

The United Kingdom Experimental Rocket Posts



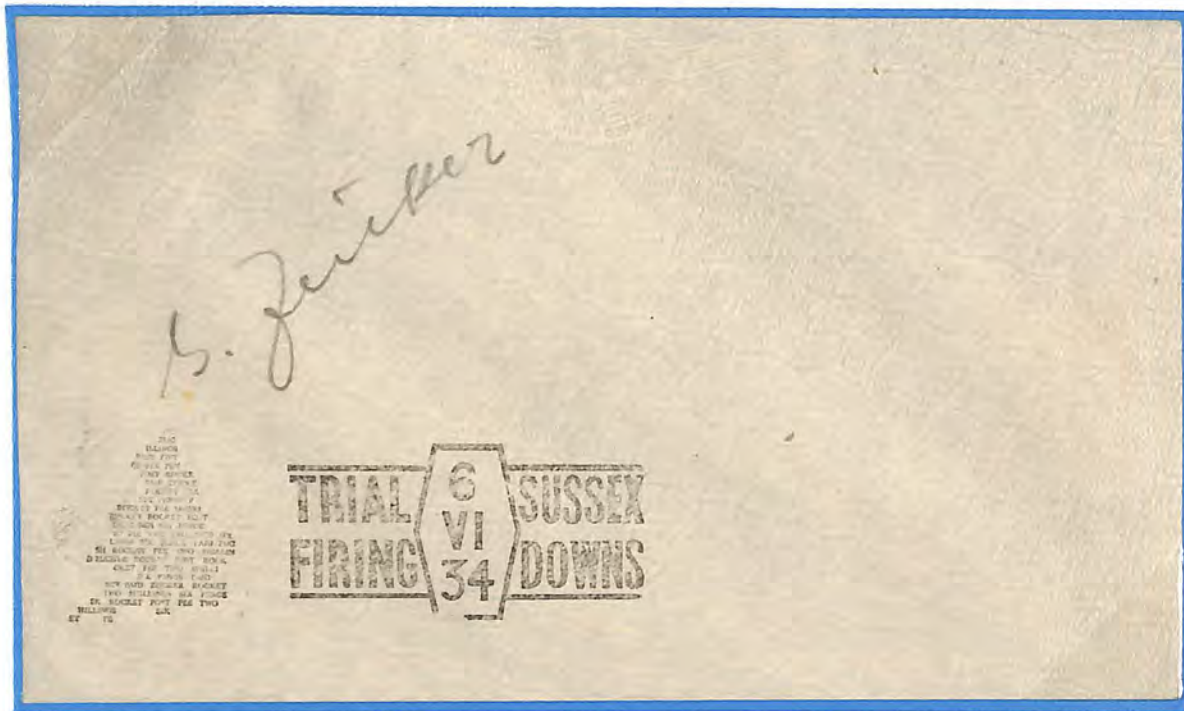
A photograph of Gerhard Zucker, the German inventor with his rocket in front of the 1934 "Apex Exhibition" Frames in London where labels were put on sale for the first trial flight on the Sussex Downs. These labels were the "Apex" exhibition labels overprinted Rocket Post, First British Flight. As this firing proved unsuccessful a second was attempted between the islands of Scarp & Harris in Scotland, again unsuccessful thus not to be deterred a final and last firing was attempted from Lymington, Hampshire to the Isle of Wight.

The First British Experimental Rocket Post



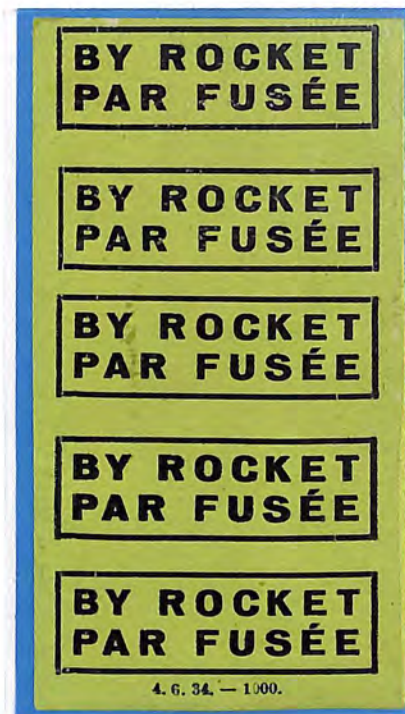
Visitors to the London Air Post Exhibition (Apex), in May 1934 would have seen the German inventor Herr Gerhart Zucker with his postal rockets. A trial firing was to be made and the labels at a cost of 2/6d each (and sold in sets of six) could have been purchased for attaching to the letters for inclusion on the flight. However the test was delayed, and eventually took place on the Sussex Downs near Rottingdean, on the 6th June 1934.

The First British Experimental Rocket Post on the Sussex Downs



A Trial impression of the Post Office cachet, note the outline of the map of England and Wales is composed of multiple repetition of the text ; Fee two shillings six pence paid Zucker rocket post, and the cover has been endorsed by Herr G. Zucker

Strips of four labels were printed in Germany on the 4th June but did not arrive until after the trial had taken place, thus covers bearing these labels printed in Green or Red have had them added at a latter date.



TRIAL IMPRESSION

The second experimental firing was scheduled to take place in the Hebrides, between Harris and Scarp on the 28th July 1934. The above is a trial example of the cancellation which was used, dated the day prior. The basic cancellation being the same as that used on the first experiment on the Sussex Downs and thus shows that it was made up from 'Loose Type' as both the date and name slugs could be altered easily.

The First British Experimental Rocket Post



Herr Zucker prior to visiting London for the Apex Exhibition had two different triangular labels printed unfortunately they were prevented from arriving in time due to customs delays.



The 5/- value was intended for cover, the 2/6d for postcards. Only 500 pairs of the vermillion were printed and less than 1000 of the Mauve of which 650 pairs were overprinted 2/6d.

The First British Experimental Rocket Post

June 6th, 1934 saw the first experimental trial flight by rocket
in this country at Rottingdean in Sussex.



Visitors to the London International Air Post Exhibition, saw one of G. Zucker's postal rockets on display. Arrangements were being made for the trial firing to be made during the exhibition, but this had to be delayed until early June. The Apex vignettes in the six colours were overprinted by E.T.Heron & Co and on sale for attaching to the covers, both the above being sent to Germany.

P. Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 21691

Value 3 x £15

November 2011

07/02/12 ...

564

June 6th, 1934 saw the first experimental flight in this country at Rottingdean in Sussex. The flown cover below is signed by the German inventor G. Zucker.

Visitors
Exhibition
rockets
firing to
to be de
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entitled
the vig

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postal
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this had
nettes in
on & Co of
which
cover with

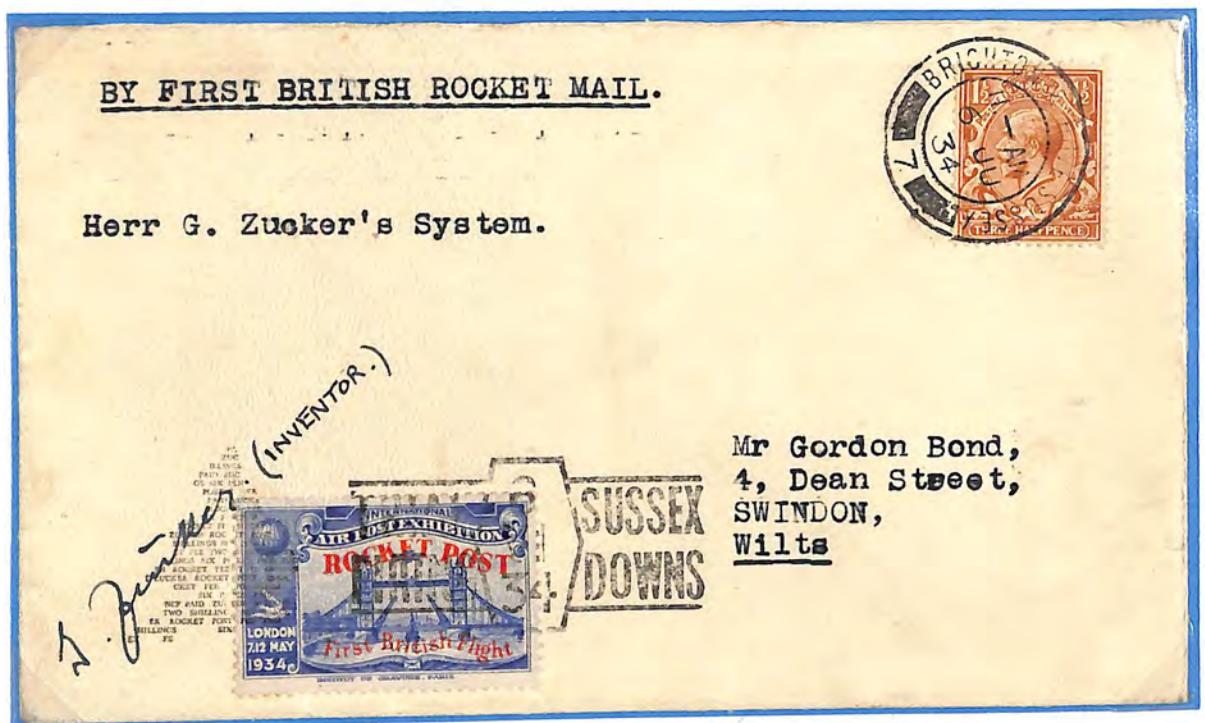


The First British Experimental Rocket Post

Cancellation Varieties



Cover cancelled
by the Red Paid
1½d handstamp
(499 items) the
values being
1½d, 2½d or 4d.



Cover cancelled
by Brighton &
Hove double ring
obliteration.
(371 items) of the
2864 flown.

