



CHANNEL ISLANDS  
SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

June 2020

Volume 39 No.2

# THE CHANNEL ISLANDS SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

*Founded in 1950*

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

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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 or downloaded from the Society Internet website above. 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: £50.00. Inside back cover: £40.00

Full page: £35.00 Half page: £22.00

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## 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 **Mark Bailey** 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 pay by PayPal. The amount will be the appropriate subscription rate plus an amount to cover the PayPal fee. Send your PayPal payment to [treasurer@ciss1950.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ciss1950.org.uk) mailto:[treasurer@ciss1950.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ciss1950.org.uk)
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.

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Zone 1: Great Britain and Channel Islands	2 <sup>nd</sup> class Letterpost	Ordinary Member aged under 65 years, <b>£25</b> ; or if choosing electronic copy of quarterly journal, <b>£20</b> . Juniors, Members aged 65 years and over and Registered Disabled, <b>£15</b> ; or if choosing to receive electronic copy of quarterly journal, <b>£12.50</b> .
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**Note: from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 there has been no Life Member category.**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

2189 James Ryan, Canada; 2190 Gary Willcox, Somerset; 2191 Malcolm Judd, Portugal; 2192 John Symons, Worcestershire;

Rejoined:- 1668 Clive Laws, Cornwall

We very much regret to record the deaths of 1030 Keith Raymond and 1722 Ray Turley.

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## EDITORIAL

Once again there are some diverse and interesting articles in this edition with the final instalment of Ron Brown's study of the Fortress flights to and from occupied Guernsey.

I am appealing for articles please. Whilst I am promised longish articles by two members these have not yet materialised. Interestingly there are two new books in preparation, details of which may be announced next year.

**The April 2020 postal auction was a great success and the next postal auction is scheduled for November this year when fully described, priced lots for sale must be sent to Gerald Marriner well before 31st AUGUST 2020. The April 2020 Auction Report will be published in September.**

## SECRETARY'S CLIPBOARD

by Richard Flemming

No matter how far our membership is spread it seems as if all of us are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in some way or other, and I hope that you are able to keep safe and well and that it will all come to an end soon.

It was good to see so many of you attending our first meeting at the new Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) building and the feedback seems positive as to the layout of the building and local facilities. Alan Moorcroft, Competition's Secretary, was also pleased to receive so many entries for the annual competitions and congratulations to all the winners.

Back to the Covid-19 pandemic and global lockdown. Sadly we had to cancel the Member's Weekend in Guernsey and I have to inform you that the Executive Committee at its first video conference meeting decided we will have to cancel the Annual General Meeting too due on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020, as the RPSL premises are closed until at least September 2020.

This may impinge on our Member's Meeting due to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020. As soon as I hear anything from the Royal about future meetings from September onwards I will let you know. Please keep a watchful eye on the Society's website for further information.

Talking about the Society's website ([www.ciss1950.org.uk](http://www.ciss1950.org.uk)), under the "News" heading you will see a new sub-heading titled "Liberation of Biberach", which when clicked on reveals an interesting newspaper article regarding the liberation of Biberach. If you have any similar interesting articles on the Liberation of Biberach that we can add to the webpage please forward to me at [secretary@ciss1950.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ciss1950.org.uk) with a short note as to what the article is about.

### Forthcoming meetings (SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

26 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Member's Meeting: Theme: Smaller Channel Islands
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Member's Meeting – Theme: Letters Q, R and/or S
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Competition Day plus member's Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Annual General Meeting followed by room auction and members' displays

**All members' meetings are now held at the Royal Philatelic Society  
London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW.**

**Keep up to date by visiting our website at [ciss1950.org.uk](http://ciss1950.org.uk).**

## **Annual Competition Day London Meeting Report 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020** by Richard Flemming

After saying goodbye to the Union Jack Club as host for our Members' Meetings for the past two years, I am pleased to report that the attendance at our first meeting at the new Royal Philatelic Society London building in Abchurch Lane was good, with twenty members and three guests attending the CISS 2020 Annual Competitions Day. Alan Moorcroft, Competition's Secretary, was especially pleased with the sixteen entries for this year's annual competitions (please see Competitions Secretary's report) which was being judged once again by Graham Winters. Whilst Graham and Alan were busy with sorting the competition entries out, the room auction was taking place, with some sixty-nine lots going under the hammer. In all the total realized was £700, with 55% of the lots selling at or above reserve.

Following lunch, Graham provided members with an in-depth critique of competition entries, looking at strengths and weaknesses of each entry. This was then followed by four non-competitive displays provided by Olaf Beecken whose display included a rare registered Organization Todt letter Feldpost No. 41639RP (Reichs Post). Gerald Marriner FRPSL showed an item of mail (?September 1943) that was to go from Guernsey to First Tower, Jersey, but instead went to Paris for censoring. Whilst lingering in Paris the city was liberated and because the Channel Islands were still occupied, the letter was sent to London, where it was opened and re-sealed with G.P.O. tape and later was released to be sent back to the Islands. A journey of nearly three years to get from one Island to the other. Steve Well's display included the use of a Jersey postage due stamp used on mail during the occupation. It was good to see Simon Burke at the meeting, whose display included an item of mail addressed to the States Office, Guernsey bearing a 1d. 'Arms' stamp, a George VI 2d. 'Centenary' stamp bisected and a 2d. 'Centenary' stamp that was quartered, with two of the quarters used to make up the ½d postage rate.

Photographs from the Competition Day meeting are on the next page:

Top left: Graham Winters FRPSL providing feedback on members' displays.

Top Right: David Winnie, Chairman and winner of Society Cup for stamps with the presentation by CISS President, Gerald Marriner FRPSL.

Bottom left: Ron Brown FRPSL, winner of Postal History class with Gerald Marriner FRPSL.

Bottom right: Robert Shaw, winner of the Sarnia Trophy for ephemera.



