**The Cornish**
**Issue 138**
**September 2025**

**Bulletin of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation**
**Editor: Neil Sargent**
**Email: neil.sargent@btinternet.com**

Welcome to the new issue of The Cornish and the start of the new season. Sadly we lost Edward during the summer as well as another friend of mine - Dr Alan Huggins who was probably the leading expert on postal stationery. Both will be sorely missed as will their knowledge of philately in general. With a general aging of the philatelist population, this unfortunately may continue to happen. My view is that all collectors should make either some arrangement or discuss the future disposal of their collections so those family/friends who have to dispose of it at least have a starting point. The other aspect I wanted to raise is the passing on of your own knowledge and particularly your specialism. It is quite easy to write or draft an article for either The Cornish or other magazine or newsletter. By doing so you are sharing with others information that isn't going to be readily found on the internet!

To more cheerful things, hope you enjoy the contents of this issue and try and get to as many clubs meetings as possible. Auctions seem to continue at pace and I have had a busy time trading at Ringpex, Kempton Park, Midpex and York. Midpex was the first fair for a long time where I can say I was busy right through the day! There are still lots of people interested in our hobby.

**Edward Caesley FRPSL**

**1937 - 2025**

Very sadly I must advise members of the passing of Edward Caesley in early July. I have known him for many years and considered him a close friend and colleague. He had been poorly for some time and passed away at home with his family around him.

He had been a staunch supporter of the Postal Stationery Society having previously been Chairman and was the current Membership Secretary. He enjoyed many aspects of stationery collecting and particularly built a significant collection of registered envelopes. His latest focus was on 'Stamp Dealers' collecting not only envelopes produced by and to dealers but all the ephemera that they produced including price lists, catalogues, invoices, wafer seals etc. He was also in the final stages of producing a book on dealers from the 1840s to the 1950s and had prepared a complete listing of all dealers including their various name changes and changes in location.

Originally a beef farmer, he had been in Cornwall for all his life and had been a member of various Cornish clubs as well as playing an active role in the Cornwall Philatelic Federation. I well remember him turning up for committee meetings at my house holding a home-made lemon drizzle cake!

His enthusiasm and interest in both stamps, stationery and postal history was well-known and he was always keen to get the facts about an item correct and did not hesitate in contacting other collectors as well as Embassies and Post Offices around the world to check information!

A true Cornish gentleman who will be sorely missed by many of his fellow collectors and friends.

Neil Sargent

## Newquay Club

2025

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 September | Don Harris Cup – Letter F Everyone |
| 7 October | West Germany - Courtenay Smale |
| 4 November | Burma and Cochin – Ken Attwood |
| 2 December | Bring and buy sale Christmas social |
| | My recent purchases - Everyone |

2026

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 January | Hungary – Barbara Attwood |
| 3 February | Togo and Congo – Denis Hough |
| 3 March | Marianne – Mike Whyte, Redruth Club |
| 7 April | Nicaragua – Andrew Telfer Brunton |
| 5 May | AGM |
| | Smale Cup – Postal history |
| | Chantry Cup - Anything Goes |
| | Everyone |
| 19 May | End of season lunch (details TBA) |

## Falmouth Club

2025

| | |
|---|---|
| **September 8th** | Members Buy & Sell |
| **October 13th** | Viv Sandercock |
| **November 10th** | David Lethbridge Display |
| **December 8th** | Xmas Quiz & Social |

**2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| **January 12th** | D Hough Togo & Congo |
| **February 9th** | Philatelic Letter 'A' |
| **March 9th** | Dave Richards Trinidad |
| **April 13th** | Neil Sargent Entertains |
| **May 11th** | Patrick Reid 'Tattersalls' |
| **June 8th** | AGM & Competitions |

## Redruth Club

2025

| | |
|---|---|
| 16 September | Something New |
| 21 October | Barbara & Ken Attwood East Europe & India |
| 18 November | 6 Sheet Afternoon |
| 16 December | Members Afternoon |

2026

| | |
|---|---|
| 20 January | Des Kent Bude & The Strattons |
| 17 February | Letter 'A' |
| 17 March | Colin Benford 'U.S.A. |
| 21 April | D Hough Something Unusual |
| 19 May | AGM |

## St Austell Club

2025

| | |
|---|---|
| 24 September | Letters J K L |
| 29 October | CPF AGM |
| 26 November | Barbara Attwood |
| 17 December | Lunch at Britannia Inn |

2026

| | |
|---|---|
| 28 January | Jim fisher |
| 25 February | Ken Attwood |
| 25 March | Brian Whyte |
| 29 April | The Sandercocks |
| 27 May | Chairpersons Evening |
| 24 June | AGM & Competitions |

## Launceston Club

September 4th Trading – Rex Eccott from 6.30pm Members Display from 7.30pm A - C with a small prize for the winner.

October 2nd Trading – John Brown from 6.30pm AGM from 7.30pm followed by The Chairman Entertains

November 6th Auction and Raffle Viewing from 2.30pm followed by Auction at 3.30pm

December 4th Trading – Kevin Webb from 2.30pm Speaker – Viv Sandercock Entertains from 3.30pm

## Other Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| 13 September | Nequex at St Eval |
| 29 October | CPF AGM at St Austell |
| 1 November | Cornex at Pensilva |

*Sorry to say I will not be at St Eval this year as we are away but I will definitely see you all at Cornex. Neil*

**Mushroom stamps issued on 3rd July and Peanuts on 24th July - enjoy!!**




**Second Class** Chicken of the Woods *Laetiporus sulphureus*
**Second Class** Clustered Bonnet *Mycena inclinata*
**Second Class** Scarlet Waxcap *Hygrocybe coccinea*
**Second Class** Morel *Morchella vulgaris*
**Second Class** Scarlet Elf Cup *Sarcoscypha austriaca*

**First Class** Penny Bun *Boletus edulis*
**First Class** Amethyst Deceiver *Laccaria amethystina*
**First Class** Collared Earthstar *Geastrum michelianum*
**First Class** Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*
**First Class** Turkey Tail *Trametes versicolo*




A colourful collection of *Peanuts* Special Stamps featuring iconic illustrations of anxious underdog Charlie Brown, his beloved beagle Snoopy and their charming chums. On the 75th anniversary of the classic comic strip's first appearance, this colourful issue honours the enduring appeal of Charles Schulz's vibrant cartoon creations. Charlie Brown and the gang appear in memorable scenes across eight First Class landscape stamps. Look out for some British touches sprinkled through a commemorative keepsake that *Peanuts* fans, lovers of comic strip art and stamp collectors will cherish.

Snoopy on a post box, with Woodstock  Lucy and Linus on a beach
Snoopy and Woodstock on guard duty Schroeder playing the piano

Charlie and Franklin playing football Charlie and Snoopy in the rain
Woodstock, Snoopy and Charlie celebrating The Peanuts gang under a tree




First Class *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
First Class *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
First Class *Prince Caspian*
First Class *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* First Class *The Silver Chair*
First Class *The Silver Chair*
First Class *The Horse and His Boy*
First Class *The Magician's Nephew*
First Class *The Last Battle*




**Flamsteed House, 1676** Home of the Astronomer Royal completed
**Airy Transit Circle Telescope, 1851** Observations made to define meridian
**Shepherd Gate Clock, 1852** The Observatory's first public clock
**Prime Meridian, 1884** Greenwich chosen as the centre of time and longitude
**Great Equatorial Telescope, 1893** Large refracting telescope installed
**Annie Maunder Astrographic Telescope, 2018** New telescope installed for astrophotography

The royal Observatory at Greenwich set of stamps and a miniature sheet was issued on the `12th June 2025.

The Chronicles of Narnia set was issued on the 22nd May 2025

We still haver stamps on Monty Python, Steam locomotives, Queen Victoria and Monopoly to come this year as well as the Christmas stamps (somebody must still be buying them!)

# BEA 1960'S

I know some of you are aware I've been building my collection of BEA related material and I had managed to get a good run of their timetables to the Scillies from late 1940s to 1950s. I bought a small job lot of some BEA material recently and was delighted to find it contained more than I originally thought! (makes a change).

It actually included 12 sheets of notepaper each having a different humorous picture heading which I illustrate below. It came with paper from their Conference & Congress Advisory Bureau which, although having London address, was no doubt aimed at the American market Anyway, is this collecting too far? - possibly but should bring a smile to your face and the then users back in the 60s!





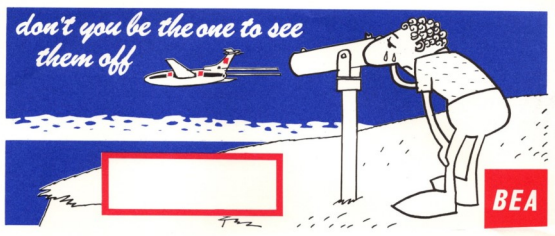






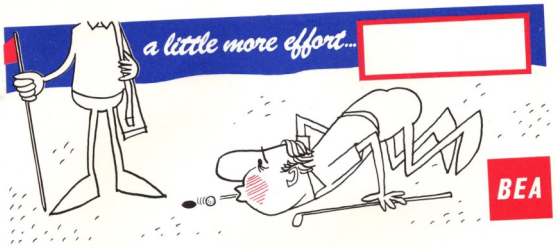






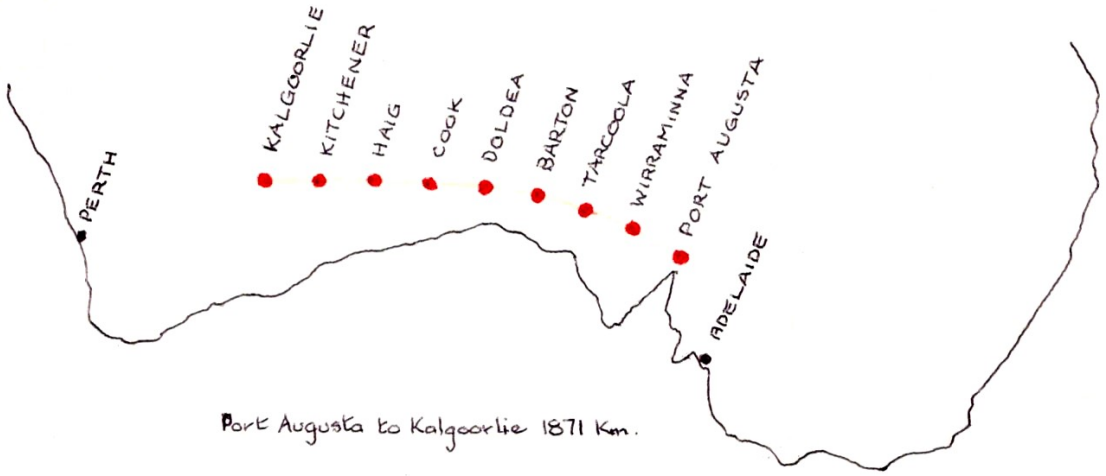




*Australia*

## TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY

18th June 1952. Airmail to U.K. at 1/6 rate.




Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie 1871 Km.

Two pay-clerk postmasters travel between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie once a fortnight by the "tea and sugar" train. The train stops at all the camps and supplies the settlers with provisions, pay and postal facilities.

N° 1 Pay train runs from Port Augusta to Tarcoola.

N° 2. Pay train runs from Tarcoola to Kalgoorlie.