Both covers signed by G. Zucker

P. Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 21694

Value 2 x £20

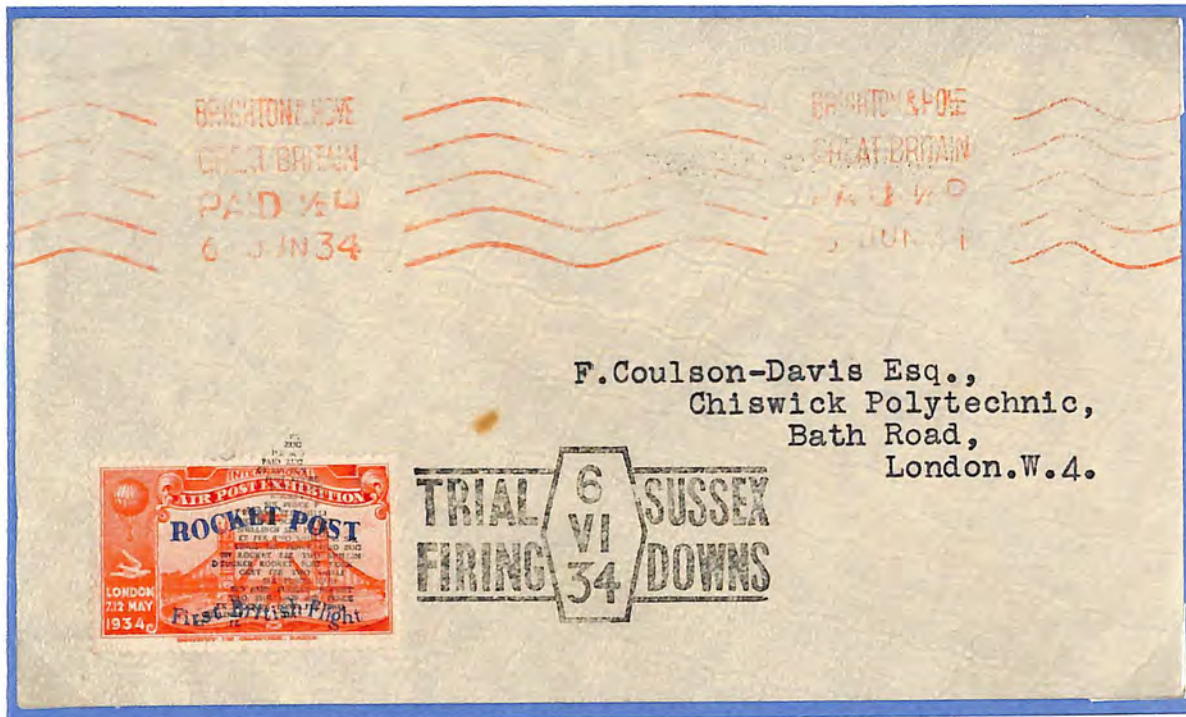
November 2011

07/02/12 ...

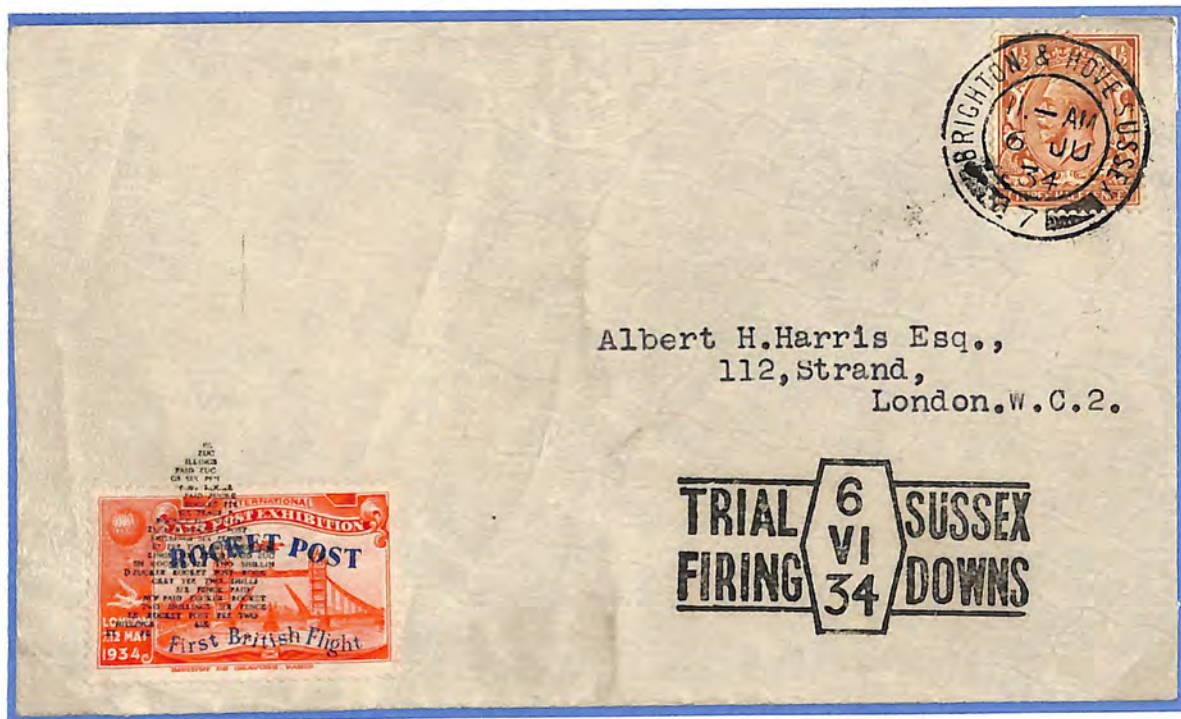
565

The special vignette cancellation is recorded as being a duplex of the 'Map of England' and the 'Trial Firing, Sussex Downs' with date. However separate handstamps must also have been available as proven by the 'Vermillion' cover above, (the dimensions are identical in both cases).

The First British Experimental Rocket Post



Cover cancelled
by the common
Red machine
Obliteration.
(1994 items)

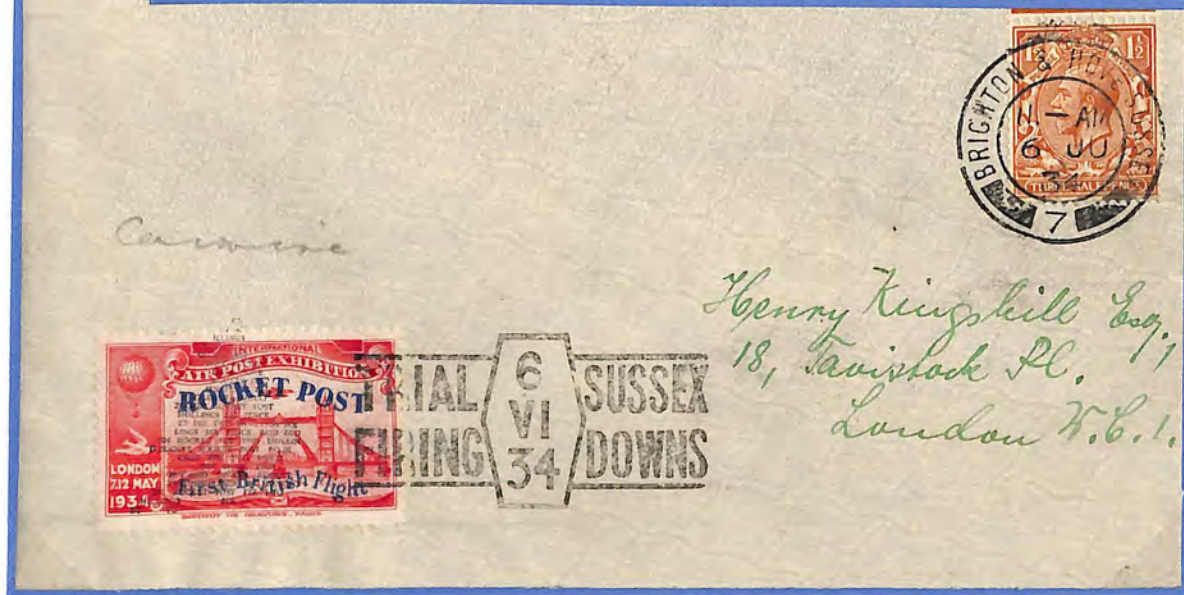
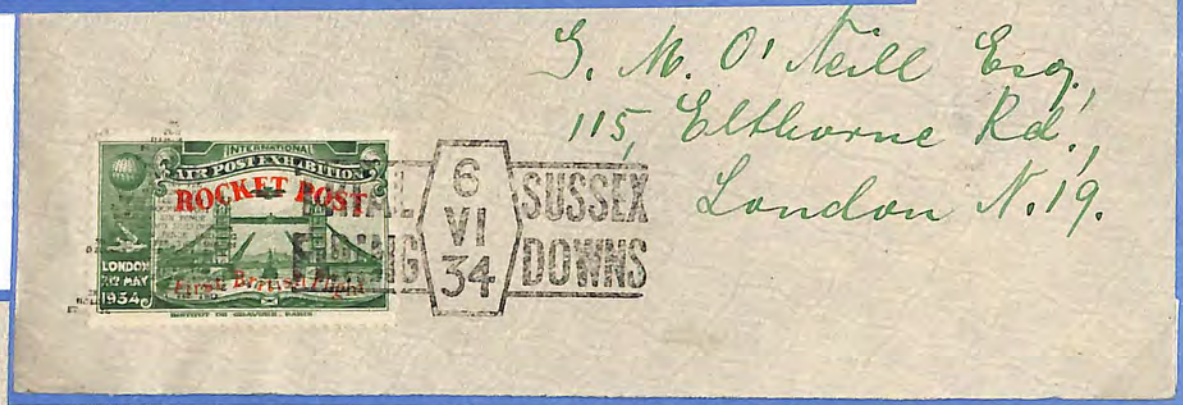


Cover with the Brighton & Hove double ring obliteration (371 covers),
but with a cachet variety, separated Sussex Downs and Map.

The First British Experimental Rocket Post



Cover signed by
G. Zucker in his
typical green ink



The Second British Experimental Rocket Post at the Western Isles



*Postcard depicting Herr Zucker and helpers
Loading the rocket with mail at Harris.*



Mint examples of the 2/6d and 5/- labels

MAILS BY ROCKET

SECOND EXPERIMENT FAILS

HARRIS ISLAND FIASCO

Herr Gerhard Zucker made his second rocket mail attempt in the island of Harris yesterday, but, as on Saturday, the experiment failed.

In view of Saturday's events it was not attempted to send the rocket across water. A large parcel of mails was placed inside the steel container of the rocket, including those which had survived the explosion of Saturday, and after fitting a larger cartridge in its place Herr Zucker retired about fifty yards and pressed the electric firing switch.

There was a flash of fire, a cloud of smoke, and when the air cleared the letters were seen strewn about the firing apparatus. It is understood that a piece of the rocket was found near the objective.

Letters To King And Premier

The mailbag enclosed in Herr Zucker's rocket was probably the largest ever in Harris. The number of letters exceeded the total annual mail of the island of Scarp, and they were addressed to, among others, the King, the Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, the Postmaster-General, the Minister of Transport, the Home Secretary, and the Secretary for Scotland. It is understood that those that have survived will now be handed to the Post Office for delivery in the ordinary way. Many were addressed to well-known philatelists interested in the special stamp affixed.

The question arises whether the value will be lost because the experiment failed, or whether it will be enhanced because the letters have survived two explosions and most of them bear the mark of the fire. Herr Zucker was somewhat hampered in his experiments, he explained, by the refusal of the German Government to permit the export of the cartridges which he had used in his first experiments.

