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November 1998

THAILAND : POSTAL RATES IN THE MIDDLE PERIOD 1912 - 1946

by YAOVANE NIRANDARA, FRPSL

The Middle Period in Thailand covers the reigns of King Vajiravudh (Rama VI), King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) and King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII), spanning the period 1912 to 1946. Many important events took place. Above all, there were two World Wars, which gave rise to prisoner-of-war camps and the subsequent mails. Furthermore, it was during World War II that Thailand was supported by the Japanese armed forces in regaining its former territories in Laos, Cambodia and Malaya, which it had lost to its neighbours during the height of western Imperialism at the turn of the 20th Century. Thailand was also very much conscious of democratic rule, and was experimenting with 'Dusit Thani', a utopian city. In 1936, the country became a constitutional monarchy when King Rama VII relinquished his rule as an absolute monarch. Finally, the advent of the aeroplane gave rise to the modern air mail system.

These important events gave rise to changes in postal rates, the understanding of which are of vital importance to Thai Middle-Period philately. The story begins with the postal rates in use as of 15 August 1909, the date of the introduction of a new and profoundly modified new currency, with 100 satang equivalent to 1 tical.

Figures 1 to 3 show examples of letters sent at the local, foreign, and registered foreign rates.

POSTAL RATES AS OF 15 AUGUST 1909

Mail Item	Local (satang)	Inland (satang)	Foreign (satang)
Letter*	6	12	14
Post Card	3	5	6
Printed Matter & Opened Letter**	2	2	3
Registration	14	14	14

* Domestic per 15 grams: Foreign per 15 grams.

** Domestic per 30 grams: Foreign per 50 grams.

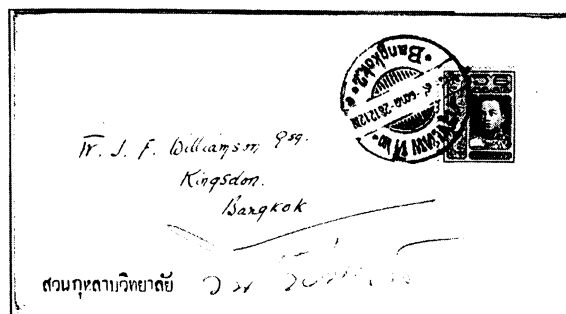


Figure 1: 28 December 1912: local mail within Bangkok - 6 satang - one of the few known covers.

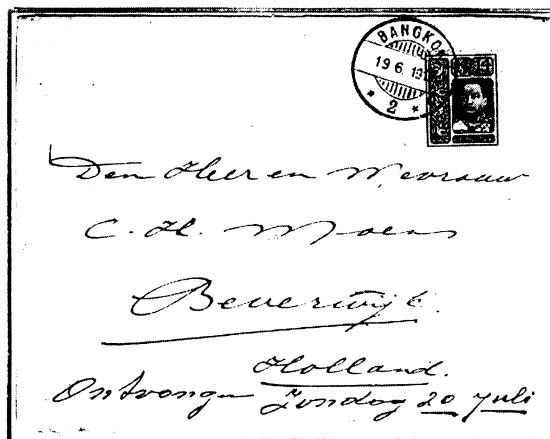


Figure 2: 19 June 1913: letter Bangkok to Netherlands - 14 satang.

New rates came into operation with effect from 1 April 1914, as listed in the following table:

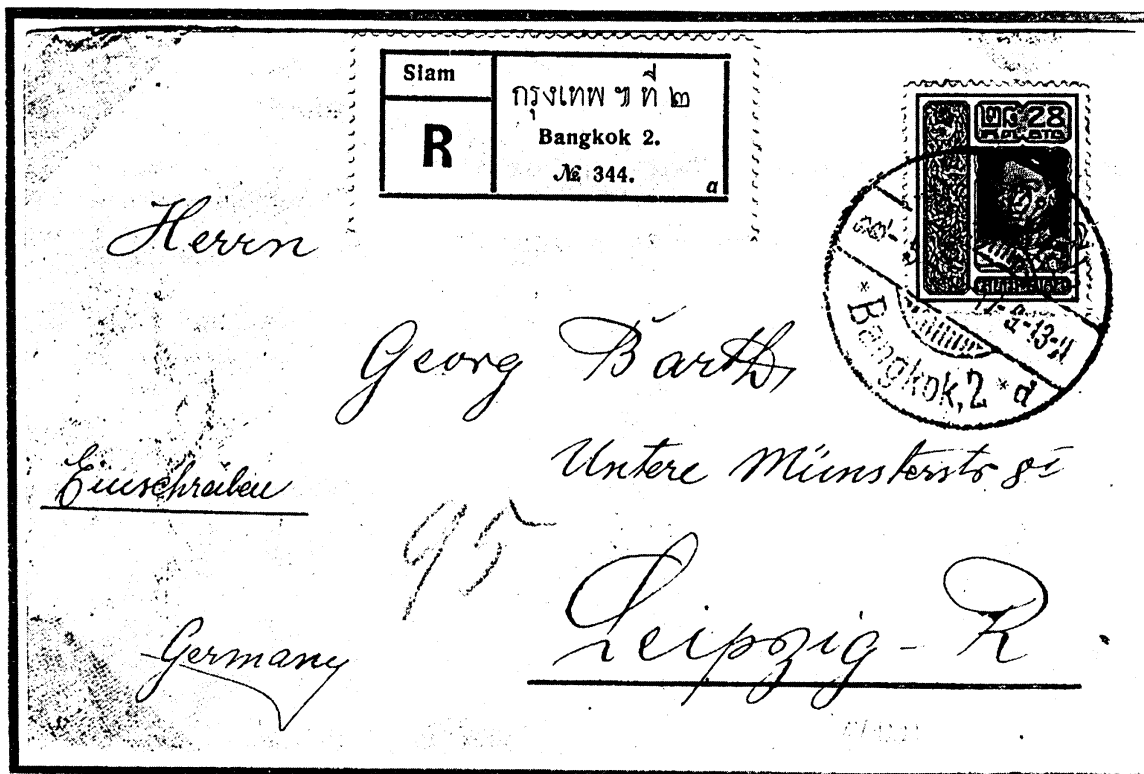


Figure 3: 17 September 1913: registered letter Bangkok to Germany - 28 satang.

POSTAL RATES AS OF 1 APRIL 1914

Mail Item	Local (satang)	Inland (satang)	Foreign (satang)
Letters*	5	10	15 + 10†
Post Card	2	3	5
Printed Matter & Opened Letter**	2	2	3
Registration	15	15	15

*Domestic per 15 grams; Foreign per 20 grams;

†Each additional 20 grams;

**Per 50 grams.

Figures 4 and 5 shows examples of the local post card rate, and the overseas letter rate.

In 1920, the first Conference of the Universal Postal Union held since 1913 took place, and this led subsequently to increases world wide in the foreign postal rates. Thailand was no exception, and the following rates became effective on 1 April 1921. Since they were used as such for only four months (see below), mail sent at these short-lived rates is considered rare. Figure 6 shows an example of an inland letter sent at this ephemeral tariff.

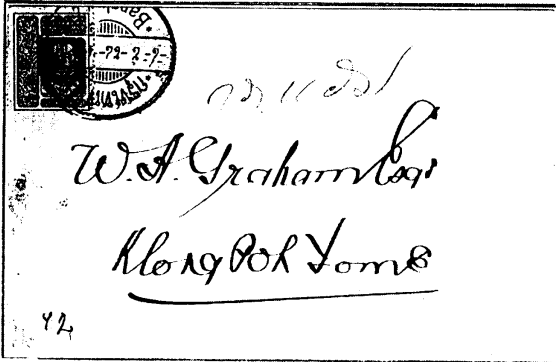


Figure 4: 4 August 1915: local Bangkok post card - 2 satang.

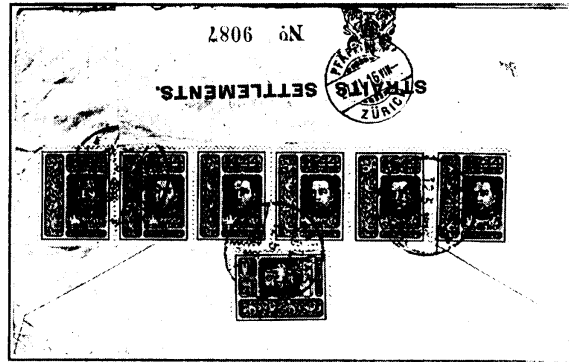


Figure 5: 12 May 1916: letter Bangkok to Switzerland - 6x2 satang + 3 satang = 15 satang for overseas rate. Opened by censor at Singapore.

