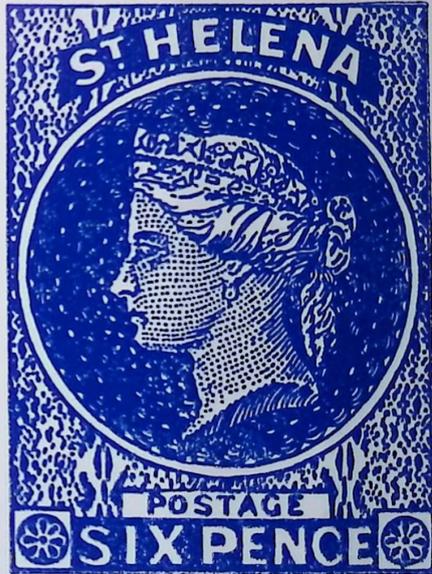


The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 18



ST HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 18

DISTRIBUTED WITH CANOE - JULY 1992

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LONDON

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ST HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 18

EDITORIAL

This issue, my ninth since taking over the editorial reins from Roger West sees the final part of John Attwood's Ascension Airmails, together with fine articles on the Ascension King George V1 Definitives by Bernard Hughes and King George V1 "Colour Trials" by Richard Lockyer which has been reproduced with kind permission of the King George V1 Collectors Society.

Other items of interest are: St. Helena WW11 mail with unusual Official and Censor markings; RMS St. Helena Maiden Voyage miniature sheet; new Departmental handstamp; New Paquebot mark; A list of St. Helena related Books & Maps etc rounding off with the usual Post Office Notices.

I have a small amount of material for inclusion in Supplement No. 19, mainly Ascension Island, so if you St. Helena collectors out there have anything you feel may be of interest please feel free to drop me a line.

Best Wishes, BERNARD MABBETT

34 VERONICA GREEN,
GORLESTON,
NORFOLK. NR31 8LE.

TEL (0493) 656147

ASCENSION GEORGE VI DEFINITIVES

by BERNARD HUGHES

I have been asked by a WASC member if I can provide details of information published on the Ascension George VI definitives - a minefield if ever there was one! The subject may be of general interest to Supplement readers.

CONTEMPORARY SOURCES - GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY ("GSM") and STAMP COLLECTING ("SC") published information about all new George VI printings as they appeared.

W.J.W. POTTER "THE PRINTINGS OF KING GEORGE VI COLONIAL STAMPS" lists all printings up to December 1952 - Ascension is on P3.

DR H.B. RENTON's articles in GEOSIX, the Journal of the King George VI Collectors' Society, especially vol 3 P92, were a major advance, his original research is fundamental to later studies.

G.H. FRYER'S articles in THE LONDON PHILATELIST vol 79 (1970) P52-5 and P111-8 and Vol 81 P35-7 are very well illustrated.

J.H. ATTWOOD's "ASCENSION - THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY" at P30-4 provides lists of printings and varieties.

WIDEAWAKE JOURNAL - the magazine of the Ascension Study Circle - Vol 1 No 1 is entirely devoted to Dr Richard Baker's survey of this issue, followed up in Vol 2 No 1 P94-5, Vol 2 No 3 P121-2, Vol 3 No 4 P236-7 and Vol 4 No 3 P297-8. Includes size of printings and information re Crown Agents not published before.

R. LOCKYER has written articles in GEOSIX, summarised in a well illustrated article in GSM Aug 1986. He continues to write regular George VI articles in GSM - of great interest re contemporary printing practices etc.

P.O. BEALE's WASC Ascension Study Paper no 2 "THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY" gives numbers of sheets despatched by CA. Interestingly, instead of the usual "date of release of printing" he lists "date of despatch of printing". One must be careful not to double count (some quantities are effectively included twice), but it does highlight some interesting features - the "Feb 1949" ½d was despatched in Nov 1948, separately from the "Feb 1949" 1d, 1½d and 2d, sent in Jan 1949, which helps explain the different paper, perfs etc used. Also, some printings were sent in 2 despatches between 2 days and 2 months apart - maybe there were 2 distinct parts to some printings, or split wartime deliveries (if one was lost at sea, the other might still arrive), or different destinations (Ascension and St. Helena): there are many possibilities.

CAMEO and ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENTS have little on this issue, which is perhaps a justification for this article.

It needs to be stressed there are quite a number of differences between these sources. This is part of the interest of the issue - if it was all straightforward, it would be simpler, but much less interesting! My article certainly does not claim to be the last word on the subject.

PRINTERS: It is worth emphasising that the issue was recess printed by De La Rue. To get a good print, all the recesses in the forme must be filled, but it is easy to get the balance wrong, producing numerous non-constant under-inking flaws (broken lines, missing detail etc) or overinking flaws (blurring, darker patches resembling retouches etc). As on the 1934 definitives and the 1935 Silver Jubilee set, both similarly printed, these flaws are abundant.

SHEETS/PERFS: All sheets have 60 stamps, 10 rows of 6 stamps. Most P13½ and P13 sheets have the top margin perf, the bottom margin imperf and a single extension perf in the side margins. Part of the 1938 printing of the 1½d and 3d, and all the 1945 printing of the 5/-, have the perforator inverted, so the top margin is imperf and the bottom margin perf - individual stamps are easily identified as the large 'overlap' perf hole, usually at the top of each stamp, is at the foot instead. The 1953 (white paper) printing of the ½d and 1½d have side margins perf through. The 1955 printing of the 1d Three Sisters can be found with 5 holes in the side margin, as well as the usual 1 hole. P14 sheets have top and bottom margins perf, and 5 holes in each side margin. Six sheets were perforated at a time (Lockyer, based on contemporary evidence). Perf hole size differences occur, most noticeably on all P14 stamps (Feb AND June 1949). My guess is that those at the bottom of each pile got smaller holes, even if the perf pins barely tapered. Splaying of hole positions (most noticeable in columns 1 and 2) seems greatest on sheets with small holes, being at the bottom of each batch. Nothing has been published, but I believe one specialist is studying perf hole sizes, and may have a different conclusion to mine.

Overlap perf ---->



Normal P13½ format found all values, in this case 3d black and ultramarine. Note the large "overlap" perf at the top of each stamp.



--- Overlap perf

Inverted perforator on 1938 3d black and ultramarine - the bottom margin is perf and the large "overlap" perf extends upwards from the foot of each stamp. Also found on the 1938 1½d value, and (a P13 stamp, but the effect is the same) the whole of the 1945 5/- printing.