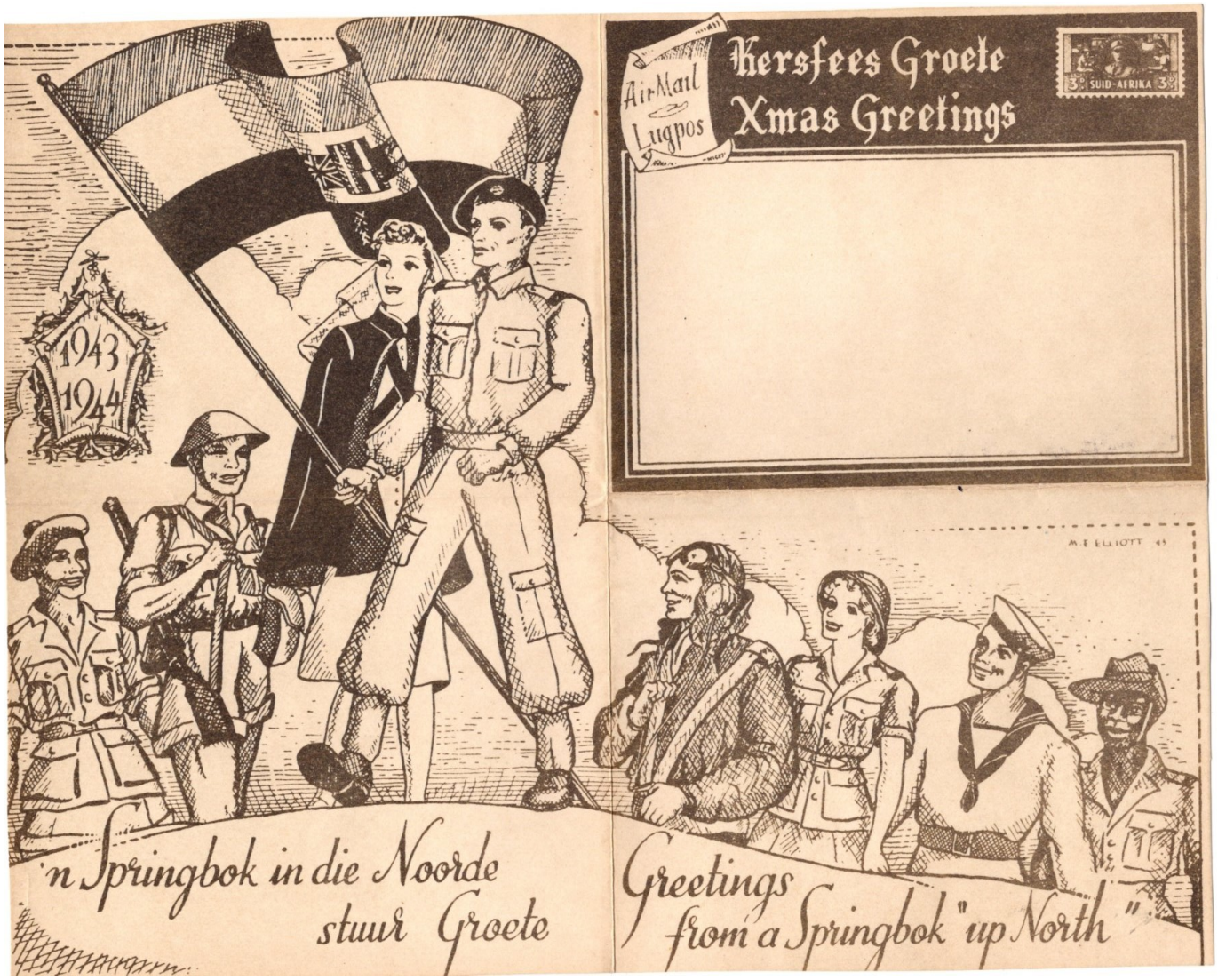






An interesting cover addressed to Bristol but went on the Tarcoola to Kalgoorli train with excellent date stamp cancels for 'TRANS.AUST.RAILWAY/PAT TRAIN 2' DATED June 1952.

Hopefully you can read the written text on the page which explains the unusual train cancel .

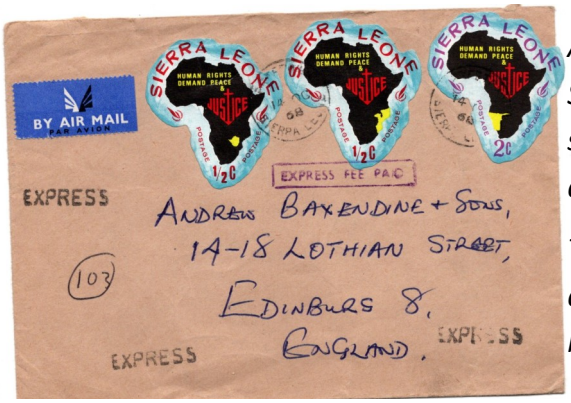



This was part of an aerogramme collection I was given to include in the Postal Stationery Society auction.

It is one of 4 different illustrated airletters used by South African troops in WW2. I was intrigued by this example. I show elsewhere I have acquired a very large collection of SA airletters including illustrated ones.

This one got me guessing. The actual ones are only printed in blue on a light blue paper. This is in sepia and printed on a thicker paper. I could not find any reference to it in the S African stationery books so I have enquired via a friend with an expert in South Africa. I think it is just an early photocopy but it bears the 3d stamp whereas the normal ones do not have a stamp printed on them.

I'll let you know whether this is copy worth a £1 or a rare proof item worth £100s!

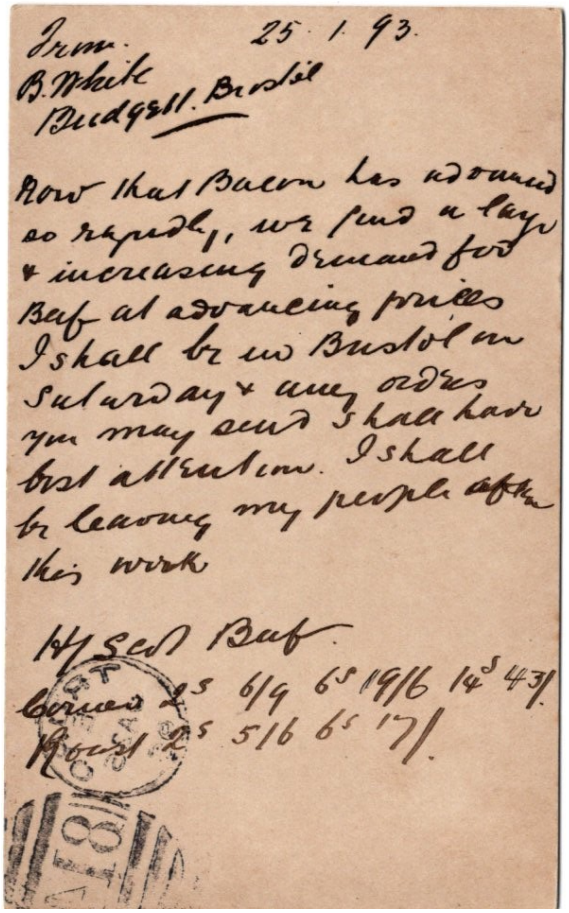


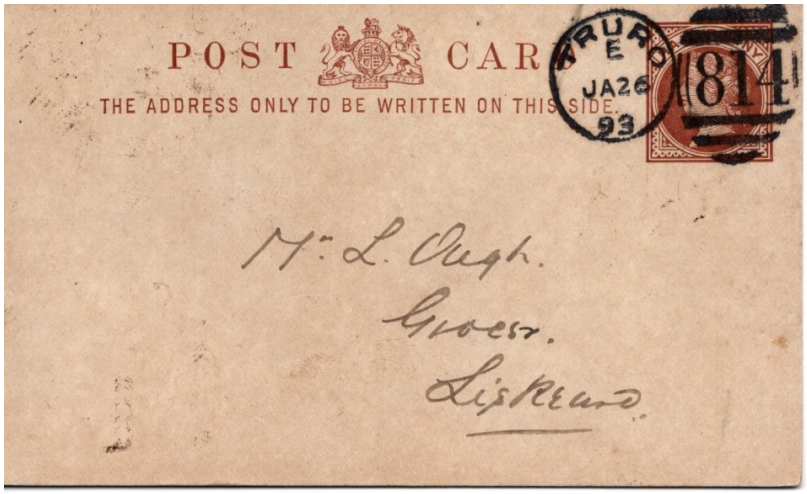

*A rather nice Sierra Leone cover included in the West Africa Society auction. Nice because it is unusual to see their shaped self-adhesives stamps actually used on a commercial cover.*

*This one sent by airmail and also bearing 2 different Express cachets. Sent to England in 1968. Even mundane items can be interesting and a source of modern postal history.*



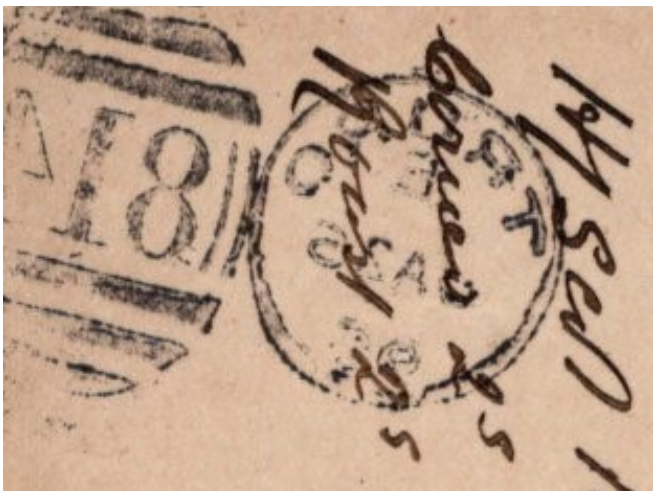

Couple of items with local connection - above is entire wrapper from February 1849 sent from Devonport to Hayle with a red Devonport cancel and similar in black for Hayle with a '250' oval over 1d red imperf on blued paper.




This one is a Queen Victoria ½d brown on buff stationery card, cancelled with an 814 duplex of Truro and sent to Liskeard January 1893.

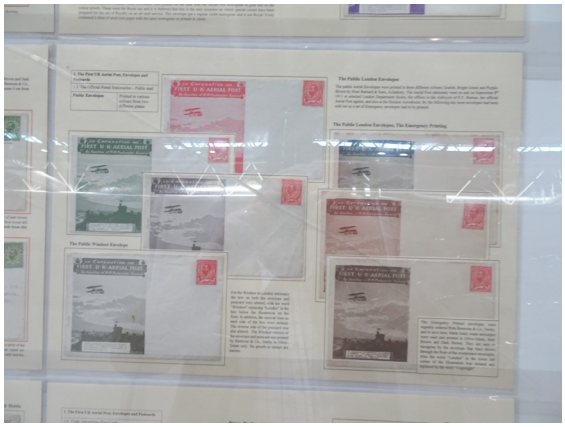
Can't quite make out the full txt on the rear but is certainly talking about 'beef' and prices.. The little interesting anomaly here is the mirror image of the Truro duplex at bottom left on the back of the card and shown below.



What would appear to have happened is the postal clerk had put fresh ink on his canceller and was likely going through a pile of cards so when this one was put on the top of the last and he stamped it, the pressure transferred the ink to the back .

So now we can add a reverse or 'mirror image cancel' to the list of Cornish postal history.

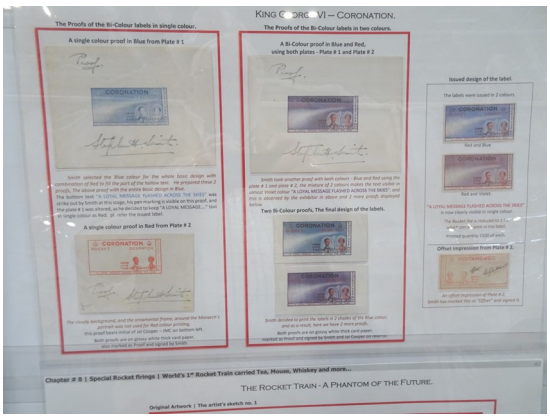











Wanted to do a report on the Europhilex international exhibition that took place over 5 days in May at the NEC in Brimingham.

Personally, I think it was a good show. The 20000+ frames of exhibits was in the same hall as the dealers so you could move between looking at stock and viewing exhibits and the café was in the same room as well.

I did manage to buy some cheap covers as well as 2/3 more expensive ones for my own collections. The area I was most interested in were the exhibits and there several that were very interesting. Unfortunately because of light reflection it was very hard to take decent photos, so I can only show 3/4 with any degree of clarity.

Shown above are sheets from a 1911 coronation flight exhibit, another one on the King's coronation and a fascinating maritime exhibit. For this one, the exhibitor had taken the 'Blue ribbon' prize and illustrated a cover from every winning ship, starting each page with the winning speed. Different interpretation which work very well!



This is a picture of me working very hard on the Postal Stationery Society stand trying to win over new members. Thursday was society day with many having taken a table to display their wares.

It was good to see Des Kent up there but I didn't see any other Cornish club members apart from Sue Burn and Patrick Reid..

Congratulations to Sue for getting a Large Vermeil on 88 points for her entry on Smithy - that's a good score for an International .




