

## DUBLIN CASTLE

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On 30 August 1204 King John issued a mandate decreeing that a castle be constructed in Dublin for the safe custody of the national treasures. In the 17th century the present building was erected.

The cancellation detailed below was used on the occasion of the visit of His Majesty King George V to Dublin following his Coronation and its use was probably restricted to the 8th to 12th of July 1911. The reason put forward by WG Stitt Dibden in his article "A Coronation Collection" (see bibliography on page 178) for the issue of the datestamp reads as follows: "The Dublin Castle datestamp was introduced for the large number of congratulatory telegrams and resultant replies expected in Ireland (following the Coronation)".

This seems to be a reasonable reason, especially as the Palace of Holyroodhouse datestamp appears alongside in the Post Office Proof Impression Book.

Correspondence preserved in the State Paper Office at Dublin Castle recently unearthed by their archivist revealed the existence of a record of the services of a Telegraphist and Messenger during the period of the royal visit. The record is reproduced herewith:

"E.B. - No. 52  
ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE,  
G.P.O., DUBLIN,

22 August 1911.

Sir,

I beg to enclose an account for £3:2s:3.1/2d (£3.11 1/2p) due to the Postmaster-General for the services of a Telegraphist and Boy Messenger at Dublin Castle in connection with the Royal Visit 8th to 12th July 1911 and I have to request you will be good enough to cause that amount to be paid to the Cashier, General Post Office, DUBLIN, at your earliest convenience.

The cheque should be made payable to the Postmaster-General or order, and crossed "Bank of Ireland."

I am, Sir,  
Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES MACMAHON, Accountant

To The Under Secretary, Dublin Castle  
300, Wt.3605(212), 11, '07, C.&Co. 4302"

Post Office Archives have a Minute preserved that reads: "The power to meet this exceptional strain with such signal success reflects the highest credit upon Mr O'Toole (Controller) and the Dublin staff."

## CANCELLATIONS



**Fig. 4.57**

- 4.57 DUBLIN CASTLE/+** (Cross pattee) single circle. Issued 29 June 1911. Post Office Proof Book states: "Issued to A G D, King Edward's Buildings".

## FOLEY HOUSE

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During the first world war incoming mail for the Queen's Work for Women Fund was addressed to Foley House. See page 125 for main details.

## FORT BELVEDERE

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Sited at Sunningdale in Berkshire, it was the home of King Edward VIII from 1930 until his departure from Britain. The Fort is Crown Lease land.

Edward VIII used his royal monogram certifying stamp when in residence.

## FROGMORE

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This was Queen Charlotte's favourite retreat and is a small mansion which she acquired in 1790. It is close to Windsor Castle, indeed the grounds are now within the private park.

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.58



Fig. 4.59



Fig. 4.60

- 4.58 FROGMORE/C** single circle telegraph datestamp. Seen 1907 on a postcard.
- 4.59 FROGMORE/WINDSOR** single circle. Issued 19 December 1901. Post Office Proof Book states: "Sent to Windsor HPO on 22 December 1901".
- 4.60 FROGMORE/WINDSOR** single circle. Issued 1910. Taller, narrower lettering. Post Office Proof Book states: "Supplied to Court Postmaster Buckingham Palace on 10 June 1910".

## GATCOMBE PARK

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Gatcombe was built late on in the 18th century and is the residence of HRH The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips. It is to be found at Minchinhampton, Stroud, Gloucestershire and became a royal residence in 1976.

The mail is treated ordinarily, i.e. by the use of postage stamps. No certifying stamps are used and mail seen has been cancelled at Chippenham Wiltshire.

## GLAMIS CASTLE

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Glamis is sited at Glamis, Angus, Scotland having become a royal residence in 1372. It is owned by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and there has been a residence on the site for many hundreds of years. Princess Margaret was born there.

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.61

- 4.61** Machine number 2N536K. Slogan worded "GLAMIS CASTLE/TAYSIDE/OPEN MAY TO SEPTEMBER", with picture of Castle. Seen 1986 to 1988. Used by the Estate Office.

## HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Cardinal Wolsey, one of Henry VIII's most powerful and wealthy subjects, built the original Tudor mansion and gave it to the King to remain in his favour! The South Wing was extensively damaged in 1986 by fire.

During the 1700's mail was carried by horse from Hampton to Kingston (as the former was not a post town) by Henry Andrews. In 1900 the telegraph was replaced by telephone apparatus.

There is some doubt as to whether the Post Office was ever sited within Hampton Court Palace as it is known to have been a Post Office in East Molesey having opened around about the early 1890's. In 1914 it was recorded in the Post Office Guide as a Telegraph and Money Order Office, but would appear to have closed by the early 1920's.

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.62



Fig. 4.63



Fig. 4.64



Fig. 4.65

- 4.62** HAMPTON-COURT unframed circle with code letter A and thin arc at base. Seen 1867.

- 4.63 HAMPTON-COURT** single circle with code letter **A** seen 1890. Issued 15 January 1872 to Kingston-upon-Thames for telegraph use.
- 4.64 HAMPTON.COURT** single circle thimble with code letter **C**. Code **D** seen 1888 on a telegraph form. Also seen used during King George V's reign. Issued 19 May 1880 to Kingston-Upon-Thames.
- 4.65 HAMPTON COURT/CAMP/(DATE)/Kingston-on-/Thames, Sy.** single circle Climax dater. Seen 1937 on mail from the special camps set up to house troops due to attend the Coronation of King George VI.

## **HAREWOOD HOUSE**

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Edwin Lascelles began to build Harewood in 1759 from millstone grit. Princess Mary and Queen Mary once lived at this Palladian mansion set in West Yorkshire. The Estate currently belongs to the 7th Earl of Harewood.

Postal facilities must have existed but the writer has not come across any covers during research for this book.

## **HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE**

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The present Castle was constructed in the early 1800's and suffered two major fires in the 1960's. Highcliffe was used for three or four weeks in the Autumn of 1907 for the visit of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany.

## **CANCELLATIONS**



**Fig. 4.66**

- 4.66 HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE** single circle. Seen 1907 on a postcard. Additionally, a registered cover dated 29 November 1907 to London, franked with a King Edward VII 3d and cancelled with the Highcliffe Castle cancellation is known with a manuscript registration label worded "Highcliffe / Castle".

### HIGHGROVE HOUSE

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Highgrove was built in 1796/8 and is sited near Tetbury in Gloucestershire. It is currently the residence of the Prince and Princess of Wales having been purchased by them in 1980.

No special postal arrangements exist.

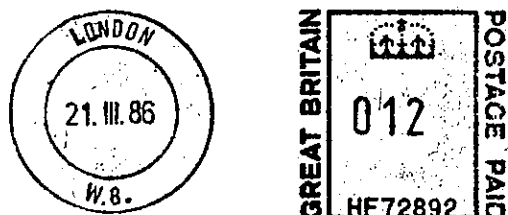
### KENSINGTON PALACE

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William and Mary bought Nottingham House (as it was previously referred to) in Kensington village in 1689. Sir Christopher Wren made extensive alterations. Queen Victoria was born there and today it is divided into various apartments for members of the Royal Family. It falls under the control of the Department of the Environment.

In 1899 telephones were installed. During 1960, the Court Postmaster became involved in much preparatory work for mail and telephone requirements following the marriage of HRH Princess Margaret and Mr Antony Armstrong Jones.

### CANCELLATIONS



**Fig. 4.67**

- 4.67** Machine Number HF72892. Seen 1986-1988. Struck in red.

## OFFICE OF THE DUCHESS OF KENT, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER AND PRINCESS MARGARET

The certifying stamps were issued for use between the Duke, Duchess and Princess and other members of the Royal Family.

Limited franking privilege was accordingly granted.