A small part of the 1942 (P13) printing of the 1d value had 15 vertical perf holes instead of the usual 16 holes, leaving a large "tooth" at the top of each stamp. Perhaps these were the first sheets printed, and on examining them, the printers felt an extra hole was needed. Most of the printing has 16 holes.



The whole of the 1949 printing of the 1d Three Sisters has 15 vertical perf holes, leaving a thick "tooth" at the top of each stamp. This is the common printing for the 1d Three Sisters (4400 sheets printed).



All the 1953 (white paper) and 1955 (off white paper) printings of the 1d Three Sisters have 16 vertical perf holes. The illustration is of the variant of the 1955 printing with 5 holes in the right margin: normally there is only one hole. Although both 1953 and 1955 printings were quite large (1210 and 1512 sheets respectively), stamps from these printings are elusive, especially used.

IDENTIFICATION: It is now easier to allocate particular stamps to particular printings than at any time in the past, because of all the work that has gone before. Contemporary reports were hampered by the availability only of a few sheets from the same part of the printing, but at least they knew for certain which printing was being examined. It is not clear how later writers drew their conclusions. My own approach is based on identifying blocks that bear flaws (including guide marks and marginal markings) which develop through the printings; on previous reports; and on blocks which were contemporaneously marked as coming from a particular printing. Gibbons reference collection was sold in May 1985, though it was not described as such - I have been told that plate blocks with their distinctive markings, which identify printings, now command a premium. I bought one lot which contained plate blocks from two printings of each P13 stamp. There were a couple of other lots (P13½ and P14) but I could not afford them as well! Later it occurred to me that the other P13 blocks might be in their shop stock. Some were, also other curiosities which had been mentioned in GSM, but I did not find what I most wanted, the 1/- blocks from 1944 and 1945 - I have those for 1946 and 1954. Does anyone else have them - if so I would be most interested in having the opportunity of examining them. They may have been split up, unfortunately - for example in the stock I found the 2d 1946 marginal J and G markings (mentioned in GSM of course) neatly separated, and other blocks may have gone the same way.



Block showing the "Gibbons" markings confirming the printing - in this example one can also see the dot over the lower peak on R9/6 which confirms that this block is indeed 1946 (this flaw does not appear on the 1944 printing. Whilst the writing does vary (see the 1949 id block on the last page), this is the handwriting usually found.

MISTAKES: Lists of printings do not always agree. The most common mistakes are as follows:

a. $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1952 printing. There was no such printing. This red herring was first included by Renton, who referred to an unannounced 1952 release of $\frac{1}{2}$ d and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d he described as pale reddish violet, which is odd as none of the P13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d's are as 'red' as the P13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ones, indeed Gibbons distinguish ALL the P13 stamps as bluish violet. The "1952 $\frac{1}{2}$ d" is repeated by several other writers, with increasing numbers of printings inexplicably becoming 'reddish violet'. None mention the "1952 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d".

b. 1/- 1954 printing. This one does exist, but is often omitted (obviously the contemporary reports in GSM and Stamp Collecting do mention it). It was released with the 1954 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, which everyone includes. Maybe four P13 1/- printings, very hard to tell apart, seem too many!

PRINTINGS: A definite pattern emerges when stamps from each separate printing are examined together. Also, if perfs and different papers (the very distinctive paper used for the 1942 1d, and the white glazed paper with purple fluorescence used 1950-53) are checked, and the 1d Three Sisters divided between those with a large perf tooth at top and those with an extra perf hole, it can be seen that shades are really needed only to differentiate the P13 1944 printing from the next P13 printing (usually 1945 or 1946, but 1949 for $\frac{1}{2}$ d), except for the 1/- value where there are four similar P13 printings (1944, 1945, 1946 and 1954).

1938 $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 2d 3d 6d 1/- 2/6 5/- 10/- P13 $\frac{1}{2}$ original colours.

1940 1d 3d 4d P13 $\frac{1}{2}$ new value/colours. Whiter paper.

1942 1d Thin paper, opaque, very prominent watermark. Bright white fluor.

1944 $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 2d 3d 4d 6d 1/- 2/6 5/- 10/- P13. White fluorescence.

1945 4d 1/- 2/6 5/- 10/- P13. White fluorescence.

1946 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 2d 3d 6d 1/- P13. Violet fluorescence.

1949 (Feb) $\frac{1}{2}$ d P13 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 2d P14, colours as before.

1949 (Jun) 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 2d New design/colours 1d P13 large perf tooth at top,
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d P14 - Two distinct $1\frac{1}{2}$ d's, different shades/varieties.

1950 3d P13 White paper, pale grey shade (listed in Commonwealth catalogue)

1951 4d P13 White paper.

1953 $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d P13 White paper. 1d with extra perf hole at top.

1954 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 1/- P13 Off-white paper. Deep violet fluorescence.

1955 1d P13 Off-white paper, extra perf hole at top. Deep violet fluoresc.

FLUORESCENCE; a. Ink - The ink used for many P13½ stamps is fluorescent, and under the lamp it is easy to pick out these P13½ stamps if one is too lazy to use a gauge. Of later stamps, only the 10/- (1944 and 1945) has fluorescent ink. Reports of the 1946 6d being in fluorescent ink are incorrect.

b. Paper - As Stamp Collecting reported at the time, the white paper printings of 1950-53 fluoresce deep purple, a very distinctive reaction. Fryer divided some earlier printings between white and violet fluorescence, and I find this an easier method than shades, especially with marginal blocks. I have used the same terms for the sake of consistency, but "violet" is nearer to "white" than "purple". But there are problems with fluorescence just as there are with shades. Indeed, many of the factors that can affect shades also affect fluorescence - ageing, tropicalisation, faulty wiping, thickness of paper etc. I do not think fluorescence is the answer to all the problems posed by this issue - for example 1944 and 1945 fluorescence seem to be the same, whilst just as 1944 shades vary within the printing, so can 1944 fluorescence. I have been using a 254nm UVITEC Micro lamp - a small one that has to be used in the dark.

PERF 14 STAMPS; None were reprinted in the same colour, but they are well worth study. Gibbons list two shades for the June 1949 1½d, and these are very distinct, if you know what to look for. Gibbons divide the shades between carmine and rose carmine, but most others divide them between rose carmine and dull rose carmine, which I think is a better description. The scarce shade is invariably found on very grey paper, caused by faulty wiping. Usually the common shade is on less grey paper, but this varies a good deal. As mentioned later, marginal markings change on the scarce shade. Other P14 stamps vary between "white" and "grey" paper (and white and violet fluorescence), especially the Feb 1949 1½d and June 1949 2d, but there are also intermediate variations. These stamps also vary quite a bit in shade, again with intermediate varieties.