## **CISS Competition's Report 8th February 2020 by Alan Moorcroft FRPSL**

The following competitions were judged by Graham Winters FRPSL International Judge and the respective standard is given for each entrant.

### **Sussex Cup for Postal History & Postal Markings**

French Postal Markings on Channel Islands Letters 1776-1833: Ron Brown FRPSL. Gold. Winner

Handstamps applied to Mail arriving in France from the Channel Islands 1755-1839: Richard Flemming. Gold

Channel Islands Mail 1809-1867: Ron Brown FRPSL Large Vermeil

### **Society Cup for Stamps**

Channel Islands – Third Anniversary of the Liberation: David Winnie. Gold. Winner

Guernsey Arms Stamps 1941-1944: Ron Brown FRPSL Gold

Guernsey Regional Stamps – The different Printings of each Value: John Goose. Vermeil

Guernsey Regional Stamps – Printing Varieties: John Goose. Vermeil

Anniversaries of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Her Family: Brian Sole FRPSL Large Silver

### **Tom Green Cup for Occupation Postal History & Postal Markings**

Attempts to Send Letters to and from the Channel Islands during the German Occupation 1940-1945: Ron Brown FRPSL. Gold. Winner

The German Occupation – Mail between England/Eire and the Channel Islands: Gerald Marriner FRPSL. Gold

### **Picton Phillips Cup for Previous Winners Competition**

Markings, datestamps and other cancellations used after the introduction of the Uniform Postal System: Bryan Elliston. Large Vermeil. Winner

Guernsey Pre-adhesive Markings: Bryan Elliston. Large Vermeil



First Day Covers of the Channel Islands Third Anniversary of the Liberation Commemorative Stamps: Nick Stuart. Silver

Alfred Poison – One Mans War 1940-1945: Ron Brown FRPSL. Silver

**The Sarnia Trophy for Ephemera - judged by the members present:**  
Guernsey & Jersey Trade Labels: Robert Shaw. Winner

German Civil Administration during the Occupation: Ron Brown FRPSL

Jersey Buses & Coaches: Robert Shaw

### **PAST JOURNALS and BULLETINS.**

The Society has a good stock of past issues of the **Bulletins** and the Journal '**LES ILES NORMANDES**'. The **Bulletins** are available at £0.50 each, and the **Journals** at £1.00 each, postage and packing is extra. The indices to both the Bulletins and Journals can be found on the website; **[www.ciss1950.org.uk](http://www.ciss1950.org.uk)**

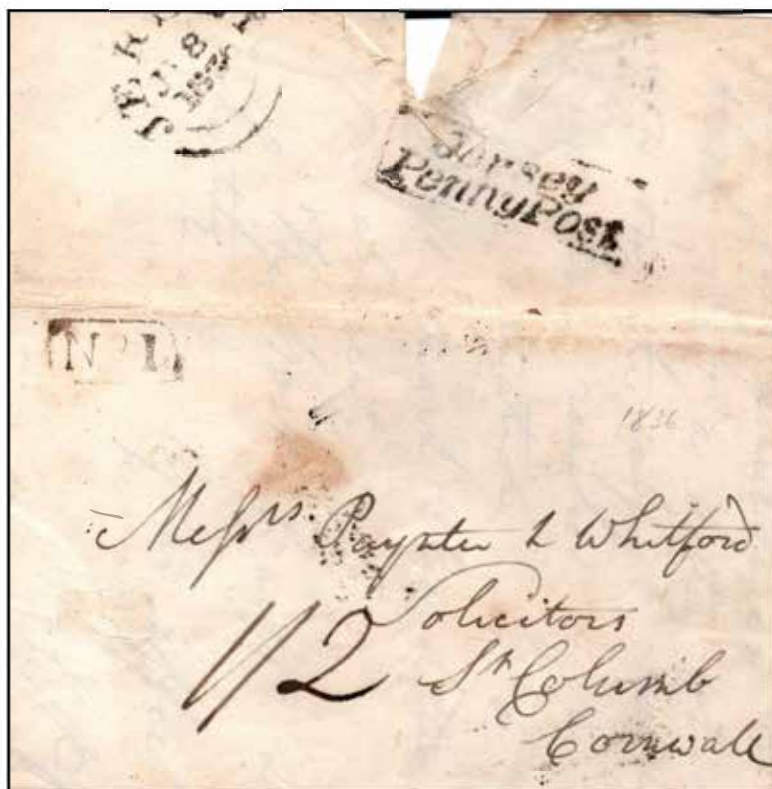
To enquire about past issues please contact, Mark Bailey at 36, Jerry Moor Hill, Finchampstead Wokingham RG40 4UG or email:

**[membership@ciss1950.org.uk](mailto:membership@ciss1950.org.uk)**

### **A PLEA FOR HELP PLEASE**

Our Jersey member, Steve Power, is anxious to see early letters written to *Paynter and Whitford* or just *?L Paynter Esq* in St Columb, Cornwall from Jersey. Generally these will have the boxed **No. 1** handstamp of St Aubin usually with the *Jersey /PennyPost* handstamp and **JERSEY** dated arc on back or front. The entire letters will have been written between 1835 and 1839 as the example depicted on the next page.

Copies of any letters including contents would be very much appreciated sent by post to Steve Power; Roselands, Petite Rue D'Elysee, St Peter, Jersey, JE3 7DU. or by email to **[spower1461@gmail.com](mailto:spower1461@gmail.com)**.



### THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

Our member, Bob Trower of Woodley, Berks, wishes to thank those members who so kindly responded to his **Wants** on page 5 of the December 2019 Journal for information on the 1943 Jersey Views on maximum or post cards and for cigarette cards of all the Islands.

It is with regret that I have to inform you that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, social isolation and the current lock-down of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the **Executive Committee has decided to CANCEL the 2020 Annual General Meeting that was due to be held on the 11th July 2020.** As soon as it becomes feasible to hold the AGM on a further date you will be notified.