The Second British
Experimental Rocket Post
at the Western Isles

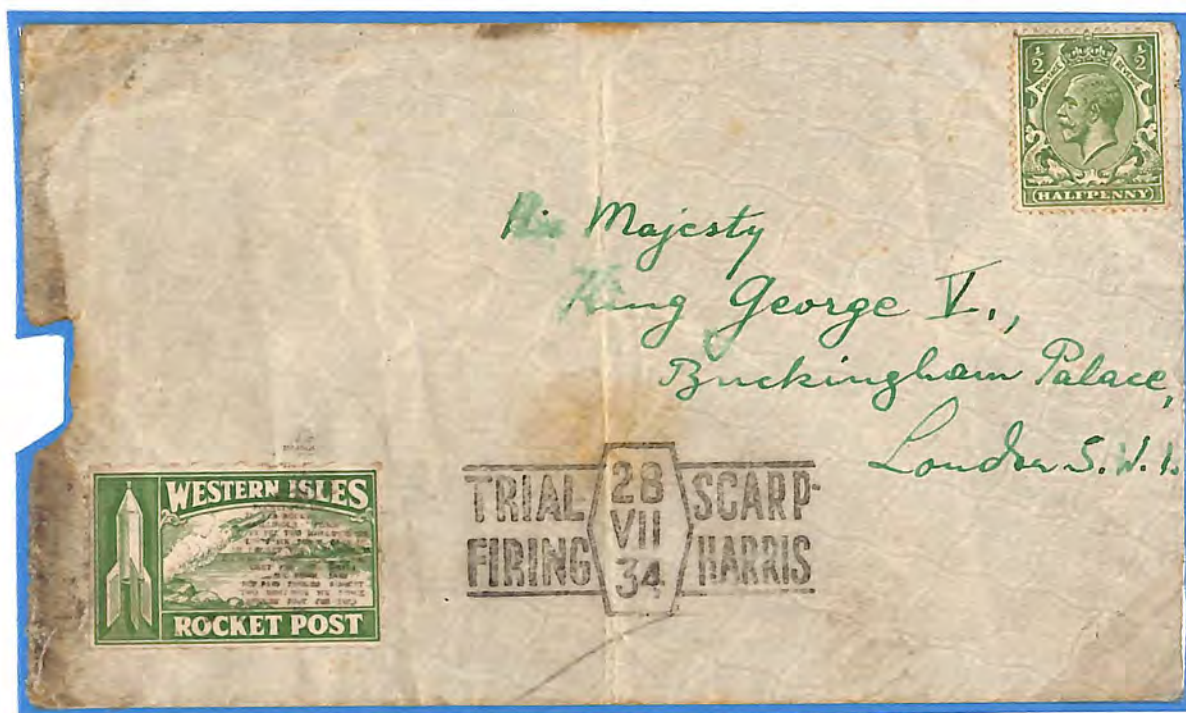
1st Firing 27th July



Her Zucker thought that he would be able to convince the government of the advantages of inter island communications by the use of his rockets. A trial was attempted in the Western Isles from Scarp to Harris, but unfortunately the rocket blew up on the launching trolley scattering the 1200 pieces of mail along the beach at Tarbert, of which 793 items were recovered (316 with the Red and 477 Green labels) as many of these were badly damaged a cachet was applied by the Post Office and cancelled on 1st August.

The Second British
Experimental Rocket Post
at the Western Isles

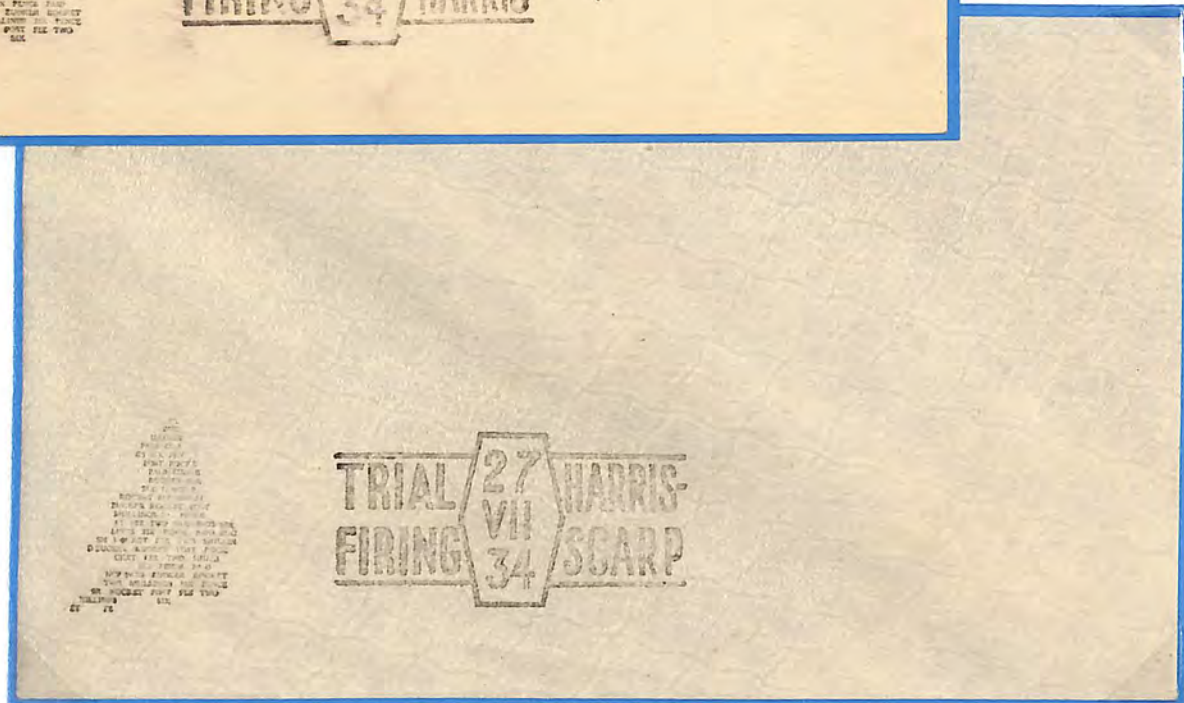
July 27th / 28th 1934



Cover retrieved from the test firing but due to its condition it was deemed unacceptable to send to H.M King George V. Thus it was not handed into the postal authorities for cancellation and delivery.

Copy of cachet applied to the reverse of the cover.

Damaged by first
explosion at
Scarp & HARRIS

[illegible]

P. Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 21705

Value £ 25 x 2

571

November 2011

Scarpa - Harris is 28TH ON BACK OF WRD.

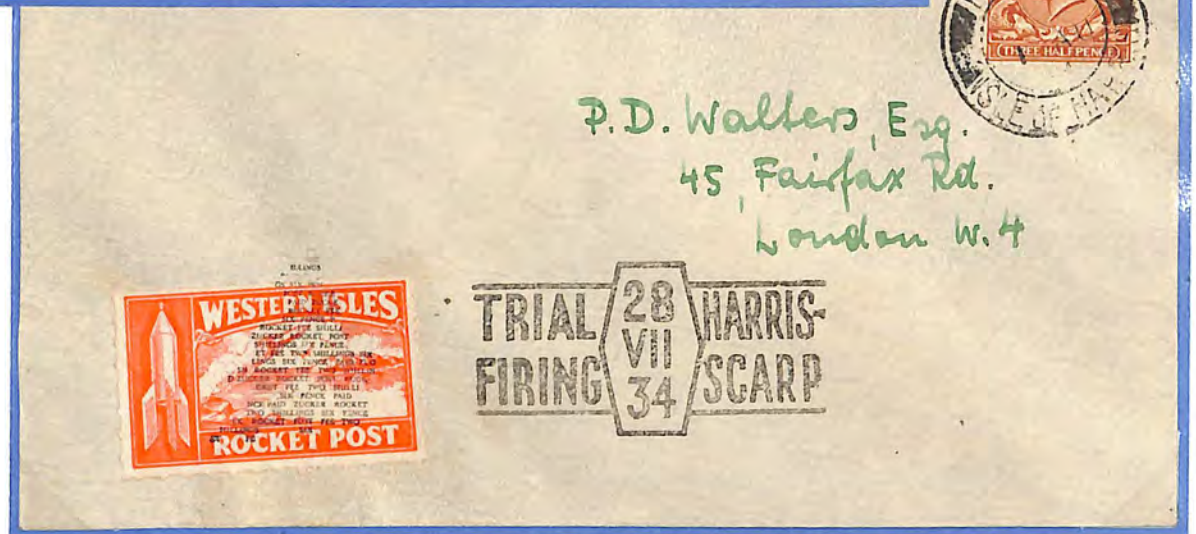
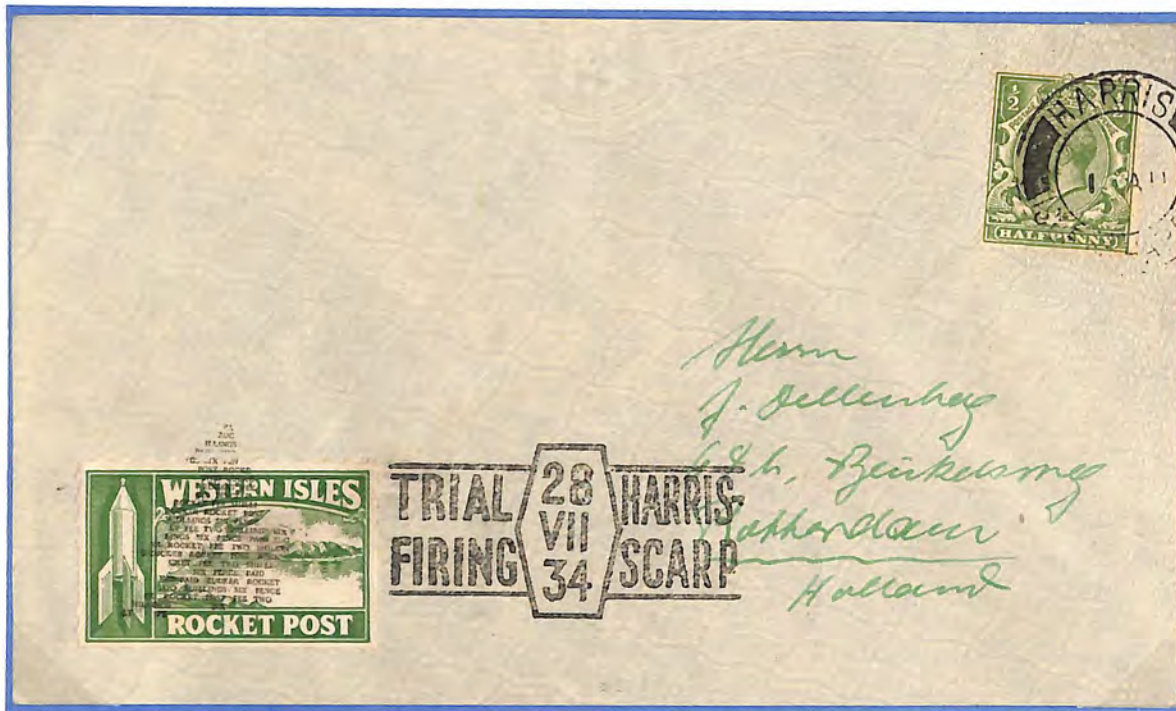
07/07/12 ...



