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**I**t would be nice to start this issue by wishing all the Members and any other readers a Happy New Year. Probably it is more appropriate to wish you all good health and a prompt vaccination date. What a reflection on life in the 21st Century!

**D**espite the travails that surround us many of the activities of the Society are continuing in one form or another. You will read in the magazine how things are being managed. The only activity that I am directly involved with is the Tuesday evening video presentations and these seem to be going well. We operate an 'Open House' policy and are at present attracting an average audience of 35 attendees, which are a mix of members and guests. There is room for more members, our licence allows for up to 100 attendees. It would be very nice if a few more members would dip their toes in the water. The list of future speakers is very good (one is reprising a lecture he gave to the Royal Society in London) and I think that you (as newcomers) would enjoy it. To attend you just need to download the FREE Zoom software, which takes a few minutes, and tell me that you would like an invite and it is done. I will be repeating this message at the end of the presentation reports.

**I**n the meantime if there is anything I can do, apart from visiting, please do get in touch either by email (sec.sdps@gmail.com) or by landline (02380 402194). Keep safe, Kind regards.

### **HAMPEX 2021— (Hopefully) A Date for your Diary**

**T**he Hampshire Philatelic Federation (HPF) has decided to go ahead with plans for the 'annual' Hampex event. It is hoped that this will take place at the usual venue in Wickham on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. A large number of dealers have booked tables already. HPF note, of course, that the event will take place if there are no social distancing requirements in place by September and that any other venue requirements can be met.

My sincere thanks go to all the following members who have contributed to this issue, in alphabetical order (by surname): Mike Batty, John Berridge, Mel Bradshaw, Kevin Chard, Malcolm Coe, John Dorrington, Steve Gerrard, Julian Jones, David Painter, Reg Sheppard, Mike Torreggiani, Mike Vokes, Alan Whittaker, and the Video Presenters; Tom Anderson, Peter Cockburn, Malcolm Gascoyne, Julian Jones, Mike Torreggiani & John Wills.

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## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN:

by Dr Mel Bradshaw

February 2021

The continuing Covid-19 pandemic and third lockdown make planning our future activities problematic. Communication with members throughout remains a top priority. I understand that not every member necessarily has easy access to the Internet. As with our recent mailings, this issue of Postmark is being printed and distributed separately from other publications. At present, we are uncertain when the February auction will take place—it may be suspended further. Auction plans will be discussed at our committee meeting, scheduled towards the end of February. Also in production at present are the written reports from your officers for our AGM. These will be circulated to all members, together with an update Newsletter, in due course. We do not yet have a date for the AGM, but we hope to hold it as soon as restrictions ease and we are able to meet up again. It may well be the first face-to-face meeting to take place once our programme restarts. The timing is unclear, so the distribution of the AGM reports may well not coincide with a future planned auction. The individual circulation of Postmark, Auction catalogues and AGM reports, which in the past have been posted together, obviously adds costs to the Society. I hope members agree that it is a legitimate use of part of our reserves to ensure all members are kept as fully up-to-date as possible. You will also note that you have not yet received your 2021 programme leaflet. This is of course because we have been unable to plan the year in detail. For those who have access to the Internet, please check our Website ([www.southamptondps.org.uk](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk)) regularly.

The membership of SDPS is wide, but unfortunately most of our membership is in a vulnerable category. Many of you will be isolating owing to age and potential vulnerability. I suspect that, like me, you are missing the social contact from face-to-face meetings, or even from just receiving or delivering the Society Packet. We will restart all these activities when it is safe to do so and as restrictions allow. The current information from government would suggest that there will be no planned meetings, at either of our venues, until after Easter, and even then might be rather optimistic.

There have been a few positive outcomes from the past year; the introduction of Zoom displays being the most significant. The purchase of the Zoom licence has meant that our Tuesday evening meetings can now last well over an hour. Not only have longer displays been possible, the extra time has allowed good question and answer sessions. It was also heartening to see how many members submitted a few items for the 'Christmas' display. The Secretary continues to plan and organise the Zoom displays, which feature guest presenters as well as members. If you have not experienced the Zoom meetings give them a try. For more information about how to join the meetings and the programme please email [sec.sdps@gmail.com](mailto:sec.sdps@gmail.com) to confirm your interest. He will also email you the joining details, usually on the morning of the meeting. The number of participants is now regularly over 30, with probably over 40 who have joined at some time since the experiment started — who joins of course depends on availability and the topic of the display. The committee meetings are

now held via a Zoom link. I hope that you all understand the limitations we are working under and that you feel that your £10 subscription is being used wisely.

Another consequence, I suspect, is that the majority of you have spent rather more time with your philatelic collections than you might have previously anticipated. Certainly the number of booklets being sent for inclusion in future Packets indicates that much time has been spent filling them! It is a pity that face-to-face auctions might have limited purchasing opportunities, but postal auctions and E-bay purchases continue to allow new additions to be made to our collections, as well as providing material for subsequent resale. Let us look forward with confidence to a better 2021 when circumstances allow.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — 2021

At present we do not have a date fixed for the A.G.M. but this will be discussed at our February Committee Meeting and a date announced by email and on the Society's website. It is probable that the A.G.M. will be the first 'physical' meeting at Bugle Street once the current restrictions are lifted. The suggestion is that combined with the A.G.M. will be the 'SINGLE SHEET COMPETITION'. This notification will give you plenty of time to prepare your entry!

The Officers' Reports to the A.G.M. will be emailed to all members for whom we have an email address. Paper copies will be posted to all other members. If you have an email address but have not given to the Secretary yet it would be very useful for us to have for future communications. For Members attending the A.G.M. (on a date to be confirmed) paper copies will be available in the room.

## PACKET MANAGER'S REPORT:

by Dr Mel Bradshaw

February 2021

After a difficult twelve months, 2021 has started no better! Unfortunately the packet circuits are suspended during the current lockdown. All packets, which are out with members, are being retained by them until it is safe to recommence the circuits. One unfortunate consequence is that a number of packets, which are almost due for final audit and payment, have been held up. As soon as restrictions ease I will get these boxes back and pay vendors as quickly as possible. We do have a large number of books waiting to go out in new boxes, so once the circuits are operating again you should receive boxes quite quickly. Naturally we welcome more books to include in future packets. We will continue to send out boxes in pairs while face-to-face meetings are cancelled. This arrangement helps to reduce risks and travel costs. Please keep a check on the Society's website to see the latest guidance.

