



Fig. 11.

Postal History of the Channel Islands

By WILLIAM NEWPORT

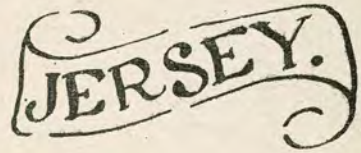


Fig. 2.

THE Postal History of the Channel Islands commenced in 1794, when Post Offices were established in Jersey and Guernsey on February 15th and March 22nd respectively. Mr. Charles William Le Geyt, of Hue Street, St. Helier, was appointed Postmaster of Jersey, and Mrs. Ann Watson Postmistress of Guernsey. Prior to this date letters for the islands were sent to an agent at Southampton and there awaited shipment. Letters for England were taken to a shipping agent or a shopkeeper for forwarding at the next available opportunity. Receiving-houses used by these agents were often known as Post Offices. The first official mail was despatched from Weymouth on February 13th, 1794, in the cutter *Royal Charlotte*, previous notification having been given in the *London Gazette* of February 3rd, 1794. The number of letters carried annually was about 30,000. Post Offices were opened at Alderney in 1843, Sark in 1852, and Herm on May 1st, 1925. These functioned as sub-offices of Guernsey. The office in Herm was closed on November 30th, 1938, owing to lack of business, and since then letters have been carried by motor boat to Guernsey and cancelled there.

POSTMARKS

2. Jersey

The first postmark used in Jersey was the word JERSEY in capital letters written in a downward curve (Fig. 1). An example of this has been seen on a letter sent in April, 1794. Next we have the Scroll type used from 1810 to 1829 (Fig. 2). A Maltese Cross was used in 1840 and so far as I can see cannot be distinguished from similar crosses used in other parts of the British Isles. The example in my collection is not very clear.

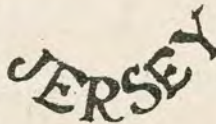


Fig. 1.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

The first date stamp was introduced about 1830. This appears to have been replaced about 1847 by the double arc date stamp with sans-serif letters. The numeral obliteration 409 was introduced sometime in 1844, and was changed in 1855 to the duplex type, i.e. with the date stamp attached (Figs. 3 and 4). In 1860 the oval of bars surrounding the figures 409 was changed from horizontal to vertical. The later types of postmark are far too well known to need mention here, but before leaving



Fig. 5.

Jersey perhaps something should be said about the sub-offices. These are twenty-seven in number, eight in the town of St. Helier and the remaining nineteen scattered throughout the Island. Their names are as follows:—

Town Sub-offices:

Beresford Street, Cheapside, First Tower, Georgetown, Greve d'Azette, Havre de Pas, Rouge Bouillon, Stopford Road.

Rural Sub-offices:

Augres, Beaumont, Carrefour Selous, Faldouet, Five Oaks, Gorey, Grouville, La Rocque, Milbrook, St. Aubin, St. Brelades Bay, St. John's Church, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Ouen, St. Peter, Samares, Sion, Trinity. The Five Oaks office is now closed.

2. Guernsey

The postmarks of Guernsey are very similar to those used in Jersey. Thus we start with the Scroll used from 1799 to 1830. Then we have a date-stamp in use; the interesting thing about this is that in 1844, when a "4" occurred in the day of the month an inverted "7" was used for the first "4" of 1844 (this being due to the fact that only two sets of figures were supplied). As with Jersey, this date stamp was replaced by the double-arc type in 1847.

The normal Maltese Cross was introduced in 1840, and can be distinguished by the centre diamond, the left-hand point of which is shorter than the other three, and by the inner cross, which has a blunt point at the lower left-hand side. July, 1844, saw the introduction of the numeral obliteration 324, which developed on the same lines as the one used in Jersey, i.e. date stamp attached in 1855; oval of bars changed from horizontal to vertical in 1860. From about 1880 ordinary date stamps have been in use.



Fig. 7.

Sub-offices:

These are sixteen in number, as follows:—

Town Sub-offices: Market Place, St. John's.