POSTAL RATES AS OF 1 APRIL 1921

Mail Item	Local (satang)	Inland (satang)	Foreign (satang)
Letter*	5	10	30 + 15†
Post Card	2	3	18
Printed Matter & Opened Letter**	3	3	6
Registration	30	30	30

*Domestic per 15 grams; Foreign per 20 grams;
 †Each additional 20 grams;
 **Per 50 grams.

The foreign community in Thailand was very unhappy with the new postal rates, and pointed out that foreign exchange rates, which played a major factor in the determination of foreign postal rates, could have been interpreted in different ways. As a result, new postal-rate regulations were introduced with effect from 1 August 1921. Figure 7 shows an overseas registered letter at the new, reduced rate.

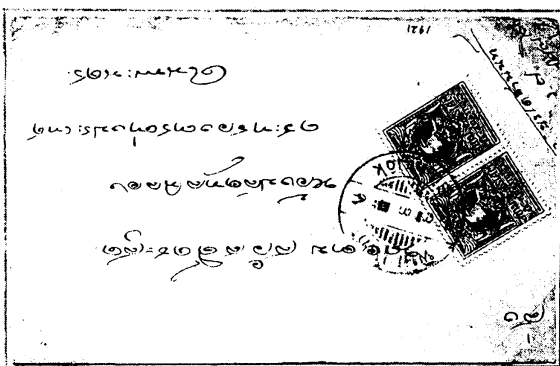


Figure 6: 3 June 1921: inland letter at ephemeral 10-satang rate.



Figure 7: 21 November 1921: registered letter Bangkok to Denmark - 62 satang (25 satang for basic weight; 12 satang for next 20g; registration 25 satang).

POSTAL RATES AS OF 1 AUGUST 1921

Mail Item	Local (satang)	Inland (satang)	Foreign (satang)
Letter*	5	10	25 + 12†
Post Card	2	3	15
Printed Matter & Opened Letter**	3	3	5
Registration	25	25	25

*Domestic per 15 grams; Foreign per 20 grams;
 †Each additional 20 grams;
 **Per 50 grams.

The next change that occurred was on 1 April 1923, and was due to the opening of official domestic air mails.* As a result, new postal rates were introduced:

POSTAL RATES AS OF 1 APRIL 1923

Mail Item	Local (satang)	Inland (satang)	Foreign (satang)
Letter*	5	10	25 + 12†
Airmail Letter*		20	35 + 22†
Post Card	2	3	15
Airmail Post Card		6	18
Printed Matter	3	3	5
Airmail Printed Matter**		6	8
Registration	25	25	25

*Per 20 grams;
 †Each additional 20 grams
 **Per 50 grams.

Figure 8 shows an example of an inland airmail post card sent under this tariff.



Figure 8: 11 December 1923: inland airmail post card Nong-Khay to Bangkok - 6 satang.

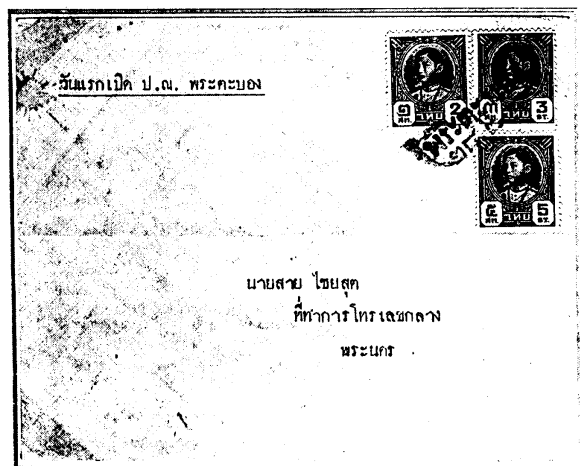


Figure 9: 1 August 1941: FDC Battabong (ex-Cambodia) to Bangkok - 10 satang.

*It should be remembered that the international airmail service from Thailand did not start until December 1929.

