

that steps will shortly be taken to place the formation of the Society's postage stamp collection upon a satisfactory basis. The Earl of Crawford, the Vice-President of the Society, and other prominent members have already promised to contribute towards the collection, and we trust that ere long, under the management of a small sub-committee, we shall see the foundations laid of what will assuredly in the future be one of the greatest possessions of the Royal Philatelic Society.

Meanwhile, it would be gratifying if members and others who approved the scheme and are willing to support it by contributions would communicate with the Hon. Secretary of the Society (at 10 Gracechurch Street, E.C.). The united efforts of all the members of the London Society, coupled with the help that we feel sure would be tendered by our friends in the stamp trade, should speedily place the success of the undertaking beyond doubt. In contributing toward this reference collection it should be borne in mind that it is one that will practically be for the guidance and benefit of all connected with Philately, and we therefore feel assured that assistance will be forthcoming from all quarters.

Notes on Proclamations bearing on the Post Office.

BY THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF CRAWFORD, K.T.
(VICE-PRESIDENT).

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON OCTOBER 18, 1906.



IN 1893 Mr. Herbert Joyce, C.B., of H.M. Post Office, printed a valuable and interesting History of the Post Office; and all that I profess to do is to lay before you this evening some of the original from which he must have obtained his information, dealing mainly with the first three chapters of his book.

I fear that my paper this evening is but a dull one, but it has the merit of being short, and will probably be of more interest in print than when listened to. It is merely an amplification of what has been known for long, taken from the actual existing proclamations.

For the last twenty years or so I have been collecting material for what may be called the ground-floor or basement of our early national history—for such, I think, may be termed the expression of the King's will to his subjects—Government by Proclamation.

While in use the proclamations had all the authority of and were the law of the land.

In the early days (till about 1640) there were no newspapers in the country, and the only means of disseminating the law was by distribution of the broadside sheets to certain centres of the different counties, there to be pasted on the church doors or on the market cross or town house.

These sheets existed primarily in manuscript, prepared on the King's instructions by the Secretary of State, received the sign manual, were sealed by the Chancellor with the Great Seal, and were then set up in type by the King's printers in limited numbers.

A bundle was handed to a King's messenger or rider, with a way bill of directions as to his route, where and how many copies he was to deliver. This was riding post on service of the King.

It will readily be understood that these posters or broadside proclamations cannot have been preserved in their original form in any large number. Few were printed at first—these sent out as loose sheets of paper, pasted on walls, handed from one to another, the destruction must have been very great, and the life of a copy very short. Indeed, of a large proportion of the earlier ones, single copies only are known, and even to modern times originals are rarely to be met with.

Fortunately for us the passion for collecting has always been well developed. We have had book lovers from early times; these are the general collectors. Some few, however, such as Humphry Dyson, Thomasson, and Bagford, *specialized* in the ephemeral literature of their day; and to their collections we are indebted at the present day.

H. Dyson made up a volume, now in the library of the Society of Antiquaries, of the proclamations of Edward VI, of which no other copies are known. He made four duplicate volumes of those of Queen Elizabeth. These are now respectively in the British Museum, Bodleian, Queen's College, Oxford, and Society of Antiquaries.

To Thomasson we owe almost all that is known of the tracts and pamphlets issued in the time of the Commonwealth, and Bagford was an indefatigable collector of tracts, broadsides, etc., at a later period.

The collections of Thomasson and Bagford are preserved in the British Museum.

Our member, Mr. Stuart Dudley, made an interesting show of old postal documents at the late exhibition, and it occurred to me to look through my proclamations for such as bore on the post. I am thus able to bring before you to-night fifteen of these originals, comprising twenty-five sheets or folios, and I have also drawn up a list in chronological order of all such postal proclamations that are known to the Scottish Union. There are only fifty-two in all, ranging from the reign of Philip and Mary till Queen Anne.

For an idea of their scarcity I give a list of known copies:—

Proclamations.	Copies known in print.
7	none
15	1
9	2
4	3
2	4
5	5
2	6
2	7
1	8
2	9
1	10
1	11
1	15

The forty-five proclamations known in print make fifty-nine sheets, and there are in all 167 copies remaining to us.