Fig. 4.68

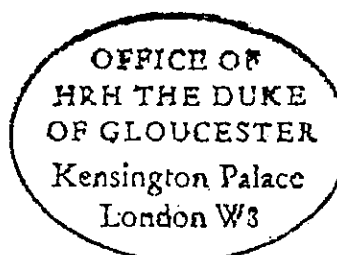


Fig. 4.69



Fig. 4.70

- 4.68 \*/OFFICE OF\*/KENSINGTON PALACE/H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT triple oval. Seen 1955.
- 4.69 OFFICE OF/HRH THE DUKE/OF GLOUCESTER/Kensington Palace/London W3 oval. Seen 1976 to 1984 with postage stamps affixed.
- 4.70 \*/OFFICE OF\*/KENSINGTON PALACE/H.R.H. THE PRINCESS MARGARET triple oval. Seen 1976.

## KEW PALACE

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Kew was built in 1631 at Richmond Surrey and acquired by the Crown in 1728.

It was the family retreat of George III and Queen Charlotte between 1802 and 1818.

## **LINLITHGOW PALACE**

This Scottish Palace has been a royal residence since the 1400's. More recently King George V and Queen Mary held Court in the Lyon Hall in 1914 and forty years later Queen Elizabeth II held a reception there. It is possible that postal facilities would have been provided.

## **MARLBOROUGH HOUSE**

Built 1709/11 it became a royal residence in 1816/7, prior to which it belonged to the Dukes of Marlborough and in 1959 it was transferred to the State by Royal Warrant and is now the Commonwealth Centre.

In 1887 the telegraph was commissioned and during 1899 a letter box was installed for use by the Prince of Wales. 1902 saw the introduction of a private wire for use by the Prince of Wales and four years later an additional Telegraph Messenger was appointed.

### **CERTIFYING STAMPS**

**Marlborough House  
Pall Mall  
London S.W.1**

**Fig. 4.71**

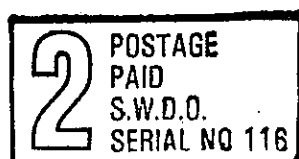
**FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE  
PALL MALL  
SW1Y 5HU**

**Fig. 4.72**

**4.71 Marlborough House/Pall Mall/London S.W.1.** unframed. Included here for completeness only.

**4.72 FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE/MARLBOROUGH HOUSE/PALL MALL/LONDON /SW1Y 5HU** unframed. Included here for completeness only.

### **POSTAGE PAID IMPRESSIONS**



**Fig. 4.73**

**4.73 2/POSTAGE/PAID/S.W.D.O./SERIAL No. 116** rectangular. Used in conjunction with the above two certifying stamps. Included here for completeness only.



## OFFICE OF H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT

The certifying stamp was issued for use between the Duchess and other members of the Royal Family. Limited franking privilege was accordingly granted.



Fig. 4.74

4.74 \*OFFICE OF\*/Marlborough House/H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT triple oval.

## MOY HALL

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The Hall is eight miles from Inverness and is the seat of the Laird of Mackintosh. King George V was a friend of the Laird and used to stay at the Hall.

He would presumably have needed postal facilities when at the hall so possibly mail exists, perhaps with an Inverness cancellation?

## NETHER LYPIATT MANOR

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Set at Stroud in royal Gloucestershire, the Manor is the home of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent having been built in 1717.

No special postal facilities exist for this residence.

## NEWMARKET

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Although not a specific residence, the royal Court was often at Newmarket and many letters were sent from there in the 1600's onwards. Until the King's letters were delivered everybody was forbidden to deal with mail relating to his subjects and complaints were made as a result of the delays that were occurring. It is recorded in 1672 that "Colonel Whitley personally appears at the office every postnight and never goes to bed till the King's letters are come down, nor does he omit to appear in the morning."

His Majesty King Edward VII attended the horse races at Newmarket on a regular basis and a cover bearing the first type official paid cancellation and second type royal monogram certifying stamp is known dated the 4th July 1906. It additionally bears a Newmarket double circle cancellation of the same date.

## NORFOLK HOUSE

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The Earl Marshal's Office was set-up in 1910 at this address in St. James's Square, London to cover the arrangements needed for the funeral of King Edward VII.

### 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.



Fig. 4.75

**4.75 EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE/(CROWN)/NORFOLK HOUSE, St. JAMES'S SQ. oval.**  
Seen 1901 on telegraph form and 1902 on a letter.

## OSBORNE HOUSE

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The favourite residence of Queen Victoria, Osborne House was built in 1845 on the Isle of Wight but it ceased to be a royal residence in 1902. Instead it became a Royal Naval College between 1903 and 1921 and subsequently a Convalescent Home for Officers.

Day mails for Osborne from 1845 were carried by boat by two routes, namely Portsmouth to Ryde and Southampton to Cowes; whilst mail from Osborne was sent via Cowes only. The night mails existed between Cowes and Southampton (and reverse direction) only. Prior to 1865 The Queen's Private Pouch was sent direct to London where it was opened at the London Chief Office, sorted and despatched throughout the Kingdom and beyond.

The Southampton and Cowes Packet Contractors tried to increase their charges in 1865 but met with a refusal to pay any extra. Tenders resulted in a night time route of Ryde to Portsmouth being established, which proved to be cheaper than hitherto. Also, the mail cart now passed the Lodge gates to collect the Queen's Pouch avoiding the need to send the mail on horseback to Cowes. At 6:15pm a Postman continued to collect items of mail not contained within the Pouch (i.e. personal items of mail from the Royal Family and members of the Royal Household) for cancellation at East Cowes before being despatched to Ryde.

During the 1860's to 1880's at least, mail from Osborne House was taken to the mainland in mail bags for placing on board the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage, where mail was cancelled on board the train. The Carriage was responsible for handling the night mails from the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth and it was usual for the stamp to be cancelled by the "POR SC" star cancellation. Whilst it cannot be classed as a "royal" marking its use on postage stamps was peculiar to the Osborne House mail contained in the Queen's Pouch between the years 1865 and 1873. Subsequent to 1873 a single circle canceller was employed on the stamps, unlike ordinary mail from the Island which was cancelled at the Post Office beforehand.



In 1870 the telegraph was extended to Osborne from East Cowes and a telegraphic code of O.S. was allotted. A PMG Minute of 1896 regarding the upgrading of East Cowes Post Office and the postal arrangements for Osborne House read: "The application of the East Cowes District Council for a direct service of mails from London is not perhaps an unreasonable one, and the Surveyor has shewn that by making East Cowes a Railway Sub Office with direct mails to and from: (1) London, (2) the Portsmouth Night Mail Sorting Carriage, (3) Portsmouth, and (4) the London and South Western Day Mail TPO it will be possible to afford earlier arrival and later dispatches of

letters at East Cowes, and at the same time to improve the Service.

"Sir Arthur Bigge, in his letter to Your Grace, asks that the Queen's mail may be left at Osborne Lodge by the Mail Cart on its way from Ryde to Cowes, and this can be arranged without difficulty.

"The Cart already collects Her Majesty's Mail on its return journey at 8.10p.m. and the Night Mail Service will thus be direct each way.

"As regards the Day Mails for Osborne, the Foot Postman who now leaves Cowes Head Post Office for East Cowes and Osborne at 10a.m. and 5.15 p.m. will start for Osborne from East Cowes and will arrive some minutes earlier than at present.

"The only other Day Mail is that arriving at Cowes Head Office at 12.10 p.m., and Her Majesty now sends to the Head Office at 1 p.m. for her letters. This arrangement could be continued or if it should be preferred a Special Messenger could be sent from Cowes to Osborne with this Mail during the time Her Majesty is in Residence.

"In order that it may be placed under no doubt that these proposals will meet the Queen's wishes, I propose to instruct Mr. Rushton, who has the case in hand, to proceed to Windsor as soon as the Court moves thither, and place the full details before Sir Arthur Bigge.

"The necessary alterations in wages and allowances result in a saving of £3:18s:3d (£3.91) a year, but a payment of not less than 10s (50p) a week will be necessary for special use of the Floating Bridge at Cowes at 5.55 a.m. on Sunday, or, as an alternative, a payment of like amount for a special Cart on Sunday morning from Wootton Bridge to Cowes via Newport. Beyond this no additional cost is involved for the Mail Cart Service, but I take this opportunity of recommending that instead of paying £145 a year for a one-horse Cart between Ryde and Cowes, with additional payments amounting to £60 a year for extra horses during the Queen's stay at Osborne, Your Grace should accept the Contractor's offer to perform the service all year round with a two horse Cart for a payment of £200 a year.

