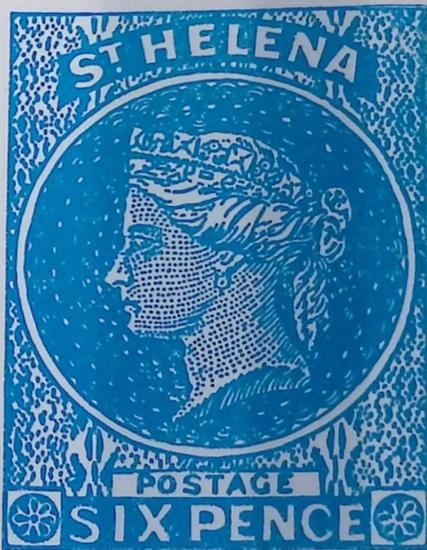


The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 24



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WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 24

DISTRIBUTED WITH CAMRO - JULY 1995

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WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 24

EDITORIAL

Having just returned from holiday which we spent in East Sussex, with quite reasonable weather; I am sitting here staring at my computer screen trying to finalise the last few pages of Supplement No 24; while at the same time watching the rain pouring down outside and thanking my lucky stars that we did not pick this week to go on holiday.

As usual most of the articles in this Supplement are from the same pens, Bernard Hughes, John Plant, Bob Deakin, Trevor Hearl and yours truly. I have also received some photostats of some interesting covers in the collection of Wilf Veevers; these are illustrated on pages 33 to 36. Wilf is not a member of our Society, but is a member of the St. Helena & Dependencies P.S. of America. Wilf has been sending me a lot of new information on Castle and Departmental handstamps for the book I am trying to write on the St. Helena Postal, Censor and Instructional Markings.

Also my grateful thanks go to two of our Dealer members, namely Willard S. Allman and Chris Rainey who have given me permission to illustrate items from their stock. Willard has sent me a photostat of an E.L. from the Dunlop correspondence which has helped to fill a gap in part two of my article and Chris kindly sent me a photostat of a cover with a very scarce Castle handstamp which is illustrated on page 26.

Hope to see some of you at the November 4th meeting in London.

BERNARD MABBETT

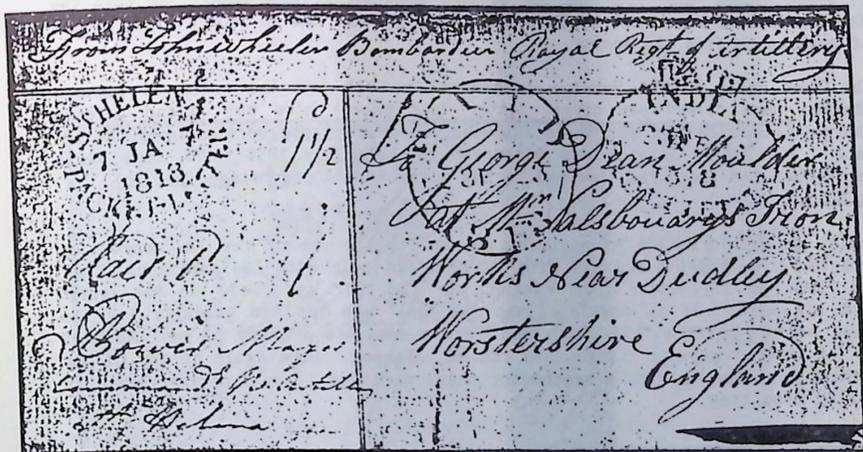
34 VERONICA GREEN,  
GORLESTON,  
NORFOLK. NR31 8LE.

TEL (01493)565147

THE PACKET LETTER HANDSTAMP

by Bernard Mabbett

References as in Part 1.



Entire Letters eight and nine are from the Bombadier Wheeler correspondence, and seem a bit of a mystery. They were brought to our attention by our former editor Roger West in Supplement No. 9. (Ref (1)). The first of the two letters dated 5th January 1818 in manuscript is to his brother and sister in Dudley. The letter shows a fine strike of the St. Helena Packet Letter handstamp for 7th January 1818 together with crowned oval "India/Packet Letter handstamp for 23rd February 1818. An additional large single ring "PAID/23FEB23/1818" datestamp was also applied, probably at Falmouth. (I have a similar mark on an 1815 E.L. from the U.K. to Canada that was sent on the Falmouth Packet). The rate markings are "Paid 1d." applied at St. Helena, together with "1½d" and an additional large "1d." marking.

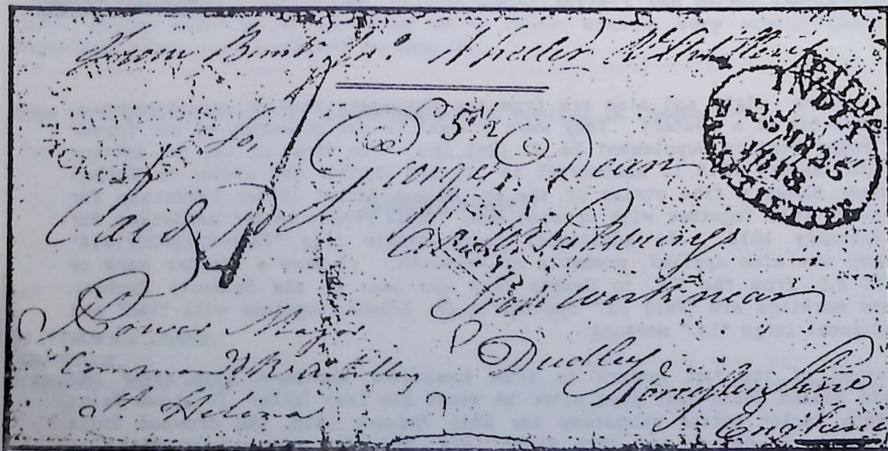
The second of the two letters is from Bombadier Wheeler's wife after her husband's sudden death just days after he wrote his last letter. It shows faint St. Helena Packet Letter handstamp for 26th January 1818, the crowned India Packet Letter handstamp for 25th March 1818. This E.L. shows rate marks of "Paid 1.", "5½d" and additional large "1d."

During the exile of Napoleon to St. Helena, the island came under the control of the British Government. The Governor of St. Helena issued a Proclamation dated 20th February 1815 publishing the rates of postage on letters sent from the island with effect from 23rd February 1815. This proclamation stated that "Soldiers Letters were not to pay postage if franked by their commanding Officer".

It would appear that this was for letters sent by "Private Ship". As both the Wheeler letters were sent by East India Packets, one has to look at their rates of postage to find the answer.

The East India Packet Service commenced in 1815 and the rates of postage charged were "3/6d" per single letter (per sheet) plus any inland mileage charges. Service men and their families along the route were allowed the 1d. rate. The Packet Service was withdrawn on 12th July 1819 when, once again servicemen and their families had to pay normal rates of postage (Ref (c) p.226).

Whilst this information gives us an answer to the use of the 1d. concession rate for both Wheeler and his wife, it does not help with the additional "1d." and "1½d." on the letter from Wheeler, nor the "1d." and "5½d." on the letter from his wife. It is possible that the "1d." was for the gratuity for the ships master, but the "1½d." and "5½d." are a complete mystery to me. None of the U.K. inland mileage charges had odd ½d. charges. Once again if any of our members can come up with a reason for these markings I would be interested in hearing from them.