## **FEBRUARY AUCTION POSTPONEMENT:**

by Kevin Chard (Hon. Auctioneer) February 2021

**P**lease note that the closing date for this auction has been delayed until 16th March 2021. We hope to be able to offer socially distanced viewing from the 8th March. Please contact (see below) the Auctioneer in March to arrange a viewing time slot.

**W**e have decided to postpone the auction in order to maximise total sales, to the benefit of both the Vendors and the Society, by allowing viewing that would not be possible in February. We anticipate a record number of postal bidders but feel viewing will increase total bids.

**S**ome of you still need to deliver your material. You can now wait until March or either deliver it to my home address or to Bugle Street (by appointment) on the **16th FEBRUARY** when I will be at the Club sorting out the lots we have already received.

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY POSTPONEMENT.** If restrictions remain in place by the beginning of March the auction will be conducted as a POSTAL ONLY Auction.

**Kevin Chard / k.chard@ntlworld.com / 01489 574834 / 077 414 79791  
27 Battle Close, Sarisbury Green Southampton SO31 7ZF**

## **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:**

by Reg Sheppard (New Librarian) February 2021

**I** recently volunteered to assist the Society in filling the vacant position of Librarian. I was accepted into the role at the last committee meeting and shall be pleased to be a service to the Society. I have received the email version of the books held by the society from the outgoing Librarian Patrick and I have completed an index for everyone's future use.

**I** have been unable to view/audit the library due to Covid-19 restrictions nor have I been able to integrate the ex-Portsmouth Library into one unified library. I am aware of the challenge that presents and will advise my progress through future Postmarks.

**M**y own collecting is very much an eclectic mix and I specialise in UK to 2000 and Gibraltar. I also have an extensive collection of mint, used, Presentation Packs and FDCs of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Together with many albums of the Rest of the World. I only use Hagner loose leaves for my stamps as I find the use of hinges to be too fussy and limiting. I hope that this provides a brief summary of my philatelic specialities and is of interest to you. Should you have any wishes regarding the Library please contact me, my details are on the Society website.

# MEMBERSHIP & CHANDLER'S FORD: by Mike Vokes (Membership Sec. & Convener)

## Membership News – Spring 2021

Mention was made in the last *Postmark* edition of the application for membership that we had received from **Peter Wills**, a Royal Society member from New Milton. Many apologies, his first name should have read **John**.

Welcome to **Barry Cooper**, a Vectis member and one of our regular Zoom participants, who joins from the Isle of Wight. We continue to recruit members from afar and in this report it is my duty to also welcome **Simon Griffin**, who lives in Cheltenham and is a worldwide collector and vendor.

As a result of our enterprise in arranging Zoom meetings, **David Scicluna**, who is well known to our members on the Isle of Wight, has sent in a membership application from Malta. David regularly has been 'tuning in' to Zoom from the island.

Early in the New Year the very sad death on Boxing Day 2020 was announced of member **Mike Czuczman** from Fleet. Mike was a substantial contributor of material to our auctions, well known for having previously run the auctions for the now defunct Fleet and North Hants Society. Our sincere condolences are extended to Mike's wife Pam and two daughters.

**Ken & Pam Martin** have resigned from the Society. Ken phoned me to say that they would not be renewing in 2021, as he was finding it difficult to drive at night time in order to attend meetings and auctions. The Martins had been members since 2007 and regular attenders at the auctions.

Longstanding member **Gordon Oram** has resigned, as he is hoping to move shortly to Shropshire to be near his daughter. Gordon first joined the Society in 1990 and has been a very active member.

## Thursday afternoon Chandler's Ford meetings

It is with great regret that no meetings have been able to take place in Chandler's Ford because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

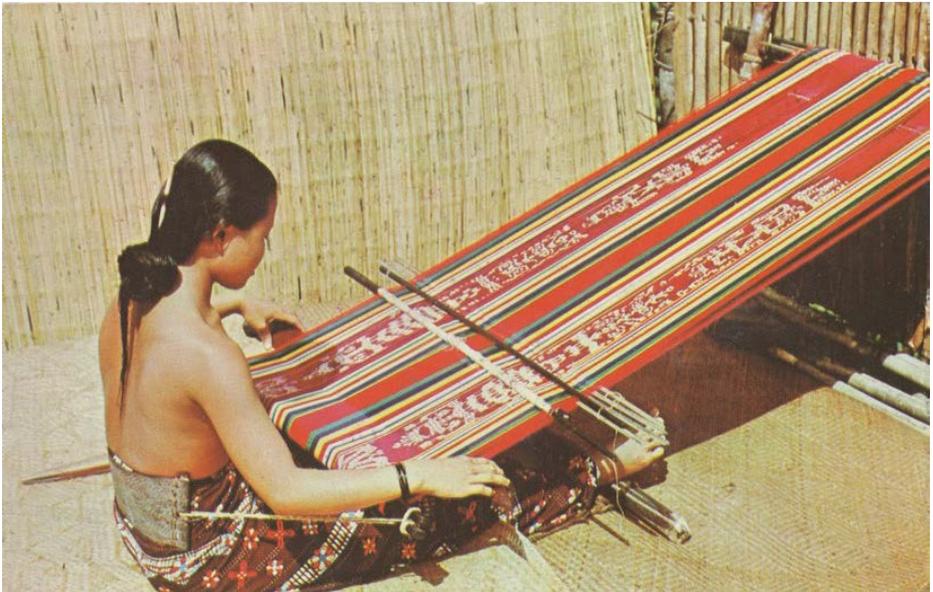
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# Remember Tuesdays are Talk Nights!



entitled “**Postcards of the Peoples of Sarawak**” and we were delighted to welcome members from the Sarawak Specialist Society to the evening.

**T**om started by telling the audience that he had been born in Kuching in the 1960s and he had also worked for a year in Brunei with the IBAN tribe and he had a great deal of affection and respect for them. Introducing his subject he showed a both a map with the location of the six main tribes within Sarawak and a slide showing their differences in



appearance. Then starting with the largest, the IBAN (Sea Dayaks) that inhabited the river areas, he showed an incredible array of postcards that detailed their way of life in costumes, buildings, tribal practices and skills (like the young IBAN girl weaving a mat, pictured above). The quality of the photographs on these postcards was first class and many of the photographers were world famous and included Lim Poh Chiang, K. F. Wong and Paolo Koch. The other five tribes were also covered in detail and it was particularly interesting to see how the different tribes had developed their own very different cultures within a relatively small geographical area. The whole evening gave us an insight into a world away from today's troubles.

