

Journal of
THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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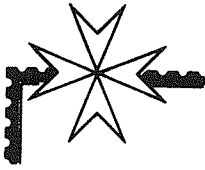
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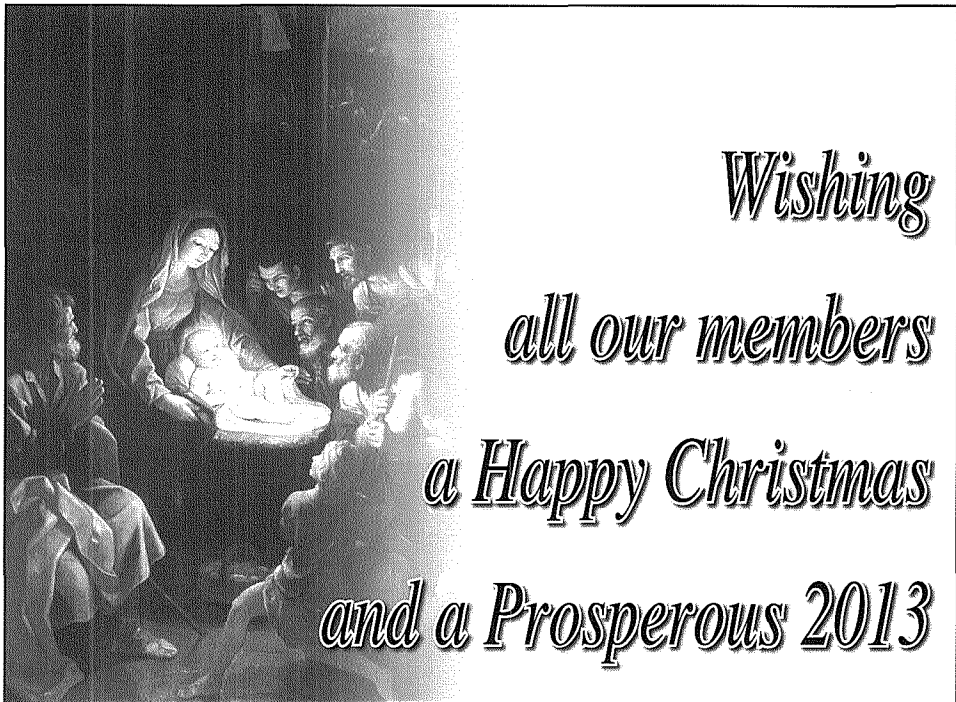
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Wishing
all our members
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous 2013

Revised Membership Annual Subscriptions

The MPS Journal has been published since 1966, and 2013 will be the 30th Anniversary of having had the honour to be its Editor.

It has been published in April, August and December each year distributed free of charge to members and sent by air mail to our overseas members. Every member should try to enrol a new member.

Please send your membership dues for 2013 immediately to our Treasurer Mr. J. Cardona. Postage rates have been increased and

consequently our membership rates have increased slightly as follows:



Local Members

(Junior Members)

€ 8.00

€ 2.33

Overseas Members

Australia

AUD 32.00

Canada

CAD 22.00

Euro Countries

EUR 16.00

South Africa

US\$ 25.00

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GBP 9.00

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US\$ 17.00

The Malta Philatelic Society Journal Cumulative Index is now included in the Cumulative Index of the Royal Philatelic Society - London

Mr Frank Walton Vice President of the Royal Philatelic Society - London has kindly included the Cumulative Index of the Malta Philatelic Society Journal in the Cumulative Index of the Royal Philatelic Society - London.

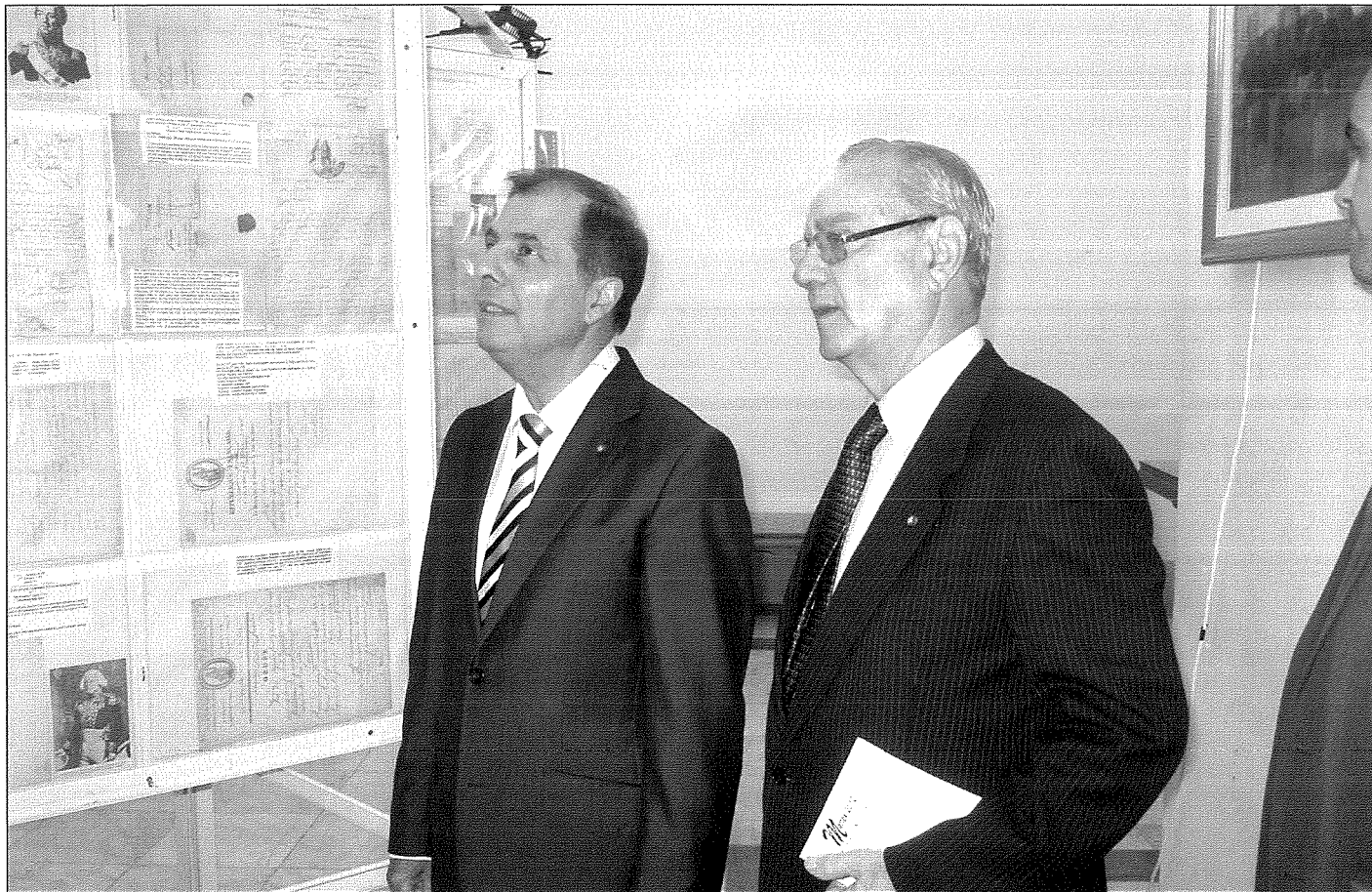
In order to access the data, you do not need to be a member of the Royal, but go to: www.rpsl.org.uk.

Then click on [Click Here to Search the Catalogue](#) which is towards the bottom on the right hand side. This will take you to the search page.

Enter 'Malta' in the first search term, tick the box in the middle panel marked 'Cumulative Indexes', and then press 'Search'.

Awarded Silver Indonesia 2012





H.E. Dr George Abela, President of the Republic of Malta, being conducted round Maltex 20012 by Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici.

The Lady Flora Hastings - misrepresented and misjudged

by
Dane Garrod

An 1829 Penny Post entire letter from Lady Flora and her sisters throws light on their family relationship, and precedes Flora's unhappy demise. Dane Garrod, social and postal historian, explains how and why, and the Malta family link.

When The British Queen wrote in her diary that her mother's Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Flora Rawdon-Hastings, was pregnant, she added to a Court scandal that shook early Victorian London and beyond, and brought the unmarried Flora much hardship at a time she was unwell and in great pain.

For now, we will go back ten years from those unhappy events of the spring and summer of 1839, to 1829, when with her sisters, she wrote to their mother, also called Flora. Her mother, Countess of Loudoun in her own right, also became Marchioness of Hastings upon marriage to Francis, a naval officer who was to die in 1826 on board *H.M.S. Revenge* moored in Baia Bay off Naples, perhaps to give

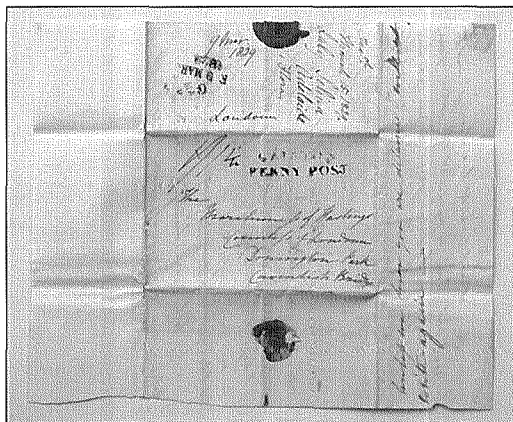


Fig.1 The front of the 1829 entire letter

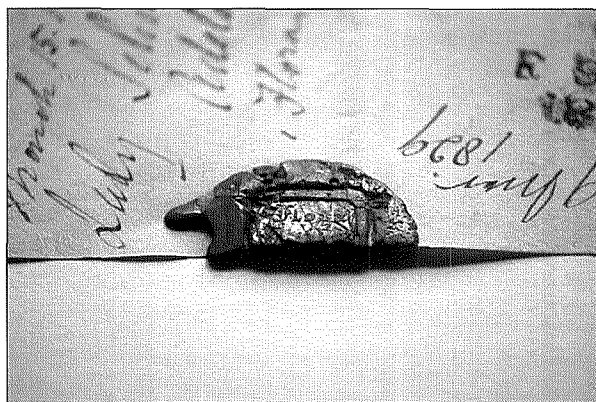


Fig.2 The red wax seal of Flora

credence to the phrase 'See Naples and Die'. Francis did both, but not without leaving a strange request concerning his partial disposal in Malta, to which we will return at the end of this article. Although it is of interest, it has no bearing on the postal history element to be detailed, or the slander and shame experienced by his eldest daughter with her reputation sullied.

The unmarried Lady Flora (portrait shown at Fig.5) was allegedly having an affair with John Conroy, Comptroller of the Household of The Duchess of Kent, mother of The Queen. Sometime in early 1839, Flora began to experience pain and swelling in her lower abdomen, and consulted the Queen's

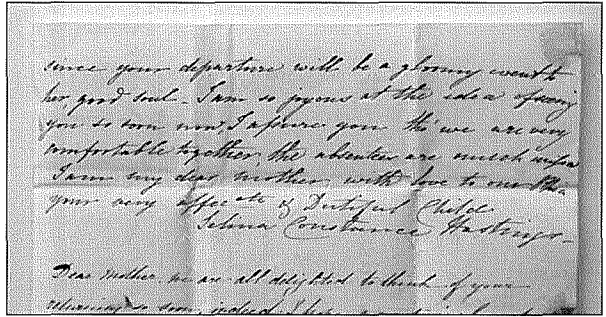


Fig.3 The postscript from sister Lady Selina

physician, Sir James Clark, Bart., who could not diagnose her condition without an examination, to which she refused to accede. He assumed, incorrectly, that the abdominal growth was pregnancy, but his discretion was not matched by others who spread false rumours that she was "with child". The Queen wrote in her journal of agreement with this rumour, which was proved false when Flora finally consented to an examination which revealed an advanced cancerous liver tumour. Whilst waiting by her sister's death bed, Phia refused to sleep in a bed belonging to The Queen. Flora died quietly in her sleep due to her illness, just months later, on 5th July 1839 at age 33 years, and is buried at Loudoun. There was no apology from The Queen either in the months preceding Flora's death, or afterwards.

An entire letter dated 9th March 1829 has recently come to light. In truth it is not entire at all, as half of the folded single sheet has been removed in the past, although it may well rest safely in a collection elsewhere due to its content, and more importantly perhaps, the signature of the writer. The remaining half, the front of which is illustrated at Fig.1, shows a straight two-line Galston Penny Post handstamp, the letter having been written from Loudoun Castle, Galston, in East Ayrshire. The recipient is addressed as The Marchioness of Hastings, Countess of

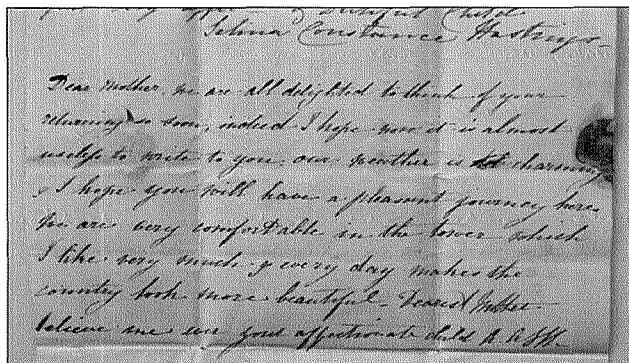


Fig.4 The postscript from sister Lady Adelaide

Loudoun, and as well as a red wax seal, has what appears to be a manuscript addition by the postal authorities of 1/1½. The handwriting on the address panel is identifiable as that of the Lady Flora, but what makes this postal item particularly interesting, apart from the diverse postal markings, is the fact



Fig.5 Portrait of The Lady Flora Rawdon-Hastings

that it is written by three of the four daughters of the Countess. From the words in the postscripts from Selina and Adelaide, younger sisters of Flora, they are all looking forward to seeing the return of their mother, who has their other sister Phia (Sophia) with her. Shown at Figs.3 & 4, it is worth quoting their dutiful words:

(in the hand of Lady Flora Rawdon-Hastings)

Unless we hear you are detained, I will not write again –

(in the hand of Lady Selina Rawdon-Hastings)

...since your departure will be a gloomy event to her, good soul. I am so joyous at the idea of seeing you so soon now, I assure tho' we are very comfortable together, the absentees are much missed. I am my dear mother, with love to our Phia, your very affecate. & Dutiful Child Selina Constance Hastings.

(in the hand of Lady Adelaide Rawdon-Hastings)

Dear Mother, we are all delighted to think of your returning so soon, indeed I hope now it is almost useless to write to you. our weather is charming & I hope you will have a pleasant journey here. We are very comfortable in the tower which I like very much & every day makes the

country look more beautiful. Dearest Mother believe me ever your affectionate child A.A.L.H.

The Countess wrote the date of receipt on the letter as *March 15. 1829*, confirming that transmission of this entire from writers in East Ayrshire to receipt by the addressee took six days. This was only a few years before rail travel, so the letter would have travelled southbound by various coaches and horses. This entire letter is particularly poignant because, apart from the postscripts added by the younger sisters to their eldest sister's letter to their mother, the red wax seal (*Fig.2*), although split over two parts of the sheet of paper as the illustration shows, still clearly bears the inscription within of *Flora* - the woman who in later years was so unfairly disgraced.