In May 1964 the DH Rapides that had been serving the Isles of Scilly were withdrawn and a new helicopter service from Penzance began. The first flight covers are fairly common and bn or blue rectangular cachet. However, I recently acquired this pair of the flight covers which are the first ones I have seen which also have a BEA 1/- Airway Letter stamp on them as well.

The Penzance one has a black rubber handstamp and has a double ring cancel when posted on arrival. The return flight cover has a metal handstamp in blue over the label as well as a Lands end cachet in blue and Penzance machine cancel on posting.




*Received a Special Delivery packet this morning and stuck on the front was this lovely (?) label by Royal Mail. Asking for a response on how they did. It says the 'link is in the email'. However, there is no email on the sticker! This means this is a rare variety "missing email" or they just got it wrong again!*

# South African Airletters

A few years ago I acquired a large collection of South African airletters but with the usual problem of too many collections I subsequently sold it. Earlier in March another collection came up in auction and I thought I would have a look at it out of general interest. A quick glance through it showed it to be a very substantial collection with a lot of varieties noted. What grabbed my attention were 2 airletters that I hadn't seen before and I was more than pleased when I was successful in bidding for it. I now want to share the 2 airletters that caught attention with members.

My references are Vol 2 The Postal Stationery of South Africa (W J Quik 3rd Edition) and The Aerogrammes of the Union of South Africa ( E Bridges 2004)




The first one is shown left and is the "Springbok" letter card. Bridges states it is relatively unknown and very few examples known. Attributed to a firm with the name Springbok Printers based in Jo'burg and who printed other war related items such as the postcard. A suspicion exists that the government printer in Pretoria might have assisted in some way. My example is said to be one of only 2 known and is illustrated on page 17 of his book. It was commercially used from SA to PAI Force in the Middle East in September 1944. It has a hand-drawn airmail label and bears a 6d for civilian rate.

Not surprised I hadn't seen it before!!

The other 'new-to-me' is shown right and is an Inland 1½d letter card which was specially overprinted for use by the South African Air Force personnel serving with the United Nations Forces in Korea between 1950 and 1952.

The original letter card was without an airmail label so the overprinting comprises of 4 changes;

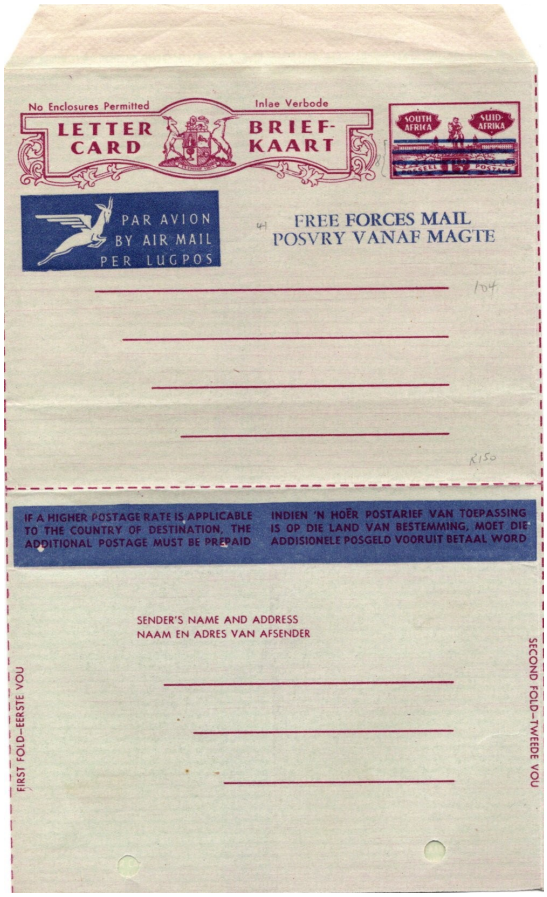
There is a bi-lingual 'By Air Mail' label printed

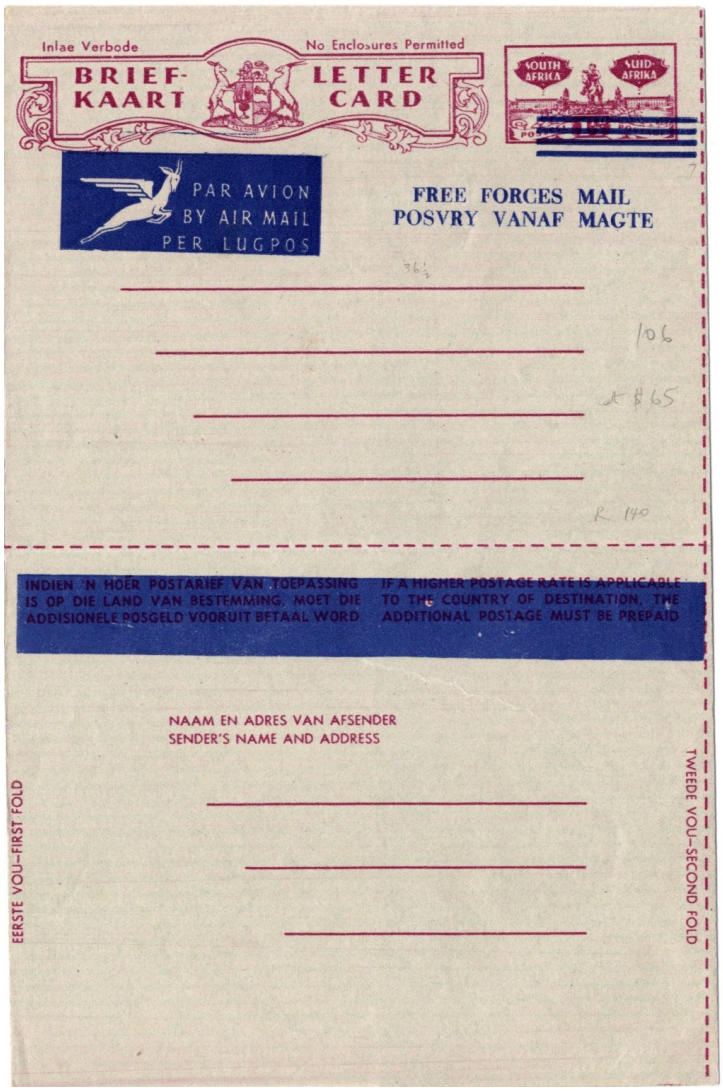
The '1½d' value is overprinted with 3 or 4 bars

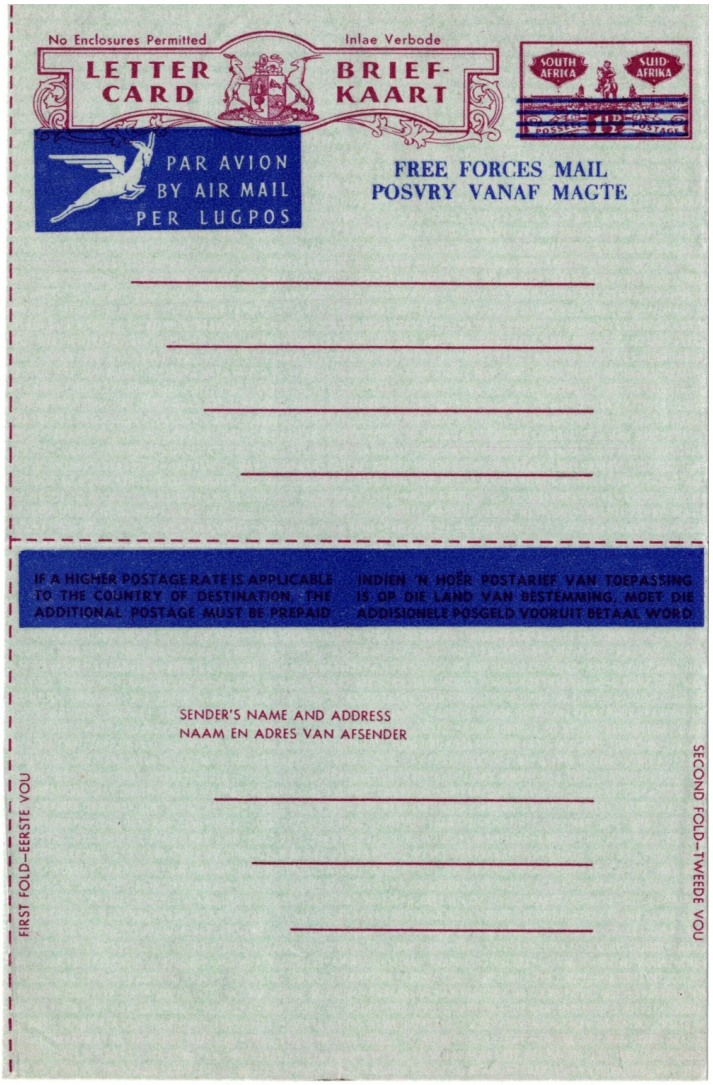
There is a 2-line bi-lingual FREE FORCES MAIL'

The instructions on the rear are overprinted with bars and block of blue ink .

There a number of variations stated - the length of the bars and the length of the added wording as well as shifts of printing.



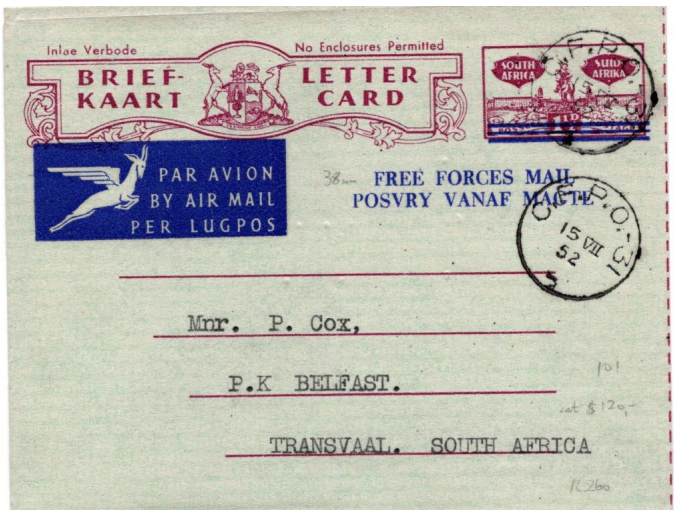



Pair of mint forms showing different colours of paper The left one shows misalignment of the label and bars shifting to the right. The first one shown is a different shade of paper to the one here. The length of overprint wording on the first is 52.5mm and on these is 46mm. There seems to be some uncertainty as to numbers printed. Quik talks of 86,400 being ordered in 4 batches of 21,600.However, the later Bridges book suggest in fact only one printing of 21,600 took place which they believe is supported by other sources and being issued in July 1952 and hence the scarcity.

Of course, in the last 20 years a lot more information may have come out which I don't know about. However, I think that the 2004 book reference to only one printing cannot be correct as I have used copies from February 1952 and July 1952 as well as March 1953.

Used letter card 15 July 1952, greenish paper having 3 bars only on value and cancelled CFPO-31 from Cpl A C Smith SAPO5300, Far East sent to Transvaal.




The 3-bar cancel appeared on cards with Afrikaans inscription on left. They were printed in forms of 6 with 1 3-bar and 5 x 4-bars on each sheet.