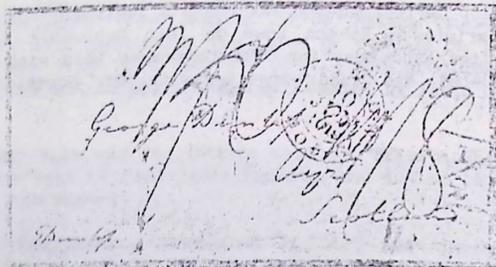


ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 24

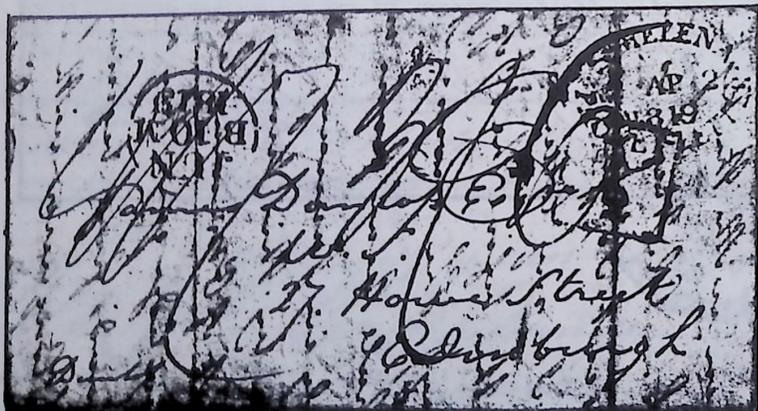
This E.L. of the Dunlop correspondence (Ex Donne & Justine collections) (Ref 1) was auctioned by Christie's, Robson Lowe on 16th September 1992. The E.L. shows the Packet Letter handstamp for 29th September 1818 with the usual rate marks of "3/6d." (deleted) and "4/8d." together with "½d." Scottish Toll.



E.L. number 11. (Ex Hibbert) (Ref 1) also from the Dunlop correspondence was auctioned by Christie's, Robson Lowe on 8th February 1984. This E.L. is dated in manuscript 17th March 1819 and has the Packet Letter handstamp for 2nd April 1819. Usual rate marks of "3/6d." (deleted) and "4/8d." and the "½d." Scottish Toll together with Glasgow transit c.d.s.



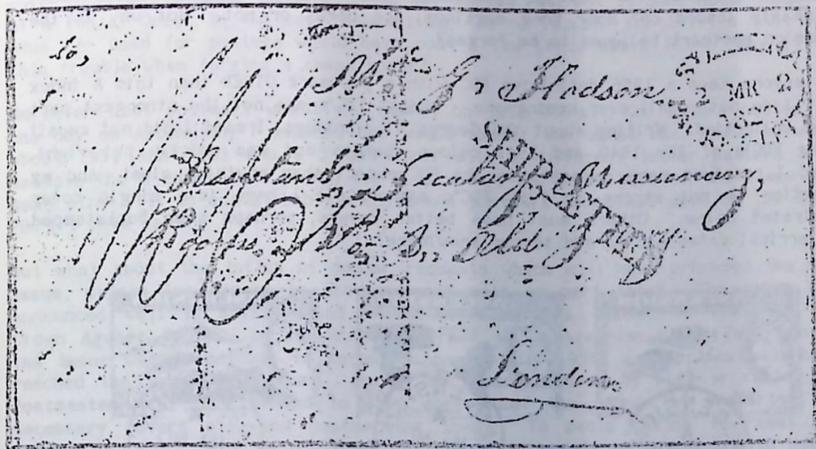
The last E.L. from the Dunlop correspondence to show the Packet Letter handstamp is also dated 2nd April 1819. This is recorded by Hibbert (Ref (a) P. 20). The Entire Letter is addressed to Edinburgh and shows the Packet Rate of "3/6d." deleted and "4/7d." added boxed "½d." toll and arrival c.d.s. for June 10th 1819.



This illustration is provided by courtesy of Willard S. Allman.

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 24

The final E.L. showing the Packet Letter handstamp was once again brought to our attention by Roger West in Supplement No. 9 (Ref 1). This item was sold by Stanley Gibbons for £2,100 plus premium. The E.L. of a religious nature was sent to London and shows the Packet Letter handstamp for 2nd March 1820 and a straight line "SHIP LETTER" mark. The E.L. shows a rate mark of "1/6d."



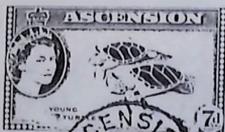
The East India Packet service had been withdrawn in July 1819, so why was the Packet Letter handstamp applied to this letter, especially since only a Ship Letter service was available? Did Joseph Cole, the St. Helena Postmaster at that time apply the handstamp by mistake, or did he continue using this handstamp until the return of the island to the Hon East India Company administration after the death of Napoleon in 1821? Joseph Cole was informed in 1819 that his commission as Postmaster was no longer required as all "SHIP LETTER" postage was to be collected in the U.K. Cole carried on in the position until at least 1821 as he was still complaining to the Government about the lack of a suitable office, and financial remuneration for carrying on as Postmaster.

A MODERN ASCENSION FORGERY?

by Bernard Hughes

In Supplement No 22 Page 23, Jeremy Martin reproduces a cover said by the RPS to be a forgery. This is certainly interesting, but what would most interest me is to know WHY it is thought to be a forgery? The Ascension postmark and registration label look right to me: I have no idea whether the two instruction markings, REGISTRATION SERVICE SUSPENDED and (boxed) RETOUR, which were presumably (based on) Hong Kong markings, are bogus or not. But why is the Ascension postmark believed to be forged?

Does anyone have a 1956 definitive FDC with a postmark OTHER than this A index cds? I do not recall ever seeing one - though FDC's are not the strongest part of my collection. Writing about the George VI printings, I said I did not recall seeing FDC's of the 1940 and 1949 colour changes and was quickly put right. Indeed I received more comments on the FDC aspect than anything else! And my collection is not strong on 1956 FDC's either, all I have is a single cover illustrated below. Others must have better covers, perhaps some backstamped with arrival dates etc to add to our knowledge?



*Mr. C. V. Cousaridge,*

*2 St. Philips Street,*

*Port Elizabeth,*

*South Africa.*



My cover is one I had not up to now considered as a candidate as a forgery. While I have seen many George VI Ascension stamps with forged cancels, I do not recall seeing any Elizabeth II ones. I have not examined the China cover and the illustration is reduced, but as far as I can tell, mine has the same 25mm postmark - in ASCENSION, the A has a flat top, the S's are quite wide, the C medium, the middle bar of the E is shorter than the others, etc. If my cover is forged, whoever forged it went to an extraordinary amount of trouble for a cover that would fetch little - it is not marked FDC, but it does have the stub of a Postal Order in the same handwriting (dated 16.x.56) for 21/-: a mint set plus 1/- used for postage would have cost a few pence above 21/-. Why go to this trouble when forging a cheap cover?

Moreover what postmark would you expect on 1956 FDC's? For covers posted on the day on Ascension, I suppose one would expect the usual cds, which between about 1951 and 1963 was a C index cds with a different letter pattern (for example the A comes to a point, the C is wider, the three bars of the E are the same size). It is unmistakably a different postmark from that used on the 1956 FDC's I have seen.

But what about the influx of dealer requests which will have preceded the new issue, mainly for covers to produce used sets or part sets? The issue was announced well in advance, and Philip Beale records (*Ascension Island - The Crown Agents Records in the British Library*, WASC Ascension Study Paper No 2) the issue was despatched to Ascension on 31 July 1956, so supplies will have reached the island in August. Surely as orders arrived by post or cable, the Postmaster will have needed to keep abreast of the orders by preparing the necessary covers etc, and postmarking them? To avoid having to reset the postmarker every time he did some of this work, surely he would try to use a spare postmark not otherwise in use? So what postmark preceded the one in general use in 1956? It was a cds with the same layout of letters as that found on the FDC's - each letter matches, including the flat top A, the quite wide S's, the medium C, the shorter middle bar on the E etc. What is different about this earlier postmark (which had its heyday 1927-1937, but reappeared for a couple of years from mid 1949 - all covers I have for late 1949 through 1950 bear this postmark, as does for example the cover John Attwood illustrated at Supplement No 16 P5) is the index letter C, but of course it is easy to change the index letter as needed. I have a cover postmarked 19 NO/49 - the type used for 19 NO is identical to the FDC, though the 5 which was used in the year slug during 1950 is very different from the 5 in 56 on the FDC's.

