



**CHANNEL ISLANDS  
SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY**

December 2015

Volume 34 No.4

# THE CHANNEL ISLANDS SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

*Founded in 1950*

*for the study of the stamps and postal history of the Channel Islands*

## OFFICERS

**President: Alan N. Moorcroft FRPSL**

*E-mail: anmoorcroft@btinternet.com*

**Chairman: Dave Edwards**

*E-mail: bedenesteda86@btinternet.com*

**Secretary: Richard Flemming**

64, Falconers Green, Burbage. Hinckley. LE10 2SX. *E-mail: rflemming@talktalk.net*

**Treasurer: Robert Porter**

3, Nursery Road, Hoddesdon. Herts. EN11 9LA. *E-mail: robertwporter@btinternet.com*

**Journal Editor: David Gurney FRPSL**

4, Kingscote, Tree Lane. Plaxtol Kent TN15 0QA. *E-mail: nangurney1@aol.com*

**Packet Secretary: John Triggs FRPSL**

“SUNNYSIDE”, La Gibauderie, St. Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1XF. *E-mail: jtriggs@cwgsy.net*

**Auction Secretary: Nick Stuart**

3, Dudley Road, Walton on Thames, KT12 2JT *E-mail: - nick\_stuart@talk21.com*

**Membership & Subscription Secretary: Moira Edwards**

86, Hall Lane Sandon. Chelmsford. Essex. CM2 7RQ. *E-mail: membership@ciss1950.org.uk*

**Advertising & Press Officer: Stephen Wells**

The Hollies. 42, High Street, Tarring. Worthing. West Sussex. BN14 7NR

*E-mail: press@ciss1950.org.uk*

**Competitions Secretary: Gavin Wood**

Green Looms Farm, Martins Lane, Hargrave, Chester, CH3 7RX

*E-mail: gavinwood1@btinternet.com*

**CISS Internet address:- [www.ciss1950.org.uk](http://www.ciss1950.org.uk)**

Membership is open to all interested in Channel Islands stamps  
and postal history, postcards and ephemera.

Membership application forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary.  
Exchange Packets are circulated regularly. A Postal Auction is held twice yearly.

A 36 page colour Journal is published quarterly.

Meetings are held three or four times a year in London and the Provinces.

### **ADVERTISEMENT RATES IN LES ILES NORMANDES**

Outside back cover: £40.00. Full page: £30.00. Half page: £18.00

©The Channel Islands Specialists' Society

## SUBSCRIPTIONS and STANDING ORDERS

Will members please note the following points:-

1. Subscriptions, which are due on **1<sup>st</sup> January**, should be sent direct to **Moira Edwards** and **NOT** to any other officer of the Society. A Subscription Invoice will be sent in the December issue of the Journal.
2. All members may now pay by credit card. The amount will be the normal subscription plus 5% for charges. Send your card details including number and expiry date to **Moira Edwards** and to no one else.
3. Overseas members may still pay by STERLING cheque drawn on a U.K. Bank. Non-sterling cheques and non-sterling currency notes will no longer be accepted. Money Orders in sterling currency are acceptable.
4. Members who have not paid by **14<sup>th</sup> February** are assumed to have resigned.
5. Standing Order forms should be **sent by members to their own bank** and not to the Subscription Secretary.

**The NEW Subscription rates for the year 2016 are:-**

COUNTRIES	CLASS OF POSTAGE	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES in Pounds Sterling
Great Britain	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Letterpost	Ordinary Members: <b>£20.00</b> , or choosing an electronic copy of quarterly Journal in place of a posted hard copy; <b>£15.00</b> Juniors, Senior Citizens and Registered Disabled: <b>£10.00</b> , or choosing an E-Journal: <b>£7.50</b> Life Members: <b>£10.00</b> , or choosing an E-Journal: <b>£6.00</b>
Europe	Airmail Printed Paper/ Small Packet Rate	Ordinary Members: <b>£25.00</b> , or choosing an E-Journal: <b>£15.00</b> Life Members: <b>£10.00</b> , or choosing an E-Journal: <b>£6.00</b>
Rest of the World	Airmail Printed Paper/ Small Packet Rate	Ordinary Members: <b>£30.00</b> , or choosing an E-Journal: <b>£15.00</b> Life Members: <b>£10.00</b> , or choosing an E-Journal: <b>£6.00</b>

**PLEASE ADD A 5% SERVICE CHARGE TO ALL CREDIT CARD AND PAYPAL PAYMENTS**

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members:-

2142 David Banks, Jersey, 2143 Douglas Wilson, Alderney.

## CONTENTS

Secretary's Clipboard.....	3
Member's Annual Competition day 2015.....	4
Regional Meeting Report held at Burbage 19th September 2015 .....	5
1865 part cover from Guernsey to Brussels with three 1864 QV 1d rose-red stamps – a forensic study of faked plate 77 stamps .....	7
A new St. Malo handstamp found.....	12
An unusual M.B. letter from Jersey to France.....	15
First Tower 'D' Type Registration Labels.....	17
News of Members .....	18
Advice of Receipt from Jersey to Paris.....	19
Post-Occupation postcard from Jersey to St. Lo, France.....	23
The 1943 postcard shown in the September Les Iles Normandes .....	24
Returned Letter Branch service to Jersey .....	26
United Kingdom style Identity cards used in the CI 1939 -1940 .....	27
Two previously unrecorded Distinctive Maltese Crosses.....	29
A letter from an unrecorded Fortress Flight.....	30
An S.S.Vega mystery .....	32
CISS October 2015 Society Postal Auction Report.....	34
Forthcoming New Stamp Issues in 2016 .....	35

Whilst every care is taken in the production of this Journal statements expressed in articles in *LES ILES NORMANDES* are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or by the Channel Islands Specialists' Society neither of whom can be held responsible for the accuracy of the information therein or any consequence arising there from

## EDITORIAL

Another packed Journal with some diverse contributions from you, the membership, covering a wide field of interest and I look forward to receiving more interesting articles please. I do hope that you will let me have new input which keeps our Journal alive and informative. Even scans or colour copies of unusual items with just a few words are welcome.

A reminder, please, to consider entering the Society Competitions on the 20<sup>th</sup> February at our London meeting which is always fun, not difficult and an opportunity to show your interesting material to your fellow members.

## SECRETARY'S CLIPBOARD

by Richard Flemming

First let me start this CLIPBOARD by thanking those members who attended the Regional Meeting at Sketchley Grange in the village of Burbage, Leicestershire. Holding such a meeting not only helps to keep the cost down for holding members' events, but allows members, who for one reason or another are unable to attend the meetings in London, to attend such a meeting local to them and allows them to feel part of the Society and take an active role in the day's programme. Notes on the meeting at Burbage are shown elsewhere in the Journal.

Looking forward to next year, Gerald Marriner, is busy finalising arrangements for next years' Member's Weekend event to be held at the Hallmark Hotel, Bournemouth from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The programme is to be finalised and will be made available to members as soon as it is agreed by the Committee.

Keeping with 2016, the 20<sup>th</sup> February is our annual Member's Competition event at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. I was very disappointed with the poor number of members who entered the various classes, albeit that all the displays presented for judging were of a high standard which members present were able to enjoy. I am pleased to say that Graham Winters FRPSL has again agreed to judge the entries for 2016.

