

THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Issue No.1

February 1993

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a very great pleasure to be able to write a few words of welcome by way of introduction to this, the first issue of the Society's Journal. The formation of the Postal Stationery Society is the culmination of much enthusiastic effort by our Society Secretary, David Taylor Smith. We now have a membership approaching 60, including a number from overseas.

The success of any society depends upon the participation of its membership and I would, therefore, ask you to give us your full support so that we can develop towards the range of activities which you have indicated you would like to see undertaken.

Inevitably for many members written communication will be the primary means of contact with the P.S.S., so the content of the Journal will be of great importance.

We have been fortunate in that Peter van Gelder has agreed to become Editor, and this issue will, I hope, be a major source of information and interest to you all.

Finally, I wish everyone a healthy, happy and peaceful 1993.

ALAN HUGGINS

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this first issue of "P.S." At the moment all members are NEW members, and we are doubtless all waiting to see what we shall get in return for our annual subscriptions! I can tell you that in the first full year (1993) you will receive two issues of this modest journal, attend if you wish two meetings in London, and have the chance to buy &/or sell in a club auction.

As Editor I can compile an interesting journal if you, the members, supply me with items to print. Anything is welcome: from a short paragraph of news to a full length article of about 1,000 words plus illustrations. Also send me your wants; and your queries, to which I shall seek authoritative answers from members with specialised knowledge.

I shall do my best to make "P.S." informative yet

lively. But remember that, like you, I am merely a NEW member! So "please don't shoot the pianist, he's doing his best" (Oscar Wilde).

INAUGURAL MEETING

This was held on 26.9.92 at the Union Jack Club, London. Nine members were present. It was decided that auctions would be preferable to exchange packets, owing to high postal costs for the latter. It was agreed to hold two meetings per year, normally in early Spring and early Autumn. There were already about 40 paid-up members. The following elections were made:-

Chairman	-	A.K. Huggins
Secretary	-	D. Taylor Smith
Editor	-	P.J. van Gelder
Midlands rep.	-	J. Barker (Solihull)
Northern rep.	-	A. Whitworth (Kendal)

It was left to the Secretary to find members to fill the positions of Treasurer and Auction Organiser. (N.B. Since that meeting we have acquired a Treasurer (S. Barkley) and an Auction Organiser (A. Chilton).)

Six members then gave short talks/displays:-

J. Barker	Pictorial reply cards of Germany, Austria, Argentine, Portugal, etc.
A. Chilton	South African pictorial card errors
W. de Moor	Netherlands
A.K. Huggins	Early Sweden
D. Taylor Smith	Japanese wrappers & formula cards
P.J. van Gelder	New South Wales Centennial, 1888

COMING EVENTS

1993 meetins -the first will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday 17th April in the Library on the groundfloor of the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London (about two minutes by foot from Waterloo Station). There will be 2 talks/displays: one by our Chairman, Alan Huggins, on "Some Aspects of G.B. Postal Stationery"; and the other by our Secretary, David Taylor Smith, on "Japanese Postal Stationery Cards". Note: the Union Jack Club operates a security check system, so please BRING YOUR COPY OF "P.S." WITH YOU in order to gain undelayed entry to the building.

The second meeting will PROBABLY be on Saturday 25th September, at the same venue but starting at 11 a.m. and going through to late afternoon. This will probably include club business, members' short talks/displays, plus auction and bourse. Please note that September arrangements are as yet provisional.

Auction - if you wish to enter postal stationery for our first auction, please send your items to the Auction Organiser, Tony Chilton, 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey, England - to arrive by 29th May. Please enclose a list of your lots (either typed or in block capitals), describing each lot clearly yet concisely; include if possible H & G

or other catalogue numbers, and a fair assessment of condition. If you want to put a reserve on any lots, please state clearly but keep reasonably low. Vendors will be charged 10% (for club funds) on hammer price of lots sold. Unsold lots will be retained for entry in the next sale or returned to owners, at the discretion of the Auction Organiser. Overseas members living outside the E.C. are advised not to send lots until they have first written to Tony Chilton for advice.