7

37. ROCKET MAIL-Scarp 27th July 1934 specimen cancel of the Trial Firing at Scarp. These were produced to cover all eventualities, but NEVER USED. Missing from all collections as this is the only proof strike taken-see illustration Res £65
OCT 2012

The Second British Experimental Rocket Post at the Western Isles



"Harris – Scarp"

Covers dispatched on the second firing from Harris to Scarp bearing examples of the Green 2/6d for the ½d postal rate and the Red 5/- label for the 1½d rate. The labels were printed by E.Heron & Co. Ltd. In sheets of 12 (3x4) with margins roulette.

07/07/12 ...

572

Two stamps were produced for this second experimental firing by Zucker, 2/6d Green for the ½d rate and the 5/- Red for the 1½d rate. They were printed by E. Heron and Co. Ltd in sheets of 12 (3x4) with margins, rouletted.



ROCKET POST THE SECOND BRITISH EXPERIMENT

The Third British Experimental Rocket Post

Lymington - Isle of Wight

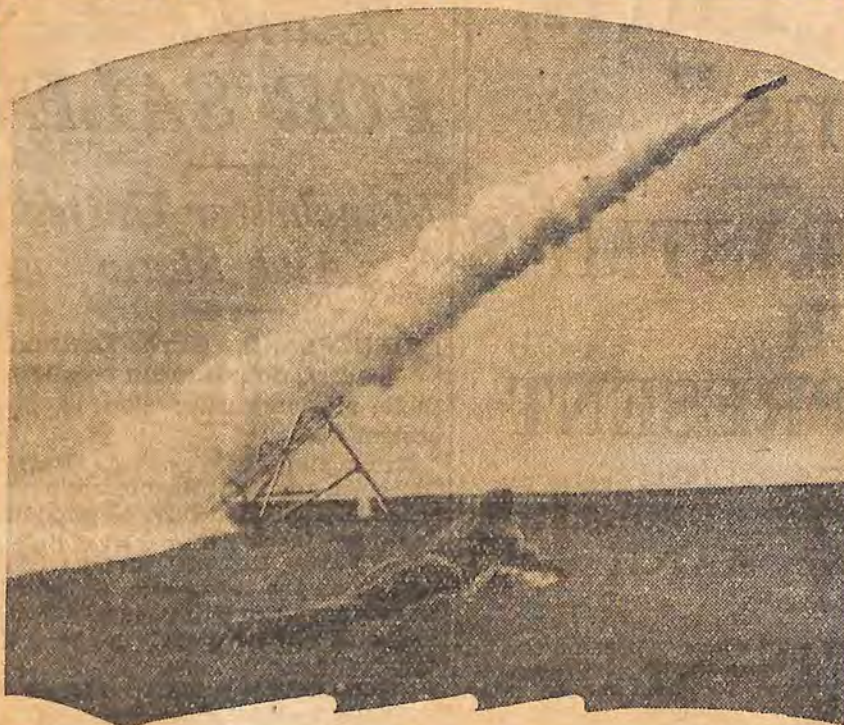


Mint example of label

Air Mail
Rocket
Starts,
But—



Newspaper cuttings of the 20th December 1934 reporting the third unsuccessful attempt of a Rocket Post for the United Kingdom, the extracts are from 'The Daily Express' and 'The Liverpool Daily Post'.



YOUNG GERMAN INVENTOR, Herr Zucker, fired a rocket yesterday . . . at Lymington, Hampshire. It carried 600 letters. They should have crossed the Solent, but—a high wind deflected the rocket. It landed in marshes on the mainland. The letters were retrieved . . . posted.

A test flight of a rocket air mail, designed by Herr Gerhard Zucker, a young German engineer, was unsuccessful at Lymington yesterday.

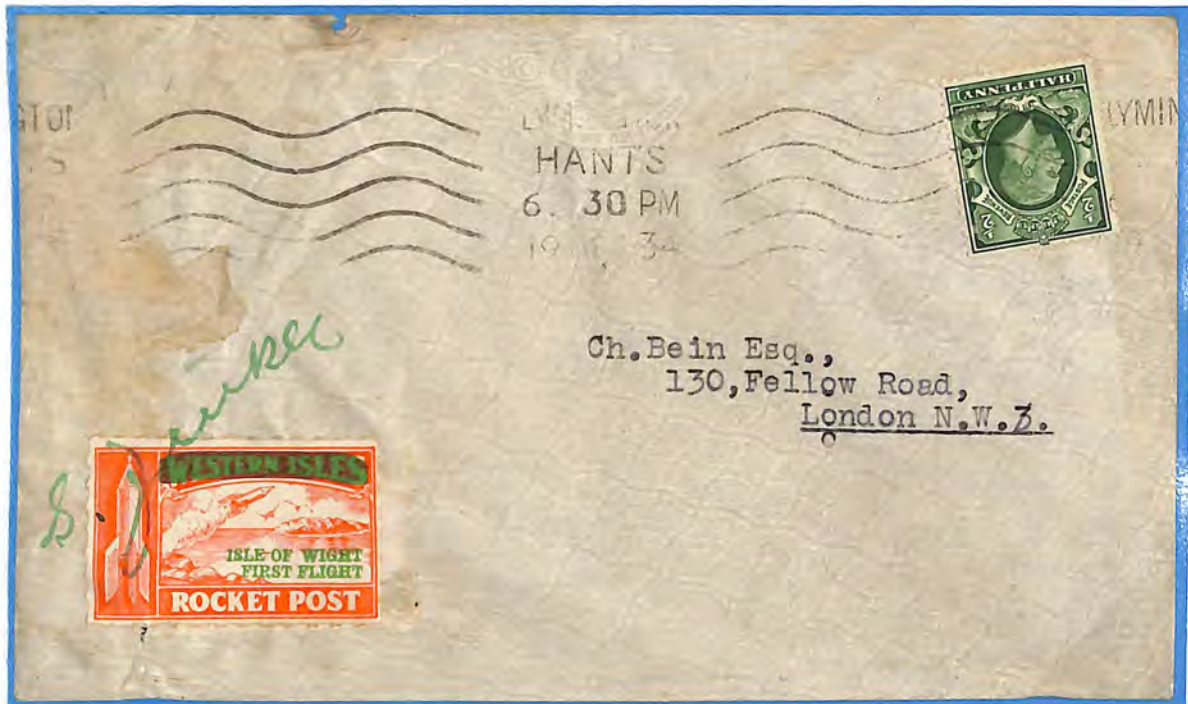
It had been arranged that the rocket, containing 600 letters, should be fired from the Hampshire coast and land in the Solent off Fort Victoria, Isle of Wight, the mails then to be picked up by a motor boat for transmission to Newport.

The rocket, however, when fired, instead of following a direct course towards Yarmouth (Isle of Wight), turned sharply in a westerly direction and came to earth in the marshes about a mile from Lymington golf course, where the experiment took place. A strong southerly wind was blowing.

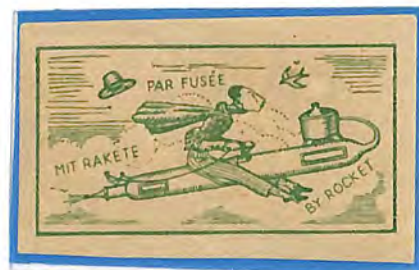
The Third British Experimental Rocket Post

Lymington - Isle of Wight

Again the rocket flight was unsuccessful by not reaching its destination . It rose into the air and instead of travelling towards the Isle of Wight it was blown backwards and landed a mile and a half away inland at Pennington marshes. The 600 covers were retrieved 80 of which this is one had an additional vignette on the reverse. They were then transported to Lymington for posting



Mint example of the vignette on the rear of cover, note also the error in spelling 'Rocket'



ROCKET POST

THE THIRD BRITISH EXPERIMENT

Experimental Flight Lynton
(Hants.) Isle of Wight.

Flown cover from this experimental firing
bearing a modified Western Isles, 2/6d
rocket stamp (tied by G-Zucker's signature).

P.Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

07/01/12 ...

