
SECTION 4 -

LAND BASED RESIDENCES



PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

ABERGELDIE CASTLE

Built by the Gordon family in about 1560, the Castle was leased to Queen Victoria and is currently a residence of the Queen Mother.

A Post Office was sited in a ground floor room loaned by the Housekeeper and was staffed by members of the Aberdeen Post Office. It operated for a mere two hours on the 20 August 1955 from 3pm to 5pm (according to the "Manchester Guardian" newspaper) on the occasion of a Saturday afternoon fete and sale in aid of a new vestry at Crathie church. Cards and envelopes were sold to the public by Princess Anne and Prince Charles at two shillings (10p) each.

Thousands of articles which had been given to the sale were sold by Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family and by the end of the afternoon about half of all letters and parcels posted had been despatched to overseas addresses. Over £2,000 was raised.

CANCELLATIONS

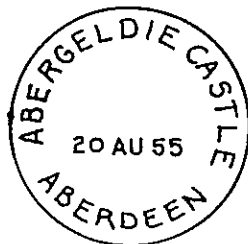


Fig. 4.1

- 4.1 ABERGELDIE CASTLE/ABERDEEN** single circle skeleton made by Alexander Kirkwood and Son of Edinburgh. Supplied by and returned for dismantling to Aberdeen. Used 20 August 1955 only.

REGISTRATION LABELS



ABERGELDIE/CASTLE/ABERDEEN "7" seen 20 August 1955. Produced in sheets rouletted all round.

ANMER HALL

The Hall was built in the first Elizabethan period having become a royal residence in 1572. It is situated in Norfolk on the Sandringham Estate.

Until recently the Duke and Duchess of Kent lived there but no special postal facilities existed for them. At the time of writing this book the Prince and Princess of Wales were believed to be interested in moving in to the Hall.

BADMINTON HOUSE

Badminton House was built in the 17th century and is the home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort. Famous for its horse trials, the Beaufort Hunt and the game of Badminton.

During world war two Her Majesty Queen Mary was evacuated to the House to avoid the London blitz and mail bearing the GVIR royal monogram certifying stamp exists postmarked at Bristol or Chippenham. Also registered mail utilising the "BADMINTON" registration label is known (see section six, page 140).

BALMORAL CASTLE

First used as a royal residence in the 1850's, it was built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Mainly occupied during August by the Royal Family for the shooting season.

In 1853 letters were dealt with by the Sergeant Footman and the sealed bags were made-up by him. An Express Mail Cart service began between Aberdeen and Balmoral for the conveyance of Her Majesty's correspondence during the period of her Scottish visit at the rate of 35s (£1.75) per day - 4s (20p) less than previously. From 1855 the cost of conveying Her Majesty's mail by Express Cart rose frequently, i.e 1855 £1:15s:0d (£1.75), 1856 £1:17s:0d (£1.85), 1857 £2, 1859 to 1865 £3:2s:6d (£3.12 1/5). In 1872 the payment for the weekly service was discontinued.

Postal facilities were provided by Aberdeen Post Office staff from 1874 and

the Queen was given a private telephone extension to a room within the Castle in 1876. Mr Edney of Southampton was sent to assist as Telegraphist during the Queen's stay and in 1883 a Wheatstone Receiver (tape telegraph) was provided.

Letters for the Castle were despatched on the 12:20pm train from Aberdeen in lieu of the 10:10am from 1886. In 1887 the sum of £33:15s:00d (£33.75) was due for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mail between 21 May and 16 June from Ballater to Balmoral. The money was paid through the Departmental account at the Bank of England, and amounted to £1:5s:0d (£1.25) per day. Preliminary arrangements had been made with Innkeepers for a road service throughout between Aberdeen and Balmoral but these plans were countermanded. An officer of the Post Office travelled in charge of the despatches from London (Euston) to Carlisle from where he transferred them to the custody of the Sorters in the Travelling Post Office as far as Aberdeen. On arrival there special trains were required on week days between Aberdeen and Ballater and the mails were then placed under the control of an officer of the Scottish Post Office specially detailed for the service. He then accompanied the mail on the final leg of its journey to Balmoral. The 11:00 train from Euston was not a mail train between Euston and Carlisle, so the Post Office official travelled in a separate second class compartment taking the despatches with him. In view of the great importance attached to Her Majesty's mails it was not considered appropriate for him to travel with other passengers.

The contract that the Post Office had negotiated with the London and North Western Railway Company permitted employees to travel free of charge, but in view of the great value placed upon seats on this run a deal was struck between the Post Office and the LNWR whereby the second class fare was paid. This cost £7:6s:10d (£7.34) per week, together with the Railway fare between London and Carlisle for a return fare of £3:4s:0d (£3.20). Eventually it was decided to convey the Queen's Messenger gratis provided that he did not "monopolise" more than a single seat in a second class carriage. Her Majesty always sent boxes, etc., back by Messenger so if he had no bags or boxes the Railway Company would be entitled to charge for the ride.

A Telegraphist was employed as an Assistant and received the sum of 5s (25p) subsistence allowance in 1894. Two years later consideration was given to opening a Post Office within the Castle for about four months per year when the Queen was in residence but it was considered unnecessary. Instead, an Accelerated Day Mail Service was laid on during the Summer months by Queen's Conveyance from Braemar to Aberdeen. However, by February 1904 a Post Office was being maintained within Balmoral. Indeed, a Memorandum regarding "The Duties of the Court Telegraphist at Balmoral" was submitted to the Secretary of the Post Office and detailed duties undertaken by Mr Hiley. It read: "At Balmoral Mr Hiley may be said to be always on duty, his bedroom is attached to the Telegraph Instrument Room so that he may be called up any hour of the night. From 6am to 10pm his time is fully occupied with postal and telegraph duties. A mail reaches Balmoral at 6:15am he must be on duty to receive it, and the correspondence for The King, guests and Household, is called for from 7:30am to 9am - second mail arrives at 11am - first despatch leaves at 3pm - a record is kept of all Despatch Boxes sent and received this takes considerable time. The second despatch closes at 10pm - except for letters from The King which

cannot be obtained until His Majesty retires (usually at 12:40am) this mail is then sealed and handed to a member of the Met. Police who delivers it to mail gig drivers passing about 4:45am. The Assistant does this late mail. Almost daily His Majesty or some member of the Household sends for Mr Hiley to give postal information. The Instrument Room is separate from P.O. and counter and excepting short intervals for meals continuous attendance must be given."

Stamps and postal orders were obtained on credit from Aberdeen Head Post Office but money orders were not required. The Post Office was listed for the first time in the Post Office Guide of July 1909 and in 1911 an allowance was paid to a Watchman for conveyance of the Bag to Crathie during the residence of the Court. Ten years later a new telephone switchboard was installed.

A Circular issued by the London Postal Region (Circulation and Transport Division) on 1st August 1947 went into details of the visit by Their Majesties, The King and Queen and Suites to Balmoral Castle from 8th August. It was agreed that the Captain of the King's Flight would arrange for the King's mail to be flown by helicopter between Dyce Airport and the Castle, as was done in 1946, all arrangements being made by the RAF and not the Post Office.