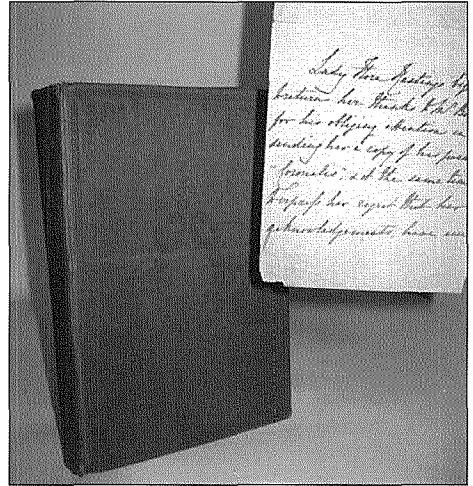


Fig.6 Lady Flora's book of poems, and another letter

After Flora's death in July 1839, her family were incensed over her mistreatment and defamation, and her brother, Marquess of Hastings, together with John Conroy, stirred up a press campaign against both The Queen and Doctor Clark. This attacked them for insulting and disgracing Flora with false rumours, and for a time, The Queen enjoyed a period of subdued popularity with expression of disapproval from the public concerning Her involvement. From a philatelic viewpoint, it is understood that in retaliation, her family attached postage stamps of The Queen upside down on correspondence.

Flora was also a poet, and her *Poems by The Lady Flora Hastings* were published posthumously by her sister Sophia. Shown at *Fig. 6* is a copy of the 1841 first edition in its green binding, together with a letter written by Flora which shows in the writing of the word *Hastings* the distinctive and ornate capital 'H' which is an identical match to the 'H' in the address panel on the letter to her mother.

As for Flora's father, Francis, he cannot feature within this entire letter of 1829 along with his wife and four daughters as he had died three years earlier. Following his directions, and before he was buried in Malta, his right hand was removed and later buried with his wife when she died 13 years later in January 1840 at Kelburne Castle. It now rests clasped with hers in the family vault at Loudoun Kirk. It is quite conceivable that other letters to and from the Hastings family in the 19th century are in stamp dealers' boxes, unrecognised for what they are and the stories they can tell, as this was, as recently as April 2011.

Private Royal Mail from Elizabeth and Charles

by
Dane Garrod

In these months of royal celebration, how The Queen and other close members of her family utilise the postal systems of the United Kingdom is of particular topical interest. Dane Garrod, social and postal historian, explains how and why.

The use of the Official Paid handstamp on mail emanating from the Royal Household will be known to stamp collectors, philatelists and postal historians, as will the round or oval royal cypher, which naturally changes design upon each royal accession to the throne, and is impressed on the front of the envelope. What is less known will be how private mail is sent from the Royal Family, how it is kept private and secure, and how the items are authenticated and authorised. This article will endeavour to throw some light on this subject, and may even assist collectors to be aware in order to spot such an item in the future, when they occasionally filter through to the open market.

The Royal Family has naturally always had a need to send correspondence and telegrams, just like any other family, even with the more frequent use of the telephone from the beginning of the 20th century, which does not meet the need of considered thought and writing to set down expression of feelings which can be read more than once. Although this article will cover private mail from the current monarch and heir, as the title says, it will cover some items from their predecessors in the last 100 years.

The earliest example to be shown here (*Fig. 1*) is from one Prince to another, and utilises the normal postage system of the time, which is 1914. On this occasion, no attempt is made to

hide the status of the recipient – no covering envelope addressed to the House Master of the school, for example. Prince George is clearly named, and the envelope has initials in the bottom left-hand corner. The writing is of Edward, Prince of Wales,

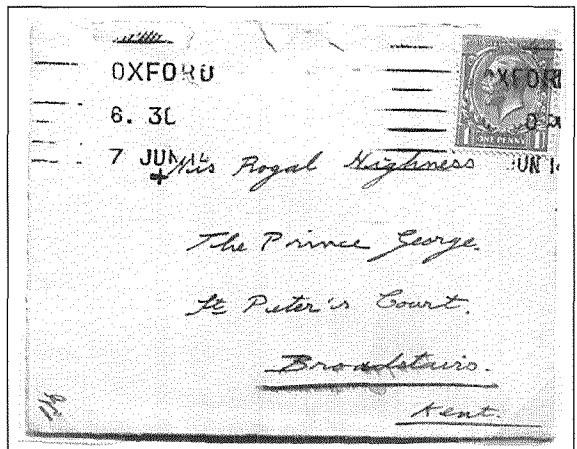


Fig. 1 Prince Edward (David) to Prince George in 1914

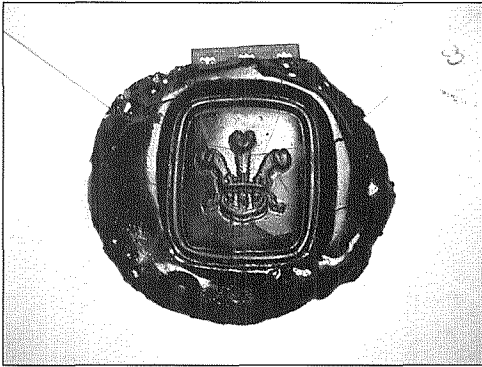


Fig.2 Seal of the Prince of Wales on reverse of envelope to Prince George

whilst studying at Magdalen College, Oxford. As a measure of security, the envelope has his personal black wax seal impression of three feathers on the reverse (*Fig.2*). Regrettably, the letter has been retained elsewhere, even if the envelope has not, and it is of interest how it came to be so. A collection of 200 wax seals, a photograph album, a quantity of postcards, and this envelope were all discovered in a box in an attic of a manor house in Mold, Cheshire, some 30 years ago. From the information

therein it was deduced that the wax seal collection belonged to Albinia Bacon, sister of Edmund Bacon (later Sir Edmund Bacon, Premier Baronet of England) who was the same age as Prince George and probably at the same preparatory school. George handed the envelope to his friend, Edmund, for his sister's collection – and who can say he did not.

In April 1932, when our present Queen was Princess Elizabeth of York, and aged six years old, her grandmother, Cecilia, Countess of

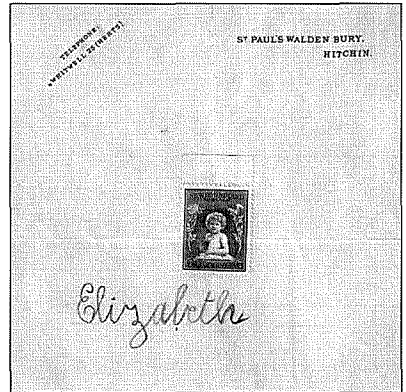


Fig.3 Signature of 6 year old Elizabeth next to stamp with her portrait

Strathmore, responded to a request for her grand-daughter's signature next to the recently issued stamp showing her photograph – the Newfoundland 6 cents light blue of January 1932 – and this was sent from the Bowes-Lyon family home at St. Paul's Walden Bury in Hertfordshire (*Fig.3*), together with a letter which begins as follows:

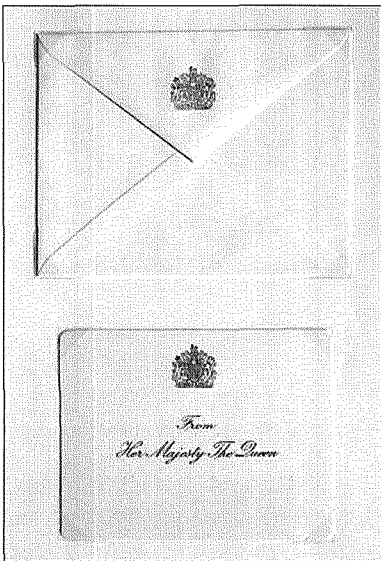


Fig.4 Her Majesty's personal compliment slip and envelope

Dear Mr. Elliott

I have secured the enclosed signature for you! but my little Granddaughter could not write over the stamp, so perhaps you or Mrs. Elliott could stick it over the name?

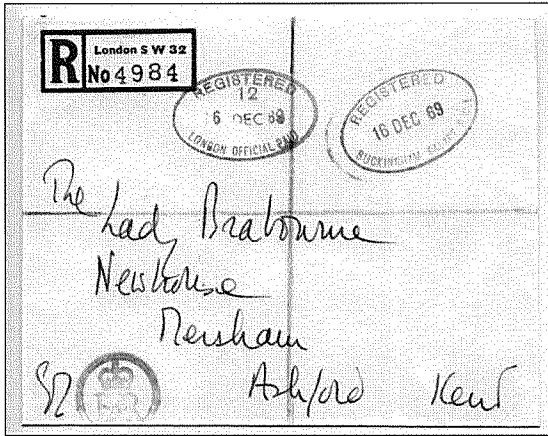


Fig.5 Registered envelope written by Her Majesty in 1969

...and so he did, as the illustration shows. However, should Her Majesty have a need to personally thank you in the present decade, then you might receive a crested envelope with printed compliment slip, as also shown here (Fig.4).

To ensure security, royal mail (as opposed to the organisation known as Royal Mail) is often sent registered, and the envelope itself would contain an inner wrapping so that the contents

could not be read by any photographic or digital means. Here is shown a registered envelope from mid-December 1969 (Fig.5), probably containing a Christmas gift and personally addressed by The Queen in her handwriting, together with handstamps confirming registration officially paid and emanating from Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty has also confirmed her authorship by writing 'ER' in the bottom left-hand corner.

Her Majesty has also sent telegrams when appropriate, though these naturally do not have the element of confidentiality. Whilst at Buckingham Palace in April 1980, The Queen sent a telegram to her Clerk of Works on the Crown Estate at Sandringham – Robert Marrington – thanking him for his birthday congratulations and sent under Her signature – Elizabeth R. As shown (Fig.6), this was received at Dersingham post office

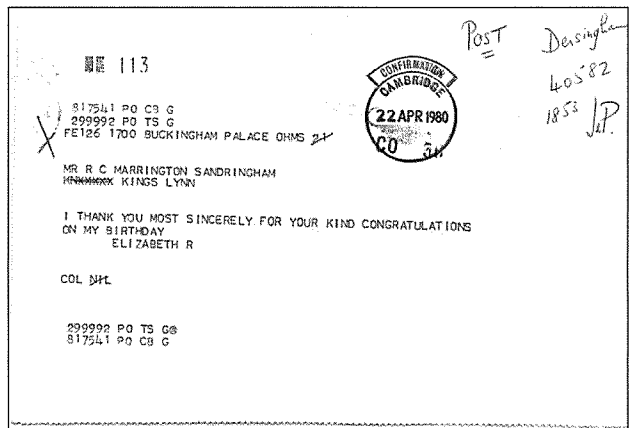


Fig.6 Personal telegram from Her Majesty in 1980

and taken the final few miles by road to Sandringham.

Sometimes, the thanks from the Royal Family is more personal, as is shown by the compliment slip from Charles and Diana to their personal chauffeur, George Murphy (Fig.7). Although the envelope has gone, and the transmission would have been by messenger rather than by post, it is of interest as it was an item of royal mail delivery from the heir to the throne. The Prince of Wales has used, and no doubt

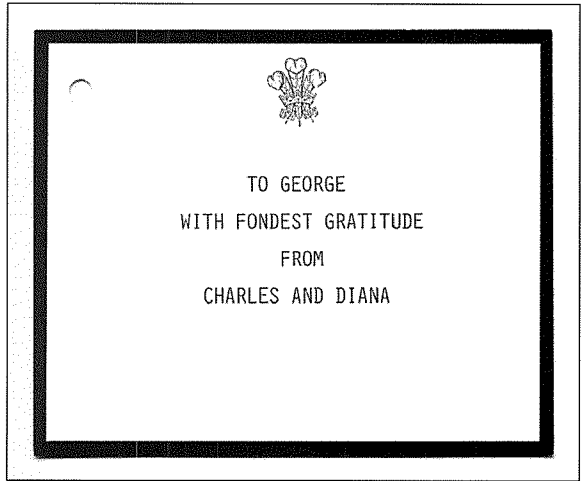


Fig.7 Compliment card from Charles and Diana to their chauffeur

continues to use, both private messenger services and national postal mail services – whichever is appropriate at the time. The transmission to Sgt. Ron Lewis from the Prince of Wales was one not utilising the postal system, but private messenger, and as well as being written in his hand, His Royal Highness has added his 'C' initial on the envelope to confirm authenticity (Fig.8).

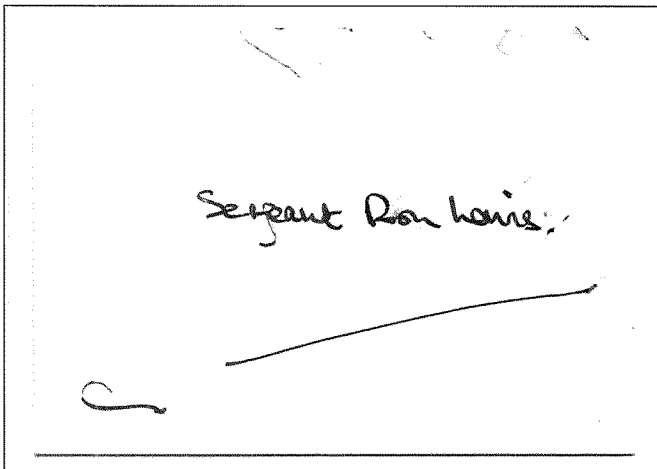


Fig.8 Envelope written and sent by the Prince of Wales

to August 1966. In his own writing and with his 'C' initial, he writes in March 1966 from Victoria by Air Mail to Mersham in Kent, and this was re-addressed to a London town-house. 1966 was the time of the Australian changeover from sterling to decimal, and this is reflected by the two postage stamps, one of which is rated at 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence) and the other at 15 cents. Although decimalisation took place on 14 February 1966, the sterling postage stamp has not been marked

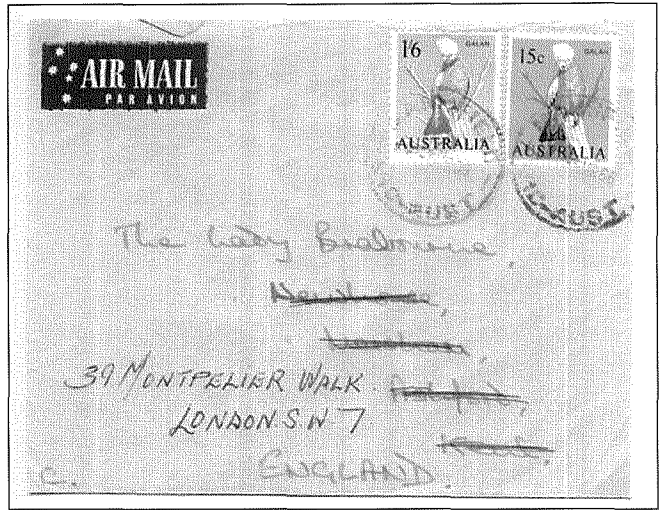


Fig.9 Air mail envelope sent from Australia in 1966 by Prince Charles

as invalid – this cover is therefore a dual currency air mail item (Fig.9). Finally, a second cover from the heir to the throne, but from the same year of 1966. Sent to England by air mail from the Principality of Liechtenstein where he had been skiing, and with a 50 rappen postage stamp (Fig.10), it again is addressed by the Prince of Wales himself, and confirmed with his ‘C’ initial.

Due to the number of years that both the Her Majesty The Queen and The Prince of Wales have lived and been sending correspondence, there is no doubt that many postal items from them have survived, a few of which are in the public domain. You might just find one in a dealer’s box for which the seller has not appreciated the significance....but don’t expect to find a letter inside though!