This takes me on to Jeremy Martin's reference to Madame Joseph. The manual of her forgeries includes 7 from Ascension, all wood, so with no way of changing dates. There is no 1956 one shown - and indeed none after 1949 from any colony. It is likely there could have been others now lost, perhaps because they wore out, but surely not a 1956 one? The forgery Jeremy mentions, no 24, used for 1937 Coronation FDC's and so including the figures 19, is clearly based on the same genuine postmark that I believe was used for genuine 1956 FDC's. So are No 21 and 22, which are good reproductions of the real postmark, but 24

is very much the best, the A and E are not quite right on 21 and 22, the letters are very slightly too big, and too close to each other and to the rim. But surely it is a circular argument to suggest that because a postmark resembles a Madame Joseph postmark which in turn very much resembles the real thing, it is forged? And why would a forger have used an A slug unless genuine covers did? All the Madame Joseph ones have C except No 19 - which I see I illustrated in Supplement No 15 P4 as a common forgery (and much the poorest of her Ascension efforts, incidentally). On the same Supplement page, postmark Type 3 is the one under discussion here, and I see I noted that "several forgeries based on this postmark exist", which no-one could dispute!

What about the Ascension registered label? Ascension started to use coil (perf x imperf) labels at the start of 1936, but until 1949 only numbers up to 0999 were available (hence numerous improvisations when larger numbers were needed, but that is another story!) In 1949 a new sequence started that went above this (I think to 5000, though I have not seen a number above 3950), but these labels had a small serif to the R (again see the Attwood illustration mentioned above). They were, like earlier labels, P12½. Then c1951 a new sequence started, using labels with a large serified R with a characteristic blurred gap at the foot, and perf 14. For the first time these went to 9999 (each number up to 7999 being used in sequence c1951-1958, those starting 8--- and 9--- in sequence in 1966). Later coils went into the 6000's as well but had the word ASCENSION rather smaller (2mm high), a small serified R, and were a different perf. I do not have a registered 1956 FDC, but a (Duke of Edinburgh) cover dated 25 January 1957 bears label number 6414. So the label on the China cover (6027) is unique and exactly the type of label and serial number you would expect on a genuine FDC. Of course it could have been taken from a genuine FDC - but only at the cost of destroying a FDC?

The difficulties faced by small understaffed postal administrations in the 1940's and 1950's, when new issues were few and far between, in handling orders for FDC's and/or used stamps is well illustrated in the article on Pitcairn in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* July 1994 P54-55.

It is not known whether the China cover if genuine would have gone by sea to England or to Cape Town (or even if there was a mail anywhere on 19 November 1956), before continuing by air, but a month's journey to Hong Kong is hardly unexpected. There was no direct airmail from Ascension in 1956 - though at the end of this year, the Americans started to repair Wideawake Airport. The cover was adequately franked for air by either route as the set to 1/- has a face value of 3/5½d, and the air rate was 2/9 via South Africa or 1/9 via England. I do wonder to whom the cover could have been returned as it is philatelic and must surely have originated from the addressee. But going only on the Ascension information, to me it looks genuine, and I would be most interested to learn why it is not.

### ONE DAY WONDERS

The one day use of the A postmark for 1956 FDCs, if genuine, would be far from unique in Ascension's postmark history. Ignoring special commemorative postmarks, I list below examples of use of particular index letters, or the reappearance of old postmarks, for very short periods. Most examples quoted appear to be genuine, though some require further research at present.

**Sideways C in 23mm postmark.** When this postmark was first used at the end of 1909, for a couple of months it had a sideways C index letter. The postmark is much more frequently found with no index (1910-11) or index B (main use 1911-20), but the sideways C is well recorded in Ascension literature over the years. The 1d rate for postcards applied worldwide from Ascension.

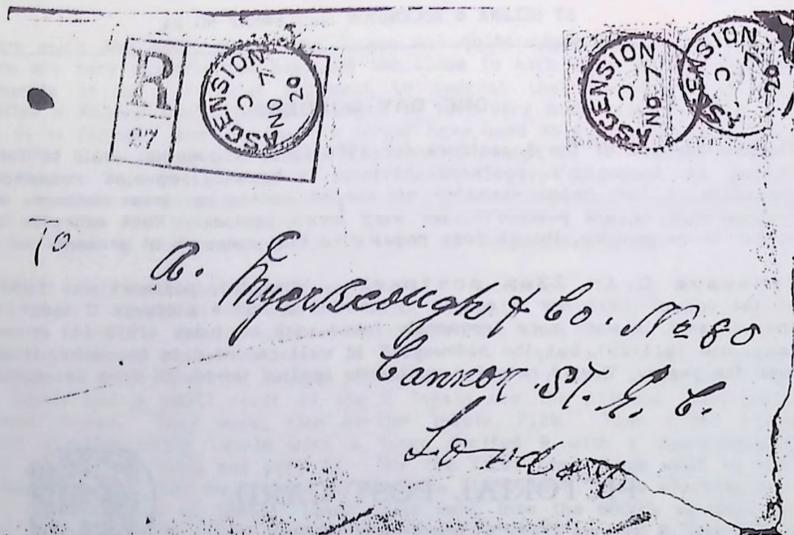
### PICTORIAL POST CARD.

The address to be written on this side.



*Thorild Hansen*  
*Svanemoegaards Vej 2 15al*  
*Copenhagen V*  
*Denmark.*

**Reversed C in 21mm postmark.** This postmark was used 1908-20 with no index or the letter A. But for its very last use on the mail of 7 November 1920, a reversed C has been noted. Details of this mail are not yet fully documented. Other covers exist with the 23mm B postmark for OC 1/20 as well as the 24mm no index postmark for DE 4/20, an example being illustrated for Lot 225 of the Attwood sale at Phillips on 26 November 1992: the last normal date for the 23mm B postmark and the earliest date for the 24mm postmark. All this suggests something odd was happening with Ascension postmarks in the autumn of 1920. The 4d rate (2d postage + 2d registration) applied June 1920 to June 1921, and is correct.



Return of 23mm B postmark. As mentioned above, this postmark was last used normally on 1 October 1920. But it reappears, very neatly struck, on GB stamps on 27 October 1922, and on the first Ascension stamps on 27 February 1923. The first of these dates coincides with the arrival of papers from London which transferred jurisdiction of the island from the Admiralty to St. Helena, a most important date in Ascension's history. Normally mails to South Africa (and the Guildford Castle, having brought the papers, carried a mail to South Africa on 27 October 1922) were quite small, but quite a number of stamps with this postmark exist, some still with full gum. The only covers I have noted are philatelic and addressed within the island. For my thoughts on possible reasons for the appearance of this postmark on FE 27/23, see Supplement No 15 P7-8.



Registered oval with A index. In the same article on P5, I illustrate the 1903-04 registered oval used on a Badge stamp on 21 DE 25.

**Return of 24mm A postmark.** The largest number of Ascension FDC's for any issue was undoubtedly for the 1937 Coronation issue, and while the usual 25mm C postmark was used for many non-registered covers, the 24mm postmark, type 2 in my article mentioned above, reappears on many covers postmarked 19 May 1937, 24 May 1937 and 7 June 1937. Curiously, FDC's with this postmark said to have been forged by the notorious J.D.Harris fetch more than genuine ones. But the A index postmark is known on covers to many addresses, and on many non-FDC's. The postmark is usually very faint, and the art of distinguishing a genuine A postmark on a Harris FDC from a forgery is hazardous, to say the least. Indeed, to illustrate this postmark I have chosen a Harris cover postmarked 7 JU/37, which he was doubtless disappointed to receive if he was looking for FDC's! The article in The Philatelist 1937 P72 on Harris's alleged Ascension forgery clouds the issue by contrasting a genuine C 25mm postmark with a 24mm A postmark, an odd approach to have adopted. This does underline the difficulty of indentifying a Coronation FDC forgery from a genuine postmark even without Madame Joseph's considerable contribution to these FDC's!



