



**CHANNEL ISLANDS
SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY**

June 2021

Volume 40 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 website at www.ciss.uk. 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.

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Channel Islands SUBSCRIPTIONS and STANDING ORDERS

Will members please note the following points:-

1. Subscriptions, which are due on **1st 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@ciss.uk mail to: treasurer@ciss.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 **14th February** are assumed to have resigned.
5. Standing Order forms should be **sent by members to their own bank** and not to the Membership Secretary.

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Zone 2: Europe and Rest of World	Airmail Printed Paper/ Small Packet	Ordinary Member, £30 ; or if choosing an electronic copy of the journal, £20 .

Note: from 1st January 2019 there has been no Life Member category.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: 2200 Stephen Robinson, Jersey; 2201 Michael Child, Guernsey; 2202 Ray Curd, Hertfordshire; 2203 David Fillis, Merseyside; 2204 David Berry, Dorset.

Very sadly, we record the death of our member John "Jack" Benest, who joined the Society in 1997 and was one of three members of the Benest family who were Sub-Postmasters of Millbrook, Jersey in turn since 1945.

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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

At the time of writing this in early April, there seemed little hope of an early return to a near normal life by the summer and now there is more positive news for us all thus I try to present as balanced a Journal content as I can with as much news as possible of real interest to all our members.

It seems demand for good Channel Islands material remains buoyant with Occupation items remaining as popular as ever. Look out for the forthcoming Society auctions which are always a good and very reasonable source and also a new book featured on page 4 will be of interest to those members collecting the parcel posts and labels issued in Great Britain.

SECRETARY'S CLIPBOARD

by Richard Flemming

Hopefully, by the time you receive this issue of *Les Iles Normandes* some of the Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted and we can start holding meetings at the Royal again. Please see details below. Despite the Covid restrictions, I am pleased to report that we were able to hold our Annual Competition Day. I wish to thank those who submitted entries to the Competitions Secretary for judging, and congratulations to the class winners – see page 34. On the 17th April we held our first Member's Meeting via Zoom, which I have to say was a great success. Thank you to all of you who joined us, even if it was 1.00am local time for John Goose in New Zealand (2.00pm BST). Feedback has been positive and we may be adding an annual Zoom meeting as an addition to our usual meetings programme. A brief report on the Zoom meeting is to be found on the next page.

Hopefully, you have all received notification that the Member's Weekend meeting at Market Harborough 23rd – 25th July 2021 is postponed until April 2022. Unfortunately, the hotel could not confirm that it could permit that weekend as it all depended on the Covid restrictions in place at the time. At least, by holding the Member's Weekend Meeting during April next year means that we will be back on track for our usual Spring weekend meetings. As a replacement I have arranged for a Member's Meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London on the 24th July 2021, meeting at 10.30am (see below).

Take care, keep safe and hope to see you at the Royal in July.

Proposed forthcoming meetings:

24th July 2021 Member's Meeting. Theme: Smaller Channel Islands.

25th September 2021 Annual General Meeting and room auction/displays.

4th December 2021 Member's Meeting. Theme: Letters Q, R and/or S.

It is anticipated that this meeting will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW subject to Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time. For latest information about any of the above meetings please visit the Society's website at www.ciss.uk, or for those members who cannot access the website, the Secretary may advise you by letter of any change before the next Journal, if timing requires or allows this. Please be aware that current Covid-19 restrictions at the Royal require members to wear a face mask indoors and to keep 2m apart.

MEMBER'S APRIL MEETING A ZOOMING SUCCESS

by Richard Flemming

Twenty-nine members attended the first Member's Meeting held via Zoom video conference on Saturday, 17th April, with four apologies received. The benefits of such a meeting became evident when members from New Zealand, the USA and Europe were able to attend without the expense of travelling to London, allowing distant members to become more engaged in the activities of the Society.

Thanks must go to Gerald Marriner and Nick Stuart for providing the two excellent, high quality displays which were much appreciated by the audience.

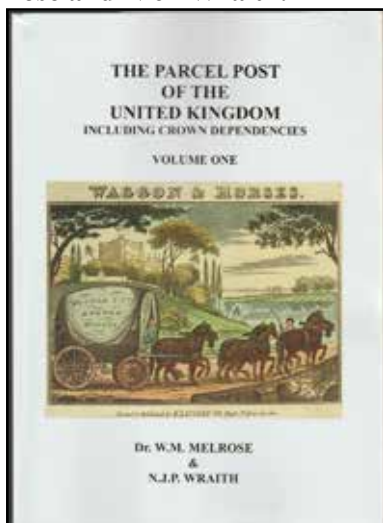
Gerald's display consisted of 44-slides titled "Jersey and Sark Destination Mail", whilst Nick Stuart's thirty-eight slide display featured some interesting errors, flaws and constant varieties of the first Guernsey pre-decimal and decimal definitives.

For the benefit of members who could not attend, or who wish to look at the displays again, the two presentations were recorded during the meeting via YouTube and are accessible for logged-in members to view on our "News" page of the Society's website: www.ciss.uk

A new book – The Parcel Post of the United Kingdom including Crown Dependencies – Volume 1 by Dr Max Melrose and Nick Wraith.

Nearly 40 years after James Mackay wrote the first comprehensive book about the UK Parcel Post this is the first of two volumes that brings the story up to date. Chapters include the Transport of Parcels before the Act of 1882, the GPU/UPU influence, over 120 pages of detailed examination of the English/Welsh, Scottish, and Irish Parcel labels; **completely new areas in detail including a very comprehensive 52 page section covering the Channel Islands;** a comprehensive study of the privately produced parcel labels; the Department & Stores Department labels and the Midget labels PP6. (335 pages paperback). Published by the Scottish PHS and available from Lyn Robinson. Price £28 plus £4 postage for UK.