"The proposals here put forward for Your Grace's sanction will meet the wishes of the East Cowes Council save on two points, viz:-

- (1) raising East Cowes to the rank of a Head Office,
- (2) establishing a 4th delivery of letters at East Cowes to correspond with the 1.10 p.m. delivery at Cowes.

"On the first point the Surveyor reports that the present proposal gives East Cowes all the advantages in mail service which it would have if a Head Office, and he argues that it is better to have the responsibility for the two places, and also for the Osborne services during the Queen's stay, in the hands of the experienced Postmaster of Cowes.

"I concur with this view and cannot therefore recommend that this part of the Council's request be sanctioned. East Cowes will have a separate postal address, viz:- East Cowes R.S.O., Isle of Wight.

"As to the application for a delivery at 1.10 p.m., the Surveyor reports that the Mail reaching Cowes at 12.10 p.m. brings very little correspondence for East Cowes, and the circumstances do not warrant any special arrangements for its immediate conveyance to East Cowes, or for its delivery there. The Queen's letters arriving by this Mail have already been referred to in this Minute."

On 24 December 1896 a telegram to the Secretary of the Post Office was worded: "Sir Fleetwood Edwards informs me that Her Majesty approves Post Office at Osborne House and I am arranging to open it on 1 January 1897. I note that the cost is to be charged to the postal account". Prior to this ordinary Household mail was handled by the existing postal facilities provided on the island at Cowes. However, letters actually from the Royal Family were carried in the Queen's Pouch utilising the Royal Mail Steam Packet from Ryde to Portsmouth and then by the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage, as explained earlier.

The newly introduced Osborne handstamp was used to cancel all mail emanating from the House prior to its collection by the mail cart bound for Ryde. The Portsmouth Sorting Carriage cancels were thus no longer used and all mail left the island cancelled.

The Osborne Sub-Post Office opened as planned, having previously only been used for telegraph work, for use by the Royal Household and to relieve the Sergeant Footman of what had become arduous Sub-Postmaster duties (four mails each way despatched and received, parcels and letters weighed and stamps sold). The position of Clerk-in-Charge was undertaken by the Court Telegraphist. The nearest Post Office to Osborne was East Cowes, some distance away. It was classed as a Branch Office under Cowes and was not open to the public during the "Royal" period. A Post Office Weekly Circular entry dated 12 January 1897 read:

#### "Post Office Opened at Osborne

On the 1st instant the Office at Osborne, which has hitherto been open only for telegraph work, was opened as a Postal Sub-Office also - for the convenience of the Queen's Household.

It is subordinate to Cowes, and the Court Telegraphist is Clerk-in-charge.

It will be open only during the periods of Her Majesty's residence.

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

Approximately 1,000 letters and 164 parcels were handled each way and £73 worth of stamps and £237 of postal orders were sold in the period that the Court were in residence from 1 January to 15 February.

Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 a telegraph line was laid from the House to the yacht "Hohenzollern" which belonged to the German Emperor who had come for the funeral. A German speaking Telegraphist was provided called Mr Mullins who was placed on board the vessel to process the vast quantity of telegrams received and despatched. In all sixty three Telegraphists were deployed nationwide and nearly 9,000 telegrams

were transmitted at press rates generating an extra income of over £530 for the Post Office.

A Public Branch Post Office was opened during 1904 for use by the members of the staff and patients at the Convalescent Home as the following PMG Minute of 1903 revealed: "An application has been received from His Majesty's Office of Works asking that a Sub Office, which was opened in the time of the late Queen for all branches of work during the residence of the Court may now be opened permanently for the benefit of the residents at the new Convalescent Home and Naval College which are being established at Osborne.

"It is estimated that there will be about four hundred persons in residence at these two places increasing later on to six hundred and to this number must be added one hundred-and-fifty persons connected with and residing on the estate.

"Eventually, therefore, there will be about 750 persons to avail themselves of the desired facilities; and while it is impossible at present to forecast the amount of work, there is reason to think that the Office should be remunerative.

"Premises will be provided and fitted up by the Office of Works, and it is thought that a staff of two Female Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists will be required, for whom free accommodation will be provided in the Nurse's Quarters.

"If you approve, the minor details shall be settled later on when the requirements can be better forecast, everything shall be in readiness for 1st January next when opening is desired."

During 1917 the Post Office installed a Public Branch Telephone Exchange at the House.

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.76



Fig. 4.77



Fig. 4.78

- 4.76 P/OSBORNE single circle. Issued 25 March 1870 to Windsor Castle for telegraphic use at Osborne.
- 4.77 OSBORNE/I.OF.WIGHT single circle. Issued 1897. Seen 1900.
- 4.78 OSBORNE I.W. parcel type double circle. Issued 1897.

## KEVII CONVALESCENT HOME FOR OFFICERS

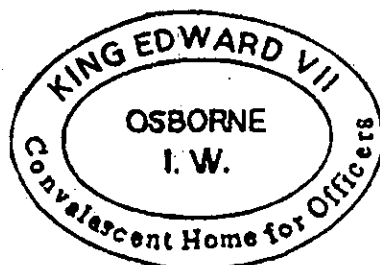


Fig. 4.79

**4.79 KING EDWARD VII/OSBORNE/I.W./Convalescent Home for Officers** double oval. Seen 1982. Included here for completeness only.

## PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

Built on the site of an abbey, the present building dates from the seventeenth century and was used by Queen Victoria as a means of breaking her long journey to Balmoral. Prior to this, she was guest of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. The Palace is the Royal Family's official Scottish home.

In 1911 a Post Office was opened at the Palace for the visit of the King and in 1914 a telephone system was installed. Mail these days is sent unstamped to Edinburgh for cancellation. Only registered or special delivery mail receives the Holyroodhouse cancellation.

Despite Queen Elizabeth II being the first Elizabeth of Scotland, the royal monogram certifying stamp "EIIR" is used at the Palace.

## CANCELLATIONS

**Note** - Postal markings worded 'Holyrood' are not connected with the Royal Household as Holyrood was a normal TSO under Edinburgh Head Office.



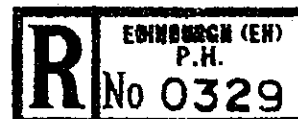
Fig. 4.80



Fig. 4.81

- 4.80 HOLYROOD PALACE/+** (cross pattee) single circle. Issued 29 June 1911. Post Office Proof Book states: "Issued to A G D, King Edward Buildings." Used originally for the visit of the King to Edinburgh between 17-21 July 1911 on ordinary pre-paid mail. However, WG Stitt Dibden in his article "A Coronation Collection" (see bibliography on page 178) states that it was introduced to handle the large volume of telegrams expected following the Coronation. Also known used in 1953 and 1958 on registered mail.
- 4.81 HOLYROOD PALACE/+** (cross pattee) single circle. A replacement for above cancellation. Seen 1974 to 1976.

#### REGISTRATION LABELS



**EDINBURGH B** Known 1953.

**EDINBURGH P.H.** "No. 0182" seen 1958. The P.H. presumably indicates Palace of Holyroodhouse, despite the Post Office insisting that the residence is called Holyrood Palace in the cancellations.

**EDINBURGH (EH)/P.H.** "No. 0329" seen, date unknown.

#### PURSE BEARER AND PURSE BEARER DEPARTMENT

The Purse Bearer is also the Lord High Commissioner and arranges Court Ceremonial. He also attends the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.



Fig. 4.82

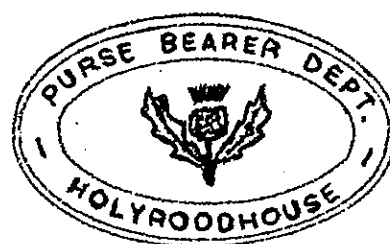


Fig. 4.83

- 4.82 -PURSE BEARER-/(THISTLE)/HOLYROODHOUSE** triple oval. Applied not at Holyroodhouse but in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. Seen 1984.
- 4.83 -PURSE BEARER DEPT-/(THISTLE)/HOLYROODHOUSE** triple oval. Seen 1980's.