### **Forthcoming meetings:**

5 December 2015	Members Meeting Theme: World War 1 1914-1918
20 February 2016	CISS Members Annual Competition
15-17 April 2016	Members Weekend Meeting at The Hallmark Hotel, Bournemouth
9 July 2016	Annual General Meeting and members' displays with the theme 'ALDERNEY'.
17 September 2016	Member's Regional meeting.

### **REGIONAL MEETING 2016**

**IF ANY MEMBER IS WILLING TO ARRANGE A REGIONAL  
MEETING FOR 17th SEPTEMBER 2016 PLEASE LET  
RICHARD FLEMMING KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

## **MEMBERS' ANNUAL COMPETITION DAY - 2015**

Seventeen members and one guest were present for CISS Annual Competition Day which this year was judged by Graham Winters FRPSL. Five apologies were received.

Following tea and coffee members were invited to view the 56 lots for the room auction with Gerald Marriner acting as auctioneer and ably assisted by Robert Porter. Whilst this was going on Gavin Wood was assisting Graham Winters FRPSL with the entries for judging. Bidding was brisk for the items in the auction with only a few items unsold. Total receipts for the auction were £736.

Whilst the judging was underway members were invited to present their displays. First off was David Gurney FRPSL with a fine display of Forwarding Agents. This was followed by three separate displays offered by Robert Shaw. First was a frame of items relating to the 1971 Post Office strike. The second display consisted of fine material relating to Mont St. Michel, including wrappers for cheese and sugar cubes, as well as stamps and ephemera showing images of Mont St. Michel. The final display shown by Robert was an excellent range of early Valentines cards [well it was Valentine's Day after all] including some early pop-up 3D cards. Other displays provided were those of Gerald Marriner FRPSL and Jon Aitchison FRPSL, both with an eclectic range of Channel Islands mail and ephemera. Finally, Richard Flemming showed a range of Channel Islands mail sent by various routes overseas, including South Africa, Canada and Singapore.

Following lunch, Graham Winters FRPSL provided members with an excellent debrief regarding the fifteen displays presented for judging within the various classes. The winners in each of the classes were as follows:

**Society Cup for Stamps (Traditional): Ron Brown** – Jersey ½d Arms stamps.

**Sussex Cup for Postal History: Jon Aitchison** – Herm Postal History.

**Tom Green Cup for Occupation Postal History: Ron Brown** – Internee mail.

**Open Philately Competition: Ron Brown** – Bradshaw Cards.

The following two competitions were judged by those members present on the day:

**Ephemera Competition Cup: Jon Aitchison FRPSL– Telegrams**

**Trophy for Postcard Competition: Moira Edwards – SS Hilda**

The standard of entries into the various competition classes was very good, with many recommended for higher national competitions.

Thanks also go to Nick Stuart, Shirley Hancock, Richard Flemming, Robert Shaw, Moira Edwards and John Goose, who sent an entry all the way from New Zealand, for presenting material for judging too.

As you can see, there are some familiar names as competition winners and entrants to the competitions. It would be great if we can see some more competition entries for 2016.

**(PREPARE YOUR ENTRIES NOW FOR 20 FEBRUARY 2016)**

### **Regional Meeting Report held at Burbage 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

by Richard Flemming

Sixteen members attended the Regional Meeting held at Sketchley Grange, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire and nine apologies were received.

The meeting commenced at 11am following tea and coffee giving ample time for members to view the 79 lots in the room auction, with four members bringing additional material for inclusion in the auction. Bidding was brisk from the twelve members with bidding cards with only a few items not selling.

Prior to lunch, two members' displays were presented to the audience present. Firstly, John Hirst, showed 34 sheets of picture postcards related to the Howard Davis Park in Jersey and this was followed by four frames of Gerald Marriner's excellent Civilian Occupation Mail via Feldpost, presented *in absentia* by Richard Flemming.

Following lunch, Robert King showed three frames titled "Formalization" with the theme relating to the changes in Channel Islands handstamps, etc. from the straight line type 2 JERSEY used 1807-20, then type 1 JERSEY

scroll through to modern times with recent machine cancels. Bob MacDonald provided an entertaining display of ephemera related to internees detained in German camps and concluded with a few Feldpost items. Dave Edwards produced an interesting display of postcards produced following the visit of Edward, Prince of Wales, to Guernsey in 1935. Dave preceded his display by showing an original copy of the official programme for the Royal Visit which he used to illustrate the route and timetable with examples of postcards produced following the occasion. Ray Turley produced an interesting three frame display of German Feldpost material and finally, Richard Flemming continued with the Feldpost theme by showing several examples of Feldpost mail to and from Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey including an example of 'Fortress mail' carried on the 15th flight.

The meeting concluded with Chairman, Dave Edwards, giving a vote of thanks to Richard Flemming for organising this event.

**LOCAL ISSUES OF THE  
CHANNEL ISLANDS**

HERM, JETHOU, LIHOU, BRECQHOE,  
COMMODORE SHIPPING COMPANY,  
ALDERNEY PARCEL DELIVERY,  
ISLE OF SARK SHIPPING CO,  
FRENCH C.I. & SMALLER ISLANDS

**REGULAR RETAIL LISTS  
& AUCTIONS SENT FREE**

**JON AITCHISON**  
Old Tithe Hall,  
Start Hill, Near Bishop's Stortford,  
CM22 7TF, Great Britain.

Telephone: 01279 870488  
Email: [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com)





**1865 part cover from Guernsey to Brussels with three 1864 QV  
1d rose-red stamps – a forensic study of faked plate 77 stamps.**  
(First presented by Chris Harman RDP Hon FRPSL on behalf of the RPSL  
Expert Committee in The London Philatelist July-August 2015  
An abridged version by David Gurney FRPSL.



Well known as the ‘Victor Hugo’ cover addressed to his publisher in Brussels with three 1864 1d rose-red QV stamps cancelled with the Guernsey duplex on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1865, this large part cover has an arrival mark 28<sup>th</sup> November 1865.

The 1864 1d rose-red from Plate 77 is well known to GB collectors and well pored over to see if that number in the side ‘lattice-work’ might just be 77. At present the total number of genuine Plate 77s is nine, with four unused and five used. The Expert Committee examine about three or four examples a year and most are found to be from Plate 177 with either the ‘1’ obscured by the obliteration or painted over whilst others are more elaborate fakes.

In the latest May 2015 edition of *Fakes, Forgeries & Experts Journal* of the Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie, there are two articles by Mr Abed H Najjar, the present owner of the cover, entitled “The

world's most forensically tested philatelic gem: the iconic Victor Hugo Plate 77 cover" and "The use of X-ray microfluorescence to detect faking using paints." These articles present a significant range of forensic tests to which the cover was subjected and offer opinions from several forensic experts, of which the interpretation by the author of their findings is that the forensic experts can find nothing wrong with it; in other words they can find nothing to question it being other than genuine.

The cover was examined by the Expert Committee in 2006 when a Certificate No.194468 was issued by RPSL Limited in which the opinion was given that the 'Plate 77' stamps on the cover were faked from stamps printed from Plate 73. The decision was quite clear since all three of the stamps were clearly plateable to Plate 73, despite the numbers in the lattice-work at the sides seeming to read '77'.