Contact Lyn Robinson via email at lyn@myreton.com for further details and overseas postage charges.



Laufen Internment Camp Theatre 1944 Programme by Ron Osborne.

In the September 2020 issue of the Society Journal Alan Moorcroft gave details of a theatre production in Guernsey in 1942 with an illustration of the front page.

Islanders who were deported from 1942 formed various groups involved in numerous activities in the internment camps.

In my collection I have a programme from Laufen for a production of Present Laughter by Noel Coward on 31st August and 1st September 1944.

Laufen was an all male camp and both male and female parts were played by men.

A lot of effort has gone into producing this programme shown on the following pages comprising a front which opens to the centre showing the players on the left page and the orchestra etc on the right page.
A German red circular handstamp is on the front of the programme.

I feel this shows how the internees did their very best to cope with adverse circumstances - see illustrations on following pages.

Full Committee Position vacant – Competitions Secretary

The position of Competitions Secretary has become vacant. If you are interested in arranging the Society's Annual Competition Day which is very straight forward, then please contact the Secretary at secretary@ciss.uk or by telephone: 01455 613826

Journal Programme

LAUFEN
ILAG VII.
THEATRE



PRESENTS.



"PRESENT
LAUGHTER."



By

NOEL COWARD

PRODUCED BY

Henry Mollison.

"PRESENT LAUGHTER"

A LIGHT COMEDY. IN THREE ACTS

BY NOEL COWARD.

PRODUCED BY HENRY MOLLISON.

CHARACTERS.

Garry Essendine.....	HENRY MOLLISON.
Liz Essendine.....	HAROLD BURLTON.
Morris Dixon.....	HERBERT CHEESBROUGH.
Henry Lyppiatt.....	STANLEY KEIGHTLEY.
Joanna Lyppiatt.....	DENIS BOND.
Monica Reed.....	GILBERT HUGHES.
Fred.....	GEOFFREY DE LA COUR.
Miss Erikson.....	JAKE BOWMAN.
Daphne Stillington.....	RONALD STOCKS.
Lady Saltburn.....	CYRIL O'CALLAGHAN.
Roland Maule.....	JOHN BLACKBURN.

TIME: THE PRESENT.

PLACE: GARRY ESSENDINE'S LONDON STUDIO.

ACT I.

ACT II.

ACT III.

Scene I.

Scene II.

Morning.

Evening.

The Next Morning.

Evening.

3 days Later.

A Week Later.

ENTIRE PRODUCTION. HENRY MOLLISON.

STAGE DIRECTOR & SCENIC ARTIST, FREDDY POTTS.

STAGE MANAGERS. RALPH LOCKIE
& ROY MACHON.

ELECTRICIAN. BILL WILLIAMS.

DRESSER. ERNEST THOMPSON.

BOX OFFICE MANAGER: BOSWELL

✱ ORCHESTRA. ✱

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TED WHITE.

J. Pawlowski.	}	-----	VIOLINS.
G. Glucklich.			
N. Kisielewski.			
Bill Williams.	-----	CELLO.	
Hal Lancaster.	-----	BASS.	
Ergie Webster.	-----	CLARINET & TENOR SAX.	
Rudi Barra.	-----	VIOLIN. CLARINET & TENOR SAX.	
Gerry Lukes.	-----	VIOLIN. CLARINET & ALTO SAX.	
Bert Cobley	}	-----	TRUMPETS.
Eddy Sprengel			
Les Collins.	-----	PIANO.	
Joe Skierski.	-----	GUITAR.	
George Loder.	-----	DRUMS.	

AUGUST 31ST & SEPTEMBER 1ST 1944.
at 6.30 pm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

POSTPONEMENT OF MEMBERS' WEEKEND 23RD – 25TH JULY 2021 at the THREE SWANS HOTEL, MARKET HARBOROUGH

Given the continuing Government Covid-19 restrictions and the uncertainty for these being lifted by the 21st June 2021, our long weekend planned for July has regrettably been postponed. I know this is disappointing, but it is essential that the Executive Committee makes this decision now to advise you in good time.

However, I am pleased to inform the membership that we have re-booked the Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough for the **22nd – 24th April 2022**, this being our historical and traditional month for our CISS long weekends. Please note these important dates.

As an alternative to the long weekend, we are sure you would wish to know that we are in discussion with the RPSL, London to establish whether it would be possible to hold a **Member's Day meeting on Saturday 24th July 2021**. Naturally, this will be dependent on Covid-19 restrictions being lifted at that time. When and if arrangements are firmed up, we will let you know and provide details of the theme for the meeting.

Flemming Secretary

Richard

2021 GUERNSEY MONTHLY MEETINGS

CISS and RPSL members are welcome to attend monthly meetings in Guernsey, contact John Triggs on 01481 725847 or guern1974@cwgsy.net for details.

Meetings held on last Friday evening of the month, starting at 7pm now in the Sark room at Les Cotils Centre, St Peter Port. If you are on Guernsey why not come along. Next dates are:

25th June, 30th July, 27th August, 24th September, 29th October and 26th November.

CHANNEL ISLANDS' LOCAL ISSUES

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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.ciss.uk

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

membership@ciss.uk

AUGRES REGISTRATION LABEL

by Steve Power

In an article of *Les Iles Normandes* in 2015 (Vol. 34, Nr. 2), Tony Peters listed thirteen known covers of the early Augres registration label, with the undated Augres single circle cancellation.

This was in response to the previous journal where Guy Dandoy was asking about Cinderella Heligoland stamps having been applied to the rear. It was noted at that time that David Winnie had three examples of similar 'additions'; thus the total known number of undated single circle cancellations being sixteen.

Since then I can record three further labels – two from my own collection - nr 38, dated 2nd November 1910 and label 15 on piece, both illustrated below.