**W**e stayed in the Far East for our late January evening when we welcomed **Peter Cockburn** from the Malaysian Study Group who talked to us about ‘**Malaysian Perfins**’. In the mid-1840-50s it was possible for less scrupulous people to remove stamps from envelopes and resell them back to the post Office. The first effort to stop this trade was for each stamp to be lettered. One company, Boustead & Co, (a company that featured heavily

during the evening) appeared to employ one person to do all the stamps regardless of their origin. The next step in the fight against crime was the introduction of rubber chops but in 1869 a British Co. Joseph Sloper was granted a three year licence to perforate stamps and Perfins were invented. One example that was shown (pictured alongside) is a very rare block of nine 8c stamps with the Boustead & Co perfin, which is printed vertically across each stamp (top middle is probably the clearest to identify the 'B & Co').



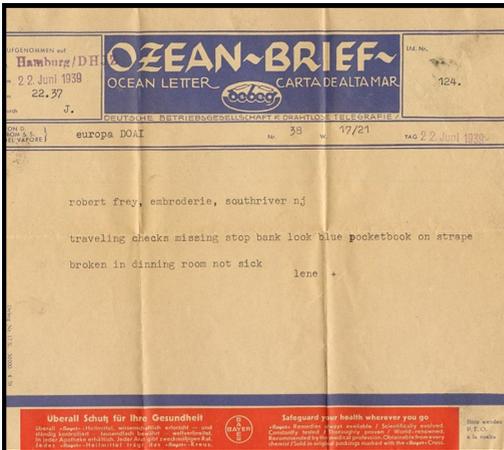
Once established as a method of protecting stamps there were many companies, mainly British and German but with a few Chinese, that adopted the practise and Peter showed not only many fine examples of stamps, covers and postcards but also he had researched a wealth of information about the companies concerned and the whole presentation gave a rare insight into the postal history of the Straits Settlements during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (The postcard below shows one of the most famous Chinese firms L. Y. Swee & Co's shop in Kuala Lumpur)



The demise of the Perfin started at the 1925 UPU conference in Madrid when Meter Marks were allowed. The first MMs came to the Straits in 1927 and the final Perfins were replaced in the mid-1970s.

The latest evening has seen a slightly different format with two shorter presentations. Julian Jones returned to show a selection of 'Ocean Letters'. His presentation was based on an article he submitted to GSM in 2017. At the beginning of the 20th century the range of ships' radio transmissions was limited and it was not until 1912 that the Marconi Co. applied to the British Postmaster for permission to transmit inter-ship messages — Ocean Letters. A ship travelling west to the US was allowed to send a radio letter to an eastbound ship for posting in the UK. The bulk of Julian's presentation were examples of letters from not only Marconi (UK) but the many other Marconi companies and other communication

companies throughout Europe and Scandinavia.



Probably the most intriguing letter shown was the one alongside. It was posted from the German ship SS 'Europa' in June 1939 to an address in New Jersey but the cryptic text "travelling checks missing stop bank look blue pocketbook on straps broken in dinning room not sick" did lead to speculation that perhaps the message could have had a clandestine meaning.

The subject of Ocean Letters provides an insight into marine radio communications between the two World Wars and much more information can be found at the TPO and Seapost Society's website. **(Ed. Note: This has been my favourite evening so far as I worked as a Radio Officer for Marconi' during the 1960's)**

## PRINZ PHILATELIC SUPPLIES

**Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)**

I am putting together a list of items which members would like ordered in the future—these can include catalogues, albums, yearly supplements, stock books, hinges, etc. If there are any items you would like me to order please let me have your requirements at the earliest opportunity. I would prefer to receive orders by email (melbradshaw44@gmail.com) or post (185 Wilton Rd, Southampton SO15 5HY). Prinz offer a discount compared with S.G. prices, and provided the order is large enough, they will be posted to me F.o.C. Items can then be collected from me, or delivered or posted (at an appropriate cost) to your home address. In order to qualify for the discount payment needs to be made to me as soon as the items arrive from Prinz—not when they are delivered to your address or collected by you.

The second half of the evening was a presentation by Malcolm Gascoyne of 12 'Letters into London during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the First.' London in the reign of QE I was expanding rapidly as a centre of commerce and trade and with the increase in trade came the necessity of paperwork. Not invoices as such but Merchants strangers post. The strangers in this case meaning alien or foreigners post. The Merchant Strangers Post was the only recognised courier service between England and many of the other trading cities in Europe.

The portrait opposite was painted by Hans Holbein, whilst he was living in England, and shows the Merchant Georg Gisze in his office in the Steelyards. He is depicted opening a letter, which "was the bedrock of business".



Most of the letters arrived from the Continent via Calais and Dover but the Dieppe / Rye was used. Often the route was determined by which way was safest at the time. Many of the letters displayed showed a different route from cities as diverse as Hamburg, Middelburg or Cologne in Germany, Calais or Rouen in France and Piza and Venice in Italy. Venice in particular had strong ties with London and appointed Vice Consuls for business purposes.

***The Remaining Presentations in the current program are:***

- |                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b><i>Feb .16th</i></b> | <b><i>John Higgins</i></b>              | <b><i>Labuan Pictorials (1894—1906)</i></b> |
| <b><i>Mar. 2nd</i></b>  | <b><i>Sue Lambert</i></b>               | <b><i>Women on US Stamps</i></b>            |
| <b><i>Mar. 16th</i></b> | <b><i>Richard Wheatley</i></b>          | <b><i>Egypt: Hotel Post Offices</i></b>     |
| <b><i>Apr. 6th</i></b>  | <b><i>Graham Winters</i></b>            | <b><i>12 Frames ..... 12 Classes</i></b>    |
| <b><i>Apr. 20th</i></b> | <b><i>A. G. M. or Guest Speaker</i></b> |   |

**QEII DECIMAL MINT POSTAGE STAMPS - Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)**

A further supply of QEII decimal unmounted mint stamps has become available. These are offered as 100 second class (mostly made up of various face values to make up second class rate) or 100 first class stamps. 100 second class (current face £66) for £43 and 100 first class (current face £85) for £55. Postage costs will be added if necessary. Please request by emailing, telephoning or writing to me.

melbradshaw44@gmail.com / 02380 785 785 / 185 Wilton Ave, Shirley, Soton SO15 5HY

# PREPARING MATERIAL for a ZOOM PRESENTATION:

by Malcolm Coe & Julian Jones      January 2021

**Z**OOM is the video conferencing product used by Southampton D.P.S. (and the RPSL) for its online meetings and presentations. It is free to install on almost any platform you may choose but perhaps best used on a tablet (e.g. iPad) or a desktop or laptop (e.g. Windows, MacBook, etc). It offers high level encryption of all communications so it is believed to be safe to use.