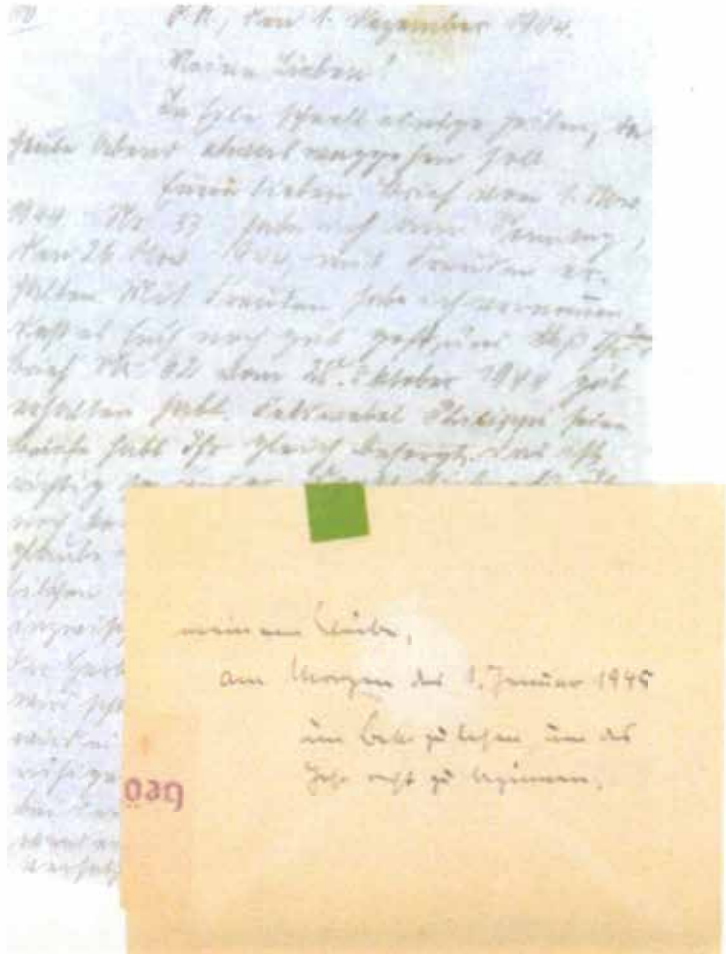
Keep safe and keep well. *Richard Flemming.* Secretary.

## Channel Islands Fortress Flight mail 1944-45 (Contd)

by Ron Brown FRPSL

### Christmas 1944

Because of the irregularity and infrequency of the supply flights soldiers were anxious to send out their Christmas mail to their families at the right time. Because of this there were extra covers added to the covers they wrote to their families and they wrote their Christmas messages on the cover. In the example shown below the cover is endorsed "*My Dear to be opened on the morning of 1 January 1945. Please only read when the New Year has come*".



## 15<sup>th</sup> Fortress Flight – 13 January 1945.

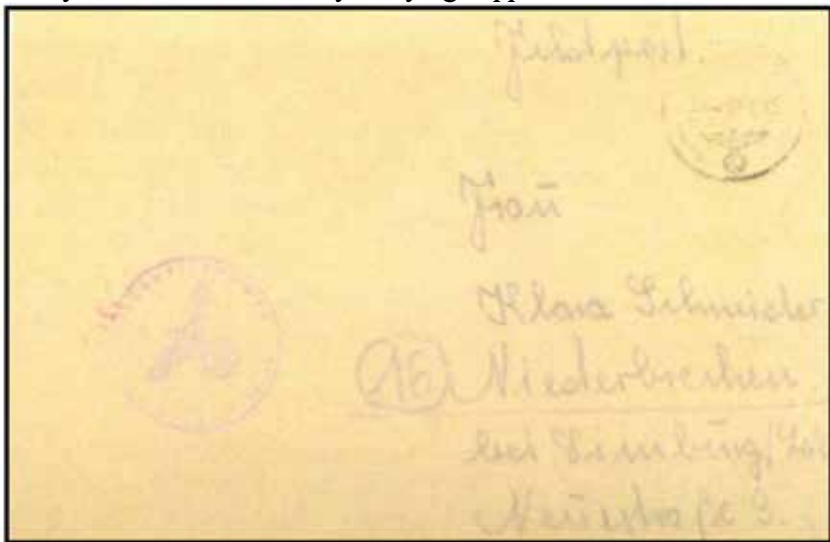
A flight arrived from Fortress La Rochelle on 11 January and flew to Germany during the night of 13 January 1945.



This letter says “Perhaps something will get away today..... Everything still OK....the centre point of the evening was the speech of War Minister Dr Goebbels and the speech of the Fuhrer which we listened to when we were five minutes into the New Year.....we were, living in an encircled fortress, far from the front itself.....”

### **17<sup>th</sup> Fortress Flight – 2 or 3 February 1945.**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Fortress Flight comprised two airplanes which arrived on 30 January 1945. On 2 and 3 February 1945, these planes flew from Guernsey to Jersey and back to Guernsey carrying supplies between the Islands and



bringing back Feldpost mail from Jersey. The date or dates of the flights back to Germany are not known. All Fortress covers from the Channel Islands with cancellation dates between 23 January and 3 February 1945 were most likely flown out by two planes.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Fortress Flight – 13 March 1945**

This is the last flight on which mail has been recorded. This 20<sup>th</sup> Fortress Flight aircraft landed in Guernsey on 13 March 1945 and a cover carried on this particular flight is shown on the next page.

This aircraft also brought the new Commander of 319 Infantry Division, Major General Wulf and the old Commander, Lieutenant General Graf von Schmettow was flown out.



Schmettow wrote a letter to his wife dated 10 January 1945, cancelled by a mute stamp on receipt in Germany dated 13 January 1945. The date of this letter, being 10 January 1945, was too late to have been flown out on the 14<sup>th</sup> Fortress flight which took place at 7.30pm on 7 January 1945 and again it does not correspond with the dates for the 15<sup>th</sup> Fortress flight which left at 7.57pm on 13 January 1945. As this cover received a datestamp in Germany of 13 January, the date of the canceller makes it too early for the 15<sup>th</sup> Fortress flight. The scan in the lower part of the previous page shows (top right) the seal of the Schmettow family signed by the General himself who also added the unit number 24200.