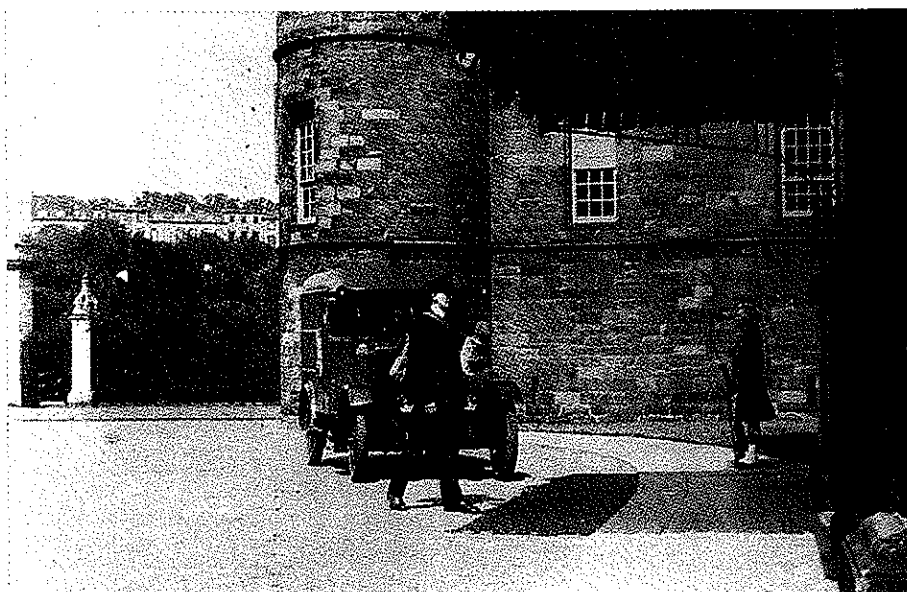
Aeroplanes left RAF Benson at 5:00am daily and return flights were made to London Heathrow arriving at 1:45pm. Mails were made-up the night before at Buckingham Palace at 9:15pm. addressed to "The Court Postmaster, Balmoral Castle" and were conveyed to Paddington Station by SWDO official motor van (accompanied by a Postman from the Palace) whereupon they were placed on the Great Western TPO Down (10:10pm train ex Paddington) under the personal care of the Officer in Charge. At Reading the mail was handed to an officer of Reading GPO for conveyance to the NCO of the Guard Room at Benson Airport at 11:45pm. From that point the Royal Air Force were in charge and conveyed the mail to Dyce Airport, for onward transmission by helicopter direct to Balmoral. The return arrangements involved the Court Postmaster making-up the mails in the morning addressed to "Buckingham Palace P.O.". A special motor van supplied by SWDO would meet the aircraft at Heathrow, collect the mail from the Marshalling Superintendent's Office and convey it direct to the Palace and accompanied once more by a Postman guard.

Many flights were cancelled and road deliveries were necessary, mainly due to adverse weather conditions. "The Times" for 29th September 1947 described the trials as an "outstanding success" but no one else would appear to have agreed as correspondence preserved in Post Office Archives indicates that deliveries to Balmoral were made more expeditiously when motor vans were used! A saving of some 15 minutes was frequently made with the added advantage of delivery straight to the door of the Post Office, whereas the helicopter landed on the cricket pitch and an engineering van had to stand by to transport the mail on the final leg of its journey. Additionally, only three bags of mail (150lbs) could be carried, the balance arriving later by RAF tender from Dyce. All this coupled with problems of a mechanical nature, forced landings, helicopter damage, etc. meant that helicopters do not appear to have been utilised again for the carriage of "royal" mail until 1985 when HRH The Prince Charles flew a helicopter of the Queen's Flight with commemorative covers on board to

celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Post Office at Bagshot Park.

On 12 August 1947 a flight by helicopter was made between Dyce Airport and Balmoral Castle by two Royal Air Force S51's piloted by Flight Lt. E.B. Trubshaw and A.J. Lee. The return trip was also made. Commemorative covers were cancelled with the Balmoral Castle single ring cancellation. When King George VI made his first royal visit to Balmoral an average of 15 bags of mail inward were received daily.

Despite Queen Elizabeth II being the first Elizabeth of Scotland, the royal monogram certifying stamp "EIIR" is used at Balmoral Castle. Mail these days bears the royal monogram certifying stamp together with either a Ballater or Balmoral official paid cancellation in red when the Court is in residence. At other times a meter marking is used.



Postman delivering to Balmoral, 1930's

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.2



Fig. 4.3



Fig. 4.4



Fig. 4.5

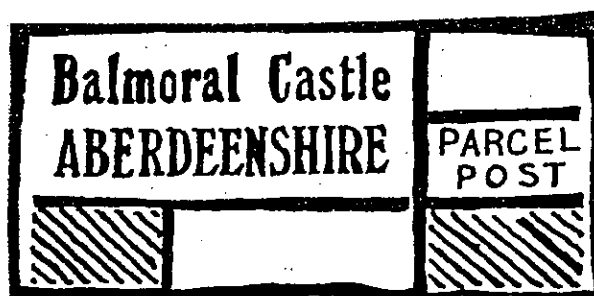


Fig. 4.6



Fig. 4.7



Fig. 4.8

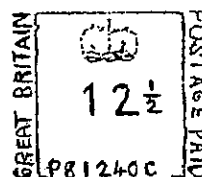


Fig. 4.9

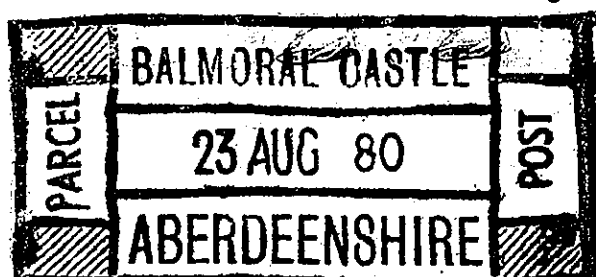


Fig. 4.10

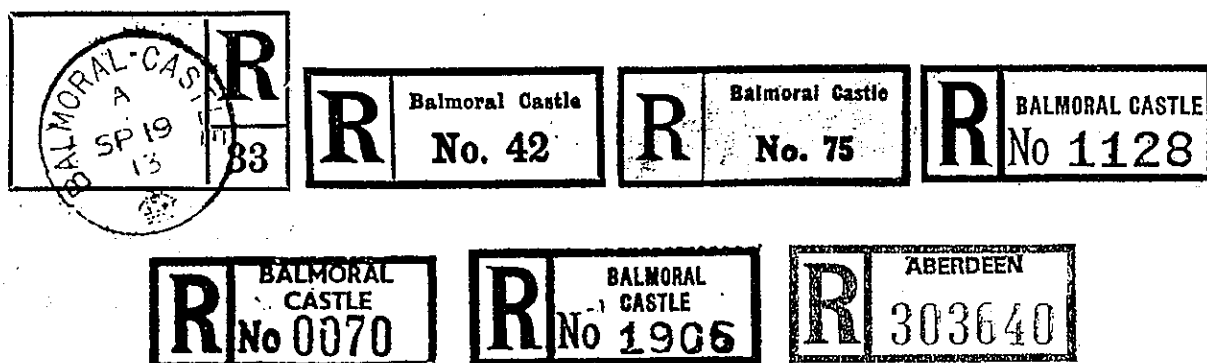


Fig. 4.11

- 4.2 **BALMORAL** single circle thimble with code letter **P**. Issued 28 March 1870 for telegraphic use. Post Office Proof Book states: "Issued to Windsor Castle".
- 4.3 **BALMORAL** single circle. Issued 12 August 1903 and returned to Stores on 17 August 1903. Temporary skeleton handstamp made by Alexander Kirkwood and Son of Edinburgh. The Post Office Proof Book states: "Balmoral to Aberdeen. Clocktime".
- 4.4 **BALMORAL-CASTLE/(CROWN)** single circle. Found with code letters **A,B,C** or blank. Seen 1911 to 1960's.
- 4.5 **OFFICIAL PAID/BALMORAL CASTLE** single circle. Issued September 1938. Seen 1953 to 1981. Struck in red.
- 4.6 **BALMORAL CASTLE/ABERDEENSHIRE/PARCEL/POST** rectangular parcel cancellation. Seen 1938 to 1944.