J. D. HARRIS & SON,  
43, LIGHTWOODS HILL,  
BIRMINGHAM,  
ENGLAND.

## GB USED ON ASCENSION: GIBBONS CATALOGUE

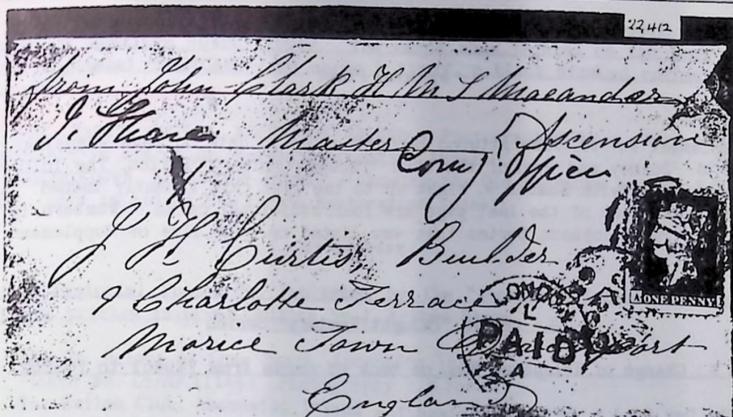
by Bernard Hughes

Following my comment at the foot of P5 of *Supplement* No 22, the editor of Gibbons Catalogues, David Aggersberg, has written to say the 6d Plate 17 will be deleted from the next "Part One". Clearly our Supplement is read in high places! He confirms Plate 17 came to replace "6d grey (1880)", and says the latter first appeared in 1952 after correspondence with Mr Robson Lowe, whose *British Africa Encyclopedia* (1949) listed the 6d (1880) - and in other cases in Robson Lowe, dates are those of issue in GB. Mr Aggersberg wonders if any Plate 17 6d's (either GB SG147 or SG161) are known from Ascension outside Gibbons listing criteria - the obvious one being on cover without an Ascension postmark. As far as I know, the answer is "No" - does anyone else know of one, or of SG161 used WITH the Ascension postmark?

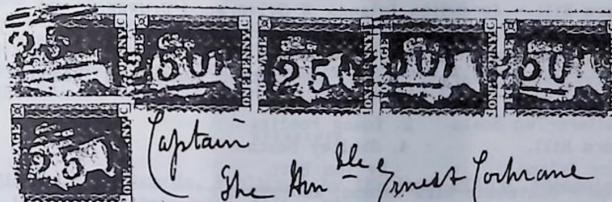
He also says that all GB used on Ascension listings were revised following the Robson Lowe correspondence. Some early stamps have recently been added to the listings and these have been written about in recent years (Z2a, Z6 Plate 15 and 16, Z6a). Leaving aside the various 1d red Plates, a topic in themselves, the other early GB Used on Ascension, in Gibbons for many years, are the 1855 1d red-brown (Z1), 1865 6d Plate 5 (Z3), 1865 1s Plate 4 (Z4), and 1867 1s Plate 7 (Z5). I have never seen ANY of these, though Z5 does exist, see John Attwood's book "*Ascension - The Stamps and Postal History*" P12. None of the others are mentioned. As we have Mr Aggersberg's attention on the matter, can anyone else throw any light on this?

By way of example and pending more research I hope to complete in the Autumn, what about Z1, the 1855 1d "Stars"- logically GB SG29, but if so why not red-brown/blue in the catalogue? There are half a dozen or so covers which can be shown to have come from Ascension, with one, or six, 1d rose red (SG40) "Stars" stamps, but WITHOUT the Ascension postmark, these do not qualify for Gibbons listing. The Cochrane (of Sierra Leone fame) examples with six 1d stamps are interesting, because I think an early catalogue priced the 1855 1d used on Ascension as single stamps or for six stamps, and the Cochrane covers have been known for a long time. But they would not qualify for Gibbons! A pair of 1d (SG40) are known loose with postmark Type Z1, but their authenticity has been questioned even by a previous owner (Leonard) - there was no obliterator for Ascension, and until c1878 it was improper for a postmark to cancel a stamp.

The nearest to Z1 I have come is a cover with a 1930's RPS certificate for what is now Z1, illustrated on the next page. But the stamp is not 1855 or SG29, it is SG 40 oxidised (so it does look a bit red-brown), and is certainly not on blue paper. Perhaps the RPS at the time regarded any GB 1d Stars as being Z1, which sounds sensible. Would it really help if my cover were now submitted to Gibbons for listing as 1d rose-red? Or could Z1 be widened to become 1d Stars? What do members think? Does the 1855 stamp exist on a cover with an Ascension postmark - the normal (GB) period of use of SG29 ended before there was one?



The only 1d Stars cover I have seen WITH an Ascension postmark is this 1866 cover bearing an oxidised example of SG40 1d rose-red. Unusually the Ascension postmark touches the stamp, which was then cancelled (as one would expect) with an obliterator in England, in this case a London Head Office one.



I looked for an illustration of a Cochrane 6 x 1d Stars cover which was definitely from Ascension, but couldn't find one! Such covers can be found - visitors to Autumn Stampex 1994 will have seen one exhibited by G A Osborn in his Mail by Ship's Bag display. They would resemble the cover above, being most likely to have the Devonport 250 obliterator whether they came by Union Line or by returning naval vessel. Most Cochrane covers were despatched from Sierra Leone and therefore have the 466 Liverpool obliterator. The above cover is marked on the reverse in a contemporary hand as coming from "A" - which could possibly be Ascension, I suppose, as the cover took 25 days in transit, but it was in Gibbons Sierra Leone sale of 30 October 1994 as a Sierra Leone cover at estimate £180 (no evidence for this being provided).

MODERN ASCENSION POSTCARDS

by John Plant

In Supplement No. 13. John Attwood brought us up to date' on page 9 ending with Number 8. 'Donkey and Foal' of the 1988 "Thought Factory" Series. The following list carries on with Number 9. right up to the last card recently issued. Also listed at the foot of the last page are four additional cards - Numbers 13. to 16. of the Peter Johnson Series that was listed on page five of Supplement No. 13.

9. c.1988 "Thought Factory" Series

N.B.: Change of Telephone Nos. on back of cards from 740461 to 765302

9. The Dew Pond - Ascension Island/Tom Butt.
10. Dew Pond - Ascension Island/Cpl Tom Butt.
11. Green turtle (Chelona mydas) -/Catherine Point, Georgetown, Ascension Island./ N. Sylverwood-Browne.
12. Elliott's Path,/ Ascension Island./ Tom Butt.
13. Travellers Hill - Ascension Island./ N Sylverwood-Browne.
14. Green Mountain - Travellers Hill,/ Ascension Island./ Tom. Butt.
15. Volcanoes - Ascension Island./ Dave Virden.
16. Exiles Club and St. Mary's Church,/ Georgetown, Ascension Island./ Tom. Butt.
17. 1. Travellers-Two Boats.    2. Young Feeding./  
3. Sisters Hill.            4. Shelley Beach./  
Ascension Island            By Tom Butt.
18. SUE GOUGH / Boatswain Bird Island, Ascension.
19. KEN CLARK / Natural Arch, Boatswain Bird Island,/ Ascension.
20. THERESA CORKER / Mars Bay, Ascension.
21. SUE HERDMAN / Comfortless Cove, Ascension.
22. Georgetown by night./ Owen Ditch.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pictorial Postcard made by DEXTER PRESS, West Nyack, New York.

(No. on back - 87915-D)

(Photo by Jimmy Young)

WIDEAWAKE BIRD / Ascension Island / South Atlantic Ocean.