Lieutenant General Graf (Count) von Schmettow, a nephew of Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt, arrived in Jersey on 27 September 1940 as the Island Commandant before transferring his head-quarters 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 July 1944 von Schmettow, together with other aristocratic Prussian officers, came under suspicion and were closely watched by the Gestapo.

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

On a subsequent re-visit to the Channel Islands in the 1960s Graf von Schmettow confirmed that had the Germans won the war, the Islands of Guernsey and Jersey would have become 'Strength through Joy' holiday camps for German workers with Alderney being absorbed into France.

### **German Forces mail to the Islands.**

This letter on the next page dated 2 October 1944 from Vienna to Guernsey is one of only eight letters known into the Islands during the Fortress period. Feldpost mail was also flown into the Channel Islands on the supply flights. Because mail sometimes remained for a considerable time in the





supply airports in the area of Frankfurt and Strausbourg, until it was possible to fly the mail out to the Islands, it is not possible to allocate these covers to any particular flight. Many letters had to be sent back to the sender in Germany because the planes did not have the capacity to transport all the mail to the Channel Islands.

**One letter that missed the flight.**

This letter dated 6 March 1945 Marienburg Westerwald was undelivered



and marked ZURÜCK / AN DEN/ ABSENDER in violet ink. After 3 March 1945, only four supply flights actually brought mail to the Islands. Due to the limited transport capacity it was impossible to bring all the Feldpost covers which had been addressed to the Islands. The ZURÜCK / AN DEN /



ABSENDER (Return to Sender) shows that this cover was left at one of the supply airports in the area of Frankfurt and was sent back to the sender after the War.

### Internee Mail to the Islands.

The Germans made arrangements for a limited amount of mail from Channel Island Internees, held in German camps, to be carried on the Fortress flights. Official records show that Internee mail was carried on the 6<sup>th</sup> flight of 25 November 1944. Mail is known from the camps dated 18 to 20 November 1944 and it is speculated that this may have been carried on this flight.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

An T. Knappe, Ebn

Empfangsort: GUMMERSBACH

Straße: RIEDELSTR.

Kreis: GLADENBACH

Land: Nied. Prov.

Gebührenzeit

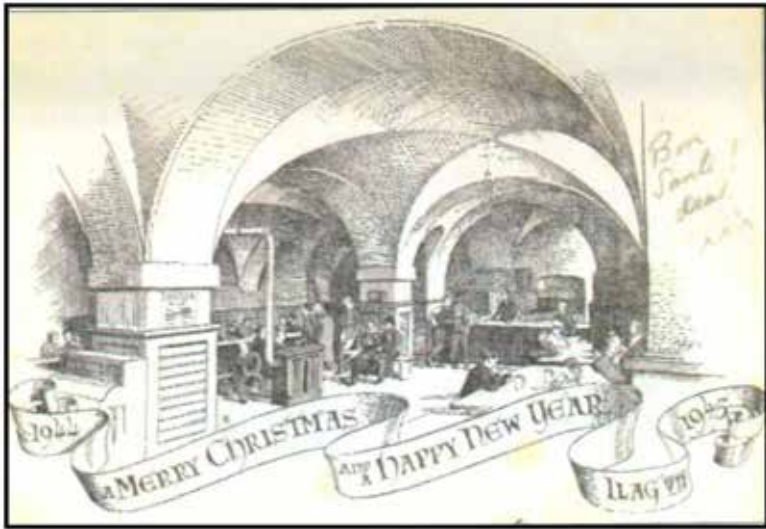
10

The Letter sheet above from Laufen Internment camp to Guernsey is dated 20 November 1944 and bears the circled "10" Laufen censor stamp.

The internees at Laufen camp produced a Christmas postcard during November 1944. The cards addressed to the Channel Islands appear, from Press reports, to have been received prior to Christmas which would indicate they were carried on a supply flight.

Official records show that the 6<sup>th</sup> Fortress flight of 25 November carried Internee mail which may have included the Laufen Christmas cards.

An example of a Christmas card from Laufen Internment camp to the Channel Islands is illustrated below.



### **Red Cross Message forms to England.**

The Germans also decided to allow some Red Cross message forms to be carried from the Channel Islands on the Fortress flights and an announcement was first made on 14 November 1944 in the local newspapers. The Jersey message forms were checked and censored by the Germans at the Security Office of the Command Head Quarters in St. Helier, Jersey.


An example of an announcement in The Evening Post in Jersey dated Tuesday 14 November 1944 is illustrated which provides details of where Red Cross message forms should be handed in for despatch. Only one message form per family was




allowed, but demand was so great that not all of these were accepted. The very scarce message forms can only be identified by the date of the form or serial number.

A very scarce example of a Red Cross message form is shown below dated

I 2059

 **Deutsches Rotes Kreuz**  
 Prisonniers / Auslandsdienst  
 Berlin SW 61, Mischstraße 2

  
**ANTRAG**

an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève*  
 — *Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz* —  
 auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

**REQUÊTE**  
*de la Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Étranger*  
*à l'Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève*  
 — *Comité International de la Croix-Rouge* —  
 concernant la correspondance

1. Absender: G. Taylor, 3, Colchester, St. Helier,  
*Expéditeur* JERSEY, Channel Islands.  
 bimet, au  
 prix de bien vouloir faire parvenir à

2. Empfänger: Mr. G.R. Taylor, R.C.N.R. 501,  
*Destinataire* Watlington House, READING, Berks,  
ENGLAND.


*Suivantes en allemand / ce qui suit :*

DISCUTANT DE WORTS  
 (25 mots au plus)

Dear Christ & Adrian,  
 Mother now well  
 after illness. Peggy and self well.  
 Advise all others. Love,  
 Mum, Dad and Peggy.