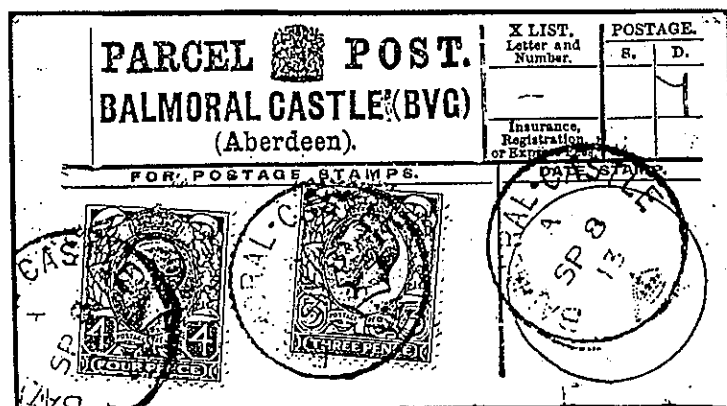
- 4.7 **BALMORAL-CASTLE/(CROWN)** single circle. Found with code letters A,B,C or blank. Seen 1950's to 1978.
- 4.8 **REGISTERED/BALMORAL CASTLE** oval registration cancellation.
- 4.9 Machine number PB1240C. The slogan die depicts the EIIR Royal Monogram within a circle. Used by the Estates Office. Seen 1985. Struck in red.
- 4.10 **PARCEL/BALMORAL CASTLE/POST/(DATE)/ABERDEENSHIRE** rectangular parcel cancellation. Seen 1980.
- 4.11 **REGISTERED/(DATE)/BALMORAL CASTLE** oval registration cancellation. Seen 1984.

REGISTRATION LABELS



Universal type label. "33" seen 1913.
 Balmoral Castle "No. 42" seen 1923.
 Balmoral Castle "No. 75" seen 1937.
 BALMORAL CASTLE "No. 0524" seen 1947 and "No. 1128" seen 1953.
 BALMORAL/CASTLE "No. 0070" seen.
 BALMORAL/CASTLE "No. 1906" seen.
 ABERDEEN "No. 303640" seen 1984.

PARCEL POST LABEL





BALMORAL CASTLE, Mails for October, 1906.

OUTGOING MAILS from BALMORAL.

1st MAIL Out—Letter Boxes Cleared 2.20 p.m. (Sundays 12.20 p.m.).

The Mail Leaves at 3.0 p.m. (Sundays 1.0 p.m.).

It Arrives at Buckingham Palace at 7.34 a.m. next day (but on Mondays at 6.30 a.m.).

The Post Letters are delivered in London about 9.15 a.m. (on Mondays at 8.15 a.m.).

The Aberdeen Letters are delivered there at 6.40 p.m. (but on Saturdays this delivery is omitted and Letters are delivered on Monday Mornings.)

2nd MAIL Out—Letter Boxes Cleared 10.0 p.m.

The Mail Leaves at 4.45 a.m. (Sundays 4.0 a.m.).

It arrives at Buckingham Palace at 11.15 p.m. same day (but on Mondays at 4.15 a.m.).

The London Letters are delivered at 8.15 a.m.

The Aberdeen Letters are delivered at 12.10 p.m. (but on Mondays at 6.45 a.m.).

INCOMING MAILS arriving at BALMORAL.

1st MAIL In—Arrives at 6.10 a.m. (arrives at same hour on Sundays, but on Mondays at 10.55 a.m.).

It leaves Euston at 2.0 p.m. the previous day (but on Sundays at 8.30 p.m.).

2nd MAIL In—Arrives at 11.0 a.m. (but on Sundays at 2.40 p.m.).

It leaves Euston at 8.30 p.m. the previous day.

His Majesty's Printers, Aberdeen.

Mail arrangements for Balmoral

BARNWELL MANOR

The Manor is at Oundle in Northamptonshire and is home to the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alice of Gloucester. It was built in the first Elizabethan period around 1580 and became a royal residence in 1939. No special postal facilities exist.

BATCHELOR COTTAGE

The cottage was built in 1864 and was the original name for York Cottage. See page 124 for further details.

BEDFORD ROW

Number eight Bedford Row, London houses the offices of the Royal Jubilee Trust and the Princes Trust, both organisations of which are of charitable status.

BELGRAVE SQUARE

A special Office of the Earl Marshal was set-up at number 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1 for the purpose of dealing with the Coronation arrangements of The Princess Elizabeth in 1953.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

In July 1952 a letter from the Garter Principal King of Arms requested the same postal facilities as had been provided for the funeral of His Majesty King George VI (see page 106) some months earlier. It was intended that the office be opened on 1st October 1952 and that about 25,000 outgoing

letters would be sent in the following eight months. Agreement was reached with the Treasury and a Postage Account was opened in the normal way. Accounts were to be rendered to the Earl Marshal in respect of telegraph, telephone and postal facilities on behalf of the office in Belgrave Square. These were then settled in due course from the provision on the special Vote to be taken for the Coronation expenses.

The Office was actually opened on Monday 15th September 1952 and normal delivery of inward correspondence was made, mail being accepted by the resident caretaker. Outward postings were handed in at the SWDO or Knightsbridge BO in the early days but as mail posted increased a request for special collections to be laid on was authorised. Telegrams were sent by telephone or handed in at the SWDO or Knightsbridge Branch Office throughout.

A copy of HM Treasury booklet "Postal Arrangements for Government Departments" was handed to a Mr Heaton-Armstrong who objected to two points contained therein. Namely, paragraphs 15, 18 and 20 which related to maintaining records of the number of items posted at each despatch and the need to prepay in postage stamps postage due on parcels and foreign letters.

Mr Heaton-Armstrong maintained that he would need to employ a Clerk to handle the postal duties and that the Treasury would not sanction such unnecessary expense. It was tactfully pointed out that the rules laid down were governed by Treasury regulations and that as the workload increased it would be appropriate to employ such a Clerk.

An undated subsequent Memorandum indicated that the Post Office agreed to letters for overseas destinations being stamped in the London Foreign Section with an impression from the meter franking machine in the same way as overseas letters from the Foreign Office. However, the parcel post question was one that the Post Office were not so keen to bend the rules over.

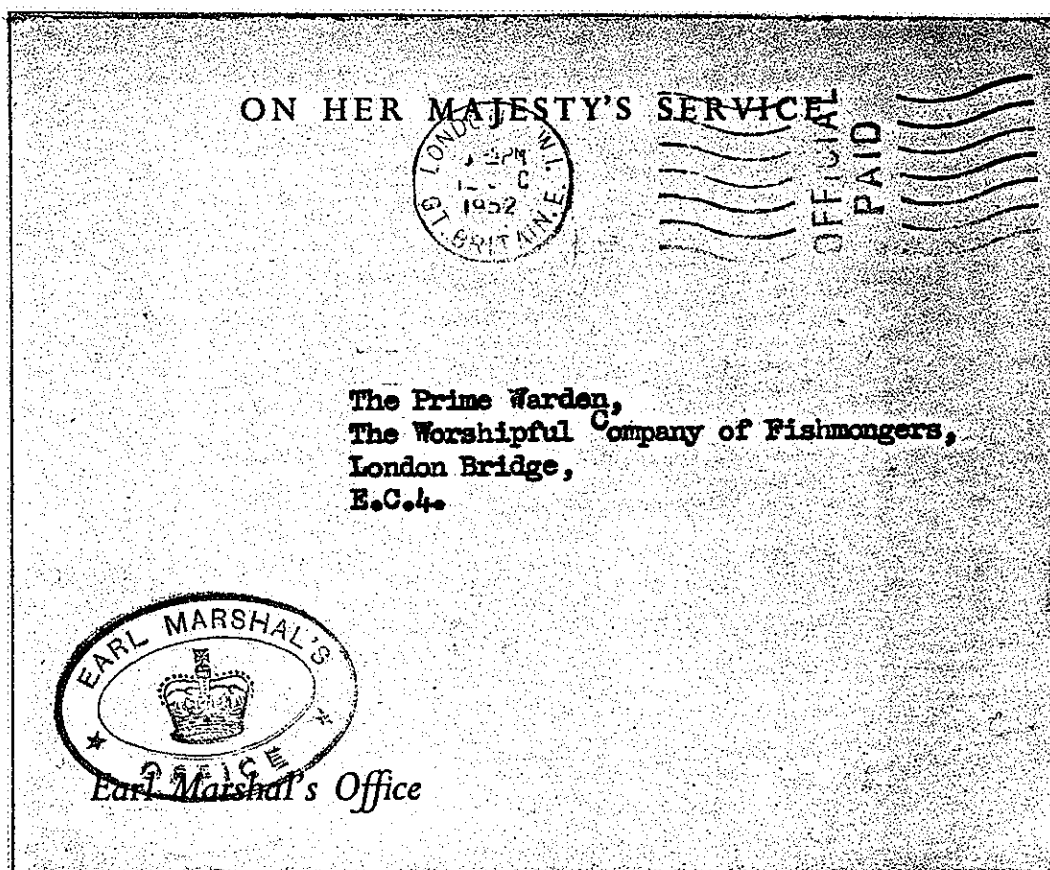
The situation was going to be solved by the use of the official paid parcel labels but this was not acceptable to all and so at the end of the day and in view of the temporary nature of the problem the Post Office allowed heavy packages to travel by letter post.