SPECIMENS; 1938 and 1940 stamps can be found perf SPECIMEN. The 3d value has the inverted perf frame, so the overlap perf hole is at the foot, not the top. I have not heard of this issue being forged (Ascension Coronation and Victory Specimens have been extensively forged, but the financial incentive is greater on those issues - there should be no more of them than 1938 definitive Specimens, yet they frequently crop up at auction!), but forgers would need to remember to use the right 3d!



Overlap perf -->

6d R9/3 variety (faint lines below crosses at left) perforated SPECIMEN.

PROOFS: The only proofs on the market appear to be photographic proofs, without the King's head. They are very similar to the issued design. Beale lists the many proofs found in British Library. The Royal Collection includes De La Rue's artist's sketches with hand-painted frames, printed vignettes and photographic heads. The heads have a black background, unlike the issued stamps. The 6d and 2/6 are illustrated in London Philatelist Jan 1990 P17. I think the photographic proofs are photographs of these essays.



FURTHER RESEARCH: More research example postmarks - there are many for example, but they are typically very weak. No-one has yet produced a list of genuine postmarks, with periods of use, for the George VI period, and I rather think there is no other period for which this would be more difficult! 1940's mail routes are probably more interesting than is realised with wartime difficulties - I wrote an article in the Supplement (No 13 P35-6) on the Sierra Leone route, and John Attwood has written something on airmail routes (No 16 P4-8), but I feel sure there is much more to be learned. Little is known about dates of release in Ascension - I have never seen an 'FDC' for anything other than 1938. The June 1949 new colours are often found postmarked '1 JUL 49', but not '1 JUN 49'! I presume most of the release dates shown in Gibbons etc are Crown Agents release dates in London, which may or may not coincide with local release - per Beale, for some, such as the 10/- P13, it cannot be, as he gives the date of despatch for this value as 16.5.44 - it may well have been released in London on 17.5.44, but clearly not on Ascension. The Feb 1949 1d, 1½d and 2d were apparently never despatched to Ascension at all, though dealers sent copies out to be postmarked.

THANKS: I am most grateful to John Attwood, Dr Richard Baker and Richard Lockyer - all of whom have previously written about this issue - for their help in the preparation of this series of articles. I must stress that responsibility for the final version is mine, though where there is uncertainty on matters, I have tried to make this clear. Richard Lockyer has kindly supplied some illustrations which I shall be using - much better than anything I could do!

TO BE CONTINUED... There will be two further articles in this series, one on the shades for each printing, one on the flaws and varieties.

A STUDY OF ASCENSION AIRMAIL

BRITISH AND AMERICAN

BY JOHN ATTWOOD

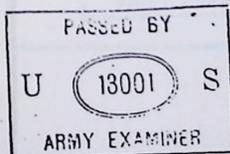
PART 3.

CENSORED MAIL

WORLD WAR 11

1. "A.P.O. 877" was the designation of the U.S. Army Post Office established on Ascension and officially opened on 1st April, 1942. This letter was carried by the U.S. Air Force to New York where it entered into the U.S. internal postal system for delivery to its destination. The censor mark was applied in Ascension and countersigned by the Army Examiner, Major C. Ambler.

Albert Goldman
POSTMASTER - NEW YORK - N. Y.



May C Ambler CC

Mrs. John W. Lynch,
121 Seaman Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

2.

The censor label on this cover reads:-

"OPENED BY
ARMY
U.S. EXAMINER No."

Apparently for security reasons the number "877" was omitted from the U.S. Army cds. from May, 1942 to April 1943. This seems to be a senseless precaution since the number is part of the sender's address.