(Datum / Date) 16-11-44.

3. Empfänger antwortet umsetzt  
*Destinataire répond au verso*

  
 On behalf of the British  
 of Jersey's Enquiry and  
 News Service

16 November 1944 from Jersey to England. One of the very lucky ones to be carried on a Fortress flight!

# PETER MOLLETT



SPECIALISTS IN FINE STAMPS  
AND POSTAL HISTORY OF THE  
CHANNEL ISLANDS, 1800-1945

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## Underpaid 1955 Swedish cover to Guernsey by Steve Wells

I first published this article in the June issue of the *Postage Due Mail Study Group Journal* (of which I am the editor), but thought CISS members may also find it interesting.

I acquired the cover illustrated below earlier this year and was intrigued as to how the postage due calculation was arrived at. I consulted Postage Due Study Group colleagues Ken Snelson, Michael Furfie – who confirmed it looked a little odd – and David Toft for clarification. It was mailed on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1955 from Stockholm and routed via London, arriving in Guernsey on the 9<sup>th</sup> November that year. There are no backstamps.



The letter rate from Sweden was 40 öre (for the first 20g) at the time. The date on the 25 öre blue stamp appears to be the same (7 11) as that on the 15 öre stamp at bottom left, but the postmarks are certainly different.

18 centimes corresponded to a deficiency of 15 öre, on the basis that 40 öre = 25 gold centimes. In Michael's view it looked as if the letter was first taxed on the basis of the 25 öre stamp alone, then either returned for the

extra 15 or had the extra 15 added under a Dutch Scheme arrangement, but without deleting the tax mark. The 3d postage due corresponded to a deficiency of 15 öre equating foreign rates 4d and 40 öre.

Michael pointed out that it doesn't work to assume the cover was overweight because the second step cost an extra 25 öre which would have given about 30 centimes tax and 5d postage due. I wondered whether perhaps the 15 öre stamp was invalid as it shows 6 JUNI on the right-hand side. Ken asked if this was the case, why was this not indicated by a '0' or box. David Toft was able to clarify the stamp was issued on National Flag Day (6<sup>th</sup> June 1955) and believed that it was still valid for postage, having seen examples of the stamp used on outward mail after 1955. He offered to refer the cover to the Scandinavian Philatelic Society, which I agreed to.

Peter Hellberg replied and confirmed that all the Swedish rates and calculations were correct. He thinks that the office that cancelled the 25 öre blue stamp was Stockholm 22, the same one that cancelled the 15 öre multi-coloured stamp, although using a different canceller. For those with an interest in the datestamps he was able to clarify the first was a newly-introduced Normalstämpel 60 and the second an Nst 59. In his view it seems that whoever processed the letter first, only observed the top stamp, and overlooked the multi-coloured one completely: he used his tax marker (T18c) and sent it off, but someone else in the same office later observed an un-cancelled stamp, and franked it with his rack canceller. That second person should have struck out the tax mark. He didn't, so unusually the Swedes made a mistake! No tax was due, it was fully prepaid, 40 öre for the basic 20g letter; no tax (postage due) should have been levied. The multi-coloured stamp was a fully valid postage stamp, but the sender put it in the wrong place! Peter was surprised that it could initially have been overlooked though.

The only other surprise in Peter's mind (i.e. apart from the Swedes making a mistake!) was that the suburban office S22 actually had the tax marker in its rack. Usually it would only be International Exchange Offices (I.E.O.) that would have used these cachets, and in this case that would have been the Stockholm Ban (Sorting and Administration H.Q.) office that would have dealt with all outgoing foreign mail from the entire Stockholm district, and those tax marks would have been verified at that I.E.O. just

prior to bagging for overseas transit. This letter seems to have been an exception to that customary handling.

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Some of the more puzzling aspects of this cover may in part be explained by the addressee. Lieutenant-Colonel William Byam O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. was a Harley Street physician whose home in Guernsey was requisitioned during the German Military Occupation of the Island in the Second World War. In his spare time he was a noted philatelist, becoming a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1949. Born in 1882, William Byam was educated at Wellington College and studied medicine at St. George's Hospital. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1904 and served with the Egyptian Army from 1908 to 1916, developing a great interest in Egypt. Byam took up philately in 1923 as a means of relaxing. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1924 and decided to specialise in the philately of Egypt. In 1931 the society awarded him the Tapling Medal for his research into the postage due stamps of Egypt. He founded the Egypt Study Circle in 1935. This was the first study circle to be established. A paper given to the 1938 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain entitled *Organisation of a Study Circle* resulted in many other collectors forming study circles in their own specialist areas.

During the Second World War his home in Guernsey was used by German officers of the occupying force. His philatelic trophies and medals were stolen and never recovered. However, his stamp collection remained safe in London. Byam was the first foreigner to be appointed a Member of Honour by the *Societe Philatelique d'Egypte*, a fellow of the Society of Postal Historians and President of the Oriental Philatelic Association of London. His stamp collection was sold in 1961 and he died in 1963.

## Reference

1. Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Byam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Byam)

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ken Snelson, Michael Furfie, David Toft and Peter Hellberg for their assistance in preparing this article.