It is intended to send out the auction list along with issue no. 2 of "P.S." by mid-August, and for the lots to be on view and bidding completed at the Society's late September meeting. Send your postal bids in good time, or attend the meeting to bid there.

GENERAL NEWS

First Day - In their sale of 16th December last, Harmers of London offered a Mulready envelope postmarked NORTHAMPTON MY 6 1840, a first day usage. The estimate was £1,000, but the price realised was £2,000 (+10% buyer's premium). See page 6 for illustration. Can any reader say whether the Mulready, like the Penny Black, had any pre-issue-date usages?

Many readers will know that the Mulready was the World's second issue of prepaid postal stationery, the first being the Sydney, New South Wales 1d envelope of 1838. Is the precise issue date known for this, and what is the earliest known postmark on this Sydney envelope? Information is invited for publication in a future issue of "P.S."



International Scene - The International Philatelic Federation (F.I.P.) has a Postal Stationery Commission, which recently (May 1992) held a meeting in Granada (Spain). You will be interested to know that our Chairman, Alan Huggins, has been elected President of the Commission, with Erik Hvidberg Hansen of Denmark as Secretary. The Commission has members from 51 different countries. Its basic aim is "to promote greater interest in postal stationery worldwide" - so more power to its elbow!

ARTICLES

EARLY SOUTH AFRICAN POSTAL STATIONERY - the change from imperial to local considerations

By Tony Chilton

The Union of South Africa came into being on 31st May 1910 by the merging of the four self-governing colonies of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal. Prior to the Union, the colonies had each issued a full range of postal stationery, typical of most parts of the British Empire: postcards (single and reply-paid), newspaper wrappers, envelopes, registered envelopes and (except for Orange River Colony) letter cards. In every case all this

colonial stationery was produced by Thomas De La Rue & Co. of London. However, the Cape of Good Hope Post Office had a contract directly with De La Rue, whereas the other three colonies had their postal supplies dealt with via the Crown Agents. This difference was to become of some significance shortly after Union.

Increasing economic expansion after the upheavals of the Anglo-Boer War at the turn of the century brought with it a consequent increase in post office business. This in turn led the colonial post offices to examine the economics of having their postal supplies sent from England. The impetus to seek local production and savings in transport costs came from Transvaal, the economic heartland of the region, centred on the Rand goldfields. In earlier years the Transvaal Republic had printed its own postage and revenue stamps, though not stationery; the best of the stamp printers, J.F. Celliers, had been bought by the Transvaal government as the nucleus of the Government Printer, who was well capable of printing postcards if not the other more intricate stationery.

In 1908 the Transvaal Post Office asked De La Rue to send the printing plates for the postcards (single

and reply-paid), letter cards and wrappers to the Government Printer in Pretoria. As under the terms of the contract via the Crown Agents the Transvaal Post Office owned the plates, De La Rue were bound to agree and the plates were despatched on 25 September 1908. In the event, however, supplies of stationery already in stock proved to be sufficient and only $\frac{1}{2}$ d single postcards (of unknown quantities) were printed in Pretoria. These cards are distinguishable from those printed by De La Rue as the plates were distinctly worn and the quality of the printing is not so fine as that of the London printings. The colour of the cards is a dull yellowish- or sage-green instead of the dull blue-green of the London productions. The board also varies in size by a millimetre or two from the standard De La Rue dimensions of 139 by 89 mm.

Though united in 1910, South Africa was to wait until September 1913 for its definitive stationery. The colonial issues, either those in stock or reprints, filled the intervening years. The Union authorities decided that, whenever possible, they would produce their own stationery and ultimately stamps, but initially it was still only postcards that the Government Printer could handle. By June 1911 the Transvaal $\frac{1}{2}$ d plates had become too worn for

further use, and the Union government asked De La Rue to send the Cape of Good Hope, Natal and Orange River Colony postcard plates to South Africa. De La Rue were reluctant to send the Cape plates, as their contract had been with the Cape government. De La Rue legally owned the plates and they were still hopeful that the Union government might place repeat orders with them (which, as will be seen later, was the case with other stationery items). The Natal and Orange River Colony plates came, however, under the same arrangements as the Transvaal plates, and so the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d postcard plates (both single and reply-paid) for both these colonies were sent to Pretoria on 10 July 1911. (They are now in the Post Office Museum in Pretoria.)