Augres undated cancellation on a registered cover. There are no 'Cinderella stamps' affixed to the rear

Guy Dandoy on his excellent website also illustrates a further cover from this sub-office - label 48, dated 24th October 1910 to Dulwich, London.

Small piece showing Augres undated and registration label over a QV stamp cancelled for the Isle of Wight.



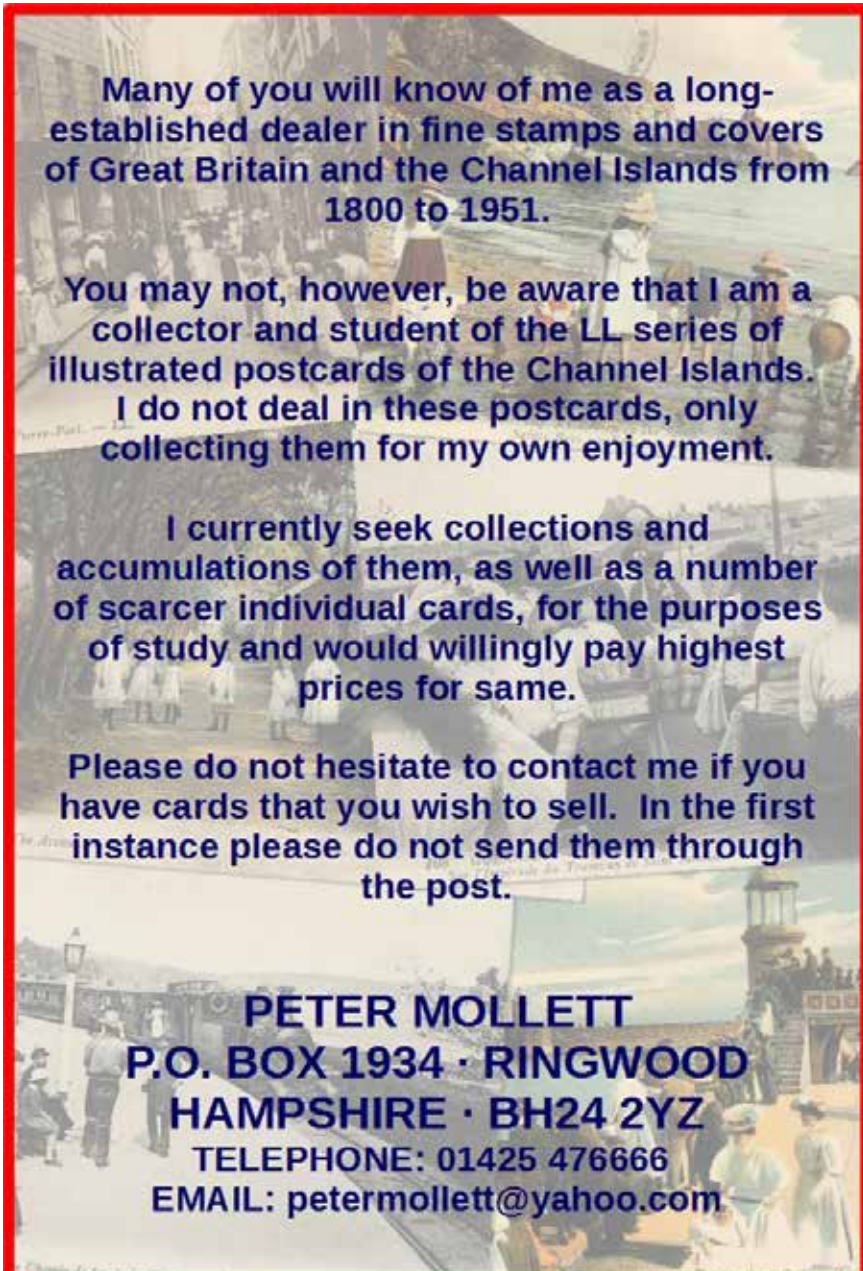
However and somewhat curiously, Guy's cover noted above and clearly with label no. 48, is noted by Tony in the CISS article as label 48, dated 12th July 1911.

Is Tony's date in error or are there two different labels?

ANY UNWANTED SOCIETY JOURNALS?



Please do not throw your Journals or old Bulletins away. Send to the Membership Secretary, Mark Bailey 36, Jerry Moor Hill, Finchampstead Wokingham RG40 4UG for recycling to others.



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, as well as a number of scarcer individual cards, 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
TELEPHONE: 01425 476666
EMAIL: petermollett@yahoo.com

Guernsey to France Feldpost mail returned by the German Censor 6/8/43 by Roger E Harris

The last time that I was able to attend a Society meeting (sadly three years ago), I asked the members present if anybody had ever seen mail from the Channel Islands to France censored by the German Censor during the Occupation. The question was naturally greeted with incredulity as we have all seen mail to France with German censor tapes applied, but my question was not as stupid as it might seem, because letters we have seen have all been *PASSED* by the German Censor, not *CENSORED* by him.