**S**TEP 1 - **You need to acquire an electronic image of what you want to show on ZOOM.** The simplest way to do that is to take a photo with your phone. If you have a desktop scanner, then that will produce a better result, but most modern phone cameras will do a decent job. The main thing to watch out for is to make sure your image is bright and in focus - this may take a little practice with your phone camera.

**S**TEP 2 - **Image manipulation.** Sadly for philatelists, it is often not quite as simple as scanning (or photographing) an album page and then sharing the resultant image via ZOOM. Most Zoom viewers are using computer or laptop screens in landscape format while an album page is in portrait format. To see a postage stamp well one has to zoom in on the image and this can be fiddly whilst also talking to the audience.

**O**ne way around this is to crop the portrait image into its upper and lower halves using free software such as FOTOR (but many other photo / image managing applications for this may already be installed on your machine). This will give you two images (usually referred to as "jay-pegs" because their file type is ".jpg"). Each will now be in landscape format. When displayed on the ZOOM screen they will appear at their correct size without the need to fiddle with the zoom controls of the application you used to share the image with ZOOM (yes, an unfortunate pairing of a function name and product name, bear with us on this). Ideally your album page is arranged so that careful use of the crop function will give suitable results. For postal historians the same problem arises, but usually there are only two covers on an album page!

**S**TEP 3 - **improving what you want to show beforehand.** Better results for the audience may be achieved with more work on the part of the presenter. By further cropping to have just images of the stamps or covers you wish to show you can use your favourite software to create a new landscape page with the images suitably inserted and arranged on the page with minimum text - as you are going to talk and the audience will

listen and view - but not read as well. It is a much better experience that way?

**S**TEP 4 - **so what software will you use?** Ideally something you are already familiar with, which may well be what you used to create your original album pages - just adjust 'Page Layout - > Orientation' to be 'Landscape'. Others may immediately tell you to use PowerPoint because that is what many business people use to create presentations for work - so it comes naturally to them. The (free) Open Office suite has a presentation creation facility as well as one for writing letters / album pages. When you are satisfied with the presentation you have created, save it away as a file that you can find again when you are ready to give the presentation.

**S**TEP 5 - **displaying the result during a ZOOM session.** When sharing your final landscape presentation you open the application used to prepare it, open the file then SHARE the application in ZOOM and page through the presentation as you speak. However, that shows the audience the applications menu bars and reduces the viewing area. Many applications, such as Power Point have a full screen viewing option. If, after SHAREing you select that viewing option then the ZOOM audience sees the whole page as large as their viewing screen and you may still just page through.

**A**n alternative is to SAVE or EXPORT your finished presentation document as a PDF (.pdf) file which may be subsequently viewed by means of Adobe Acrobat Reader which is available on almost all machines and is independent of the Apple, Microsoft or Android underpinnings of your favourite machine. You SHARE the Adobe Reader application, open your '.pdf' document and expand to full screen via 'View - > Full Screen Mode'. Use the left mouse key to page forward and the right mouse key to page backward. Press the ESCape key to exit at the end.

**S**TEP 6 - **as always, preparation and practice are everything.** The key to preparing a good presentation is to do a little extra work to create a new document from your album pages / collection. Find by experiment the application which gives you the best results and is easiest for you to work with. Practice full screen viewing on your own to see the results for yourself. Be prepared to try a new application.

**Editor's Note:** *If you have any questions about the article above and would like help then please do get in touch with me and I will pass you on to one of the 'team' of 'experts' that can help you. I think video conferencing evenings are set to continue even when restrictions are lifted and life gets back to normal so why not come to an evening and see how you get on.*

Eddie Mays / 02380 402194 / sec.sdps@gmail.com

## PROFILE # 33: by John Berridge

PETER JONES  
January 2021

Peter is a well-known member of the Southampton Philatelic Society for a number of reasons. Firstly he has been a regular attendee at Society meetings over the past ten years or so. Secondly, members attending stamp fairs in south & western England will have visited one of his *Pandafairs* stamp fairs. He has been the organiser of stamp fairs at several locations for many years, including Southampton & Portsmouth. Unfortunately, the effect of Covid-19 has been to put an end to fairs for the time being although Peter is happy to hear from clients who can contact him to see if he can help them with their collections. [[www.pandafairs.co.uk](http://www.pandafairs.co.uk) / [solentstamps@gmail.com](mailto:solentstamps@gmail.com) / 01489 582673]



Peter's father was in the Royal Navy for many years and Peter was born in Portsmouth in 1949. The family then moved to Southampton. It was at the Foundry Lane School in the 1950s and then later at the King Edward VI School stamp clubs in the 1960s that he started collecting. Some years later with the help of a loan from his parents he was able to set up Solent Stamps and began attending stamp fairs and developing the business. *Pandafairs*, originally started with a colleague, was a natural development and, until the start of the current pandemic, has been a great success.

Away from stamps Peter's career in accountancy was developing – Hawker Siddeley at Hamble, then Calor Group & Rank Xerox in West London followed by Warner Lambert at Eastleigh. In 1984 he became Finance Director for ARD Ltd at Portsmouth. He was then recruited by Cambridge Electronic Industries to be Director of Finance & Personnel to one of their subsidiaries with sites at Romsey and Kings Lynn. In the 1990s Peter was Treasurer of the Hampshire branch of his institute followed by three years as Chairman. It was at this time he was one of a national team dealing with members worldwide applying for associate or fellowship status. The late 1990s and early 2000s saw Peter involved on successive project contracts and with an increasing work load his postal business was put on hold. Eventually in 2011 he decided to retire from accounting so that he could enjoy his own collection and the growing stamp fairs circuit.