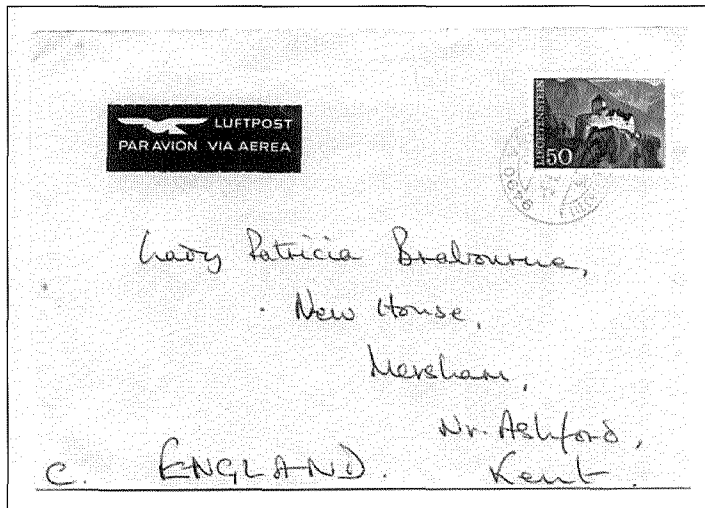


Fig.10 Envelope from Prince Charles in Liechtenstein to the UK

Update on MaltaPost Postage Paid Envelopes Group Type 6

by

John V. De Battista

The Group 6 postage paid envelopes, first seen in early September 2011, are easy to distinguish from all the previous versions because of the new design consisting of a pink, black and blue border pattern edging the envelope all around. The pattern overlaps the folds, making it visible both from the front and back of the envelope. It is to be noted that for the first time these postage paid envelopes incorporate the postage rate of 20 cents in the imprinted stamp as opposed to the “Postage Paid” indicator, while in the initial printings they also had a validity date imprinted right under the stamp.

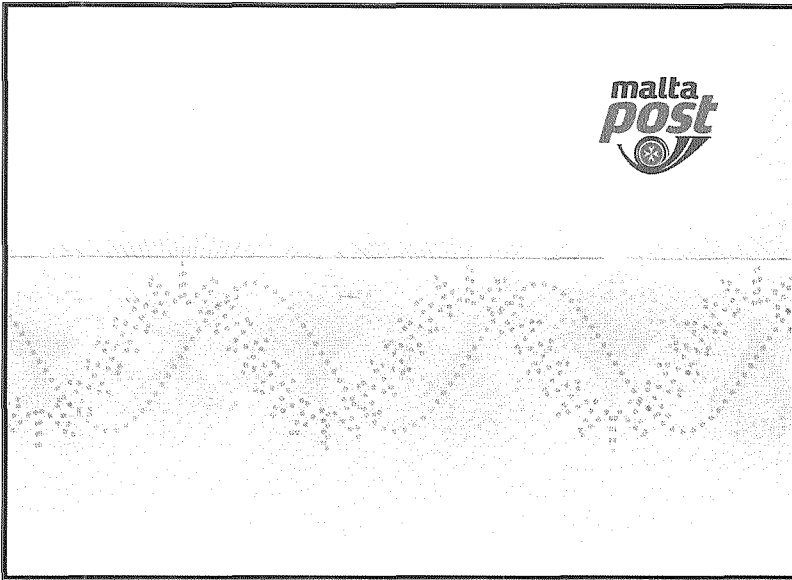
It has since become known that the printing of these latest type of postage paid envelopes is being undertaken by the local security printing firm Printex Limited of Qormi, the same one entrusted with the printing of Malta’s postage stamps. Prior to this group, all MaltaPost postage paid envelopes had been manufactured by Intermarkets Stationeries Limited, an activity in which the company had been involved since the introduction of this type of postal stationery back in September 2002.

To date four types of this group have been observed; the main difference between the first two and the later ones consists in the version of the pattern edging the envelope. The earliest version of the pattern, which exists in both standard (11.1) and window (11.2) format, has a “wide” undulating design. The second version, placed on the market sometime around January 2012, has a “narrow” undulating pattern design which has only been observed in window format (11.2a) envelopes. Around the month of June, the validity date imprinted right under the stamp was done away with. The earliest recorded date for this latest type is 16th June 2012 and up to now it too has only been seen on the narrow undulating pattern in window format (11.2b) version.

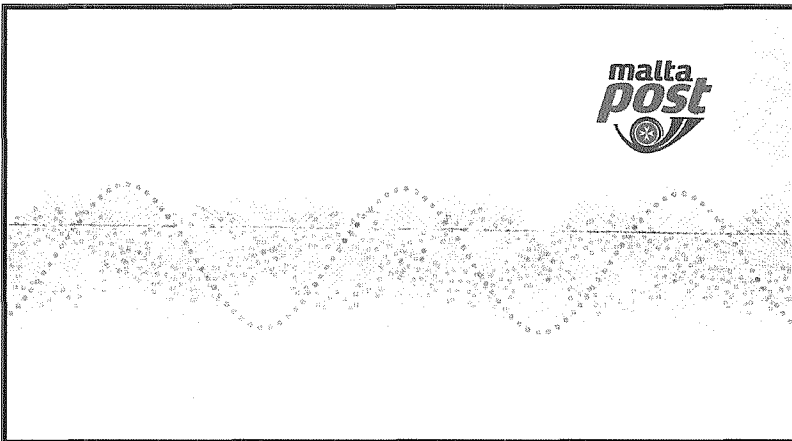
For the record the envelopes are sold at the price of €0.28 each when bought over the post office counters. For high volume users, MaltaPost also offers special reduced rates for postage paid envelopes depending on quantity ordered.

Group 6

GROUP TYPE 6	RATE & ENVELOPE FORMAT	STAMP TYPE	IMPRINTED STAMP COLOUR	LOGO TYPE	SIZE MM	SECURITY PRINTING ON INSIDE OF ENVELOPE	INSTRUCTIONS ON FLAP
11.1	20 c LOCAL STANDARD "Wide Pattern" (Expires 31 st December 2012)	5 NEOLITHIC CONSTRUCTION & SPIRAL DESIGN	BLACK & RED	4	230 X 110	LIGHT GREY WEAVE PATTERN DESIGN ON WHITE BACKGROUND. GREY MaltaPost p.l.c. ON WHITE TABLET TOP FRONT SECTION	NONE
11.2	20 c LOCAL WINDOW "Wide Pattern" (Expires 31 st December 2012)	5 NEOLITHIC CONSTRUCTION & SPIRAL DESIGN	BLACK & RED	4	230 X 110	LIGHT GREY WEAVE PATTERN DESIGN ON WHITE BACKGROUND. GREY MaltaPost p.l.c. ON WHITE TABLET TOP FRONT SECTION	NONE
11.2a	20 c LOCAL WINDOW "Narrow Pattern" (Expires 31 st December 2012)	5 NEOLITHIC CONSTRUCTION & SPIRAL DESIGN	BLACK & RED	4	230 X 110	LIGHT GREY WEAVE PATTERN DESIGN ON WHITE BACKGROUND. GREY MaltaPost p.l.c. ON WHITE TABLET TOP FRONT SECTION	NONE
11.2b	20 c LOCAL WINDOW "Narrow Pattern" (No expiry date)	5 NEOLITHIC CONSTRUCTION & SPIRAL DESIGN	BLACK & RED	4	230 X 110	LIGHT GREY WEAVE PATTERN DESIGN ON WHITE BACKGROUND. GREY MaltaPost p.l.c. ON WHITE TABLET TOP FRONT SECTION	NONE



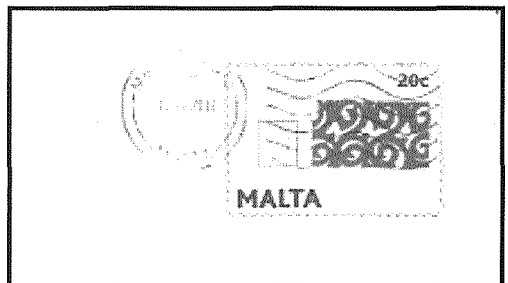
*Initial Type
~ "Wide"
Undulating
Pattern
Version (used
on 11.1 &
11.2)*



*Later Type
~ "Narrow"
Undulating
Pattern
Version (used
on 11.2a &
11.2b)*



*Expiry date on envelope
Types 11.1; 11.2; 11.2a*



*Earliest recorded envelope
without expiry date, Type 11.2b*

An Interesting Entire In My Collection

by

John V. De Battista

In the MSC Handbook, on page 32 we find details with regards to the MAL-11 hand stamps used during the reign of Queen Victoria. These three circular hand stamps consisted of MALTA in a straight line with a code letter above it and the date in two lines below. In the Handbook it is recorded that the two identical 19mm circular daters Small MAL-11 a & b, are to be found only with code letters 'A', 'C', and 'O'. These were in use between 15th May 1858 and 2nd November 1866. The third hand stamp in the group, a 20mm dater known as Large MAL-11 c, is recorded as being used with the 'A' code letter only and was in use between 9th June 1868 and 8th April 1874.

In the supplement to the Handbook, on Pg. 4 we find an amendment to these details where we read: Page 32 "Large MAL-11. Code letter 'B' known used 18 Sep. 61."

This same information may also be found in the MSC Study Paper 2 "Malta Post Office 1806-1885" on pg 6, with the additional information that the Small MAL-11 a & b have a 12 ½ mm long MALTA, while that of the Large MAL-11 'c' is 15 mm long.

As can be seen from these major reference works, it looks that no reports have as yet been made of the use of the Small MAL-11 a & b with a 'B' code letter.

I am pleased to record that recently I acquired an entire and to my surprise discovered that it bore such a marking and not what I initially thought was a MAL-

11 c. Unfortunately the strike is not as clear as one would wish, but clear enough that close inspection reveals without doubt that this is truly a 'B' code with the date it was used on being the 15th May 1863 (*Fig. 1*).

The two page entire bearing this marking is on paper watermarked C ANSELL, is written in English on behalf of James Bell & Co. and concerns the payment of a remittance. It is addressed to Messrs. Clossmann & Co., reached Marseilles on the 18th May and its final destination, Bordeaux, on the 19th (*Fig. 2*).



Figure 1

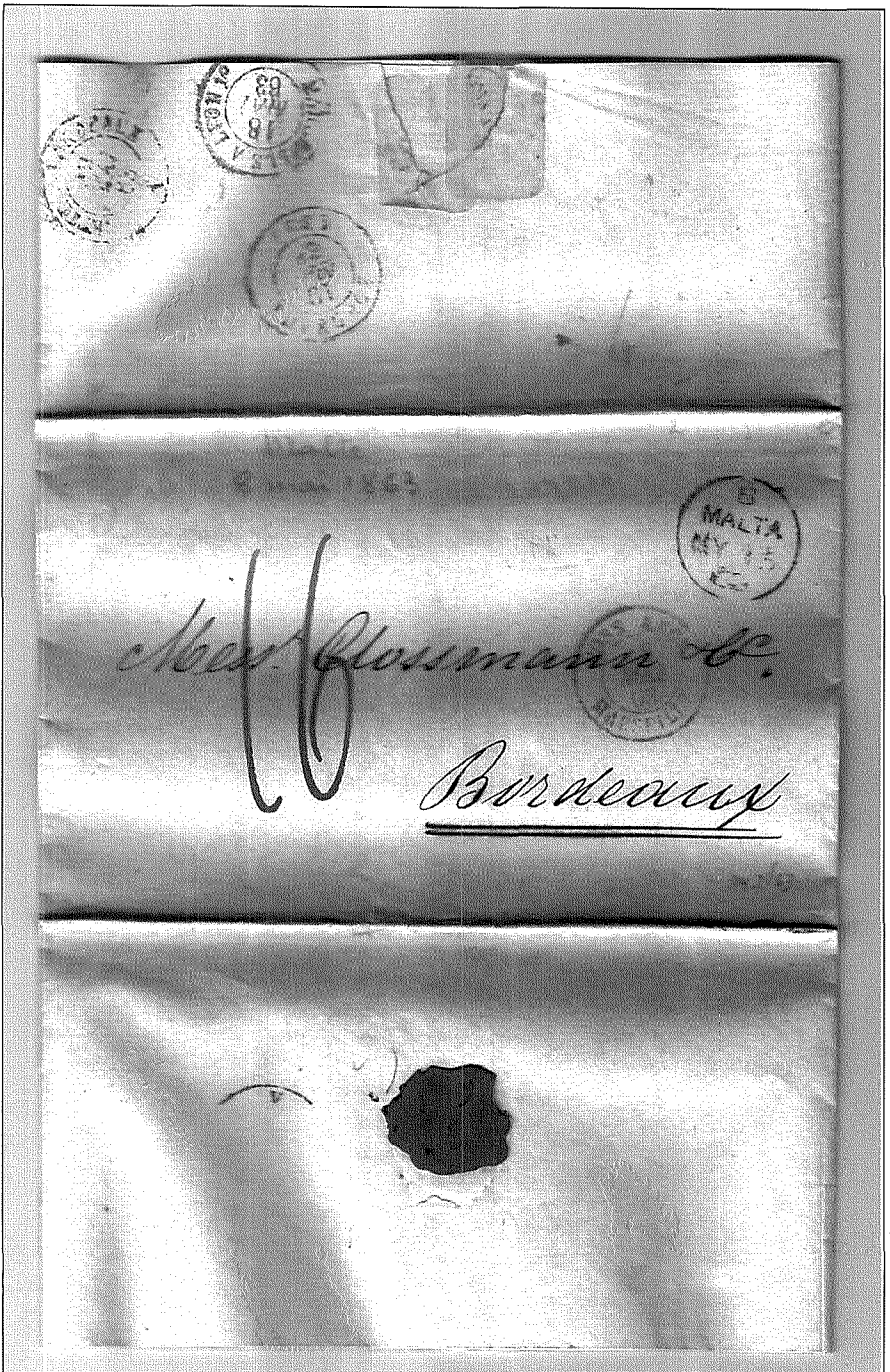


Figure 2

Victoria Stamps and Postmarks of Bristol

by R.A. Rostron

(A talk cum display given to the Malta Philatelic Society members on 7th
December 2011)

Prepared for printing by John A. Cardona

Introduction

Using Bristol as a 'vehicle' I will attempt to demonstrate the growing Postal Phenomenon that took place soon after the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp in 1840. Why Bristol? Well I lived there as a schoolboy. Its location as a port in the west of England meant much mail was generated there and passed through it. Bristol's coat of arms is shown in Fig 1.

