

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2012/02

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IN THIS ISSUE – WESSEX BULLETIN by email, Wessex Federation Website, Feedback, Wessex Competitions 2012, Happy Christmas, Postal History on the Cheap, French Military Mail, Thematix 12, Advertising.

WESSEX BULLETIN by email – There is a steady uptake by new readers of our Bulletin by email. It has also been encouraging to visit member clubs and see the latest Bulletin in colour available for members, well done all those who have helped in this way. Requests to be included should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at wessexweb@talktalk.net please include your full name, club and the email address your Bulletin is to be sent to.

Please Note this is a totally secure process – *Your email address will remain secure, each copy will reach you on a personal basis without disclosing your email address to the other recipients.*

BE FIRST WITH THE NEWS

WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE – we are delighted to report that Liskeard Club now has a presence on the Federation website. This means that all clubs that are part of the federation are now showing their existence on the federation website.

OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW – Please ensure that the details about your club are fresh and up to date contact our webmaster Jim Wigmore at wessexweb@talktalk.net with your current club details and programme. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLUB DETAILS ON A REGULAR BASIS & NOTIFY ANY CHANGES REQUIRED**

FEEDBACK – The buyer of the Zeppelin Cover reported in the last Bulletin has had a positive response to his request for Provenance as follows “The card was written by a certain Mr. Clémence, fonct. postal (postal clerk) from Basel/Switzerland. He franked the card with German stamps and sent it under cover to the Friedrichshafen Post office with the instruction to send the card with the Mediterranean Flight of the LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin". The card was therefore flown to Seville and got the normal roller cancel. The octagonal H/S is very rare on that flight! (See Michel Zeppelin Special Catalogue 2002 or Berezowski "Zeppelin-Posten", Görlitz 1930). The crimson Zeppelin flight mark is faded, there were thousands of cards and letters sent, sometimes this can happen. The card was dropped over Seville and was sent by ship to Limassol/Cyprus where it arrived on 24/4 before it was further sent to a Poste Restante address in Lefkara. I can not comment on the Limassol cancel - I am a Zeppelin specialist. As it was not picked up in Lefkara, the card was finally sent back to the sender, in Basle/Switzerland where it arrived 24/6.”

(It's a great pity this information was not supplied with the item when sold, with such a valuable item it seems reasonable to expect it. – Ed)

WESSEX FEDERATION COMPETITION ENTRIES 2012 – Members will shortly be receiving the details for the 2012 Wessex Federation Competitions. We hope that experienced exhibitors as well as those who have yet to have a go, will put entries into this years competitions. This year's entries will be shown at the **Dawlish Stamp Clubs – Exhibition and Fair** to be held at **The Strand Centre, Dawlish** on **Saturday 8th September** from 1000 hrs to 1600 hrs. More details about this and the dealers who will be present in the next newsletter. This information will also appear on the federation website www.wessexpf.org.uk .

It would be a great delight to see some co-ordinated entries from clubs to bring more competition in the inter club Thompson Cup. Lets not forget the new competitions for Thematic Beginners and the Open Class.

If you have a story for the next Wessex Bulletin we want to hear it.

Comments about this Wessex Bulletin and Copy for the next by June 2012 please

HAPPY CHRISTMAS - I received an unexpected present from my Postman just before Christmas writes Carol Turner. I was out when a large packet that would not go through my letterbox was left beneath a box by my front door and a card put through notifying me it was there. This form was not the usual one being mainly blue & white & I'd not seen it before so after a trip down to the sorting office I found these forms were in use from Monday 12th Dec to Christmas and similar ones were used last year over the same time period. My form has a printing date of 2011 (Has anyone got a spare 2010 form which I can have?).

Something for you

Time: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: **PACKET UNDERNEATH BOX ON STEP**
Postcode: **ST2**

We attempted to deliver your item:

<input type="checkbox"/> Special Delivery™	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter	Number of items: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Royal Mail Tracked®	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Packet	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Signed For	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalogue	
<input type="checkbox"/> International item	<input type="checkbox"/> Perishable item	

however, we could not do so because:

a signature is required it's too large

Your item has been left: **Alternatively:**

in your official 'Safeplace' as detailed on the item we will pop back tonight between 6-9pm

with your designated neighbour

(If this box is ticked please try and ensure somebody will be at home to receive your item. If you are not in when we call, you can collect your item the next working day at the address overleaf.)

Please note: we'll keep a Recorded Signed For item for 1 week, Royal Mail Tracked® items for 2 weeks and all other items for 3 weeks before returning them to the sender.