Peter's first marriage produced a son and daughter but the marriage failed and his children were taken abroad for several years. Happily, Peter met Vivienne whom he married and she supported him with the prolonged custody battle and helped him setup his

stamp business. He began attending stamp fairs and developed his postal business. Vivienne had been with the RAF and had recently returned from abroad with her daughter. A very happy time followed - they had two daughters – but Vivienne was then struck by cancer and after an initial recovery she lost her battle a few years later. This was around 1990 and Peter left his job to look after his wife and children during the day and became self-employed accountant and in the evenings expanding his postal history and postcards with customers all over the world. The family moved to Locks Heath in 1986 which has been the family home ever since. Vivienne's daughter Dawn, and later his son Ollie were a great help while Peter was trading at weekend fairs. When his younger daughters, Susanna and Jessica were old enough Peter was able to return to fulltime work in the financial world until retirement in 2011. Some members may remember Jess attended some fairs with him a few years ago, after his by-pass operation before he was able to drive and lift boxes. These days, with the family grown up, the current lockdown situation makes personal contact difficult and in particular with his four grandsons – two locally and two with his son's family in Nottingham.

Peter's business success in the philatelic world has been *Pandafairs*. Prior to the current lockdown he had 11 venues from Trowbridge and Bournemouth in the west to Portsmouth and Petersfield in the east, with between 6 and 16 dealers at each location. Stock carried is an impressive range of stamps, postcards and Postal History. Besides being a member of our Society he is Membership Secretary of the Portsmouth Society, as well as a member of the TPO and Seaposts Society and the Forces Postal History Society.

Several years ago, at a fair in Wimborne he was approached by a client selling some flight covers and a few other items. Peter agreed to call and see him that evening on his way home. When he got there, box after box of material was produced – the client had stopped collecting in the 1970s so he had some rare items not often seen. They agreed a price of a few thousand pounds. Sometime later he pulled out an Indian airmail from 1911 which was the world's first airmail from Allahabad and decided to sell it at auction with a reserve of £200. About six weeks later he was stunned when a cheque arrived for £1,500 in respect of the sale of the cover!

During all this time Peter has managed to add to his own collection. This is a range of postcards, cachets, censor marks and ephemera of Royal Navy ships and shore stations that his father had served on. Additionally, he added Natal postal history to his collecting range as there was a family connection with Durban.

For the past ten years Peter has audited this Society's accounts, free of charge, for which we are extremely grateful. We all hope that the current restrictions will soon be lifted and Peter will resume stamp and postcard fairs in the not-too-distant future.

# MORE SOUTHAMPTON PAQUEBOT MARKS

## Broken, broken Wavy Lines!

By Julian H Jones

January 2021

The figure below illustrates a letter posted on board a ship arriving at Southampton. The letter was mailed on board and all such mail was passed by the purser to the shipping line's agents who in turn passed the letters on to the Southampton Post Office where the PAQUEBOT postmark was applied.



Fig. 1 — 'SOUTHAMPTON PAQUEBOT 17 MCH 1938' variously recorded as 7 lines broken Paq8aa / H126 / H221 depending on the reference works by Tabcart, Hosking or Dovey\*.

The 7-wavy line type was generally in use from 1937 to 1968, so not very rare! An interesting variety has recently come to light, illustrated in figure 2 (opposite), on a post card addressed to the USA. Not to be outdone, member Malcolm Montgomery produced another copy – only it isn't! Illustrated in figure 3 (opposite) is a Cunard stationery envelope also addressed to the USA and on the same date as that in figure 2. However, look carefully and you'll notice that while the same 4 lines are missing from the central group, a further arched line has appeared at the top.

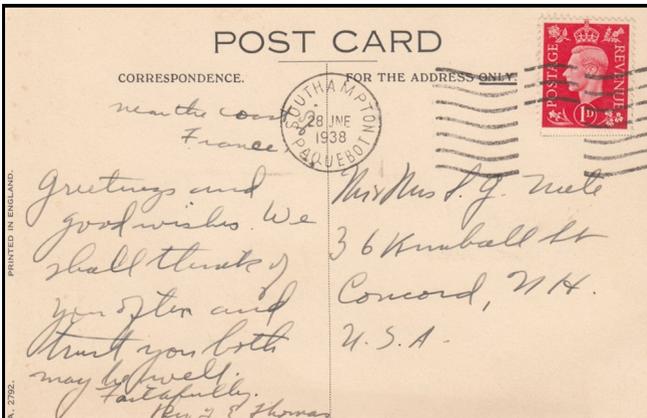
It is tempting to surmise that on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1938 the slug within the machine canceller was coming apart with the central slug moving upwards and cancelling of the mail progressed. While probably unique, as Malcolm says, these varieties will not make us rich! However they

should at least be recorded here just in case other variations of these variations appear in due course.

**\*References:**

1. Tabcart, C: *Robertson Revisited*, James Bendon, Ltd., Limassol, 1997, & *Second Supplement 2016*, TPO & Seapost Society, 2016
2. Hosking, R: *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*, 3rd Edition, Cavendish, 2000
3. Dovey, M & Morris, K: *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*, 4th Edition, TPO & Seapost Society, 2010

Some reference numbers found in reference 2 were changed for reference 3.



**Fig 2. — PPC  
'SOUTHAMPTON  
PAQUEBOT  
28 JNE 1938'**

type Paq8aa 7-wavy lines with centre group missing 4 lines.

**Fig 3 — Letter  
'SOUTHAMPTON  
PAQUEBOT  
28 JNE 1938'**

type Paq8aa 7-wavy lines with centre group missing 4 lines plus additional line above. (Cunard stationery)

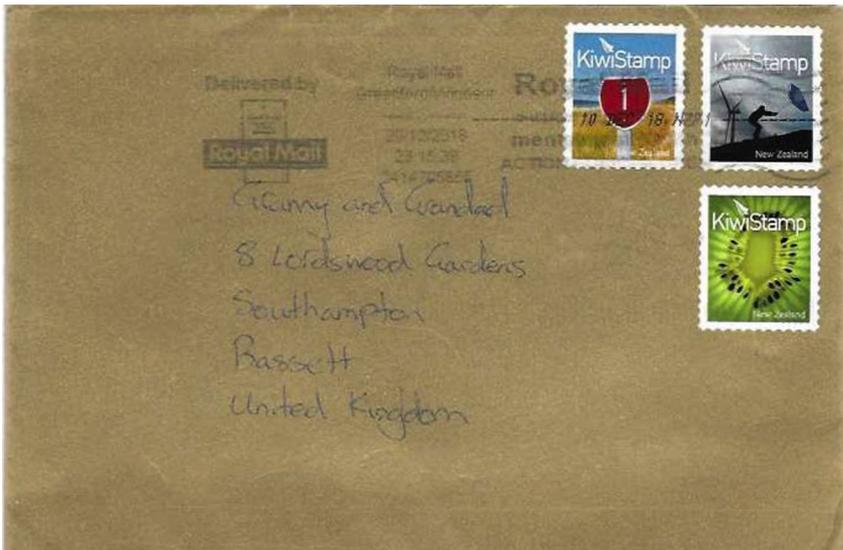


# KIWI WORLD:

By John Dorrington

January 2021

We live in a minimalist's world, a society anxious to relax traditional past rules and practices in favour of the plainer more simple approach, informal forms of address (see Figure below), the manner in which we dress, new words in the dictionary, communication methods adapted for use in a digital age. It is therefore not unexpected and quite right that our postal systems also change to mirror changing habits and to take advantage of technological advance to simplify peoples' lives. Maybe the era of letters and