## **GUERNSEY MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**CISS and RPSL members are welcome to attend monthly meetings in Guernsey, contact John Triggs on 01481 725847 or [packets@ciss1950.org.uk](mailto:packets@ciss1950.org.uk)**  
**Meetings held on Friday evenings, starting at 7pm to 9pm in the St Sampson suite at the Peninsula Hotel. Next dates are: July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

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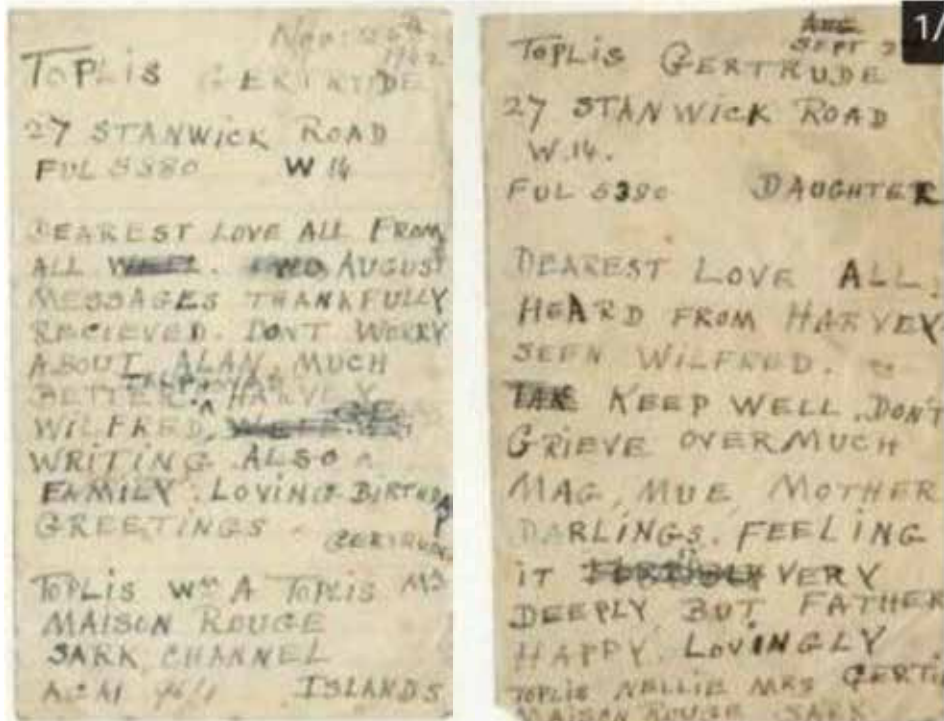
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## Two draft replies to Red Cross messages from London to Sark?

Gavin Wood has provided these two notes on scrap paper which appear to be draft replies to incoming message forms from Toplis's daughter in London. Were these eventually transcribed by the Red Cross Bureau in Guernsey into message replies to be sent back to London?



They are dated in 1942 and it is possible with so much Toplis material in members' collections that the actual Red Cross message forms may be held by someone? Can you check your collections please and see if you can identify these draft messages and also confirm whether these appear to be draft messages with the detail shown. Any information will be gratefully received by Gavin who can be contacted by email at [wood8748@gmail.com](mailto:wood8748@gmail.com)

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## A DETECTIVE STORY (un-solved) by Steve Power

During a recent foray through some old editions of our Journal *Les Iles Normandes* I came across an article written by John Simpson (Vol. 7, Nr. 1, 1986) with regard to the R.W. Cutland designed Essays of 1940; which for want of something better to do, I decided to investigate further.

As an overview - Bigwoods Ltd, local printers for the States of Jersey, were commissioned to produce a potential 1d stamp for local use due to the scarcity of Great Britain stamps. To this end sheets of 30 stamps (3 rows of 10 stamps) were printed in scarlet (red) on white paper, un-watermarked. Additional sheets with the Swastika over print were also produced as illustrated below.

So far so simple!

According to John's article at the time it was uncertain how many sheets of each survived their supposed destruction, but that "*opinion seems to be that there were probably four of five of each. We know that the Postal Museum and the Jersey Museum each possesses a sheet of the un-overprinted stamp and that two sheets of each were cut up or sold*".

The article then refers to "*leaving* (my emphasis) *one sheet of the overprinted variety with annotations in manuscript in the margins*".

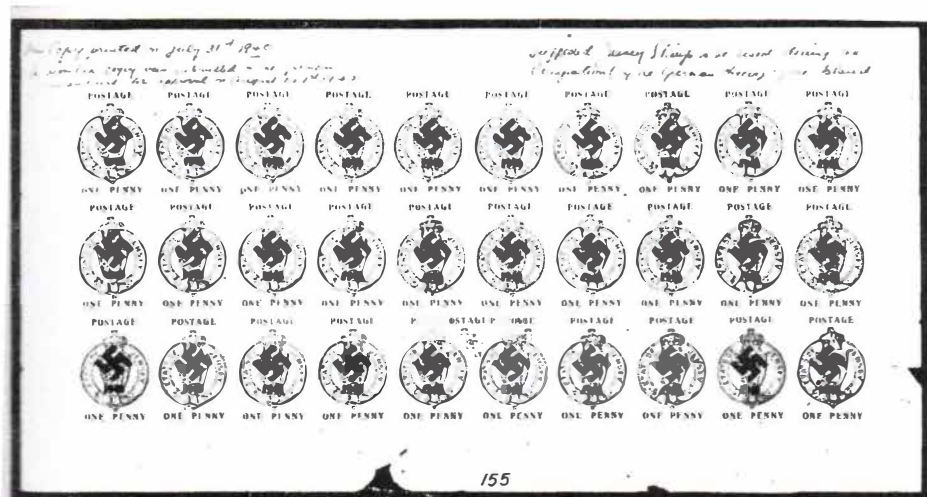
Here the confusion starts – the suggestion is clearly that there are four un-overprinted sheets and then an assumption that an over printed sheet is the fifth sheet.

Whilst not as strange as it seems the assumption is reasonable on the basis that almost all auction examples I have seen in numerous catalogues generally sell both an over printed and an un-over printed variety as one lot.

I decided to dig deeper.

Referring back to Bill Newport's 1972 book, his view at the time was that three sheets of each type existed – two un-over printed sheets were broken up (accords with the later 1986 article) and that the third sheet was in the Postal Museum.

Also illustrated in his book is the full sheet that was in his collection at the time – this being an over printed sheet with annotations in manuscript in the top margin of the sheet. Illustrated again below. It is clear that in 1972,



Bill did not believe that the Jersey Museum had an example of the un-over printed sheet.