(N.B. Card has deckled edges)

(Two Pictorial Postcards Sold in aid of St. Mary's Restoration Appeal. Printed by Judges of Hastings (0420)420919. The cards have printed on the back the word (in capitals) "POSTCARD" and above a "logo", a black diamond enclosing a Judge's wig)

- No. 1. ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ASCENSION ISLAND / Photographed by n. Sylverwood-Browne/ (Sold in aid of St. Mary's Restoration Appeal)  
No. 2. GEORGETOWN, ASCENSION ISLAND / Showing the Old Barracks and St. Mary's Church / (sold in aid of St. Mary's Restoration Appeal)

\*\*\*\*\*

Series of Pictorial Postcards. Published by the "Ascension Island Historical Society and printed in Great Britain by J. Arthur Dixon

- No. 1. RMS St. Helena at Long Beach, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11144) Photography - M.Potter  
No. 2. The Exiles Club, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11145) Photography - N. Sylverwood-Browne  
No. 3. The Grotto, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11146) Photography - N. Sylverwood-Browne  
No. 4. The Residency, Green Mountain, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11147) Photography - B.N. Connelly  
No. 5. Rough Sea at the Pierhead, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11148) Photography - S. Grey  
No. 6. Sunset at Comfortless Cove, Ascension Island (picture vertical)  
(card No. L6/SP.11149) Photography - I. Atkinson

\*\*\*\*\*

Series of Pictorial Postcards. Published by the Post Office, Ascension Island and printed in Great Britain by J. Arthur Dixon.

- No. 1. Sunset at Long Beach, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP. 11168) Photography by Sam Turtle (picture vertical)  
No. 2. Palm Trees at Grazing Valley, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11169) Photography by Sam Turtle  
No. 3. Ascension Frigate Bird, (Fregataaquila) Male  
(card No. L6/SP.11170) (Photography by Sam Turtle) (vertical)  
No. 4. Landcrab (Gecarinus lagostoma)  
(card no. L6/SP.11171) (Photography by Sam Turtle)  
No. 5. Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) returning to water after laying eggs  
(card No. L6/SP.11172) (Photography by Mike Potter)  
No. 6. Flame Tree - Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11173) (Photography by Fr. Nicholas Turner)  
No. 7. Donkey with Cattle Egret, Ascension Island  
(card No. L6/SP.11174) (Photography by Fr. Nicholas Turner)  
No. 8. View from Green Mountain, Ascension Island  
(card No. L/SP.11175) (Photography by Ian Margetts)

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 24

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Pictorial Postcard with no Publishers name

Picture ++ Distant view of Ascension Island - taken from the sea.

Wording on front :-GREETINGS FROM ASCENSION ISLAND

Wording on back:- Printed by Graham and Sons Ltd. Telephone 0662 249222

Photography by Darrin Henry

\*\*\*\*\*

Pictorial Postcard with no publishers name

Picture on front in vertical format.

Wording on back:-

A view of Two Boats Village, Ascension Island, with / the peak of Sisters in the background.

Photography by Darrin Henry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional postcards to "Peter Johnson" Series on page 5 of The West Africa Study Circle's St. Helena and Ascension Supplement No. 13.

13. Sooty Terns rise from their nesting areas beyond Wideawake Airfield Ascension Island.
14. Georgetown, the Admiralty Store and Pierhead, Ascension Island.
15. Green Mountain, the Residence and Farm - from the aerial fields near Georgetown.
16. On the south side of Ascension Island's Green Mountain, pines and Grassy slopes.

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FOR SALE

Dr. Tony Hill of the Sarsen Press who does such a fine job in printing our Supplement's for us has a copy of Edward Hibbert's book 'St. Helena Postal History & Stamps' (1979) for sale. This book is no longer in print.

Dr. Hill is asking £12 plus postage, and he can be contacted at 22 Hyde Street, Winchester SO23 7DR. Tel (0962) 854281

**NAVAL RATIONS AT ASCENSION**

by Philip Beale

The following extract is taken from 'The Navy and The Slave Trade' by Christopher Lloyd pub. Longmans 1949.

*"Instead of seeking to withdraw the squadron, its critics might have turned their attention more usefully to improving its victuals and those of the Navy generally. One is not surprised at some of the mortality figures of early years when one reads such a passage as this from Sir J.C. Dalrymple Hay's memoirs describing the "refreshment" offered at Ascension in 1834: "The salt beef had been salted in 1809, twenty-five years before, and could only be eaten after it was boiled by grating it with a nutmeg grater. The pork was little better, but the biscuit was a caution. The storehouses were dry, clean and airy, but the biscuit, baked by a contractor at the Cape of Good Hope, had been so long in store and positively swarmed with maggots and weevils. None was to be obtained to replace it, and in order to make it eatable-I will not say palatable the bread bags filled with biscuit were dragged out into the great square; on each bag was placed a fresh caught fish; the maggots came out of the biscuit into the fish, and the fish was then thrown into the sea. A fresh fish then replaced the one thrown away, until at last nothing more came out of the biscuit, when it was pronounced fit for food and served out to the squadron." And yet, he adds, "we were a very healthy ship's company, and I attribute the good health to the great attention paid to keeping the lower deck and the men dry." Lime juice was among the articles recently added to their supplies, apparently through the benevolence of a private merchant who was horrified at the ravages of scurvy on board the ships, and not from any solicitation on the part of the Victualling Board. As the juice had to be mixed with sulphur to keep it fresh, the resulting nauseous concoction was only swallowed when men were mustered for the purpose under the eye of the surgeon."*

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**1864/65 DEEP YELLOW GREEN**

by Bernard Mabbett

I have in my collection a mint copy of the above stamp (S.G. 17) that is a definite Emerald Green shade, rather than the Deep Yellow Green. There were two invoices for this stamp; the first on 11th January 1864 for 12,720 stamps, the second invoice is dated May 1865 for 24,852 stamps. This invoice was printed from sheets of only 228 stamps instead of the usual 240 stamps per sheet. At the present time I have five copies of this stamp, one mint, three used and one on cover, does any other member have a copy that is Emerald Green instead of the Deep Yellow Green?

NUMISMATICALLY SPEAKING

Collecting colonial and Commonwealth coinage may never achieve philatelic popularity, but devotees derive valuable artistic, social and economic insights into the countries they study. Nor does one have to be a collector; reading up the subject also offers new perspectives on a country's history and culture. Numismatic newcomers interested in British West Africa and St. Helena, for example, can get a flying start from an excellent book by David Vice, giving a thorough, illustrated review of coinage with a fascinating explanation of the economic background. Currencies of chartered companies and governments in Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and other West African settlements are covered from the 1790's; and from the days of Charles II in 1684 at St. Helena.

St. Helena's little known currency attracted my interest. Here are detailed the East India Company's issues of copper bars and silver 3d. pieces; tradesmen's and Army canteen tokens; even half-crowns, shillings and sixpences, struck in 1832 before the Company surrendered control to the Crown. The bewildering assortment of coins then in circulation is deftly explained as St. Helena operated within an extensive Indo-European currency area where Indian Rupees mingled with Gold Pagodas, ducatoons, Venetian sequins, and a score more. The Island was "a money-changers headache", but not for the reader for whom the complexities of its visitors' gold and silver coinage are simplified into a table of their fluctuating values between 1819 and 1836.

Transfer to Colonial Office control brought the intricate system near to collapse. While trade grew at an unprecedented rate, the currency fell into "a shocking state". £5,000 in British silver rushed out in desperation in 1841 disappeared within the year! How these and later currency crises were met is traced in a few jargon-free pages which add a new ingredient to my view of 'our Island story'. An economic historian is now needed to use this and other relevant data to analyse the cautionary tale of its topsy-turvy economy.

David Vice takes his survey down to 1958. This leaves another challenge - to record St. Helena's decimal coinage from 1984, with its Commemorative companions which, after the first in 1973 (Tercentenary of the Company' Charter), seems to have degenerated into mere exploitation of the coin collecting market.

The Coinage of British West Africa & St. Helena 1684-1958 is available from 'Miles Apart', 5 Harraton House, Exning, Newmarket, CB8 7HF £15 (inc.p&p).

February 1995

Trevor W. Hearl

## SOLOMON'S TOKENS, past and present



1821



Value 50p

SOLOMON'S  
SHOPPING  
STAMP

VALID IN SOLOMON'S SHOPS ONLY

1993

In 1821 a shortage of small change prompted Solomon, Dickson & Taylor to issue their own halfpenny token, exchangeable only at Solomons, St Helena. 70,560 1/2d tokens were minted, some are still found. In 1983 the coin, in good condition, had a collectors value of £5.