WAR DEPARTMENT

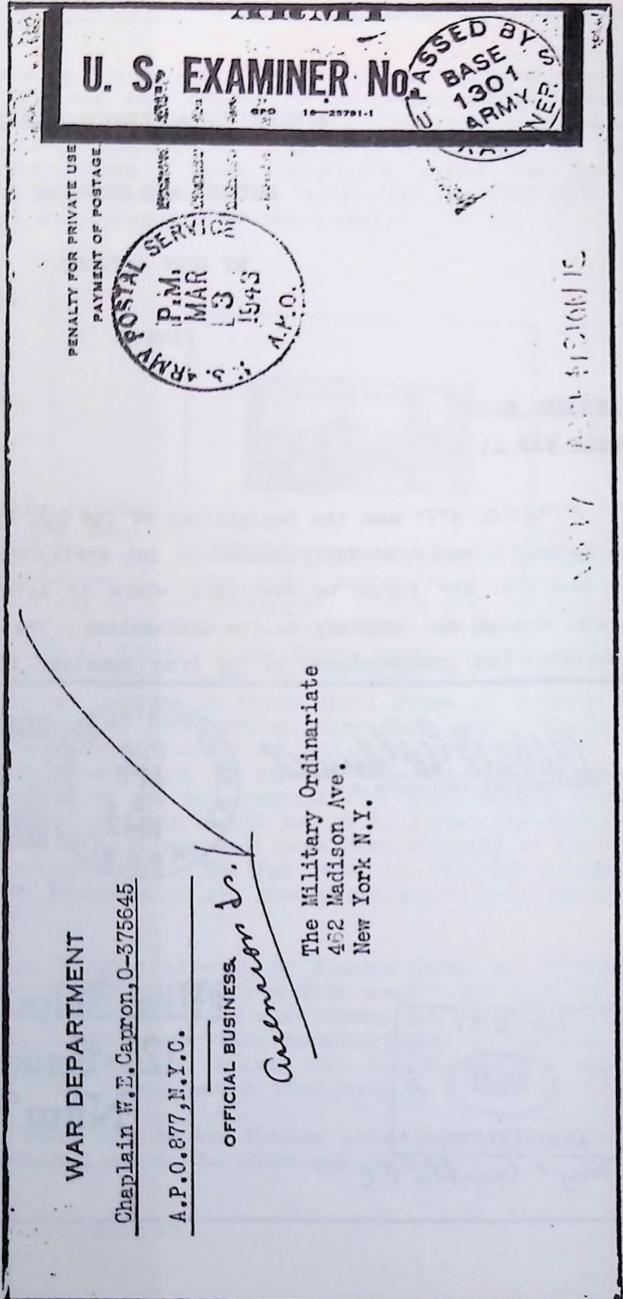
Chaplain W. E. Carron, O-375645

A.P.O. 877, N.Y.C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

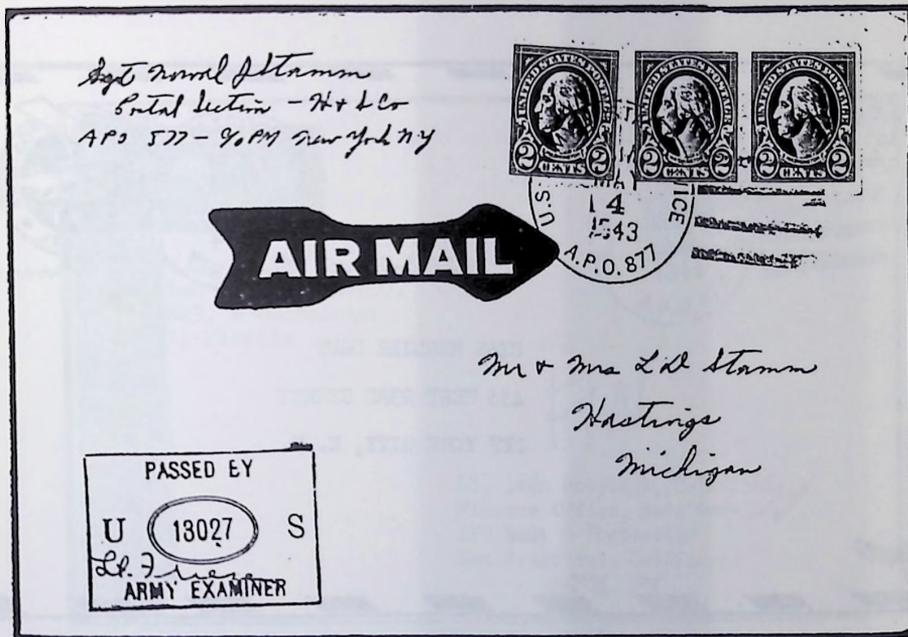
Cuelemore D.

The Military Ordinarinate
462 Madison Ave.
New York N.Y.



3.

Letter from Sgt. Stamm and postmarked 14th May 1943. This cover shows that the responsibility for the receipt, and onward handling of U.S. mail from Ascension still rested with the New York Postmaster. Six cents was the airmail rate from Ascension.



4.

Letter from S/Sgt. Taylor, Jr. with an embossed 6 cents airmail cover. This cover shows that the responsibility for handling Ascension mail had now changed from New York to the Postmaster at Miami. This transfer of responsibility took place sometime between the 22nd June and the 27th July, 1943.

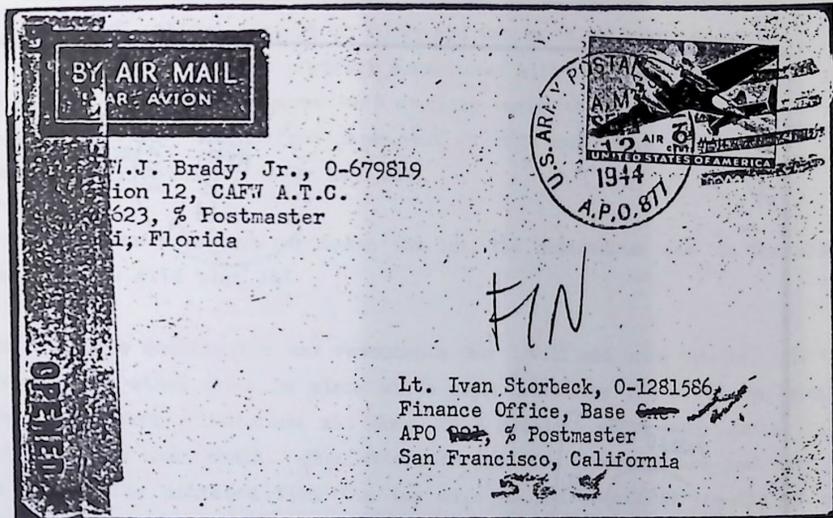
S/Sgt T.H. Taylor Jr. 32218731
1st Composite Squadron APO 877
c/c PM, Miami, Fla.



MISS HERMINE DAUT
455 WEST 23RD STREET
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

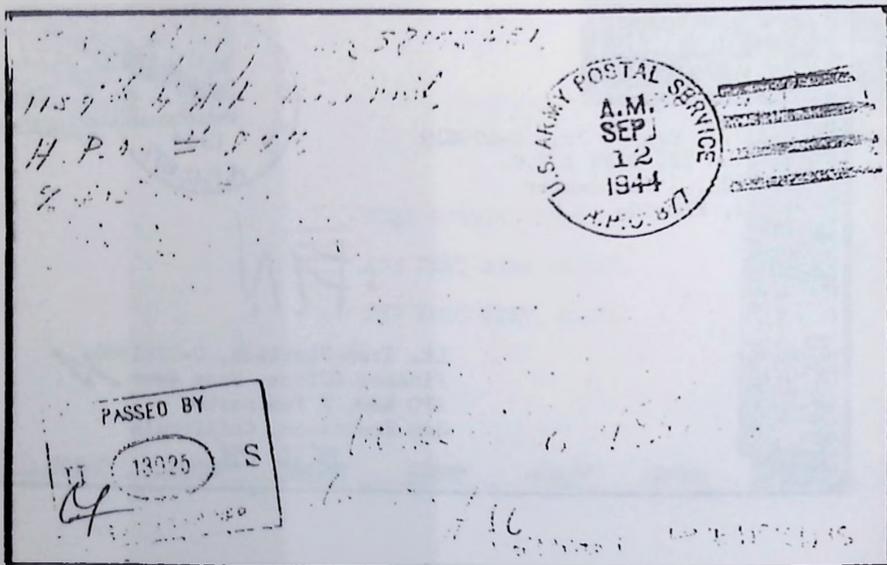
5.

Letter from Lieut. Brady, Jr. who, from his address, was serving in the U.S. Army Transport Corps based at APO 623 but temporarily located on Ascension since the letter was clearly mailed on the island. This letter was not censored in Ascension but on arrival in the U.S., probably in Miami.



5.

Letter from T/Sgt. Jumper unstamped and endorsed "Free mail". The regulations regarding free mail were far from precise. An Act on 27th March, 1942 stated that a member of the U.S. Forces, on active duty, would have his mail sent free subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Postmaster General. However a publication, "Aero Field", April 1943, said free mail was permitted to soldiers on active service when no stamps were available but this fact had to be certified on the cover by the Commanding Officer.



