray, with an on-line search tool, has recently been placed on the WASC website (www.wasc.org.uk).

Tapestry, the Story of a Victorian Businessman [Thomas Tapling (born Topling), the father of Thomas Keay Tapling, philatelist] by Anne Astling, published 2010 by Tucann Books, ISBN 9781907516092, soft bound, 72p, ill, portraits, 21cm, price £5 + p&p, £1.30 UK, £2 surface mail overseas, £3.50 airmail, available from the author, 18 Worcester Close, Scunthorpe, DN16 3TL, email: tupling@one-name.org. ID No 15191. Reviewed by Brian Birch FRPSL.

Thomas K. Tapling (1855-1891) is best known for the very large collection of stamps he bequeathed to the nation and which now resides at the British Library. The wealth which allowed him to build what was said in his day to have been the second greatest collection in the world (the first being that of the legendary Ferrary) derived from the carpet business inherited from his father.

This book provides a concise and eminently readable biography of Tapling's father – also named Thomas – with particular emphasis on his single-minded creation of this important business, after arriving in London with only 7s 6d (£0.37½) to his name. His business problems with his brothers and his family tragedies, in which his wife and three of his five children died before him, are sympathetically dealt with. However, for the philatelist, the greatest interest lies in the early life and photographs of Thomas Junior up to his education at Cambridge University. Of particular interest is the advice sent to Thomas by his father about controlling his finances whilst at Cambridge and telling him not to buy any more stamps for at least a year.

Three monographs from the Czechoslovak PS:

Postmarks of the SO 1920 Plebiscite by Oldrich Tovacovsky, published 2010 by The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, ISBN 9780955368202, v+66p, colour ill, 30cm, price and availability from the publisher, c/o Rex Dixon, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH, email: rex Dixon@btinternet.com, website: www.cpsgb.org.uk. ID No 14992. Reviewed by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL.

This is Monograph 22 in the series published by the Society. The monograph provides the English-speaking reader with access to four articles on the various aspects of the postmarks used by Czechoslovakia in 1920 in the plebiscite area of East Silesia together with the smaller areas of Oravia and Spis. The plebiscite postmarks are dealt with in

depth. The railway TPO postmarks and the Tesin area complete the work. The articles were originally published in a serial form in Czech by the journal Merkur Revue and the purpose of this monograph is to bring the articles together in one volume and make them available to the English speaker.

The 1923 Agriculture and Science Issue (Hospodářství a veda), an introduction to a most intriguing issue by Mark Wilson, published 2010 by The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, ISBN 9780955368219, soft bound, 4+29p, ill, 30cm, price and availability from the publisher, c/o Rex Dixon, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH, email: rex Dixon@btinternet.com, website: www.cpsgb.org.uk. ID No 14991. Reviewed by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL.

This is Monograph 23 in the series published by the Society. The author describes his work as 'An introduction to a most intriguing issue' which is a fitting description. The Monograph deals with the three types, including detailed consideration of why there were three types. The subtypes of the three values are described in their own sections. The issue's many retouches and plate flaws are omitted. The subject is extremely well researched and is the first time that the information has been available in English.

Travelling post offices in German-occupied Sudetenland, an anthology by Dr Anthony M. Goodbody, published 2010 by Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, ISBN 9780955368226, vi+30p, ill, maps, 30cm, price and availability from the publisher, c/o Rex Dixon, Publications Officer, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH, website: www.cpsgb.org.uk, email: rex Dixon@btinternet.com. ID No 15174. Reviewed by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL.

This is Monograph 24 in the series published by the Society. It is based on an article 'Travelling Post Offices in the Sudetenland' by the late Cyril Kidd with illustrations from Tony Goodbody who kindly updated the information and illustrations. To be included in the work one or both terminals had to be in Sudetenland plus a small number of international routes that crossed Sudetenland. There are two useful appendices listing the Sudetenland Travelling Post Offices and TPO terminals with their Czech or Polish equivalents. Although the monograph brings together information which is available elsewhere, it is useful to have it in one volume, and it will be of interest to collectors of Czechoslovakia and Germany as well as collectors of railway material.