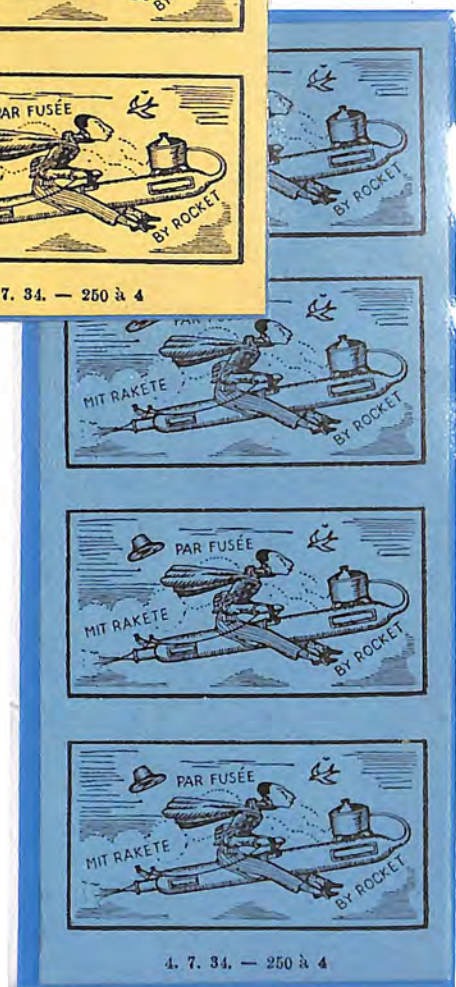
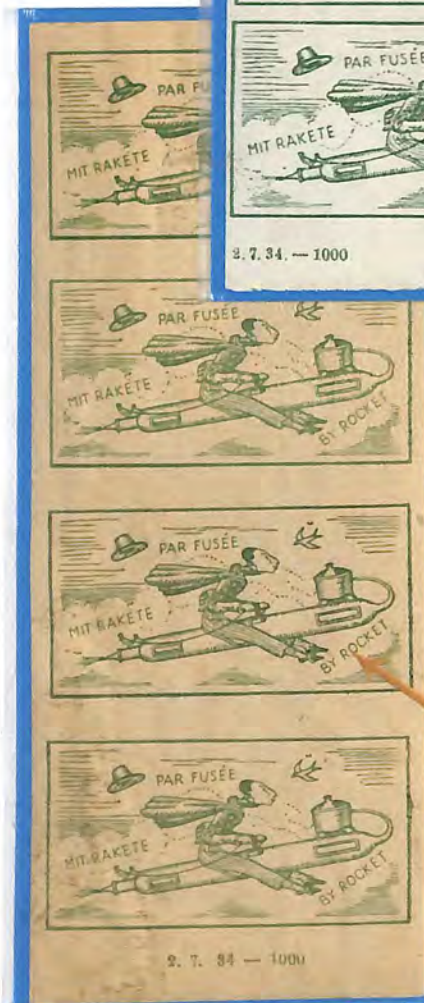
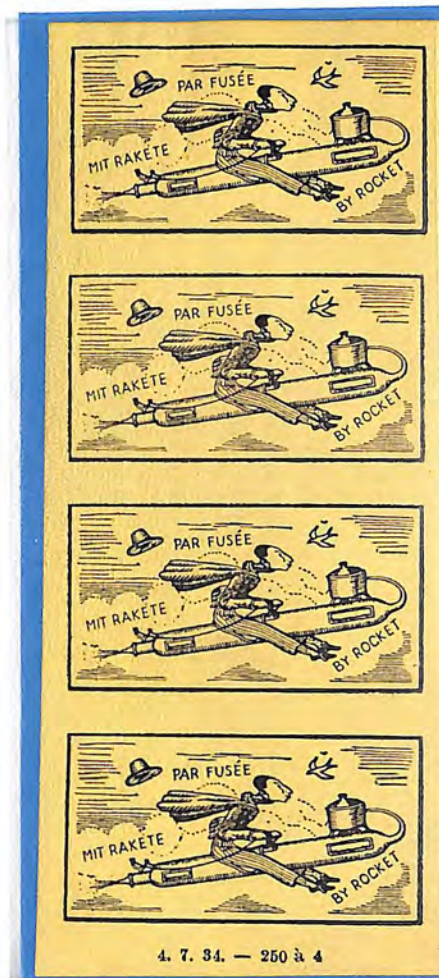
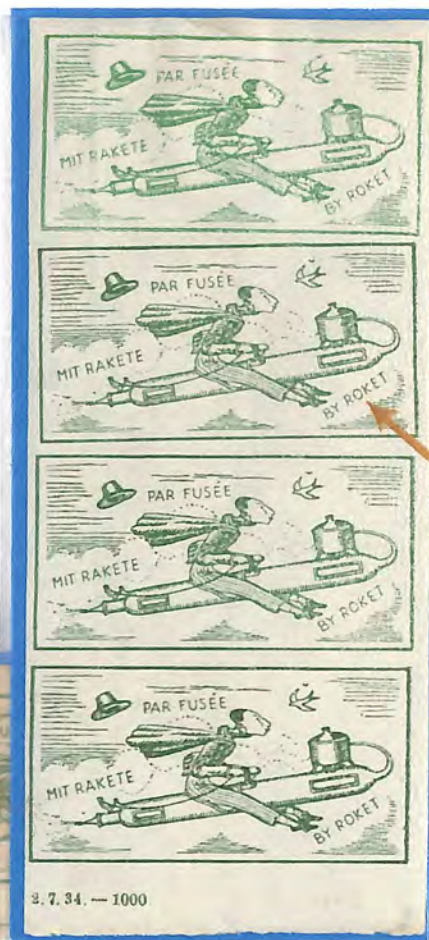
574

Value £ 45

INS 21686

November 2011

The Third British Experimental Rocket Post



On July 2nd 250 strips of 4 Propaganda labels were printed, in Germany depicting "Golightly" with an error in spelling of 'Rocket'. A similar quantity with the correct spelling were printed the same day. Two days later a further 250 strips were printed on Yellow and Blue paper

FIRST BRITISH ROCKET MAIL

1,200 LETTERS TO BE 'SHOT' AT DAWN



This envelope will be included in the first rocket mail today.

SYNDICATE PLANS A 1-MINUTE POSTAL SERVICE BETWEEN DOVER AND CALAIS

"Daily Express" Science Correspondent.

"SOMEWHERE in England" at dawn today, the first mail-rocket flight in this country will be made in secret. It will be the beginning of a series which is planned to culminate in regular mail-rocket services between England and Ireland and the Continent.

In today's trial Herr Gerhard Zucker, the German experimenter, will fire an aluminium rocket containing 1,200 letters bearing a special stamp, addressed to all parts of the world.

It should fly for nearly two miles. The letters will then be taken out and posted in the ordinary way at the nearest post office.

"When I brought over my rocket to the International Air Post Exhibition at the beginning of May," said Herr Zucker yesterday, "I found every one so interested in it that I decided to fire it in this country. Although rockets are in regular use for the transportation of mails in Austria, no one has ever attempted to use one in England.

"First I telegraphed to the German firm who make the fuel to my secret formula. They replied that the authorities would not allow them to export it.

"At last I discovered a fireworks firm who agreed to supply me with twelve cartridges of powder fuel for tomorrow's shot.

"I met both Lord Londonderry and Sir Kingsley Wood at the Air Post Exhibition. They were very interested in the idea, and, later, negotiations were carried out with the Post Office on my behalf. I was told there was no objection to my sending letters in the rocket."

FIRST ACROSS WATER

Herr Zucker showed me one of the letters to be sent by rocket mail. It was franked with one of the Air Post Exhibition stamps over-printed with the words:

Rocket Post—First British Flight and post-marked:

Zucker Rocket Post. Rocket fee two shillings sixpence paid.

The envelope also bore the words: "Trial Firing—6 VI 34," and the name of the locality in which the rocket will be fired.

"Next month," added Herr Zucker, "I shall take my rocket to the Isle of Wight and send mails across to the mainland. This will be the first rocket flight ever made across water. The distance of three and a half miles would be covered in ten seconds.

"Then I hope to fire a bigger rocket—which I shall make in England—between two of the Channel Islands, or between one of the islands and the coast of France.

21 MILES—ONE MINUTE

"After that I shall make a shot between Dover and Calais. The rocket would cover the twenty-one miles in less than a minute.

"When I have demonstrated the practicability of a rocket mail service across the English Channel I shall approach the British and French Governments and try to arrange for a regular service. A British rocket syndicate is being formed for the purpose.

"I shall invite Herr Friedrich Schmiedl, the Austrian expert, to operate from the French side, while I look after the English.

"I should also like to start a rocket service between England and Ireland. The journey would take about three minutes."

Mr P Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield
Middlesex
EN3 5NX



ASSOCIATION FOR
INTERNATIONAL CANCER
RESEARCH

9LS

F13

—

The First British Experimental Rocket Post



*Labels on yellow paper
printed in Germany for
use in the Netherlands
overprinted 2/6d for
postcards.*



*Labels on buff paper,
printed in Germany for
use in the Netherlands.
Overprinted 5/- for
letters.*



*An unoverprinted
label, brought to
England in case
overprinted labels
proved insufficient.*



The Second British
Experimental Rocket Post
at the Western Isles

Scarp Harris

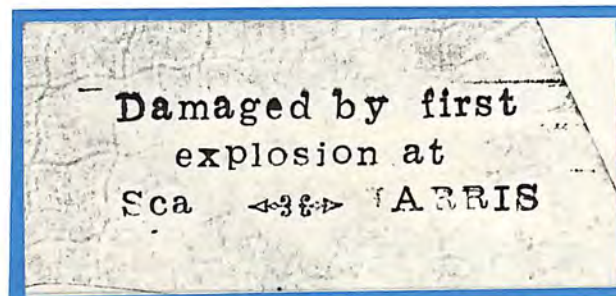
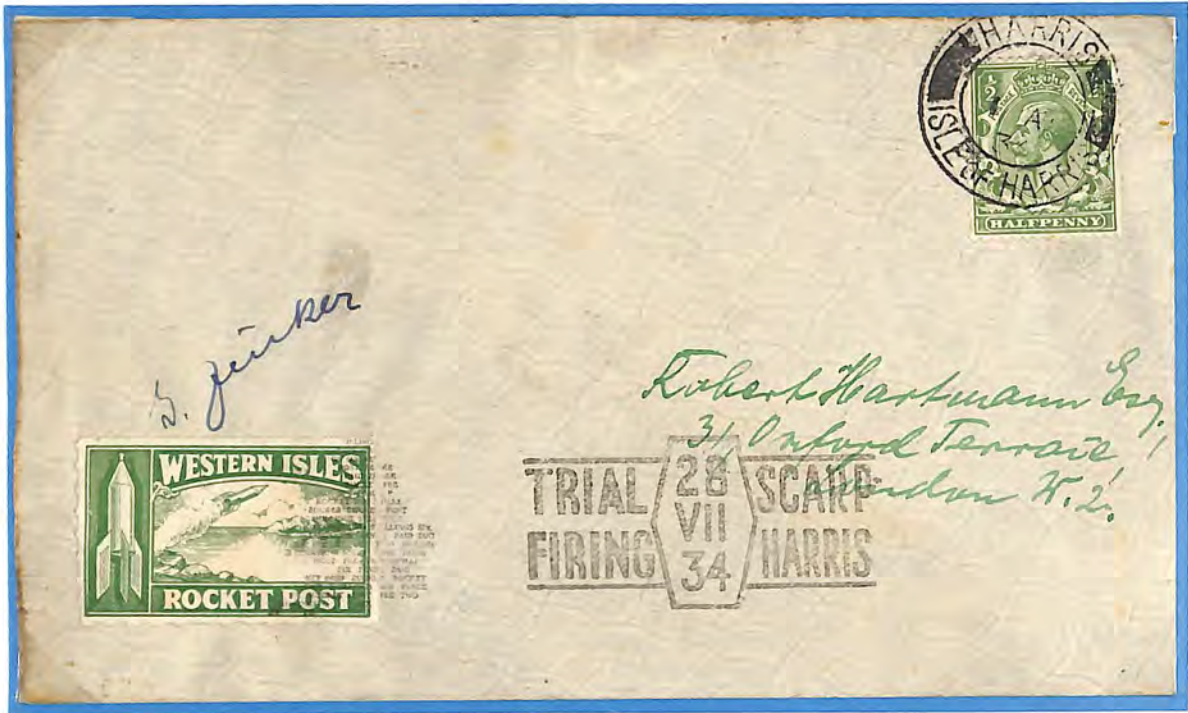


Explosion of the rocket!
Scarp - Harris 28. VII. 34



Herr Zucker posing for a photograph at Harris.

The Second British Experimental Rocket Post at the Western Isles



Herr Zucker thought that he would be able to convince the government of the advantages of inter island communications by the use of his rockets. A trial was attempted in the Western Isles from scarp to Harris, but unfortunately the rocket blew up scattering the 1200 pieces of mail it contained along the beach at Tarbert, of which 793 items were recovered (316 with Red labels and 477 Green). As many of these were damaged a cachet was applied by the Post Office to the reverse side of the cover.

P. Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 21699

Value £ 35

November 2011

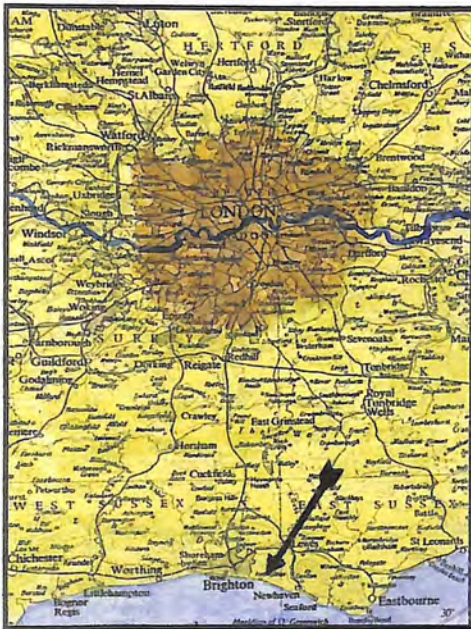
07/07/12 ...

529

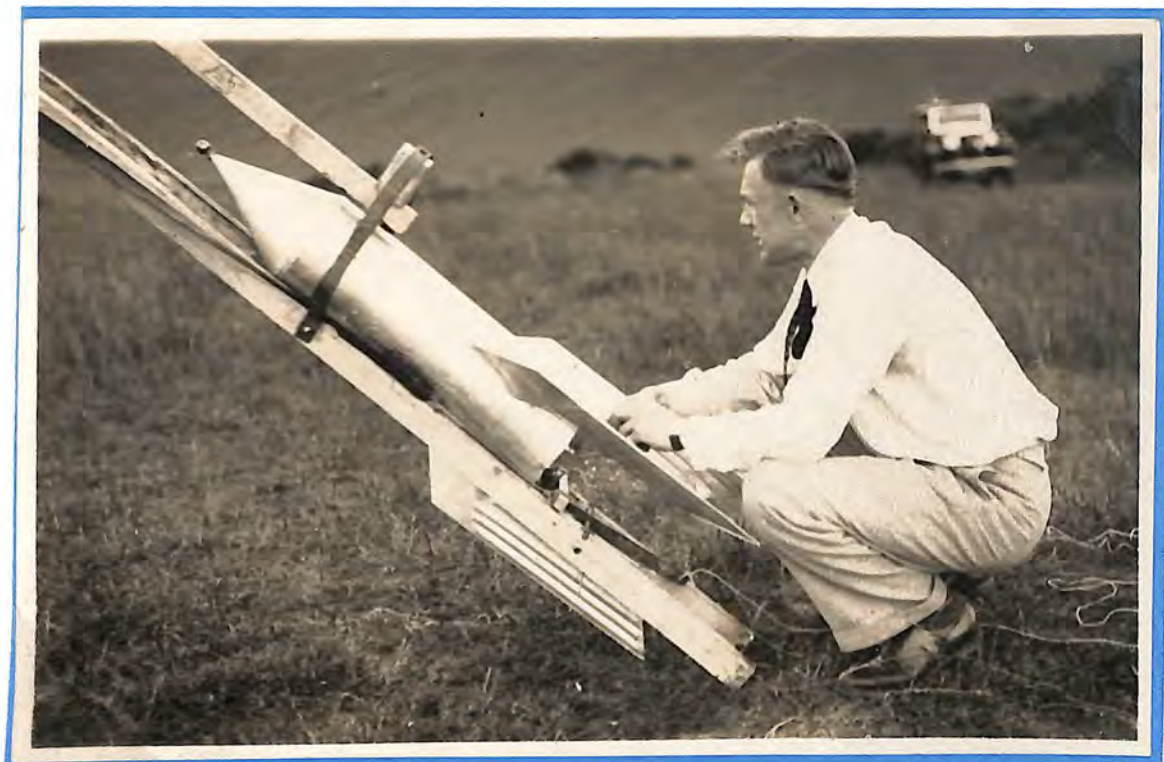
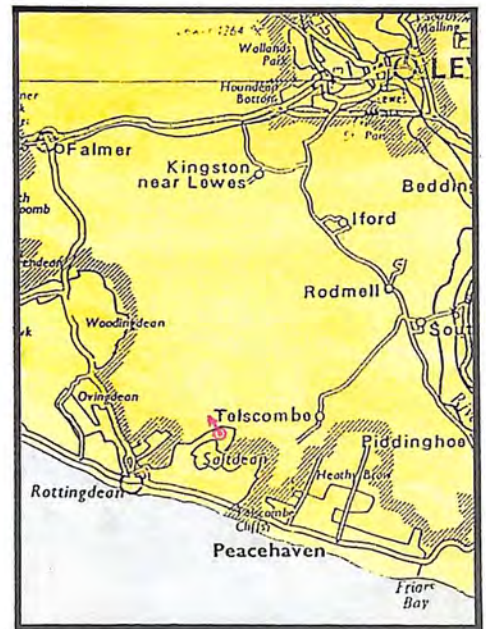
Damaged by first
explosion at
Sca 4384 ARRS

to convince the
and communications
le in the Western
but unfortunately the
es of mail it contained
13 pieces were recovered
. As many of these were
ost Office.

The First British Experimental Rocket Post



Photograph of Gerhard Zucker the German rocket experimenter with his rocket on the Sussex Downs near Brighton just a few minutes before his first trial firing on the 6th June 1934.





The Third British Experimental Rocket Post

Lymington - Isle of Wight

Cover recovered from the failed flight and
Posted at Lymington. The postal rate to
Germany being 2½d for a letter and
1½d for a postcard, thus this cover
Should have received a postage
Due charge.

Note, the boxed receipt of
arrival



The Third British Experimental Rocket Post

Lymington - Isle of Wight



An example of one of the 250 sheets of labels that were printed by E.T.Heron & Co. Ltd., of London, utilising the same design as used for the Western Isles experiment, but blocking out the wording in green and applying the caption Isle of Wight First Flight.

THE FIRST UNITED KINGDOM

AERIAL POST

1911

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice issued by the
propaganda committee
giving full particulars
of the AerialPost.



P. Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

07/01/12 ...

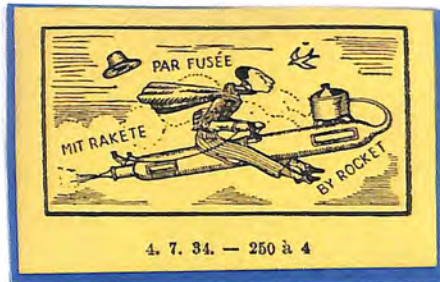
582

November 2011

Value £ 60

INS 21684

The Third British Experimental Rocket Post



July 1934, printing



Jet Propulsion 1828

In German, below this print, is the caption 'Dampfmaschinen Pferd —worauf man in einer Stunde von Paris nach Petersburg reiten kann'; or, in translation, 'Steam-engine horse on which to travel from Paris to St. Petersburg in one hour'.

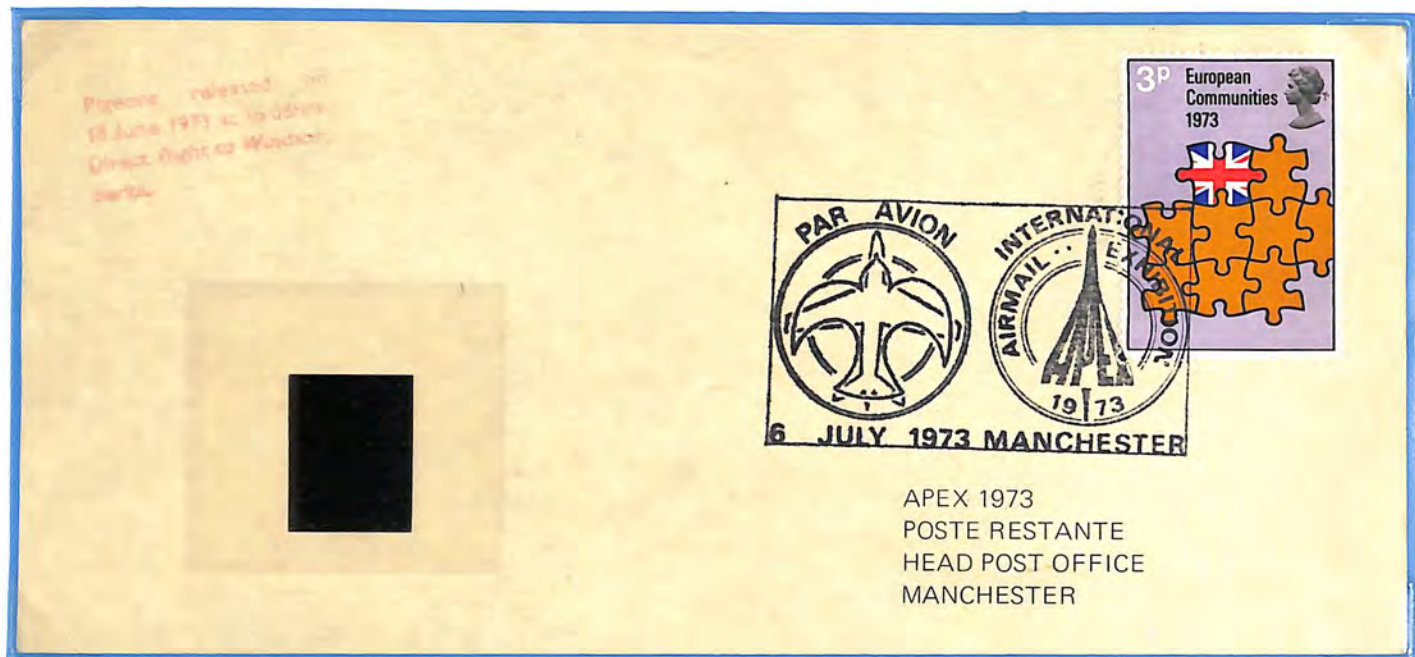
The print probably dates back to about 1828 and the name 'Golightly' has been associated with it for reasons that seem obscure. It must suffice to know that, satirically at least, a one-hour journey of over 1,400 miles as the crow flies by jet propulsion was envisaged so early.

*Propaganda labels,
produced in Germany
depicting "Golightly"*

INTERNATIONAL AIR POST

EXHIBITION

1973



Post card dispatched from the APEX Exhibition in Manchester bearing an example of the microfilm that was carried by pigeons which flew to Windsor on the 18th June 1973



P. Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 21680

Value £ 10

March 2008

12/03/11 ...