On 1 October 1925, as a result of the 1924 UPU Conference held in Stockholm, the following rates became effective:

POSTAL RATES AS OF 1 OCTOBER 1925

Mail Item	Local (satang)	Inland (satang)	Foreign (satang)
Letter*	5	10	15 + 10†
Airmail Letter*		20	25 + 10†
Post Card	2	3	10
Airmail Post Card		6	13
Printed Matter	2	2	3
Airmail Printed Matter**		4	6
Registration	15	15	15

*Per 20 grams;
 †Each additional 20 grams
 **Per 50 grams.

An example of this tariff is shown by Figure 9, which is an inland letter at the 10 satang rate in 1941.

THE DUSIT THANI LOCAL POST

In the period 1918-1919, some miniature stamps were introduced in the 'model city' of Dusit Thani to serve the local post there. This was an experiment to provide a municipal form of local government with its own postal service. All stamps were of the 3 satang value, and were printed relatively crudely by means of a photographic process. Examples are shown in Figure 10. The stamps are either imperforate or perforated 1 1/2. Figure 11 shows the only known complete sheets of these issues.

The stamps also served on receipts for the local newspaper monthly subscription, on which receipts they were pen-cancelled in black. Figure 12 shows two of the four recorded receipts. Figure 13 shows the only known cover, with an example of the imperforate issue cancelled by the Dusit Thani handstamp.

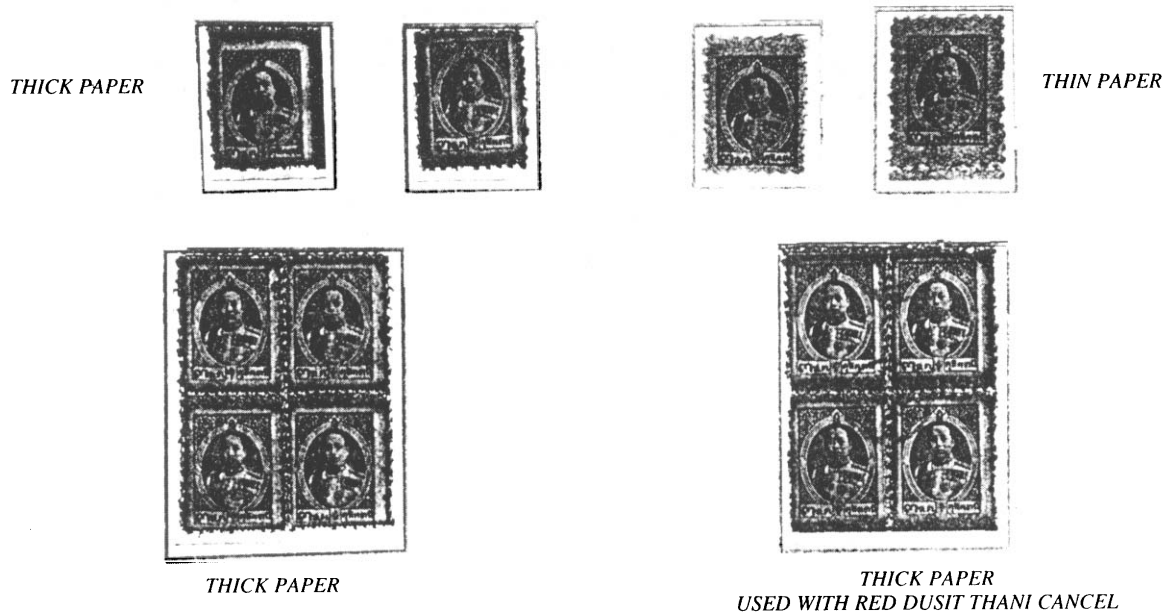


Figure 10: Dusit Thani locals, on thick or thin paper; perforate 1 1/2.