I then contacted both the Postal Museum and the Jersey Museum to ask if they could locate their sheets to see if indeed they did have these as noted in the later 1986 article.

Douglas Muir of the Postal Museum replied almost immediately and happily confirmed that the Museum do indeed have an un-over printed sheet, although he was unable to confirm when or how this had been acquired. Sheet illustrated below.

Unfortunately the Jersey Museum, freely admitting they have no specialist knowledge in the “Stamps of Jersey”, have been unable to locate their copy, if indeed they ever had one – could John Simpson have been mistaken?



In a latter CISS Journal (Vol. 13, nr. 4 of 1994), David Gurney notes that a recent German stamp periodical suggested only one sheet of thirty stamps was printed – the periodical clearly being incorrect.

All this still left me no clearer as to how many sheets or part sheets are in existence, I decided to research by looking at old auction descriptions and attestations.

I reviewed auction catalogues in my possession (albeit somewhat limited) from 1970 through to today and without exception there is no reference to the potential number of sheets or part sheets still existent.

Likewise attestations and ‘certificates of authenticity’ that I have seen are conflicting on the numbers still available. Some state three of each sheet exist, others only two sheets of the un-over printed, but three sheets of the over printed.

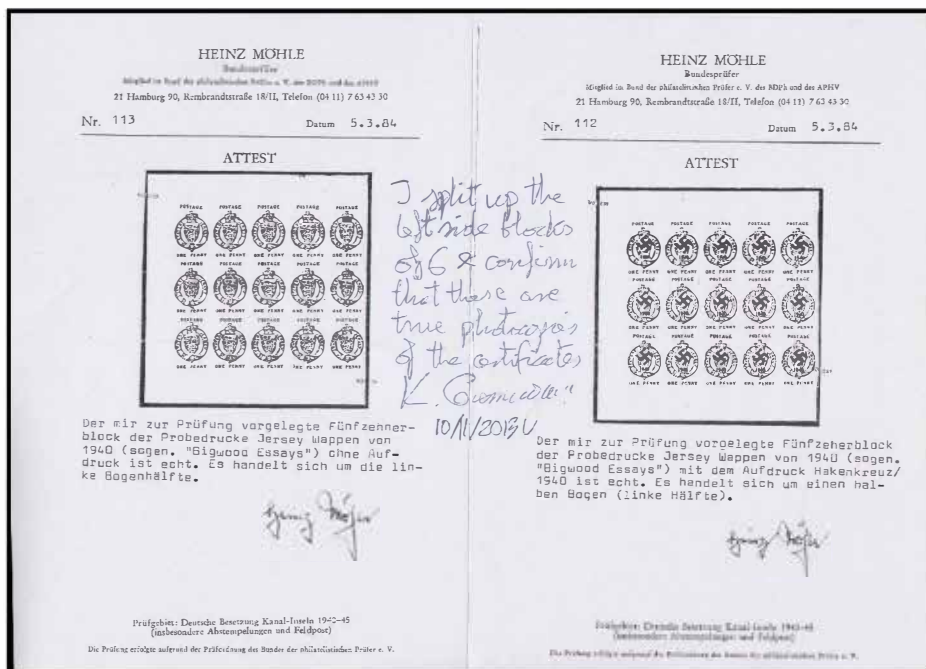
So the question still remains – how many essays are out there!

This may, with other members assistance, be easier to ascertain than at first appears.

It is known that the overprinted sheet illustrated previously was damaged and split up into various blocks and strips and as such a full reconstructed sheet can only be configured as

Block of eight with manuscript top margin			Single, top margin		Strip of five with manuscript top margin	
			Single	Single		
Single, corner margin	Single, lower margin	Strip of four			Block of four with lower margin	Block of four with right and lower margin

A second half sheet is also known, again previously illustrated in the CISS journal of 1986 (Vol. 7, n5. 1), illustrated again below.



Clearly therefore there were / are two sheets of each around, but from auction illustrations showing marginal blocks it can further be shown that

at least one further sheet exists – all of which suggests at least three sheets exist.

Further clarification *may* be possible if members can provide photocopies or scans of any essays they have in their possession as the full sheet provided by the Postal Museum shows variations in the 'stamp' position relative to 'ONE PENNY'. Ideally members should state when and where they purchased their example and provide any attestations, BPA certificates and the like; so as complete a picture as possible can be built up.

As a final footnote members may be aware that Stanley Gibbons have a pair and a single illustrated for sale on their website and Victoria Lajer of SG has kindly advised that they purchased blocks of four (one each over printed and un-over printed) and split these into a pair and two singles – they are offered without BPA certificates, although a recent purchaser has obtained a BPA certificate following the sale of one of the singles.

**A new book which may be of interest to collectors of the Occupation period** by David Gurney FRPSL

Foreign workers and their mail in wartime Germany 1939-1945: Gemeinschaftslager and other camps seen in the London Philatelist Vol.129, Number 1474 April 2020, Philip Townsend, 2019. Published by The German & Colonies Philatelic Society and reviewed by Gerhad John.

The book which is published in softback, iv,410, ill, 30cm, No ISBN includes references to Theresienstadt in Bohemia and the camps on Alderney and the fate suffered by the very few Jews in the Channel Islands.

No cost is mentioned.



## Machine cancellations during the German Occupation

by Dr Marco Lazzarini

I recently found this 1944 envelope addressed within Guernsey franked with a Guernsey 1d red Arms stamp and machine cancelled on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1944 which is quite a late usage. My understanding of the



situation in Guernsey at that time is that there was no use of this cancellation during 1945 owing to the lack of electricity supply and I have read that the supply stopped in November 1944 in Guernsey and a little later in Jersey.