Country Sub-offices: Braye Road, Cobo, Forest, Les Graveses, L'Islet, St. Andrews, St. Martins, St. Peter-in-the-Wood, St. Sampsons, St. Saviours, Torteval, The Vale, Vale Road, Ville-au-Roi. The offices at Ville-au-Roi and Braye Road are now closed.

Most of these Sub-offices use their date stamps for parcels and registered mail only, ordinary letters being taken to the G.P.O. for cancelling.

(To be continued.)

Postal History of the Channel Islands

(Continued from page 435.)

By WILLIAM NEWPORT

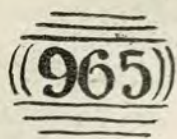


Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.

3. Alderney

Alderney's first postmark is believed commonly known as the "Guernsey Cross". This has been suggested by Mr. J. M. Y. Trotter (President of the Philatelic Society of Guernsey) in an article entitled "Early Guernsey Postal History". I am in full agreement with this suggestion for the following reasons: 1. It is never found on the Penny Black; 2. It is extremely rare, whereas the normal Cross is reasonably plentiful due to the fact that there were about a thousand letters per week emanating from Guernsey.



Fig. 8.

3. Alderney being a Sub-office, letters were usually sent to Guernsey for cancellation, but occasionally were taken direct to Southampton by private steamer. It is thought likely that the Postmaster of Alderney decided that he could only send uncanceled letters via his own head office, and therefore had an obliterator made locally for cancelling mail going direct to the mainland. Due to private steamer delays these letters would sometimes go by the normal route and would then receive the Guernsey date stamp, thus creating the illusion that the cross was also applied in Guernsey.

The numeral obliterator 965 was brought into use in 1848 and is very rare, a search through several thousand British stamps only revealing two copies. Two types of obliterator are known, both with the number in an oval of bars, one horizontal and the other vertical. The postmark used at present is a single line circle with "Alderney" at the top, the date in two lines across the centre, with star above, and CH. IS. at the bottom.

4. Sark

Two types of postmark have been seen from this island, the first being a single line circle with SARK at the top a letter A below and the date in two lines at the bottom. The second type is a double-lined circle with SARK, GUERNSEY at the top, CHANNEL ISLANDS at the bottom, and the date in two lines across the centre with either a star or a letter A above.

5. Herm

The Herm postmark was a double-lined circle with HERM, GUERNSEY at the top, CH. IS. at the bottom, and the date in two lines across the centre.

Ship Letters

From the middle of the seventeenth century until the middle of the nineteenth century, letters from overseas to Britain were carried by private ships. At the port of arrival they were handed over by

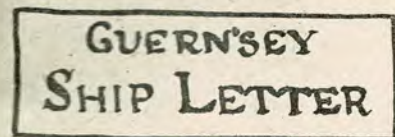


Fig. 12.

the Captain to the Postmaster of that port whence they were sent to London to be charged with the proper amount of postage.

At the port of arrival a handstamp was applied, indicating that the letter had been carried by ship, this bore the words SHIP LETTER with the name of the port. Three types were used

which were common to both islands. Type 1 (Fig. 11) was in use up to 1830. Type 2 (Fig. 12) from 1830-1840. Type 3 (Fig. 13) was used from 1840. All three types are scarce, as very few ships called at the Islands on the way to England.

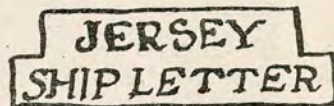


Fig. 13.

Anglo-French Cancellations

No article of this nature would be complete without some mention of the postmarks used in connection with the mail-boat service between the Islands and France.

The steamers of the London and South-Western Railway ran from St. Helier to St. Malo and Granville on alternate weekdays, carrying the regular mails between the islands and France.

They also carried a movable letter-box in which stamped letters, which had not passed through the Jersey post office, could be posted on St. Helier quay. On arrival in France the stamps were cancelled with the normal French numeral obliteration and the covers were stamped with a dated postmark. The stamps so cancelled were usually the 1855/57 issue.