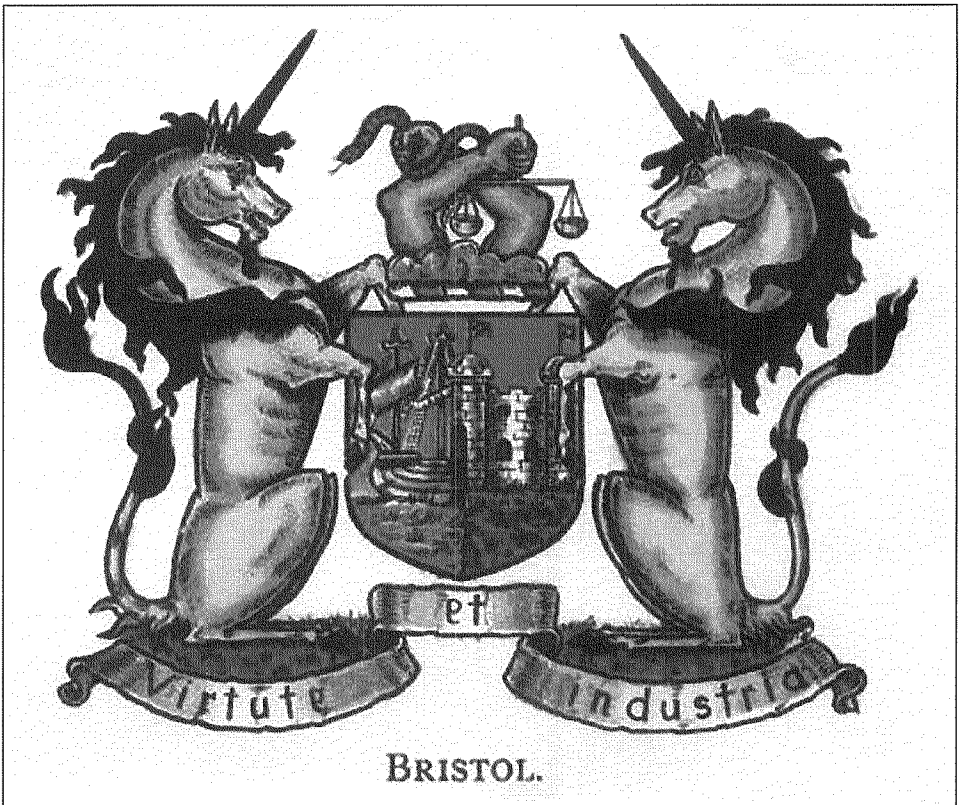


Figure 1

Having spent a lifetime collecting stamps, I concluded that I had enough material to form a collection. Based on information derived from eminent authors such as Brummel, Cohen, Parmenter, Trail and Holland, Wilcocks and Sedgwick and Dr. Whitney.

The material is arranged in approximate date order, identifying the main different types of postmarks. Examples of the designs are shown alongside the item, for clarity.

Victorian stamps and their associated Bristol postmarks

The first cancellation to be used became known as the *Maltese Cross*, due to its shape. An 1842 example is shown on cover Fig. 2. The condition leaves something to be desired but my priority has been to show examples of the relevant types. During the 1840's most towns in Britain were issued with town postal identification numbers. For Bristol this was '134' and was incorporated into the '1844 - Type' barred cancel. It was used as an obliterator, one per stamp. Dates of postage were added separately.

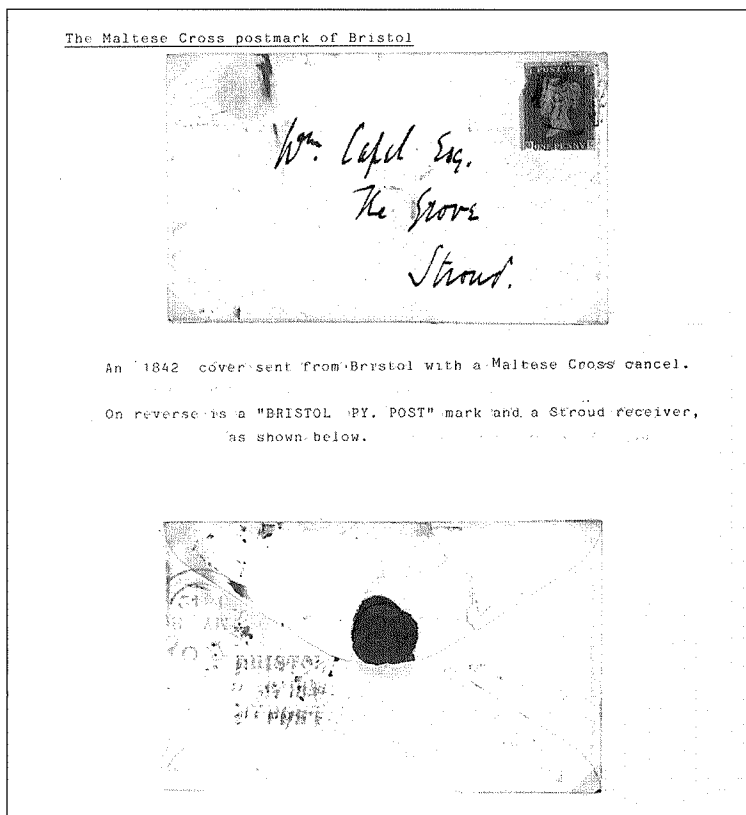


Figure 2

The first design issued in 1844, known as '1844 Type A' had 4 bars top and bottom and the '3' in 134 was round topped – Fig. 3. The strange thing about my example on 2d blue is that only 3 bars can be seen. The cover is dated 1845 whereas this type is only known from 1851.

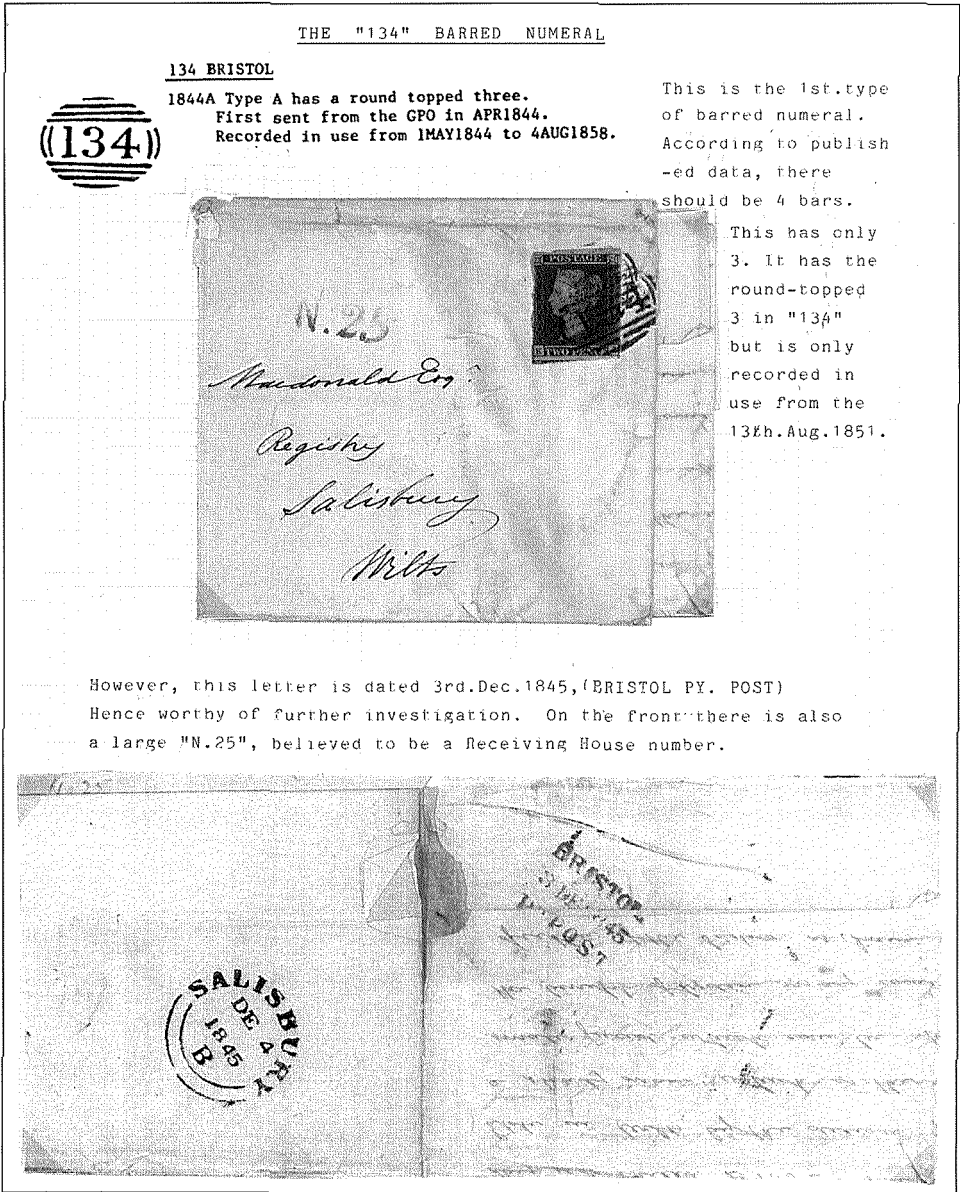
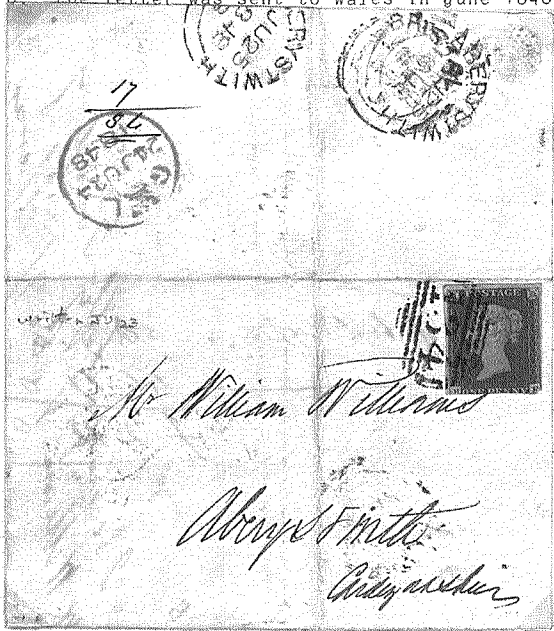


Figure 3

Fig. 4 shows normal Type A 4 barred cancels but it is noted that one has the 7mm high 134, the other is 5½mm high.

1844-Type A Barred Numeral

This is clearly the 4 barred cancel with a round-topped 3.
 It is applied to a 3 margined 1d. red imperforate, believed to
 be Plate 76. The letter was sent to Wales in June 1848.



The "134" is
 7mm high.

This mourning cover bears a similar cancel on a 4 margined 1d. red
 but it is to be noted that the "134" is only 5½mm. high.

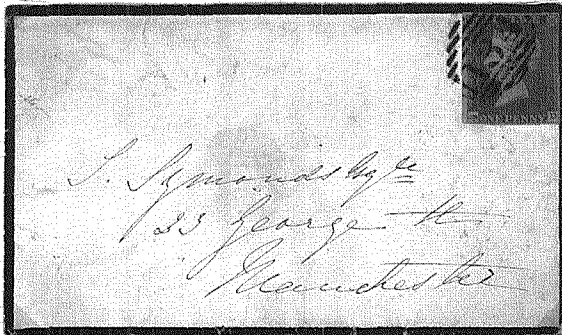


Figure 4

Fig. 5 shows the flat topped '3' in 134 and is known as 'Type B'.

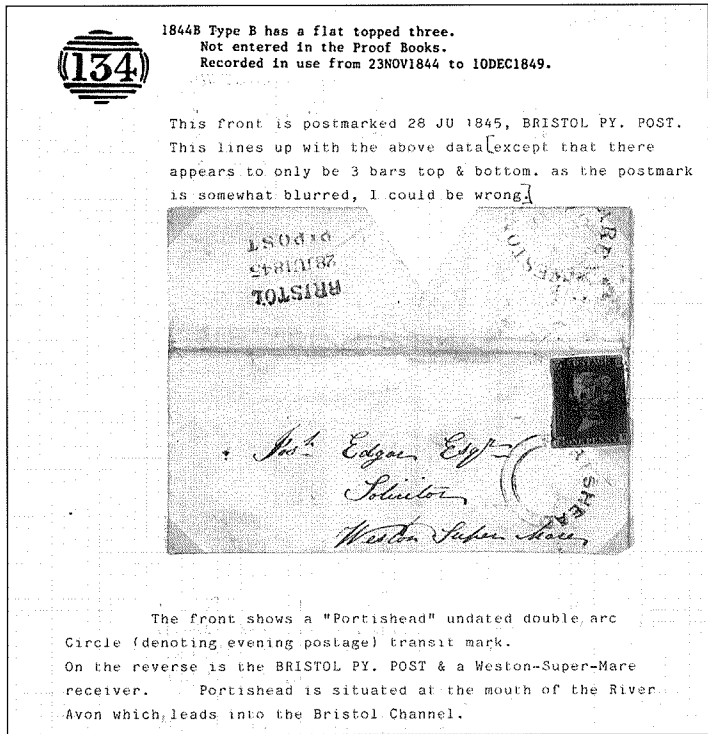


Figure 5

Fig. 6 shows the first 3 bar cancel, known as "3 HOS". It is first recorded in use from 13 Aug 1851, but my first example is dated 6 Aug 1851.

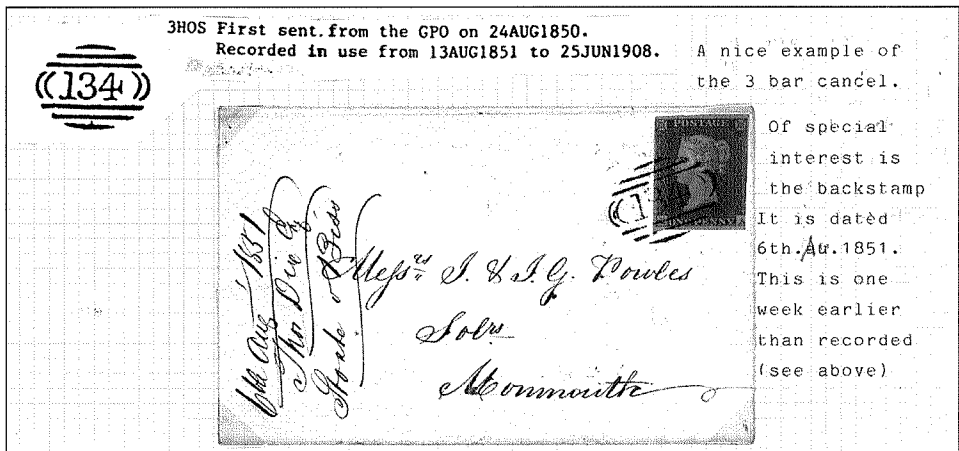


Figure 6

In 1853/4 various designs of experimental Duplex cancels were tried, incorporating the date of postage with the town number, thus speeding up the process, needing one application instead of two. By this time the sheets of stamps were perforated.

Fig. 7 shows the 'Spoon' cancel, so named due to its shape. The two different examples differ in the shape of '1' and the size of '134'.

