

what should be left to the specialist, while all sorts of impossible schemes are being aired by people who look at things entirely from their own point of view. The Royal Philatelic Society has been approached in every possible way to induce it, or some of its members, to publish catalogues or monographs with every variety listed and priced for the benefit of collectors, but has hitherto wisely abstained from attempting the impossible. The leading dealers who publish the existing catalogues have also been bombarded with all kinds of suggestions—most of them entirely impracticable—to publish an “ideal” catalogue. If we venture to make one more of these voluntary tenderers of advice our opinion may be summed up in one word. Take Moens’ latest Catalogue as an absolute guide, bring it up to date on exactly the same lines, and you will have a catalogue that will suffice for all the needs of the general collector, the scientific Philatelist, and the advanced specialist.

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.

(Continued from page 9.)

3 *Charles I.* 24 October, 1627.

[By Privy Council.] On the Foreign Posts.

London: Morton and Bill, 1627. One folio Roman letter.

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

By this the privilege of sending letters by private messenger, granted by 22 November, 1626, is revoked, and the Merchant Adventurers only may send their own letters, and then solely to Hamburg and Delft.

The messenger may take no other letters, and may not wear any badge or sign of a postmaster.

All other letters are to be sent through Matthew de Quester.

In times of war or danger the messengers of the Merchant Adventurers are to be approved of by the Secretary of State, and letters are not to be sent without his sanction.

3 *Charles I.* 20 January, 1627–8.

By the King. Confirming Matthew de Quester as Foreign Postmaster.

London: Norton and Bill. One folio Gothic letter.

One copy known. Public Record Office.

Cites the Proclamation James I., 27 January, 1615–6. Granting letters patent to M. de Quester as Postmaster for foreign posts.

Notwithstanding the orders of Elizabeth and James, his privileges have been infringed upon.

No one is to collect or forward letters to foreign parts except Matthew de Quester or his servants.

The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and the Secretaries of State are to see that notice is duly given to the merchants.

Searchers and officers of the Customs are to arrest all persons unauthorised carrying packets of letters out of or into the country.

8 *Charles I.* 19 July, 1632.

By the King. Concerning the Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts.

London: R. Barker, and Assigns of Bill, 1632. One folio Gothic letter.

Five copies known. British Museum, Public Record Office, Privy Council, Society of Antiquaries, Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

After rehearsing the duties of the office, states that the son of Matthew de Quester having died, William Frizell and Thomas Witherings were appointed by him as his deputies. The King confirms them in the office, and prohibits all other persons from transmitting any packets or letters out of or into the kingdom.

This proclamation is reprinted at length in Rymer's *Foedera*, vol. xix. 385.

2 *Charles I.* 31 July, 1635.

By the King. For settling the Letter Office of England and Scotland.

London: Barker and Assigns Bill, 1635. Two folios Gothic letter.

Six copies known. British Museum, Public Record Office, Privy Council, Queen's College, Society of Antiquaries, Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

T. Witherings has been ordered to settle posts as follow:—

Edinburgh and London there and back in six days, taking and receiving to and from any post town on the road, with bye posts to and from Lincoln and Hull.

The charge, 2d. under 80 miles; 4d. between 80 and 140; 6d. over 140 miles; the Borders and Scotland, 8d.

Two or more letters in a packet to be charged accordingly, and paid for on delivery.

A post to Holyhead and Ireland in six days, there and back; another to Plymouth and Exeter, also six days, there and back.

These posts are to commence on 29 September next.

Others are promised to Oxford, Bristol, Colchester, and Norwich.

Horses to be paid 2½d. a mile.

People may send private messengers, or by common known carriers, or by a friend (? if using the post horses?).

Printed in Rymer, xix. 649.

2 *Charles I.* No date, but before November, 1635.

Declaration by T. Witherings. (This is a poster.)

London: E. P. for T. Withering, 1635. One folio Roman letter.

One copy known. British Museum (Harl., 5954.1).

This is an advertisement to the public on the Running Post to Dublin (or at least Holyhead), if the winds serve. Begins 8 p.m. Tuesday next, and weekly at that hour. Answers returned on Monday night.

Takes letters for St. Albans, Dunstable, Brickhill, Stony Stratford, Daventry, Coventry, Tamworth, Litchfield, Stafford, Stone, Nantwyck, Chester, Flint, Rutland, Aber Conway, Beaumaris, and Holyhead.