Solomons, 172 years later, have issued their latest token.

The only other token coin to have been issued here, apart from St Helena's own coinage, was a zinc farthing issued by the Royal Artillery Canteen in 1902.

### ST. HELENA PRINTING DISCOVERY

by Trevor W. Hearl

Postal historians will welcome the exciting news that unique copies of St. Helena's rarest and earliest printed literature have recently come to light and are available to researchers. They include the first eight books and pamphlets to come off the Jamestown press, and a complete set of the Island's first periodical, The St. Helena Monthly Register which ran from October 1810 to July 1813. Altogether it amounts to some 1900 pages. The books, all printed in 1812 and bound in one volume, remains in London at the British Library, Bloomsbury. For those interested in the Island's pre-Napoleonic mail communications the Register gives arrival and departures of ships, and the names of all passengers. The full story behind the acquisition of this unique material is told in the current issue of Wirebird, the journal of The Friends of St. Helena.

Readers who would like a full catalogue description should send s.a.e. to: Trevor Hearl, 49 Noverton Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5DD.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

OFFICIAL PAID

ST. HELENA  
FEB 25  
1909

*Mr. Postman  
C. Ottensbach  
828 N. Burlington Avenue  
Los Angeles  
California*

POST OFFICE  
ST. HELENA  
FEB 25 1909

POST OFFICE HANDSTAMP  
TYPE PO 2a.

by Bernard Mabbett

I have recently come across an O.H.M.S. cover to the U. S.A. dated 25th February 1909. The cover shows the boxed "OFFICIAL/PAID" handstamp in black together with small oval "POST OFFICE/ST. HELENA" handstamp with Imperial Crown in the centre. The initials of Thomas Bruce, the St. Helena Postmaster are inscribed across the handstamp.

This handstamp was not recorded by Edward Hibbert 1979, but he did record it later in SUPPLEMENT No. 9. when he updated his listing of Official and Post Office markings. He recorded this handstamp on a cover to Switzerland dated 25th Jan 1909 and he designated it Type PO 2a.

The handstamp is recorded in the G.P.O. record books on 6th June 1902, but so far this is only the second cover recorded bearing this handstamp.

ST. HELENA TO AMSTERDAM VIA ENGLAND

BY U.S. PACKET

Illustrated opposite is a very fine Entire Letter from the collection on Bob Deakin that was sent from St. Helena via the U.K. to Amsterdam by "U.S. Packet".

The Entire is dated in manuscript 10th July 1857 and shows fine 'ST. HELENA' oval dated stamp in red for July 14th 1857. The Entire is rated '3' in manuscript denoting that the letter was carried by Private Ship from St. Helena and that the postage of 6d. was split between the Colony and the U.K. 3d. each; a further ½d. would have been payable to the Ships Captain (in cash) for his gratuity. The letter looks as if it was to be sent by the Mail Packet, but was sent by Private Ship instead as there is a manuscript '5' under the '3': this would have been the amount of postage due to the U.K. had the letter been sent by the Mail Packet.

On arrival in the U.K. the letter received the 'Plymouth/Ship-Letter' c.d.s. for August 27th 1857, some 44 days in transit from St. Helena; it was then forwarded to London where it received the London transit c.d.s. for 28th August 1857. It was received in Amsterdam on 30th August 1857 just three days after arriving in the U.K. On arrival in Holland the cover collected two Dutch Postmans marks a boxed 'PH/344' and a circular '46' together with a '70' presumably 70cents for local delivery. Also struck on the letter is a straight line 'U.S. PKT' handstamp probably applied in the U.K. as I know of no U.S. Packets operating from St. Helena to the U.K.

Mail from St. Helena during 1857 seems to be fairly scarce; Edward Hibbert recorded only two items of mail, one dated March to Marseilles and the second dated November addressed to Surrey. A further Entire Letter came to light in the Harmers Auction of the 'Jamestown' and 'Ayre' sale on 8th March 1889; this was Lot 1018 a stampless Entire Letter to Amsterdam dated 29th July 1857 with manuscript notation 'Forwarded by W, Carrol, Swedish and Norwegian Consul'.\*

\* Editors note: William Carrol was appointed U.S. Consul on 12th September 1860 a post he held until 5th September 1861. He had previously been U.S. Commercial agent from 4th February 1831 until 3rd March 1847.

PH 344

*Mr. J. H. ...*  
*St. Helena*  
*1857*

U.S. PKT

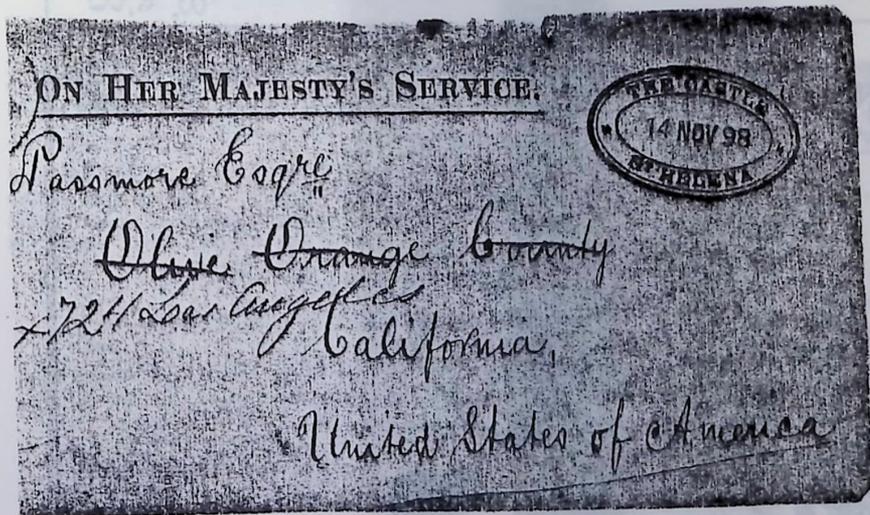


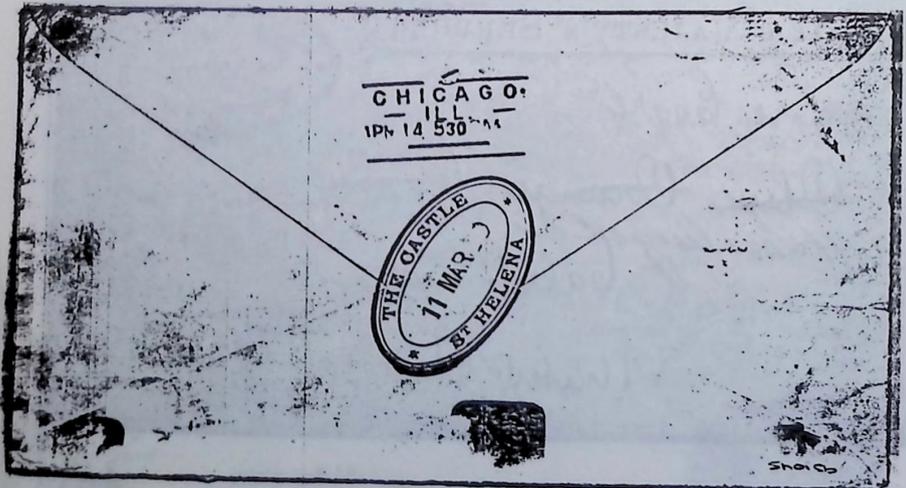
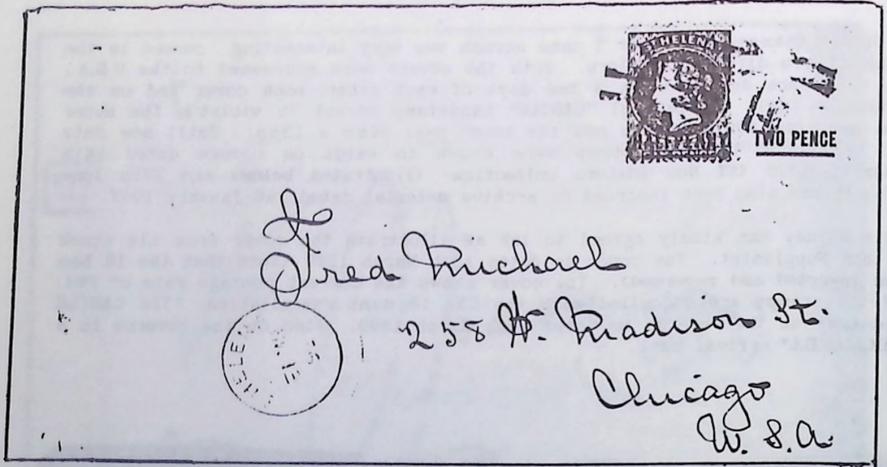
CASTLE HANDSTAMP