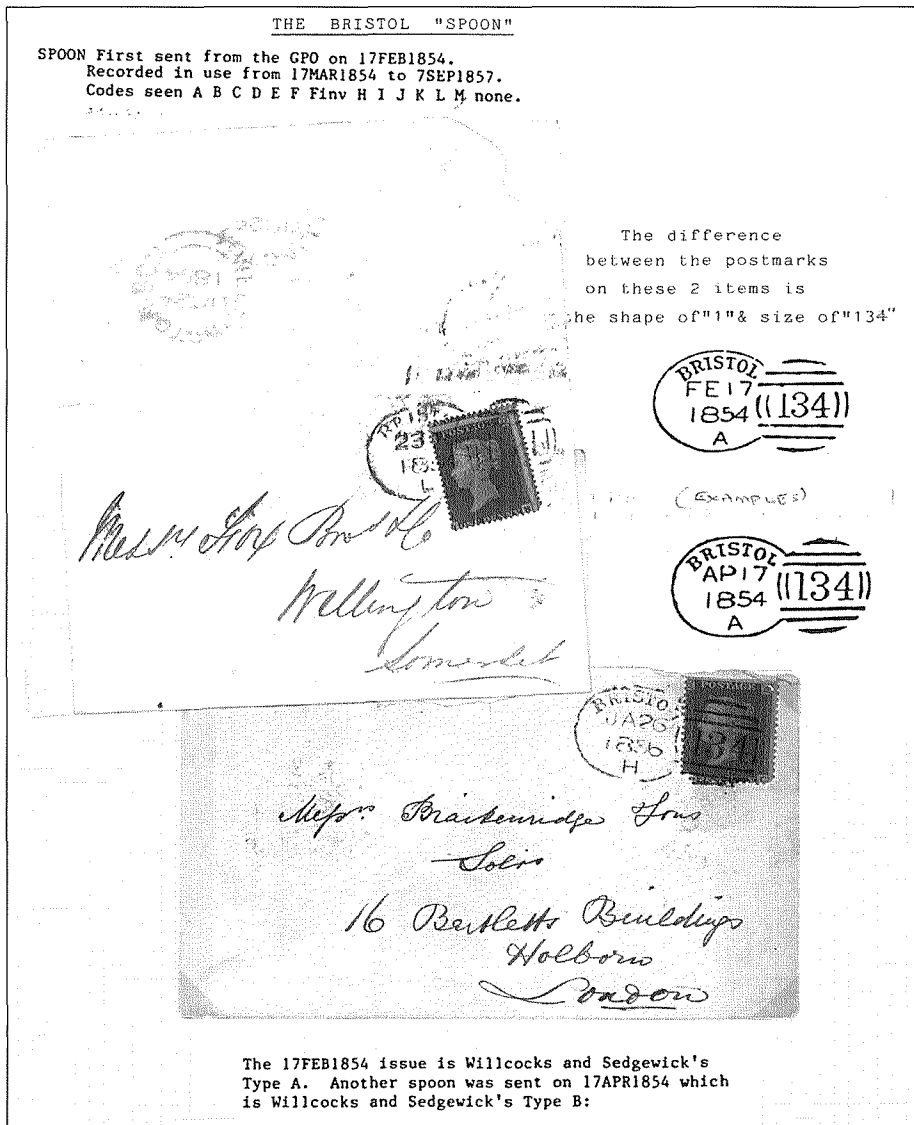


Figure 7

Fig. 8 shows the Sideways Duplex first tried in 1855. The examples differ in the size of 'Bristol' and '134'. Two of the items bear 1d 'reds' on transitional paper.



Figure 8

Fig. 9 shows smaller design versions of the sideways 'Duplex'.

SDWYS Traill and Holland type Va.

First entered in the Proof Books on 10JUL1857.

Recorded in use from 31MAY1857 to 10NOV1864.

Codes seen A B C D E F G H I J K L M N T C1 4.

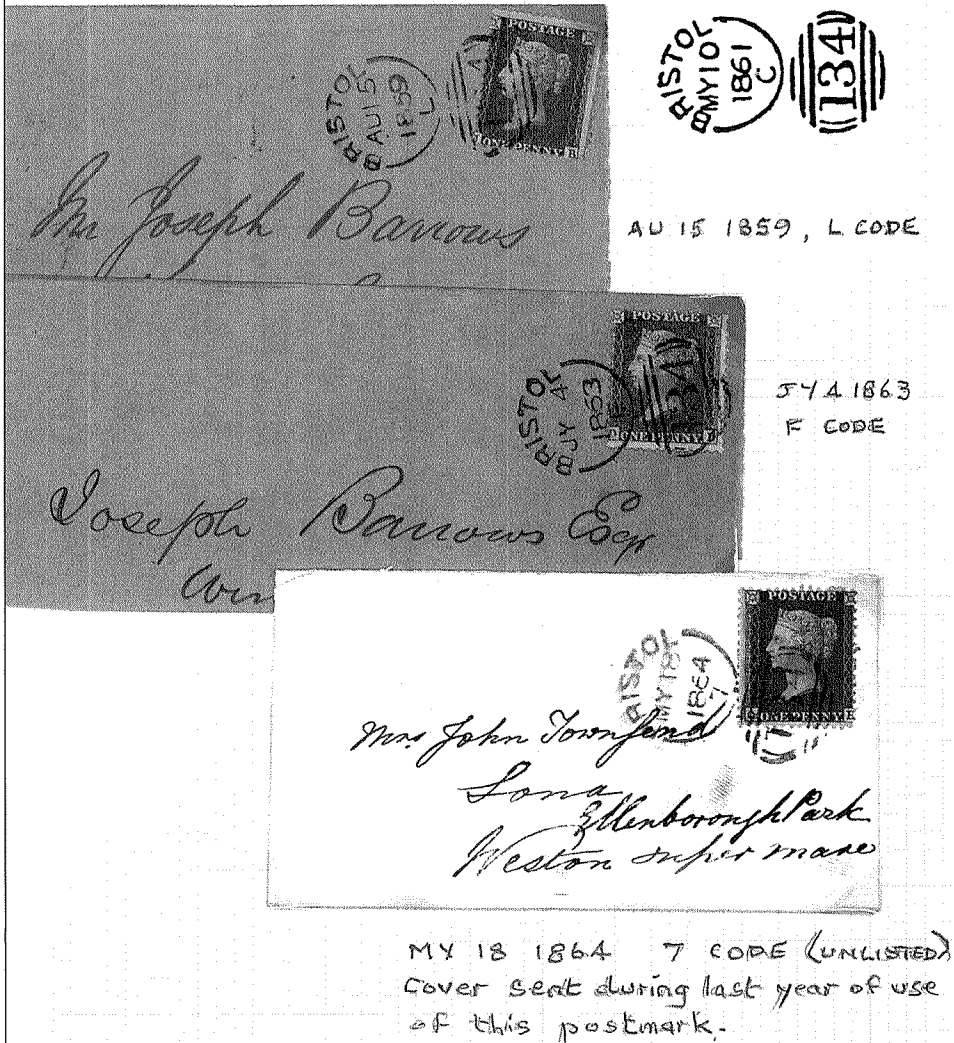


Figure 9

Fig. 10 shows examples of the sideways 'Bristol' with '134' normal way round.

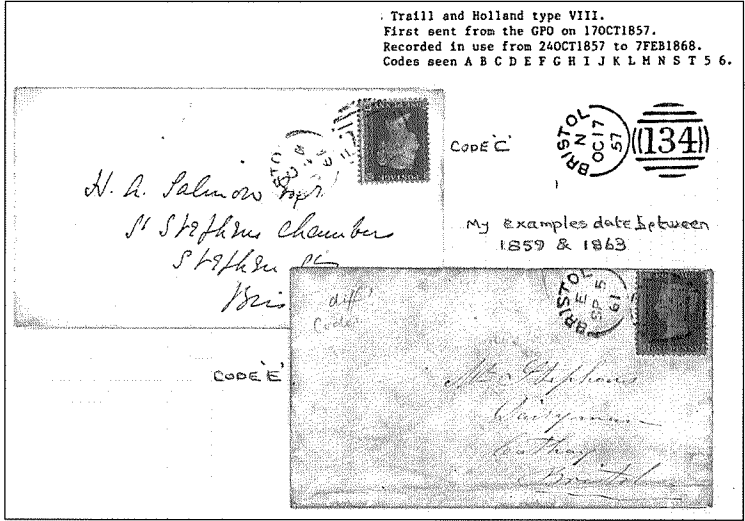


Figure 10

Fig. 11 shows examples of the standard 3 bar Duplex.



Figure 11

Fig. 12 shows an example of the standard 4 bar Duplex.

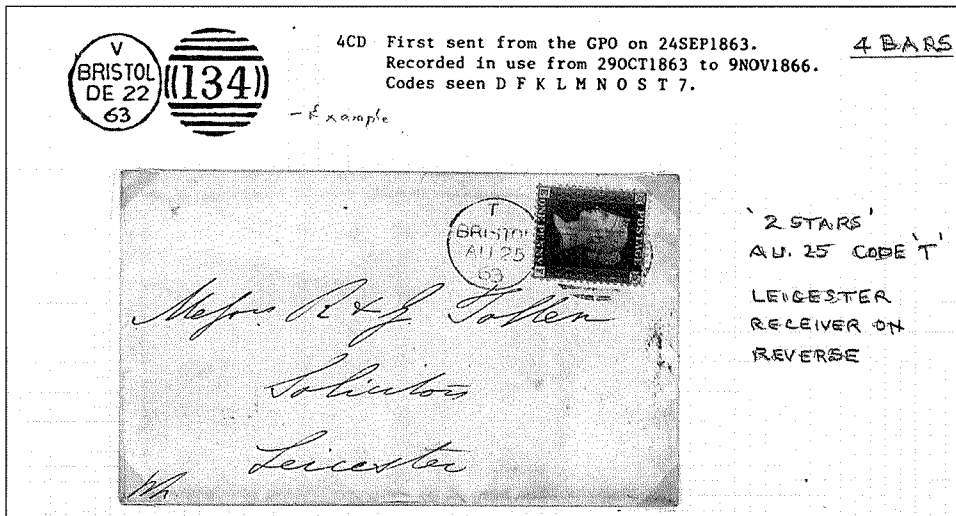


Figure 12

Fig. 13 shows the large oval shaped 4 bar design with horizontal 'Bristol'.

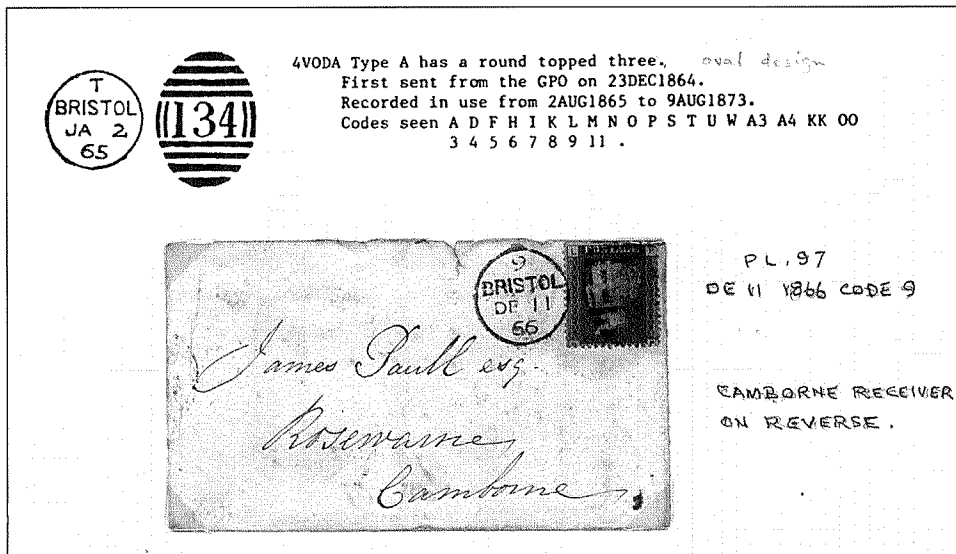


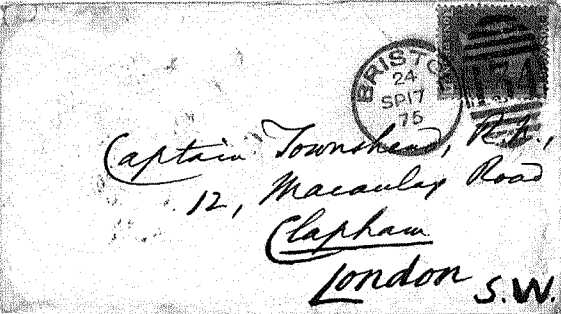


Figure 13

Fig. 14 is the long running large oval 4 bar design with flat-topped '3' in '134' and semi-circular 'Bristol'. The long list of codes is by Parmenter and my Mourning cover of 1876 has 'A 25' unlisted code. Figure 14a.

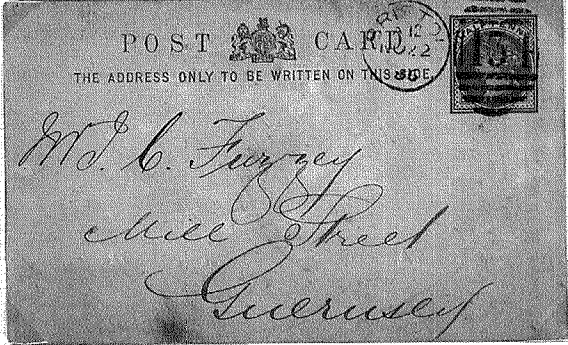



4VOVB Type B has a flat topped three.
 First sent from the GPO on 14MAR1872.
 Recorded in use from 30MAY1873 to 23DEC1905.
 Initially a single code letter or number was used, later a two part code number and handstamp letter were used.
 At any one time the handstamp letter identifies a particular handstamp (these change with time).
 Codes seen F L none(xmas) 3 4 15 16 17 18 19 20 25 26
 A then number: 5 13 14 15 17 18 20 21 24 29.
 B then number: 3 5 9 12 17 19 20 21 27 29.
 C then number: 5 6 9 11 12 13 28 29.
 D then number: 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 23.
 E then number: 6 8 11 12 14 16 19 24 27.
 F then number: 1 12 13 16 18 20 21 22 24.
 Number then A: 14 17 18 20 29.
 Number then B: 7 8 10 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 25 29 none.
 Number then D: 10 18 20.
 Number then E: 5 9 10 17 18 19 20 21.
 Number then F: 14 18 20 21 27.
 Number then G: 17 18 21 26 27.
 Number then R: 18 19 20 21.



PL. 165
 SP17 1875
 NUMBER ONLY, CODE 24
 (UNLISTED)

HEWISH TRANSIT &
 LONDON S.W. RECEIVER
 ON REVERSE



ALPHA BEFORE NUMBER

1/2d. POSTAL STY. CARD

NO 22 1886
 CODE A 12

P.T.O. FOR A 25

Figure 14

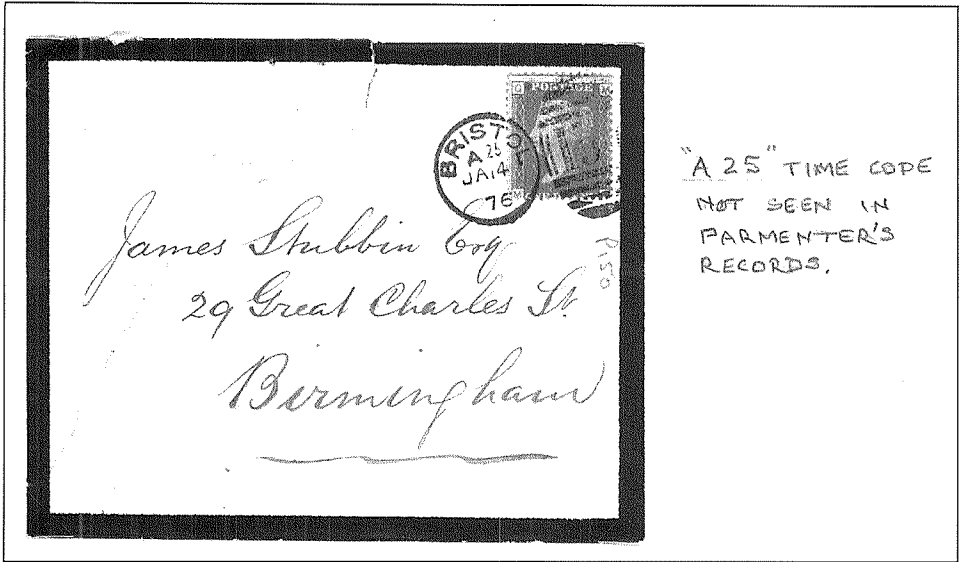


Figure 14a

MALTEX 2012



has been a great success.

