

## GREAT BRITAIN.—PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

1 James I. 8 April, 1603.

— [By the Privy Council.] To all Mayors, Sherifes . . . etc. and to all other King's officers and subjects. No place of printing but London, Barker, 1603.

One folio Gothic letter. 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. Bibliotheca Lindesiana. All places where posts are laid for the Packet shall have the benefit of setting horses to all riding post. If carriers come in too fast for the 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 24d. a mile, beside the "guide's grooms". Payments to be made in advance. A horse shall not be loaded with more than 30 lb. (of mail). Seven miles in summer (April to September), or six miles in winter.

1 James I. [ ] 1603.

— 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, 1603.

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 several places. Careful register to be kept of the dates and time of arrival and despatch 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 prelate and attendants at assizes, sessions, inquests and musters.

Scottish. James VI. 5 May, 1603.

— By the Privy Council of Scotland. Ament the riding post to England. Edinburgh, ? ? 1603. No copy known. It is recorded in the Register of the Pr. C. (vi. 567) at Edinburgh.

6. 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. 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. 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.

## GREAT BRITAIN.—PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

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, 1615-16.

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 Felken, resident in Dublin. In this year M. de Quester was appointed Foreign Postmaster, but no copy of the proclamation has survived. "The proclamation here referred to has not been found at the present time in print.

(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. Quoting 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 Queter the office of Foreign Postmaster, and also to his son. States that Lord Stanhope's grant is for the island posts.