By Bernard Mabbett

At Spring Stampex this year I came across two very interesting covers in the stock of two different dealers. Both the covers were addressed to the U.S.A., and both were dated within a few days of each other; each cover had on the reverse a small double oval "CASTLE" handstamp struck in violet. The outer oval measures 40mm x 25mm and the inner oval 30mm x 15mm. Until now only two copies of this handstamp were known to exist on covers dated 14th November 1898 (EX Hon Editors collection- illustrated below) and 27th June 1901; it has also been recorded on archive material dated 2nd January 1907.

Chris Rainey has kindly agreed to let me illustrate the cover from his stock in this Supplement. The cover is dated 13th March 1899 (Note that the 13 has been inverted and reversed). The cover shows the correct postage rate of 2½d. and the stamps are cancelled with the CNE 18 dumb cancellation. The CASTLE handstamp on the reverse is dated 11th March 1899. Also on the reverse is a "CHICAGO/ILL" arrival mark.





NEW ISSUE NEWS

By the time you receive this Supplement St. Helena will have had three new stamp issues. The first to be issued on 6th April 1995 is a se-tenant strip of five stamps all with a face value of 25p. Each stamp shows various stages of the construction of the 'HARPER'S EARTH DAM' from start to finish.

On Monday 8th May 1995 the St. Helena Post Office released a set of stamps to commemorate "THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE WAR". The stamps come in sheetlets of 8 stamps in 4 se-tenant pairs. The stamp values are as follows:-

- Pair 1 (2 x 5p) Ships- Lady Dension Pender and HMS Dragon
- Pair 2 (2 x 12p) Ships- RFA Darkdale and HMS Hermes
- Pair 3 (2 x 25p) St. Helena Rifles and Victory Parade
- Pair 4 (2 x 53p) 6 inch Gun at Ladder Hill and Signal Station

Also produced for this issue is a Souvenir Sheet depicting the "WAR MEDAL" in a field of Poppies.

On 6th July 1995 St. Helena's famed Giant Earwig, unseen for 20 years is set to re-appear on St. Helena's postage stamps. The Giant Earwig is given pride of place on a special £1 Souvenir Sheet in a five-stamp commemorative set of St. Helena's Endemic Invertebrates. The other four stamps in the set are:-

- |                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Blushing Snail         | 12p. |
| Golden Sail Spider     | 25p. |
| Spiky Yellow Woodlouse | 53p. |
| St. Helena Shore Crab  | 60p. |

### Steam Communication

In 1855 the Union Steam Ship Company entered into a contract with Her Majesty's Government for conveyance of Mails monthly to the Cape of Good Hope calling at St. Helena only on the Home Voyage. The English Mail was under this arrangement landed in not less than 54 days. In 1866 the Company was further subsidized by the Colonial Government for the landing of the Monthly Mails; from England on the Outward passage—which is now done in about 23 days from London.

By these Steamers Mails are forwarded to England on the 12, and 23rd of each month and received from England about the 4th or 5th of each month. The dates of Arrivals and Departures will be found in the accompanying Time Table.

The Agents for the Line at St. Helena are Messrs SOLOMON MOSS, GIDEON, & Co,

### The Packets of the Company

PACKETS	Tons
African.....	2000
Asiatic.....	2066
American.....	2200
Anglian.....	2000
Celt.....	1681
Danube.....	2038
European.....	2242
Northam.....	1557
Roman.....	1850
Syria.....	1958
Teuton.....	1741

ST. HELENA.

72

Arrival of Royal Mail Steamers from England.

Months	Years.			
	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
January	Saxon .... 2	Northam. 3	Celt..... 1 Danube.. 29	Saxon.... 4 Norseman 30
February	Norseman 4	Celt..... 2		Celt..... 25
March	Celt in ) ieu of } 27 Briton )	Briton.... 8	Saxon .... 8 Northam. 3	Sy-ia.... 12 African.. 25
April	Cambrian 2	Saxon.... 2	Syria.... 29	
May	Roman .. 7	Northam 4		European 5
June	Northam 2	Cambrian 5	European 5	Syria.... 5
July	Natal ... 7	Roman... 6	Norseman 5	African 6
August	Briton .. 3	Saxon.... 4	Celt..... 1 Danube.. 29	European 4
Sept	Norseman 2	Northam.. 2 Syria.... 30		Syria.... 5
October	Saxon .. 2		European 3	Asiatic ... 5
Nov	Cambrian 5	Roman... 3	Northam. 2 Syria.... 30	Teuton... 5
Dec	Roman ... 2	Norseman 4		

73

## ST. HELENA.

## Arrival of Royal Mail Steamers from Cape of Good Hope.

Months	Years			
	1870	1871.	1872.	1873,
January	Celt ..... 13	Roman ... 12	Norseman 12	Syria ..... 11
	Cambrian 19	Norseman 7	Northam. 28	Danube ... 26
February	Saxon.... 12	Northam 12	Celt ..... 12	Saxon... 12
	Roman... 27	Dane .. .. 27	Syria .... 27	Roman... 27
March	Norseman 13	Celt..... 13	Danube .. 2	Northam 13
	Northam. 28	Cambrian 29	Roman .. 28	Celt ... . 22
April	Natal ... 15	Briton .... 13	Saxon ... 13	Syria ..... 3
	Cambrian 28	Roman ... 17	Norseman 27	Danube ... 22
May	Celt ..... 13	Saxon ... 13	Northam 12	Briton ... 14
	Briton... 29		Celt ..... 27	Teuton... 22
June	Roman ... 13	Norseman 11	Syria ... 12	European 12
	Norseman 30	Northam 29	Danube ... 28	Northam ... 3
July	Northam 15	Celt ... 14	European 14	Syria .... 13
	Saxon... 28	Syria ..... 20	Briton ... 20	Danube ... 12
August	Himalaya 13	Cambrian 13	Norseman 12	African... 12
	Cambrian 28	Roman... 29	Northam 28	Teuton... 24
Sept	Briton... 13	Saxon ... 14	Celt ..... 3	European 12
	Roman... 28	Norseman 29	Syria ... 26	Briton ... 15
October	Norseman 11	Northam. 13	Danube ... 17	Syria .... 13
	Northam 27	Celt ..... 18	Saxon ... 27	American 22
Nov		Syria ... 12	European 13	Asiatic 12
	Celt..... 27	Cambrian 28	Norseman 27	African... 22
Dec	Cambrian 12	Roman ... 13	Northam 12	
	Briton... 28	Saxon .... 17	Celt ..... 27	

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 24

TIME TABLE

OF THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE MAIL PACKET SERVICE,

For the Year 1874.

APPROVED BY HER MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER GENERAL ON THE 6TH AND 25TH DAYS OF NOVEMBER 1873.