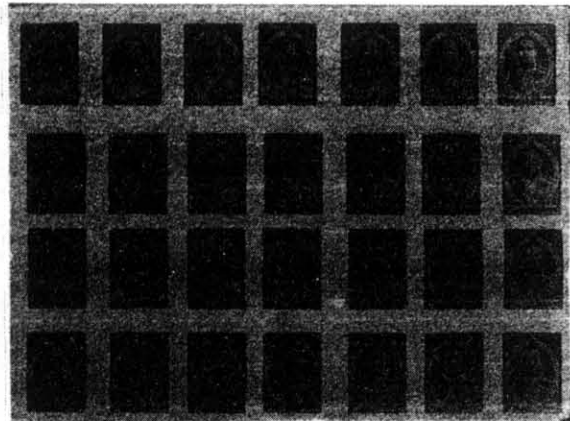
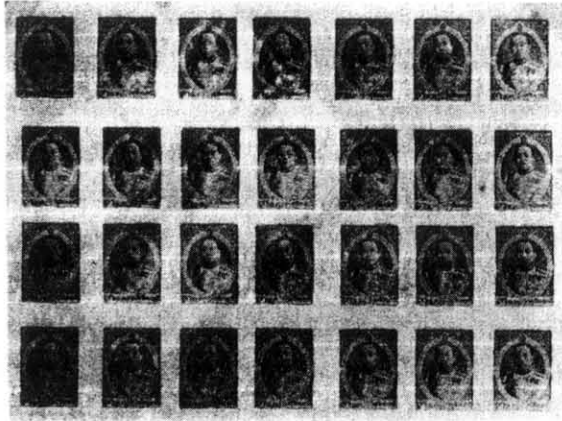


Figure 11: imperforate sheets: only known examples.

L: Full sheet of 28: pale blue, thin paper.
R: Full sheet of 28: sky blue, thin paper.



Figure 12: 3 satang pale blue on newspaper subscription receipts

L: 1 August 1919; signed Mr Suparasubpayuk.
R: 1 October 1919; signed Mr Songrajbanhan.

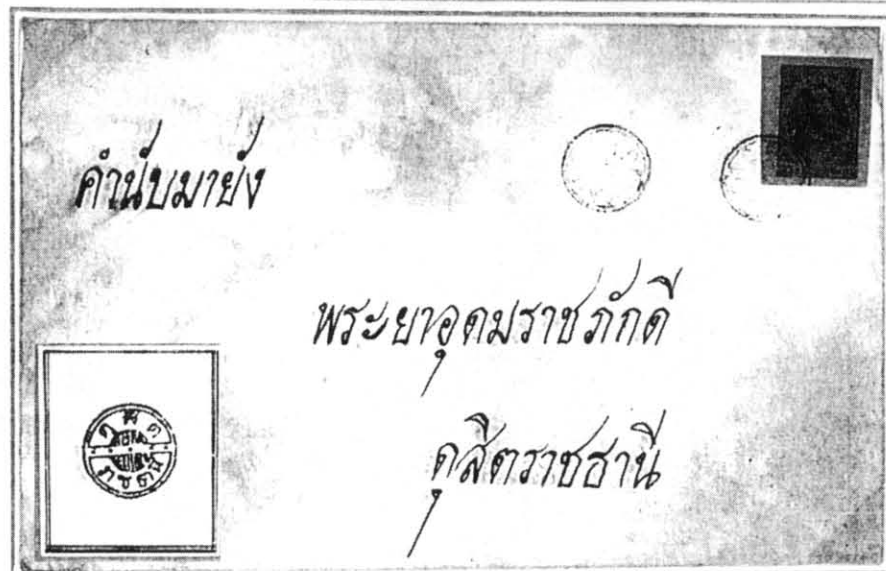


Figure 13: 3 satang blue imperforate on cover; cancelled Dusit Thani cds. The only known cover.



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ISO 9706

[Continued from page 339]

The format is such that each chapter is dedicated to the development of the Macau post office during the tenure of office of successive postmasters, beginning with Ricardo de Sousa from 1884 to 1896. Whilst the book continues to cover issues through to the end of the colonial period, the bulk of the information relates to the period up to the end of World War II. The post-war information begins on page 778 with the start of the administration of Joaquim Pereira Estrela de Oliveira in 1947. It is hoped eventually to publish an English translation of the text.

Levy's Boy & Girl Scout Cachet Covers of the United States, Volumes 1 & 2, 1910-1960 by Jay L. Rogers, published 2007 by The Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI), ISBN 9780979633805, soft bound, 253p, ill, 28cm, price \$30 for members of SOSSI, \$35 for non-members inc. p&p USA, overseas postage available on request from Mr. Lawrence Clay, SOSSI Secretary, PO Box 6228, Kennewick, WA 99336, USA, email: lclay3731@charter.net. ID No 12729. Reviewed by Brian Sole FRPSL.