Office at Thomas Witherings, Sherborne Lane, near Lombard Street. 2d., single letter under 80 miles; 4d. to 140 miles; 6d. over 140; Ireland, 9d. single letter, or 2s. 6d. per ounce. Same rates from Dublin.

13 *Charles I.* 13 *April*, 1637.

Confirming an agreement made between Witherings and Mons. Denoveau, Postmaster to the *French king*, and signed at Calais, 11 May, 1636. . . .

That all letters from England to France shall pass by Dover, Calais, Bulleyn, Abbeville, and Amiens.

No copy of this proclamation is known to have survived in print.

13 *Charles I.* 22 *June*, 1637.

By the King. Concerning the Carrying . . . of letters.

London: Barker and Bill, 1637. Three folios Gothic letter.

Two copies known. Public Record Office, Privy Council Office.

Commences with notice of the agreement with France citing the last noted and missing proclamation.

In continuation declares that no letters are to leave the country by way of Rye and Deipe (Dieppe), or by any than the messengers of Witherings.

No person save the common carriers is to collect or carry letters.

Rates are 2d., single; 4d., double letters; or 9d. the ounce to 80 miles; up to 140, 4d., 8d., or 9d. the ounce. Above 140, 6d., 12d., or 12d. the ounce.

For Ireland 9d., or 2s. 6d. the ounce.

The mayors of all post towns and all justices are to assist Witherings in carrying out these orders.

In 1637.

Lord Stanhope surrendered his Patent of Postmaster-General to the King, and His Majesty appointed Witherings to the vacant post, thus combining in one the offices of the Postmaster-General, Inland and Foreign.

I have not found any proclamation making this appointment, but it certainly must have existed.

16 *Charles I.* 6 *August*, 1640.

By the King. Sequestrating the Office of Postmaster-General and also of the Letter Office into the hands of Philip Burlamachi of London. . . .

London: Barker and Bill, 1640. One folio Gothic letter.

Two copies known. British Museum and Bibl. Lindes. (Shown.)

Witherings having committed some misdemeanours, the King suspends him from his office during pleasure, and appoints Phillip Burlamachi, a merchant of London, to fill post.

Notices of this were set up on the Old Exchange, and other places. But Witherings posted up copies of the former proclamations, and consequently this declares the former ones to be null and void.

Commonwealth. 30 March, 1653.

[By Council of State.] Confirming the Inland Postmaster.

No place or date. One folio Roman and Italian letter.

One copy known. British Museum.

Edmund Prideaux, Attorney-General, is appointed to act for the Internal Post, with the assistance of the postmasters.

This was in answer to a Petition, 24 March, 1652, from the postmasters of most of the towns, praying for confirmation in their employment.

Commonwealth. 2 September, 1654.

Ordinance. Touching the Office of Postage of Letters.

Appoints John Manley, of London, to be Postmaster-General for postage and carriage of all letters and packets to and from all persons.

Speed to be seven miles per hour in summer and five in winter.

This belongs to J. E. Hodgkin, Esq., and is noted in his *Rariora*, iii. 39. I have not seen it.

Commonwealth. 21 August, 1655.

Orders for the furtherance of our service as well for our packets and letters as for riding in post—England, Scotland, and Ireland.

One copy known. British Museum. . . . [E. 1064 (57).]

12 *Charles II.* 16 January, 1660-1.

By the King. For quieting the Postmaster-General.

London: J. Bill, 1660. Two folios Gothic letter.

Fifteen copies known. British Museum (four copies), Bodleian, Public Record Office, Dalkeith Palace, Advocates' Library, Queen's College (two copies), Public Record Office, Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin, Society of Antiquaries, and Bibliotheca Lindesiana. (Exhibited to-night.)

States that Henry Bishop was appointed P.M.G. by Letters Patent (for a term of seven years, on a rent of £21,000 a year).

Since the secret carriage of letters diminishes the revenue and encourages sedition, no person is to carry them without due licence from Bishop.

He and his servants are exempt from juries, inquests, etc.

All mayors to aid him and to search for unauthorised letters and packets in the "males and bougets" of carriers.

Note.—1250 copies were printed, costing £15; 66 writs in the Crown Office, £22; messengers, £50; making a total of £87.

15 *Charles II.* 25 May, 1663.

By the King. For encouragement of the Postmaster-General. . . .

London: Bill and Barker, 1663. Three folios Gothic letter.

Seven copies known. British Museum (two), Public Record Office, Queen's College (two), Guildhall, Society of Antiquaries, *Bibl. Lindes.* (Exhibited to-night.)