It was again only the $\frac{1}{2}$ d single cards which were printed by the Government Printer. From the yellower colour of the Natal cards and observed dates of usage, it can be concluded as probable that printings were first made from the Orange River Colony plates, followed in 1913 by printings from the Natal plates. Both locally printed cards can be distinguished from the colonial De La Rue productions by their size, 140 by 90 mm.; the London printed cards measure 121 by 74 mm.

As noted above, the Government Printer in Pretoria could at that stage handle the production of postcards only. De La Rue were therefore called upon to fill the gap, until Union designs could appear, with reprints of the colonial stationery. From 1910 to 1912 that firm produced nearly 700,000 Cape letter cards (1d), 5½ million Cape newspaper wrappers (½d) and over 50,000 Transvaal embossed envelopes (1d, size 120 by 95 mm.), all bearing the effigy of the late King Edward. These items are indistinguishable from earlier printings. However, in 1912 De La Rue produced 96,000 registered envelopes size F (Transvaal), the same number of size G (also Transvaal), and some 101,000 Transvaal 1d embossed envelopes, all of which can be identified - the registered envelopes by having their inscriptions in slate-blue rather than grey, and the embossed envelopes by their size of 145 by 92 mm. (as against 140 by 80 mm. for earlier printings of this type).

Soon after Union De La Rue were granted the contract to make the printing plates for the stamps and stationery of South Africa, but it was made clear that the plates for the ½d and 1d single and reply-paid cards were to be sent to Pretoria, where printing would take place. Thus, when the stamps and stationery bearing the effigy of George V

went on sale in September 1913, the common design represented a mixture of London and Pretoria productions. From then until 1921, the Government Printer produced two types of $\frac{1}{2}$ d reply-paid cards, two types of $\frac{1}{2}$ d single cards and three types of 1d single cards, all from De La Rue-made plates. In addition there was a 1d on $\frac{1}{2}$ d provisional card. (Also, proofs were made from the 1d reply-paid plates, but these cards were never issued, as the Post Office found that it had some 50 years' supply of the Transvaal reply-paid cards in stock!) Local production was maintained when, in 1926, the overseas postcard rate was raised to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The 1d plates were altered locally to the new value.

By 1927 the Government Printer had acquired the means and expertise to produce printing plates in South Africa. The King's Head series was replaced, stamp production was switched to Pretoria, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Springbok's Head and 1d Ship newspaper wrappers as well as postcards were printed locally. De La Rue also lost the contract to print letter cards and stamped envelopes - productions in the new designs were made by Harrison & Sons in England until discontinued in the 1930s. But it was not until the early 1960s that the full "South Africanisation" of the postal stationery was achieved and the link with De La Rue finally broken when production of registered envelopes, complete with linen

inserts, was transferred to Pretoria.

JAPANESE NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

By David Taylor Smith

From 1872-89 Japan issued four wrappers, which were sold only to publishers and authorised distributors, and not to the general public. They were not available for use on journals published more frequently than monthly.

The first issue appeared on 30 June 1872. No value was shown, but the wrapper had a value of 2½ Rin (a quarter sen). The five characters read "Registered Newspaper Stamp" ("Registered" in this instance refers to the authorised body who could obtain them). The wrappers were hand-printed by Haibara Naojiro. At first they were used only within Tokyo, but on 1 April 1873 their use was extended to other cities on a local basis. The Chrysanthemum and Paulownia leaves are to be seen surrounding the centre inscription in the single-lined oval format. The 'stamp' was printed in red and was impressed on the left side of the wrapper.