LIST OF PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

Philip and Mary.

[By the King and Queen.] Ordnounces devised by the King and Queenes Maiesties for thordre of the Postes and Hacquenymen betweene London and Dover.

Dover, Canterbury, Sythingbourne, Rochester, Dartford, and London are ordained to be Ordonary Postes.

Only copy known in MS. Society of Antiquaries.

26 Elizabeth. 14 January, 1583-4.

[By the Privy Council.] Orders set down and allowed by the Lordes of her Maiesties prive Counsell, and appoynted to be put in Print for the Postes betweene London and the borders of Scotland.

London: C. Barker [1583-4]. One folio Gothic letter.

Four copies known. British Museum, Bodleian, Queen's College, Oxford, Society of Antiquaries.

The post riders had to have a commission appointing them, which was not transferable. He had to pay 1½d. a mile. Any one riding without commission paid 2d. a mile.

Postmaster to keep a register of commissioned riders, and also of horses. If the riders come "too thicke" he may take up horses on hire.

No man shall ride without a guide to blow a horn when entering a town, and also three times in each mile. Posts are to ride in summer (25th March to 29th September) seven miles an hour, the rest of the year five miles, so that from London to Berwick shall take forty-two hours and sixty respectively.

Only Queen's affairs properly signed to be sent post.

Any man carrying packets without leave to be imprisoned.

26 Elizabeth. 22 January, 1583-4.

[By the Master of the Postes.] Articles set down by . . . Thomas Randolph, Esquier, Master and Controller General, &c., for the Postes from London to Scotland.

London: Ch. Barker, 22 January, 1583-4. One folio Gothic letter.

Three copies known. British Museum, Bodleian, Queen's College, Oxford.

Every postmaster three horses ready, three leather bags lined with cotton, and three horns to blow by the way. Every post to proceed within fifteen minutes of his arrival.

He shall also have four horses and two horns always ready for those who would ride post. No packet is to be forwarded except by a servant of the post. No post to ride without a horn, and the guide is to carry the "male," provided it weighs less than 40 lb.

No private letters to be delivered before the Queen's packet is handed over, and no post rider is to open, break up, or "imbessill" any private packet.

The postmaster is responsible for the faults of his servants.

27 *Elizabeth.* 29 *January*, 1584-5.

[By the Privy Council.] Orders . . . agreed and set down by . . . the Privy Council and Thomas Randolph . . . concerning the Postes established in Kent. . . .

London: Barker, 1584. One folio Gothic letter.

Three copies known. British Museum, Bodleian, Queen's College.

Every master shall have six horses ready, two for the packet, the others for affairs, with three horns, etc.

Books as to user to be kept.

All strangers of any nation entering or leaving the realm shall take horses at 2s. 6d. a stage, or "by Journey" two pence the mile. Englishmen to pay the accustomed price (1½d. a mile).

The through posts of the merchants of Flanders and France, are to take horses from stage to stage.

The same rule as to speed as before.

33 *Elizabeth.* 26 *April*, 1591.

By the Queene. (No general title.)

London: C. Barker, 1591. One folio Gothic letter.

Five copies known. British Museum, Bodleian, Queen's College, Society of Antiquaries, Privy Council.

The effect of these orders was to put right certain abuses which had arisen in the working of the posts.

Directs that no person to carry letters out of the kingdom except under authority. All "mails, bouquets, and other carriages are to be searched."

This was probably a measure of protection against the companies of merchants of Flanders and France, who claimed the right of running their own letters by means of their own servants.

38 *Elizabeth.* 11/20 *April*, 1596.

[By the Privy Council.] Letters . . . for the furnishing of horses in all towns where Posts are established directed to all Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Bailiffs, Constables, etc. . . . The Lord-Lieut. of the Shire and his deputies to see to obedience.

London: Dep. of C. Barker, 1596. One folio Gothic letter.

Five copies known. British Museum, Bodleian, Queen's College, Society of Antiquaries, Privy Council Office.

Orders that ten or twenty able horses shall be ready at each stage, ready for post. To be there six days by six days, to be paid for at post rates.

Also lists of all persons owning horses fit for posting are to be kept.

Defaulters are to be reported to Mr. John Stanhope, Master of the Posts.