## **PICCADILLY, NUMBER 145**

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145 Piccadilly in the heart of London was once the home of His Majesty King George VI when he was Duke of York.

There must have been postal facilities of some kind at the House for the Duke, although the writer has not come across any postal material during researches for this book.

## **ROYAL LODGE**

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The Lodge is a pink washed gothic house set in the middle of Windsor Park and has been the Queen Mother's home since 1931 and is where she spends most weekends.

There is no indication that special postal facilities exist.

## **ROYAL PAVILION, ALDERSHOT**

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Designed and built in 1855 for Queen Victoria, the Pavilion was first used as a royal residence on 10th June. It was a wooden building used by the King while inspecting the troops at various military spectacles and manoeuvres in Aldershot. The building no longer exists having been demolished in 1963.

The late Norman Hill stated in his article "Royal Pavilion, Aldershot" (see bibliography on page 179): "Only when royalty were in residence were postal facilities provided at the Pavilion. The Court Postmaster and staff then filled their normal duties at the Pavilion, the forward handling of the royal correspondence being performed by the Aldershot Head Post Office; State correspondence, however, was conveyed in a locked pouch. Three deliveries and collections were made daily "by a Postman with shiny boots, glittering badges and buttons.""

# CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.84

4.84 ROYAL PAVILION, ALDERSHOT/(CROWN) single circle. Struck in red.

MAY, 1928.

## THE KING'S OWN MESSENGER SERVICE To Royal Pavilion, Aldershot.

	LEAVE BUCKINGHAM PALACE.	LEAVE WATERLOO.	DUE AT ALDERSHOT.	DUE AT R. PAVILION.
WEEK DAYS	{ 10.55 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	{ 11.24 a.m. 8.0 p.m.	{ 12.56 p.m. 9.22 p.m.	{ 1.15 p.m. 9.45 p.m.
SUNDAYS	{ 12.50 p.m. 5.40 p.m.	{ 1.20 p.m. 6.10 p.m.	{ 2.52 p.m. 7.21 p.m.	{ 3.15 p.m. 7.45 p.m.

## TO LONDON.

	LEAVE R. PAVILION.	LEAVE ALDERSHOT.	DUE AT WATERLOO.
WEEK DAYS	{ 9.55 a.m. 8.25 p.m.	{ 10.16 a.m. 8.46 p.m.	{ 11.36 a.m. 10.14 p.m.
SUNDAYS	{ 9.34 a.m. 8.10 p.m.	{ 9.54 a.m. 8.30 p.m.	{ 11.20 a.m. 9.56 p.m.

Timetable for the King's Own Messenger  
Service when at Aldershot

## **ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON**

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The Pavilion was built following the visit by His Majesty George IV and between 1815-22 John Nash transformed it into a unique Indian style of domes and minarets. In 1848 it was sold to Brighton Town Commissioners for £50,000.

In 1836 a Minute preserved in the Post Office Archives detailed accidental damage to one of the Despatch Boxes of the King. It is reproduced herewith: "My Lord, I beg to enclose a note from Mr Backhouse respecting a despatch box addressed to His Majesty which had been broken open when it arrived at the Pavilion.

"I lost no time in calling upon the proper officer for a debate upon the subject from which it appears that the box was in a perfect state when it reached this office and that it was safely deposited in the Brighton bag.

"There can be no doubt therefore that the injury was caused by the force which the guard was compelled to use to get the letter bags into the box of the mail coach.

"With respect to Mr Johnson's suggestion that the guards should be cautioned against any repetition of such violence during H.M.'s stay at Brighton I doubt the propriety of such a prohibition, as I plead that on many occasions it would be absolutely inappropriate to get the bags into the mail boxes without great force - a general caution might be given not to use violence unless it shall be actually required.

"If your Lordship approves I can state to Mr Backhouse your opinion as to the cause of the accident."

## **ST.JAMES'S PALACE**

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In 1532 King Henry VIII acquired a female leper hospital. On the site he built St. James's Palace. Clarence House adjoins the apartments at the west end.

In 1906 an additional Telegraph Messenger was appointed to serve at the Palace.

Considering the importance of this residence it is surprising that more archival material has not been unearthed.

## DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE PALACE

### ASCOT OFFICE

The Ascot Representative is appointed by the Sovereign to run the Ascot Office and to issue tickets for the Royal Enclosure.

A rubber certifying stamp was used by His/Her Majesty's Representative.



Fig. 4.85



Fig. 4.86

4. 85 \*/HIS MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/\*/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1. oval. Introduced 1948.

4.86 HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. James's Palace, S.W. double oval. Seen 1979.

### Pre-Printed Certifying Stamps

Her Majesty's Representative now uses pre-printed envelopes that bear a facsimile of the above certifying stamps in black at the bottom left hand corner. The flap has an oval logo in red with the words "Her Majesty's Representative" and a crest.



Fig. 4.87



Fig. 4.88

4.87 HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. James's Palace, SW1A 1BP double oval. Seen 1986.

4.88 HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE/(CROWN)/ASCOT OFFICE/St. James's Palace, SW1A 1BP double oval. As above stamp but larger. Seen 1987

## 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. Previously at 8 Buckingham Gate.



Fig. 4.89



Fig. 4.90

4.89 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE/LONDON, S.W.1./OF KNIGHTHOOD oval. Seen 1975.

4.90 CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS/./(CROWN)/./ST. JAMES'S PALACE/LONDON, S.W.1./OF KNIGHTHOOD oval. Seen 1987.

#### CORONATION (EXECUTIVE) COMMITTEE

The Committee was appointed to consider the arrangements to be made for the Coronation of Their Majesties in June 1911.

Collections of mail were made from the Private Box of the Earl Marshal's Office (17 collections daily), with delivery by Postmen in the usual way. No special telegraph facilities were required. Extra arrangements were deemed necessary at certain times such as when the despatch of notices or tickets was expected, either at Norfolk House or Westminster Abbey.

Telegrams were handed in usually at Charles Street B0 during the day, and at West Strand after ordinary hours and on Sundays. Occasionally however, Broad Sanctuary B0 was used as it was the nearest Telegraph Office to Westminster Abbey.



Fig. 4.91

4.91 \*/CORONATION (EXECUTIVE)\*/./(CROWN)/COMMITTEE double circle. Seen 1910.

#### 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.

On 25 September 1951 a memorandum headed "Most Confidential" from F.G. Fielder of the Post Office indicated that postal and telephone facilities would be needed "in certain circumstances" and that a special office of the Earl Marshal would be set-up "in the event of particular circumstances arising". All very mysterious at the time, but of course we now know that they were planning for the imminent death of His Majesty King George the Sixth.

On the 6th February the office was opened as planned as His Majesty had died. Exceptionally all mail from the Earl Marshal's Office was treated as being on the list of departments entitled to the official paid posting facility. Records were maintained of all the mail and telegrams despatched and these were sent to the AGD via the Finance Branch of the Regional Office once the Earl Marshal's Office closed.



Fig. 4.92

4.92 +/EARL MARSHAL'S/(CROWN)/OFFICE/+ double oval. In use from 6 February 1952 for only a few weeks.

#### 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.

A pre-printed envelope worded in black at bottom left "Lord Chamberlain" has been seen dated 19 February 1970, together with the certifying stamp of the period.

The certifying stamps were originally used by the Lord Chamberlain, the Comptroller and the Chief Clerk.