Our Editor, David Gurney FRPSL referred this question to several knowledgeable members in the UK and Europe and Leo Mayr from Austria has comprehensively replied which will be of interest to all collectors of this period –

“As far as electricity is concerned, there are different statements in different books dealing with the Occupation. Guernsey’s electricity was produced with coal and kerosine that had both come from England before the war. No more kerosine could be acquired after July 1940, but coal could still be obtained from France, until after D-Day when this supply also came to an end.

In the Minutes of the Controlling Committee there is a report (must have been between August and October 1944) that states that unless electricity is not rationed very strictly, there would be none after December.

Books on the Occupation present different pictures of what really went on. I have read the following, partly contradicting, statements:

- no electricity at all after Christmas 1944
- electricity reduced to one hour per day on the whole Island
- electricity for essential buildings only (hospital, police, ...)
- electricity for the Germans only

So, how the situation really was, is not really clear, at least not for me with the sources I know.

There definitely was electricity on the Island, as the Germans doubtless had it (which is shown by the communication with Germany by wireless). I also believe that the daily newspapers were still printed with electrical printing machines.

In so far as the Post Office cancelling machine is concerned, strikes are known until December 1944 (like the one shown by Dr. Lazzerini), but strikes after D-Day are not very common (probably because first rations came into effect).

In 1945, before liberation on 9 May, I have only seen one strike, dated January 1945. So, the P.O. did have electricity occasionally. I have always wondered why the machine cancel was used on that particular day. Probably it was part of a big bulk mail, so the post office decided to cancel the covers with the machine rather than by hand. The item in question, by the way, was in Ian Grigg's collection where I saw it probably 30 years ago. I haven't seen another one since.

On Liberation day the Island had electricity again. Reports state that shop windows were illuminated, and of course lots of covers with machine cancels of that day exist. So there must still have been coal for the generators on the Island, which shows that Guernsey always had the option to use electricity, but that it was only rationed somehow".

I am interested in receiving any other views on this matter from other members and please contact me, Dr Marco Lazzerini, c/o Farmacia San Marco, Scali del Pontino 25, 57122 Livorno, Italy or by email to [lazzerini26@gmail.com](mailto:lazzerini26@gmail.com).

**Guernsey Star advertisement of 25 April 1942** by Alan Moorcroft  
FRPSL

I have been taking the time at home during the lockdown to sort out material I have had in boxes for years. Although I sold my Occupation newspaper collection before I moved I have found a Guernsey Star newspaper of 25th April 1942 which contains the strange advert '**Sally is getting on fine**'.

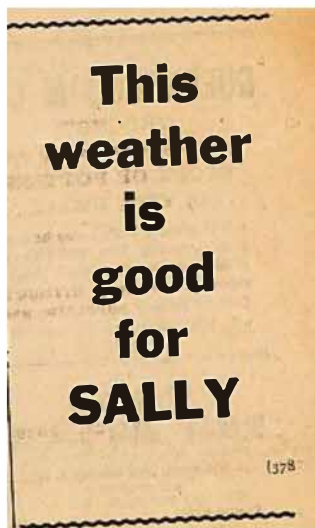
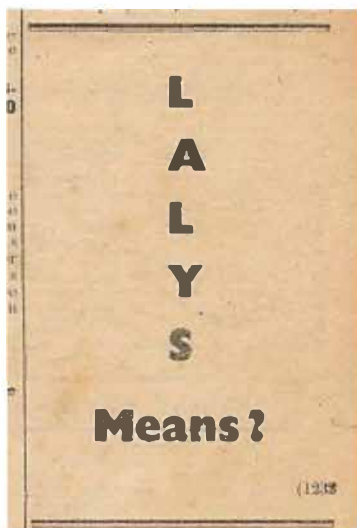


This appears to be a coded message, but may be a follow up to something that appeared in the Star in the days preceding this. This copy of the newspaper does not contain any clues as to what this could mean. The reference number below **FINE** is **268**.

I contacted Leo Mayr who did not know what the advert meant, but we agreed that it was unlikely that it was anything subversive as the Germans censored the newspapers and would not let anything so obvious through.

He then searched his newspaper collection and came back with these three adverts shown on the next page.

Looking at all four adverts shown these appear to be some kind of sophisticated advertisement for a theatre production. The strange thing is the apparent location – Market Hill.



I then contacted Nathan Coyde at Guernsey archives, who was working at home because of the virus, but he and a colleague were able to access some of the States archives and came back with the information that a production of 'Sally' was performed at Central Hall 4<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June 1942. It seems Central Hall became known as the Little Theatre during the Occupation and kept that name post war. It was located on the hill below Clifton in St Peter Port. It was demolished in 1984 following a fire.

I am wondering if the advert I found and the subsequent ones Leo found are Notices to do with rehearsals? But, if so, the mystery is why a booking plan, who were Stroobant & Symes Ltd of Market Hill and this advert was for the 18<sup>th</sup> May whereas the production of 'Sally' was 4<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June.



Well, having made many further enquiries in Guernsey and elsewhere the answer to these questions now seem obvious as my additional further researches will reveal in the concluding part to this in the September Journal.

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Sheets of 10	£47.00
Miniature Sheet	£3.00
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Presentation Pack	£3.90

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Prestige Booklet	£18.80

## **JERSEY POST**

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First Day Cover	£6.44
Presentation Pack	£6.44
Miniature Sheet	£3.00
First Day Cover	£4.25
Presentation Pack	£4.25

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Set of 6 stamps	£5.19
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Miniature Sheet	£3.00
First Day Cover	£4.25
Presentation Pack	£4.25

### **8th September 2020 100 Years of the Jersey Motorcycle and Light Car Club**

Set of 8 stamps	£9.61
First Day Cover	£10.86
Presentation Pack	£10.86
Miniature Sheet	£3.00
First Day Cover	£4.25
Presentation Pack	£4.25

Items despatched to destinations outside Jersey may be subject to customs or import duties payable in the country of destination. Jersey Post collects VAT in advance on orders from UK customers, where appropriate. Stamps, First Day Covers and Presentation Packs attract VAT at 5%, all other products attract VAT at 20%.

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