Start preparing from now

for

MALTEX 2013

Fig. 15 shows a 1/2d lilac postal stationery card with a version of the 3 bar Duplex having a significant gap between the datestamp, slightly tilted, and the barred '134'. Parmenter says "this has not been seen in use, hence it could be the only one known!"

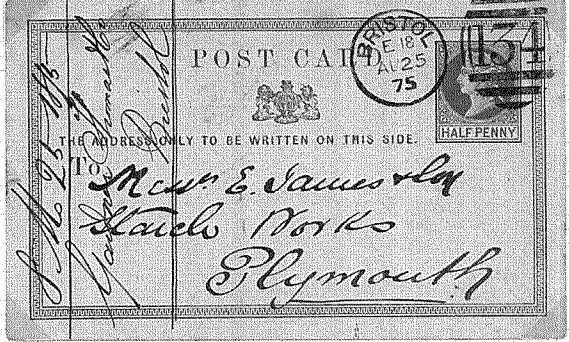





First type.

3VOD The first Proof Book entry on 9MAY1873 was of a special type with the cds some distance from the obliterator and at an angle to it. This has not been seen in use.

3 BARS

↓
N.B. THIS COULD BE THE ONLY ONE KNOWN!



First normal type.

The first normal type was sent on 30APR1878.
 Recorded in use from 23JAN1879 to 19OCT1912.
 Codes seen for each handstamp letter:

- A then number: 20 21.
- B then number: 6 none.
- C then number: 11 14 19 30.
- D then number: 1 7 24 26.
- E then number: 10 13 14 16 22 24 26 27.
- F then number: 22 25.
- Number then G: 15 18 21 23 26 27.
- Number then H: 1 11 12 14 15 18 20 21 27.
- I then number: 19.
- J then number: 6 19 21 37.
- K then number: 15 17 19 22 24 30 none.
- L then number: 18 20 22 24 25 30.
- M then number: 24 26 none.
- N then number: 5 15 16.
- Number then O: 19.
- P then number: 28 30.
- S then number: 23 24 none.

Rarity A.
 Price pre 1900 £2 post 1900 £1.

NB.
OUT OF DATE
PRICES!

THERE FOLLOWS SOME EXAMPLES.

Figure 15

Fig. 15a shows the more normal type with some examples.

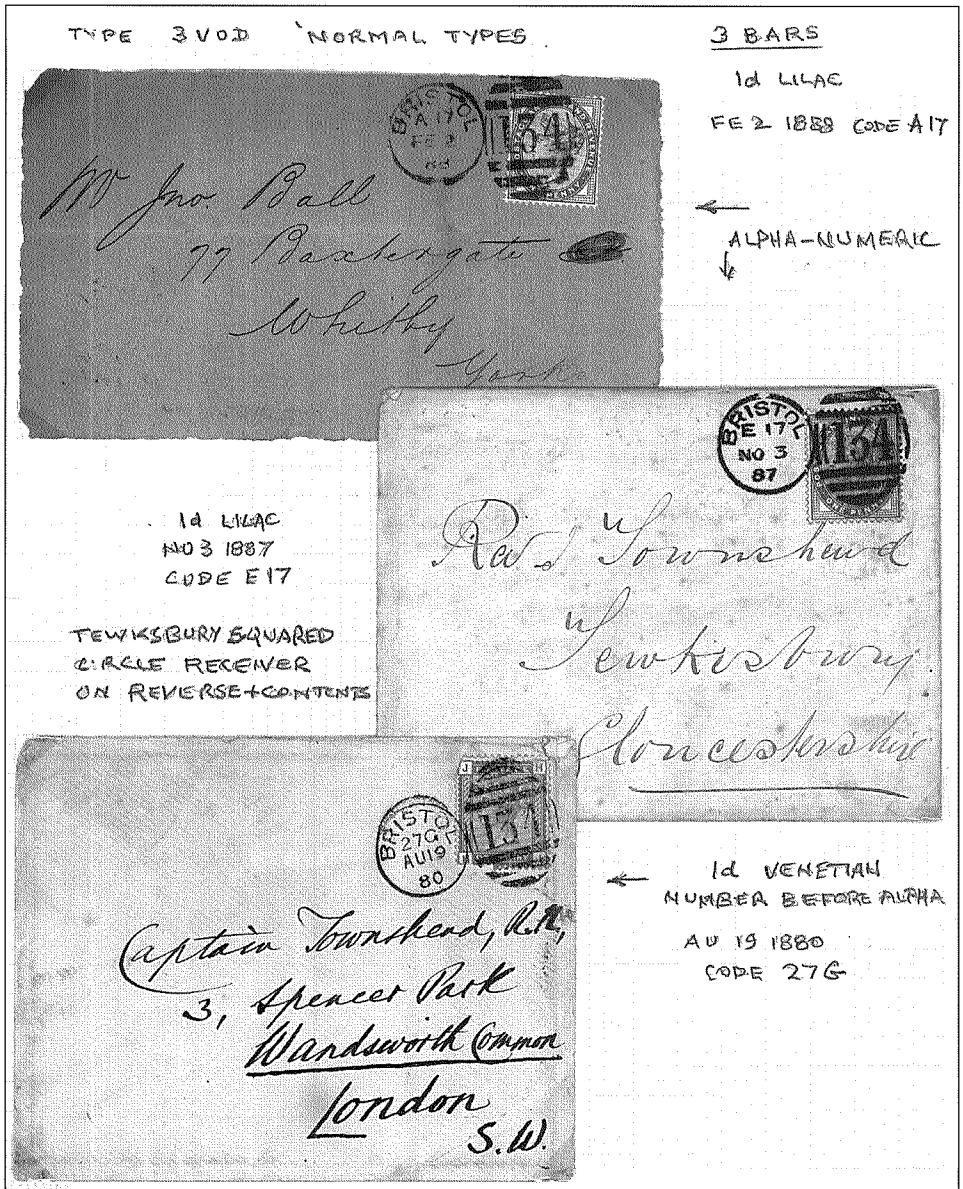
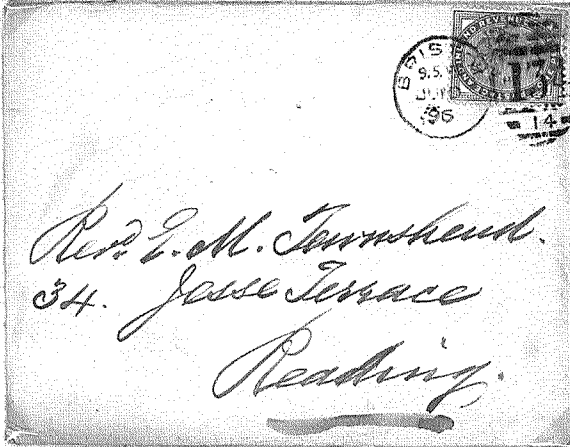


Figure 15a

Bristol, being of considerable size, in due course it was thought desirable to include a 'District' number in the design and this was incorporated in the Basal Bars of the Duplex. Fig. 16 shows examples.

3VOD14S 2.5mm high figure 14 cut in basal bars.
 Recorded in use from 23NOV1896 to 18SEP1903.
 Times seen 120AM 6PM 615PM 95PM 10PM.



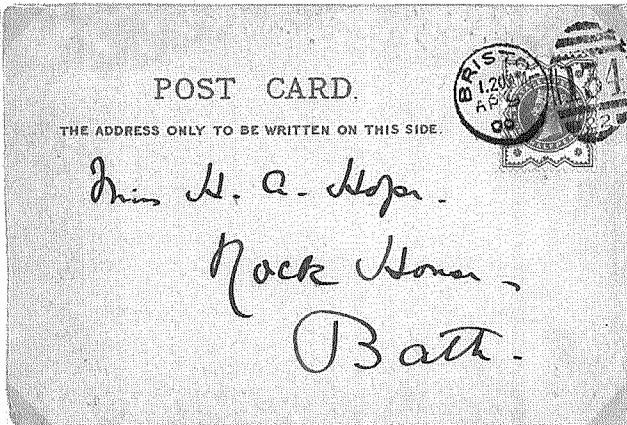
4 BARS

9.55 PM

JUL 10 1895

'14' CUT INTO
 BASAL BARS

3VOD22 Figure 22 cut in basal bars.
 Recorded in use from 22JUL1895 to 18FEB1902.
 Times seen 120AM 1230PM 5PM 530PM 545PM 655PM.



3 BARS

1.20 A.M.
 (NIGHT MAIL)
 APR 5 1900

'22' CUT INTO
 BASAL BARS

Figure 16

Districts

Two main districts had their own postmarks – Clifton and North Street.

Clifton was the largest and an example (Fig. 17) is shown of its sideways Duplex postmark.

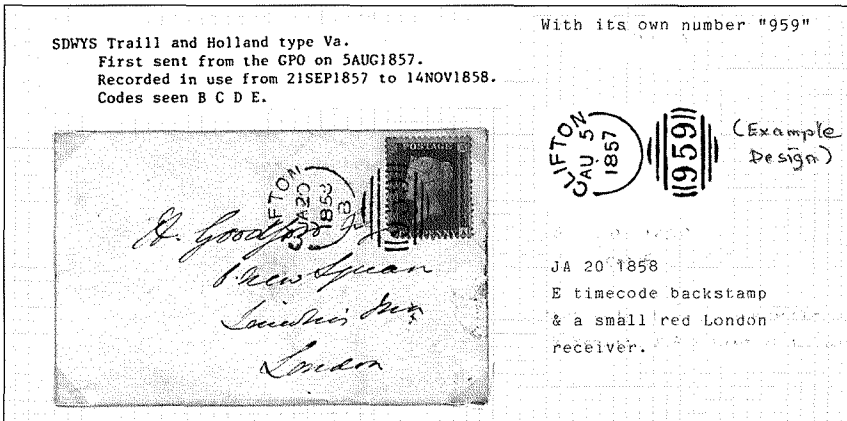


Figure 17

Fig. 18 shows examples of the normal Duplex with 'Clifton' horizontal.



Figure 18

Fig. 19 shows the 3 bar design with circular 'Clifton / Bristol'.

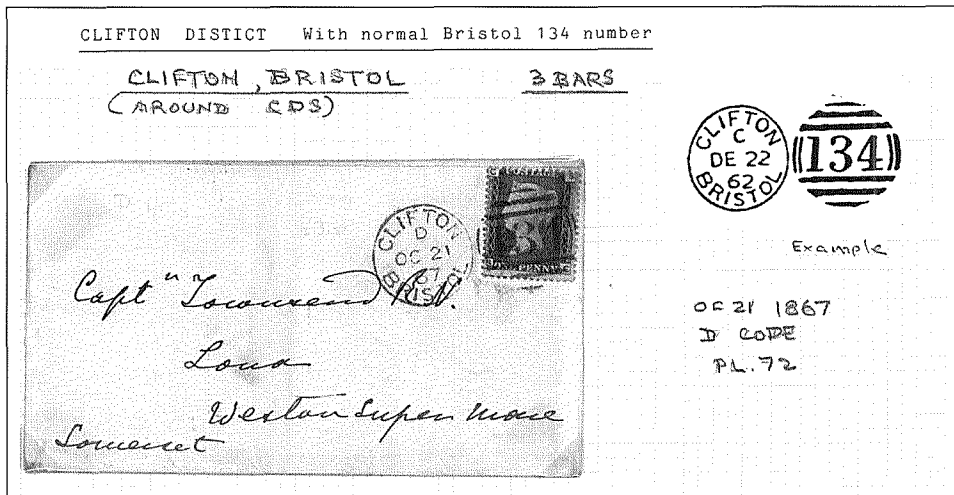


Figure 19

Our Society is a full member of Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP). and our members whose Malta collections are of FIP standards should make use of this facility and participate.

Future FIP and other exhibitions are scheduled as follows:

2013

10-15 May, Australia

2-13 August, Bangkok. Thailand

11-17 November, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro Brazil

2015

3 -16 May, London 2015. International Exhibition,
at BDC, Islington

2016

25 May-4 June, World stamp show N.Y. USA

Fig. 20 shows the 4 bar of similar design with 2 examples used later than previously recorded.

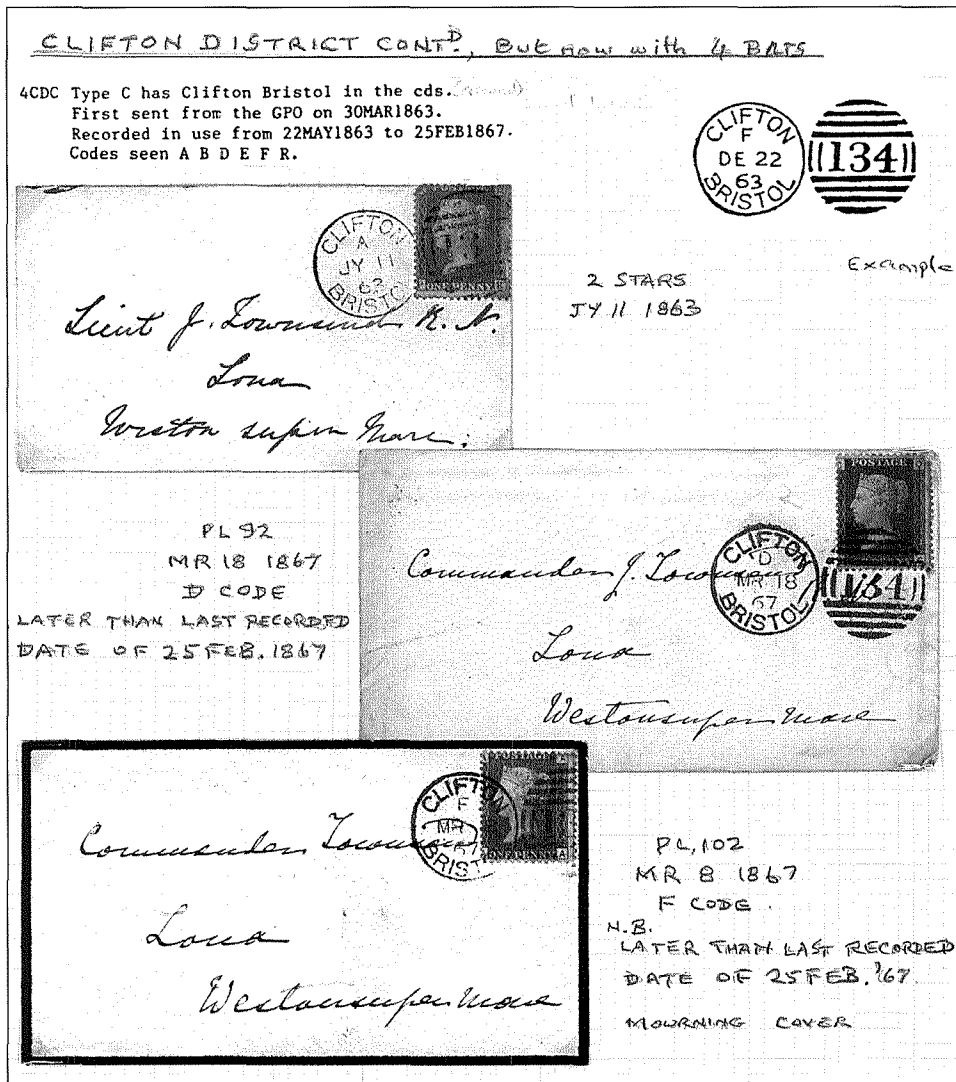




Figure 20

Fig. 21 shows examples of the large oval 4 barred design with flat topped '3' in '134'.