The first edition of this book was published in 1956 by Sheldon S. Levy and listed 244 cachets, not all illustrated. This new edition lists and illustrates over 1200 different USA covers with Scout cachets and includes prices for all, based on the actual or estimated cost in 2007. The author suggests that the values should be treated as +/- 25%, depending on content, condition and venue. Every cover is catalogued with a prefix for the year of issue followed by a chronological number, by date of issue. Every cover is given a name in bold type. Additional information includes, quantity made, printing method, colour, sponsor and, if applicable, the previous catalogue number in the first edition.

This catalogue will be invaluable to the Scout or Guide collector but of limited value to the Thematic Philately exhibitor, because much of this material is not acceptable under FIP Regulations.

Le Livre Philatélique Belge 2007, Les Timbres-Poste ont une Histoire; The 2007 Belgian Philatelic Book, Postage stamps have a history, published 2007 by Stampilou, Stamps & Philately, ISBN 9789020973389, hard bound, 80p, ill, mint stamps, 30cm, price, inc. a set of the whole year's postage stamps, and availability from the publisher, Egide Walschaertsstraat 1, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium, website: www.philately.post.be. ID No 12726. Reviewed by Ken Dore FRPSL.

This philatelic coffee-table book is the latest volume published by Lannoo with the co-operation of the Belgian Postal Administration (La Poste 2007). The text is provided with illustrated pochettes for the mounting of the relevant new issues. A section

is devoted to each of twenty-four issues; at the head of each section technical information is given to supplement that available in standard catalogues.

This is followed by an informative article about the subject matter by a distinguished philatelist or historian. The book is profusely illustrated and well produced. The reviewed volume is in French; it is also available in Flemish. This is an attractive publication which will be of most interest to thematic collectors.

The London coffee houses, a visual record of an exceptional collection of coffee house usages from the late 17th century to the late 19th century by Bill Barrell, published 2007 by Bill Barrell Ltd, No ISBN, comb bound limited edition, 100p+ unnumbered, ill, 30cm, price £35, limited availability from the author/publisher, PO Box 73, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 4LU, email: coffeehouses@barrell.co.uk, website: www.barrell.co.uk. ID No 12597. Reviewed by Philip Lindley FRPSL.

Fifty copies of this collection of correspondence addressed to and from London Coffee Houses have been produced as a record for further study. Over 200 pages illustrate the display sheets, which have been reproduced mainly in black and white, and with a few in colour. The sheets are arranged alphabetically by establishment. The majority include location maps and a number have contemporary prints. Postmarks are reproduced and annotated on the sheets. Information is also included on the rates of postage relevant to the cover shown. Further detail is covered under a general heading "Coffee House points of interest."

Marques postales et oblitérations, 74 Seine Inférieure puis 76 Seine-Maritime; Monographie des origines à l'an 2006, Tome 1: Marques & oblitérations manuelles, généralités & catalogue; Postal Markings & Cancellations for 74 Seine Inférieure & 76 Seine-Maritime up to 2006 by Georges Nory, published 2006 by Cercle d'Etudes Marcophiles et Philatéliques de Normandie, No ISBN, soft bound, 177p, ill, 30cm, price €29 + p&p €5, available from M. Quétel, Treasurer, CEMPN, 106, Boulevard Clemenceau, 76600 Le Havre, France. ID No 12639. Reviewed by Robert Johnson (on page 267 of the September 2008 issue of *The London Philatelist*).

This review omitted price and purchase details which now appear above, with our apologies to the writer and publisher.

Le Musée de la Poste 2008 by Martine Morel, published 2008 by Musée de la Poste, No ISBN, hard bound, 53p, ill, 21cm, available in France only from the publisher, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75731 Paris Cédex 15, France, website: www.museedelaposte.fr. ID No 13039.

This small booklet has been produced in order to demonstrate the wide variety of displays in the museum. The increase in visitors from 42,000 in 2003 to 68,000 in 2007, demonstrates the interest in the material which the museum has on display, a number of which are illustrated, varying from old pillar boxes, postmen's vehicles and the like, to publicity material, and even a 1940 an Underwood typewriter, a familiar object to would-be typists of a bygone age. The commentary is in French.