AN EXPERIMENT BY WATERLOW AND SONS LIMITED

BY RICHARD LOCKYER

REPRODUCED BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE
KING GEORGE VI COLLECTORS SOCIETY

A friend of mine recently drew my attention to the following description of a lot in a local auction catalogue:

KING GEORGE VI "COLOUR TRIALS". Interesting collection, various countries Antigua through to Turks and Caicos Is. of mint issues which have the King's portrait substituted with one of a different colour and producing some very striking varieties, all struck down on "Waterlow" watermarked paper, but no doubt unofficial, although certainly unusual. (105) Est. £65.

I attended the sale and purchased the lot: the underbidder was "on the book". The cost was £110 plus VAT.

The catalogue description was reasonable, but I will add more details. All the stamps were stuck down on plain white paper measuring 174 x 207 mm, with a heavy watermark - Waterlow and Sons, in a crescent shape over Limited in a straight line underneath. The letters forming the watermark are just over 11 mm tall. The distance from the top edge of the sheets to the top of the crescent is 15 mm and to the bottom of the letters Limited the distance is 70 mm. In the space left below the watermark are the stamps set out carefully in rows. Each white sheet is glued by its corner to an individual V.A. Pragnell Ltd., Viking Black Album Leaf No. 364 with the interleaving removed.

Now comes the interesting bit, because the medallions containing the King's head have been cut out of each stamp and placed in the gap left in another in the same set. For example, the St. Helena ½d. violet has an orange-red head, the 1d. yellow-orange with 3d. grey head, 1½d. scarlet with 6d. light-blue head, 2d. red-orange with 4d. ultramarine head, 3d. grey with 1½d. scarlet head, 4d. ultramarine with 8d. olive-green head, 6d. light-blue with 1/- sepia head, 8d. olive green with ½d. violet head and 1/- sepia with 1d. yellow-orange head. All the sets have considerably more appeal to the eye than normal.

The removal and replacement of the individual heads was executed in a most skilful manner and is not readily apparent to the naked eye. However, under a glass the modifications can be seen or the disturbed areas can be detected by a finger tip.

For the record I list the Colonies involved:

Antigua (1938)	½d. to 6d.
Basutoland (1938)	½d. to 1s.
Cayman Islands (1938)	½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d. both colours and 3d. both colours.
Cyprus (1938)	½p. to 9p. including colours released on 2nd July 1951 but not 2½p. or 4p.
Malta (1938)	½d. both colours, 1½d. both colours, 2d. both colours, 2½d. both colours, 3d. both colours, 4½d., 6d. and 1s.
Malta Self-Government (1948)	½d., 1d. both colours, 1½d. both colours, 2d. both colours, 2½d. both colours, 3d. blue only, 4½d. both colours and 1s.
N. Rhodesia (1938)	½d. to 9d. but not 1½d. carmine-red or 2d. brownish-yellow, but does include 4½d. ultramarine.
Nyasaland (1938)	½d. to 6d.

St. Helena (1938) ½d. to 1s. but not 1d. green, 1d. black and green,
1½d. black and carmine, 2d. black and carmine and
3d. ultramarine.

Turks and Caicos (1938) ½d. to 1s. no 3d. but both colours of 6d. and 1s.

The significant point which occurred to me was that the sheets must have been prepared after the release of the Malta new colours on 8th January 1959 - 1d. grey, 1½d. green, 2d. yellow-ochre, 2½d. scarlet-vermillion and 4½d. olive-green and deep ultramarine. I wondered if perhaps it was an elaborate hoax, possibly by someone on the Waterlow staff but was reassured when Colin Fraser of Christie's and the Waterlow Study Circle told me that the watermarked paper used by the firm was kept under very tight control.

The next step was a familiar one to many members of SGWIOS - I wrote to Marcus Faux seeking his help. As usual I received an informative and quick response which, with his full agreement, is set out below:

Thank you for your letter of 29th November, from which I gather that you have acquired some sheets of stamps, including Malta, which have been translated from single colour to bi-colour by taking the medallion portrait of HM King George VI and substituting one in another colour.

No, I do not think that this was intended as an elaborate hoax, but as a serious experiment to produce a more attractive image to the whole of the Malta stamps. My guess is that the 1948 issue was selected with a view to using them for publicity purposes, by the firm's overseas sales unit.

At around 1947 all three security printing firms, Messrs Thos de la Rue, Bradbury Wilkinson & Co., and also Waterlow & Sons, were each in serious

Competition with one another, to obtain contracts for definitive issues of stamps.

Each of the three firms had a senior member of the firm, usually a Director, who would tour an area, taking in all the countries in that area, calling on those officials who were responsible for the placing of their stamp contracts. They would show and leave with, all those persons who would be in a position to further their prospects, a copy of the firm's brochure. Both De la Rue's and Bradbury Wilkinson's considered this of so great importance that they had Sales Directors, who spent most of their time touring the world.

Probably the Chairman of Waterlow's asked for these experiments to be made realising that their current brochures were not really competitive. The Malta stamps as printed could hardly be called attractive. The 1/- black, of a Maltese girl wearing a faldetta, is hardly likely to inspire anybody, but with a medallion printed in bright colour would make all the difference between drabness and colourfulness.

When Waterlow's ceased printing stamps in 1960, I remember writing to them, authorising the passing over of all dies, transfer rollers, printing plates, also other items held by them, to Messers Thos de la Rue's. I expect De la Rue's sold Waterlow's archives, which included these sheets, when they sold their own in the late 1970s.

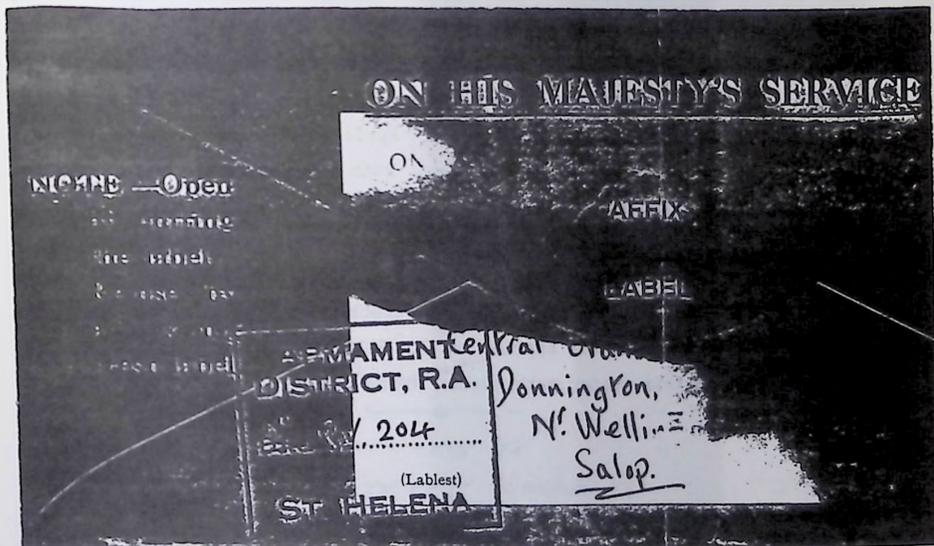
Does this solve your problem?