Genuine stamp AB plate 77 in The Royal Philatelic Collection.



Courtesy of Her Majesty The Queen to whom copyright belongs.

Genuine stamp BA plate 77 from the Tapling Collection in The British Library.

Courtesy of The British Library to whom copyright belongs.

In arriving at this decision the Committee examined two genuine mint stamps with the corner letters AB from plate 77 held in the Royal Philatelic Collection and with the corner letters BA from plate 77 held in the Tapling Collection in the British Library with the observations –

Each stamp clearly reads '77' in the lattice work at each side.

The positioning of the corner letters was compared against stamps of the same lettering from every other plate of the 1d rose-red 'plate number' series. Each stamp on each plate of 240 (152 plates in total numbered between 71 and 225) has certain distinctive features in the positioning of the corner letters.

These known genuine examples also share the shape and positioning of the '77' in the lattice work in the margins. It is consistent as between the two stamps and is also consistent with the other genuine used plate 77s examined. Thus it is safe to assume that the stamps were laid down on the plate using the same plate 77 transfer roller impression.

Accordingly, the Committee concluded that stamps from plate 77 do exist and are perfectly satisfied that the examples from The Royal Philatelic Collection and The British Library examined are genuine and that they emanate from plate 77.

Then the Committee looked in great detail and reported at length on the **Perkins Bacon Plate Production**, the **impossibility of altering plate numbers by engraving the plate**, the **Perkins Bacon Security Printing**, and **Perkins Bacon Plate Repairs** consulting various technical publications in the course of these examinations.

A comparison was then made between the Victor Hugo stamps with the genuine Plate 77 stamps in particular examining the shape of the '77' with the genuine '77' and concluded that the stamps on the Victor Hugo cover are different to those of the established genuine examples of plate 77. The committee concluded the stamps cannot have been entered using the original Plate 77 transfer roller.

Next comparison was made of other design aspects focussing upon the white lattice-work at the sides of the design. Examination of The Victor Hugo cover revealed that the engraved lines of the lattice-work are broken and the wavy line pattern is dislocated and misshapen when compared with the regular pattern shown in the die proof. The committee concluded the areas around the second '7' had been tampered with.

After further considerations the Expert Committee felt there were clear forensic differences identified in the ink compounds around the area of the second '7' on each stamp and the areas had been manipulated.

In looking at the full article in The London Philatelist the reader must develop an opinion that fits all of the (publicly quoted) parameters. As the Victor Hugo cover is dated November 1865, there are plate production and timing issues to explain. There exist problems in terms of the design featured as well as anomalies identified in the forensic analyses. The facts:

- The cover appears to have been postally used in November 1865
- All three stamps on the cover plate to Plate 73. The positioning of the corner letters on all stamps and the prominent flaw on stamp SK make this certain.
- None of the three stamps match the genuine Plate 77 stamps. They could not therefore have been made using the Plate 73 transfer roller.
- The Plate 77 transfer roller impression did not even exist until fully two and a half months after Plate 73 was completed and ready for printing.
- There is no evidence in the records of either Perkins Bacon or the Inland Revenue of repairs to Plate 73 until the early months of 1868.
- The lattice-work at the side of each stamp is misshapen when compared with the genuine stamps, indicating that the area around the second '7's had been tampered with.
- The numbers cannot have been 're-engraved' on the plate. If they had been, they would print as coloured numbers and not white numbers against a coloured background.
- The idea of a temporary 'filler' in the troughs of the plate that was engraved with a '7' and the subsequent repeat of this process in order to convert the '7' back to a '3' is not credible.
- Plate 73 was so well case-hardened that it went on to print almost 530,000 sheets. Any casual repair in the plate's early state would be very hard to effect.
- No repairs are recorded to Plate 73 until January 1868. This correlates with the scarcity of stamps from Plate 73 in its repaired state, which are rare.

Thus the Expert Committee had no hesitation in confirming their 2006 opinion that all three of the stamps have the '77' faked from stamps from Plate 73.

Does any member have an example of the 1864 1d Rose-Red from Plate 77? If so please provide details to the Editor.

My thanks to Christopher Harman RDP Hon FRPSL on behalf of the Expert Committee for permission to reproduce this abstract from The London Philatelist Volume 124 Number 1427 July-August 2015.

## **DISPOSAL OF YOUR CHANNEL ISLANDS' COLLECTIONS**

If you or your relatives wish your collection to be sold due to change of interest, incapacity, or death the Society could assist you by arranging for its disposal within the C.I.S.S. through the Society's auctions and/or circulating Packets.

**Benefits can be:**

1. **Best realisation of value to owner or dependents.**
2. **Opportunity for members to obtain items reasonably.**
3. **Society income enhanced with commission charged at 10% on sale by auction or packet plus 2% insurance.**

Several collections have been successfully sold in this way in recent years to the benefit of the owners. In the first instance please contact the Secretary at [rflemming@talktalk.net](mailto:rflemming@talktalk.net) or ring 01455 613826

## **ANY UNWANTED SOCIETY JOURNALS?**



Please do **not** throw your Journals or old Bulletins away. Send to the Membership Secretary, **Moira Edwards** at **86, Hall Lane, Sandon, Chelmsford. Essex. CM2 7RQ** for recycling to other members.

## A new St. Malo handstamp found.

by Richard Flemming



Fig. 1.

I have recently made this exciting find shown on the next page and will welcome any comments.

This smaller standard type Fig. 1 shown above measures 28 x 3.5mm on an entire dated March 24, 1789 from Guernsey to Nantes. It was carried privately to St. Malo where upon arrival it was handled by Forwarding Agent Monsieur Blaize de Maisonneuve and the ST. MALO handstamp was applied.



Fig. 2.

The larger, so far unrecorded, Fig. 2. handstamp measures 33 x 5mm and is on an entire letter from Guernsey to Paris, sent via St. Malo, and then redirected to Heidelberg. The letter is dated October 12, 1814. By 1814 St.

Malo was using the COLONIES PAR/ST. MALO handstamp (used 1803-1826).



Fig. 1a.

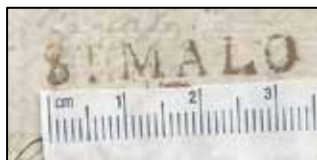




Fig. 2a.



## Channel Island Postal BidSales


Gategny Chambers, 1st Floor, Bosq Lane, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2LP.  
Tel: 01481 727353/Fax 01481 725981 Email: [dtomlin@cipostalbids.co.uk](mailto:dtomlin@cipostalbids.co.uk)

Postal Auction catalogues are produced 5 times a year and include a wide variety of Postal History and stamp issues. Including specialised listings.



We offer a wide range of Channel Islands and Isle of Man stamps in our Retail Catalogue.

Please visit our Website:  
<https://www.cipostalbids.com> for all these and much more including Special Offers of rare and scarce items. Catalogue available by post on request.