Perhaps you can understand why I was delighted to win this collection as I think both these rarities are fascinating and something new in stationery (to

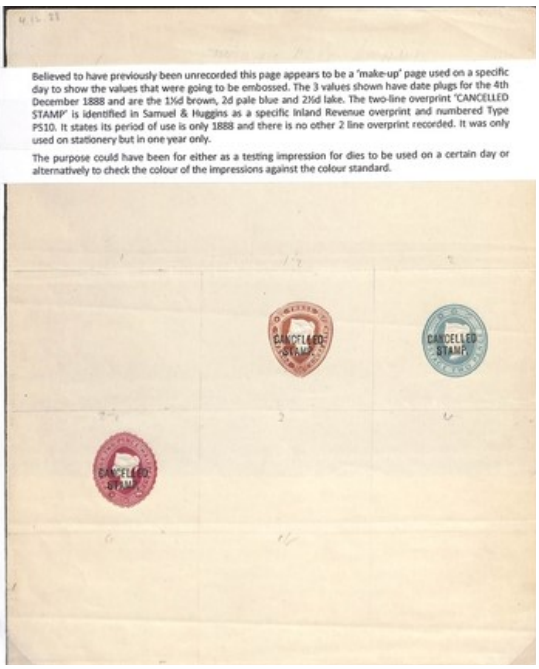
Neil Sargent

**A few interesting stationery items that sold in Argyll Etkin's auction in April**

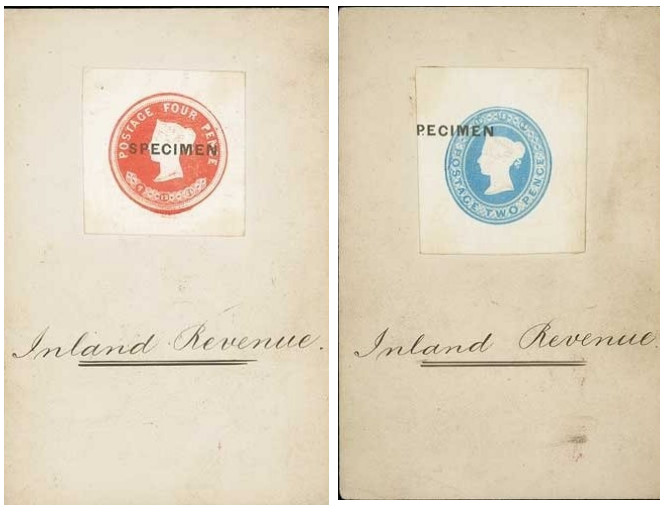



1901 Colour Standard with 10 dies with SPECIMEN underneath, 'rare & spectacular sheet' Sold £2,700

1888 page ruled into squares with 3 dies, rare page used to test impression, only used by Inland Revenue


Believed to have previously been unrecorded this page appears to be a 'make-up' page used on a specific day to show the values that were going to be embossed. The 3 values shown have date plugs for the 4th December 1888 and are the 1½d brown, 2d pale blue and 2½d lake. The two-line overprint "CANCELLED STAMP" is identified in Samuel & Huggins as a specific Inland Revenue overprint and numbered Type PS10. It states its period of use is only 1888 and there is no other 2 line overprint recorded. It was only used on stationery but in one year only.

The purpose could have been for either as a testing impression for dies to be used on a certain day or alternatively to check the colour of the impressions against the colour standard.




Die proofs on laid paper overprinted SPECIMEN affixed to card & endorsed 'Inland Revenue'. Unique items from Somerset House Proof Book



Paris Proofs prepared by De La Rue for Paris Exhibition of 1867. Only dies embossed by De La Rue on their own premises. Rare group Sold £1,400




1870 1½d rose-pink essay with 1½d unissued rosy-mauve stamp handstamp SPECIMEN Sold £300




6d carmine-lake colour trial , plug holes removed, superb & rare Sold £180



1892 2½d proof impressed in red wax, plug holes cutout, mounted on card sold £340

## I know it is not postal stationery but …….

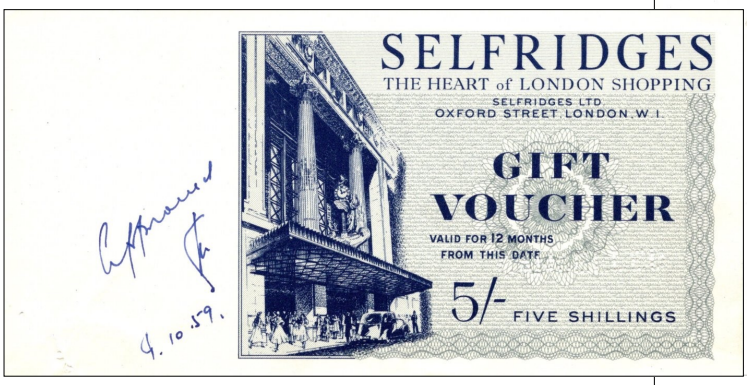
Probably like many fellow stationery collectors I always looking for something a little different from the normal run-of-the-mill material and could not resist buying these.

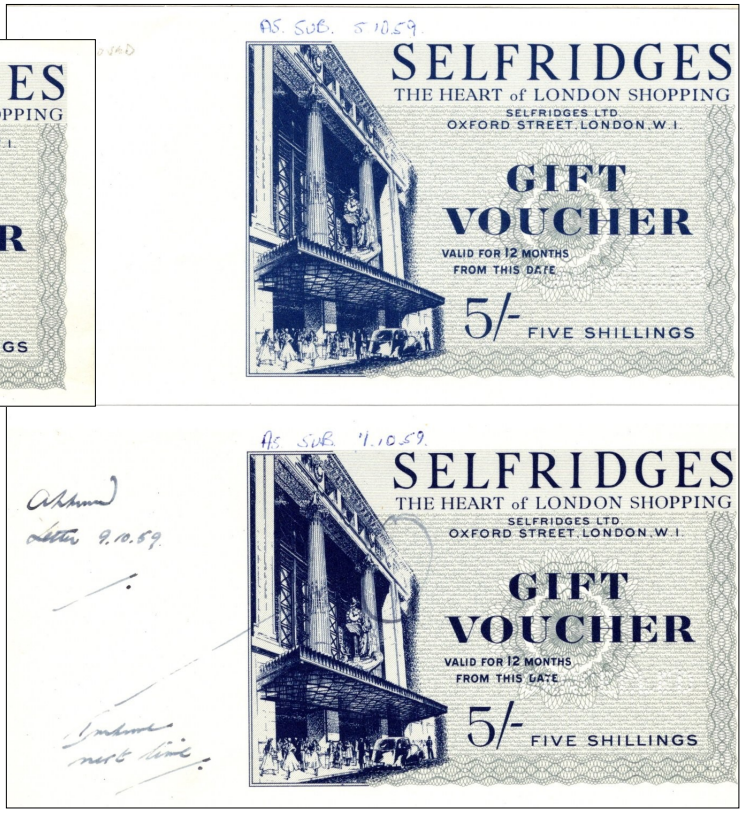
These comprise a set of proofs for Selfridges Gift Vouchers from late 1959. Attractively designed with excellent colours I bought them as soon as I saw them during Europhilex in Birmingham.




These types of gift vouchers were brought from big shops before the advent of gift cards and latterly electronic gift tokens. They would have been kept behind the counter in a shop and torn out of a book when of them when one sold. The 2/6d above is noted '*as sub 29.9.59*' with the size being stated as 39/10ths by 71/8th and shows the double perforation down the side

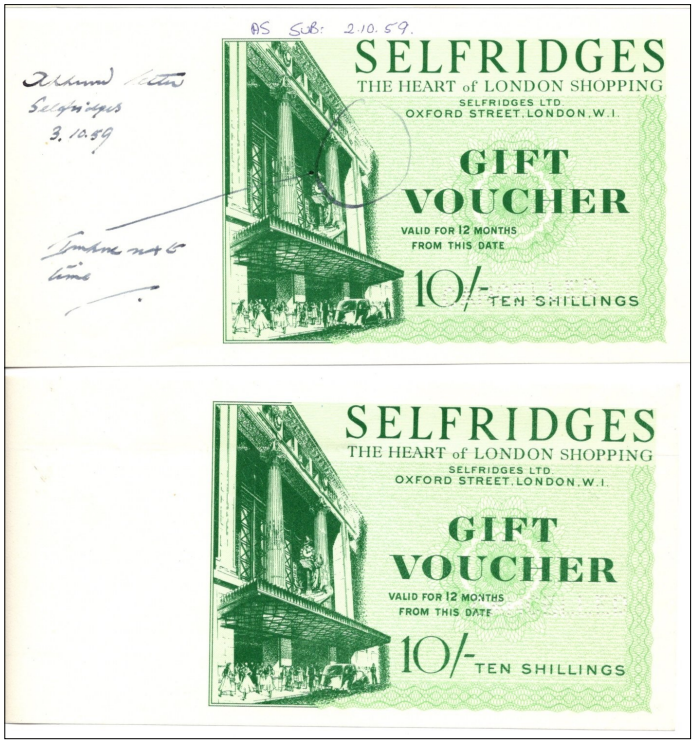
There are three 5/- vouchers, the first saying '*not approved*' and '*as sub 5.10.59*', second one *'as sub 7.10.*59' which has '*Approved letter 9.10.59'* but indicating an area for improvement top right. The third one has '*Approved 9.10.59'*




None of these have the perforations down the side.

However, although cannot be seen on the page, all these three and the others are all perforated 'CANCELLED' located partly over the 'Valid for 12 months' printing.







The 10/- and 20/- vouchers are particularly nicely coloured with both showing the same manuscript *'approved letter Selfridges 3.10.59* (10/-) or *2.10.59* (20/-)'. Again they are without perforations and are 'Cancelled 'and have the manuscript statement re the circled light area top right to be improved.




This last one is for £10 (quite a sum for a gift voucher at that time) and is bi-coloured. It has manuscript markings: '*Approved letter 15.6.60'*, '*Slot perforate down twice'* and F00001—10000. There is also as an oval back stamp 'ORDERED 13JUL1960: O/No 129306'.The £10 voucher is not perforated 'Cancelled' like the others.

A lovely set in mint condition and I would have thought unique proofs as they bear the handwritten instructions.

For overseas members - Selfridges is an up-market department store set up in 1908 by Harry Selfridge. They opened a flagship store on Oxford Street in London in 1909 and are renowned for their Christmas window displays. It is now owned jointly by Saudia Arabi Pacific Investment fund and Thailand's Central Group.

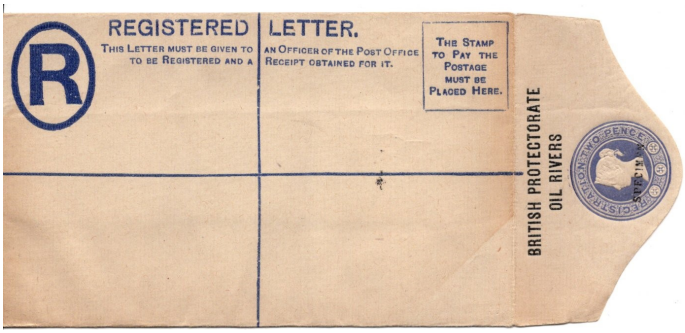
Neil Sargent

# Overprinted GB Registered Envelopes for Nigeria

I am fortunate to have a relatively large number of registered envelopes that were overprinted for use in early Nigeria and thought I ought to get round to sorting them out!

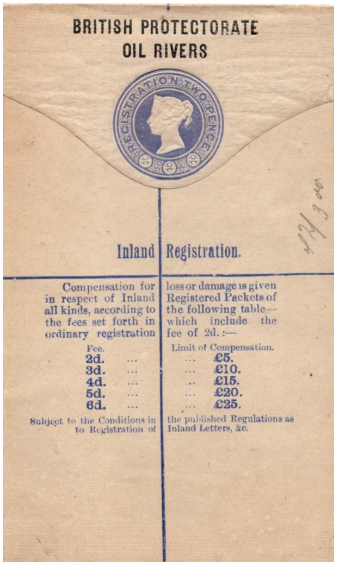
In the late 19th century the Royal Niger Company made treaties with local chiefs in areas along the coast of what is now Nigeria s well as along the banks of the main 2 rivers - the Niger and Benue. The British consul was also making treaties and in 1887 the Protectorate of Oil Rivers was formed of the land in the Niger delta which the British government had various treaties while the Niger Company administered areas further inland. In May 1893 Oil Rivers was renamed Niger coast Protectorate and applied for membership of the UPU although this did not happen until 1896 following the transfer of control from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office, giving it a higher degree of autonomy at least in postal matters.

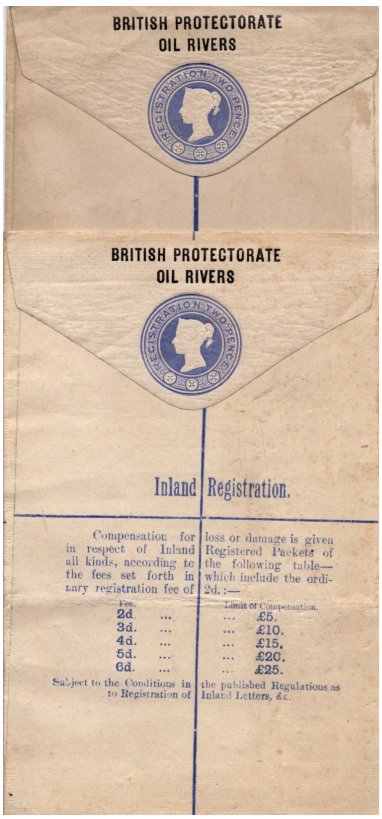
Initially dealt with De La Rue, the first envelopes were those produced by McCorquodale as De La Rue had lost the contract but they were responsible for the overprinting. The first registered envelopes were issued in sizes F G & H2 using envelopes with the date plugs replaced by 5-dot florets. Sizes F & G were supplied with compensation table printed on the back for up to £25.