No. of Voyages	OUTWARDS.				HOMEWARDS.				
	Leave Southampton at 2 1/2 P.M. (A.)	Leave Plymouth. (B.)	Arrive at and leave St. Helena (D.)	Arrive at Table Bay. (C.)	Leave Table Bay at 4 0 P.M. (A.)	Arrive at and leave St. Helena. (C.)	Arrive at and leave Ascension. (C.)	Arrive at Plymouth. (C.)	Arrive at Southampton.
	1874.	1874.	1874. About	1874.	1874.	1874. About	1874. About	1874.	1874
1	January 1	January 6	February 10	February 11	February 26	March 14	March 18	April 8	April 5
2	" 13	" 27	February 10	March 21	March 6	March 23	March 25	" 11	" 11
3	" 24	" 6	February 10	March 4	" 16	" 23	" 23	" 22	" 23
4	February 5	February 6	March 14	" 14	" 28	" 28	" 28	" 20	May 1
5	" 15	" 17	March 14	" 25	April 6	April 16	April 19	" 13	" 14
6	" 25	" 26	April 11	" 31	" 13	" 24	" 24	" 22	" 23
7	March 5	March 6	April 11	" 11	" 22	" 22	" 22	" 21	June 1
8	" 16	" 17	April 11	" 22	May 5	May 14	May 18	" 11	" 12
9	" 23	" 20	May 11	" 18	" 13	" 24	" 24	" 23	" 24
10	April 6	April 7	May 11	" 13	June 23	June 14	June 18	" 11	" 12
11	" 13	" 16	May 11	" 22	June 23	June 14	June 18	" 11	" 12
12	" 23	" 26	June 11	" 24	" 13	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 23
13	May 5	May 6	June 10	" 11	July 23	July 15	July 19	" 11	August 1
14	" 15	" 16	June 10	" 21	July 6	July 15	July 19	" 11	" 13
15	" 25	" 26	July 10	" 15	" 15	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 21
16	June 5	June 6	July 10	" 12	" 25	" 25	" 25	" 20	" 31
17	" 15	" 16	July 11	" 22	August 14	August 14	August 18	September 11	September 12
18	" 25	" 26	August 10	" 16	" 15	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 21
19	July 6	July 7	August 10	" 12	September 26	September 14	September 18	" 11	October 1
20	" 13	" 16	August 10	" 21	September 5	September 14	September 18	" 11	" 13
21	" 23	" 26	September 10	" 31	" 15	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 23
22	August 5	August 6	September 10	" 11	" 25	" 25	" 25	" 21	November 1
23	" 15	" 16	Sept. 10	" 21	October 14	October 14	October 18	November 11	" 12
24	" 25	" 26	October 10	" 14	" 18	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 22
25	September 5	September 6	October 10	" 12	" 26	" 24	" 24	" 21	December 2
26	" 15	" 16	Oct. 11	" 22	November 5	November 14	November 18	" 11	" 13
27	" 25	" 26	November 10	" 34	" 18	" 25	" 25	" 23	" 24
28	October 5	October 6	November 10	" 11	" 25	" 25	" 25	" 21	1875 1
29	" 15	" 16	Nov. 10	" 21	December 5	December 14	December 18	1875. 11	" 12
30	" 26	" 27	December 10	" 26	" 15	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 21
31	November 3	November 6	December 10	" 18	" 25	" 25	" 25	" 20	" 31
32	" 16	" 17	Dec. 12	" 23	1875. 64	1875. 14	1875. 18	1875. 11	February 11
33	" 25	" 26	January 1	" 16	" 15	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 22
34	December 5	December 6	1875. 10	" 11	" 26	" 26	March 1	March 1	3
35	" 15	" 16	1875. 10	" 21	February 5	February 14	February 18	" 11	" 15
36	" 25	" 26	January 1	" 31	" 13	" 24	" 24	" 21	" 23

NORX A.—When the 5th, 15th, or 25th of the month falls on a Sunday, the Packet will leave Southampton and Table Bay respectively on the following day.  
 NORX B.—The Packet is not to be detained here longer than is necessary for the landing and embarkation of the Mail.  
 NORX C.—Six hours are allowed on the Homeward Voyage for stoppage at St. Helena, and six hours for stoppage at Ascension.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## Postage Stamps

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From 12th October, 1961 until further notice a special issue of stamps will be on sale to aid the Tristan Relief Fund.

These will be 3d plus 2½ cents, 6d plus 5 cents, 9d plus 7½ cents and 1/- plus 10 cents. While they will be sold at 6d, 1/-, 1/6 and 2/- respectively they will be valid for postage only for 3d, 6d, 9d and 1/-. The remainder will benefit the Tristan Relief Fund.

C. J. George,  
Postmaster.

The Post Office, St. Helena,  
12th October, 1961.

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Printed at the Government Printing Office, The Castle, St. Helena.  
J. A. Sim, Government Printer.

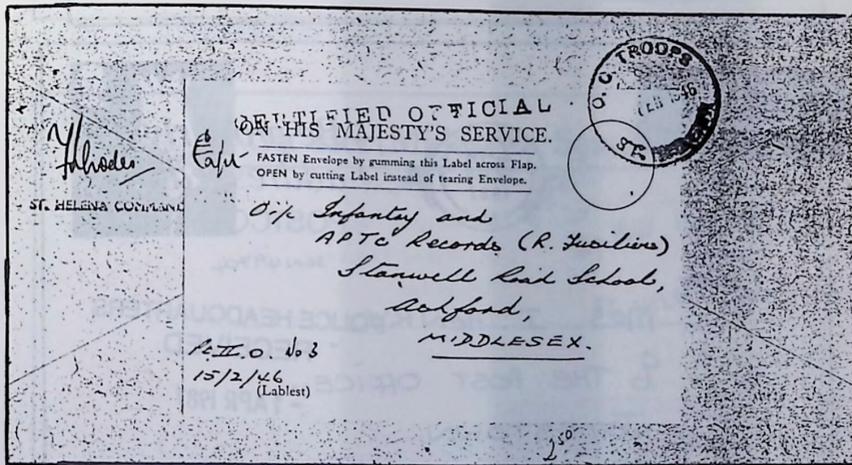
64/100/1961

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO24

FOR THE RECORD

In Supplement No 17, January 1992 page 31 I illustrated an unusual Post WW11 addressed to the "OIC Records, Royal Fusiliers". The cover had a circular date stamp "O.C. TROOPS/ST. HELENA/5 Jan 1946" and a two line handstamp "CERTIFIED OFFICIAL/ST. HELENA COMMAND". Wilf Veevers a member of the St. Helena & Dependencies P.S. of America has forward to me a copy of a similar cover dated Feb 1946 where it can be seen that the handstamps "CERTIFIED OFFICIAL", "ST. HELENA COMMAND" and "ADJUTANT" are three separate handstamps.

Wilf has also forwarded copies of some Departmental handstamps that I had not seen before, and they are illustrated on the following pages. (AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, POLICE HEADQUARTERS/RECEIVED/DATE/ST. HELENA, LAND TAXATION OFFICE, INCOME TAX OFFICE and DESPATCHED FROM/RADIO ST. HELENA/TIME/DATE with circular date stamp "ST. HELENA/THE BRIARS" on the reverse of the cover.



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mrs Iva I Henry  
Post Mistress  
Ascension Island  
South Atlantic Ocean



POLICE OFFICE  
RECEIVED  
12 AUG 1986  
ASCENSION ISLAND

By air mail  
Par avion



Be pro  
address  
POSTCO



36N 49704

20

MRS. I. HENRY POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
RECEIVED  
% THE POST OFFICE - 1 APR 1987  
JAMESTOWN.  
ST. HELENA. ST. HELENA  
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

07

On Her Majesty's Service

ST. HELENA  
C  
JUN 21  
90  
JAMESTOWN

LAND TAXATION OFFICE  
21 JUN 1990  
ST. HELENA

On Her Majesty's Service

INCOME TAX OFFICE

29 MAY 1990

ST. HELENA



26-121

## On Her Majesty's Service

Fr. Ronald Cottingham  
St. James Vicarage  
Jamestown

DESPATCHED FROM  
RADIO ST. HELENA  
TIME .. ..  
DATE 26.4.91 .....