Pfadfinder im polnischen Untergrund 1939-1945-1956; Scouts and Guides in the Polish Underground 1939-1945-1956 by Gottfried Steinmann, published 2008 by Gottfried Steinmann, No ISBN, 65p, ill, 24cm, price €16.50 + p&p, available from the author/publisher, Guentherstr. 9, 97342 Marktstef, Germany, email: Gottfried.Steinmann@t-online.de. ID No 12864. Reviewed by Ron Negus FRPSL.

The title of this booklet is inaccurate, since it is only slightly concerned with Scout posts in Poland during the Second World War. It is known that Scouts and Guides were used during the Warsaw Uprising in the autumn of 1944 to carry messages between different parts of the city during the 63-day siege. A rudimentary postal service, with stamps and cachets was introduced at that time. These are an area for specialist philatelic study, and have been adequately described in the literature, in both Polish and English, in the past.

This pamphlet contains a brief overview of major events and personalities that were important in Poland's struggle under German occupation. Thus we find references to Churchill, General Anders, the capture of Monte Cassino, the German defeat at Stalingrad, and Polish prisoner-of-war camp post included, even though none of these have any direct relevance to the Scout Posts. The booklet covers the wider theme of Polish patriotism in World War II and the early post-war communist period. It would provide a useful, illustrated, background text for anybody wanting to form a thematic collection on this subject.

The dates used in the title require explanation. The '1939-1945' span is designed to cover the period of German occupation, and thus could be construed to be relevant to the dates when the Polish underground was active. The inclusion of '1956' is unclear, as your reviewer can find no reference to this date in the text. It may be when the study was undertaken, but the unfortunate absence of any bibliographical data makes it impossible to confirm this.

The bilingual text is obviously designed to give the book a wider coverage of readers, but the English text could be considerably improved by being edited.

In summary, this is not a book I would recommend.

The Postal Age, The emergence of modern communications in nineteenth-century America by David M Henkin, published 2006 by The University of Chicago Press, ISBN 0226327205, hard bound, xv+221p, ill, 23cm, price \$38 or £24 + p&p, available from the publisher, Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 S. Langley Ave, Chicago, IL 60628, USA, email: custserv@press.uchicago.edu. ID No 12008. Reviewed by Ian Paton FRPSL.

This is a non-philatelic book about the social aspects of communication in the USA during the 19th century. The style is academic but it is filled with anecdotes illustrating the growth of letter writing, and the impact of postal rate reductions on national life. The extremely favourable rates for newspapers distorted the volumes of mail and led to the need to prevent newspapers being used to transmit concealed messages. It makes interesting reading for postal historians seeking background information not mentioned in the philatelic books. For example the cost of postage in relation to wages; from 1816 to 1845 a single sheet letter cost 25c for over 400 miles (Albany to Pittsburgh) and represented one-third to one-quarter of the daily wage of a non-farm labourer. Another example concerns early city post office design with the need to provide separate entrances and queuing space for men and women. Finally changes produced by social conditions like the staggering growth in the sending of Valentine's Day greetings which grew from nothing to over 30 million per year between 1840 and 1860.

La Poste inspire des Artistes, Post inspiring Artists by Editions Snoeck, Musée de la Poste, et al. published 2008 by Editions Snoeck, Musée de la Poste, etc, ISBN 9789053496695, soft bound, 48p, ill, 24cm, available in France only from the publisher, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75731 Paris Cedex 15, France, website: www.museedelaposte.fr. ID No 13040.

This is the guide-book for the exhibition at the Musée de la Poste in Paris, which opened on 11 March 2008, and closed on 31 October. The director explains that a stamp portrays a work of art, and therefore is a work of art in itself. This in turn can inspire artists to create other works of art; and the exhibition demonstrates the way in which this has happened.

A Philatelic Handbook on Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) by Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon, published 2006 by R & W Enterprises, ISBN 961638205, hard bound, x+326p, ill, 28cm, price US\$75, CDN\$90, available from Reuben A. Ramkissoon, 3011 White Oak Lane, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2513, USA. ID No 12658. Reviewed by Brian Sole FRPSL.

There is a foreword by D.N. Jatia, President of



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or from Vera Trinder Ltd. ID No 13601.