## An unusual M.B. letter from Jersey to France

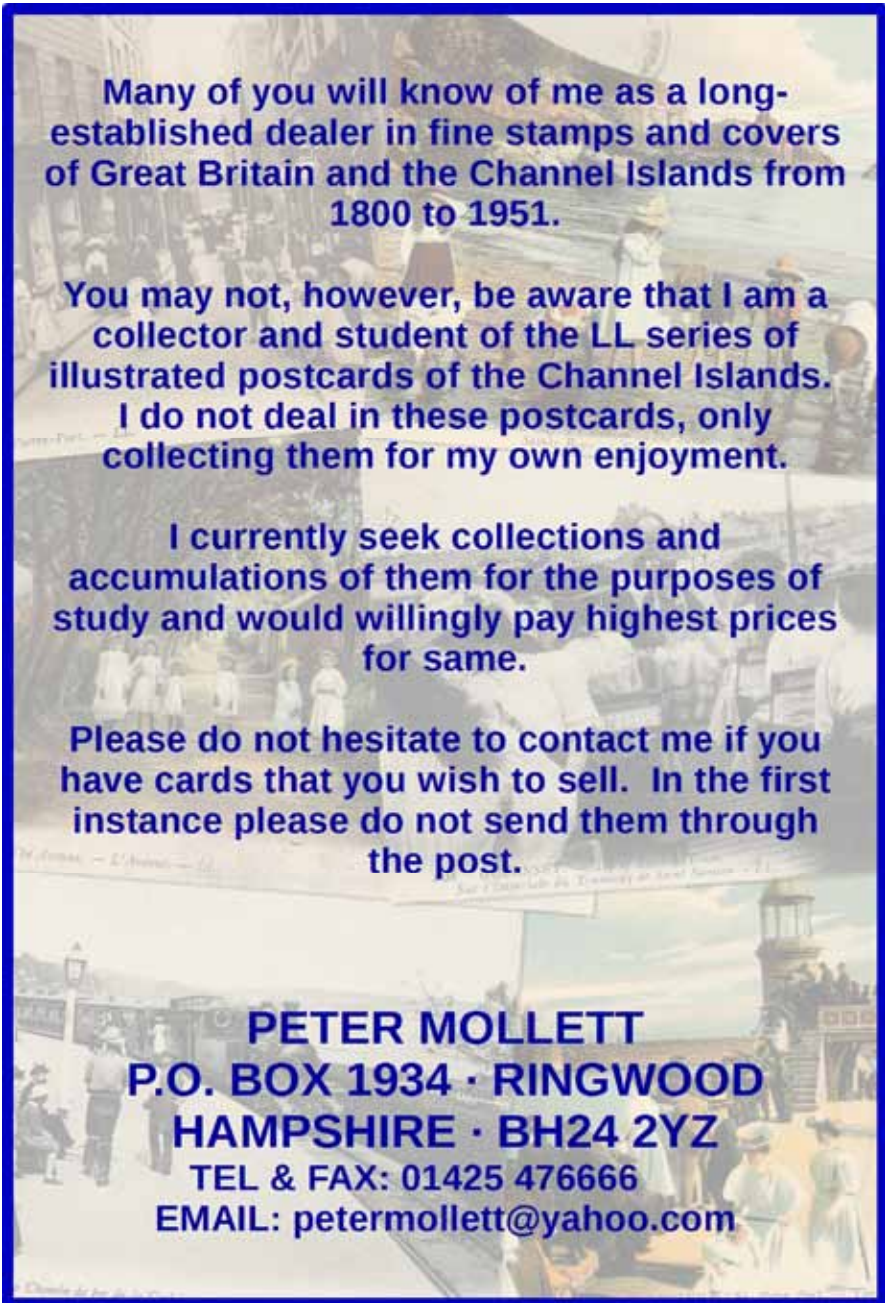
by Tony Peters



A letter from Jersey to Falaise, franked by 2 x 20c French stamps and posted in a moveable box for Granville (no Jersey date stamp). On arrival in France the French stamps were cancelled by the Granville numeral mark and a “PD” mark was also used. The letter also received the arrival date stamp “Iles-C Granville”, dated 25.01.1855.

The French stamps were not valid on the direction Jersey – France, therefore the cancelled stamps and the PD handstamp were crossed through and the French note for Stamps invalid was noted in manuscript at the top of the letter together with the French postage rate of 7 decimes also added in manuscript

The letter arrived at Falaise on 27.01.1855.

The background of the entire page is a collage of various vintage postcards from the Channel Islands. The postcards depict different scenes: a busy street with people, a lighthouse, a harbor with ships, and groups of people in period clothing. The text is overlaid on this collage.

Many of you will know of me as a long-established dealer in fine stamps and covers of Great Britain and the Channel Islands from 1800 to 1951.

You may not, however, be aware that I am a collector and student of the LL series of illustrated postcards of the Channel Islands.

I do not deal in these postcards, only collecting them for my own enjoyment.

I currently seek collections and accumulations of them for the purposes of study and would willingly pay highest prices for same.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have cards that you wish to sell. In the first instance please do not send them through the post.

**PETER MOLLETT**  
**P.O. BOX 1934 · RINGWOOD**  
**HAMPSHIRE · BH24 2YZ**  
**TEL & FAX: 01425 476666**  
**EMAIL: petermollett@yahoo.com**

## First Tower 'D' Type Registration Labels

by David Winnie

The GPO introduced in February 1907, a Large sheet or 'D' type registration label for use at small offices that did not justify the expense of printed named labels. These were issued in sheets of 50 labels serially numbered from 1 to 50 and Sub-Postmasters were instructed to use either their datestamp with the slugs removed or any metal or rubber stamp with the office name on each label in the sheet before issue.

Below is an example of the use of this label at First Tower on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1907. This is a very early use, and it should also be noted that the Sub-Postmaster did not remove the date slugs as instructed. Also note that the large 'R' and the sheet position number is located on the right side of the label.



By 1910, the design of the 'D' type registration label had changed in order to comply with UPU Rules. It should be noted in the example shown below that the large 'R' and the sheet position number have now been moved to the left side of the label. This particular label was used on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1910, this being the earliest known date for this example of label.

Once again, it is relevant to note that the First Tower Sub-Postmaster has not pre-stamped his sheets of registration labels as required by Post Office rules, but has continued to datestamp this label in the same way as the earlier example with the code and date slugs left in.



## NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to our Auctioneer, **Nick Stuart**, who achieved the award of a **Large Silver** at Autumn Stampex for his entry:

### **The Bailiwick of Guernsey - The First Definitive Stamps.**

Congratulations are also due to **Jon Aitchison FRPSL** for his recent appointment as the new Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, to **John Triggs FRPSL** on his award of Fellowship of The Royal Philatelic Society London for his work as Society Representative for the Channel Islands and to **Norman Sansom** on election to membership of the Royal.

It is with great sadness that we have to record the sudden death of our member Francis Kiddle RDP, Hon. FRPSL a Past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, an FIP judge and a Life Member of this Society having first joined in 1972.

## Advice of Receipt from Jersey to Paris

by Tony Peters



Registered letter from the Post Office in Jersey, with registered date stamp of 31.01.1887 and blue crayon "AR" for Advice of Receipt, to the French Post Office in Paris routed via London and Calais to Paris, with an arrival datestamp on the back of 02.02.1887.