Incorrect spelling of St James's.  
Noticed and corrected prior to issue

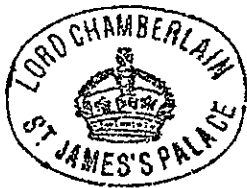


Fig. 4.93



Fig. 4.94

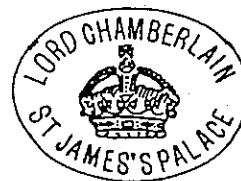


Fig. 4.95



Fig. 4.96

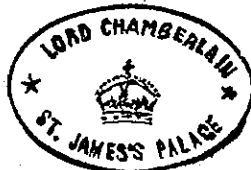


Fig. 4.97

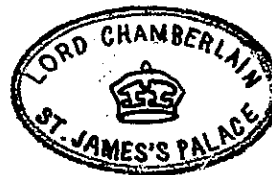


Fig. 4.98



Fig. 4.99

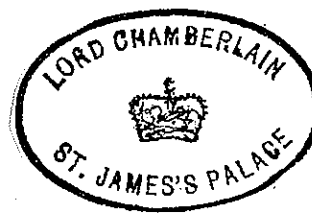


Fig. 4.100

- 4.93 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST.JAMES'S PALACE oval. Issued 28 August 1901 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1902 to 1906 in violet.
- 4.94 (CROWN)/(DATE)/LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, oval. Seen used December 1901 on a letter NOT item of mail and in 1906 on cover.
- 4.95 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE oval. Seen 1909.
- 4.96 \*/LORD CHAMBERLAIN\*/(CROWN)/ST.JAMES'S PALACE oval. Seen 1935 in violet.
- 4.97 \*/LORD CHAMBERLAIN\*/(CROWN)/ST.JAMES'S PALACE oval. Seen 1951 in violet.
- 4.98 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST.JAMES'S PALACE double oval. Seen 1970 in violet.
- 4.99 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST.JAMES'S PALACE double oval. Seen 1975 in violet.
- 4.100 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE single oval. Seen 1984 in violet.

#### THE ROYAL COLLECTION

In 1988 an exhibition entitled "Treasures from the Royal Collection" was opened in the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. They used a large certifying stamp at St. James's Palace on letters relating to the show and

the marking could almost be termed the first commemorative certifying stamp.



Fig. 4.101

4.101 THE ROYAL COLLECTION/(CROWN)/ST. JAMES'S PALACE SW1A 1JR oval. Seen 1988 struck in blue/black ink.

## SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

The Prince of Wales, later to become Edward VII, bought the Sandringham Estate in 1863. 1871 saw the rebuilding of the house in red brick and in the 1970's it was reduced in size and many internal alterations were made.

A PMG Minute preserved in Post Office Archives details the setting-up of the Post Office at the House from 1 December 1877 and the charges levied. It reads: "I submit that a Post Office may be established at Sandringham House as desired by the Prince of Wales, and that the arrangements which the Surveyor has proposed for the improvement of the post to the neighbourhood throughout the year, as well as those for the special convenience of His Royal Highness when at Sandringham may receive your Lordship's approval. The alterations of expenses will be as follows:

### To Commence

	£.	s.	d.	
Sandringham S.O. Salary . . . . .	25.	0.	0	a year
West Newton S.O. Allce for delivery . . . . .	8.	0.	0	
Additional payment to Contractor for Mail Cart . . . . .	10.	0.	0	
	-----			
	£43.	0.	0	

### To Cease

Dersingham S.O. allce. for delivery . . . . .	23.	9.	3	(£23.46)
	-----			
Permanent Increase	£19.	10.	9	(£19.54)



"In addition there will be an expense of 9/- (45p) a day incurred during the stay of the Prince or Princess for a special cart between Lynn and Sandringham in the evening."

The Minutes also show that the Post Office were not happy to pay the costs relating to the postal officers at Sandringham House. It reads: "I do not think the Department will be justified in continuing to provide the services of these clerks free of charge; and I propose with your Lordship's approval, to write to the Controller of the Prince of Wales' Household, and say that your Lordship's attention having been drawn to the matter you feel that you have no alternative but to request that for the future the services of the Clerks may be paid for; that you propose accordingly to charge H.R.H. The Prince of Wales with the actual salaries of the Clerks during the period of their service at Sandringham as well as with their travelling and subsistence allowances during the same period; and that you trust His Royal Highness will have no objection to this proposal."

"The Queen, I should state, pays for the services of the Clerk who attends Her Majesty."

The Office became a Money Order and Savings Bank Office in 1878 and in 1886 a public Telegraph Office was opened, again at the express wish of the Prince. As a private wire between King's Lynn and Sandringham was the property of the Prince, it had to be purchased from him by the Post Office and approval was given on 31 January 1886. The charges levied for the Telegraphist were discontinued but a Mr Warmington continued to serve from 1888.

A private wire between Sandringham House and Appleton House was installed in 1896 and in 1899, at 5.15am, a Special Bag was despatched from London to Sandringham House for the Prince of Wales daily. Additionally, a private wire was established between Sandringham House and West Newton Schoolhouse and Clubhouse and finally in this hectic year postally, a private wire between Sandringham House and "The Folley", Sandringham was established, again for the Prince of Wales.

The use of royal monogram certifying stamps by Mr Beck (His Majesty's Estate Agent at Sandringham) was granted in 1902 but the facility was rescinded in 1936.

A Report to the Secretary of the Post Office in 1903 about the work undertaken by Mr Hiley when at the House was submitted by the Sub-Postmaster at King's Lynn and read as follows: "Mr Hiley is always on duty he is in the Office about 8am and remains throughout the day till 11 & 12 at night & sometimes later. He himself deals with the Kings Private Pouch and despatch boxes of which he holds the key and is responsible. He sleeps close at hand so that he can be immediately fetched should he be wanted during the night."

"It is quite necessary for Mr Hiley to be within call at all times, it often happens he is sent for to go to His Majesty and members of the Household on official business and also to decipher Their Majesties writing. I should like to point out that the telegrams are exceedingly long ones and the majority are in a foreign language or cypher and the numbers dealt with cannot be taken at the ordinary average."

When the Court were in residence extra staff were provided by King's Lynn Post Office from 1906 and stamps and postal orders were obtained on credit, also from King's Lynn. A special telephone circuit was installed between Sandringham and Buckingham Palace in 1922.

When King George V died at Sandringham in 1936 over 200,000 words of condolence were dealt with by the Court Post Office telegraph system and its volume of postal traffic surpassed all previous records. The staff were able to take over as much extra accommodation and staff as facilities allowed.

In 1947 a very serious train accident occurred to the East Anglia TPO at Gidea Park station in Essex. The train included mail from His Majesty at Sandringham which was returned to the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office.

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.102



Fig. 4.103



4.104



4.102 OFFICIAL PAID/SANDRINGHAM HOUSE, NFK single circle. Seen 1974 in red.

4.103 SANDRINGHAM HOUSE/NORFOLK double circle with thin arcs. Seen 1976.

4.104 Seen 1984. Machine number P.B.L 518H. Struck in red.

## UNOFFICIAL CACHETS

Not of Royal Household origin. Included here for completeness only.



Fig. 4.105



Fig. 4.106

4.105 SANDRINGHAM/(CROWN)/1953/EIIR/CORONATION CAMP single circle. Used during the Coronation arrangements on commemorative mail.

4.106 19/ROYAL ESTATE/56/(SCOUT EMBLEM)/SANDRINGHAM single circle. Used at a Scout Jamboree and struck in green ink on mail posted there.

## **SUNNINGHILL PARK**

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This property was purchased by the Duke and Duchess of York following their marriage and it is sited near Windsor in Berkshire.

At the time of writing this book the House had not been occupied.

## **TAMARISK**

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Tamarisk is sited in the Scilly Isles and is one of the homes of the Prince and Princess of Wales. No special postal facilities are provided.

## **THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**

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Once a small Lodge for park officials at Richmond in Surrey, it was enlarged in 1727. Princess Alexandra has lived there since 1963.

In 1891 a Rural Postman was appointed to assist on station service. His wages were accordingly increased. Two years later the delivery office was transferred from Richmond to Kingston-upon-Thames. No special postal facilities exist.

## **TOWER OF LONDON**

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The building of the Tower of London was begun by William the Conqueror in the 11th Century. It was built to control and protect the City of London and has subsequently been a prison, fortress and Palace.

In 1903 the Office of Works took charge of the War Department with effect from the first of April. The official letters of General Milman, the Lieutenant of the Tower, had previously been franked by the Ordnance Officer (Major Moore) with an allowance of 1s3d (6p) per day made to the Constable of the Tower for postage. Permission was sought for the issuing of a certifying stamp to the Lieutenant, to be shared with the Clerk of Works who had previously been compelled to send his official letters to Custom House to be franked.