The recording of the numbers of items posted was undertaken by the Post Office, as had been done since Queen Victoria's funeral.



Fig. 4.12

- 4.12 */EARL MARSHAL'S/(CROWN)/OFFICE/* double oval. Used from 15 September 1952 for eight months.



Cover from the Earl Marshal's Office, 1952

BIRKHALL

Sited at Glenmuick, the mansion of Birkhall was built in 1715 and purchased in November 1848 for the Prince of Wales.

The house is now one of the Queen Mother's residences and is primarily used by Her Majesty in May and August.

BUCKINGHAM GATE, NUMBERS 8 AND 10

Number eight was once used for the Earl Marshal's Office and the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood; whilst number ten houses the Office of the Duchy of Cornwall.

There is no special treatment of the mail emanating from number ten as postage is paid by means of postage stamps and there are no certifying stamps used. Envelope flaps bear an albino impression of the Arms of the Duke of Cornwall.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

The principal functions are to maintain the records of Chivalry less the Order of the Thistles, publication of entries in the London Gazette, the organisation of Investitures and research. Now located at St. James's Palace.



Fig. 4.13



Fig. 4.14

- 4.13 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD/(CROWN)/8 BUCKINGHAM GATE/LONDON. S.W.1/** oval. Seen 1959.**
- 4.14 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD/(CROWN)/8 BUCKINGHAM GATE/LONDON. S.W.1 oval. Seen 1960 to 1968 in blue.**

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

The office was set-up on 6th October 1936 for dealing with the Coronation arrangements. Telegrams were handed in at the SWDO.



Fig. 4.15

- 4.15 */EARL MARSHAL'S/(CROWN)/OFFICE/* double oval. Introduced in October 1936 and only used for a few months.**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Built on the site of a house owned by the Duke of Buckingham, it has been the Sovereign's London residence since 1837 but first became a Royal residence one Saturday afternoon in May 1762 when King George III and Queen Charlotte moved in. Built in the 18th century it was redesigned in 1825 and re-fronted in portland stone in 1913.

There was a Mail Coach from 1793 that used to carry a bottle of sea-water for the Queen from Weymouth. It was generally sent to Buckingham House or, if Her Majesty was not in London, to the Gloucester Coffee House for onward transmission to Windsor. The Mail Guard from Exeter was issued with the instructions: "Leave the water bottle every Friday, Saturday and Monday at Staines, and every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday bring it to London, if not ordered to the contrary.....".

1886 saw the establishment of a private wire to the Central Station and a Telegraphist was appointed to attend at Buckingham Palace. The following year the telegraph was commissioned.

A private wire between the Inspectors' Office and private residence was established in 1894 and the consent to attach to the South Western District Office was granted.

A wall letter box was installed at the South East corner during 1896.

The Post Office took charge of the telephone circuits in 1897. The sending of "unsuitable mail" by post between Buckingham Palace and Balmoral Castle was not permitted with effect from 1899, although what would have been deemed "unsuitable" is unknown.

A Sub-Post Office was opened within the Palace on 14 April 1902 for the sale of stamps, etcetera. It came under the control of the Court Telegraphist until 1906 whereupon he was made Court Postmaster.

A Post Office Circular dated April 22, 1902 read:

"POST OFFICE OPENED AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The office at Buckingham Palace, which has hitherto transacted telegraph work only, has been made a Postal Sub-Office for the convenience of His Majesty's household.

It is subordinate to the South Western District Office (London) and the Court Telegraphist acts as Officer-in-Charge.

Postal Orders are sold, but Money Order and Savings Bank business is not transacted.

The telegraph code BQX has been appropriated to the Office."

A statement to the Secretary of the Post Office regarding work undertaken at Buckingham Palace was submitted by Mr Hiley in 1903 and read: "When first placed under the control of the Postmaster S.W. telegraph work only was performed at this office doing an average of about thirty messages daily.

"On April 14th 1902 the Office was opened for the sale of postage stamps, postal orders, parcels, registered letters etc a credit stock to the amount of £73:5s:6d (£73.27 1/5p) was obtained from the Postmaster S.W. for which I am responsible. I have also under my charge a stock of Govt. Parcel and Royal Household stamps, which have to be supplied when required to the various departments in the Royal Palaces and returns rendered quarterly.

"Their Majesties The King and Queen, Royal Family and Households Correspondence are dealt with here.

"I have been commanded by His Majesty to attend him wherever he goes, to deal with his correspondence and telegrams. Returns of all Foreign correspondence is kept which for some quarters is very heavy.

"I am frequently commanded to see His Majesty, Lord Knollys, General Sir Dighton Probyn, and members of the Household in connection with postal and telegraph matters.

"I am practically always on duty and have been ordered to sleep at the different Palaces or wherever His Majesty is in residence. 31 Oct 1903."

In 1905 the hours of opening were amended to 8am-midnight all year round at the wish of His Majesty, even when not resident in London. This meant that two additional Counter Clerks and Telegraphists had to be employed at a cost of £212 per annum at the mean of the wage scales. The Post Office was made into an Express Delivery Office in 1907 and in 1913 the operation of telephone services throughout the Royal Household was charged for henceforth. Three years later the release of Telegraph Clerks and Telephonists for Military Service was discussed but, generally, they were classed as indispensable.

An article in "The Postage Stamp" (see bibliography on page 179) detailed postal arrangements at the Palace at that time and is reproduced herewith: "The headquarters of the Court Post Office is at Buckingham Palace and consists of three large apartments; one is fitted out as a telegraphic gallery, another as a sorting room, and a third as a general office. There is also a telephone exchange attached to the Post Office, where three operators are employed.

"The letters for the King and Queen and members of the Household are delivered to Buckingham Palace from the General Post Office six times a day, the first delivery being made at seven o'clock in the morning. The mail on its arrival at the post office, is at once sorted (there are four sorters on duty throughout the day) and made up into separate packets for the King, Queen, members of the Royal Family, resident officials in the Household and the servants.

"The whole mail is, by the way, carefully counted before it is sorted, and the number of letters received is entered into a book labelled "Mails In."

After the packets for delivery throughout the Palace have been made up the number of letters in each packet is counted and entered in a book labelled "Mails Out," and the number in both books, must, of course, be the same."

"As soon as the mails have been sorted they are given to two of the Palace postmen, who deliver them to their respective departments. The letters for the King and Queen are delivered to the equerries' department and are placed in the secretaries' rooms by an equerry. The letters for members of the Household are delivered to their respective private rooms, and the letters for male servants are delivered to the Steward's waiting room, where they are put into a large rack, from which they are taken by servants between 9.30 and 10.30am, and 7.30 and 8.30pm. The letters for the female servants are delivered to the head housekeeper's room.

"There are six large mahogany pillar boxes throughout Buckingham Palace, where letters can be posted by members of the Household. These boxes are cleared every two hours and the contents made up into mail bags at the Palace Post Office. All the King's letters, whether on State or private business, are marked "Official paid," and need not be stamped, neither need any letter on State business written by a member of the Household, but all private letters of members of the Household must be stamped in the usual manner.

"Apart from the ordinary mail business the Court postmaster has a considerable quantity of despatches for special delivery to attend to, which are not passed through the hands of the general post office. Numbers of despatches to the chief government offices and to many private individuals are sent out from Buckingham Palace every day when the Court is in residence in London. These are delivered by one of the four special messengers attached to the Court post office."