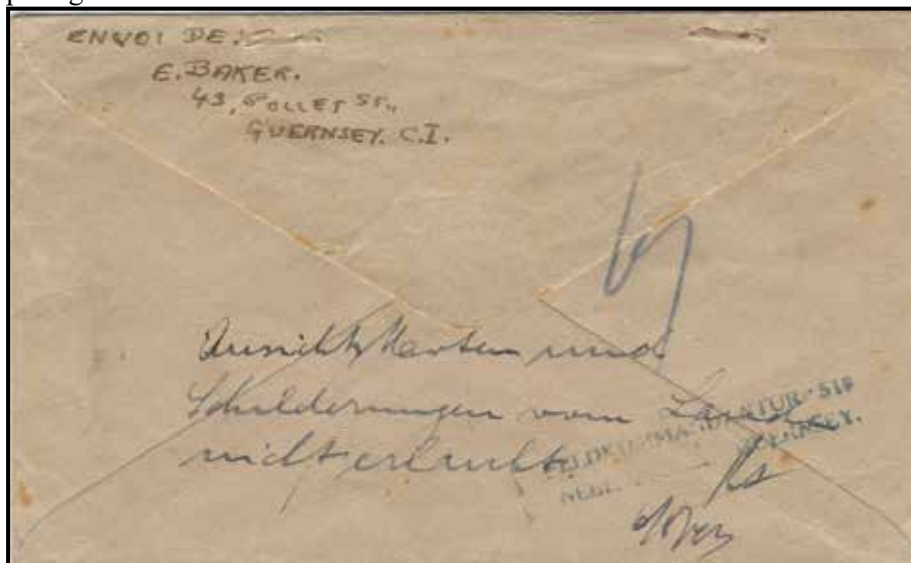
The front of an envelope addressed by E. Baker of 4, Pollet St., Guernsey to Lille, France. The envelope bears no German postage stamps and displays two unexplained, rusted staple marks.

Prisoner of War mail, Internee mail and even some Red Cross mail to or from the Islands is recorded with censoring where the offending words have either been obscured by indelible pencil or Indian ink, or in some cases cut out with a sharp blade, but nobody could recall civilian mail from the Islands sent to France via the Feldpost censored in this way.

I believe that the simple reason is explained by the envelope that is illustrated here – mail that offended the German Censor was returned to the sender and never left the Islands.

A letter sent from the Channel Islands to the Continent was required to be handed in unsealed at the German Feldpost Office with the required fee remitted for postage. The German Censor in Guernsey or Jersey would read the letter and if it passed censorship, it would be sealed with a German Censor tape and the German stamps applied for postage and cancelling by the German Feldpost.

From the evidence of this envelope it would appear that if the contents of the letter contravened the regulations in some way, the letter was not censored and sent on its way, but was withdrawn from the German Feldpost and returned to the sender in the local mail. The reason for the return was explained by the Censor, but presumably the sender's money for postage was not returned.

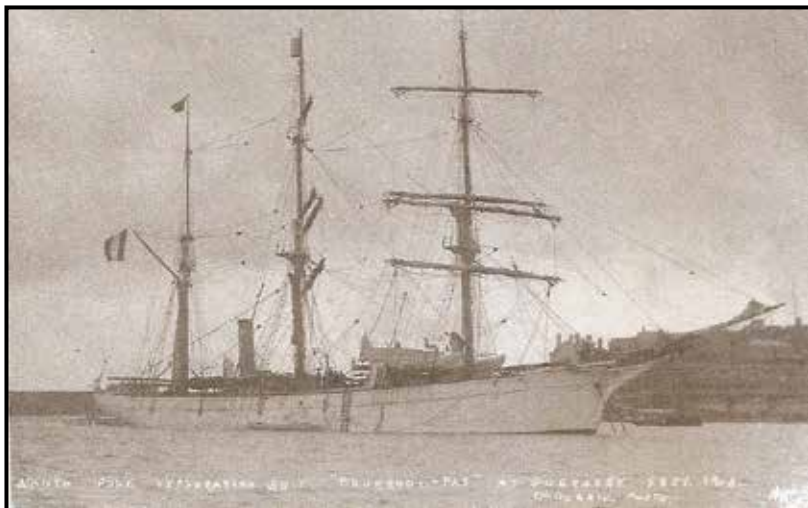


The back of the envelope with the sender's address written in the top left corner has an ink manuscript instruction by the German Censor in Guernsey stating that the letter is returned because the contents contravene regulations. This may have been in the wording in the letter or an illegal photograph or document contained with the letter. The German Censor has applied a blue, two-lined, straight line cachet reading: "FELKOMMANDANTUR 515 / NEBENSTELLE – GUERNSEY". The German Censor has countersigned this with his initials and dated it 6/8/43. The letter has subsequently been sealed and a blue crayon signature applied across the flap, possibly by the Guernsey Post Office to seal the contents.

Does any member have a similar letter returned by the German Censor?

The French Antarctic Expedition of 5th September 1908 led by Dr J.B. Charcot in the “Pourquoi Pas” by Henri Chartier.

I have had in my collection for some years now three postcards, shown below, the photographs for which were taken in St Peter Port, Guernsey harbour when the sailing ship ‘Pourquoi Pas’ arrived there from Le Havre in 1908 en route to the Antarctic. I decided to sell these three postcards recently in a Normandy auction house as they are extremely rare in France



SOUTH POLE EXPLORATION SHIP “POURQUOI-PAS” AT GUERNSEY SEPT. 1908.

and they realised the extraordinary total sum of 4,350 euros or 1700 +1450+1200 for each card!

The expedition was again led by Dr J. B. Charcot and the ship was a specially built three masted wooden sailing ship, which, whilst in St. Peter Port had alterations made to her deck fittings and davits by the Guernsey Railway Company.

On the 31st May 1910, the Guernsey Evening Press reported Dr. Charcot's return when the “POURQUOIS PAS” called at St Peter Port on her return voyage.



LEFT:

**CAPTAIN BOULRAIR, DR CHARCOT
AND OFFICER COUPDON ON THE
ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION FROM
SAINT MALO, LE HAVRE TO THE
ANTARCTIC RETURNING TO
GUERNSEY ON THE MAY 31 1910**

BELOW:

**THE "POURQUOI-PAS" ON MAY 31
1910.**



Guernsey Occupation 1940-1945: The Machine Cancellation

by Leopold Mayr

The machine cancellation of the Guernsey Sorting Office is probably the most common postmark of the occupation period. It comes into occupation collections automatically sooner or later and is hardly in the focus of closer inspection. All that collectors normally know is that it has two parts, wavy lines and the circular date-part, and that the year-slugs were made provisionally after 1940.