April 1875 saw the design modified with the confusing word "Registered" removed. Also, the value now appears on either side, in the floral design. There are two dies of this issue: Die 1 - the lower value character at the right

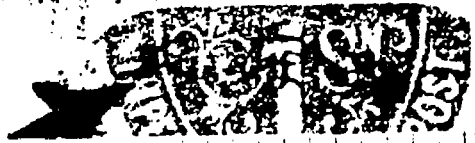
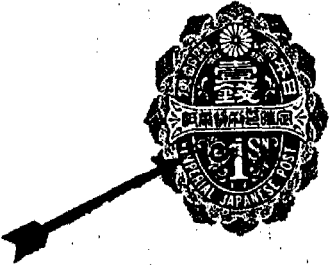
is joined to the left leaf; Die II the value character and leaf are separated. This work was carried out by Haibara Naojiro, on native paper. The impression is still at the left.

June 1880 saw the work of these wrappers taken over by the Government Printing Bureau. The centre inscription now reads "Periodicals Publications". The same value now appears under the Chrysanthemum crest. The work is less stylised, and the impression can appear on either the left or the right of the wrappers. A great variety of paper was also used: white foreign; brownish foreign wove; soft creamy native laid batonne papers.

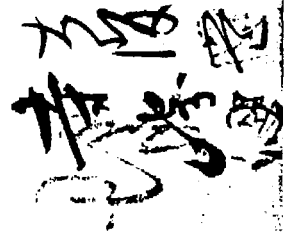
The last of these wrappers appeared on 29 April 1884, with a value of 1 sen. These could be used for inter-town posting. The design was etched in blue on thin native paper and consisted of a much elaborated design with "Imperial Japanese Post" around the base, together with the value in English. A great variety of shades is known; and the wrapper also appears with the 3-character "Mihon". The impression occurs only on the left of the wrapper. See next page for illustrations.

The only other wrappers produced by Japan were for the Meteorological Office, issued by the Department of the Interior for bulk sending of their reports. This was authorised

in December 1882 under a system by which postage was paid in bulk. These were printed on coarse native laid paper, with the impression at the left.



Specimen(see three-character overprint).



29.4.84. Increase of rate(for 60 gms.). Characters across centre read 'Fixed-time printed matter wrapper'(Teiji Insatsu Butsu Taishi). Printed from copper plates by the Printing Buresu.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

From the Editor of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" I hear that a survey of 1992 postal stationery new issues will appear in the April issue. This annual survey has become an established feature in "GSM". The magazine also has in the pipeline a series of articles on the postal stationery of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

From Australia Post I learn that four PSEs (face 45c, price 55c each) will appear on 4 March for the World Heritage Sites issue. Then on 13 May there will be two commemorative PSEs (face/price as above) for Rotary International and the C.W.A. Convention.

From Tony Chilton I have news of a new handbook he has helped produce. This is on the postal stationery of South West Africa, 1888-1990. It has 117 pages (A4 size) in both English and Dutch, and 130 illustrations. Orders before 1 May will be accepted at a special pre-publication price of 35 Dutch guilders (exchange rates seem to whizz around these days, but I make that about £12.75p). Postage and packing are 15 guilders (registered surface) or 11 guilders

(unregistered surface). Orders with payment should be sent to: F.V.Z.A., P.O. Box 852, 3800 AW Amerfoort, Netherlands. The postal giro account no. is 540447.

A monthly New Zealand postal stationery newsletter is produced by R.D. Samuel. I have before me the December 1992 issue, which the author has kindly sent me. It consists of two A4 sheets (i.e. four sides). This issue is devoted almost entirely to the 1901 postal cards with views on the left front. The number of different views had at one time been reckoned as 10, but that has gradually been expanded to 17! The Queen's statue in Auckland is the latest to have been found. The newsletter details the varieties for each of the 17 views and is a mine of information. Subscription details can be had from P.O. Box 394, Christchurch, New Zealand; currently U.K. subscribers can obtain a year's issues by air for £NZ28 (i.e. about £9.60p).