I am now left wondering if anyone else has seen any similar material using stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons Limited. The sheets which I have described were unknown to Colin Fraser who has promised to investigate the matter further. Meanwhile can any member contribute any more information?

SOME UNUSUAL ST HELENA WW 11 MAIL

BY PETER COTTIS

I recently added to my collection three WW 11 items of mail. The first is a large O.H.M.S. cover to Salop with a boxed handstamp measuring some 43mm x 37mm with the wording "ARMAMENT/ DISTRICT,R.A./Date...../ST. HELENA". In the example that I have the "Date" has been crossed out and "No RV 204" inserted. If anyone can give me any information on this handstamp or, if they have copies of this handstamp in their collections I would be pleased to hear from them.

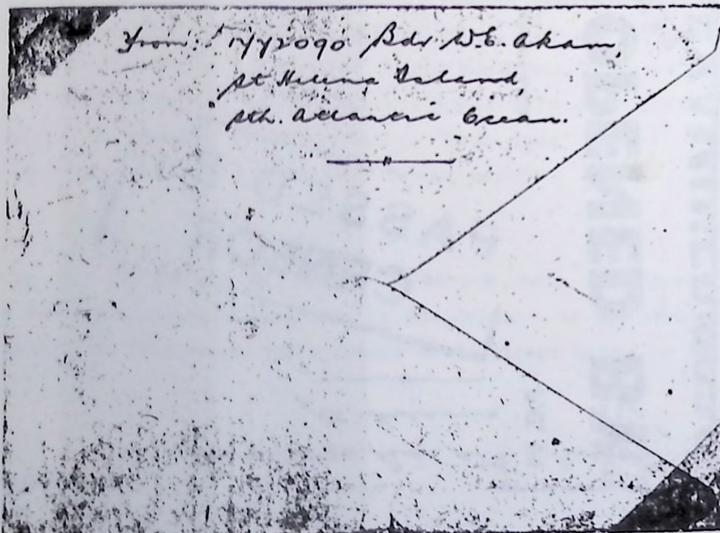


The other two covers are both from 1772090 Bdr W.E. Akam, St. Helena Island, Sth Atlantic Ocean. Both covers are endorsed "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" and show London Gt. Britain OFFICIAL PAID roller cancels without date or year in them. One has the code letter "M" after "Gt. Britain" and the other a code letter "B" after "Gt. Britian". Does anyone know the significance of these code letters?

The first cover has the P.C. 90 "OPENED BY/EXAMINER 8938" label and on the reverse the large boxed "PASSED BY/ENSOR" without censors initials.

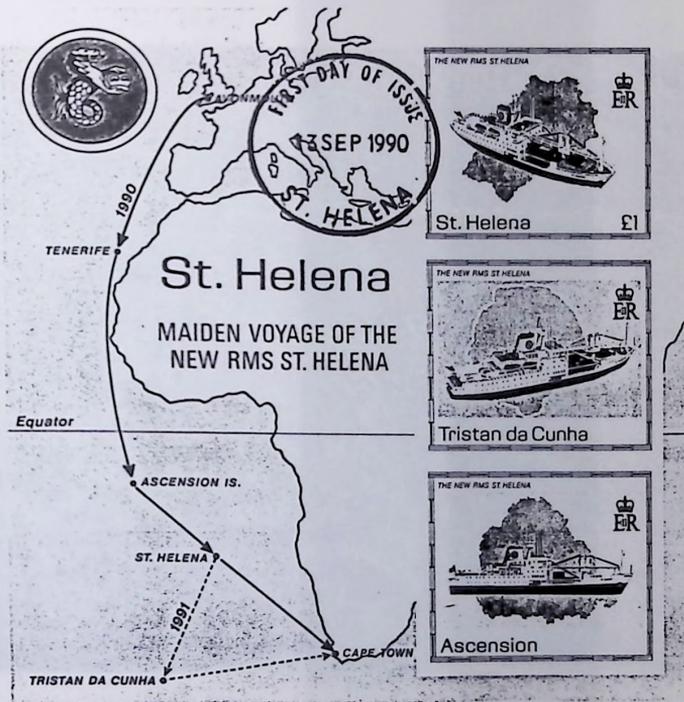
The second cover is far more interesting in that it is endorsed in manuscript in the bottom left hand corner what appears to be 'W Taylor Censor'. The cover also has a circular censor mark some 30mm in diameter with a crown on the top with the wording "PASSED BY CENSOR" round the top of the circle and "No 4472" across the centre. A similar censor mark was illustrated by George Crabb in the FPHS Newsletter No.155, March - April 1979 on a cover from S/Sgt R.W. White,R.E., St. Helena, South Atlantic., 20th June 1944. This crowned circular censor mark had the number 4490 in the centre.

On my cover the London roller cancel is struck over the censor mark, so presumably the censor mark was applied on St. Helena. If any member can help with information on this censor mark please write direct to me or the editor.



Front and reverse of cover No. 3

Trevor Hearl has sent me a First Day cover with a Miniature sheet of the Maiden Voyage of the new R.M.S. St. Helena. The new R.M.S. St. Helena was due to start her Maiden Voyage on Thursday 5th July 1990, taking over from the old R.M.S. St. Helena Island. The voyage of 5th July was the last to leave from Avonmouth, all further sailings were transferred to Cardiff. Due to problems with the new R.M.S. St. Helena the Maiden Voyage was put off until 13th September, one voyage later. This voyage was from CARDIFF. All the miniature sheets were printed with the Maiden Voyage leaving from AVONMOUTH; no doubt the Postal Authorities felt it was too late or too costly to reprint the sheets, or else they hoped that no one would notice!