585



The

Stamp
Cover

APEX NUMBER



INTERNATIONAL

AIR-POST EXHIBITION

HORTICULTURAL HALL · LONDON · MAY 7-12 · 1934

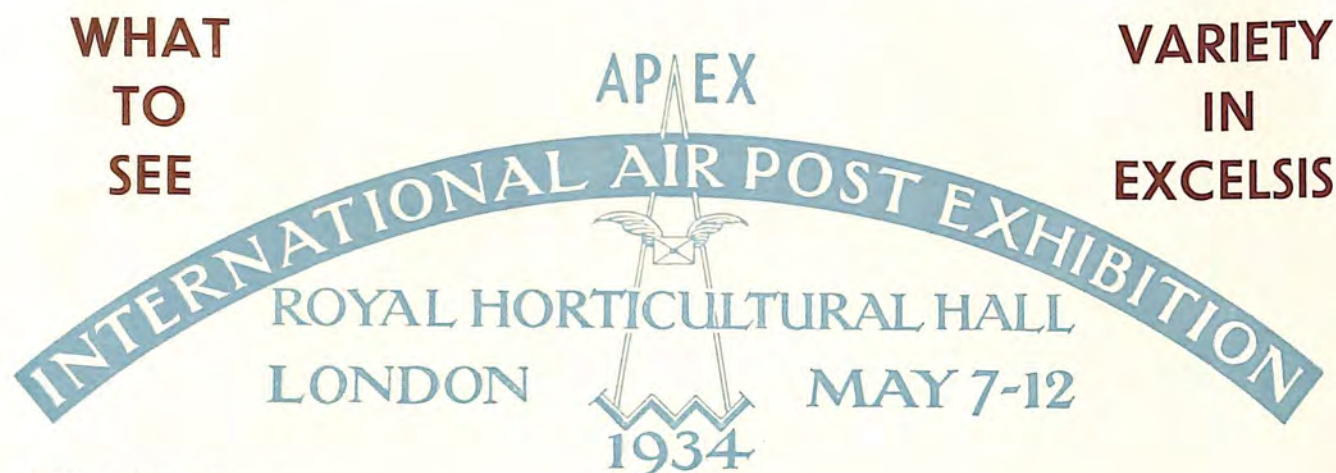
Vol. XXVI.

No. 11.

April, 1934.

Price 8d.

Post Free 10d.



**WHAT
TO
SEE**

**VARIETY
IN
EXCELSIS**

YOU MUST SEE THE

PIGEON POSTS. BALLOON POSTS. AEROPLANE AND SEAPLANE POSTS.
ROCKET POSTS.
ZEPPELINS. GLIDERS. CATAPULTS.

AND YOU MUST SEE

THE POST OFFICE EXHIBIT — in Annexe "A":

POSTS ANCIENT AND MODERN

"FROM THE PENNY BLACK (1840) TO THE AIR MAILS OF TO-DAY."

With many Wonderful Early Philatelic Treasures from the Official Archives, including UNIQUE SHEET OF THE PENNY BLACK.

APEX will be formally opened MONDAY, MAY 7th, at 12 noon,
by the Right Hon. THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY, K.G., P.C.,
and will be open daily until May 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission: 1s. 2d. (Tax included). Season Tickets 5s.

Tickets may be obtained in advance from the Hon. Secretary: Mrs. H. P. TERRY, "Apex," 359, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

STAMP DEALERS

whether dealing in air stamps or not should support the Exhibition by advertising in the fine Official Catalogue. Price per page, £6; per $\frac{1}{2}$ page, £3 3/-; per $\frac{1}{4}$ page, £1 15/-. Send copy and cheque **NOW**, but in any case before April 25th to FRED. J. MELVILLE, 10a Ardbeg Rd., Herne Hill, London, S.E.24. Size of page: $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ in.

Gold Medal	SECTION 4.
Silver Medal	Mr. Werzinger.
Bronze Medal	Mr. J. J. Klemann, New York.
	Mr. Harry A. Lee, Chester, Pa.

Sieger Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 5.
Sieger Silver Medal	Mr. P. H. Robbs, Gt. Britain.
Silver Medal	Mr. W. Heilmann, Lobstadt.
Bronze Medal	Mr. J. Boesman, Zierikzee.
	Mr. Leon V. Pont, Lillooch.

Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 6.
Bronze Medal	Mr. John A. Klemann, New York.
	Mr. Walter Blell, Magdeburg.

Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 7.
Bronze Medal	Miss W. Penn-Gaskell, Gt. Britain.
	Mr. P. J. Drossos, Athens.

Bronze Medal	SECTION 8.
	Dr. Max Kronstein, Germany.

Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 9.
	Mr. D. Emmerich, Zurich-Hongg.

Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 10.
Silver Medal	Dr. H. E. Radasch, Philadelphia.
Silver Medal	Mrs. Gertrude Piers, Christchurch, N.Z.
Silver Medal	Mrs. Eilers, Gt. Britain.
Silver Medal	Mr. D. S. Glover, Gt. Britain.
Bronze Medal	Mr. W. H. Kettle, Gt. Britain.

CLASS N. AIR MAIL LABELS (ETIQUETTES), ETC.

Silver Watch	SECTION 2.
Silver Medal	Mr. H. A. Schoenfeld, Seattle.
Bronze Medal	Mr. Norman Hill, Gt. Britain.
	Mr. Herbert E. Barber, Calcutta, India.

CLASS O. FOR YOUNG COLLECTORS.

Junior Trophy	SECTION 1.
	Mr. P. H. B. Freylinghuysen, Jr., Morriston, N.J., U.S.A.
Silver Gilt Medal	Mr. Donald Scott, Gt. Britain.
Silver Medal	Mr. F. G. Marshall, Gt. Britain.
Bronze Medal	Mr. Jack Mitchley, Gt. Britain.
	SECTION 2.
Silver Medal	Mr. D. H. Jones, Gt. Britain.
Bronze Medal	Mr. Audrey E. Naylor, Gt. Britain.
Bronze Medal	Mr. Thornton, Gt. Britain.

CLASS P. FOR INVENTION.

Silver Medal	SECTION 1.
	Mr. G. Zucker, Germany.
	SECTION 3.
Gold Medal	Institut de Gravure, Paris.

CLASS Q. LITERATURE.

Gold Medal	SECTION 2.
	Dr. Robert Paganini, Zweisimmen. (In appreciation of valuable services rendered to Aero-Philately.)
Silver Medal	Mr. F. J. Field, Ltd., Gt. Britain.
F.I.P.P. Silver Medal	Mr. N. C. Baldwin, Gt. Britain.
Bronze Medal	Miss G. L. Collins, Gt. Britain.
Bronze Medal	Dr. Max Kronstein, Germany.
Bronze Medal	Mr. C. F. Lucke.
	SECTION 3.
Silver Gilt Medal	Mr. D. Field, Gt. Britain.
Silver Medal	Mr. I. C. Morgan, Montreal.
Silver Medal	Mr. O. W. R. Smith, Toronto.
Silver Medal	Mr. G. Sobetzky, Vienna.
Silver Medal	Swiss Aerophilatelic Soc., Lucerne.
Bronze Medal	Mr. K. Kayssner, Bad Buckow.
Bronze Medal	Mr. F. Muller, Paris.
F.I.P.P. Bronze Medal	Mr. G. Landmann, Milan.

Silver Medal	SECTION 5.
	Popular Flying, Gt. Britain.

Silver Medal	SECTION 6.
	The Airpost Collector, Gt. Britain.

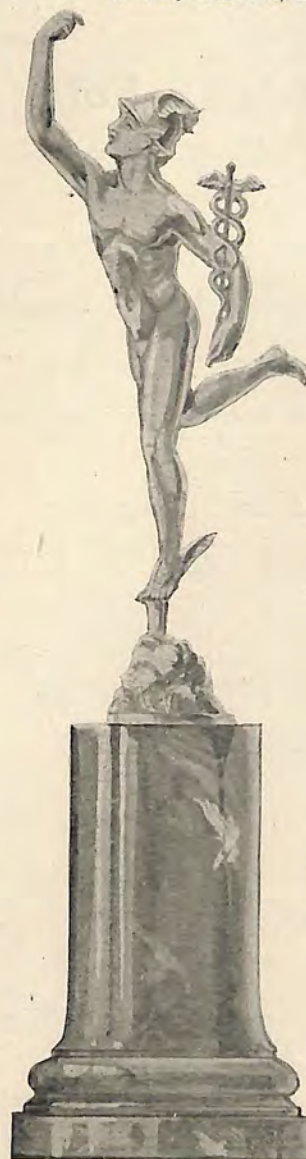
Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 7.
Silver Medal	Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Gt. Britain.
Silver Medal	Boletim, Sao Paulo.
Silver Medal	British Philatelist, Gt. Britain.
F.I.P.P. Silver Medal	Australian Stamp Monthly, Melbourne.
Bronze Medal	West End Philatelist, Gt. Britain.
F.I.P.P. Bronze Medal	Journal of the Aerophilatelic Society of Corea.

CLASS R. ALBUMS AND ACCESSORIES.

Silver Gilt Medal	SECTION 1.
Silver Medal	Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Gt. Britain.
	Mr. D. Field, Gt. Britain.

Silver Medal	SECTION 2.
Silver Medal	P. Koch, Ltd., Aschersleben.
Silver Medal	Mr. C. F. Lucke, Leipzig.
Silver Medal	Nicklin Company, New York.

Bronze Medal	SECTION 3.
	Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Gt. Britain.



THE JUNIOR TROPHY.
Presented by the Junior Philatelic Society.



THE APEX MEDALS.

Designed specially for Apex by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, Ltd., London.

J.P.S. Notes.

Specialists, Please Note!



THE J.P.S. Library and Reading Room at 44, Fleet St., London, E.C.4, is open not only to members desiring the loan of a book in the ordinary way, for perusal on or off the premises, but also to groups interested in a particular country or countries.

Specialists can arrange a meeting amongst themselves at the Reading Room and not only reap the inevitable benefit of an exchange of views, but also have at hand the resources of the Library.

The Manchester Congress.

The Society will be represented at Manchester by Mr. J. Lee and Mr. E. E. Yates.

The J.P.S. usually sends four delegates to Congress. It is not too late for me to nominate another two members, and I shall be glad to hear from anybody interested. The Congress is being held on May 22nd—25th next.

Be Prepared.

I hope to have the fifth in the series of Knowledge Competitions ready for publication in the STAMP LOVER for June.

I hope then that a few more "spectators" will become competitors, and help to make these tests well worth while.

Join Now!

Although May has begun well, few new members joined our ranks in April, despite my announcement last month to the effect that nothing is gained by waiting until the commencement of the new season in October.

Those joining the J.P.S. now pay 7/6 instead of the customary 5/-. plus Entrance Fee of 5/- if over 21 years of age, and this entitles them to membership up to Sept. 30th, 1935.

Members having friends who are interested in stamps should be able to turn this to good account.

The following were elected to membership during April, an asterisk indicating a Junior:—

9379—*T. G. Warren, London, E.18.

*P. L. Muthukarupiah, India.

*D. V. McAravey, S. Africa.

R. V. Johnson, Teddington.

R. F. Crabb, Aberdeen.

Rev. G. F. Dewey, Canada.

The Next Members' Day.

In view of the success of the last Members' Display it is hoped to arrange another for next season.

I think it would be a good idea to award a silver medal to the owner of what is judged to be the most interesting exhibit. Members present could determine this by ballot at the meeting.