According to the "Post Office Magazine" for May 1948: "The Post Office is sited close to the South Gate with an approach from the forecourt next to the Guardroom. Behind the modest counter can be seen the teleprinter circuits and the operators at their Private Branch Exchange with a separate enclosure for Mr E J Burt, the Court Postmaster."

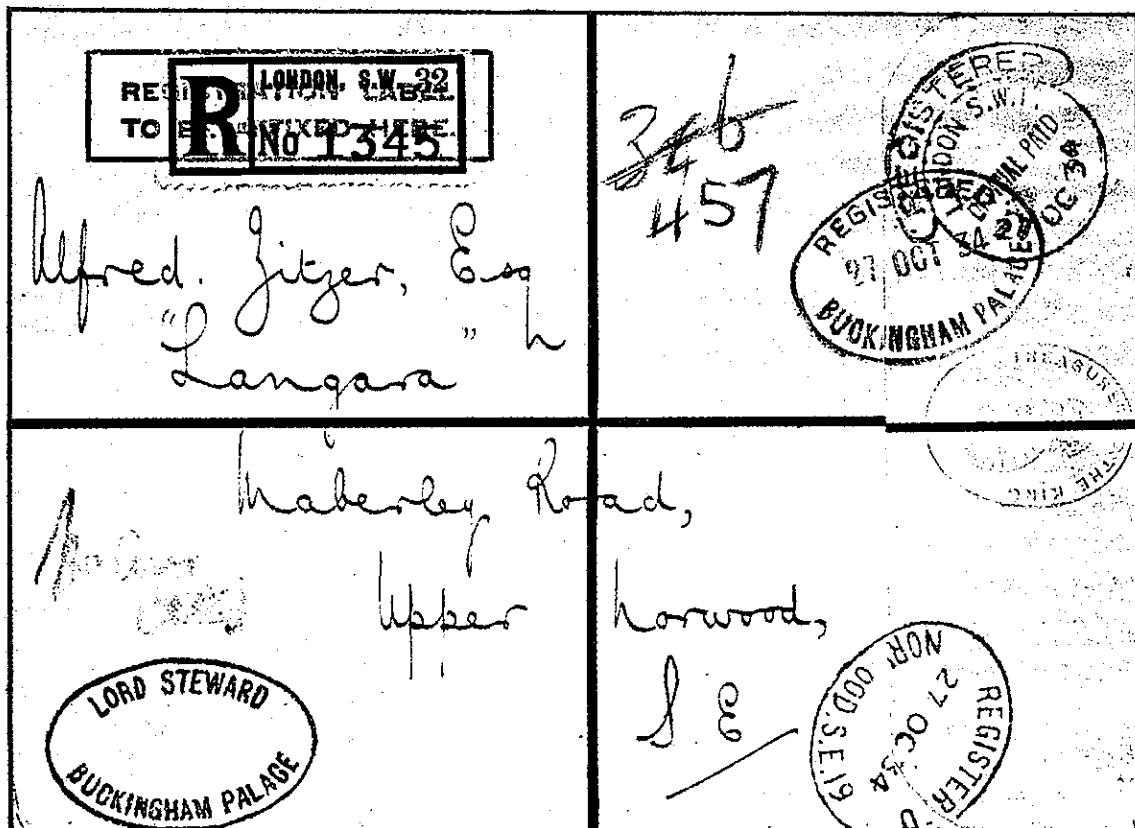
The Postmen at Buckingham Palace wear special embroidered breast badges on their uniforms, originally worded "(CROWN)/GPO/BUCKINGHAM PALACE" they now bear the words "POST OFFICE" in place of "GPO". They have a black background and the remainder is gold except the Crown which also includes red, green and blue jewels. See illustration on page 73.

The children of the Queen have offices in the Palace and, as such, do not have to affix postage stamps but can utilise the main postal facilities.

All mail addressed to the Queen is now scanned for letter bombs and for this and other reasons the Court Post Office at the Palace comes under the control of the Master of the Household. According to "At Her Majesty's Service" (see bibliography on page 180): "The Post Office at Buckingham Palace is situated in the peculiar annexe at the far left of the building in the south-east corner, is operated by a Head Postmaster and a team of clerks in conjunction with trained security officers. With almost 100,000 letters arriving annually which have to be distributed throughout the Palace and to other royal residences and government departments, a group of

full-time Postmen are employed simply to deliver and collect the "royal" mail. Her Majesty's own mail is delivered by the Queen's Orderly, who will also deliver the important documents and despatches by motor cycle."

The Flagman at Buckingham Palace could not be kept fully employed by merely raising and lowering the Royal Standard and so he is also responsible for scrutinizing by fluoroscope all letters and parcels addressed to the Palace. It is interesting to note that every letter addressed to the Queen is seen by her and a reply is always given, although one of her Household staff would compile, sign and despatch the reply unless protocol dictated otherwise.



CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.16



Fig. 4.17



Fig. 4.18



Fig. 4.19



Fig. 4.20



Fig. 4.21



Fig. 4.22



Fig. 4.23

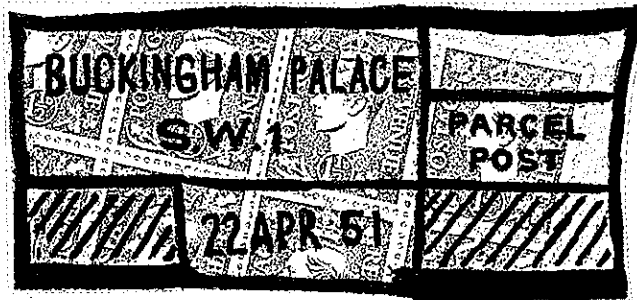


Fig. 4.24



Fig. 4.25

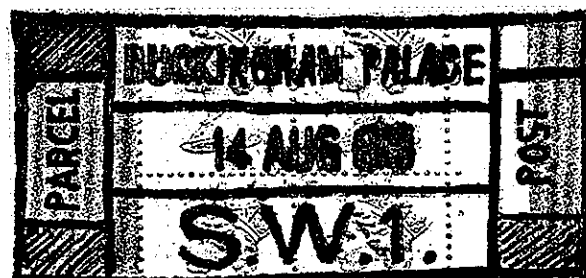


Fig. 4.26



Fig. 4.27

- 4.16 BUCKINGHAM-PALACE single circle. Code letter A. Issued 30 June 1880. Seen 1903 to 1923.
- 4.17 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. First registration cancellation. Issued on 4 November 1920. Struck in violet.
- 4.18 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1923.
- 4.19 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1924 to 1934. Struck in violet.
- 4.20 BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1 single circle. Issued 19 July 1930. Seen 1951 to 1977.
- 4.21 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 oval. Seen 1938-1939. Struck in violet.
- 4.22 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 oval. Seen 1938. Struck in violet.
- 4.23 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1 oval. Seen 1947 in violet.

- 4.24 BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W.1./PARCEL/POST rectangular. Seen 1951.
- 4.25 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 oval. Struck in violet. Seen 1953 to 1977.
- 4.26 PARCEL/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/POST/(DATE)/S.W.1 rectangular parcel canceller. Seen 1986.
- 4.27 REGISTERED/BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1 double oval. Seen 1987.

CERTIFYING STAMPS

BUCKINGHAM
PALACE

Fig. 4.28

- 4.28 BUCKINGHAM/PALACE straight line unframed. Seen 1934 in red/violet on a "Telegrams for Transmission" envelope.