4VODBC Type BC has a flat topped three and Clifton Bristol in the cds.

First sent from the GPO on 27JUL1872.

Time in code:

Recorded in use from 26NOV1872 to 28JUL1895.

Codes seen for each handstamp letter:

A then number: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11.

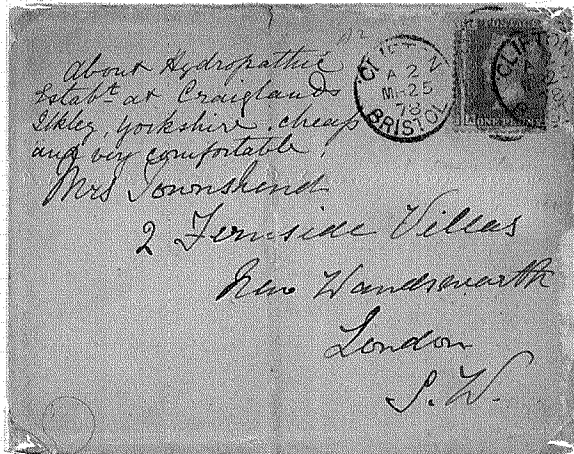
B then number: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8.

C then number: 5 6 8.

E then number: 4 9.

Number then A: 1 2 7.

Number then B: 3 7 9 10.



*About Hydropathic
Estab^l at Craighlands
Eskley, Yorkshires. cheap
and very comfortable.
Mrs Townsend.
2 Fernside Villas
New Wandsworth
London
P.N.*

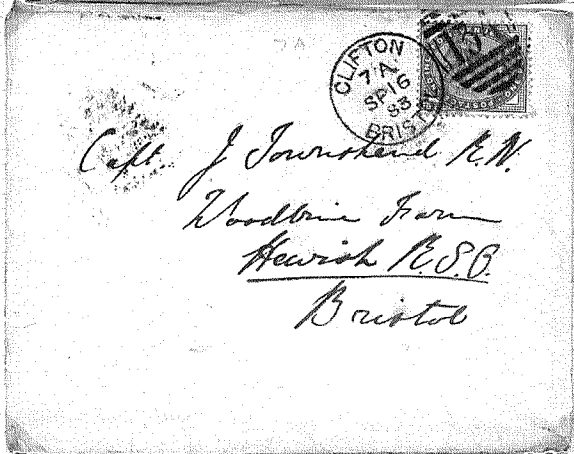
4 BARS

PL. 177

MR 25 1878

A 2 CODE

Contents - An
extensive, somewhat
rambling letter to
Mrs. Townsend, who
has physical problems.
Discusses treatment
baths of a Hydropathic
nature.



*Capt. J. Townsend R.N.
Woodbine Farm
Hewish R.O.B.
Bristol*

1d LILAC

SP 16 1883

CODE 7A

Figure 21

North Street Fig. 22 shows the 3 bar design and Fig. 23 shows the 4 bar design.

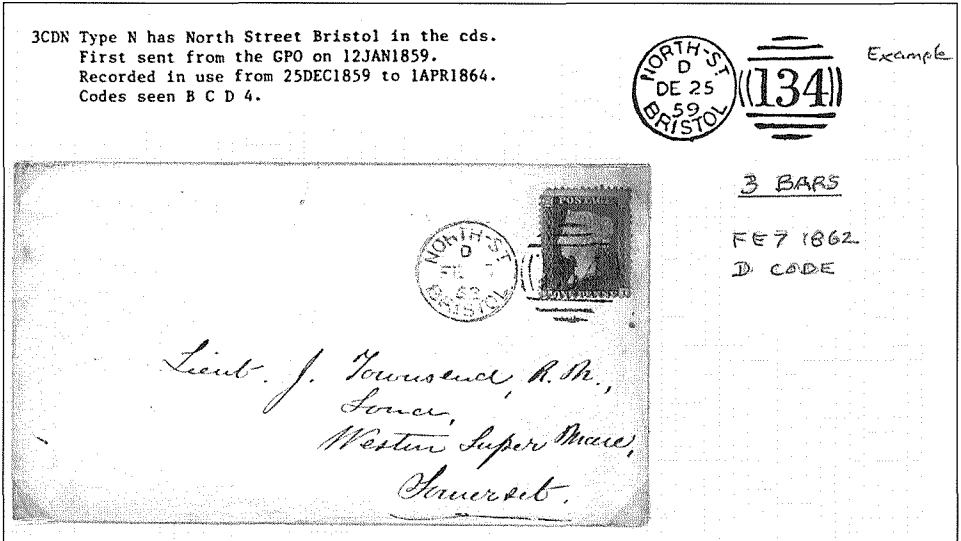


Figure 22

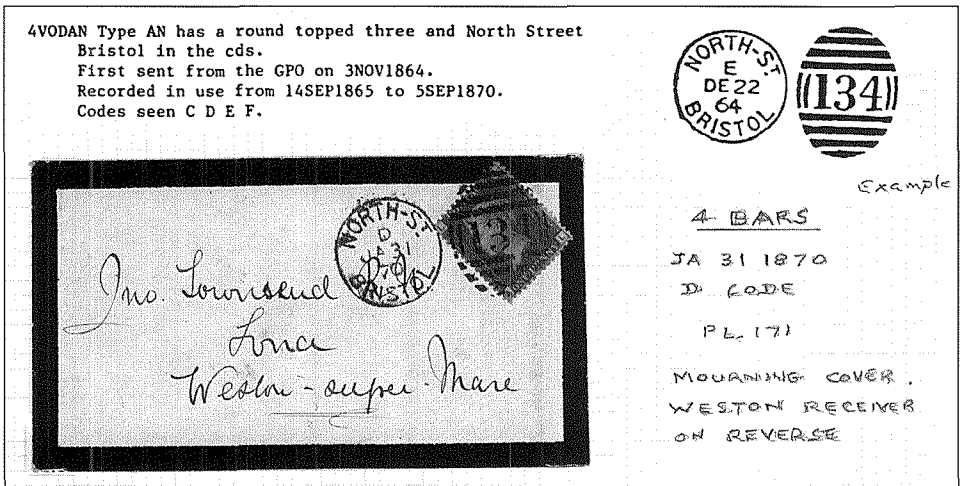


Figure 23

Other designs of postmarks were introduced in the 1880's, in particular the squared circle. This acted as an obliterator and datestamp. It varied in size, number of arcs in corners, etc. Fig. 24 examples are shown on and off cover.

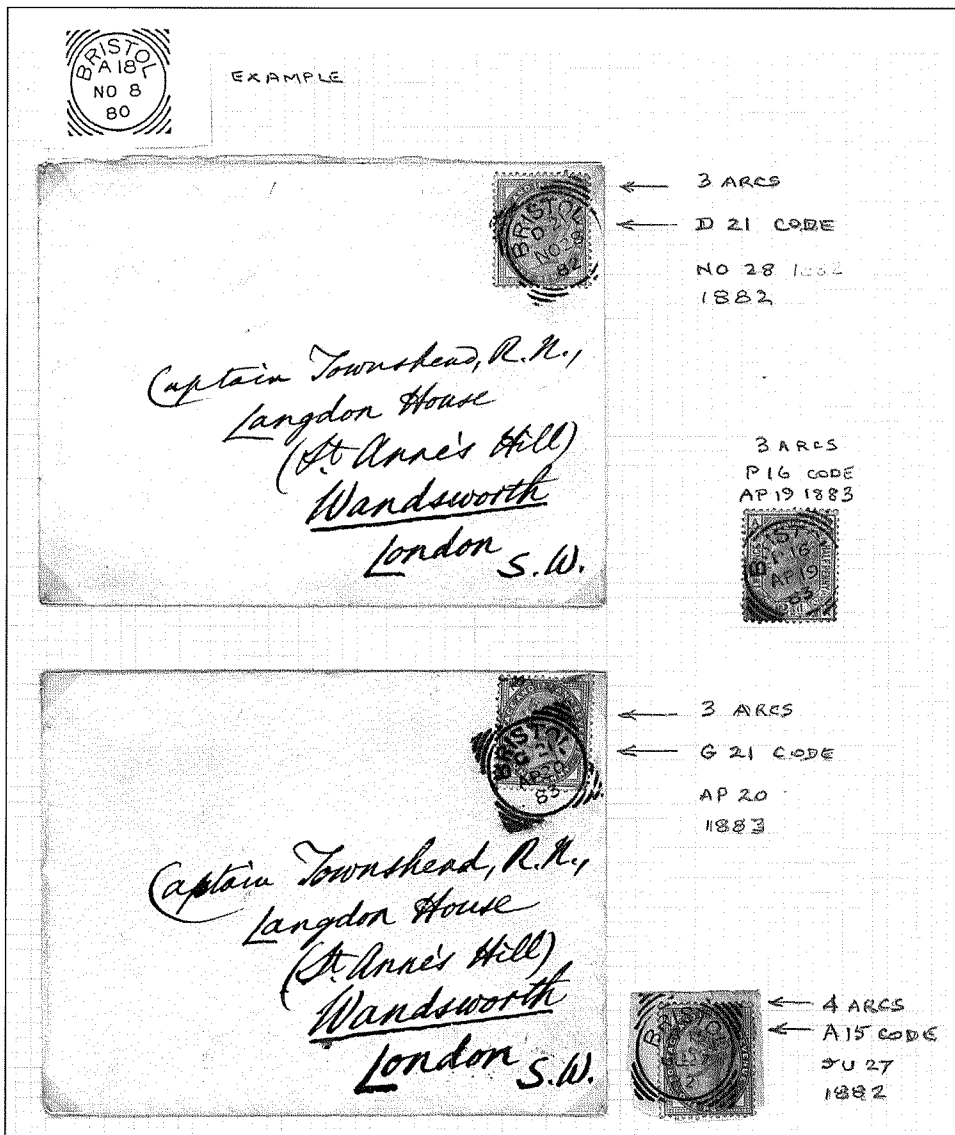


Figure 24

Fig. 25 shows circular datestamps including on vignette postcards. This design has proved long lasting and is still in use.

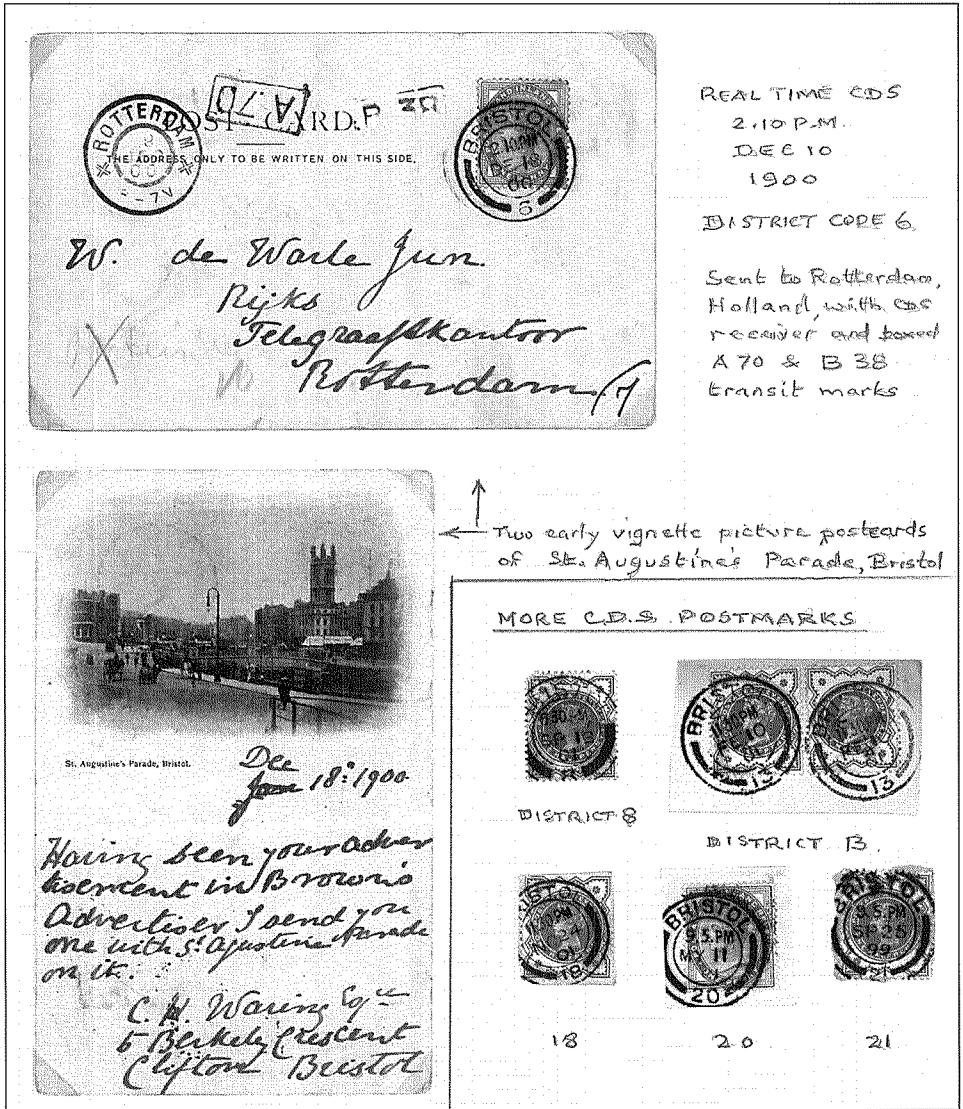


Figure 25

Fig. 26 – other postmarks / cancels include parcel and telegraph cancels. Security endorsements include ‘Perfins’ and a few are shown.

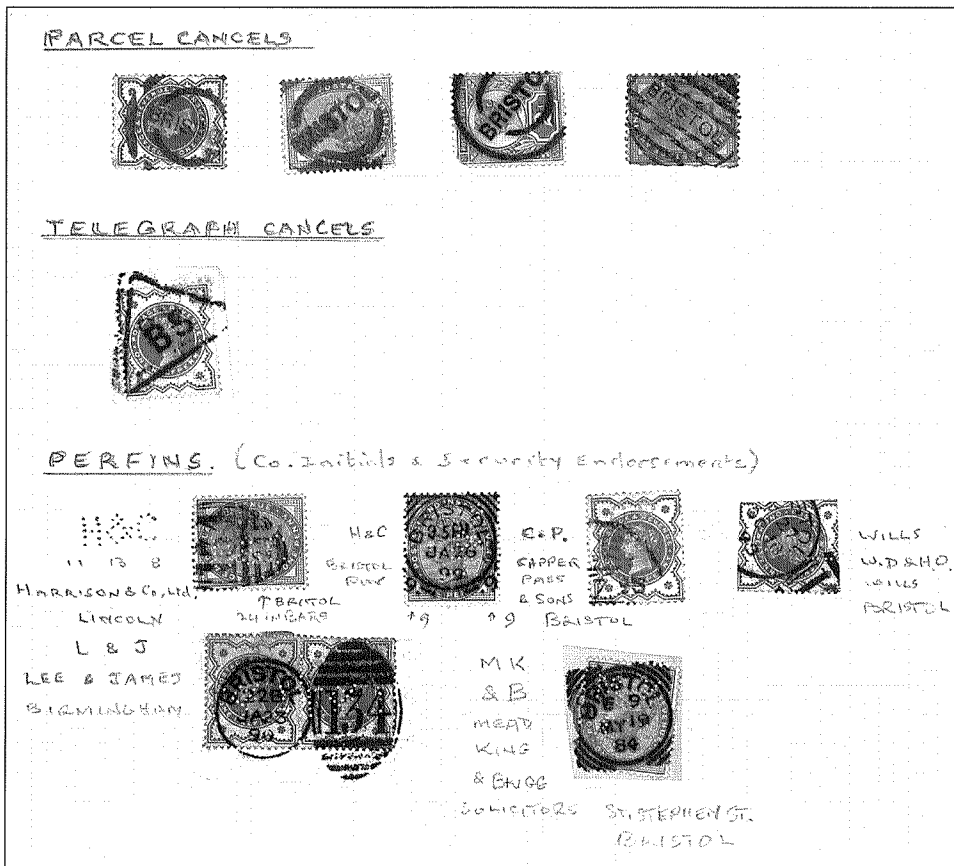


Figure 26

Conclusion

I hope this has given some idea of the wide range of Victorian postmarks emanating from the Bristol area, which along with other major cities such as Manchester, Liverpool and London, were at the forefront in the development of the postal system in Britain.

