

GREAT BRITAIN.—PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

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.
Recites the proclamations of Charles II., 16 January, 1660-61, stating the privileges of the Postmaster-General and his servants, also exempting from the billleting of officers and soldiers, and confirming the same as regards all in the employ of the Post Office.

1 William and Mary. 19 July, 1689.

— — — [By Privy Council, Scotland.] Anent the Roup of the Post. Edinburgh, 1689.

No printed copy known.

Advocates' Library, Edinburgh (ms.). John Graham's death causes a vacancy in the office of Postmaster-General. It will be rouped [put up to auction] on Wednesday next at three p.m. The conditions of the roup are in the hands of the Clerk of the Council.

1 William and Mary. 29 November, 1689.

— — — [By Privy Council, Scotland.] For regulating the Post Office. Edinburgh, Heir of A. Anderson, 1689.

One folio Roman letter.

Five copies known. Advocates' Library (two), Signet Library, Register House (all in Edinburgh), Bibl. Lindes. John Blair, apothecary, Edinburgh, was made Postmaster-General on 14 August last for seven years. He is to appoint a general letter office in Edinburgh to send letters from Edinburgh to Dumfries, Glasgow, Ayr, Dundee, Kelso, Jedburgh, Perth and Stirling at 2s., Scots, single, and 4s. double letter. The same to Hamilton. Also between Edinburgh and Carlisle, Port Patrick, Aberdeen and Dunkeld, 3s., single; 6s., double letter. Between Edinburgh and Kircubright, Inverness and other places beyond Aberdeen, 4s. and 8s., and so on.

On bye roads 1s. for bringing the letter to the Post Office. This is without prejudice to the postmasters between Edinburgh and Berwick, who were established before the grant to the late John Graham.

1 William and Mary. 30 November, 1689.

— — — *By the King* (JAMES II.) Concerning Posts in Ireland. Dublin, A. Crook, 1689.

One folio Gothic letter.

Nine copies known. British Museum (two) Ormonde Collection, Public Record Office, Dublin (five copies), Bibl. Lindes. Complaint has been made of abuses in riding post in opening letters and mails and quartering of soldiers. No postmaster is obliged to furnish horses except on a warrant signed by the Duke of Tyrconnell or a secretary if leaving Dublin—if coming to Dublin on an order from a Governor showing the person is bearing despatches.

All persons riding post to pay 3d. a mile per horse, to keep the road and leave the horse at the end of the post. No post mails to be opened. No soldiers to be quartered on a postmaster unless he keeps an inn. His forage is not to be pressed. This, of course, was issued by a "Stuart king in exile".

2 William and Mary. 19 August, 1690.

— — — [By Privy Council, Scotland.] Against such as Rob the Paquets. . . . Edinburgh, Heir of A. Anderson, 1690.

One folio Roman letter.

Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. James Seton, youngest son of Viscount Kingoona, and John Seton, brother to Sir George Seton, of Garleton, did on Saturday last, 16 August, rob the post boy of Cockburnspath, between the Airthouse and Hadderwick Muir, as he was riding to Haddington, and carried away the Paquet to Garleton. When seized they escaped. They are to be arrested and a reward will be paid.

3 William and Mary. 28 February, 1690-91.

— — — *By Lords Justices of Ireland.* For the Protection of the Post. Dublin, A. Crook, (1690).

Two folios Gothic letter.

Two copies known. British Museum, Public Record Office, Dublin. Relates all the privileges which appertain to the postmasters and to their servants.

GREAT BRITAIN.—PROCLAMATIONS CONCERNING THE POST.

4. William and Mary. 15 August, 1692.

— — — [By Privy Council, Scotland.] For discovering who robbed the Paquet.

Edinburgh, Heirs of A. Anderson, 1692.

One folio Roman letter.

Four copies known. Advocates' (two), Signet Library, and Bibl. Lindes.

Although by the Scottish law the penalty for robbing the paquet is death, yet it has been done. On Saturday last, the 18th, two persons fell on the post-boy from Haddington to Edinburgh, near Jack's Lodge, at ten p.m. They took away the mail and the sorrel nag the boy was riding.

£20 for their discovery and £100 for their apprehension, or either of them. £50 and pardon to the first accomplice who shall confess before 22 August.

13 William. 23 July, 1701.

— — — [By the Treasurer of Scotland.] For Rouping the Inland Mail.

Edinburgh, Heirs of A. Anderson, 1701.

One folio Roman letter.

One copy only known. Edinburgh Town Council. States that the Tack (lease) of the Inland Letter Office to George Clark, of Edinburgh, expires on 29 September next. It will be rouped (set up to auction) on Friday, 1 August, between ten and twelve a.m. in the Exchequer House.

1 Anne. 4 August, 1703.

— — — [By Privy Council, Scotland.] Anent the Post Office. Edinburgh, Heirs of A. Anderson, 1703.

One folio Roman letter.

Two copies known. Signet and Advocates' Libraries. The Postmaster-General has complained about unauthorised runners of letters.

No common carriers or others are to carry letters except as to their goods. Magistrates are to settle the question within six hours. Post runners are to have ready passage at all ferries, paying at Dundee 6d., or with a horse 10d.

8 Anne. 30 August, 1709.

— — — *By the . . . Governor of Ireland.* Against stopping the mails.

From the Dublin Gazette.

No printed copy known.

The deputy postmaster has complained. Ordered that no person is to open the Queen's mails or postbags, or take hence any post letters till they are duly delivered into the post office.

10 Anne. 23 June, 1711.

— — — *By the Queen.* Enforcing the Act . . . for the Post Office.

London, Assigns, Theucomb and Hills, 1711.

One folio Gothic letter.

Two copies known. British Museum, Public Record Office. From 1 June last there is one General Post Office, whence letters may be sent into any part of the kingdom, to North America, West India, or other dominions, or to any other kingdom.

Letters may also be received there. No persons are to receive or deliver letters for pay (except goods by carrier and ship letters), or to let horses for post, on pain of 25 per offence and £100 a week.

Postmasters are to find horses within half an hour at most. All letters and packets brought from abroad by any shipmaster are to be handed over to the post, who will pay him 1d. each.

It may also be of interest to note that there are certain notes (not proclamations) on postal affairs in the Public Record Office of the reign of Charles II. They are:—

State Papers Domestic.

Vol. 299. A form for noting the arrival and departure of the male between London and Dover for Calais.

Vol. 265. A list of towns where post offices were set up.

Vol. 275. Advertisement of the post between London and Newmarket.

Vol. 319 (1679). Letters patent to Frenchmen for transporting mails through France, with list of places and charges.

VERREL (1.) Catalogue prix courant de tous les timbres de chemin de fer et de messageries (de tout pays), ainsi que des Post Letters Fee Stamps de la Grande-Bretagne. Louvain, 1908.