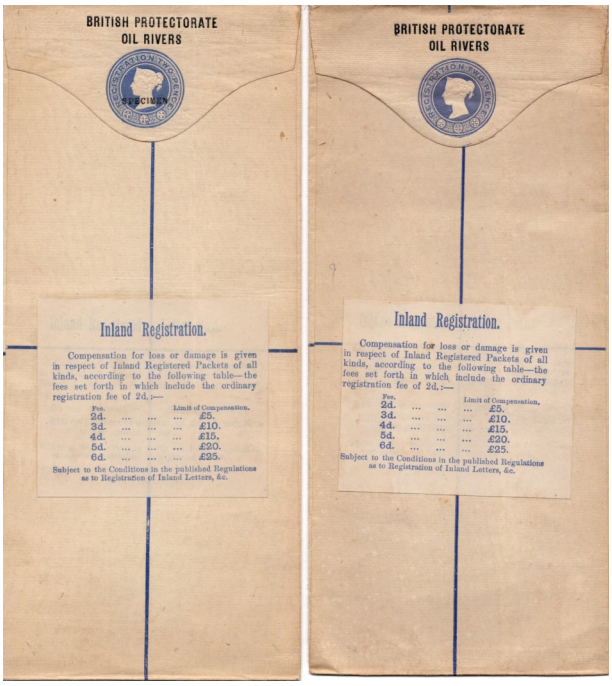



Above and left, are Size F envelopes showing the front and back with the above envelope having SPECIMEN overprint on the indicum.

Right are a pair of Size G envelopes showing the thick & thin line variation and the lower showing the contractors imprint under the flap.

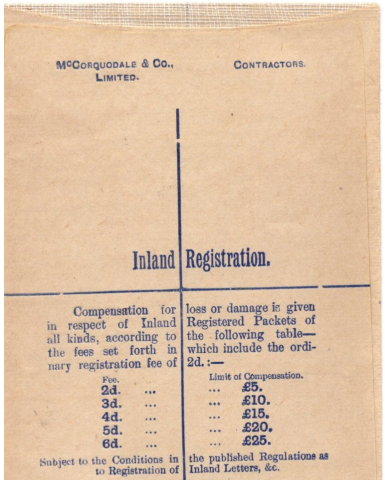


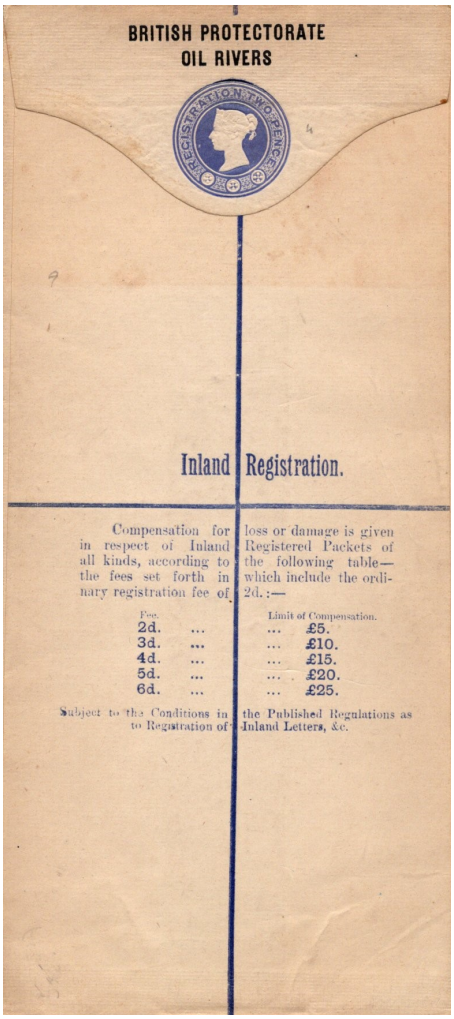



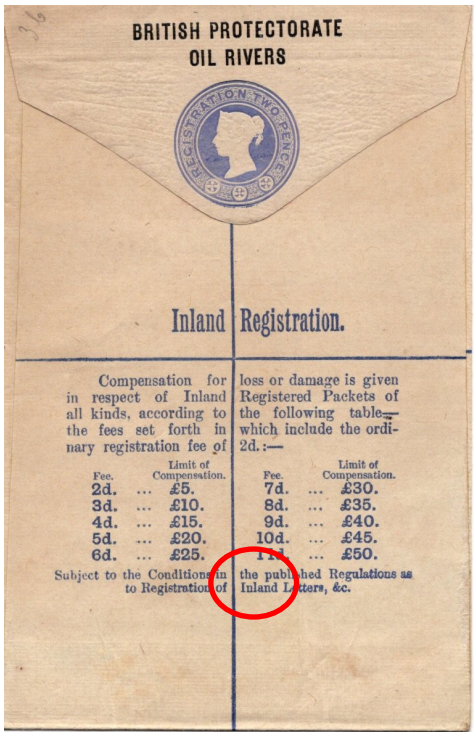

Left are a pir of Size H2. this appeared only with a blue on white paper label This issue generally used 5-dot envelopes, but there are a few printed with 9-dot florets. Shown here are a SPECIMEN overprint on a 5-dot and a scarcer 9-dot envelope.

Print quantities for each envelope was only 504.



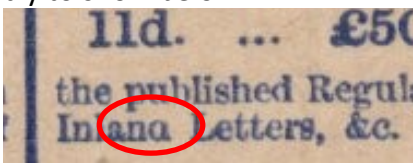


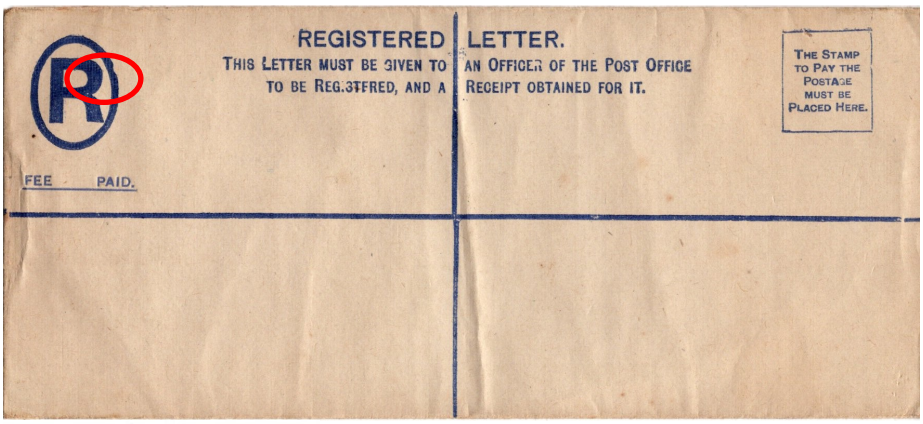

The first envelopes were issued in October 1892 and in May 1893 a new size H2 envelope was issued with £25 compensation table printed on the back. Only 144 of these envelopes were supplied - a low number even for stationery! There are in fact 2 types of this envelope as one has a 'bold' letter **'A'** in the box which I show later.

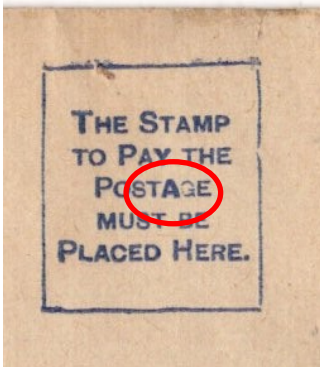



In October 1893 a revised set of envelopes was issued, this time with the compensation table on the rear showing up to £50.

Again the 3 same sizes were printed - F G & H2. Left is the new size G; all envelopes having the 9-dot florets. No significant variations appear on the G envelopes. However, the F envelope does show a flaw: missing 'd' on the word 'Inland' on the rear as I try to show below.



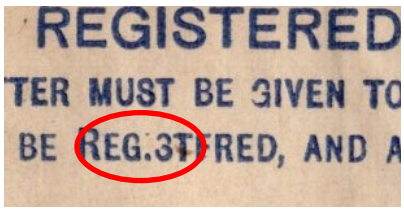



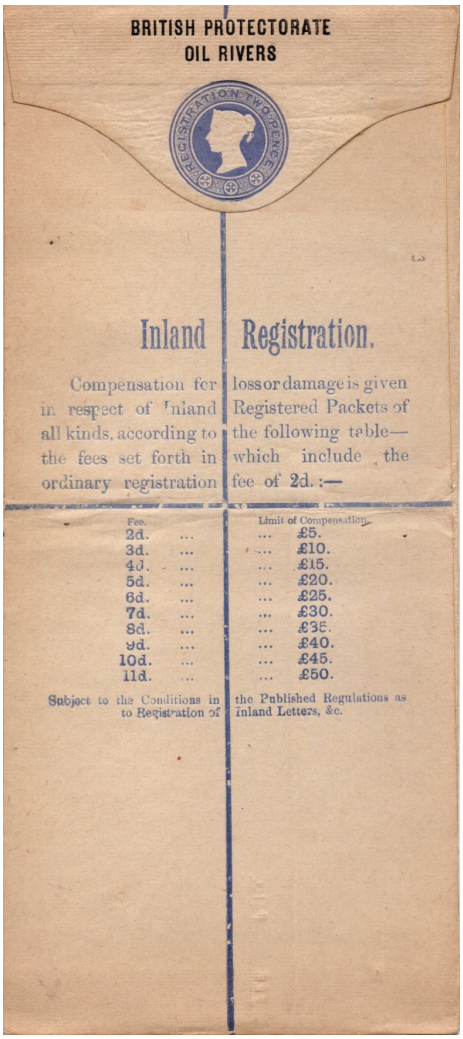




The H2 envelope came with correct compensation table on the rear. This also showed the 'bold A' flaw in the word POSTAGE in the stamp rectangle. This is shown left

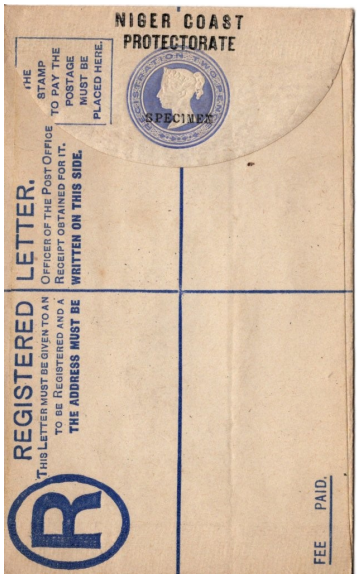
There are shade variations between dark blue and a lighter blue printing.

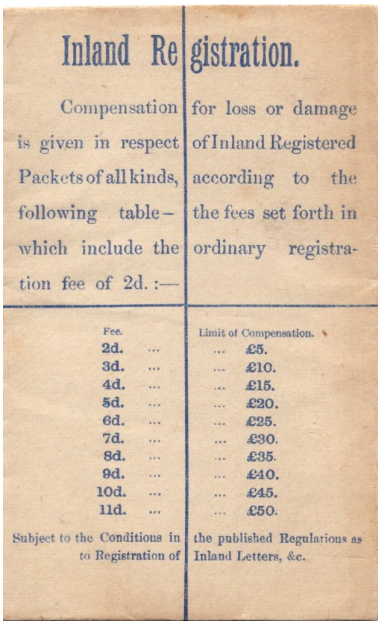
The H2 above also shows the missing 'I' in registered on the third line of the front text. There is also a partial or full frame break on the R oval.