Registered letter from Jersey to Guernsey dated 04.10.1920. showing a manuscript “AR” in pencil, but also a previously unknown cachet “AR” in heavy black ink. In addition I am also showing below both sides of the Advice form with the receipt side returned to Jersey.

**Editor’s note:** To my knowledge nothing has actually been documented in Channel Island philatelic literature on the **Acknowledgement of Receipt** or otherwise known as **Advice of Delivery** or **AVIS DE RECEPTION** service, at least until 1988. According to James A. Mackay in his excellent work *Registered Mail of the British Isles in Great Britain* the service seems to have had its origin in an outline given by Sir Rowland Hill as part of his plan for registration in 1839-41.

In its early stages in the 19c a similar, but much more simplified form was used to those illustrated which accompanied the registered letter and once completed at destination was posted back to the sender by the originating Post Office. This service appears to have been little used in the Channel Islands until the 1900s. A note in *Journal* Vol 8 No.1 by the Late R. M. Willcocks in February 1988 seems to confirm this when asking for any known Guernsey examples, this then followed by Alan Moorcroft’s more descriptive and comprehensive article of 1993 in *Journal* Vol. 12. No.3 which does include Alan’s then 1920 inter-Island example shown above. Other examples are now known used at the Islands’ Sub-Post Offices in the 1900s. Perhaps someone could provide a detailed account of this service?

AR

On His Majesty's Service.



To *M. A. J. P. Le Riche*  
*25 Hill Street*  
*Jersey*

\*The names and full addresses of the addressee and sender should be carefully inserted by the sender (or at the issuing office) in spaces (1) and (5). In (5) the address to which the result of the enquiry is to be sent should be similarly entered.

† When the form is filled up at the time of registration, the designation of the office of posting and the registration number as given on the registration label must be inserted in the space at the head of the form, but the spaces for the name of the office of posting and the date of posting need not be filled in. When, however, the form is filled up subsequently, the registration number, the name of the office of posting and the date of posting must be inserted.

‡ The certificate (4) should be completed only if the recipient objects to complete and sign the acknowledgment (3), or if for any other reason his signature is unobtainable.

§ If any postal packet is officially re-directed, or is re-directed at the address and at once handed back to the postman, the address in space (1) must be struck out and the new address inserted. When the packet is returned direct to the sender, the address in space (1) must be absolutely struck out and the reason for the non-delivery of the packet noted on the form.

¶ When this form does not accompany the postal packet to which it refers, particulars of the mail in which the packet was forwarded to the next office should be given in space (2), and the form, folded in three and gummed, forwarded to the office of delivery (6). If the form is handed in at an Office other than that at which the packet was posted, it must be forwarded to the Office of posting in order that the counterfoil of the certificate of posting may be noted and particulars of despatch of the packet furnished.

|| When the form is completed, it should be folded in three, and, after being gummed, returned to the address shown at (5).

AR

On His Majesty's Service.

(\*) THE POSTMASTER

OF



1914 15 16

P-87

**Advice of Delivery of an INLAND  
REGISTERED Letter**

[Insert Letter or Parcel.]

Designation and  
Number on  
Registration Label )

addressed to

\* (1) *M. Ernest R. Hicks*  
*Victoria Organ Works*  
*Guernsey*



† Office of Posting *Jersey* Date of Posting *Oct 4 1920*

(2) Despatched to \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ entered \_\_\_\_\_  
on List.



I acknowledge that the registered postal packet described above and sent by \* (1)



was duly delivered at the address stated on the  
*6th Oct 1920.*

*E. F. Hye* † (Signature of Recipient.)



(4) I certify that the registered postal packet described above was duly delivered at the address stated to the  
signature *E. F. Hye*  
on the *6th Oct 1920*

(Signature of Postmaster of Delivering Office.)

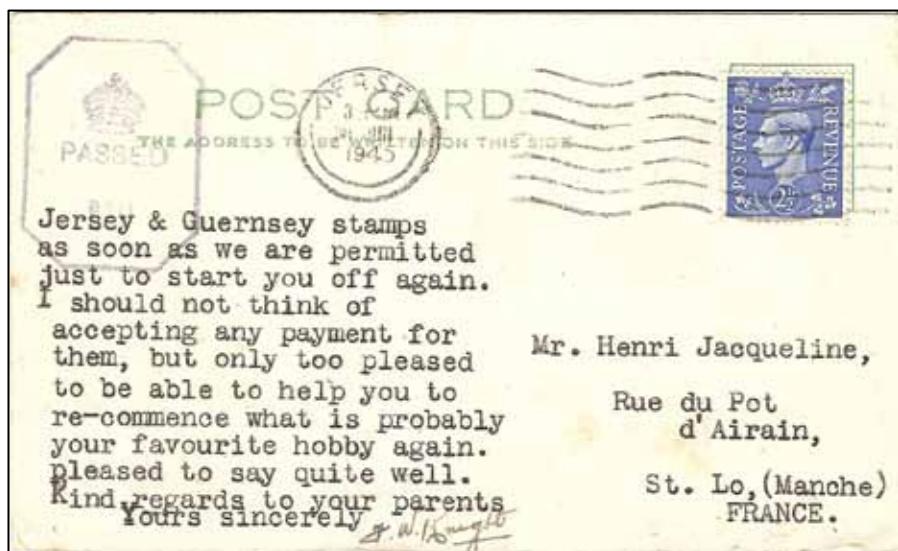
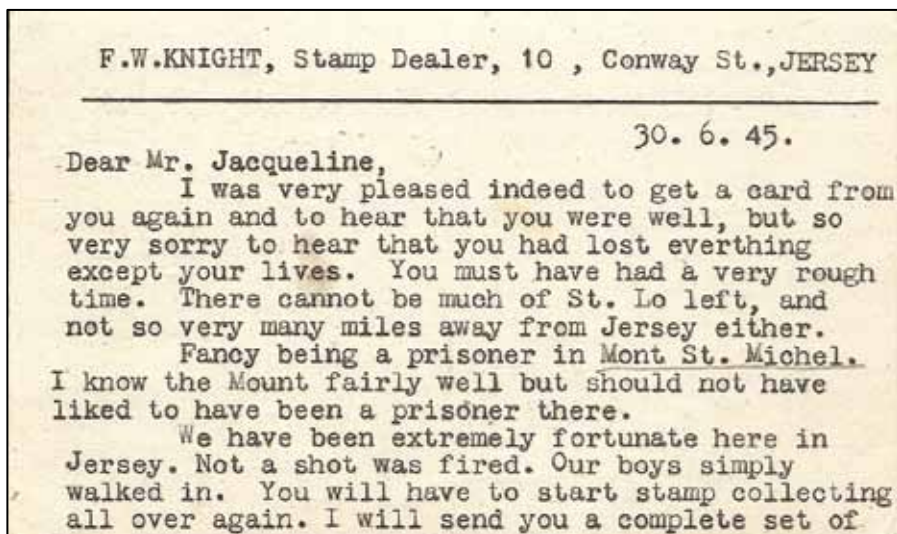
[FOR NOTES SEE OTHER SIDE OF FORM.]