UNOFFICIAL CACHETS

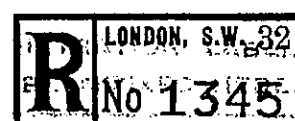
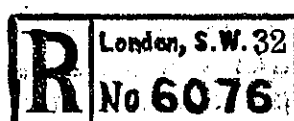
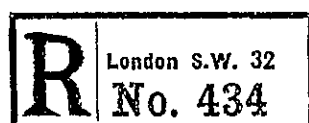
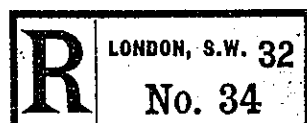


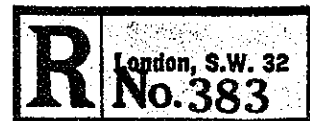
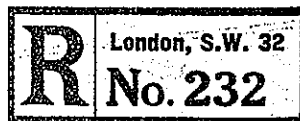
Buckingham Palace.London

Fig. 4.29

- 4.29 Posted in special Posting Box/Buckingham Palace, London with monogram of the Duke of Edinburgh. Used 1977 on first day covers of the Silver Jubilee issue serviced by a well known cover dealer

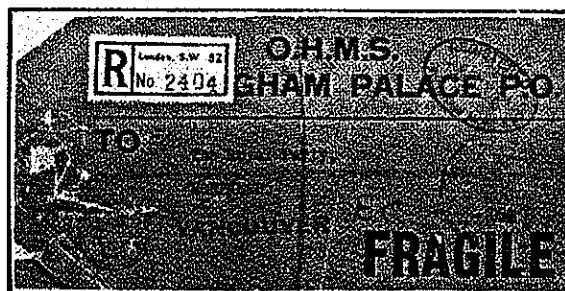
REGISTRATION LABELS





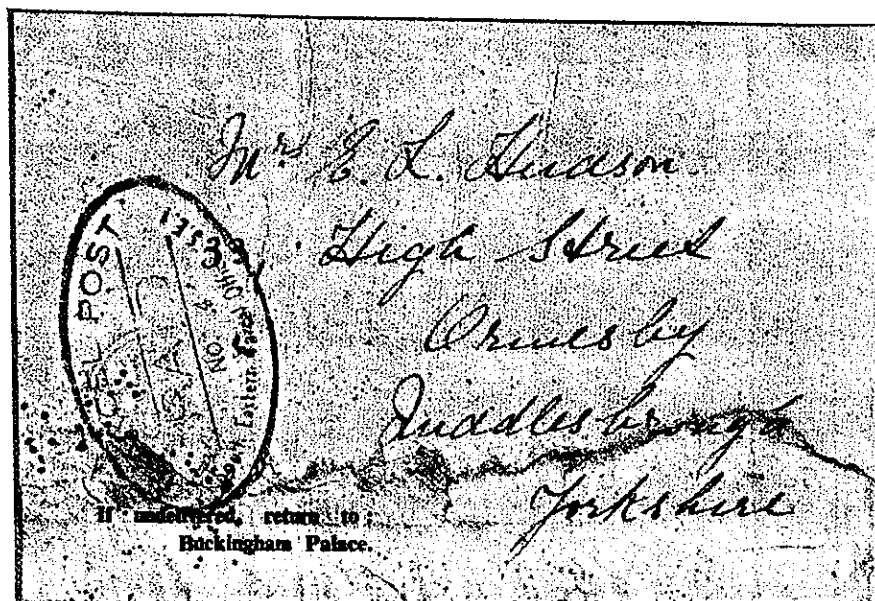
BUCKINGHAM PALACE. Believed to exist. Not seen.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 34" seen 1914 and "No. 44" seen 1920.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No.201" seen 1923.
London S.W. 32 "No. 24" and "No. 434" both seen 1924.
London, S.W.32 "No.6076" seen 1934.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 1345" seen 1934 and "No. 3541" seen 1939.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 5036" seen 1938.
London, S.W.32 "No. 232" seen 1951.
London, S.W.32 "No. 383" seen 1951.
LONDON, S.W.32 "No. 4551" seen 1952.
London, S.W. 32 "No. 1846" seen 1956 and "No. 9072" seen 1960.
LONDON / SW 32 "No.7957" seen 1976.
LONDON SW32 "No. 4331" seen 1977.
LONDON/SWDO "F" "032280" seen 1987 and "411844" seen 1988.

REGISTRATION PARCEL LABELS



Used for forwarding mail to the royal party when on overseas tours

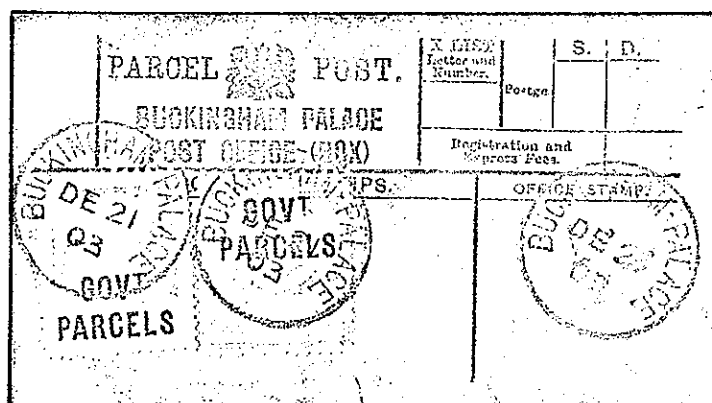
EMPIRE FOOD PARCEL LABELS



Following the wedding in 1947 of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, food sent as wedding gifts from the far flung corners of the Empire was distributed throughout the country by the Womens Voluntary Service (WVS). For six weeks Buckingham Palace was the distribution centre and two types of label were used on the packages. Type one was worded "If Undelivered Return to: W.V.S. Buckingham Palace."; whilst Type two had the WVS letters removed. Both types bore the second type of King George VI royal monogram certifying stamp (ie GVIR) and a London SW1 oval parcel post cancellation.

PARCEL POST LABEL

A blue parcel post label from the Palace Post Office is known used in 1903. It was headed "PARCEL (ROYAL ARMS)/POST/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/POST OFFICE (BOX)" and bears 2d and 9d King Edward VII Government Parcels overprinted stamps cancelled by Figure 4.16 and dated 21 December.





Mail van leaving the Palace after
having made a delivery, 1930's



**A busy scene at the Court Post Office
during the 1935 Jubilee rush**



Breast badge which is unique to Palace postmen

DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE PALACE

BOARD OF GREEN CLOTH

The Board of Green Cloth sits about six times a year and is responsible for licensing public houses and gaming houses within a narrow strip of about a quarter of a mile to the North of St. James's Park and to the east and south of the park.

The certifying stamp was originally used by the Lord Steward, Treasurer and Comptroller of the Household, Acting Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Green Cloth.



Fig. 4.30

- 4.30 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/B.G.C./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

COMPTROLLER OF SUPPLY

Responsible for all non-food requirements of the Household.

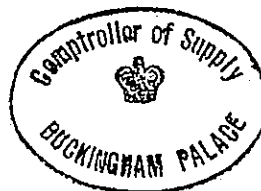


Fig. 4.31

- 4.31 Comptroller of Supply/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Introduced in 1948.

INSPECTORS' OFFICE

In 1906 it was suggested that Mr Sands (Inspector of Buckingham Palace) be given an indian rubber certifying stamp for use by his Office. It was never actually introduced and he was to have continued using the Board of Green Cloth certifying stamp, despite causing Mr Hiley problems with items of returned mail. It was subsequently agreed, however, that he could use the certifying stamp of the Lord Chamberlain at St James's Palace instead.



Mr Hileys drawing for stamp

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

As Senior Officer of the Household he is responsible for ceremonial including all arrangements for royal garden parties, royal weddings, state visits plus many other subsidiary functions.



Fig. 4.32

4.32 LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/S.W. oval. Seen 1926 in violet.

LORD STEWARD

Titular head of the Master of the Household's Department. He attends at the Palace on ceremonial occasions, e.g. the opening of Parliament and state visits (especially the state banquet where he presents the guests to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and their visitors). Position always given to a peer.

The Lord Steward uses pre-printed envelopes for some of his correspondence. The writer has seen one worded (top left) "Immediate. - Please Forward" and (bottom left) "THE LORD STEWARD". The cover has a handwritten address of the Marshall of the Royal Air Force and is dated 1978. The reverse bears the usual royal crest embossed in red.



Fig. 4.33

- 4.33 **LORD STEWARD/BUCKINGHAM PALACE** oval. Issued 28 August 1901 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1934 on a pre-printed envelope of the Treasurer to the King.