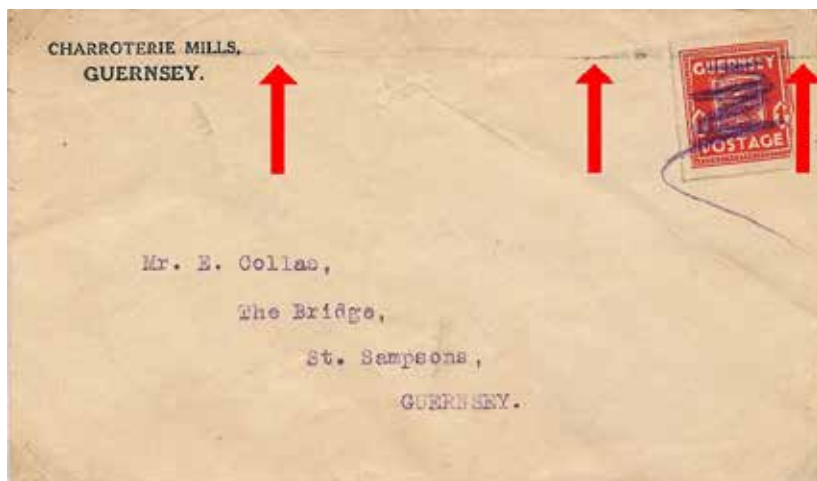


Fig.1. – a cover that had run through the machine, but only received an impression of the edge of the dies; stamp devalued with manuscript mark

But, there is a bit more behind this postmark, as I want to show. Let us begin with a cover Fig.1. above that went through the cancelling machine, but looks completely different to what we would expect. The two parts mentioned above are missing, still we know that the cover had run through the machine. The black line across the top shows it. It is the impression of the top-edge of the machine, that not always, but fairly often became visible when ink had somehow been transferred there. This line is known from very thin and faint to heavy and thick Fig.2. and might be regarded as the third part of the machine cancellation, Covers showing this line only,

are worth collecting for what they are: **covers that went through the cancelling machine.**



Fig.2. – thick line impression of the edge of the dies

Why do covers like the one in Fig.1 bear the line only and not the two other essential parts? The reason simply is that covers and cards were piled up properly first. The top cover was then automatically pulled into the cancelling device, received the impression of the stamp and was dropped on the other side onto the top of the pile with the cancelled mail, while the next top cover was pulled from the pile with the still uncanceled pieces of mail. In this procedure it could happen that two covers stuck together and were pulled in overlapping, so that only the one on top received the postmark. If the cover on top was placed slightly lower than the one underneath, the top one got a wavy line and date stamp, while the other one just received the line coming from the impression of the edge, but nothing else, as everything else below was covered.

The dies were fixed to a coil and produced a continuous impression that was synchronized with the feed of the covers, so that the right end of the wavy lines would almost touch the top right side of the cover or card, where the stamp(s) normally were to be found. Thus, in the case of more than one stamp side by side, the wavy lines were long enough to cover up

to three of them and still place the impression of the circular part beside the stamps (making the date easier to read).

So far the theory behind it. As stamps were often placed anywhere, but in the top right corner, and also as mail was sometimes piled upside down by mistake, as covers ran through the machine at an angle, or because of a slip that caused cover and coil running in different speeds, the theory did not always work out and the outcome of such failures supply us collectors with several unusual impressions. They do not always look beautiful, actually most of them are pretty ugly, but I like them!

When stamps were not hit by the machine the covers sometimes were sent through a second time, or, more often, the uncanceled stamps were devalued with the double circle handstamp.



Fig.3. – running through the machine at an angle



Fig.4. – running through the machine upside down, completely missing the stamp, an error that remained undetected

On long covers we can find two impressions of the stamp, as the coil always continued to turn. Fig. 5 shows a good impression with all the details. There is also the line on top and a faint, but rather distinct spot to the right of the wavy line that is only to be seen on strikes with two impressions, as it normally lies outside the cover. It seems to be the result of a dirt accumulation that was never removed.



Fig.5. – a cover long enough to receive two impressions

It is interesting that before and after the occupation the time above the date was updated in steps of 15 minutes, while during the occupation we always find “9-AM” (with very few exceptions). The reason probably is that the figures were needed for other postmarks, although I cannot really find any where they were used. It is also interesting that we have two types of “9”, one narrow, one wide. One of these might, of course, originally have been a “6” that was inserted upside down. As both types were used for longer periods, it seems that the changes only took place after a cleaning. We know the following periods of use:

8.7.1940-26.7.1940: narrow
 3.8.1940-7.4.1941: wide
 8.4.1941-23.12.1944: narrow
 May 1945: wide

Two dates only have become known with a different time, viz “6-PM” on 18 Feb 1941 and 7 April 1941, both being issue dates of occupation stamps. As the same dates are also to be found with “9-AM”, it seems that the “6-PM” covers were done especially for collectors. It is unlikely,

though, that they were cancelled to order, as I have a cover showing both time-slugs, the second one being applied when the cover was re-directed in the sorting office, which shows that it went through the post Fig.6.



Fig.6. – a cover showing the more unusual time “6-PM” on 18 Feb 1941 and another strike with the more common “9-AM” when redirected on 20 Feb. Not much has to be said about the hand-made figures for 1941-1945. Most collectors are familiar with the “split 0” for 1941 and the clumsy figures for the other years Fig.7. Slugs came from London, normally a couple of months before they were needed, but in 1940 the German arrival was simply too fast for that and supplies from England were cut off by July. So, the sorting office had to produce makeshifts.



Fig.7. – the year slugs



Fig.8. – 3 DEC inverted

Date errors are something that every postmark collector likes and the Guernsey machine cancellation provided some nice examples e.g. Figs.8 & Fig.9. There is also a most unusual cover that shows an impossible date and raises the question of how many cancelling machines were in use.