## Post-Occupation postcard from Jersey to St. Lo, France.

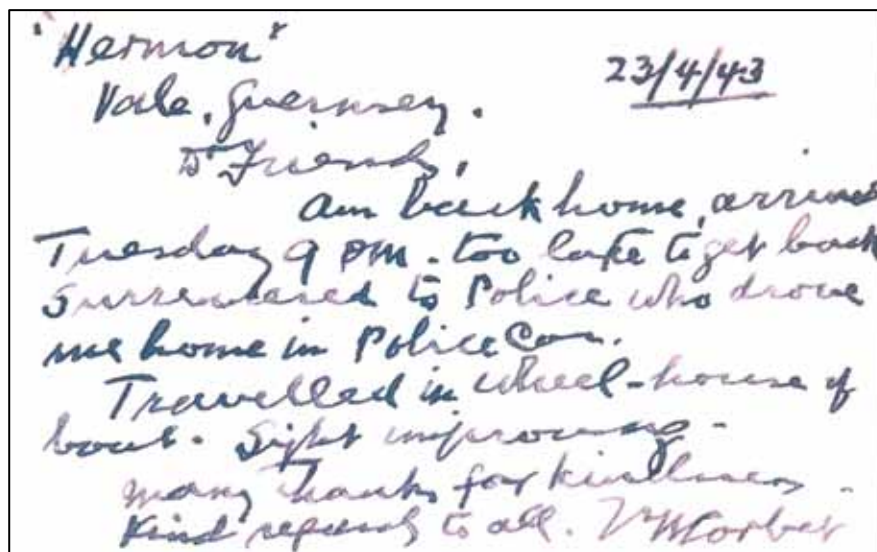
by Henri Chartier

I showed this interesting and rather sad postcard at the Guernsey Weekend meeting in April which attracted a lot of interest amongst members.



The card has been censored in London and illustrates the postal restriction still in force in June 1945 preventing the despatch or enclosure of stamps to France.

**The 1943 postcard shown in the September *Les Iles Normandes***  
by Nick Stuart



I was most surprised to see this postcard on page 19 of the last Journal and it brought back some memories.

My parents bought William Corbet's house, Hermon, in Guernsey in 1958 and both I, my brother and sisters grew up there. The greenhouses had been sold off to a Mr. Eker who lived opposite the vinery on the New Road. It was in those greenhouses that he grew his melons along with other produce, probably tomatoes.

My mother always referred to him as 'Willie' Corbet and he was known as the 'Melon King' as he was the first to grow melons on Guernsey commercially. Such a small world we live in!!

## **C.I.S.S. PUBLICATIONS**

**Our current stock of merchandise at  
reasonable prices.**

**However postage is extra and will be invoiced.**

***Write to:*** C.I.S.S. Book Sales at 64, Falconers Green, Burbage.  
Hinckley. Leics. LE10 2SX or Email – **rflemming@talktalk.net**

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. The Channel Islands Sub-Post Offices and their Postmarks (292pp)   | £6.00  |
| 2. The Post Office in the Smaller Channel Islands (154pp)   | £12.00 |
| 3. The Postal History of the Guernsey Sub-Post Offices (265pp)  | £10.00 |
| 4. Red Cross Postal Message Scheme with the Channel Islands<br>during the Occupation 1940-45 (389pp)  | £8.00  |
| 5. Islanders Deported Part 11 (246pp)   | £4.00  |
| 6. The Postal History of the Jersey Sub-Post Offices (376pp)<br><u>(This book is reduced from £27 to £15 as staples are slightly rusting)</u> | £15.00 |
| 7. Registered Mail of the Guernsey Sub-Offices 1968-1990 Vol 2  | £3.00  |
| 8. Registered Mail of the Guernsey Sub-Offices 1968-1990 Vol .3   | £3.00  |
| 9. Channel Islands Revenues (Fifth Edition) – 1997  | £6.00  |
| 10. Jersey & Guernsey Slogan Postmarks of the 20th Century (85pp)   | £7.50  |

### **Also available:-**

**Binders** for 'Les Iles Normandes' holding 12 issues @ £4.50 each or  
three for £12.50 plus postage.

**Society Ties:** In blue or maroon with CISS motif @ £8.00 each plus postage.

Payment may be made by Visa/Access/Mastercard or Paypal.

A service charge of 5% is made in accordance with the  
Credit Card (Prices Discrimination) Order.

Please quote your card number, expiry date and card settlement address.

**Please do not send payment until you receive an invoice  
for the cost of your order plus the postage and packing.**

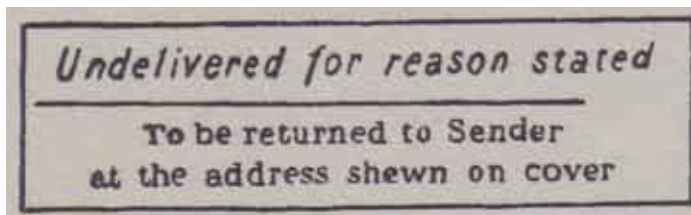
## Returned Letter Branch service to Jersey

by Tony Peters

Following below I show an undelivered postcard with an unknown instructional mark:



A postcard from Jersey to Paris dated 06.02.1896 with arrival mark dated 08.02.1896 with different French letter carrier marks and manuscript notes, i.e. "Jersey" in red and marked "Undelivered..." mark in black.



The cachet is not clearly readable and you may need a glass.

The inscription of the cachet gave me some questions. The answer: In the early years, undelivered mail was sent back to the sender under separate cover, if the address was known (see British Postmarks – by Alcock and Holland, page 189). But which kind of cover was that?

I found a cover from the London Returned Letter Service to Guernsey, which should have enclosed a returned letter to Guernsey. I show this below:



Postal stationery envelope from the London Returned Letter Branch, Counter No. 13, with R-Label “London, RLS” to Guernsey with oval registered postmark in blue, dated 10.08.1910.

It shows the No. of the returned letter in manuscript “To 8254” which was delivered back in this envelope.

Does anyone else have a cover like this from Jersey or Guernsey?

## **United Kingdom style Identity Cards used in the CI 1939 -1940**

by David Gurney FRPSL

**Request for information:** Has any Member had sight of or have information on the use of UK style Identity Cards (ie National Registration green or buff cards first issued on the mainland in September 1939) being issued or used in the Channel Islands or to Channel Islanders during the wartime pre-occupation period. ie September 1939 to June 1940, prior to the issue of German Occupation ID cards?

# WARDROP & COMPANY LIMITED

*Philatelic Insurance Specialists*

**The insurance for the serious collector providing  
peace of mind at surprisingly low cost**

**What is covered** - Stamps, covers, envelopes, postcards, albums, philatelic literature, stamp boxes, and other articles of philatelic or postal history interest

**Insurance against** –All risks of physical loss or damage to property excluding wear, tear, gradual deterioration, moth, vermin, and damage or deterioration of any article directly caused while being worked upon or undergoing any process

**Scope of cover** – Anywhere UK (subject to prior advice of transits or locations other than the main dwelling for sums over £15,000) including postal or accompanied sendings

**Basis of valuation** – Market value

<b>Cost</b> –Anywhere UK	£3.75 reducing to £3.00 per £1,000 for higher sums
Normally Bank	£2.50 per £1,000 (30 days withdrawal any one year)
Bank only	£1.25 per £1,000

For a personal quotation and prospectus write to us at the address below,

telephone **01376 563764**, email [john@wardrop.co.uk](mailto:john@wardrop.co.uk) or visit our website [www.wardrop.co.uk](http://www.wardrop.co.uk) for more information including lots of links to other philatelic sites and an online proposal form.

