

GREAT BRITAIN.—PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

16 Charles I. 6 August, 1640.

— By the King. Sequestering 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. Withering having committed some misdemeanors, the King suspends him from his office during pleasure, and appoints Philip Burlamachi, a merchant of London, to fill post. Notices of this were set up on the Old Exchange, and other places.

But Witheringe posted up copies of the former proclamations, and consequently still declared 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 Inland 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.

Spiced 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.

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 Bibl. Lindes.

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 bouges" 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.

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.

GREAT BRITAIN.—PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

15 Charles II. ? 1663?

— A Broadside or advertisement printed by Daniel O'Neale, 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).

Daniel O'Neale 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.

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 is to be carried except by license 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.

Correspondence 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.

Only copy known. Register House (Edinburgh). On 3 January John Graham, of Inchbrairie, 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, 1683.*

Three folios Gothic letter.

Two copies known. British Museum (two), Public Record Office, Privy Council, Dalkeith Palace, Bodleian, Trinity College, Dublin, Guildhall (two), Bibl. Lindes.

This is practically a repetition of the proclamation of 21 June, 1669, renewing 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.

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, 1688, adding the effect of the new Act of Parliament.