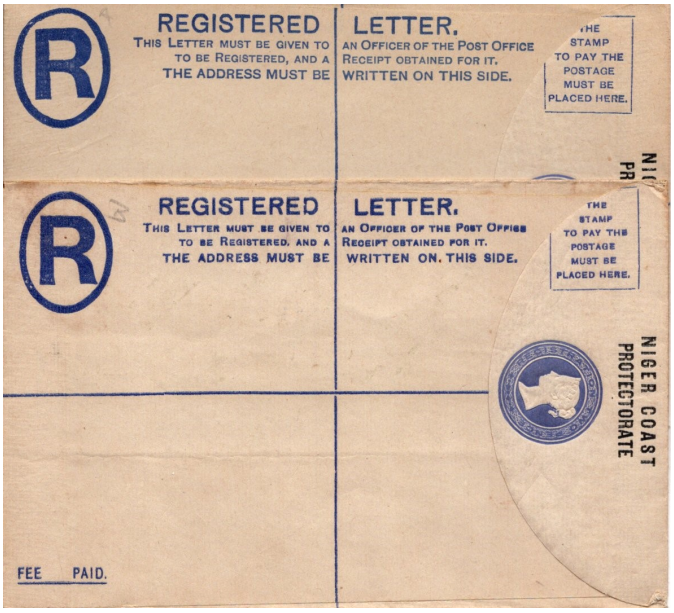


In 1894 the change of name took place and the area renamed Niger Coast Protectorate. A further supply of registered envelopes was requested and it was decided it would be appropriate to overprint them re-flecting the new name. Envelopes were therefore overprint accordingly with the name printed in capitals in two lines above the indicum.



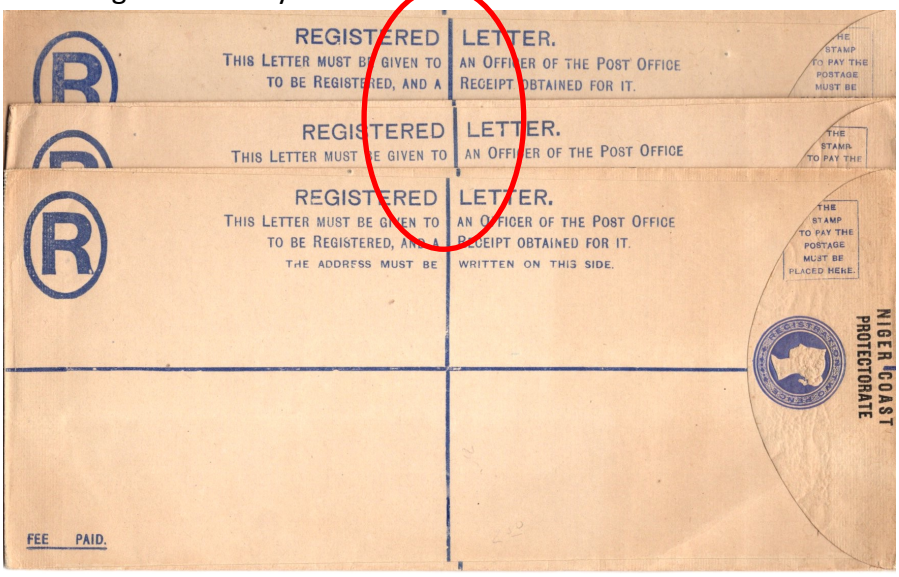



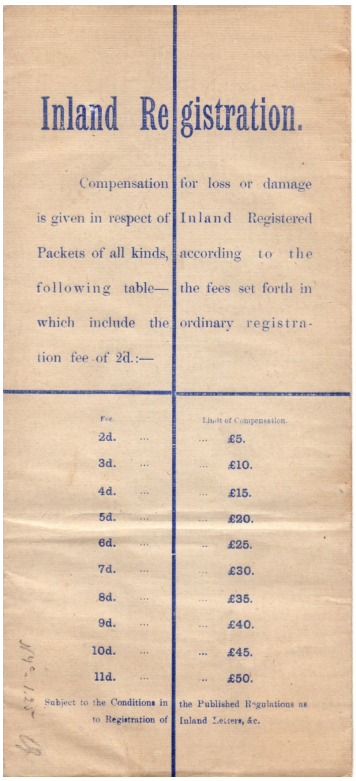




Thee was a further important change in that the new envelopes came with flap folding over the front of the envelope and scroll work replacing the florets in the 2d die.

The envelopes were again issued in 3 sizes - F G & H2.A total of 3,600 F & Gs were printed and 3,360 size H2. They also kept the £50 compensation table on the rear.

Shown above are size F - SPECIMEN overprint, size G showing the back and a pair of size G envelopes which show a variation in the length of third line of instructions. In the lower envelope it measures 68mm in the higher one only 63mm.




The 3 H2 envelopes above show folding differences at top centre - folding to left, centred and to the right. This also applies to the other sizes and the previous issue.

As these envelopes are generally stock GB ones grabbed from the stores and overprinted, the usual flaws, errors and minor differences experienced on GB envelopes can reflected on the Nigerian ones including missing 'FEE PAID'.

Neil Sargent

# Launceston Philatelic Society







The L.P.S. was founded in June 1946 by a group of like-minded individuals with a common interest in stamp collecting. The L.P.S. continues to foster philately and has a very active membership.

Members of the L.P.S. have wide philatelic interests, which include the stamps and postal history of Tasmania, of Australia in general, the Antarctic, and of many other countries as well. There are keen collectors of revenue stamps, of postcards, and of themes of many types.

In June 2011 the L.P.S. became a company limited by guarantee, thus offering protection to its members. The ACN is 151-343-761.

On July 9, 2016, the L.P.S. proudly celebrated its 70th Anniversary by a well-attended dinner at the Riverside Golf Club, Launces

Sept 2nd Tuesday Subject to be advised Brian Fisher

Sept 20th Saturday Market Day 10am – 3pm

Oct 7th Tuesday Annual General Mee ng

Nov 4th Tuesday “A Bit of This and That” Don Peck

Dec 2nd Tuesday “New Norfolk” Steve Pearce

Dec 20th Saturday Annual fund-raiser/Charity Night.

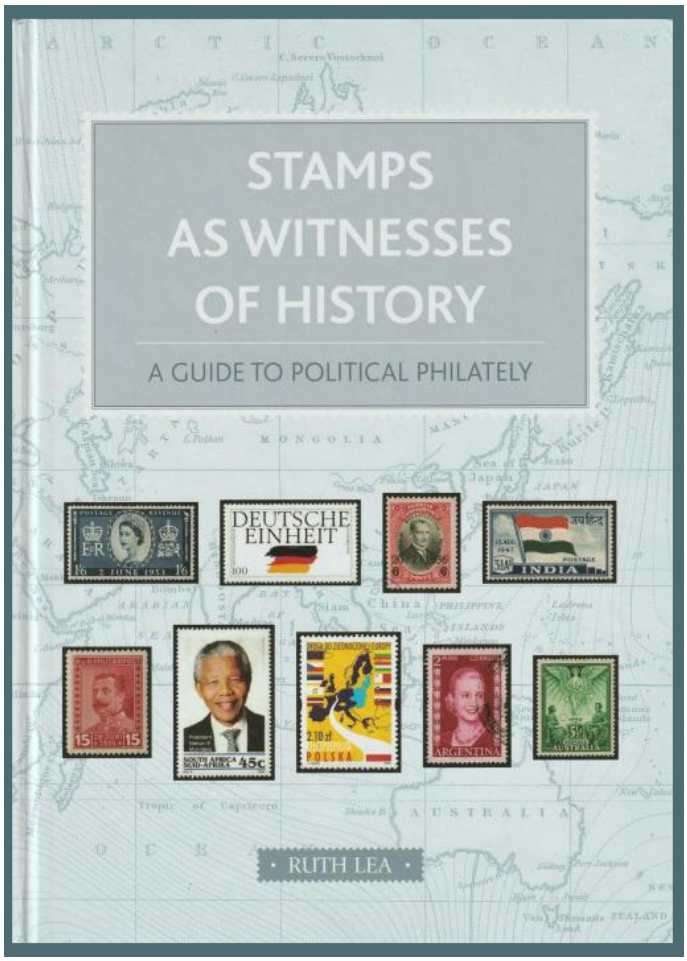
*I wanted to check a couple of dates for Launceston club and when I put them into google this club, based in Tasmania, came up first. Attractive header to the website.*

*Seem to be much the same there as we are in England!*

*No doubt Barrie will be in touch with them.*




Hobart Stamp Show is on from 31st October to 2nd November and a One-Frame exhibition




# Stamps as Witnesses of History

*Stamps as Witnesses of History* is not a book about the history of stamps as such. It is a book about how stamp issues since Rowland Hill invented the first adhesive postage stamp in 1840 have "witnessed" the seismic global political developments over the years. It is a guide to political philately, which aims to show how stamp issues have reflected and have related to key political events.

Thus stamps of the North German Confederation marked a major stepping stone to German unification, a truly momentous political event, whilst selected African stamps of the 1960s celebrated the independence of many emerging African states from European colonial empires. The book is arranged geographically, covering the whole world. For each country entry, the major political developments are listed chronologically on the left hand side with contemporaneous stamps, supported in some instances by relevant commemoratives, on the right hand side.

The 634-page book (hardcover edition, 2024, ISBN: 9781915465191) was written by Ruth Lea and published by Filament Publishing Ltd. It is available

*Belgium is a land of cheese. More than 300 are officially recognised. For this stamp issue, bpost decided to use a map of Belgium with a picture of cheese in the location it is made or most associated with. So you can see which cheese is the most typical for a given region. Producing the sheetlet in the shape of a slice of cheese with holes is a nice detail that gives it something extra. There are round holes in the sheetlet as well .*

*24/10/202*

*UPU Stamp Competition*



**26 June 2025** - Antelopes of Botswana - 4 stamps and 1 miniature sheet containing a single stamp. Designed by Onica Lekuntwane from photographs by Oratile Shirley Kadziya and lithographed.















***Isle of Man Post Office***

**14 August 2025** - Coins of the Isle of Man in the Orrisdale collection - 6 stamps (face value £11.85p), booklet pane containing all 6 stamps (£11.85) and 1 Prestige booklet containing 4 panes with a total of 2 sets, £23.70p). Designed by Michael Arbory and litho-



















Thought these two recent new issues maybe of interest. The top set is from Botswana and illustrated Antelopes with 4 values and a mini sheet. The lower set are from the prolific Isle of Man post office and focus on early coinage. Always worthwhile looking around the world to see what's being issued.

Issued on the 6th August is a set of 4 stamps And a miniature sheet by New Zealand post office. It is also a great quiz question - the set celebrates the NZ Women's Rugby team but what are the called? The answer is upside down!!



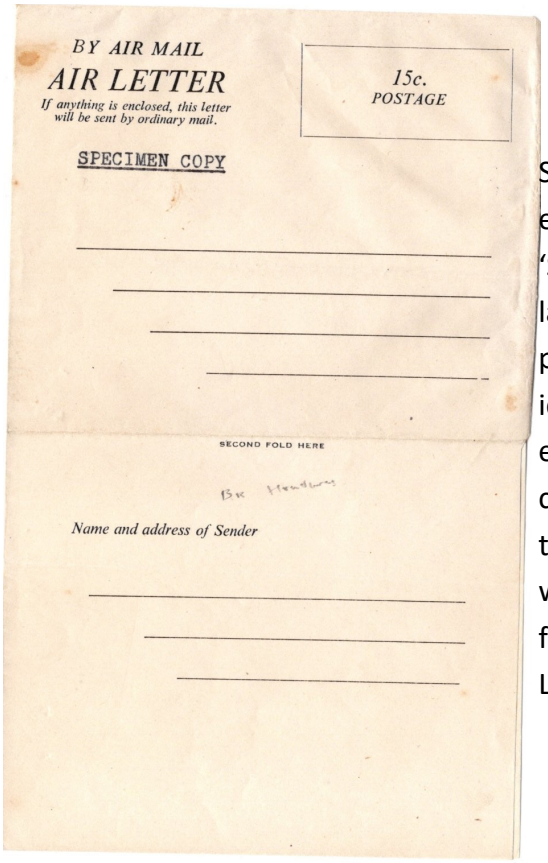

**The Black Ferns**

# Although from different sources! Formulas Air Letters

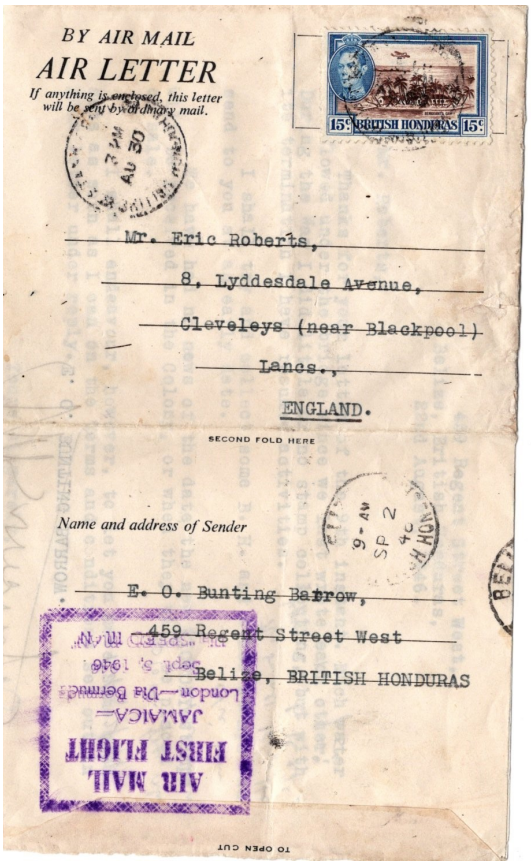
I have always had an interest in early air letters, from their introduction in Iraq in the 1930s and particularly the many many used during WWII. Although perhaps appearing generally the same, there tends to be significant differences in much of the design if not the size.