MASTER OF THE HORSE

Titular head of the Royal Mews. He attends the Queen on ceremonial occasions when Her Majesty travels by horse drawn carriage or rides on horseback. The Master of the Horse periodically inspects the Royal Mews and is in charge of the Sovereign's stables.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Master of the Horse, Crown Equerry and Secretary, the Accountant, Clerk and Assessor of Taxes and the Superintendent of the Royal Mews.



Fig. 4.34

not seen

Fig. 4.35



Fig. 4.36



Fig. 4.37

- 4.34 **MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** oval. Issued 28 August 1901 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1910.
- 4.35 **MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** narrow oval. Known 1905.
- 4.36 **MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/THE ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** oval. Seen 1980's struck in black, violet or blue.
- 4.37 **+/MASTER OF THE HORSE/+/ (CROWN)/THE ROYAL MEWS, S.W.** oval. Seen 1987 to 1989.

MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD

The Master of the Household is in charge of the people who run the Palaces and the Sovereign is regularly consulted by him.

Like the Lord Steward, the Master of the Household uses pre-printed envelopes on some correspondence. Of the two examples seen by the writer, one is dated 1960 and the other 1984. They have the royal crest on the flap and are worded on the front "MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD", bottom left.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Master of the Household, his Deputy and the Clerk Comptroller.



Fig. 4.38



Fig. 4.39



Fig. 4.40



Fig. 4.41

4.38 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/M.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1904.

4.39 MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Introduced 1933.

4.40 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/M.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1934 to 1940.

4.41 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/M.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1937 to 1940.

PAYMASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD

The Paymaster of the Household is responsible for royal finances.

The certifying stamps were used by the Paymaster of the Household. These days the normal royal monogram certifying stamp EIIR is used instead of personalised versions.



Fig. 4.42



Fig. 4.43



Fig. 4.44



Fig. 4.45

4.42 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/P.H./BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1902 to 1910 in pink.

4.43 P/(ROYAL MONOGRAM GVIR)/H/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1949.

4.44 P/(ROYAL MONOGRAM EIIR)/H/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1953.

4.45 P/(ROYAL MONOGRAM EIIR)/H/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1967.

PRIVY PURSE OFFICE

Personal payments from the Sovereign's private resources and payments of salaries to employees of the Monarch are made by the Privy Purse Office.

The Office once used envelopes bearing the pre-printed embossed signature of the Keeper of the Privy Purse prior to the introduction of certifying stamps. In an effort to use up stocks of the old envelopes instructions must have been given to continue their use as the writer has seen two covers. The first envelope is dated 25 October 1904 and the second is dated 24 February 1906. Both covers bear the pre-printed signature of D M Probyn.

These certifying stamps were in the early days used by the Keeper of the Privy Purse, the Assistant Keeper, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Privy Purse and the Personal Secretary and Assistant Private Secretaries.



Fig. 4.46



Fig. 4.47

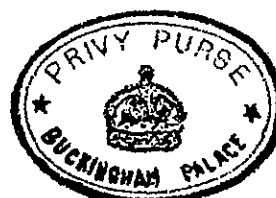


Fig. 4.48



Fig. 4.49



Fig. 4.50

- 4.46 PRIVY PURSE/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1904 and 1915 in violet.
- 4.47 PRIVY PURSE/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval. Seen 1909 to 1935 in violet.
- 4.48 */PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE double oval. Seen 1949/52.
- 4.49 */PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE oval.
- 4.50 */PRIVY PURSE*/(CROWN)/BUCKINGHAM PALACE double oval.

A wax seal was issued for use by the Privy Purse and has been seen used in 1883 on the reverse flap of an envelope. It was impressed into black wax.

ROYAL CELLARS

The jobholders' task is to decide, in consultation with a Wine Committee, what wines are to be purchased for the royal residences.

The certifying stamp was used by the Gentlemen of the Royal Cellars.



Fig. 4.51

- 4.51 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/R.C./BUCKINGHAM PALACE** oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

ROYAL LAUNDRY

Aside from dealing with the laundry, this department also once supervised the machinery and electricity requirements of the Royal Household. Laundry facilities are now provided by an outside company called the Sycamore Laundry at Clapham.

The certifying stamp was used by the staff at the Royal Laundry at Richmond, Surrey.



Fig. 4.52

- 4.52 LORD STEWARD/(CROWN)/R.L./BUCKINGHAM PALACE** oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

CASTLE OF MEY

The Castle is one of the residences of The Queen Mother and was purchased by her in the 1950's. It took three years to renovate.

Mail these days is processed via Wick, Caithness Post Office and bears the usual royal monogram certifying stamp and a Wick official paid cancellation.

CASTLEWOOD HOUSE

This residence is one of the homes of the present Duke and Duchess of York, Andrew and Sarah, and is located in Windsor Great Park.

No special postal facilities exist for the royal couple.

CHATSWORTH HOUSE

Chatsworth is the home of the Duke of Devonshire and most of the house was constructed between the years 1686 to 1707. It is located about four miles from Bakewell in Derbyshire.

In December 1843 Queen Victoria made a visit but no postal items have emerged yet. If any do exist they will have been cancelled at Chesterfield. King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria spent a week at the house from Monday 4 January 1904. Whether or not the staff at Bakewell Post Office or members of the Court Post Office manned the temporary office has not been ascertained.

A PMG Minute detailed arrangements for a visit made in 1907 and is reproduced herewith: "It is announced that T.M. the King and Queen will visit the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth House on the 1st proximo (1 January).

"In connection with His Majesty's previous visits it has been customary to erect a temporary wire between the Midland Railway at Bakewell and Edensor and to extend it to Chatsworth House by renting an underground wire from the National Telephone Company. It is however understood that no National Telephone Company wire is now available and it would consequently be necessary to lay a pipe across the park, a distance of 1320 yards. The cost would amount to £48 exclusive of the cost of excavating the trench which the Duke of Devonshire's Agent has agreed to carry out at his own expense. The pipe would afford accommodation for additional wires, but it is unlikely that these would be needed in the near future.

"It is therefore proposed that a staff of cycle messengers be provided for the conveyance of telegrams between Chatsworth House and Edensor Post Office. Edensor Post Office would be placed in direct communication with London or Manchester.

"The Duke's Agent will be informed of the proposed arrangement and it will be suggested that the Duke of Devonshire should bear the expense of providing wires between the Post Office and Chatsworth House, if he desires this accommodation."

In 1913 Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary were entertained at Chatsworth House, and the present members of the Royal Family often stay there.

CANCELLATIONS

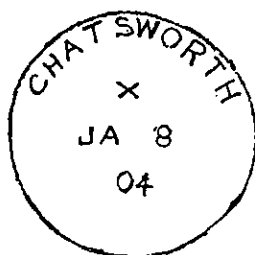


Fig. 4.53

- 4.53 CHATSWORTH** single circle skeleton handstamp with X code letter in use between 4 and 8 January 1904 only. Seen in blue and black ink not cancelling the postage stamps but used as a cachet to the left of the address, and on the picture side of postcards. Use of blue ink was most unusual for Royal markings (other than royal monogram certifying stamps).

Believed to have been issued for telegraphic use only, which might explain the absence of Court mail.

CLARENCE HOUSE

Clarence House was built during 1825 by John Nash for the Duke of Clarence.

It is currently the London residence of the Queen Mother and previous occupants have included Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and between the years 1942 and 1947 it became the Red Cross and St. John Organisation Headquarters.

Mail these days is processed via the South Western District Office and bears the usual royal monogram certifying stamp and a London official paid cancellation.

CLEVELAND ROW

Number three Cleveland Row was once the home of the Earl Marshal's Office in London's South West district.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The main duty of the Earl Marshal is to organise the Coronation of the Sovereign and he performs the same task now as he would have done in medieval times.

Letters franked by the certifying stamp illustrated below, or franked with the Duke of Norfolk's (Earl Marshal) or C H Montgomery's name were transmitted free through the post. Arrangements were made for a Postman to call and collect three times a day at noon, 3pm and 6pm and for St. James's Street Post Office to accept letters so franked or stamped over their counter.