**Wardrop & Co Ltd  
PO Box 772, Coggeshall  
COLCHESTER CO6 1UW**

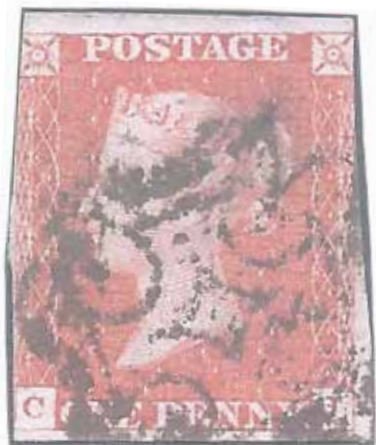
**Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority**



## Two previously unrecorded Distinctive Maltese Crosses

by David Gurney FRPSL

First seen at the Autumn Stampex this year and images shown below, neither of which were recorded in my database:



1841 1d red-brown plate 33 lettered C J, the stamp cut into on both sides and struck with the distinctive 'Channel Island's Maltese Cross. Has a David Brandon Certificate No. 34136 issued on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

Offered as Lot 1438 at the Argyll Etkin auction on 9<sup>th</sup> October estimated at £1,000-1,200, it was unsold.



1841 2d blue (SG14) lettered G I, the stamp cut into at foot, with the distinctive Channel Island's Maltese Cross. Really too good to be true!

Offered on the Ebay online auction as "Postmark not genuine" and sold, after eight bidders pursued it, for £32.00 on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

## A letter from an unrecorded Fortress Flight

by Ron Brown

Following the Allied landings in Normandy in June 1944 and the liberation of the Cotentin Peninsular, the German supply routes to the Channel Islands were cut. With the surrender of St Malo on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1944 the last supply route was lost and there was no longer a chance for the German Channel Island units to have normal postal communications of either a military nature or personal nature with families at home.

All supplies including the field post, which was most important for the morale of the Germans, had to be flown into the Islands during the night. Because the command of the Channel Islands units was stationed in Guernsey all the supply flights had to be directed there and the planes landed at Guernsey Airport. Field post to and from Jersey was in general transported to and from Guernsey by ship. Alderney fared even worse as there was no airport and only with a lengthy and dangerous voyage by escort ships could mail be transported between Guernsey and Alderney. In total 23 supply flights carrying mail to Guernsey are known and these took place between 24<sup>th</sup> September 1944 and 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> April 1945.





In addition to these recorded flights a further unrecorded flight was made on either the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> January 1945 which carried the letter illustrated above and below.



The Commander of 319 Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Graf von Schmettow, wrote this letter to his wife on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1945 affixing his personal stamp or seal bearing the Von Schmettow Coat of Arms on the reverse of the envelope. The cover was cancelled by a mute cancel on receipt in Germany dated the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1945. The date of this letter, being the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1945, was too late to have been flown out on the 14<sup>th</sup> supply flight which took place at 7.30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1945 and again it does not correspond with the dates for the 15<sup>th</sup> supply flight which left at 7.57pm on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1945. As this cover received a datestamp in Germany of the 13<sup>th</sup>, the date of the canceller makes it too early for the 15<sup>th</sup> supply flight.

Enclosed was a lengthy letter to his wife giving details of the situation on the Channel Islands, especially the fortress aspects in which Michael

Wieneke has been unable to fully decipher the handwriting. The letter has not been censored in line with all personal mail of Generals and above.

Major Graf (Count) von Schmettow, a nephew of Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt, arrived in Jersey on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1940 as the Island Commandant before transferring his headquarters to Guernsey in September 1943. He has been described as a dignified, courtly, tall Prussian of the old school and was ideally suited for the post and he was a skilful Commander for over four years.

After the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1944 von Schmettow, together with other aristocratic Prussian officers, came under suspicion and all were closely watched.

On the 27th February 1945 orders were received to retire von Schmettow on health grounds' and he was flown back to Germany on the 12th March 1945, approximately seven weeks before Hitler's suicide.

**Note:** The different ranks given for von Schmettow were those appropriate at the different dates.

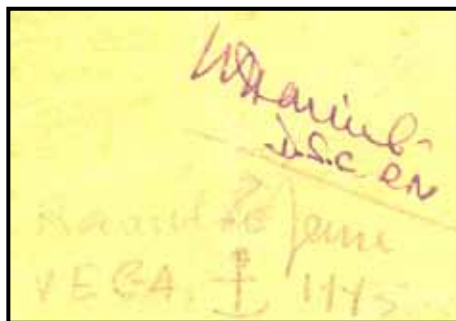
**This letter was originally in the collection of Michael Wieneke to whom I am most grateful for his considerable work in affording translations from the German where he has been able.**

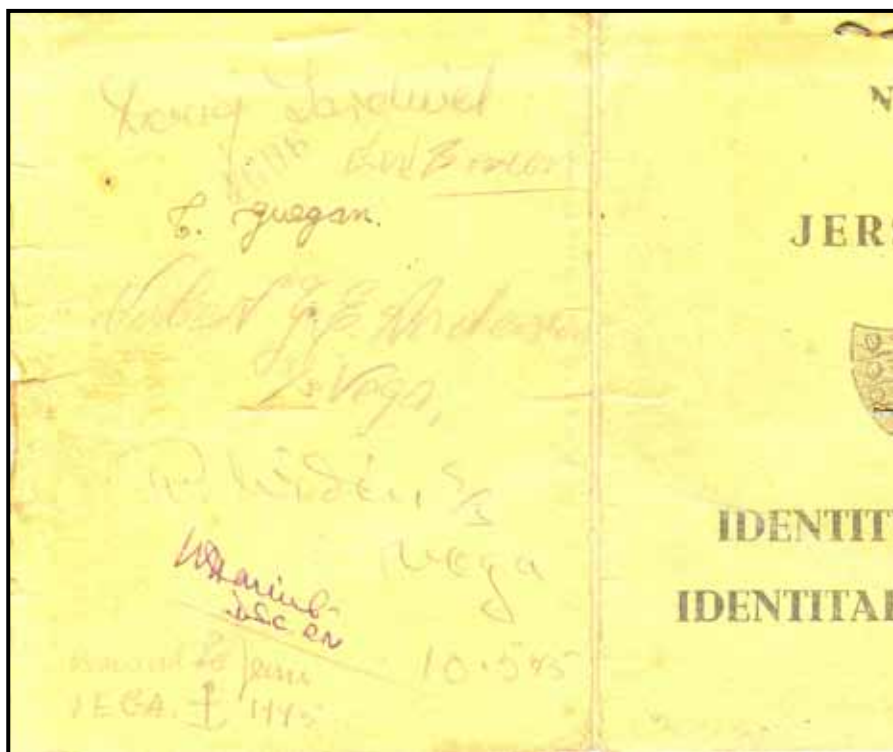
## **AN S.S.VEGA MYSTERY**

by David Gurney FRPSL

Members will recall the interesting postcard featured in the last Journal which was written on the S.S.Vega by Raoul le Jeune on 27 Mars 1945, addressed to Bruxelles and posted in Lisbon on the following day. Who was Raoul le Jeune?