Fig. 14

The first type of cancellation that I have seen on letters from the Channel Islands occurs on a stampless cover from Jersey to Portrieux, which bears a small double-lined circular postmark with OUTREMER at the top, ST MALO at the bottom, and the date 18 MAI 42 in three lines across the centre. This is impressed in red.

The next is a cover bearing a fourpenny stamp of 1855 cancelled with the 324 numeral obliterator of Guernsey and stamped on arrival in France with a similar small double-lined circular postmark in red, having ILES-C at the top, ST MALO at the bottom, and the date 5 JANV 58 across the centre. It is probable that these two covers were carried by private ships.



Fig. 15.

The cancellations used on the regular mail-boat service were numerals in a lozenge of dots. Small figures were used in 1859, but in 1862, when the French post offices were renumbered, larger figure were introduced, the numbers as follows:—

	Small Figures	Large Figures
Granville ..	1441	1706
St. Malo ..	3176	3734
Le Havre ..	1495	1769

Mails to Le Havre were carried by French boats from Guernsey.

(Continued on page 467.)



Fig. 16.

Channel Islands

(Continued from page 461.)

A later type of postmark found on a letter from France to St. Helier is inscribed JERSEY FRANCE MB AP.28.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Postmasters of Jersey and Guernsey for their kind co-operation, also the Société Jersiaise for information taken from their Annual Bulletin for 1934.

The author will be very grateful for any further information about the Postmarks of the Channel Islands.



Fig. 17.

The End.

Postal History of the Channel Islands

By WILLIAM NEWPORT

IN my recent article under the above heading I requested readers with further information on the subject to get in touch with me. Several of you have now done so, and my grateful thanks are due to Messrs. G. Carr, R. G. Pope, and others, who have provided much useful information.

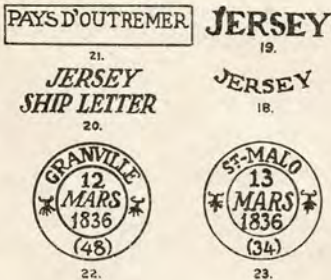
POSTMARKS

1. Jersey

I have now had an opportunity of examining an example of the first type with JERSEY in a downward curve, and find that my illustration was rather misleading due to it having been drawn from memory. I give here a more accurate copy (Fig. 18). It appears that this was followed by the word JERSEY in a straight line (Fig. 19). This type was used until early in 1810, but the precise date of its introduction has not yet been established satisfactorily. I have an example on cover dated 20th June, 1809, but believe it to have been introduced much earlier.

Scroll. From a batch of these shown me by a well-known dealer I gather that there were two types of this cancellation, differing slightly in detail. This applies to both Islands, but the exact date of introduction of the second type is uncertain. An example of the Jersey scroll in my collection measures approximately 37 mm. across from left to right, and is approximately 9 mm. in height. Loops of the scroll are oval and there is a full stop after JERSEY. The down stroke of the J is 3 mm. from the frame. This corresponds to the first type of Guernsey—so it would seem that the second type came into use in Jersey after 1824, unless the two types were used concurrently. My cover is available for examination by anyone interested.

Duplex Cancellation. This postmark (Fig. 4 in the article) was badly drawn—the numeral and date stamp should not be joined.



The postmarks are drawn HALF normal size

2. Guernsey

Mr. Carr mentions that he has an example of GUERNSEY in a downward curve on a cover dated 1804. This type came into use at about the same time as that for Jersey in 1794. Robson Lowe states in his Encyclopaedia that the scroll was introduced in 1799. He is obviously mistaken here, and it is probable that it was introduced in 1810, the same as for Jersey.

Sub-Offices. Quay B.O. (Branch Office) should be added to the Town Sub-Offices. This office was originally opened in June, 1932 to provide facilities for (a) late posting to secure despatch by the outgoing morning mail steamers, (b) acceptance of telegrams. The office was closed in September, 1939 on the outbreak of war and re-opened on September 1st, 1948. Business is confined to the sale of stamps, registration of letters and acceptance of telegrams.