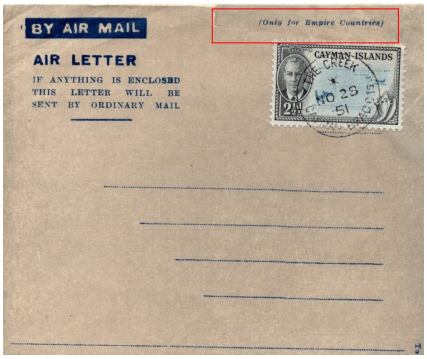
Formula stationery is a term used for a item of stationery that has no value printed on it but designed for a specific purpose and usually issued by the local Post Office or government.

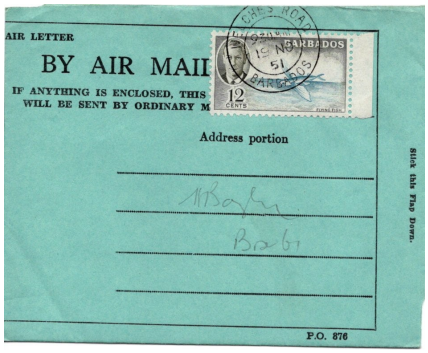
After the war, whilst many countries issued their own air letters with a printed value, early civilian air letters in many places were formula. These have held an interest for me for some time and fortunately recently acquired a couple of British Honduras examples - although from different sources!




Shown left is an unused example with printed 'SPECIMEN COPY'. Particularly unusual item believed produced locally to aid identification by PO workers. Right is an actual used copy with 15c stamp used to England August 1946 with boxed cachet on back for 1st flight Jamaica to London via Bermuda



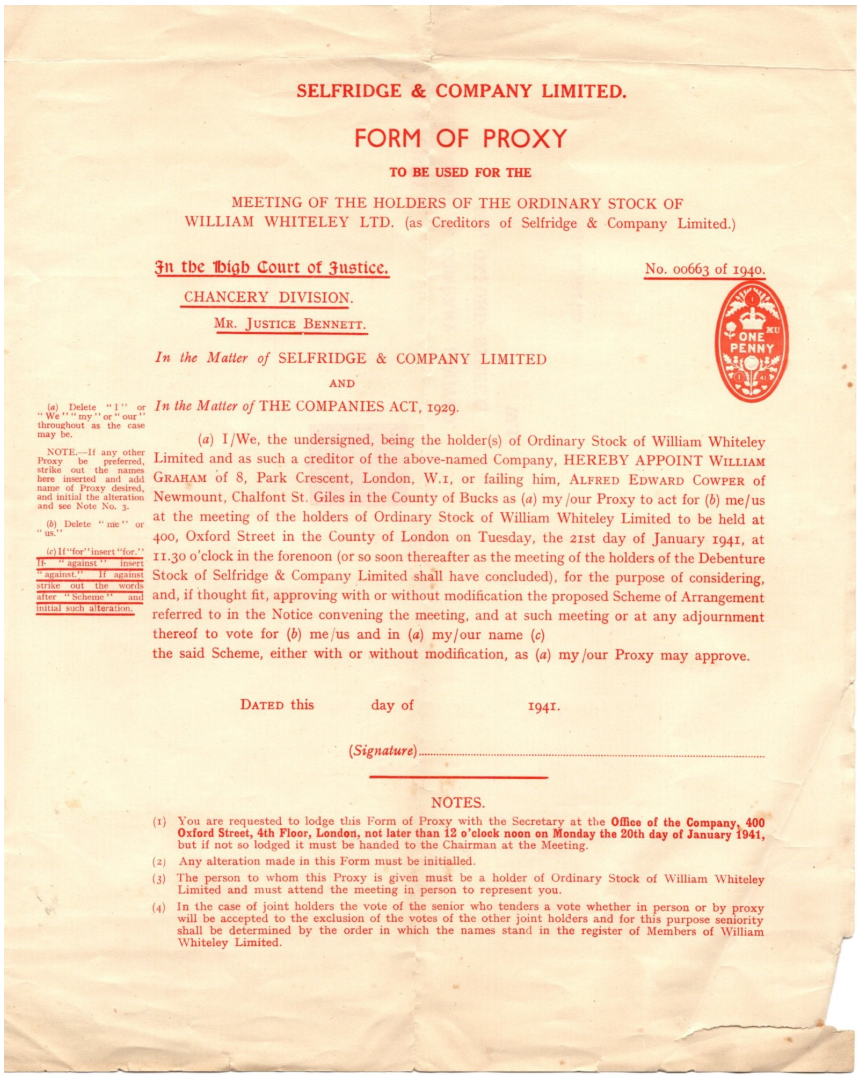




Continuing this theme are 3 further formula air letters. Left is one used Cayman Islands in 1951. Interestingly, this has '*only for Empire Countries'* printed at the top ( I had not seen this print on others of this type). Centre is one from Barbados printed on green paper which followed on from their military ones. Lastly, is one used from Mauritius in December 1949 to Somerset.

# New GB Postal Stationery discovery



SELFRIDGE & COMPANY LIMITED.

FORM OF PROXY

TO BE USED FOR THE

MEETING OF THE HOLDERS OF THE ORDINARY STOCK OF
WILLIAM WHITELEY LTD. (as Creditors of Selfridge & Company Limited.)

In the High Court of Justice. No. 00663 of 1940.

CHANCERY DIVISION.

MR. JUSTICE BENNETT.

*In the Matter of* SELFRIDGE & COMPANY LIMITED

AND

*In the Matter of* THE COMPANIES ACT, 1929.

(a) Delete "I" or "We" "my" or "our" throughout as the case may be.

NOTE.—If any other Proxy be preferred, strike out the names here inserted and add name of Proxy desired, and initial the alteration and see Note No. 3.

(b) Delete "me" or "us."

(c) If "for" insert "for." If "against" insert "against." If against strike out the words after "Scheme" and initial such alteration.

(a) I/We, the undersigned, being the holder(s) of Ordinary Stock of William Whiteley Limited and as such a creditor of the above-named Company, HEREBY APPOINT WILLIAM GRAHAM of 8, Park Crescent, London, W.1, or failing him, ALFRED EDWARD COWPER of Newmount, Chalfont St. Giles in the County of Bucks as (a) my/our Proxy to act for (b) me/us at the meeting of the holders of Ordinary Stock of William Whiteley Limited to be held at 400, Oxford Street in the County of London on Tuesday, the 21st day of January 1941, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon (or so soon thereafter as the meeting of the holders of the Debenture Stock of Selfridge & Company Limited shall have concluded), for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, approving with or without modification the proposed Scheme of Arrangement referred to in the Notice convening the meeting, and at such meeting or at any adjournment thereof to vote for (b) me/us and in (a) my/our name (c) the said Scheme, either with or without modification, as (a) my/our Proxy may approve.

DATED this day of 1941.

(*Signature*).....

NOTES.

(1) You are requested to lodge this Form of Proxy with the Secretary at the **Office of the Company, 400 Oxford Street, 4th Floor, London, not later than 12 o'clock noon on Monday the 20th day of January 1941,** but if not so lodged it must be handed to the Chairman at the Meeting.

(2) Any alteration made in this Form must be initialled.

(3) The person to whom this Proxy is given must be a holder of Ordinary Stock of William Whiteley Limited and must attend the meeting in person to represent you.

(4) In the case of joint holders the vote of the senior who tenders a vote whether in person or by proxy will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders and for this purpose seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register of Members of William Whiteley Limited.

I was pleased to find this item in a general box of covers I bought recently as I believe it has not been recorded before.

It is a KGVI 1d lettersheet issued by Selfridges, printed in red and addressed to their Oxford Street, London branch. It is a form of Proxy voting sheet and bears an embossed 1d Revenue stamp.

Forms of Proxy were used commonly before and after WW2, usually taking the shape of STO postcards and having the embossed Revenue stamp.

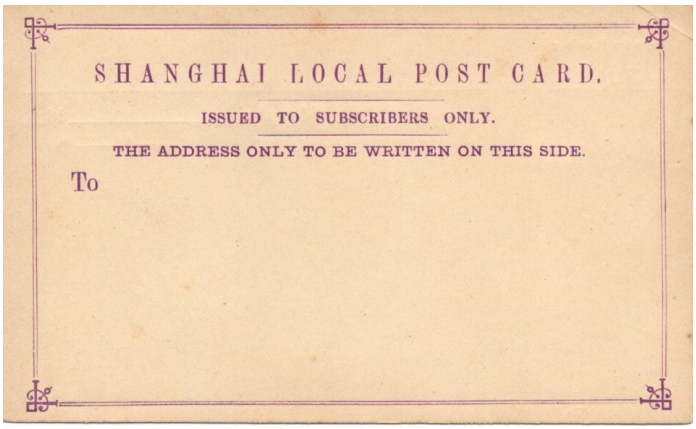
This one is different because of the form of a lettersheet. The date is 1941 and probably adopted this style due to card shortage during the war. Not in the best of condition but an excellent item

# Shanghai Local Post Stationery

In the last issue of The Cornish, I illustrated some Chinese stationery that was up for auction. When I was at the York stamp fair in July I managed to buy a small collection of Shanghai Local Post stationery. Although one or two items are relatively common, the rest isn't so I thought I would illustrate them here.

In 1863 the foreign community in Shanghai lacked adequate postal facilities and expected that British Hong Kong would establish a full service branch post office rather than only consulate or packet agent offices. However, as the Hong Kong Post Office's financial deficit made that improbable, the Shanghai Municipal Council decided to create its own local post office. A subcommittee of local merchants was appointed in May 1863 (David Reid of Reid, Evans, & Co., George F. Heard of Augustine Heard & Co. and Robert Bland of Smith, Kennedy & Co) designed a subscription-based system that allowed firms to pay for mail collection and distribution, while non-subscribers could use the service for a fee. Initially, when the post office was established on July 13, 1863, the post office was designed to manage the collection and distribution of mail between Shanghai and Hong Kong. By extension the link to Hong Kong would give the Shanghai local post office connections to overseas Britons, residents of the various treaty ports as well as the rest of the vast service network reached from the Great Britain General Post Office in London. The local post office in Shanghai used a subscription system, with the foreign-owned firms subscribing for 75 taels per year for outports and 50 taels for service within Shanghai, which included collection and distribution of all mail matter. Non-subscribers paid two cents (based on the Mexican silver dollar, equal to three candareens) per letter. The subcommittee ensured that the office was not a financial burden by arranging free carriage of mails by foreign steamer companies. The municipal council soon realized that their postage rates for non-subscribers were in Mexican cents, causing an exchange rate loss, and switched to candareens, effectively increasing rates by one-third. In 1865 ten candareens (one mace, ten fen) was equal to one tenth of a tael, which was a unit of weight used to measure silver. Using the exchange rates given on the London exchange for taels to Mexican dollars shows that 63.65 candareens was equal to a Mexican dollar (which had a slightly higher silver content than the US dollar). When first provisionals were issued in 1865, the two candareens stamp had a value of almost exactly three cents. Exchange rates continued to fluctuate, leading to a switch back to cents in 1865 and eventually to Chinese copper cash in 1876 *(courtesy of Richard Frajola)*




Shown above is the first stationery item they issued in 1873. It is purple printing on a cream card . The indicium is the Coat of Arms with the value in the bottom tablet of '1 CAND' This is value under the Tael system which comprises Candereen, Mace and Taels although they changed to a Dollar system later.