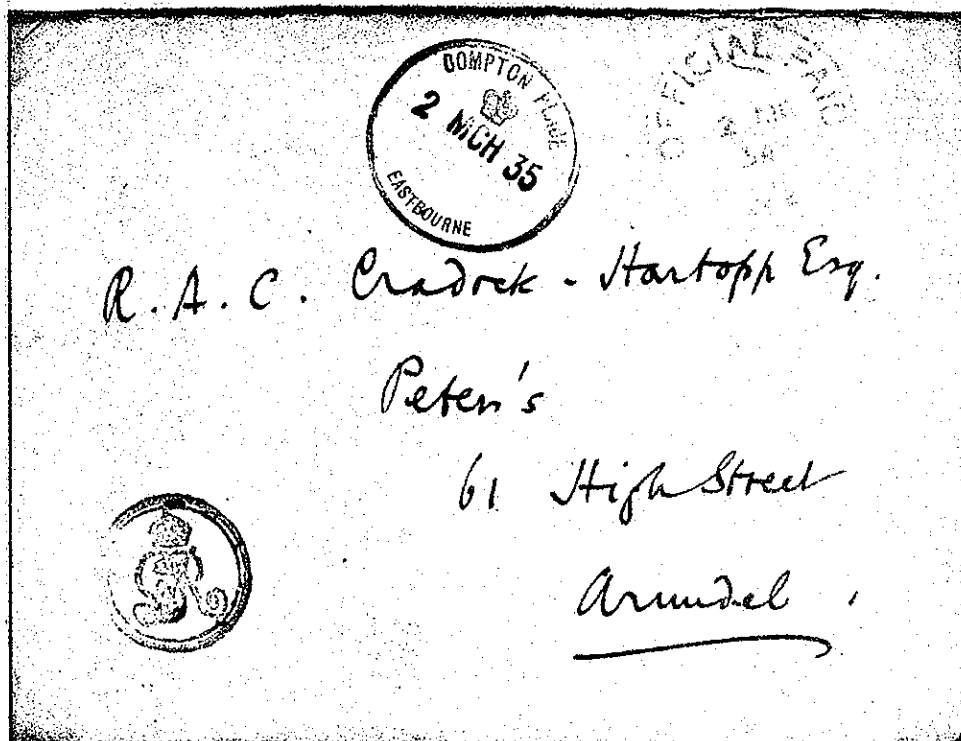
Fig. 4.54

4.54 */EARL MARSHAL'S*/(CROWN)/OFFICE double oval. In use from November 1910 through to the end of the Coronation arrangements.

COMPTON PLACE

The County seat of the Duke of Devonshire, its location is at Eastbourne in Sussex. Compton was built by James Burton and is Jacobean or earlier. It was often used by royalty this century who were desirous of a seaside holiday and it still stands as a girl's college.

In 1935 special arrangements were made by the Post Office for the visit of King George V and Queen Mary who, on 26 February motored to Eastbourne for



Cover posted from Compton Place 1935

COMPTON PLACE, EASTBOURNE							
TRAIN TIME TABLE							
From February, 1935, until further notice							
DOWN WEEKDAYS				UP WEEKDAYS			
VICT.	E'ST'N'K	VICT.	E'ST'N'K	VICT.	E'ST'N'K	VICT.	E'ST'N'K
a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
9 10p	10 50	6 40c	7 25	6 15	8 16	1 51	3 57
9 25	11 41	6 45p	8 16	7 30	9 15	2 25p	4 8
		p.m.	6 53d	9 3	8 6	9 37	3 26
10 5	12 27	7 6c	9 3	8 33c	10 10	4 30	6 15p
11 10p	12 51	8 20	10 8	8 33d	10 29	5 25	7 3p
p.m.		9 10p	10 45	8 50	10 54	5 31	7 57
12 3	1 54	10 10	11 50	9 30p	11 0	6 30	8 6p
12 40d	2 17		a.m.		p.m.	7 53	9 57
1 10p	2 51	11 40	1 26	10 25	12 13p	8 25	10 13p
3 10p	4 45	—	—	10 59	1 23	9 20	11 17
3 45	5 47	—	—	11 54	1 57	9 54k	12 40
4 30p	6 8	—	—	p.m.			
5 15p	6 48	—	—	12 20	2 9p	—	—
SUNDAYS				SUNDAYS			
a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
6 44	9 50	6 28k	7 52	7 25	9 54	4 33k	7 22
9 35p	11 21	6 0k	8 3	8 30k	10 25	6 25d	6 45
		p.m.	6 30	8 51	9 30	11 14p	6 25
10 45d	12 5	8 0k	10 4		p.m.	6 40	9 0
11 10p	12 50	8 40p	10 22	10 10k	12 22	7 30p	9 8
p.m.		9 0k	11 10	10 50k	1 22	7 55k	10 18
12 28k	2 57			p.m.		8 55	10 35
2 40p	4 21	10 0k	12 8	1 54	3 22		a.m.
4 28k	6 37	—	—	3 25	5 10p	9 39k	12 6

POST TIMES

From February, 1935, until further notice

WEEKDAYS	
Deliveries	Despatches
7.45 a.m.	
10.15 a.m.	11.15 a.m.
4.15 p.m.	3.20 p.m.
7.0 p.m.	8.0 p.m.

SUNDAYS

8.15 p.m.

From Buckingham Palace at 7.45 a.m. Weekdays and Sundays.

To Buckingham Palace at 8 p.m. Weekdays, Sunday at 8.15 p.m.

NOTES

d Saturdays only. e Saturdays excepted. k Via Brighton.

l Only First and Third Pullmans. p First and Third Pullmans attached.

Train time table and post times for 1935

a few weeks' rest prior to the Jubilee celebrations.

The following year, special telephone facilities were made available for the use of the King when at Compton Place.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.55

- 4.55 COMPTON PLACE/(CROWN)/EASTBOURNE** rubber single circle datestamp. Seen on cover dated 1935 but with official paid cancellation dated 1934.

COPPINS

Coppins is a late-Victorian home situated at Iver in Buckinghamshire. It was originally the home of Princess Victoria (daughter to King Edward VII) and subsequently became the home to the Duke and Duchess of Kent from 1935 until 1972.

No special postal arrangements existed.

CROCKER END HOUSE

This Victorian manor house that was once a rectory is the new home of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, having moved-in during 1989 from Anmer Hall. It is sited at Nettlebed in Oxfordshire. No special postal facilities exist for the couple.

CUMBERLAND LODGE

The Lodge was sited within the Great Park, Windsor and was home to Prince Christian.

In 1856 a Post Office Receiving House was opened within, mainly for telegraphic work. It was run by a Miss Ada Crooke who was on a salary of 6/- (30p) per week and little postal business is believed to have been carried out.

The Telegraph Office was established almost exclusively for use by the Prince and a PMG Minute of 1876 read: "I submit a report from the District Surveyor upon Colonel Gordon's application to your Lordship for increase of pay for Miss Crooke who performs the telegraph duties at Cumberland Lodge, the residence of Prince Christian.

"It appears that the Office at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park is on the footing of an ordinary Sub-Post Office and Miss Crooke receives the usual allowance of 6/- (30p) per week for the telegraph work. The amount of business undertaken is very small - not sufficient to justify on Public grounds the maintenance of the office, and certainly the circumstances do not seem to me to be such as to warrant an additional expenditure of Public money.

"It appears that if Miss Crooke received the extra payment to which she would be entitled at an ordinary Post Office when messages are sent or received beyond the official Court, she would not be so dissatisfied with her emolument; but it seems only right that such extra payment should be borne, as in other cases, by persons using her services and not by the Department. Perhaps your Lordship may like to take this point up with Colonel Gordon."

The Minute then records: "approved, June 30th", although whether extra payment was approved or merely the Minute is not clear.

In 1904 a bicycle was provided to help with the delivery of telegrams and the Telegraph Messenger received an allowance for cleaning it.

CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.56

4.56 CUMBERLAND LODGE/WINDSOR single circle with code letter A for telegraph use. Issued 13 January 1874.