I welcome contributions from all members: news of issues, publications, events, etc.; views; wants; queries articles (maximum length normally 1,250 words - articles longer than that would be split into parts by your Editor for publication in more than one issue). All items submitted must please be TYPED or written in BLOCK CAPITALS. The address is: 16 Frant Avenue, Little Common, Bexhill, Sussex, England.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

In alphabetical order of surnames; one initial; country of residence if not United Kingdom; collecting interests in brief.

Barker G.	World used
Barker J.	Germany; South & Central America
Barkley S.	Germany; Scandinavia
Beard J.	G.B.
Bell O. (U.S.A.)	Grenada
Boyd J.	G.B.
Chilton A.	S. Africa & provinces; S.W. Africa
Cotton A.	G.B.; Australia
Davidson B.	Vatican; San Marino; Israel; Chile; Ecuador; Costa Rica; religious theme
de Leeuw van Weenen P. (Netherlands)	Netherlands; Hungary
de Moor W.	Netherlands & colonies
Druce E. (Australia)	Aden; Brit. Honduras; Basutoland; N.S.W.; W. Australia; Queensland
Dunderdale S.	G.B.; Ceylon
Edmondson I.	Gibraltar; P.O.s in Morocco
Ferguson B.	World
Fuller D. (Australia)	Leeward Islands
Goldstone A.	Airletter sheets of G.B., Channel Is. Isle of Man & Israel
Grimshaw E.	G.B. & G.B. overprints
Harwood B.	G.B. & various Commonwealth
Hellebrekers B. (Netherlands)	France & former colonies; Monaco; Italy; Netherlands
Hood G.	G.B. & Commonwealth
Huggins A.	World, especially G.B., Brit. Levant, Mauritius & Sweden

Jeyes G.	Egypt
Jhala H. (India)	World
Judd A.	World prior to 1900
Kerr D.	Danzig; Yugoslavia & states, Germany; Eastern Europe
La Pietra M. (Italy)	Italian area; G.B.; Commonwealth; U.S.A.; Western Europe; all mint
Lawrence S.	G.B.
Lee O. (France)	G.B. airletter sheets
L'Heureux M. (U.S.A.)	World airletter sheets
Lowe G.	G.B.; India
Mansfield W.	Ceylon; Maldives
McMahon I. (Australia)	Canada; N.Z.; Australia; Queensland
Menuz W. (U.S.A.)	World
Meredith W.	G.B.
Merot J. (France)	G.B.; Commonwealth; modern U.S.A.
Moll H. (peru)	Peru
Moseley W.	Switzerland; Greece
Nunan F.	Commonwealth - especially G.B., Canada, Australia, N.Z., Malta & S. Africa
Patel V.	G.B.
Rapkin F., Mrs	Germany; music theme; Olympic theme
Roos P. (Netherlands)	Netherlands; U.S.A.
Rope S.	Abu Dhabi; Bahrain; Gaza; Jordan Kuwait; Oman; Palestine; Qatar; Syria; United Arab Emirates
Rouse J.	World
Schumann S. (U.S.A.)	Australia; N.Z.; Malayan states; Brit. North Borneo

Shrestge R. (Nepal)	G.B.; Nepal; Australia
Smith D. (Australia)	Australian states; Brit. West Indies
Smith N.	Orange Free State
Stammers R.	World
Steinkamp P. (Germany)	World prior to 1960
Taylor Smith D.	Japan; Japanese occupation (some); Indonesia; Indo-China; Pakistan; Bangladesh; India from 1947; Bulgaria; Ireland; French N. African & Middle Eastern territories
Tomkinson W.	Registered envelopes of G.B. & Commonwealth
van den Berg J. (Netherlands)	Netherlands & colonies; Greece; Crete; Ceylon; Mauritius
van der Molen P. (S. Africa)	Basutoland; Bechuanaland; Swaziland
van Gelder P.	G.B. & Commonwealth commemoratives; N.Z. to 1936
Veissid M.	G.B. & Commonwealth
Whitworth A.	G.B. & G.B. overprints

If you wish to contact any member(s), you can obtain any member's full address from: Secretary of P.S.S., 23 Britannia Road, Norwich, Norfolk, England. A stamped addressed envelope must please be enclosed for the Secretary to reply.