Fig.9. – the complete date-part inverted

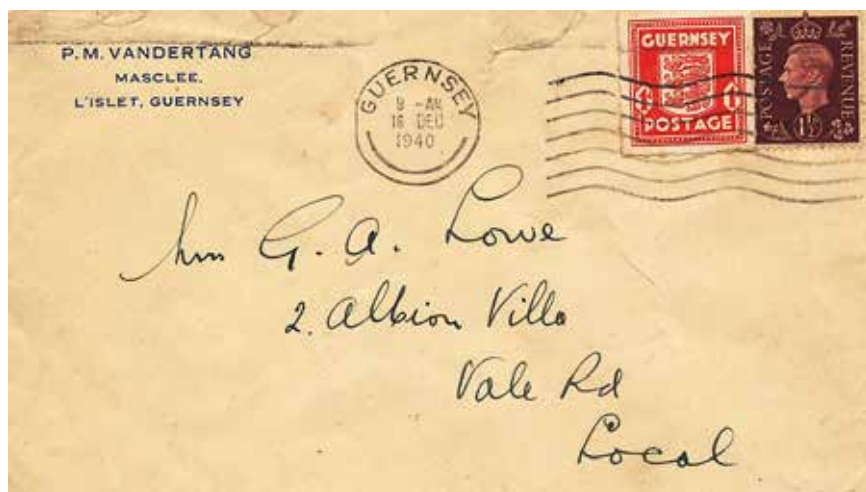


Fig.10. – an impossible date

Fig.10 shows a quite ordinary cover, dated 16 DEC 1940. So far so good, if it were not for the Guernsey Arms stamp that was not issued before 1941. Ok, so just an error with the year slug? Well, as mentioned above, the “0” in “1940” was split at the end of that year so it was already cut when the stamp was issued. The strike must have been made after 1940, but it cannot

have been made with the “ordinary” year-slug that only had half of the “0” left.

There are two theories to explain the “impossible date”. Michael Wieneke believes that this indicates that there were in fact two cancelling machines and that for Christmas 1941 (or 42, 43, 44) when the sorting office became too busy, the second one was activated to deal with the bulk of mail. The year-slug for this second machine had not been split, though, as it had not been needed for a long time and probably was still inserted in the die.

I, personally, am not really happy with that explanation. If there had been two machines, the sorting office would have used one for ordinary mail and the other one for PAID cancellations. What they did, however, was to change the dies and the colour for PAID bulk posting every time when needed. This is indicated by the fact that the date-parts were sometimes not changed (the ones for PAID-strikes had GT BRITAIN at the bottom rather than the arc) and that there exist strikes on ordinary covers, showing the machine cancellation in a mixture of red and black, as if there had been a colour change just before. Tooling up the machine was time consuming and a dirty job due to the change of ink. If they actually had two machines, they would have used them both to my mind, one for each purpose, just to avoid the extra work. The fact that they always changed makes it more likely that there was in fact just one machine.

The uncut “1940” used on the 1941 stamp could of course have been the year-slug of the date dies for the PAID cancel, that was never split, as the slug of the ordinary cancellation could be used, anyway. For some reason it was inserted into the machine by mistake on that particular date.

The machine, of course, needed electricity, something that became short in supply and was rationed during the last months of the occupation. Mail with a machine cancellation became more and more scarce by the end of 1944, while for 1945, before liberation, I have only seen one cover. On 9 May 1945 and the following 10 days we find lots of machine cancellations again, still using the hand-made “1945”. Eventually, on 20 May 1945 completely new dies were introduced.

I hope that I have presented a few lesser known or even unknown details to the story and maybe one or other collector may now look more carefully at covers with a machine cancellation.

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Some highlights in the next Society Autumn Postal Auction by Gerald Marriner FRPSL

There will be some exciting and scarce Red Cross material included in the next Autumn Society postal auction. This will include Red Cross message forms from Australia, Cairo, America, Ireland and Kenya. A very scarce message form from Jersey to Argentina and a 'Von der Bailiff' hand stamp will be some of the highlights. There will also be a comprehensive selection of Bradshaw cards, Red Cross stationery and several seldom seen instructional leaflets.

Other highlights will include some entire letters with QV 1d blacks, very scarce Sub Office skeleton datestamps of St. Andrews and St Aubin, an attractive 1920 registered postal stationery envelope from Cheapside to Holland and a 1933 hand coloured picture envelope from Sark to the USA. There will be sections relating to trains and airmails which include scarce airmail covers and postcards featuring early aircraft plus unusual ephemera. A fine range of Herm postal history will also be included and much more.

Confiscation of Wireless sets by Ken Syvret.

I refer to the article in the March 2021 edition of *Les Iles Normandes* by Barry Mudie concerning the arrest of Dr Mattas. The arrest of the ten Islanders is reported in L P Sinel's *The German Occupation of Jersey – a complete diary of events from June 1940 to June 1945*.

Under June 20 1942 he writes...After a morning of wild rumours which became further exaggerated each hour, the Germans issued a notice that, following a further act of sabotage of telephone communications and a distribution of leaflets with inciting contents (referring to those advising people not to give up their wireless sets), they had ordered the arrest of ten persons residing in Jersey; in the event of the perpetrators not being discovered, these ten people would be taken to a Continental internment camp, and if a repetition of such incidents occurred, twenty persons would be dealt with in this way. These men are all well-known locally, and they were arrested at a moment's notice: two were later released, but it will be a day or two before the names of those arrested are known with certainty. This, coinciding with the confiscation of wireless sets, has served to make us very depressed; most sets have now been handed in and it is extremely hard for old people, who had their only comfort taken away from them.

Then, on June 22 we learn from Sinel's report for that day...