Item number(s): _____
Delivery officer's initials and duty number: _____

What to do next:

- **Collection from Delivery Office:** Either you or a nominated person can collect the item. Please leave hours before collecting. We will need to see this card and proof of the addressee's identity such as: a cheque guarantee/credit/debit card, bank/building society cheque book, valid passport, driving licence or official photo ID card.
- **Redelivery or Local Collect® service:** You can arrange for us to redeliver the item to your address or to an alternative local address (unfortunately, we can't redeliver Special Delivery™ or Royal Mail Tracked® items to an alternative address). Or you can have your item taken to a local Post Office® branch for you to pick up using our Local Collect® service*.

To arrange a Redelivery or Local Collect® service visit:
www.royalmail.com/redelivery
*Please see www.royalmail.com/redelivery for terms of usage and charges.

Your item is waiting for you at your local Delivery Office:

Royal Mail
Minehead Delivery Office
Post Office Lane
MINEHEAD
TA24 5AA
Tel: 0164 3703211

PLEASE NOTE-OPENING HOURS FROM 12TH-24TH DEC ONLY:

Mon - Fri: 06:30 - 17:00
Closed for Lunch: 15:15-16:00
Sat: 06:30 - 13:00
Xmas Eve: 06:30 - 13:00

If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and have access to a textphone, please call 0845 600 0606.

www.royalmail.com/redelivery MIX From responsible sources FSC® C013152

Postal History on the Cheap by Jim Wigmore

For as long as mail has been carried and delivered to a recipient, postal history has been created. Today we pay in some cases vast sums of money for items that on the day they were delivered had only the value of the cost of transit. We are indeed fortunate our ancestors put value in the correspondence they received and held on to a high proportion of it, unlike today's society who trash virtually everything they get through their letter box almost immediately. This leaves the question, where will tomorrow's postal history come from and who will know anything about its history.



Even in the past some of the mail carried was purely philatelic such as the card sent to Miss Michell in Cyprus for the express purpose of enhancing her philatelic collection. This is part of a number of items that have survived from this collection. It also gives us an idea of how we can expand our own collections by actually communicating with others using the mail and keeping the correspondence, it also requires us to educate those we write to about our needs, just like Miss Michell.

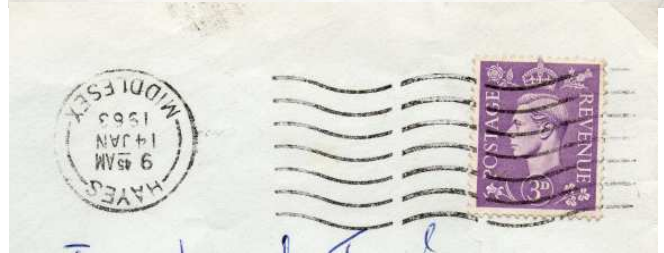
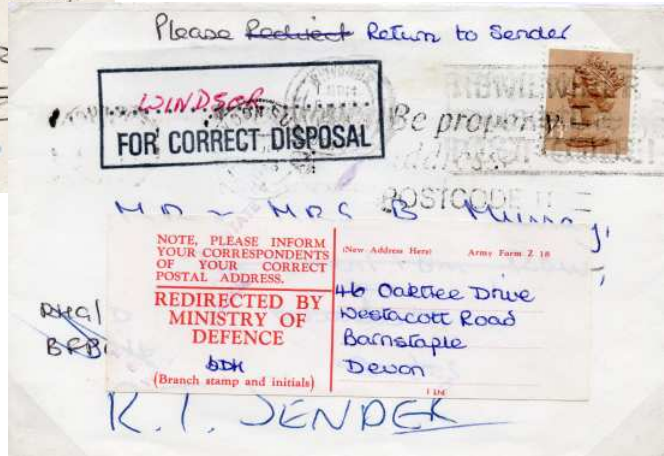
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Having started the process of educating others about our interests, it can be surprising what appears, especially when we have educated others not to cut off the stamps, to open mail with care and to pass on the covers complete.



There are some odd markings to be found such as that shown left to identify the person had GONE AWAY using a very old marking that still carried an office identity mark. Redirection of mail brings about other types of markings such as that shown below.



Today handstamps are used to instruct the postman that a signature is required, not in itself philatelic, but it all adds to the interest of collecting covers that have passed through the mail. The late use of stamps is interesting, the example shown above right was used in 1963 more than 10 years after the death of King George VI it passed through the postal sorting system without question. Note also, the cancel is inverted.

This of course leads us on to cancellations and date stamps. Many errors of this type come from taxograph machine markings applied by private companies where date slugs are incorrectly fitted such as that shown right where the date should have read 6-2-61 not 19-2-9 as shown. It passed through the postal system without question.



Other such employee errors in the use of taxograph machines



can be found with incorrect postal rates

applied such as overpayments as seen on the marking above, grossly overpaid for the then 1st class rate.

The no payment at all did cause the post office to mark the item for postage due, the dispute then in place between the post office and its staff regarding the responsibility for the collection of such dues may well have seen the letter delivered without any request for payment being made.