Bishop has resigned his office, and Daniel O'Neale is appointed P.M.G. All the usual privileges are granted to him and his servants.

But all postmasters and servants are to obtain from the Ordinary (the Bishop) a certificate that they are conformable to the discipline of the Church of England.

No postmaster is to open a letter except under warrant from a Secretary of State.

15 *Charles II.* ? 1663?

A broadside or advertisement printed by Daniel O'Neile, H.M. Postmaster-General. Giving the names of the postmasters and stages between Northampton and Sheffield, in Yorkshire, with the times occupied in transit.

One copy known. Public Record Office.

Probably there were many of these advertisements for different parts of the country, but no other has survived.

19 *Charles II.* 26 July, 1667.

By the King. For Quieting the Postmaster-General.

London: Bill and Barker. Two folios Gothic letter.

Eleven copies known. British Museum (two), Public Record Office, Privy Council, Dalkeith Palace, Queen's College (two), Guildhall (two), and Bibl. Lindes (two). (Exhibited to-night.)

Daniel O'Neile died in July, 1665, but his lease did not expire till this year.

The King appointed Henry Lord Arlington, under the great seal, with all the privileges as in the past.

The rent to be paid to the Crown is now £43,000 a year.

21 *Charles II.* 21 June, 1669.

By the King. Enforcing the law as to the Post Office. ♣

Savoy: Bill and Barker, 1669. Two folios Gothic letter.

Seven copies known. British Museum (two), Privy Council, Public Record Office, Queen's College (two), Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

In 1660 an Act of Parliament was passed settling the profits of the Post Office on H.R.H. James Duke of York.

Yet certain persons handle letters without authority, and thereby defraud the Revenue. . . . The Act is now codified. No post to be carried except by licence of the Postmaster-General.

No carrier, shipmaster, purser, etc., to carry letters except relating to their goods, and to be delivered *with* the goods. Shipmasters only to carry letters to the nearest stage office.

Correspondences will be established by 29th September next between all considerable market towns and the nearest post stages.

A map is to be printed so that all may know how to address their letters.

No individual is to let horses for posting, unless the Postmaster-General fails to supply them in half an hour.

26 *Charles II.* 22 December, 1674.

[By Privy Council, Scotland.] Concerning Foot Posts.

Edinburgh: A. Anderson, 1674. One folio Roman letter.

One copy known. Register House (Edinburgh).

On 3 January John Graham, of Inchbraikie, was appointed Postmaster-General for Scotland, succeeding his father Patrick Graham.

In 1669 he had established a foot post to Inverness, and the authorised postage charges were:—Under forty miles, single, 2s., Scots; double, 4s., Scots; per ounce, 5s. Under sixty miles, single, 3s.; double, 6s.; ounce, 7s. 6d. Eighty miles or more, 4s.; double, 8s.; ounce, 10s.; and so on.

These rates are to continue all over the kingdom. No one is to carry letters on any roads where his posts are established on pain of apprehension and fines.

35 *Charles II.* 25 August, 1683.

By the King. For Regulating the General Post Office.

London: Bill and Barker. Three folios Gothic letter.

Ten copies known. British Museum (two), Public Record Office, Privy Council, Dalkeith Palace, Bodleian, Trinity College, Dublin, Guildhall (two), Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

This is practically a repetition of the proclamation of 21 June, 1669, rehearsing the settlement of the Revenue on James Duke of York and the several regulations, etc.

1 *James II.* 7 September, 1685.

By the King. Enforcing the execution of the Acts regulating the Post Office. . . .

London: Bill and Barker, 1685. Two folios Gothic letter.

Nine copies known. British Museum (two), Privy Council, Bodleian, Dalkeith Palace, Queen's College, Trinity College, Dublin, Guildhall (two), Bibl. Lindes. (Shown this evening.)

On the death of Charles II., James got the Parliament to pass an Act settling the Revenue of the Post Office on the Crown.

This proclamation practically repeats that of 25 August, 1683, adding the effect of the new Act of Parliament.

1 *James II.* 7 September, 1685.

By the King. Quieting the Postmaster-General.

London: Bill and Barker, 1685. One folio Gothic letter.

Eight copies known. British Museum, Privy Council, Public Record Office, Bodleian, Queen's College, Guildhall, Society of Antiquaries, Bibl. Lindes. (Exhibited to-night.)

Recites the proclamations of Charles II, 1660-1, stating the privileges of the Postmaster-General and his servants, also exempting them from the billeting of officers and soldiers, and confirming the same as regards all in the employ of the Post Office.

(To be continued.)