The Germans have given until the 30th for the perpetrators of the act of sabotage and the distribution of leaflets to come forward and in the meantime the ten hostages are still in jail – Messrs. Frank Tregear, "Tony" Huelin, Geo. Le Cocq, Phil. Le Cornu, H. Vallois, W.H.Kennett, H. Ferguson, Advocate H.W. Giffard, Dr. C. Mattas and Col. Wellbourne.

On June 23 we read...The German Feldgendarmarie carry out a search of the "E.P." premises in an effort to discover where the leaflets were printed: other printing offices have also been searched and some private houses have been visited.

More activity is reported on June 24...

Several persons detained and interrogated in connection with the leaflets affair. Rumours are running round ad lib. and according to these somebody different is being arrested every five minutes!

June 26 brings results...

The author of the leaflet has now been discovered, and the German police are pursuing inquiries in order to trace those persons who were responsible for circulation; several already arrested in connection with the affair, have been let go.

And on June 27 we learn...

In the early evening the ten hostages were released from prison, where they had been made as comfortable as possible, their meals being supplied every day from Gaudin's Restaurant. It is now a week since the wireless sets were handed in and this has proved a bitter blow; with rumour rife, it is difficult to get authentic news, for although many sets are still functioning secretly, first-hand information is hard to obtain.

The saga continues, on June 29 it is reported...

The Germans, in a notice declaring that the original ten hostages who were arrested have been released, announce that five other persons are under arrest because of the distribution of another leaflet and that these will be set free likewise if the distributors are found by July 10. Most of those five are masters from Victoria College, and that has necessitated the temporary closing of the school. Many persons are also being apprehended and interrogated. A German Order states that, on grounds of military security, photographic materials of all kinds, including cameras, film cameras and enlargers, are to be taken into custody by the military authorities by July 11.

On July 6 we learn...

Victoria College (still at Halkett Place) re-opens; the places of the masters who are still in jail are taken by prefects who have been teaching at elementary schools.

And on July 7...

A German court martial has passed sentences on two brothers in connection with the first leaflet (see June 20), they being sentenced to five years' imprisonment and two years' imprisonment respectively.

July 10....

Without any explanation, the Germans release the hostages who were incarcerated some days ago in connection with the second leaflet. There may be news, later, in the diary of the fate of the two brothers, but for the moment this answers the question put by Barry Mudie.

Ed. Please note Ken Syvret of Jersey writes also to say – *'I run book sales to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind and have three copies of Sinel's Diary*

(the original publication on The Evening Post paper) which I would be happy to sell to anyone who may wish to have a copy. They have been read and are slightly damaged but complete – please contact me at kwsyvret@gmail.com or via the Editor.

The Leyton ‘Air Mail’ cover to Guernsey dated 10 June 1924 – a question by Julian Bagwell.

The December 2020 issue of *Les Iles Normandes* contained an interesting discussion of a cover on page 28 by Roger Harris which may or may not have been an airmail cover sent from Leyton in June 1924.

One feature of the cover, or rather its reverse, was an unusual Guernsey receiving single circle datestamp, not the normal handstamp, but rather a Guernsey M.O.O. handstamp, which the article notes is that used by the Money Order Office similar to the example shown. I think that this handstamp was applied in error, as it was normally used to cancel postal orders and similar items, but not regular mail. I have a similar example, an otherwise mundane Edwardian postcard addressed to Sark, but also cancelled with what I think is an incorrect M.O.O. cancellation. The cancellation is dated 24th March and whilst the year is indistinct it appears to be 1904. The only ‘date’ in the handwritten section is ‘Thursday’ and as 24th March 1904 was a Thursday, it seems very likely that is the date within the Money Order Office cancellation.



I would be interested in any information on the use of M.O.O. cancellations. I assume that in the case of the postcard, and presumably the Leyton cover, the postal clerk picked up the M.O.O. handstamp in error and used it to cancel the postcard’s stamp and as the receiving handstamp on the letter. I cannot find any references to whether or not this was an incorrect practice and would be grateful for any comments, please to the Editor.

(Drawing of the datestamp courtesy of Leopold Mayr from his book 615 Postmarks of the GUERNSEY Head Post Office).

In the last edition of *Les Iles Normandes* Olaf Beecken wrote an excellent article on mail to Sweden during the Occupation. I have two covers in my collection coming from Sweden into Guernsey during this period.



Fig 1

Fig 1 illustrates a cover sent from Malmo to the Head Postmaster in Guernsey. This was posted on 27 February 1943. Olafs' covers were addressed to Stockholm. So here we have an item from a different correspondence. The cover was posted at the 30 ore Swedish overseas letter rate, (in use between 1936 and 1952). This cover was forwarded to the German Fieldpost Office in Berlin and was censored at the foreign censorship office in Berlin. The cover was re-sealed with plain dark tape and then received the circular Ab examiner handstamps in violet. I presume that the route of this cover would have been from Berlin direct to Paris and then to the Islands. Or was the cover flown direct from Berlin?

There are no markings on the reverse of this cover.

Fig 2 shows a registered cover from Malmo actually addressed to the Post Office, St Anne, Alderney, Ile de la Manche, France. There is a green Swedish label on the front – inscribed 'Valutakontroll' (currency control). This was posted in December 1943 at the 50 ore registered letter rate. The