This card was re-issued shortly after as a formula card now having the reference to 'Subscribers' on the front restricting usage to those companies who had paid the fee to use the postal system. Again printed in violet on white/cream card, it had an inscription on the back: *'Note for sender…..Turn down Corner of Card if answer required'* and '*Note for Receiver…'* with printed space for the date AND the time in hours and minutes of writing!!! This card was also issued with only the 'Note for Sender' printed on back. The above card is in fact the 1879 issue, differing from the first formula card in the border corners.

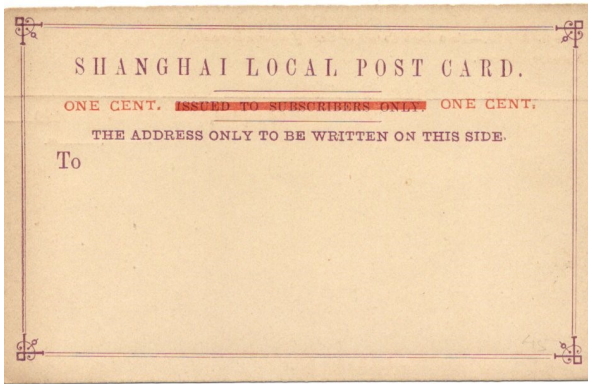



This map shows the location of Shanghai on China's east coast and the proximity to Hankow, Nanking and Foochow - well-known Treaty Ports in the late 1800s.

Between the 2 formula cards, a card was issued in 1877 following the same design as the first card but now printed in red-brown/brown and having a plain back. Interestingly, this card, and the first one, both have the Chinese inscription on them whereas the two formula cards are purely in English as they were produced for 'foreign companies'.

This new card was issued with a value of 20 cash and was issued again in 1885 in ultramarine colour and again in 1886. This card now had a thin border line printed around the stamp impression with the white areas immediately around the Arms being shaded.

The third card in this series was in 1890 in a revised design and the value tablet now showing '2 cents' following the change to a Dollar currency. The next in 1893 used the 1879 formula card but with the reference to subscribers crossed out the value 'ONE CENT' printed in red.

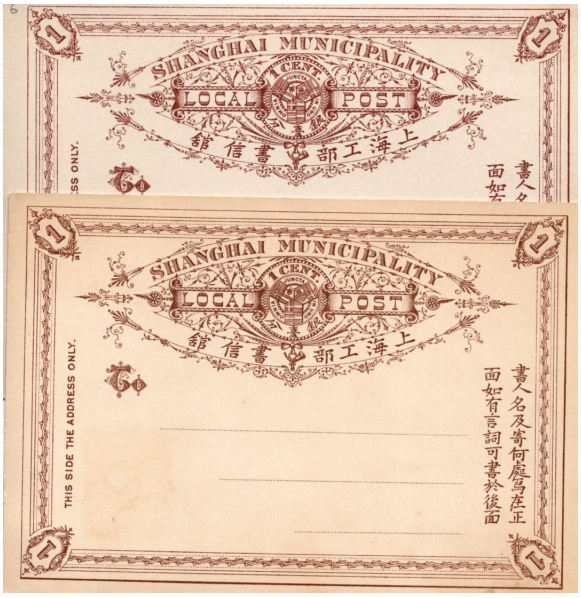


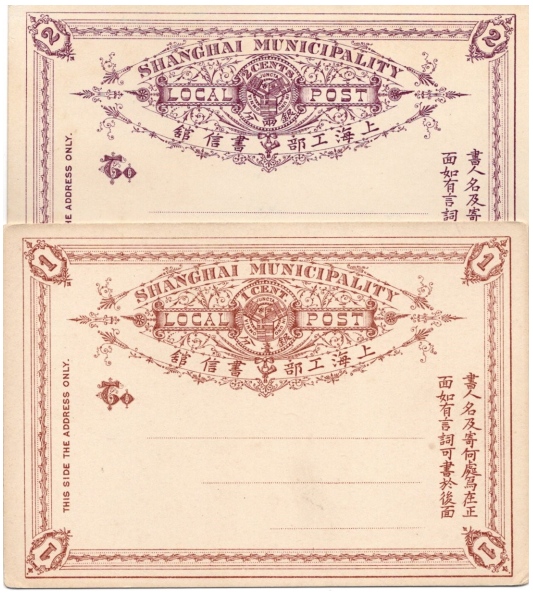




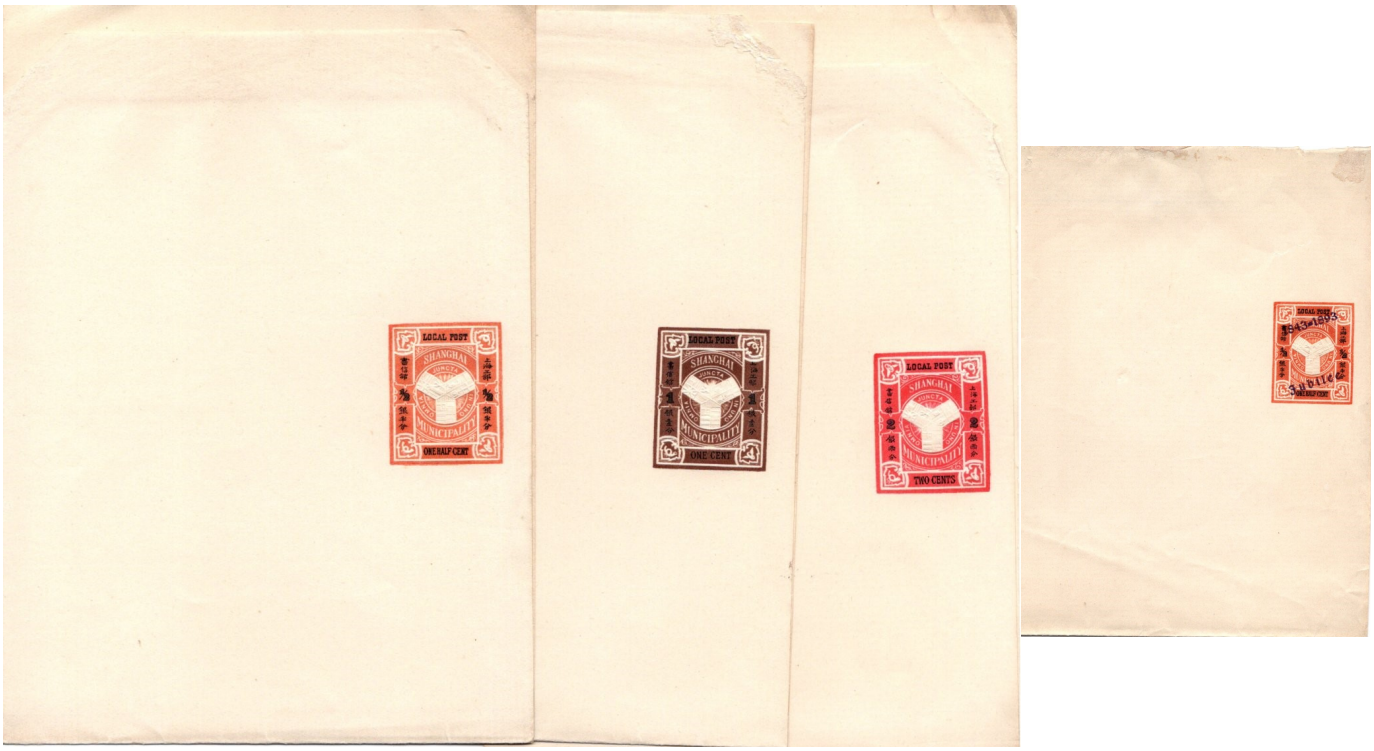





This pair of postcards are more well-known and were issued in 1893 on stout white card. The 1 cent cards were printed in either brown or violet colour with the 2 cent card being only violet on white. My 1 cent cards are mainly brown but with clear shades of colour. The 2 cent appears both in violet and a paler shade. Neither of these were given the Jubilee overprint and were the last postcards issued.



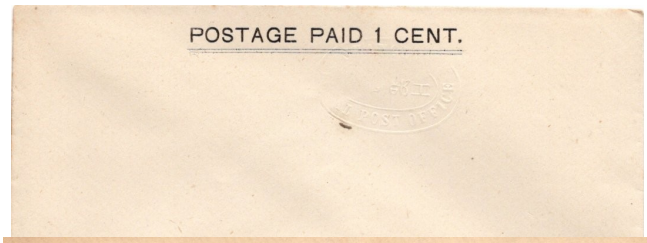

Again, less commonly seen are the news paper wrappers. There was an initial issue in 1873 of a ½ cent wrapper, printed black on cream. Subsequently in the same year wrappers were issued in 3 values of ½ cent in orange, 1 cent in brown and 2 cents vermillion, all on white laid paper.

These same 3 wrappers were further overprinted later that year with the Jubilee overprint which reads in 2-lines on the diagonal **"1843 - 1893/Jubilee".**

This Jubilee is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Shanghai as a port.

A I cent wrapper is shown in the right with the overprint.

Envelopes were also issued, the first being in 1893, a plain envelopes with the wording 'POSTAGE PAID 1 CENT' in black. This shown left and there was a follow-up one later that year with a shortened heading omitting the word 'PAID', although I do not have a copy of that. These envelopes also had a colourless embossed oval of the Shanghai Local Post. The next issue in 1893 is shown here. There were 3 values; a 1c brown, a 2c vermillion and a 5 cent grey. They were again overprinted with the Jubilee printing.




Left are the 2 cent vermillion envelope on laid paper measuring 145 x 83mm and below that the same one overprinted. I do not have a 1 cent brown to hand which was issued in 3 sizes.



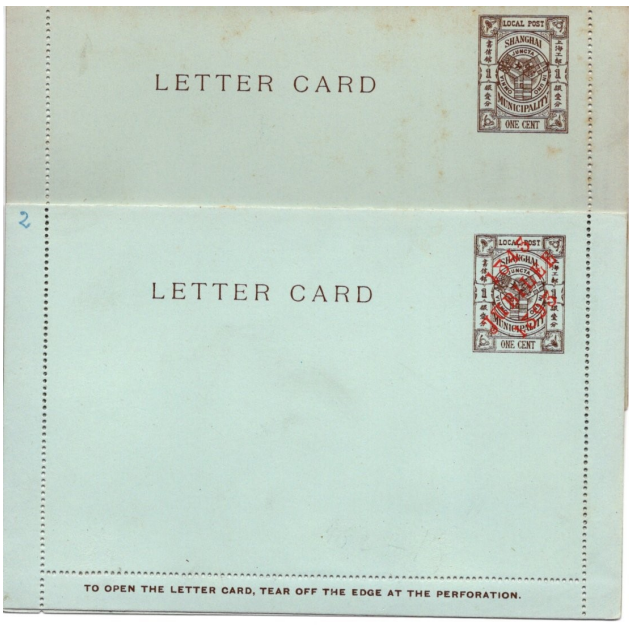

Below is the 5 cent grey on laid paper measuring 151 x 93mm. I am fortunate to have both a mint and a used copy. The used one, shown bottom, has a bluish cancel on both the indicum and on the back. The back cancel is shown enlarged.

It is addressed to a H. Schlichting, Hankow. I doubt many used envelopes still exist.










The other stationery issued was a 1 cent brown on greenish-blue lettercard. There again was an over-printed one, although this time the overprint was in red in 3 lines across the face of the indicum.

This ½ cent orange stamp probably gives a clearer impression of the central design which is based on the Coat of Arms of Shanghai. I would add that the only source of reference I have is the Higgins & Gage relevant page but I hope this has given a little idea of the local stationery from this very important port in the late 1800s.






**A wonderful engraved piece showing Opportunity meeting Preparation**

**We should all remember.**

**Neil A Sargent**