This replaces the 2nd edition of 2005, with the listings complete up to mid 2008, and a number of new varieties have been added. As with other recent catalogues in this series, prices up to 1970 have been taken from 'Part 1', while later issues have been specially priced for this 3rd edition. As before it includes the stamps of those colonies which eventually became the Dominion of Canada; and booklets, official delivery and official stamps are included, as are postage due and registration stamps.

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 1: Queen Victoria by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2008 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, ISBN 9780852596814, soft bound, vii+506p, ill, 22cm, price £39.95 + p&p, available from the publisher at 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH, email: sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk, or from Vera Trinder Ltd. ID No 13597.

This 15th edition contains a number of expanded sections particularly in the areas of Mulready proofs, Rainbow trials, Prince Consort Essays and Archer perforations, and new entries cover the recently discovered Houses of Parliament envelope to plate flaws on the E5 orange. Information has been updated on the Maltese Cross cancellations, on the surface-printed 'abnormals', Mulready advertisements, Telegraphs, Underprints and Circular Delivery company stamps. Market realisations have caused extensive upward revision, especially with essays, trials, proofs, imprimaturs and early usages. Those who collect this area will undoubtedly find it very useful.

The Stoneham Catalogue of British Stamps 1840-2007 by Machin Collectors Club, published 2008 by Machin Collectors Club, ISBN 9780955234132, soft bound, 544p, colour ill, 23cm, price £17.95 inc, p&p, available from the publisher, 8 Jannys Close, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6DL. ID No 13358.

This is the 14th edition, and goes up to the end of 2007, covering all aspects of GB stamps. In full colour throughout, it also has coloured markers on each page to indicate the particular section. There is a comprehensive Contents section, which clearly indicates the scope and extent of this catalogue, encompassing not only the 'normal' range, but including the 'Smilers' sheets, and the Stampex Smilers Sheets. As to be expected, there is a very full introduction to of eight pages to the Machins, followed by some 46 pages of specialist listings. The listing of GB used abroad begins with a three page introduction, with comments and thoughts on the various countries where GB stamps were used, followed by an extensive listing of each stamp known,

Included in this edition, which has been completely revised throughout, are various errors, both in 19th century stamps, and in those of the reign of George VI. The catalogue ends with listings of Oxbridge College stamps, specimens and forgeries.

Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps, A Stanley Gibbons Checklist of the stamps of Great Britain by Stanley Gibbons Publications, published 2008 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, ISBN 9780852596920, soft bound, xviii, 224p, ill, 20cm, price £9.95 + p&p, available from the publisher, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 3SH, email: sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk, or from Vera Trinder Ltd. ID No 13599.

This 60th edition, in A4 size, provides a handy reference guide to every British stamp up to the end of 2008, along with the SG catalogue price. Readers will notice price increases to early issues as well as to recent commemoratives, while the 11-page commemorative design index has been updated. It should prove very helpful.

Books Received and Reviewed

Canadian Boy Scout & Girl Guide Philatelic Catalog by Tony Manson, published 2008 by The Scouts On Stamps Society International, Inc (SOSSI), ISBN 978-0-9796338-1-2 spiral bound, approx. 140p numbered in sections, ill, 2cm, price C\$29.95 available on request from Lawrence Clay, SOSSI Secretary, PO Box 6228, Kennewick, WA 99336, USA, email: lclay3731@charter.net. ID No 13360. Reviewed by Brian Sole FRPSL.

The author admits that he was given the incentive to produce this book as a result of the publication of Jay L. Rogers' *Levy's Boy & Girl Scout Cachet covers of the United States* and the second impetus was the 100th anniversary of Scouting. He has followed the same cover description format as used by Jay L Rogers.

Instead of providing consecutive page numbers, each Section commences from 1. Stamps and envelopes, Postal slogans and Event cancels are illustrated on the first 29 pages. The bulk of the remainder of the catalogue consists of illustrations of Cachets. There is a 2-page glossary, especially helpful for collectors with limited knowledge of philately, a list of Jamborees in Canada, a 5-page cachet checklist and a 5-page Index. No values are given and the author is anxious that nobody should set out to collect everything that's illustrated. The author admits that the Catalog is not complete and appeals for photocopies of cachets not illustrated.

Document Trivia of Great Britain and Ireland, Official and Unofficial Designations on paper and parchment, Costmarks by William A. Barber and