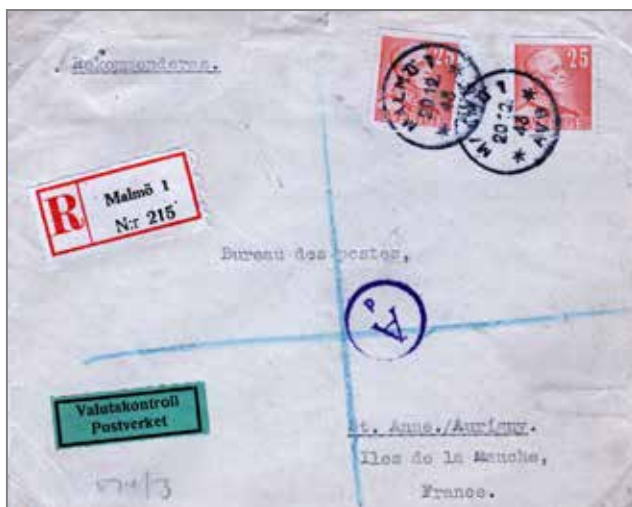


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

cover was not censored in Berlin, but was forwarded to Munich where it received the circular Ad examiner handstamp in violet. The cover was not opened in Munich. This was then forwarded to Paris where the cover was opened and contents were censored. It was resealed with the German censor label - code 'x' for Paris which was tied with the Paris censor handstamp in red. The reverse of the cover **Fig 3** shows a Guernsey arrival datestamp for 15 January 1941. This cover could not be forwarded on to Alderney because the Alderney Post Office was closed just before the Occupation.

An 1823 Entire Letter from Guernsey Merchant John Le Marchant to Mr James Finnie in Lisbon, Portugal by Luc Content.



This interesting entire letter from Guernsey Merchant John Le Marchant to James Finnie in Lisbon concerning wine shipments with Portugal has been examined by Alan Moorcroft who has helped me with the rates of postage and the route of the letter and David Gurney whom has added comments on John Le Marchant's role as a Letter Forwarding Agent consistent with his business as a General Merchant and Commission Agent in Pollet Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey. A very prominent Guernsey businessman, this is one of the earliest letters recorded so far from John Le Marchant and displays an excellent example of his signature identical to his endorsements on later letters.

Guernsey 20 May 1823

James Finnie Esq
Lisbon.

Sir

I had the pleasure to receive the letter & have since received your esteemed favor of the 17th & enclose its contents. The *de la domine* it arrived to a ship will sail for your Port in about a fortnight. From what you mention I conclude it will be as well to supply the wine entirely a cake freight for the space & some there may be on board & after you will have to add to the cost as to the value of three or four thousand. Ours do. Wine was at Rio de 11 March 100 ddo for *Figueras* by *Spain* 109 & 94. 100 Lisbon red - I remain in great haste

Yours most obedt Servt
John Le Marchant.

The letter bears on the back the second **GUERNSEY** scroll in black ink without dot in use between 1817 and 1829 and was rated or prepaid at 2/7d in red ink on the front of the address panel. It then went via the Packet to Weymouth at the cost of 3d and then was sent on to Falmouth, a distance of 142 miles from Weymouth, at the 1805 rate of 9d where it travelled on the Falmouth Packet to Lisbon at the cost of 1/7d giving the total postage cost of 2/7d where it received a strike in black ink on the lower left of the address panel of the Portuguese oval **LISBOA / 31/5** handstamp on arrival. Alan mentions that the 350 Reis charge shown at the top right of the address panel in black ink was endorsed in Lisbon. He does not have the local currency conversion rates for 1823, but this appears to be a high charge for a local delivery as it equated to 6d - hence the 3s 1d endorsed on reverse in red ink. As the 2s 7d had been prepaid only at Guernsey, the local charge would have had to be collected upon delivery.

I am most grateful to both Alan and David for their help in enabling the correct analysis of the rates and the construction of this article with the additional information.

Channel Islands Specialist's Society Annual Competition - 6th February 2021 results by Alan Whittaker

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

Sussex Cup for Postal History & Postal Markings

Guernsey Early Philately, **Julian Bagwell**. Gold. Winner.

Handstamps applied to mail arriving in France from the Channel Islands, 1755-1839. **Richard Flemming**. Gold.

Postal History Correspondence, a different view. **Steve Power**. Vermeil

Society Cup for Stamps

The Constant Errors & Varieties of the First Pre-Decimal and Decimal Definitive Stamps of Guernsey. **Nicholas Stuart**. Vermeil. Winner.

Guernsey 3d Regional Stamps. **John Goose**. Large Silver.

Guernsey Regional Stamps used in Alderney. **John Goose**. Silver Bronze.

Occupation Postal History and Markings.

German Occupation of the Island of Alderney, 1940-1945. **Richard Flemming**. Large Vermeil. Winner.

The Red Cross Postal Message Service 1940-1945. **Alan Whittaker**. Large Vermeil.

Open Philately Competition Cup.

First Official Airmails 1937-1984. **Alan Whittaker**. Vermeil

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1st September SEPAC: Old Maps (John Speed 1611)

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Presentation Pack	£6.18
Sheets of 10	£52.80

1st September Quartet series: Centenary of the Royal British Legion, Stamp 3

Single Stamp	£1.00
First Day Cover	£2.20

1st September Celebrating the life of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

(Subject to Royal Approval)

Set of 4 stamps	£3.43
First Day Cover	£4.63
Presentation Pack	£4.33
Sheets of 10	£34.30
Souvenir Sheet	£3.43
First Day Cover	£4.63
Souvenir Sheet pack insert	£3.63

ALDERNEY

1st September 2021 Frances Hodgson Burnett – The Secret Garden

Set of 6 stamps	£5.28
First Day Cover	£6.48
Presentation Pack	£6.18
Sheets of 10	£52.80
Prestige Booklet	£21.12

JERSEY POST

14th July 2021 Popular Culture – The 1990s

Set of 6 stamps	£5.71
First Day Cover	£6.96
Presentation Pack	£6.96
Miniature Sheet	£3.00
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Souvenir Sheetlet	£5.71
First Day Cover	£6.96
Presentation Pack	£6.96

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Souvenir Sheetlet.....	£5.33
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1st September 2021 The Birth of Formula One – Part Two

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Presentation Pack	£4.25
Souvenir Sheetlet.....	£6.91
First Day Cover	£8.16
Presentation Pack	£8.16

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