Forthcoming Regional Meetings of the RPSL

2 Apr 2011	North Midlands at Waltham	Mike Siversn	0115 933 3697	michaelsiversn@btinternet.com
10 Apr 2011	South West at Tiverton	Derek Seaton	01884 252 018	seaton@collip.co.uk
7 May 2011	North at ABPS Exhibition in Sheffield	Graham Winters	01924 259713	j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk
14 May 2011	Scotland at Perth	Stewart Gardiner	0141 334 0514	stewart.gardiner@ntlworld.com
4 Jun 2011	Thames Valley at Wallingford	Pat Reid	01344 867311	pge.reid@tiscali.co.uk
4 Jun 2011	London & Surrey at Woking	John Ray	0208 6533862	john@jray.org.uk
13 Aug 2011	South East at Crowborough	Michael Farrant	01323.832454	m.farrant753@btinternet.com
24 Sep 2011	East at Bacton, Norfolk	Gerry Mobbs	01493 730619	gerrymobbs260@btinternet.com
2 Oct 2011	South West at Tiverton	Derek Seaton	01884 252 018	seaton@collip.co.uk
11 Oct 2011	Wessex at Bournemouth	Ashley Lawrence	01202 766877	ashleylawrence@btinternet.com
5 Nov 2011	Northern Ireland at Mount Stewart	Jon Perrott		jon.perrott@virgin.net
26 Nov 2011	West Midlands at Solihull	Gerald Marriner		am012e5360@blueyonder.co.uk
3 Dec 2011	East at Chelmsford	David Armitage	01279 503625	
20 Mar 2012	Wessex at Bournemouth	Ashley Lawrence	01202 766877	ashleylawrence@btinternet.com
16 Oct 2012	Wessex at Bournemouth	Ashley Lawrence	01202 766877	ashleylawrence@btinternet.com

Forthcoming Philatelic Events

1-2 Apr 2011	Nordia 2011 Jyväskylä, Finland
6 Apr 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
9 Apr 2011	East Midlands and East Anglian Federation, Wisbech
6-7 May 2011	ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition, Sheffield S1 2BP
7 May 2011	Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention, Sheffield S1 2BP
11 May 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
21 May 2011	South Wales Convention, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ
4 Jun 2011	Wopex, Woking
8 Jun 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
11 Jun 2011	Swinpex, including Wiltshire Federation Convention, Swindon SN3 3LR
25 Jun 2011	Kent Federation, Folkestone CT19 5FP
2 Jul 2011	Midpex, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington CV31 1XN
6 Jul 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP WC1H 0AP
15-16 Jul 2011	York Stamp Fair, York YO23 1EX
28 Jul-2 Aug 2011	Philanippon '11, Yokohama, Japan. UK Commissioner: Frank Walton
3 Aug 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
7 Sep 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
14-17 Sep 2011	Autumn Stampex, London N1 0QH
24 Sep 2011	Kent Federation, Gravesend DA11 0DJ
8 Oct 2011	Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, Ardingly
12 Oct 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
15 Oct 2011	Association of Essex Philatelic Societies, Thundersley
15 Oct 2011	Hampshire Federation, Wickham PO17 5AL
22 Oct 2011	Cornex, Cornwall Federation, Liskeard PL14 3EV
29 Oct 2011	Surrey Federation, Claygate KT10 0JP
3-5 Nov 2011	Philatex, London
16 Nov 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
18-19 Nov 2011	Leeds PS's Annual Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds LS28 5TA
7 Dec 2011	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0AP
16-17 Nov 2012	Leeds PS's Annual Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds LS28 5TA

The editor would be delighted to hear of forthcoming dates for this section to help advertise major philatelic events. To be included, an event should be an International Exhibition, a National Exhibition in either the UK or Europe, a UK Federation Event, a large fair in London or a multi-day fair elsewhere in the UK.