1 *James I.* 8 *April*, 1603.

[By the Privy Council.] To all Mayors, Sheriffs . . . etc., and to all other King's officers and subjects.

No place of printing but London: Barker, 1603. One folio Gothic letter.

One copy known. Queen's College, Oxford.

This was for the King's journey to England, and to provide well-furnished horses and carriages with good guides in the numbers to be signified by Rowland White, Court Postmaster, and Thomas Mylles, Paymaster of the Posts.

This to apply to all towns through which the King is to pass on his journey south.

1 James I. [? May], 1603.

By the King. Orders for the thorow Posts and Carriers riding in Post in our Affairs.

London: R. Barker, 1603. Two folios Gothic letter.

Three editions were made of this Proclamation:—

- (a) Three copies known. British Museum, Society of Antiquaries. Barker.
- (b) Two copies known. British Museum, Queen's College.
- (c) One copy known. Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

All places where posts are laid for the Packet shall have the benefit of letting horses to all riding post.

If carriers come in to fare for their provision of horses, the constable is to seize for them others.

None shall ride on special commission without a signed pass. The charge for each horse is 2½d. a mile, beside the "guide's groats."

Payments to be made in advance.

A horse shall not be loaded with more than 30 lb. (of mails). Seven miles in summer (April to September), or six miles in winter.

1 James I. [] 1608.

By the King. Orders for the Posts of our Realms and for all men to observe and obey in the speedy carriage of Packets directed for Our affairs.

London: R. Barker, 1608. One folio Gothic letter.

Two editions were printed of these orders:—

- (a) Two copies known. British Museum. Barker.
- (b) Two copies known. British Museum, Queen's College.

Repeals most of the former orders. The horns to be sounded now four times in every mile.

Careful register to be kept of the dates and time of arrival and dispatch of all matter relative to His Majesty's affairs. All others are "to passe as bye letters."

Speed to be seven and five miles, summer or winter.

The posts and their attendants to be free from all prests and attendances at assizes, sessions, inquests, and musters.

Scottish. James VI. 5 May, 1603.

By the Privie Council of Scotland. Anent the riding Post to England.

Edinburgh: .? ? 1603.

No copy known. It is recorded in the Register of the Pr. C. (vi. 567) at Edinburgh.

7 James I. 15 May, 1609.

By the King. Forbidding the carriage of letters in and out of the Realme.
London: R. Barker, 1609. One folio Roman letter.
Three copies known. British Museum, Queen's College. Barker.

Although orders are that no one should carry posts in and out of the realm except under authority, yet it is being done by divers disavowed persons.

The Lord Treasurer of England and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports are to give knowledge of this to all merchants and others.

Suspected persons are to be searched and apprehended.

1 James I. 1608.

By the King. Orders for the Postes of our Realmes, and for all men to observe and obey. . . .

London: Robert Barker, 1608. One folio Gothic letter.

Only one copy known. Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

This proclamation is a repetition of that issued in 1603 " (according to the necessities of the times) renewed and published in our name. . . . "

7 James I. 15 May, 1609.

By the King. Orders to be observed within our County of Kent.

London: R. Barker, 1609. One folio Roman letter.

One copy known. Queen's College, Oxford.

Orders issued for the security of the State by preventing intelligence among the disaffected and for H.M. Service.

This proclamation was reissued in 1621, q.v.

13 James I. (. . .) 1615.

By the King. Orders for the Postes of our Realmes and for all men to observe and obey. . . .

London: R. Barker, 1615. One folio Gothic letter.

One copy known. Society of Antiquaries.

This would seem to be one of the class of Stock Proclamations, or one that was issued annually usually early in April. It refers to the orders issued by Queen Elizabeth, and continued by James.

There are no changes in the regulations set forth.

13 James I. 27 Jan., 1615-16.

[*By the Privy Council.*] Against unauthorised carrying of foreign letters.

London: R. Barker, 1615-6. One folio Roman letter.

One copy known. Queen's College, Oxford.

Cites the proclamation of 15 May, 1609. There are still difficulties from unauthorised persons carrying letters abroad.

Matthew de Quester, the King's Foreign Postmaster, is to search for and apprehend any such offenders, and bring them before the Privy Council.