postage stamps is drawing to a close but somehow I have a feeling that the need for the paper document, the personal written letter, will have its place for many years yet. Never the less, while letters are around, sensible simplification and use of modern materials for their conveyance is welcome. Most little bits of paper no longer have to be licked, which ticks the health and hygiene box. Non value Indicator stamps were introduced on GB stamps in 1989, several countries use them today, that helps the arithmetically challenged.

In 2009, New Zealand Post launched the KiwiStamp, which for the first time does not carry mention of its value at all, it was simply good for any "Standard" letter. The innovative stamp series features imagery reflecting lifestyle in New Zealand, including a State Highway 1 sign, a kiwifruit, summer holidays in a caravan, beach

cricket and a Number 8 wire fence! Intended for easy use on domestic Standard Post and FastPost letters, one KiwiStamp covered the postage of a Standard Post medium letter, two were needed to send the same letter FastPost. As promised, the value of a single KiwiStamp continues to match the current standard internal letter rate, recently increased from the 1st July 2020 to NZ\$1.40. They may legally be applied to make up postage on international items and domestic parcels. Simple! Well maybe ..... unfortunately changing rates (that usually means increasing rates) do not conveniently change in multiples of standard rate postage, so using multiple KiwiStamps for larger letters, parcels and of course airmails, is now not recommended. The latest cost to post a Standard Post Large envelope for example is \$2.70, if you use 2 x KiwiStamps, you'd be paying \$2.80. So while the Post Office are happy for you to use multiple KiwiStamps they do recommend use of a single KiwiStamp, plus a stamp of fixed amount to make up to the postage value needed. This of course is not good news for the aforementioned arithmetically challenged. All that said, some of the picture designs on the KiwiStamps really are very good and evocative of the Kiwi lifestyle.

## **ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS SEND A POSTCARD: or the Problems of sending a postcard during the high inflation period**

by Mike Torreggiani

February 2021

**O**n 16 October 1923 a visitor to Nennig decided to send a postcard to Brussels. No doubt he sat down at a riverside cafe and looked across the river Moselle into Luxembourg. What would he have written about? Possibly it had been a visit to see the wonderful mosaics of gladiators at Nennig's roman villa. There wasn't much else of interest in such a small village. The card he had chosen to send, showed the village and in particular St Martin's church.

**O**nce written the card had to be sent, which entailed a visit to the post office. On asking for the cost of sending the card he would have found out that it did not qualify for the concessionary rate of 2 million marks for cross-border areas. Instead, it was foreign mail and the cost of sending a postcard was 9 million marks. By the date of posting high-value stamps had been issued. The post office should have had available 400 thousand; 800 thousand and 2 million mark values (issued according to Michel between the end of September and early October) to cope with the higher rates of postage. However, our visitor was given 36 copies of the 250 thousand mark stamp (MiNr. 295), to place on his card. So, the stamps were pasted on the address side of the card, over the message, above the address and folded over leaving space for the sender's signature. The picture side was then similarly covered with stamps leaving a space where the church could be seen. There still wasn't enough room so two stamps were stuck back to back on the edge of the card and folded over. All the stamps were dutifully cancelled and the card sent on its way.

# FEDERATION of RHODESIA & NYASALAND: (or What is not to be found in Gibbons)

By David Painter

January 2021

Covering but a decade, the Federal Post Office issued some attractive stamps. Although not specifically collecting when I was employed there from 1956 to 1961 I had accumulated enough to begin more seriously when back in the UK. From a rewarding study of the stamps I moved into postmarks, registered mail and, appetite whetted, more of the way the posts had expanded. Membership of the Petersfield and District Philatelic Society gave impetus to the hobby.

Eventually I found there were books beyond the catalogues. The Year Books produced for the Union Castle Line for "Southern Africa" quite took my interest, as there were set out routes, postal rates and a host of possibly extraneous information. We managed to accumulate several of the guides; 1895 which, when published, was two shillings and sixpence but which cost my wife £12.50 in 1983 as a present to me. Others were found at a pound or two when there were more second-hand bookshops than now each addition should have a decent Atlas section and the detail gave prices for parcels via Cape Town and Beira, which was the more expensive route, for example.

In particular, there is a book on Rhodesia and Nyasaland edited by L. S. Levin; I have the 1961 addition which amongst a mass of information shows there were 1,467,318 uninsured parcels handled in the 1959/60 year. I still find them absorbing and in a way, reflective, given that I entered and left via rail and ship and when there were by roads that varied considerably. Thanks are due to John Wills for his enjoyable presentation in December 2020, particularly the different setting out of the issues

**WANTED URGENTLY NEW EDITOR**

I am unwilling to continue as Editor after this issue and the Committee is looking to find another volunteer for the Summer 2021 issue. The magazine is produced using the Microsoft Publisher package. The programme is fairly simple to use and I am happy to be available to help where necessary. Anyone wanting to find out more about what is involved please contact me at [sec.sdps@gmail.com](mailto:sec.sdps@gmail.com) or by phone on 02380 402194.

Eddie Mays (Editor, pro temp)

# THINGS THAT YOU FIND .....

By Steve Gerrard (Curator)

January 2021

Whilst I have had time on my hands and having taken on the role of the Society's Postal History Curator again I went through my own Southampton collection and the club now has items from my much trimmed down collection. Whilst going through the collection I came across the following items that got me thinking...