Mail passing through the post office without pre payment or in an incorrect manner can also be found, all have markings for Postage Due.

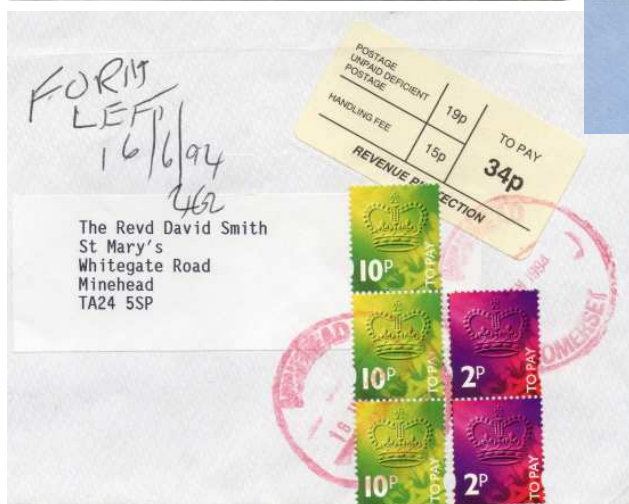


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After resolution of the dispute relating to collection of postage due fees, the Revenue Protection Branch of the Post Office started to apply labels for the fee to be levied and recipients now have to collect these items from a post office designated and they are only handed their mail once the fee has been paid. The example shown below left shows the use of Postage Due Stamp's, more recently just the To Pay label is attached.



The Postman leaves a card for the recipient advising that mail is to be collected and where from, hence the note on the cover left relating to a form and the



date of creation along with the postman's badge number. This information has not been noted on later examples.

Another example of Postage Due is shown as the result of a sender



attempting to use an OHMS envelope over stamped with a PHQ mark which has not been accepted by the post office and the item has been marked for Postage Due using a Hand Stamp.



Another interesting item is the attempt to use the Diplomatic Bag to get around the lack of an official mail service during the Falklands War, it was foiled and marked accordingly, the sender obviously did not have the necessary diplomatic approval.

It is to be hoped that you will all have gained an insight into some of the interesting things to be found and that you will start to look more carefully at what comes through your letter box or that of your

neighbours and friends. Everything you get this way is USUALLY FREE and can form the basis of a very interesting collection.

TODAYS MAIL is TOMMOROWS POSTAL HISTORY – Good Hunting, remember we would like to see any examples of interesting items you find for publication in future Wessex Bulletins.

FRENCH MILITARY MAIL David Roseveare writes - I acquired an interesting Second

World War item recently. It is a soldier's letter card dated 26th May 1940 addressed to a Captain Froidevaux who was serving in the French 35th Artillery Regiment and was sent freepost 'FM' by his parents living in Versailles. Their address is also shown on the front.

His father, Henri Froidevaux (1863-1954), was a noted historian and geographer and the author of more than forty publications dealing with aspects of French colonial history. He served as President of the French Geographical Society and was a member of a number of other organisations.

The date on the card is most important; it was during the time of Dunkirk and the regiment was almost destroyed whilst covering the evacuation of the Allied troops.

Father was concerned as he had not received news from his son for ten days but had been told by others that it was nothing to be worried about. Some had not received news from the front for over twenty days. He was deeply religious and he promised that he would always pray for his son's safety. He thought that the war was going well for the Allies and there were few problems.

Mother did not share father's optimism. She refers to a previous letter where the captain writes of being exhausted and there being little hope of survival. The card was never received at the front. It bears the 'return to sender' and 'not known at the address' marks and was sent back to Versailles.

Captain Froidevaux is mentioned in the regimental archives during the period of the evacuation. Some soldiers of his regiment did make it to England but I can find no trace of the captain. I understand that many high-ranking officers were killed or taken prisoner but he is not mentioned in the German military records of the French dead or taken prisoner for that year. Maybe he made it to safety... His first name was Leon and there was a man of that name who was ordained as a priest in the diocese of Versailles in 1946...but it's only a thought.

So much history from a simple card.

Thematrix 12 – Will take place at The Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton TQ13 7JW on Saturday 27th October 2012 from 1000 hrs to 1630 hrs. In addition to Specialist Thematic Dealers there will be a WETS meeting to display this years John Hilsdon Trophy Entries. More on this in future Bulletins. This is an opportunity to visit dealers rarely seen.

ADVERTISING – Tony Smith has been asked by members of the trade if they could advertise in the Bulletin. This advertising would of course be paid for and bring some revenue to the Federation to help defray production and distribution costs. What is the general feeling about this? In addition would members like the opportunity to advertise their sales and wants in the Bulletin at a nominal sum?

YOUR VIEWS MATTER – TELL THE EDITOR

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