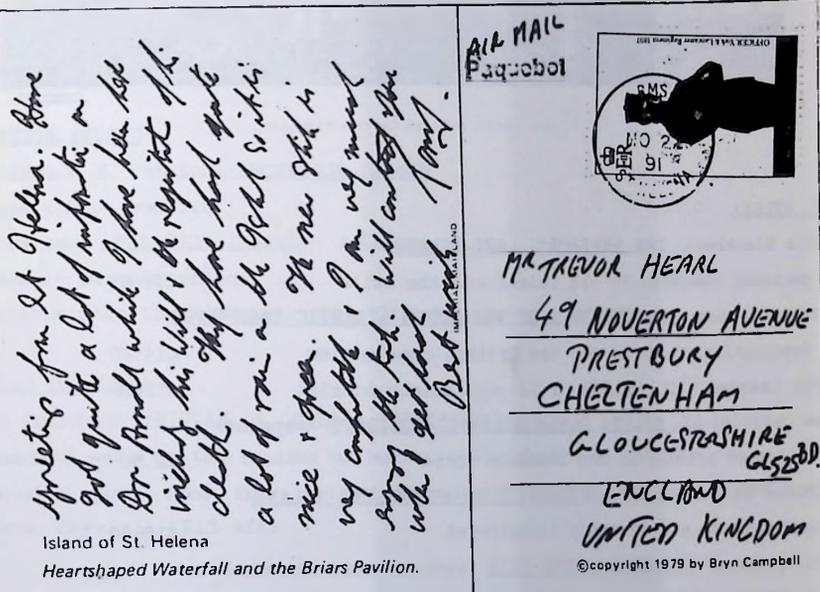
FOR THE RECORD

A new Departmental handstamp has recently come my way via Nick Thorpe of Jamestown, St. Helena. The O.H.M.S. cover slightly damaged at left is dated April 6th 1992 and is addressed locally. The cover shows the boxed Official Paid handstamp and a double oval handstamp with double border with the wording "DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE/ST. HELENA" between the ovals and "DESPATCHED/14 APR 1992/ADMINISTRATION" in three lines across the centre. A second strike of the handstamp is on the reverse. Both strikes of the handstamp are in violet.



NEW PAQUEBOT MARK

A recent addition to my collection is a postcard from St. Helena. The card shows the RMS St. Helena c.d.s. for November 22nd 1991. Alongside the stamp is a small Paquebot mark. The mark measures some 18mm long with the letters 3mm in height. The P of Paquebot is a capital letter, but all the others are lower case. The RMS St. Helena left St. Helena on Saturday 23rd November 1991 bound for Ascension Island. Was the Paquebot mark applied at St. Helena before the RMS sailed as the card was cancelled the day prior to sailing, or was the Paquebot mark applied at Ascension where the card was forwarded by Air Mail to the U.K.?



ST HELENA BOOKS & MAPS FOR 1992

ST. HELENA BOOKS & MAPS

FOR 1992



SCENE TAKEN FROM THE CASTLE TERRACE.

ST. HELENA

Julia Blackburn: THE EMPEROR'S LAST ISLAND

A personal reaction to the island and the exile £16.99

Edward Cannan: THE CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC 1502-1991

A fascinating story of all the British communities £14.95

Bryn Campbell: ST. HELENA. A 32-page colour booklet £1.50

Ken Denholm: ST. HELENA SOUTH ATLANTIC FORTRESS (reprint)

Illustrated article on the island's forts £2.50

Aladair Edwards: FISH & FISHERIES OF ST. HELENA ISLAND

Comprehensive and lavishly illustrated £15.00

Philip Gosse: ST. HELENA 1502-1938 (with new introduction)

New edition of this classic Island history £16.50

Michael Holland (ed.): STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

The conservation of St. Helena's endemic flora £2.50

H.R. Janisch: EXTRACTS FROM THE ST. HELENA RECORDS 1673-1835

Welcome reprint of a scarce work by W.A. Thorpe, Jamestown £12.50

Anne Kotze: ST. HELENA JOURNAL (limited edition)

The story of an unconventional assignment £6.00

Ian Mathieson & Laurence Carter: EXPLORING ST. HELENA

A walker's guide - indispensable for sight-seeing £6.00

Sarah Oldfield: FRAGMENTS OF PARADISE

Conservation in all Britain's dependent territories £8.00

Barry Weaver: A GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY OF ST. HELENA

The age-old mystery of the Island simply explained £2.50

Simon Winchester: OUTPOSTS

Reflections on all Britain's dependent territories £4.95

Stephen Woollorton: A DOCTOR'S THOUGHTS ON ST. HELENA

60 pages of sparkling colour photos; medical text £5.00

ASCENSION ISLAND

J.A. Dixon & M. Watkins: ASCENSION ISLAND

18 page colour booklet £2.00

John Packer: ASCENSION ISLAND - A Concise Guide

A treasury of information £2.00

(Available from the Administrator's Office, Ascension Island)

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Allan Crawford: TRISTAN DA CUNHA & THE ROARING FORTIES

A standard work by the leading authority; well illustrated £10.50

(Available post free from Curnow Shipping Ltd., The Shipyard, Porthleven, Helston, Cornwall TR13 9JA)

PURCHASERS PLEASE NOTE:

Most titles are available in Jamestown from the St. Helena Heritage Society Museum Bookshop and/or on the RMS St. Helena. In the U.K. they can be had from Waterstone's (Travel Dept.), 88/90 The Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 1NB and from Anthony Nelson Ltd., PO Box 9, Oswestry, Salop SY11 1BY, post extra, or as indicated.

(prices given for guidance only)

MORE NEW MAPS FOR ST. HELENA

The following ORDANANCE SURVEY maps of ST. HELENA are now available:

- 1 : 10,000 in six sheets, black & brown at £6 per sheet
- 1 : 25,000 single sheet TOURIST map in colour at £6
- 1 : 25,000 single sheet black & white at £6
- 1 : 25,000 single sheet LAND USE map in colour at £6
- 1 : 50,000 A3 sheet, black & white at £6
- 1 : 125,000 A4 sheet in colour at £2.00

ALSO:

- 1 : 2,500 JAMESTOWN in four sheets, Dylines at £12.00 per sheet

Obtained POST FREE (in United Kingdom) CASH WITH ORDER from:

Ordnance Survey International,
Romsey Road,
Maybush,
Southampton SO9 4DH

(The TOURIST map can also be bought at the Post Office, Jamestown)

Published January 1992 for THE ST. HELENA LINK by Trevor Hearl, 49 Noverton Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 5DD (0242) 244430

No. 12, 1866.

2448



MAILS FOR ST. HELENA.

THE Mail Packets leaving Devonport on the 10th of each month for the Cape of Good Hope, which have hitherto called at St. Helena on the homeward voyage only, will, in future, call there *on the outward voyage* also; thus causing letters for that Island to arrive much sooner than heretofore.

This arrangement will commence with the Cape Packet appointed to leave Devonport on the 10th instant.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
5th March, 1866.

Printed by W. P. GOSWELL, 5, LUDGATE STREET, LONDON, W.C.