Well the answer came to light when Ron Brown recently reminded me that he had a Jersey Identity card in his collection, originally in my collection, with various signatures endorsed S/S Vega and the lower one of *Raoul le Jeune* and below the signature .....VEGA, an anchor and 1945 in pencil.





When I bought this ID card in Jersey many years ago it was said that this belonged to a dockworker, Joseph Ewens, born in St. Helier, Jersey.

The card would have been carried to London by sea, censored on arrival as evidenced by the faint red octagonal censor cachet and, with the war situation in Europe rapidly changing at that time, sent on to a liberated Bruxelles. None of the names of the signatures can be found amongst the crew list in the book, *A TRIBUTE TO THE S.S. "VEGA"* by Keith Taylor, but then the crew names shown therein may not all have been serving on the ship in 1945.

It is thought that the ink signature of a British naval officer with the initials DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) and RN (Royal Navy) above that of Raoul le Jeune might have been added following the liberation of Jersey.

**CISS and RPSL members most welcome to attend monthly meetings in Guernsey, contact John Triggs on 01481 725847 or [jtriggs@cwgsy.net](mailto:jtriggs@cwgsy.net) for details.**

### **CISS Auction NS3 - October 2015 - Report by Nick Stuart**

This was one of the biggest postal auctions we have had with just under 700 lots with reserves ranging from £3 to £425. There were large sections of Postal History, the Occupation and Red Cross material and a fabulous range of post cards.

Total sales were £10,746 with all sections selling well and virtually all of the 79 bidders being successful.

Key highlights were some of the undated double arcs such as St. Aubin's in blue which fetched £225 and Gorey and St Peter's fetching £325 each.

The Occupation material created great interest with most being sold. An u/m Guernsey ½d Arms 14th printing imprint block selling for £48 and an Internee letter / envelope from the Isle of Man to Guernsey realising £65.

There was a large range of Sub-Post office material from across the years some of which attracted very strong bids.

The Herm locals proved very popular, again with most lots sold

The biggest section of the auction was early 20th century postcards with a range of some of the rarer Allix and Louis Levy cards. For example Allix No. 22 Royal Crescent mint coloured card realised £90 and No. 24 Hotel de L'Europe fetched £85. The LL card Guernsey No. 38 of the Lighthouse on the Breakwater - Arrival of the England Boat went for £120.

## **FORTHCOMING NEW STAMP ISSUES – 2016.**

### **GUERNSEY POST**

#### **20th January 2016 Lunar New Year: Year of the Monkey 2016**

Set of 6 stamps	£3.62
Souvenir Sheet	£3.62
First Day Cover	£4.82
First Day Cover Souvenir Sheet	£4.82
Presentation Pack	£4.52
Souvenir Sheet & Presentation Pack insert	£3.82
Sheets of 10	£36.20

#### **17th February 2016 Guernsey Endangered Species: Philippine Eagle**

Miniature Sheet	£3.00
First Day Cover	£4.20
Presentation Pack	£3.90

#### **17th February 2016 Post & Go: Bailiwick Life**

Collectors Strip	£3.62
Collectors Set of 6 strips of 6 stamps	£21.72
First Day Cover	£4.82
Presentation Pack	£4.52

### **ALDERNEY**

#### **17th February 2016 Longis Nature Reserve**

Set of 6 stamps	£3.62
Souvenir Sheet	£3.62
First Day Cover	£4.82
First Day Cover Souvenir Sheet	£4.82
Presentation Pack	£4.52
Souvenir Sheet & Presentation Pack insert	£3.82
Sheets of 10	£36.20

### **JERSEY POST**

#### **5th January 2016 Year of The Monkey**

One Stamp	£0.47
First Day Cover	£1.62

Presentation Pack	£1.62
Miniature Sheet	£1.00
First Day Cover	£2.15
Presentation Pack	£2.15

#### **6th February 2016 RAF Search & Rescue – 75th Anniversary**

Set 6 stamps	£4.68
First Day Cover	£5.83
Presentation Pack	£5.83
Souvenir Sheetlet	£4.68
First Day Cover	£5.83
Presentation Pack	£5.83

#### **17th February 2016 Post & Go – The Crest of Jersey Post**

Set of 6 stamps	£4.21
First Day Cover	£5.36
Presentation Pack	£5.36

#### **9th March 2016 The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria –**

##### **King George VI**

Set of 6 stamps	£4.21
First Day Cover	£5.36
Presentation Pack	£5.36
Miniature Sheet	£2.00
First Day Cover	£3.15
Presentation Pack	£3.15

Due to the loss of LVCR, Jersey Post now collects the appropriate rate of VAT on the various products at the point of sale and pre-pays HMRC on all orders entering the UK.

Post & packing charges CI - £1.85, UK - £1.94 (incl. VAT), Europe - £ 2.00 and the Rest of the World - £3.00

Note: This is the basic charge only.

Also, please be aware that from 2013, Jersey Post will be charging 5% GST to Jersey customers on CTO stamps (and complete CTO sheets) only.

## **CHANNEL ISLANDS**

Postal History \* Occupation \* Revenues  
Herm \* Alderney \* Sark \* Jethou \* Lihou

Independent \* Errors and Varieties

Postcards \* Ephemera from all periods

**ALL TO BE FOUND IN MY REGULAR  
POSTAL AUCTIONS AND PRICE LISTS**

Send for the latest catalogue today (free of charge)  
and see for yourself!

## **WINDSOR STAMPS**

**1, Sausmarez Street, St. Peter Port,  
Guernsey, GY1 2PT. C.I.**

**Tel: (01481) 725209**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **VISITING GUERNSEY?**

**THEN VISIT THE WINDSOR STAMPS  
“COLLECTORS CENTRE”**

**1, Sausmarez Street, St. Peter Port, GY1 2PT**

**Tel: (01481) 725209**

*Stamps and Postal History \* Postcards  
Coins and Banknotes \* Cigarette Cards  
Antique Prints \* Engravings \* Maps, etc., etc.*

**WELL WORTH A VISIT!**



# Channel Islands

## at Auction

Grosvenor holds regular specialised public auctions of Great Britain stamps and postal history in central London, heart of the international philatelic market, achieving consistently high results. Interesting Channel Islands material features regularly.



Each auction is available to view, with additional illustrations, on our website, **[www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com)**, and our exceptional printed catalogues are generously distributed, complimentary copies being available on request.

We work closely with collectors to ensure that presentation and prices meet vendors' highest expectations. Commission charges are generous, fully inclusive, and negotiable for valuable consignments. Contact **Andrew Williams** or **Glyn Page** today at the address below for further information on how Grosvenor can maximise the sale potential of your collection.

## GROSVENOR

399-401 Strand 2nd & 3rd Floors London WC2R 0LT

T: 020 7379 8789 F: 020 7379 9737 E: [info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk](mailto:info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk)

[www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com)