It is not very often that you see bisected stamps on modern covers let alone one addressed to Southampton yet here we are. This cover as stated was affixed with a bisected 8d stamp as they had no 1d 2d 3d or 4d stamps. Looking at the handwriting it looks like the sender who wrote the letter ALSO wrote the line about the unavailability of combinations (Or were they too lazy to go to the

post office to buy them?). Then the post office tried to charge 8d for the use of the bisected 8d instead of the 4d postage rate but realised that 8 cut in half equals four.

The British Government announced that the stamps on this cover had no legal basis so the recipient had 'More to pay' to a total of 1s 9d. And the three Postage Due British stamps covered the 'More to Pay'. An expensive letter at the end of the day but a bit of Rhodesia postal history and the letter appears to be dated 1970...



One thing that has always got me thinking is 'What did the postman do when the only thing on the envelope is a name and the word 'Southampton'? This certainly is one of those instances as I assume it is for a **Wm Walker Esq** in Southampton. This is dated 1890 so hopefully there were not too many **Wm Walker's** living in Southampton at the time. In 1894 the population of Southampton stood at 67,000 so finding Mr. Walker living at an address in 'Southampton' surely was looking for a needle in a haystack? Or was it?



This postcard was addressed to Bullar Road in Southampton with a Highfield, Southampton CDS cancellation for 10th October 1949, which was the first day of issue



for the Universal Postal Union set issued in the same year. But the question is why on an Egypt Postcard with no Egyptian CDS to show where it was sent from? So was this just a matter of the only card the sender had and they sent it to themselves with this issue on?

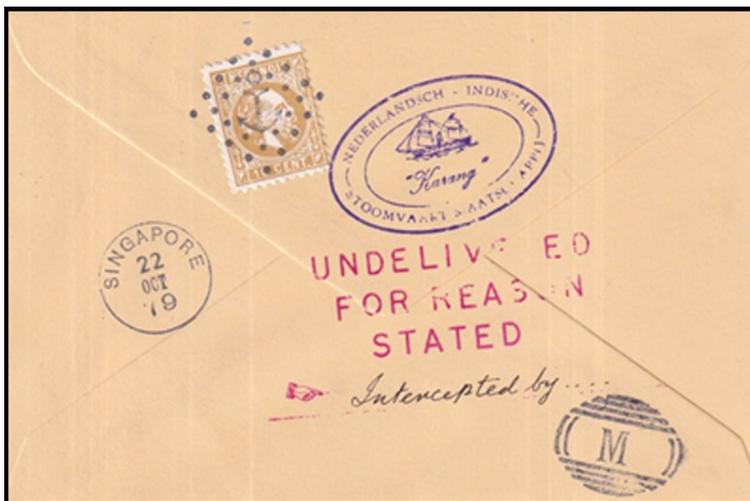
The next cover, shown on the page opposite is one of those 'Fancy' covers that appear on sites like EBay and this particular cover was on sale for a staggering £35.00 when I saw it. Collecting material concerning the 'British Police Force', I looked at the address 'Mr. Sherlock Holmes, 221b Baker Street, London W, England.

It has a nice mixture of cancellations from Singapore, Snark Settlements 1879, London Paid (Red) 1st December and the Dutch East Indies. Then there is the so called

'Southampton connection'. A Circular Ship Letter Southampton CDS for the 30th November 1879.



This and other covers were produced by Gerald M King an institution in the world of Cinderella Philately. Based in the UK, Gerald was foremost an artist, and has been designing and producing labels and other fantasy items for over 50 years.



Commencing in 1965, Gerald produced a set of 34 stamps to celebrate the wonderful creation of Wonderland after Great Britain did not issue a commemorative stamp to honour the 100th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's most famous publication.

Since that time, more than 50 years ago, Gerald has released hundreds of fantasy stamps and other philatelic items that cover a range of topics and themes.

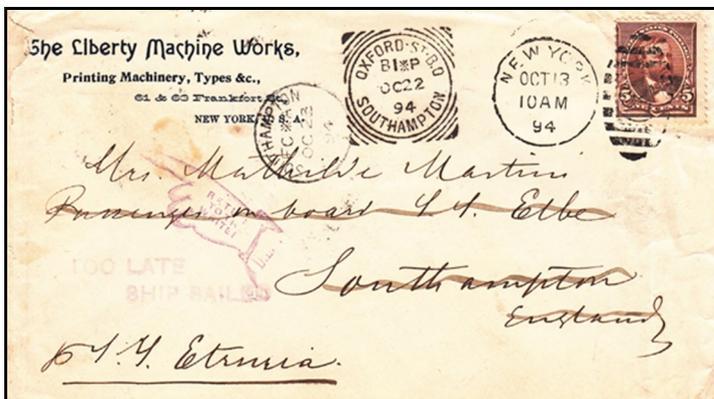
# TOO LATE / SHIP SAILED:

by Julian Jones

January 2021

The cover illustrated is full of Southampton interest and was fun to research. It was sent from New York via Queenstown to Southampton to connect with a passenger travelling westbound on a sailing of the 'Elbe' from the Southampton in October 1894.

The letter did not reach the ship in time and ended up in the Dead Letter Office in Washington DC. The story is told by means of the postmarks on the front and back of the cover.



Paid 5¢ UPU single  
'NEW YORK OCT13 10AM 94'

Cunard 'Etruria'  
dep New York 13<sup>th</sup> Oct (mails closed 11:30am)  
arr Queenstown 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 4:25am

NGL 'Elbe'  
dep Southampton 21<sup>st</sup> Oct at 8pm for New York

Marks in order of application:  
'SOUTHAMPTON M\*A OC 22 94' (on reverse)  
'OXFORD ST. B.O. SOUTHAMPTON BI\*P OC 22 94'  
'TOO LATE / SHIP SAILED'  
'SOUTHAMPTON FC\*A OC 23 94'  
Pointing finger 'RETURN TO WRITER / D.L.O.' (New York)

On reverse:  
'RETURNED L<sup>R</sup> OFFICE LONDON B OC 24 94'  
'DEAD LETTER OFFICE 94 NOV 8'

The Southampton postmarks all contain telegraphic time codes as follows:

M\*A 12:00 am

BI\*P 2:45 pm

FC\*A 6:30 am

The 'Etruria' arrived off Queenstown in the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> October where it would have unloaded its mails for London and any carried for Europe. These would have been transferred by rail to Kingstown then by ferry to Holyhead and then by rail again to London. So it is a bit surprising that this letter did not reach Southampton until Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Sadly the 'Elbe' had left for New York on the Sunday. It appears that Southampton Head Office sent the letter to the Oxford Street Branch Office where the mismatch was discovered and the letter returned to Head Office where the 'TOO LATE / SHIP SAILED' was applied. The letter was then sent to the London Returned Letter office from where it was sent back to New York where the Pointing Finger 'Return to Writer' mark was applied. It finally ended up in the 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE' which I am told was then in Washington, DC.