Outward mail from the Ordnance Store Office at the Tower was certified by the "War Department/Tower" certifying stamp; whilst incoming correspondence was addressed to the Ordnance Officer, Captain R Moore, A.O.D.

Collections from the Tower were to be made into the Inland Section at 4:50pm (Monday to Friday) and 3:27pm (Saturdays only). The Bag arriving at 5:22pm and 3:56pm respectively by "Local Marine Board, Dock Street, E" country van enclosed in the Great Tower Street Country Letter Bag and detailed on the Great Tower Street Letter Bill. Any "immediate" letters could be handed in at the Great Tower Street B.O. Deliveries were to be made by the ECDO throughout the day.

The use of the large general certifying stamp was approved in June 1903 but in 1911 attention was drawn to the fact that it was "of unusual size and design and is affixed in an unusual position". It did not comply with "Paragraph five of the Treasury Regulations, under which a Certifying Stamp should contain the name of the Department to which it belongs and the impression of the stamp occupies an unduly large portion of the front of the cover and is liable to obscure the address, and is also affixed in the place usually occupied by a postage stamp (ie in the top right hand corner) instead of in the bottom left hand corner." Apparently it embarrassed the Postmaster General who insisted that a certifying stamp "of the usual pattern" be supplied.

In 1914 a letter from the Tower stated that letters were still enclosed in a sealed bag and handed in a Great Tower Street B.O. They requested that this be abolished in favour of posting in ordinary post boxes and over the counter at Great Tower Street B.O. or Billingsgate B.O. in bundles. The Controller of the London Postal Service agreed to the abolition of the Bag but refused posting in ordinary letter boxes. Arrangements were accordingly made for mail to be handed over as requested provided that they were enclosed in a cover addressed to the "Superintendent on Duty, ECDO". 1916 saw a similar request to use the post boxes in the North Western District of London but, again, this was refused.

During 1923 a request was made for the Constable's Office to have the benefit of a Non-Paying Account as a letter sent by him was surcharged by the Post Office as it was not considered that it bore a legal type of certifying stamp. It was pointed out that this stamp had been in use for over a quarter of a century without being challenged and so it was agreed on the 9th November that free postage could continue, but on a "legal" basis. Later that year it was found that the oversize stamp banned in 1911 was still in use by the Governor of the Tower and that the cost of the correspondence was debited to the War Office. It was admitted that the Post Office were at fault for not fully explaining the situation at the time and so special steps were taken to check all government departments in case similar discrepancies existed.

In 1936 a further letter was erroneously surcharged bearing the Constable's Office certifying stamp because it had been posted in a pillar box and had not been cancelled with the official paid marking.

Following an article in the Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly of 29th July 1950 by the late Arthur Blair a full-scale enquiry was launched into the use of certifying stamps at the Tower in case any irregularities were apparent as

the article led the Post Office to believe that unauthorized stamps were in use. The enquiries made brought to light that the Constables Office had been posting their correspondence in the public pillar box at Towergate. This was stopped at once and all mail was now to be handed over the counter at Seething Lane B0. Snap checks were made to ensure that the regulations were being adhered to.

The Post Office were surprised that Sorting Office and delivery staff did not realise that the regulations were not being adhered to and although it was felt that this case was probably an isolated problem, the postings of all government departments was checked.

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.107

4.107 THE-TOWER/LONDON single circle. Issued 17 June 1884.

## GENERAL CERTIFYING STAMPS

All certifying stamps used after the Royal period and included here for completeness only.

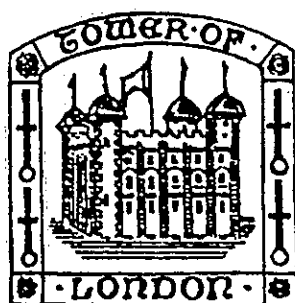


Fig. 4.108

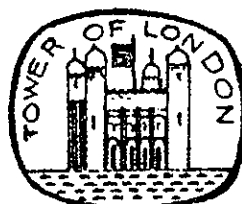


Fig. 4.109



Fig. 4.110

- 4.108 TOWER.OF./LONDON with picture of the Tower and heraldic devices. Arch shaped. Introduced 1903. Seen 1911 in violet.
- 4.109 TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the Tower. Squared oval.
- 4.110 TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the Tower. Squared oval. Seen c1970 in blue.

## THE ARMOURIES

The Armouries are where the arsenal of weapons are stored.

### Pre-Printed Envelopes

Envelopes headed O.H.M.S. exist with, in the bottom left hand corner, the legend "The Armouries,/Tower of London.". Seen 1923.

### Certifying Stamp

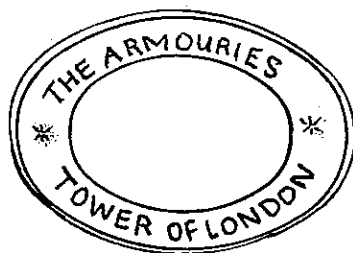


Fig. 4.111



Fig. 4.112

4.111 THE ARMOURIES/TOWER OF LONDON triple oval.

4.112 THE ARMOURIES/\*H.M. TOWER OF LONDON/\* with Crown at centre. Double circle. Seen 1974.

## THE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

The Constable is the Governor in charge of the Tower of London.



Fig. 4.113



Fig. 4.114



Fig. 4.115



Fig. 4.116



Fig. 4.117

- 4.113 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S\*/OFFICE\*/H.M./TOWER/OF/LONDON double oval.  
Seen 1906/10 in violet.
- 4.114 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S\*/OFFICE\*/H.M./TOWER/OF/LONDON double oval.  
Introduced May 1924.
- 4.115 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S OFFICE/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the  
Tower. Seen 1946.
- 4.116 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S OFFICE/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the  
Tower.
- 4.117 (CROWN)/CONSTABLE'S OFFICE/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the  
Tower. Seen 1978 in red.

#### THE OFFICE OF WORKS

A government department that was at one time located within the grounds of the Tower of London.



Fig. 4.118

- 4.118 OFFICE OF WORKS/TOWER OF LONDON with picture of the Tower.  
Introduced 1911. Seen 1914.




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H. M. Office of Works, &c.

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Original pen and ink artwork for certifying  
stamp on OHMS stationery envelope

## ORDNANCE OFFICE

The Ordnance Office was a government department for military stores.

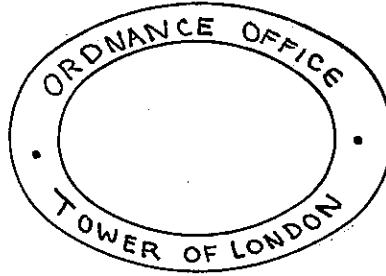


Fig. 4.119

4.119 ./ORDNANCE OFFICE/./ (DATE)/TOWER OF LONDON double oval. Seen 1914.

## WAR DEPARTMENT

A government department that was at one time located within the grounds of the Tower of London.

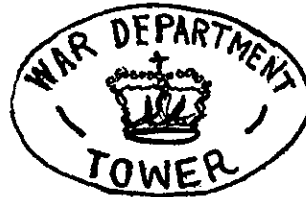


Fig. 4.120

4.120 WAR DEPARTMENT/(CROWN)/TOWER oval. Seen 1923.

## WHITE LODGE

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Teck used to live at White Lodge, which was sited in Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey having become a royal residence in 1730. Building of the property had commenced three years earlier in 1727.

A PMG Minute of 1875 concerned deliveries and read: "From the accompanying Reports it appears that the request of HRH the Duchess of Teck for two



deliveries of letters a day, with corresponding collections at the White Lodge, Richmond Park, to be made by Letter Carrier from Mortlake would involve an expense not justified by the revenue from the letters to be delivered, even calculating it at the unusually high rate of 1d (1/2p) per letter.

"At present letters for the White Lodge are left by one of the Richmond Letter Carriers at the Park Keeper's Lodge opposite the "Star and Garter" Hotel, and are conveyed thence by one of the Park-Keepers at about 10:15am and 4:00pm. The same number of deliveries - but at more suitable hours, viz 9:20am and 7:30pm with two collections, could be made officially by employing one of the Richmond Telegraph Messengers at a cost of only 5/- (25p) per week, and as this seems the best arrangement that can be made under the circumstances I submit that it be sanctioned." Arrangements were approved on 4th March that year.