16 James I. 6 Feb., 1618-19.

[By the King.] Letters to restrain carrying of Packets by Shippers. . . .
London: Norton and Bill, 1618. One folio Roman letter.
One copy known. Society of Antiquaries.

Again reference to Proclamation 15 May, 1609.

The "Letters" are addressed to "Our loving friends the Searchers" of the ports of London, Gravesend, Dover, and other ports and all others concerned.

All letters found are to be sent to Matthew de Quester for delivery.

Ireland. 16 James I. 9 Feb., 1618-19.

By the Lord Deputy and Council. (Appointing a Deputy for Ireland.)
London: Norton and Bill, 1618. One folio Roman letter.
One copy known. Society of Antiquaries.

Recites that on 5 July, 1605,* the King granted by Letters Patent the office of Postmaster-General to John Lord Stanhope of Harrington. Also that He by Proclamation 15 May, 1609, warned against the using of disavowed messengers. And Lord Stanhope, the P.M.G., being anxious to have a duly authorised person in Ireland, the king appoints as Deputy to Lord Stanhope Melchior Van Pelken, resident in Dublin.

In this year M. de Quester was appointed Foreign Postmaster, but no copy of the proclamation has survived.

(7 James I. 15 May, 1609.)

18 James I. 1621.

By the King. A textual reprint of the proclamation of 15 May, 1609, q.v.
London: Norton and Bill, 1621. One folio Roman letter.
Two copies known. Public Record Office. Barker.

21 James I. 19 December, 1623.

By the King. Quieting Matthew de Quester and his son as Foreign Postmasters.

(No place or printer's name.) Two folios Gothic letter.

Three copies known. Privy Council, Public Record Office, Society of Antiquaries.

This was a writ of the Privy Seal, confirming to Matthew de Quester the office of Foreign Postmaster, and also to his son.

States that Lord Stanhope's grant is for the *inland* posts.

1 Charles I. 14 January, 1625-6.

[By the Privy Council.] Concerning the Foreign Posts.

(No place or date.) One folio Roman letter.

Two copies known. Public Record Office, Society of Antiquaries.

Lord Stanhope had appointed Henry Billingsley as a messenger for the

* The proclamation here referred to has not been found at the present time in print.

Company of Merchant Adventurers to carry foreign letters to and from London.

This order is to forbid Billingsley to meddle with the transporting of letters until the case at law between him and Matthew de Quester, Postmaster for Foreign Service, is settled and determined.

2 Charles I. 15 August, 1626.

[By the Privy Council.] Concerning the Foreign Posts. (Billingsley.)

London: Norton and Bill, 1626. One folio Roman letter.

Two copies known. Public Record Office, Society of Antiquaries.

Following on from the last. It has become known that Billingsley still takes letters by means of his servants, though ordered not to meddle with the foreign posts.

He excuses himself that the order of the Privy Council of date 14 January last was made against himself personally, not against his servants!

Orders are now issued against him, and also against Thomas Albertus, George Robins, William Ellam, William Scape, late servants and agents of the said Billingsley.

2 Charles I. 22 November, 1626.

[By the Privy Council.] On the Foreign Posts.

No printed copy exists.

The effect of this order was to permit the Merchant Adventurers and other companies of merchants to send their letters and dispatches by messengers of their own.

(To be continued.)

The New South Wales Plates for the New "Oceania."



R. L. L. R. HAUSBURG was kind enough at a recent meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society to bring the plates of the Sydneys and Laureates of New South Wales as so far built up for the purposes of illustrating the types in the forthcoming work on the Australian stamps. These plates are, in most instances, made up almost entirely of unused stamps, and will assuredly make illustrations of unsurpassable beauty. To attain this result recourse to almost all the leading European collectors has been necessary, and Mr. Hausburg especially named the following, among others, who have lent stamps from their collection: H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Crawford, Sir W. B. Avery, Messrs. M. P. Castle, Harvey Clarke, E. Cooper, H. J. Duveen, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., L. L. R. Hausburg, P. Mirabaud, W. H. Peckitt, and W. T. Wilson.

Some idea of the magnitude of this book may be gathered from the statement that in the case of the "Sydney" plates there are 170 stamps,