3. Sark

It has been stated that the date I gave for the opening of this office is inaccurate. I therefore quote in full a letter from the Head Postmaster of Guernsey:—

Post Office Guernsey (St. Peter Port),
Channel Islands.
Dear Sir,
25th Feb., 1949.

In reply to your letter of the 23rd February I am to explain that whilst the details you seek cannot be furnished from official records, information obtained from various reliable sources over a period of years suggests that a British Post Office was opened in Guernsey on the 27th March, 1794 and that a Sub-Office was functioning in Sark as early as 1852 (the opening date is not known).

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. C. CHAPEL. Head Postmaster.

4. Herm

Several people have questioned the existence of this Office, but I have it on the authority of the Head Postmaster of Guernsey that a Sub-Office functioned here from 1925 to 1938. I have several examples in my collection although none are on cover; they were all washed off by the person from whom I obtained them. There was a metermark in use during the last few months of 1948. This has the Herm crest, and the slogan "Herm can give you an enchanting holiday amid peace and tranquillity", as well as the Guernsey, Channel Islands, date stamp and the usual Royal Cypher Postpaid mark.

5. Ship Letters

Another type exists for Jersey beyond those I mentioned. This is made up of the words JERSEY—SHIP LETTER in two lines unframed (Fig. 20) and has been seen struck in black, red or yellow.

6. Anglo-French Cancellations

A recently acquired cover from Jersey to St. Malo bears a framed handstamp PAYS D'OUTREMER (Fig. 21) and the Granville date stamp of 12th March 1836 (Fig. 22) on the front, and the St. Malo date stamp of 13th March 1836 (Fig. 23) on the back, all struck in black. The Boite Mobile service, which was discontinued during the war, has not yet restarted.

In closing, may I once again express my grateful thanks to those readers who have sent the Editor information, thus making this "follow-up" possible.

World of Stamps

(Continued from page 73.)

Goodmayes were shown a comprehensive collection of "France" in superlative condition, this way the property of Mr. C. Thurlow, one of their members. **Kingston** (on Thames) were shown a display of "China", the collection of Lt.-Col. D. Mann, M.C. His enthusiasm brought home to the members present the reason why the collecting of Chinese stamps has so many votaries. Then to **Ilford**, where "Norway and Finland" were the fare, from the collection of Mr. H. A. Fordham.

NORTHERN COUNTIES.—The Editor of STAMP COLLECTING was made welcome to **Market Rasen** by the Chairman, Mrs. Vickers, and a good company who enjoyed his curious display. The next night several of them joined members of the **Grimsby, Horncastle and Lincoln Societies** at the meeting place of **Grimsby P.S.**, where he produced a fresh lot out of the bag which seemed to be to their liking. **Middlesbrough** saw twenty of their members bring albums along to entertain each other, while **Scarborough** entertained members of **Bridlington P.S.** The displays were by Messrs. D. M. Gould ("Czechoslovakia"), and G. B. Walsh ("Flaws on the Natal Settlers' Stamps"), and the Petroleum Information Bureau, who showed stamps with oil as their theme. **Hull** had an unusual lecture on the contribution made to philately by the firm of Perkins, Bacon & Co. It was given by Mr. F. L. Wood, who had many pictures of early machines, as well as examples of the stamps. The **Moreaside Society** were taken to the West Indies by their President, Mr. H. C. Askew. He took them round most of the Islands, and left them with two questions to answer: where is La Duffiere, and what do the Pitons 400th Anniversary commemorate? **Mansfield** began by holding an open meeting for both collectors and others, at which Harrison's film was shown, and many members of the Society showed stamps. Mr. Martin gave a brief history of the Society and its aims. **Peterborough** held their A.G.M., at which all officers were re-elected, and it was announced that membership was now 75, a record—since two years ago there were only 25! No wonder the officers were re-elected.