## **WILTON HOUSE**

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The House is the home of The Earl of Pembroke and was built by Sir William Herbert over four hundred years ago.

A registered cover dated 1908 from the House and bearing the royal monogram certifying stamp of King Edward VII is known, presumably during a royal visit by Their Majesties.

## **WINDSOR CASTLE**

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For nearly 900 years Windsor Castle has been the principal residence of the Sovereign and the Queen always spends Christmas there, although at the time of writing Windsor Castle is about to undergo a major re-fit and Sandringham will temporarily become their Christmas residence. Built by William the Conqueror, the Castle was restored by George IV.

King George III began re-using the neglected Castle in 1775 and a Richard Martin of the Castle Inn, Windsor became Hackneyman to His Majesty, having obtained the Royal Warrant in the 1780's.

The Post Office took charge of the telephone circuits in 1879 and during 1888 there were "suspected persons at Windsor" and special precautions were made for the safety of the Queen's Pouches. A few years later in 1892 a PMG Minute states that a telegram was forged at Windsor, but gives no further insight into what must have been considered a very serious offence at that time.

In 1896 Queen Victoria was desirous of telephones between Windsor Castle and Cumberland Lodge. Telegraphs already existed with Windsor Post Office intermediate. A Public Telegraph Office had for some years been established at the Lodge and was often used by persons residing in the vicinity. Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle were connected to the National Telephone Company's exchange at this time and in the following year the Post Office took charge of the telephone circuits. A letter by Mr Hiley that year indicated that for a cost of 10s (50p) for four months of the year, postal orders and stamps could be sold when the Court were in residence, as had been done at Osborne. A Bond was issued to the Postmaster of Windsor to cover the credit stock that needed to be obtained. The sale of postal orders and postage stamps by the Court Telegraphist was sanctioned and an officer from Windsor Post Office was sent to assist.

By February 1904 a Post Office was being maintained within Windsor Castle between the hours of 8am and midnight and in 1906 when the Court was at Windsor, two Telegraphists were supplied from the Windsor Head Post Office who slept in at the Castle and received board and lodging.

A Post Office counter was opened in 1912 under the control of the Court Postmaster and extended hours of opening were established which meant that a further two Sorting Clerk Telegraphists needed to be employed.

During 1916 male Sorting Clerk Telephonists who were employed at Windsor Castle were not allowed to be replaced by females despite any desire they may have had to assist the war effort.

In the 1930's the "Post Office Magazine" detailed postal arrangements at Windsor during the reign of King George VI. It read: "Delivery and collection services are effected in the ordinary way by the Postman when the Court is not in residence, but when Their Majesties and Court are at the Castle a full time Postman-in-Waiting is provided extra and boy Messengers-in-Waiting for the additional work inside the Castle itself.

"During Court visits the Court Postmaster is present in immediate charge, and then H.M.'s official correspondence and despatch boxes are exchanged direct between Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle by G.P.O. Motor Vans.

"The Gentleman Porter still takes over Their Majesties' personal items, but the Windsor postman effects delivery to the apartments of the Court officials and visiting Ministers, and makes collections in the course of the day for the principal despatches."

The office was re-located to its current position facing the quadrangle during 1963. These days, when the Queen is in residence the Post Office is the responsibility of the Court Postmaster. At other times it comes under the control of the Windsor Head Post Office, where all the mail gets processed.

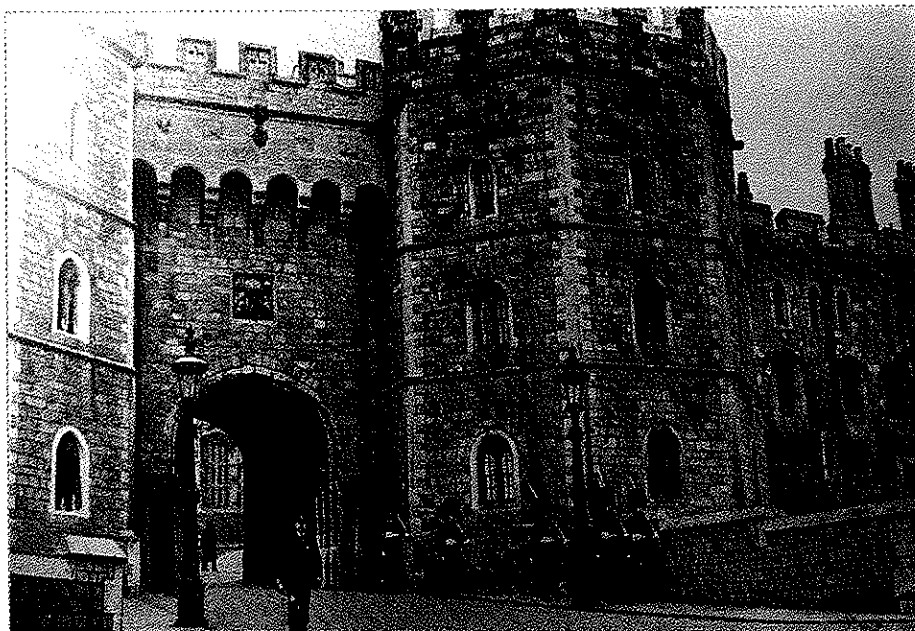
## THE ROYAL POSTMAN



"This photograph is of Mr W T Riley who had the distinction of dealing with the Royal Mails at Windsor Castle from 1902 to 1915 during the Court visits of their Majesties King Edward VII and King George Sixth, respectively. The King's Pouch itself was padlocked and chained and bore on it the inscription "H.M. The King, Windsor Castle" on a large brass address label. During the greater portion of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's reign the Royal mail for Windsor Castle was taken over at the Head Post Office by a Corporal of Horse and two Troopers of the Life Guards and conveyed to the Castle for delivery to the Gentleman Porter, but during the reign of King Edward VII the work was transferred to the practice of Postmen undertaking all the duties.

"Mr. Riley was the first to be entrusted with these wider services of delivery direct to the several official quarters of His Majesty's Court when in Residence at Windsor."

(Reproduced from the "Post Office Magazine")



Postman leaving Windsor Castle  
having made a delivery, 1930's

## CANCELLATIONS



Fig. 4.121



Fig. 4.122

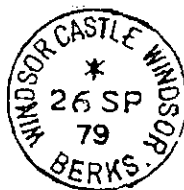


Fig. 4.123



Fig. 4.124



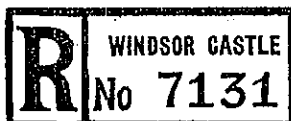
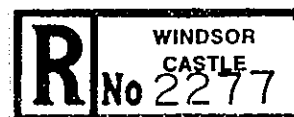
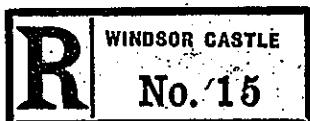
**4.121** WINDSOR.CASTLE single circle. Issued 23 February 1870.

**4.122** WINDSOR.CASTLE single circle. Issued for telegraphic use. Seen 1903 to 1926 on postcards.

**4.123** WINDSOR CASTLE, WINDSOR, BERKS single circle. Issued prior to the first world war. Seen 1979 on registered mail.

**4.124** Machine Number 2N 451Y. Struck in red. Used by the Estate Office. Seen 1987.

## REGISTRATION LABELS



WINDSOR CASTLE "No. 15". Seen 1919.

WINDSOR CASTLE "No. 0654". Seen 1941.

WINDSOR/CASTLE "No. 2277". Seen 1979.

WINDSOR CASTLE "No. 7131"

## DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE CASTLE

### FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S

Envelopes worded "The Society of Friends of St. George's / Windsor Castle" in black at top left hand corner exist. Seen 1982.

### LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S DEPARTMENT

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. 4.125

- 4.125 LORD CHAMBERLAIN/(CROWN)/WINDSOR CASTLE** oval. Seen October 1901 and 1907.

### 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 Superintendent of the Royal Mews.



Fig. 4.126



Fig. 4.127

- 4.126 MASTER OF THE HORSE/(CROWN)/ROYAL MEWS,WINDSOR** oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office.