As I enjoy variety, Bristol certainly appeals to me, enabling me to “flit like a butterfly” amongst it all.

Once again I have enjoyed showing you some of my collection, whilst appreciating the interest taken by the Malta Philatelic Society.

Postal Diary

7 September – 21 October 2011

by
Joseph Fenech

14 September

The following Sub-Post Offices were closed for business on Wednesday, 14 September 2011 from 13.00 hours onwards due to upgrade works on the MaltaPost retail system:

Landau Stationery, Triq Mannarino, B'kara;
D Spiral, Triq il-Vitorja, B'kara;
Oreana Stationery, Triq L. Casolani, B'kara;
Tunny Net Gift Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Għadira, Mellieħa;
Higher Grades Stationery, 93, Triq Kananea, Attard;
Welcome Bazaar, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli;
Aquavel, Triq San Bartilmew, Għarghur;
Marcham, 235, Triq Santa Marija, Għaxaq;
Forex, 16/17, Triq is-Suq, Tarxien;
Step in, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu;
Happy Kids Stationery, Triq San Tumas, Fgura;
Emtes, 18, Triq William Baker, Gudja;
Squire Stationery, Triq Manoel De Vilhena, Gżira;
Troy DVD Stationery, Triq ix-Xatt, Kalkara;
Louis Stationery, Misraħ San Nikola, Siġġiewi;
Xlendi Hotel, Triq San Xmun, Xlendi, Gozo;
Midas, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala;
SGS, Triq Felic Borg, San Ġwann;
Kunsill Lokali San Lawrenz, Triq id-Duluri, San Lawrenz, Gozo;
Paul's Arcade, Triq il-Kaħli, San Pawl il-Baħar;
Drago Stationery, 6, Ċentru Ċiviku, Dawret it-Torri, Santa Luċija;
C@C, Trejqa ta' Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera;
Fleet Stationery, Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex;
Kunsill Lokali, Pjazza Orvieto, Kerċem, Gozo;
Malton, Triq Ċensu Xerri, Sliema.

Normal service resumed on 15 September 2011.

14 September

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024, was closed for business between the 14 and 17 September 2011, both days included.

15 September

On Thursday, 15 September 2011, MaltaPost plc issued a miniature sheet themed 'Fishing Villages' in a joint issue with Iceland Post. Mġarr, Gozo is depicted on the Maltese miniature sheet, while the Icelandic village of Húsavik is shown on the Icelandic sheet. The Malta miniature sheet includes a stamp bearing a face value of €2.07. 30,000 of these miniature sheets were printed. Cedric

Galea Pirotta was commissioned by Iceland Post and MaltaPost plc to design both miniature sheets. The miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm, while the stamp in the sheet measures 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). All the sheets were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 6/2011). The hand-stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST----- - MALTA/MALTA – ICELAND/JOINT ISSUE 2011/"FISHING VILLAGES"/JUM IL-HRUĠ/15-09-11", and also featured an outline of two fishing vessels in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these miniature sheets in the stamp bulletin No. 294. There is an error in the size of the miniature sheet as quoted on this stamp bulletin.



19 September

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Malta Aviation Society, a special hand postmark was used on Monday, 19 September 2011, at the Malta International Airport Post Office. The postmark was inscribed "MALTAPOST – MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GUDJA – MALTA – 19-09-11/MALTA AVIATION SOCIETY" and also included the logo of the Malta Aviation Society in the centre.



22 September

On the occasion of the IMCoS Malta International Symposium hosted by The Malta Map Society on 22-25 September 2011, a special hand postmark was used on Thursday, 22 September 2011, at the MaltaPos: Philatelic Bureau. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – 22 SEPTEMBER 2011 – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA/MALTA MAP SOCIETY/IMCoS/INTERNATIONAL/SYMPOSIUM”, and also included the logo of The Malta Map Society in the centre.



28 September

The folder “Beautiful Corners of Europe 3” issued by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation) was issued for sale from all post offices as from Wednesday, 28 September 2011. This is the third folder issued by SEPAC and includes stamps and images from twelve European countries, namely Åland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Iceland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta and Monaco. The Malta stamp is the €0.37 stamp from the ‘Treasures of Malta’ set issued on 9 March 2011, and depicting Manoel Island. The SEPAC folder, marked Folder no. 3 in a series of 3, was printed by Davo Publications, Deventer (The Netherlands), and has a circulation of 7,670.

29 September

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Broadcasting Authority, a special hand postmark was used on Thursday, 29 September 2011, at the Valletta (Castille Place) Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VALLETTA (CASTILLE PLACE) -MALTA – 29-09-11/BROADCASTING AUTHORITY/50TH ANNIVERSARY/1961 - 2011” and also included the logo of the Broadcasting Authority in the centre.



30 September

Legal Notice 398 of 2011 – Maltapost p.l.c. Licence (Modification) (Amendment) Regulations, 2011, which was issued under the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254), was published in the supplement to the Malta Government Gazette No. 18,812 dated 30 September 2011. These regulations, which were deemed to have come into effect on the 29 July 2011, brought into effect the new postal tariffs which had been approved by the Malta Communications Authority in July 2011.

1 October

MaltaPost plc informed the public that between 1 October 2011 and 14 June 2012, the St. Julians Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, St. Julians, was to open from Monday to Friday between 8.30 am and 2.30 pm.

3 October

MaltaPost plc informed the public that between 3 October 2011 and 15 June 2012, the Post Office situated within the University of Malta, Msida, was to open from Monday to Friday between 8.15 am and 1.30 pm and between 2.45 pm and 5.00 pm.

3 October

A new public letterbox was installed in Triq il-Kaħli, San Pawl il-Baħar, with service to this letterbox commencing on Monday, 3 October 2011. The MaltaPost Identification Code given to this letterbox was L432. The last collection time for this letterbox was after 7.00 pm on weekdays, and after 3.00 pm on Saturdays.

8 October

On the initiative of Touring Club Malta, as part of the Road Safety Campaign, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 8 October 2011 at the Castille Square, Valletta MaltaPost Branch. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VALLETTA (CASTILLE SQR.) – MALTA – 08-10-11/TOURING CLUB MALTA/FIA MEMBER/ROAD SAFETY/DECADE OF ACTION” and also included the logo of the Touring Club Malta in the centre.

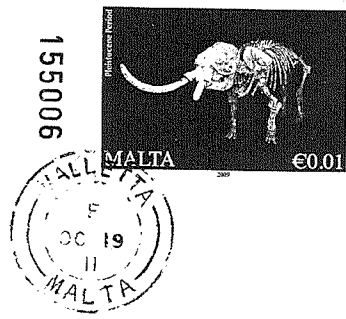
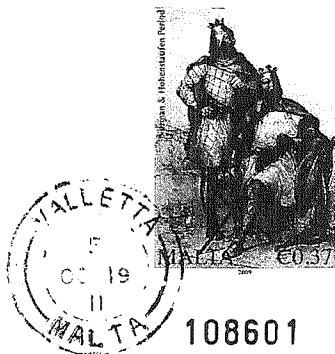


11 October

MaltaPost plc informed that ‘Emtess Stationery’ of Triq William Baker, Gudja, ceased to operate as a Sub-Post Office.

14 October

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox in Triq Depiro, Sliema, had been re-sited to Triq il-Kulleġġ I-Antik (corner with Trejjet Sant’Injazju), Sliema. This letterbox carries MaltaPost Identification Code L186. Collection from this letterbox commenced on Friday, 14 October 2011. The last collection time for this letterbox was to be after 7.00 pm on weekdays, and after 3.00 pm on Saturdays.



19 October

MaltaPost plc notified that two denominations from the 2009 Definitive Set issued on 29 December 2009 had been reprinted. 1,200,000 stamps with €0.01 denomination were reprinted. These stamps were available in sheets of 10 stamps each, with the sheets bearing numbers 40,001 to 160,000, both numbers included. 880,000 stamps with €0.37 denomination were printed. They were also made available in sheets of 10 stamps each, with the sheets bearing numbers 50,001 to 138,000, both numbers included. The stamps measure 44.0mm x 31.0mm with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0, and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. These reprinted stamps were issued for sale as from Wednesday, 19 October 2011.

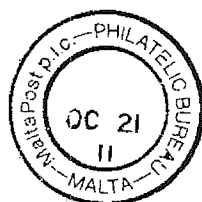
21 October

MaltaPost plc participated in the 12th Maltex Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Malta Philatelic Society at the Green Lounge of the Hotel Phoenicia in Floriana between Friday, 21 October and Sunday, 23 October 2011. The MaltaPost stand was open for business during the opening hours of the exhibition, namely between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm on Friday and Saturday, and between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon on Sunday. Services on offer at this stand included the sale of stamps, philatelic products and other postal services. All mail posted at this exhibition was cancelled with a special cancellation hand postmark which was inscribed “Maltex 2011 – 21-23 October – Hotel Phoenicia – Floriana – Malta” and also included the logo of the exhibition. A temporary letterbox service was also provided during the opening hours of the exhibition.



For this special event, MaltaPost issued an Occasion Card, a Postal Card, a Maltex Personalised Cover, as well as a Personalised Stamp commemorating the exhibition. The Occasion Card, No. 27 in the series, features the imprinted €1.57 stamp from the “Treasures of Malta” – Landscapes set issued in March 2011 (and showing the Citadel in Victoria, Gozo); the card itself depicts a view of Gozo, including the Citadel. The Occasion Card commemorated the 45th anniversary of the Malta Philatelic Society. The Postal Card, No. 33 in the series, commemorates MaltaPost’s participation in the EUROPA 2011 stamp design competition. The card carries the imprinted €1.19 stamp from the EUROPA 2011 set issued in May 2011. The card itself depicts part of the image from the €0.37 stamp of the same set, which participated in the Best EUROPA Stamp Contest amongst all official EUROPA stamps for 2011. Both cards were individually numbered, and were available for sale in mint or cancelled format. The Maltex Personalised Cover included a personalised stamp depicting the Maltex 2011 exhibition logo cancelled with the special cancellation hand postmark used by MaltaPost during the exhibition.

The 45th anniversary of the Malta Philatelic Society was also marked by MaltaPost with the use of three special hand postmarks during the Maltex Exhibition. These three postmarks were similarly inscribed “MALTAPOST/PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA - ---- OCTOBER 2011” in the outer ring, and “MALTA/PHILATELIC SOCIETY/45TH ANNIVERSARY/1966 – 2011” in the centre, which also featured the logo of the Malta Philatelic Society. The date shown in the postmark was either 21, 22 or 23 October 2011, depending on the day of use. The metal date hand stamp also used at the Maltex Exhibition in conjunction with the Maltex special postmark was the latest version of the Philatelic Bureau hand stamp. The use of this hand stamp had not been recorded or announced previously. MaltaPost staff at the MaltaPost stand in the exhibition informed that this hand stamp had been in use at the Philatelic Bureau “for some time”.



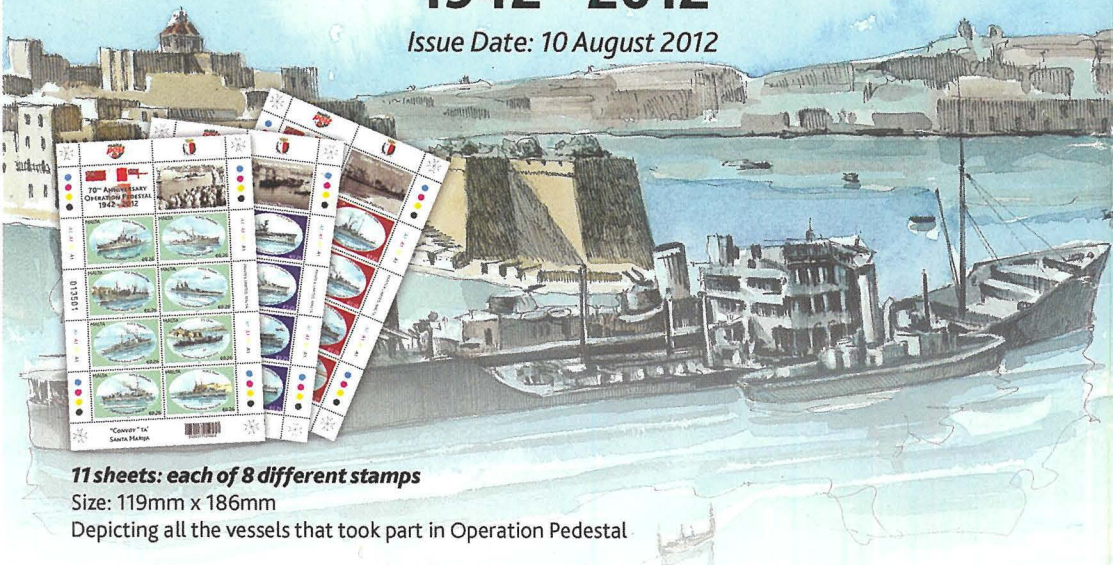
Printex



**Security printers since 1971,
producing stamps for Maltapost and the
Vatican Philatelic Bureau, amongst others.**

70TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATION PEDESTAL 1942 - 2012

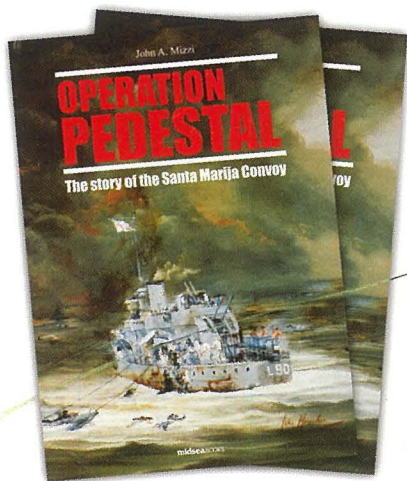
Issue Date: 10 August 2012



11 sheets: each of 8 different stamps

Size: 119mm x 186mm

Depicting all the vessels that took part in Operation Pedestal



First Day Covers

Set of 22

"Operation Pedestal" by John A. Mizzi

A joint publication between Midsea Books and MaltaPost p.l.c.

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