No. 35.

13 SEPT 1875

3088



ASCENSION.

THE Mails for Ascension have hitherto been despatched from England by each of the three Packets sailing monthly for the Cape of Good Hope, for delivery by the first homeward Packet touching at the Island, but, as only one of the Packets calls at Ascension on the homeward voyage, it is found that the practice of sending the Mails from England three times a month to the Cape is, in two cases, attended with no advantage whatever.

For the future, therefore, Mails for Ascension will be made up in London only once in each month, viz. :—

Via Southampton on the morning of the 15th, with a supplementary despatch via Plymouth the same evening.

These Mails, instead of being carried on to the Cape, as formerly, will be landed at St. Helena, for return thence by the first homeward Packet.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
13th September, 1875.

3548

No. 25.



MAILS FOR ST. HELENA and ASCENSION

AN Alteration has been made in the dates fixed for the despatch of Mails from this Country to the Islands of St. Helena and Ascension.

The next Mails for those places, which were to have been despatched from London on Thursday the 12th of June, will not leave London until the 19th of June, and will be forwarded from Plymouth on the following day.

Thenceforward the Mails for St. Helena and Ascension will be despatched in their regular sequence as follows:—

Date of Sailing	Port of Departure	Due at St. Helena	Due at Ascension
23 July	DARTMOUTH	8 August	15 August
18 August	PLYMOUTH	30 August	5 September
18 September	DARTMOUTH	4 October	10 October
10 October	PLYMOUTH	23 October	31 October
14 November	DARTMOUTH	29 November ...	5 December
8 December	PLYMOUTH	20 December...	24 December

By Command of the Postmaster General

GENERAL POST OFFICE

27 May 1834

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by W. P. Colver & Son, Princes Square, Old Bailey, London, E.C.

11
13 2

Revised S.O 1959 No 4.

ST. HELENA



STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS
1955, No. 4.

POST OFFICE (AIR MAIL RATES) RULES, 1955

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 2 of the Post Office Ordinance, Cap. 92, the Governor-in-Council hereby makes the following rules governing the rates of postage to be charged on postal packets sent from the post offices in St. Helena and Ascension for onward transmission by air mail.

1. These rules may be cited as the Post Office (Air Mail Rates) Rules, 1955. Short title and shall come into force forthwith.

2. The rates of postage to be charged on postal packets sent from the post offices in St. Helena and Ascension for onward transmission by air mail shall be as follows:—

A. For transmission <i>via</i> the United Kingdom :	s.	d.
(i) Air Letters to any country shown in the current British Air Mail Leaflet as having an Air Letter Service	0	6
(ii) Air Mail Packets of all classes, for each ounce or part thereof, to:—		
Europe, U.S.A., Turkey, Malta, Gibraltar, Madeira, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands.	0	6
(iii) Air Mail Packets of all classes, for each half ounce or part thereof, to:—		
(a) Cyprus, Near and Middle East; North, East, and West Africa (including adjacent islands); Canada; U.S.A.	1	3
(b) Central and South Africa (including adjacent islands); Central and South America (including adjacent islands)	1	9
(c) Australia; New Zealand; North and South Pacific Islands; Japan; Korea.	2	6
(d) All other parts of the world	1	9

10
1955

B. For transmission *via* the Union of South Africa:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Air Letters to any country shown in the current British Air Mail Leaflet as having an Air Letter Service | 0 6 |
| (ii) Air Mail Packets of all classes, for each half ounce or part thereof, to:— | |
| (a) The Union of South Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Swaziland, and South West Africa | 0 3 |
| (b) Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Mozambique, Uganda, and Tanganyika | 0 6 |
| (c) Middle East, Near East, and the rest of Africa (including adjacent islands) | 1 3 |
| (d) United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland | 1 6 |
| (e) Europe | 1 9 |
| (f) Canada, the United States of America, Central and South America | 2 6 |
| (g) All other parts of the world | 2 9 |

Addressing of Air Mail correspondence. 3. Postal Packets other than air letters shall have affixed to them above the address a blue Air Mail label, or shall be superscribed "By Air Mail" on the address side; and all postal packets, including air letters, shall have affixed to them on the address side stamps to the full value of the postage rate, and shall bear on the address side the legend "*via* United Kingdom" or "*via* South Africa" as the case may be.

Revocation. 4. The Post Office (Air Mail Rates) Rules, 1954, are hereby revoked.

Made by the Governor-in-Council this 18th day of February, 1955.

H. G. RICHARDS,
Clerk of Councils.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The effect of the Statutory Rules and Orders is to revise the air mail postage rates the increases and decreases being as follows:—

A. For transmission via United Kingdom:

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| (i) and (ii) no change. |
| (iii) insertion of new item (a) 1/3 |
| " " " " (b) 1/9 |
| " " " " (c) 2/6 |
| " " " " (d) 1/9 |

B. For transmission via South Africa:

- | |
|---|
| (i) No change. |
| (ii) (a) and (b) no change. |
| (c), (d), (e) and (f) increase of 3d. in each case. |
| (g) decrease of 3d. |

Printed at the Government Printing Office, The Castle, St. Helena. M.P. 843/55
J. A. Sim, Government Printer.

Price 6s.

8. Rent-paying tenants who have positive security of tenure (i.e. those whose leases cannot be terminated with less than 12 months notice) may make application to the Superintendent of Works for a loan, enclosing a copy of the lease in question. In such cases, these tenants will receive advice as to the arrangement with the owner which they should make to safeguard their investment in the repairs which they propose to carry out to the owner's house.

G. A. Lewis,

The Castle, St. Helena, 23rd July, 1957.

Government Secretary.

Air Mail Postage Rates

Conveyance charges payable to the Union of South Africa for the onward transmission of Air Mail Correspondence have recently been revised, and this has caused changes to be made in the postal charges for air mail correspondence from this Colony which will take effect on the 1st August, 1957. There are no changes in the rates for Air Mail Correspondence transmitted via the United Kingdom.

2. The principal changes are:—

To the Union of South Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Swaziland and South West Africa	no change at 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To Central and East Africa	no change at 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya, Hong Kong, China and Japan.	no change at 2/9. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.	no change at 1/6. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To Europe	a decrease of 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To Canada, U.S.A. and Central America	an increase of 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To South America	an increase of 1/- per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
To other parts of the world	an increase of 9d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

3. An air mail rate for postcards has also been introduced in respect of transmission via the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa and rates for air mail postcards and all other details may be obtained from the Postmaster.

C. J. George,

The Post Office, St. Helena, 24th July, 1957.

Postmaster.