- 4.127 \*/MASTER OF THE HORSE\*/(CROWN)/THE ROYAL MEWS,WINDSOR** double oval.

### MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S DEPARTMENT

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

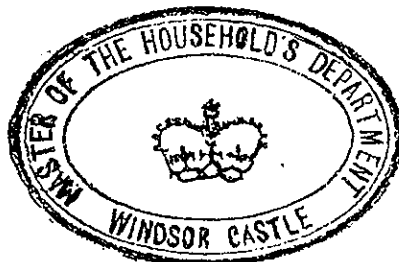


Fig. 4.128



Fig. 4.129

- 4.128 MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S DEPARTMENT/(CROWN)/WINDSOR CASTLE triple oval, small Crown. Seen 1964 to 1981.
- 4.129 MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD'S DEPARTMENT/(CROWN)/WINDSOR CASTLE double oval, large Crown. Seen 1986.

#### PRIVY PURSE OFFICE

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



Fig. 4.130

- 4.130 \*/PRIVY PURSE\*/(CROWN)/WINDSOR oval. Issued 1902 and supplied by the Post Office. Seen 1908 to 1940.

#### ROYAL GARDENS, WINDSOR

Private gardens set within the confines of Windsor Castle.



Fig. 4.131

- 4.131 \*/ROYAL GARDENS\*/(CROWN)/WINDSOR double oval. Seen 1976 to 1987.

#### MILITARY DETACHMENT MAIL

Letters posted by soldiers based at Windsor Castle on a tour of duty use cachets relating to their Regiment. All covers also receive the Windsor machine cancellation as if it were an ordinary piece of mail that had been posted in Windsor town. There are no special Post Office markings to identify the mail.

## **YORK COTTAGE**

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Built in about 1864, York Cottage was originally called Batchelor Cottage. It was home to King George V for thirty years and is currently used as flats and offices for Estate pensioners.

Mail for York Cottage was despatched through Sandringham House Post Office.

## **YORK HOUSE**

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York House forms part of St. James's Palace.

In December 1901 it was requested that the Prince of Wales' official correspondence should pass free of postage from York House or, indeed, wherever the Prince may be residing. Hitherto he had paid postage at the ordinary rates. There was no practical difficulty in arranging for the pouches to be franked when passing either to or from one of the Royal Palaces or government offices and the scheme was accordingly granted.

## **NATIONAL RELIEF FUND (and The Queen's Work for Women Fund, and Queen Mary's Needlework Guild)**

Established during the first world war to raise money for troops on active service and for their dependents.

A non-paying account was granted by the Post Office in 1914. A PMG Minute gives full details of postal arrangements, and is reproduced herewith: "The Treasury have now given written authority for the transmission of unpaid letters sent on the business of the National Relief Fund and either addressed to or despatched from the Headquarters of the Fund Committee.

"The legality of such authority, even if given by warrant, is by no means clear: under an opinion of Sir Robert Hunter dated 26th May 1888 it could certainly be challenged but Mr Llewelyn Davies in an opinion dated the 17th instant states that, although there is some room for doubt, he is inclined to think that Section 2 of the Post Office Act 1908 "gives sufficiently wide powers to the Treasury to enable them, by Warrant, to sanction the remission of postage in favour of the National Relief Fund and other similar Funds, during the continuance of the war.

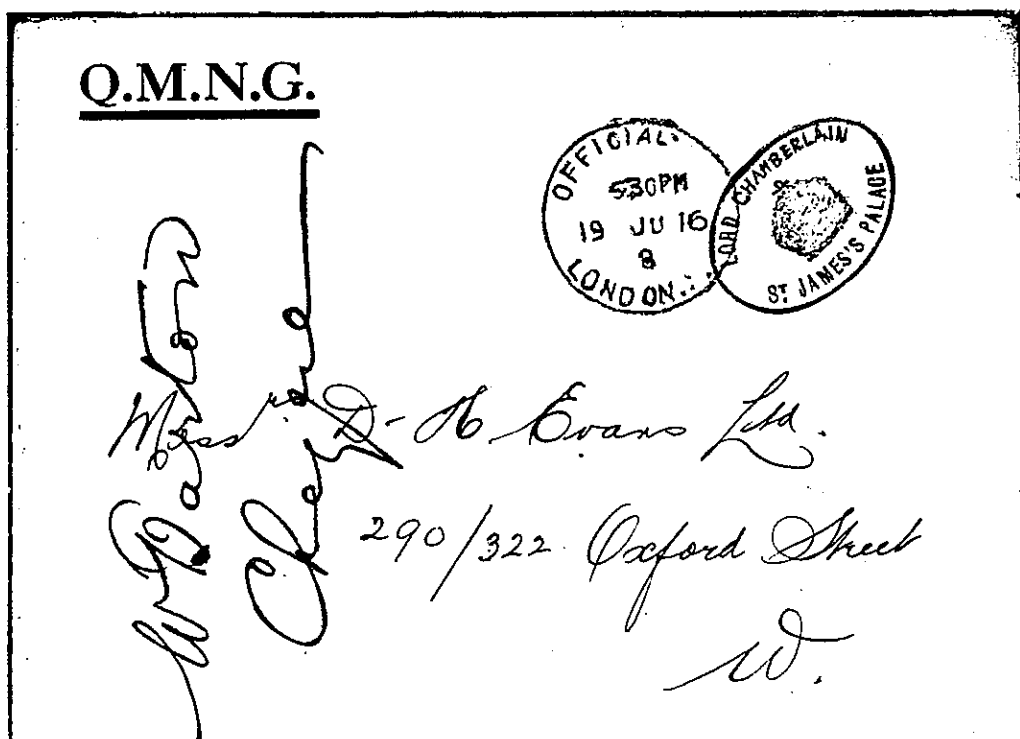
"That the action of the Treasury is opposed to the intention of Parliament - as shown by the abolition of "franking" in 1840 - I have no

doubt, but I do not think the present case is a convenient one in which the Treasury decision should be challenged. Moreover, as the concession of free postage to the National Relief Fund is only a temporary concession, I think it is scarcely necessary to embody it in a formal Warrant, which in ordinary course would be published in the London Gazette.

"The Queen's Work for Women Fund sends its outward letters to Buckingham Palace or York House to be impressed with the National Relief Fund Certifying Stamp. Its inward letters are addressed to Buckingham Palace, York House or Foley House. I recommend that the Work for Women Fund be regarded as a branch of the National Relief Fund and that the postage on its unpaid letters be charged to that Fund's account. Outward letters, in order to pass unpaid, should, I think, continue to be sent to the Headquarters of the National Relief Fund - Buckingham Palace or York House - for certification and despatch.


"Queen Mary's Needlework Guild sends its outward letters from St. James's Palace impressed with the Lord Chamberlain's Certifying Stamp. Its inward letters are addressed to the Guild at St. James's Palace. I recommend that this arrangement be allowed to continue, and that the postage be charged to the account of the Lord Chamberlain's Department which is merged in the Non-Paying Account of His Majesty's Household.

"With regard to the scheme for providing sweaters, outward letters are impressed with the Lord Chamberlain's Certifying Stamp and despatched from St. James's Palace, and inward letters are addressed to Devonshire House. The work of the organisation will probably be completed before long and I recommend that the arrangement be allowed to continue, postage being charged to the account of the Lord Chamberlain's Department."



Cover from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild





*I enclose £                      s.                      d. towards the Prince of Wales'*  
**NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.**

*Name*  
*Address*

This coupon should be filled in, and the envelope, which need not be stamped,  
 addressed to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, Buckingham Palace, London.

**Form used by people who wished to donate  
to the fund**

#### CERTIFYING STAMPS



**Fig. 4.132**



**Fig. 4.133**

- 4.132 NATIONAL RELIEF FUND/TREASURER/./H.R.H. PRINCE OF WALES/.** single oval. Issued 8 August 1914 to York House (four copies supplied). Seen 1915.
- 4.133 NATIONAL RELIEF FUND/TREASURER/./H.R.H. PRINCE OF WALES/.** double oval.