It is not possible to be certain how the letter was returned from London, but the following are the immediate possibilities according to The Times and the New York Times' online archives.

Possible return sailings, departure & arrival:

W Star 'Germanic' Liverpool 24<sup>th</sup> Oct / New York 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

Cunard 'Etruria' Liverpool 27<sup>th</sup> Oct / New York 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

American 'Paris' Southampton 27<sup>th</sup> Oct / New York 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

Hunt notes that the OXFORD ST B.O. SOUTHAMPTON mark was first proofed in September 1886 and comes in 24-mm diameter circle with 'small lettering' and 'large lettering' types. I'm not convinced by comparing this example with those in his booklet.

Hunt does not list 'TOO LATE / SHIP SAILED' as a Southampton (Head Office / Exchange Office) mark. Also, it is struck in the same purple ink loved by the US Post Office and used for the pointing hand mark. If not applied by Southampton or London then how would London (exchange office) have informed New York of the reason for return? Was it applied in New York on the way out due to confusing the address 'SS Elbe' and annotation 'SS Etruria'? Nonetheless the letter clearly arrived in Southampton – but too late for delivery to Mr and Mrs Martin travelling on the 'SS Elbe'!

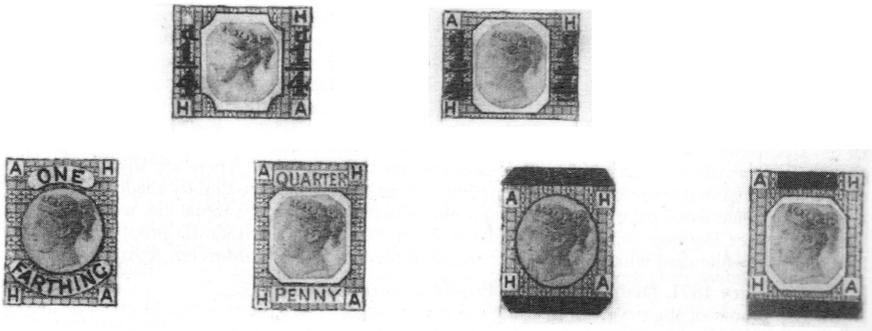
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1. McQueen, I: *Postmarks With Time Codes*, Stamp Collecting, 27th July 1978
  2. Hunt, B: *Postmarks and Postal Markings of Southampton 1700-1914*, the Author, March 1986, pp34

# A RESPONSE TO: ROBIN POPE'S A FARTHING FOR YOUR THOUGHTS:

by Mike Batty

January 2021

In November 1874, essays for a farthing stamp in six designs were prepared by Perkins, Bacon & Co (see below). There was also evidence that De La Rue also produced seven designs. There was no record of the Post Office taking the matter further.



Partial use of a farthing appeared with the November 1875 printing of the 1½d Foreign Post Card, the postal stationery card bearing the only British farthing-denominated stamp. Oddly, this rate did not appear in the Post Office Circular until April 1 1879.

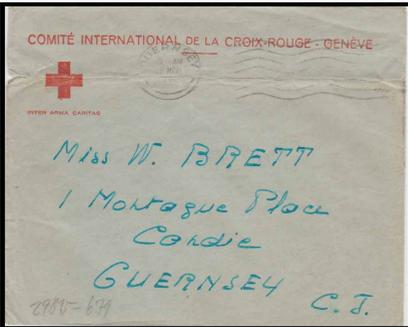


# RED CROSS MESSAGE SCHEME FROM ENGLAND TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS WWII:

by Alan Whittaker

January 2021

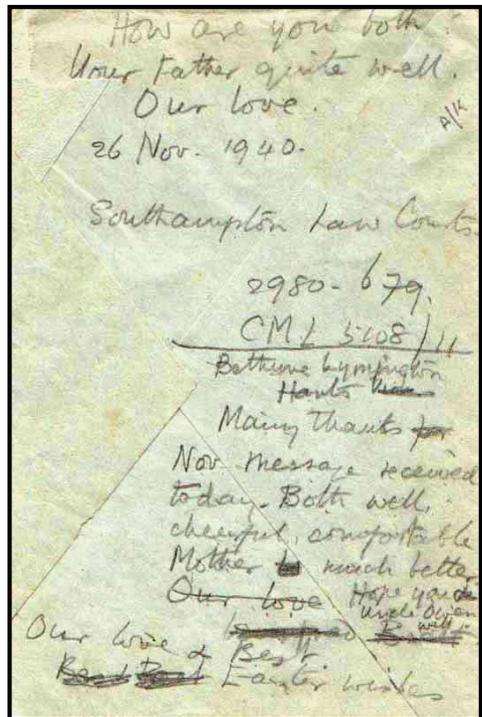
The first image below is an official Red Cross envelope I recently purchased, sent to a Miss Brett in Guernsey, postmarked 28<sup>th</sup> March 1941. This would have contained a Red Cross message form sent via Geneva, Switzerland from Southampton. The forms were filled in with details of sender and a short message of not more than 10 words. This was later extended to 25 words.



Miss Brett recorded both the original message and her reply on the back of the envelope, which is shown in the upright figure below. A short message to her reads “How are you both? Your father quite well, our love A/K”, 26<sup>th</sup> November 1940. Sent from Southampton Law Courts, ref 2980.679.

Reply from Miss Brett, “Many thanks for Nov message received today, Both well, Cheerful, Comfortable. Uncle Oliver well. Our love and best Easter wishes.” This would have been taken to the Guernsey Red Cross Bureau, who would have typed the reply onto the reverse of the original message form for return. New address, Bethune, Lymington Hants. Same batch ref. on reverse plus CML5708/11. The CML stands for Civilian Message Letter.

It would be most interesting to know who A/K at the Southampton Law Courts was?



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## SUBMISSION DATES FOR POSTMARK

<b>SUMMER 2021</b>	<b>15th May</b>
<b>AUTUMN 2021</b>	<b>15th August</b>
<b>WINTER 2021</b>	<b>15th November</b>
<b>SPRING 2022</b>	<b>15th February</b>

**Submissions to be received by the Editor by midnight on each date**