D. AIKEN, *Hon. Gen. Secretary.*

44, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

May 8th, 1934.

* * *

We deeply regret to report that Mr. S. D. Timms, an old and much respected member of the Council of the J.P.S. has died as a result of a street accident which occurred on his way home from the last meeting of the season. A fuller note of Mr. Timms' services to the Society will appear in our next issue.

Exchange Branch.

Will all members of the Exchange Branch please notify me when arrangements have been made for holidays? In order to avoid delay it is advisable to leave names off the postal lists instead of deleting them after the packets have been put into circulation.

The Great Britain packet is not well supported by contributors. Please send in as many good G.B. sheets as you can.

W. TRIPP, *Hon. Superintendent.*

The Rocket Post Comes Off.

1200 Letters "Shot at Dawn" on Derby Day.



THERE was an interesting surprise sequel to the Air Post Exhibition on Derby Day. At dawn on the day when Windsor Lad made racing history on Epsom Downs, Herr Gerhard Zucker fired the first mail rocket in England from a hilltop on Sussex Downs, two miles from Rottingdean.

The postman brought me half a dozen letters which had been "shot at dawn," each bearing a different coloured "Apex" souvenir stamp, appropriately overprinted for the occasion "Rocket Post" in blue or red, with in addition a protective overprint in small type something like the protective background of a cheque. The "stamps" were cancelled with an oblong rocket postmark reading "Trial Firing 6.vi.34 Sussex Downs" in black. My letters came without other postage stamps, being "1½ paid" stamped in red with the circular paid postmark of "Brighton and Hove, Sussex—Great (A) Britain." A letter illustrated in the *Daily Express*, however, bears a 1½d. brown stamp, postmarked with the ordinary Brighton date stamp in black.

The story of the firing of this first rocket post in England is graphically told in the *Daily Express* of Thursday, June 7th, which I quote below:

"Daily Express" Special Correspondent.
Rottingdean (Sussex), Wednesday.

The first mail rocket in England was fired from a hilltop two miles from here at dawn to-day, carrying six letters addressed to the King and more than 1000 others for all parts of the world.

I was one of six people who saw the rocket hurtle from its launching rack and roar across the sky before falling to the earth.

Herr Gerhard Zucker, the young German inventor who made the rocket, woke me early and drove me with the rest of the party to a lonely spot on the Downs.

The launching rack, 15 feet long, was rigged in a quarter of an hour, and then well lubricated with butter. The aluminium rocket, empty for the first shot, slid into place.

A cartridge was thrust into the rocket and the wires were connected. Herr Zucker stood back some yards, and waved us away.

Then Herr Zucker made contact. Fire hissed from the rear of the rocket, and it shot up the inclined rack. Suddenly it lurched forward with a roar that frightened the larks to silence.

We watched it soar, then turn and glide earthwards, its vanes keeping it balanced during its downward flight.

Herr Zucker led the running group to where the rocket lay in the grass. He examined it carefully and, finding that no serious damage had been done, carried

it back to the car to load letters into the special compartment for the purpose.

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One of the envelopes contained a letter from Herr Zucker to the King asking the King to honour the inventor by accepting a set of the first British rocket mail stamps for his collection.

The letters were thrust in and the cap replaced on the projectile. Herr Zucker fired it again—and again the rocket leaped towards the sky and made its curved flight of about half a mile.

This time the letters were taken out, transferred to a mailbag, and carried in a car to the Brighton post office, where they were posted.

Mr. Zucker's Further Plans.

Interviewed before the firing of the rocket, Mr. Zucker stated that next month he hoped to make the first rocket mail flight across water, from the Isle of Wight to the mainland, and subsequent plans include trial firings between two of the Channel Islands, and later from England to France across the Straits of Dover. "I should also like," he said, "to start a rocket service between England and Ireland. The journey would take about three minutes."

The Onlooker.

The Orkney—Inverness Air Route.

One of our young members in Kirkwall, Orkney, Mr. David Ford, sent me letters by the first air mail from the Orkney Islands on May 29th. He also sent a cover for the J.P.S. collection. This air mail is an important innovation as it marks the use of the aeroplane for regular use in the transport of letters to and from the Orkneys, at the ordinary postage rate of 1½d. per 2 oz. The time is no doubt coming when all mails for the more important outlying islands and difficult districts will be carried by air instead of by the slower methods of coasting steamer and coach.

General Sir Frederick Williamson presented the Royal Air Mail pennant and himself travelled with the first airmail from Inverness to Orkney, inaugurating what is to be a regular daily service in both directions.

Our member, Mr. Ford, reminds me of my own early days in the northern isles. He says he has been giving stamps the "go by" lately and has taken to a much more dangerous hobby, cliff-climbing for gulls' eggs. He was recently lucky enough to discover the nest of a peregrine falcon with three young birds in it—the only specimens in Orkney.

Certainly an adventurous change from stamp-collecting, but now the climbing season is over I expect he will be back to his stamps again.

The New British Stamps.

Opening a new G.P.O. at Cambridge on May 29th, the Postmaster-General, Sir Kingsley Wood, made the announcement that our new stamps would be available in August.

We had hoped to have had the first of them issued during the Air Post Exhibition, but this proved to be impracticable.

"However, this 1843 version is hurtling through the air with aerial 'Jack Tars' swarming about the wings and spars, officers scanning the distant territories beneath through telescopes, and passengers dropping earthwards with modern-looking parachutes.

"The following is a sample of one of the commands shouted to harassed Bill Jackson, one of the crew: 'Hallo, Bill Jackson, keep your eye on Malta and get the parcels ready. Waken the old lady in No. 7. Drop the Pacha of Egypt's despatches. Tell the Bombay gent in No. 5 to have his parachute in readiness, tie his hat on, shut his mouth, and keep a fast hold, as it is blowing a stiff breeze.

"'Keep a sharp look-out for Pekin, and get the Emperor of China's letter ready. We shall be dropping on his palace directly.'

"Meanwhile, the Chinese Emperor's Court is puzzled as to the nature of the approaching monster. The Royal astrologer thinks it must be 'a special messenger from his Most Celestial Highness, the Moon.' His brother wizard less hopefully remarks, 'I'm blessed if I can make it out. It is not unlike a dragon or a fiery comet, or a mixture of both—or something else! Let's bolt and save our necks!'"

Also among the loan exhibits were some notable photographs of early pioneer flights specially resurrected from the photographic archives of the *Daily Mail* and printed for the exhibition. Among these were contemporary photographs of Blériot's machine in flight over the Channel; a Blériot machine; Sir A. Whitten Brown and Sir John Alcock taking a meal in Newfoundland a few minutes before the start of the first non-stop Atlantic flight; Miss Amy Johnson at Croydon ready to start on her lone flight to Australia, and another showing her start from Croydon; Mr. and Mrs. Mollison leaving



Mrs. F. W. Kessler, of New York, sending her own pigeongram to Dr. Philip G. Cole to announce his Grand Gold Medal award. The party in the group runs, left to right: Mr. Melville, Mrs. Kessler, Mrs. Terry, General Ridgway, Mr. F. W. Kessler.



Gerhard Zucker and his Rocket Post apparatus.

Pendine Sands in the *Seafarer* on their flight to America on July 22nd, 1933, and another of the *Seafarer* en route.

The Catalogue: Have You Got One?

All interested in a more complete description of the Apex exhibits should not fail to procure the large official catalogue of the exhibition published at 1s., or by post, 1s.3d. (obtainable from Mrs. H. P. Terry, 95 Fairfield Crescent, Edgware, Middlesex). From the same address you can still obtain the few remaining sets of the real photo souvenir cards showing notable exhibits (1s.6d. per set of 6) and the souvenir stamps in sets of 6 at 1s. per 4 sets (i.e., blocks of four).

The Competitions.

Of the competitive exhibits their number is so large and their extent so great that it is not possible to describe or even list them all. The six entries in the Championship Class filled nearly the whole of the north division of the hall. Mr. John Aspinwall, by virtue of alphabetical order, came No. 1 in the catalogue, and the Jury adjudged his to be the finest collection, so that he secured the Grand Prix. But it is no secret that there were strong runners-up in Dr. Philip G. Cole and Miss W. Penn-Gaskell. In some respects each had points in which they were superior to the Aspinwall collection. Add Mr. Oakey's wonderful collection and Mrs. McCleverty's very fine show, and you will realise that the Championship Class alone would have carried Apex to a very high distinction for the quality and extent of its exhibits.

And Class B was scarcely less remarkable. Here again America was well to the fore, with Mr. Roger Steffan gaining a Grand Gold Medal. Mrs. Prentice Cronwell of New York, and Mr. R. E. R. Dalwick of Bournemouth, secured the gold medals in this class.

Where all was so fine and there was so much of it, the mere scribbler has to have resort to his own predilections. I was a little disappointed in the whole of Class E—the Art of the Air Stamp, and the Jury only awarded two bronze medals in the whole class, and these for two collections in Section 3 which looked so much alike that it was difficult to believe that they did not form part of the same exhibit.

I was well pleased with the wealth of what were termed Antiquarian and pre-XXth Century Air Posts,

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The APEX rocket post start took place on June 6, 1934 as "a secret experiment" (as it was called in a British press report), with only three British witnesses attending. The experiments were made in a field lying between Rottingdean and Telscombe in Sussex. The rocket was launched first with 1,400 covers and travelled about 900 yards. Then the rocket was charged with fresh explosives and was started again, this time carrying 1,464 covers. (There is no difference between the covers of the two starts.)

Sieger Silver Gilt Medal
 Sieger Silver Medal -
 Silver Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -

Silver Gilt Medal -
 Bronze Medal -

Silver Gilt Medal -
 Bronze Medal -

Bronze Medal - -

Silver Gilt Medal -

Silver Gilt Medal -
 Silver Medal - -

Silver Medal - -
 Silver Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -

CLASS N. AIR MAIL LABELS (ETIQUETTES), ETC.

Silver Watch - -
 Silver Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -

CLASS O. FOR YOUNG COLLECTORS.

Junior Trophy - -
 Silver Gilt Medal -
 Silver Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -
 Silver Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -

CLASS P. FOR INVENTION.

Silver Medal - - -
 Gold Medal - - -

CLASS Q. LITERATURE.

Gold Medal - - -
 Silver Medal - - -
 F.I.P.P. Silver Medal -
 Bronze Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -
 Silver Gilt Medal -
 Silver Medal - -
 Silver Medal - -
 Silver Medal - -
 Silver Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -
 Bronze Medal - -
 F.I.P.P. Bronze Medal -

SECTION 5.

Mr. P. H. Robbs, Gt. Britain.
 Mr. W. Heilmann, Lobstadt.
 Mr. J. Boesman, Zierikzee.
 Mr. Leon V. Pont, Lillooch.

SECTION 6.

Mr. John A. Klemann, New York.
 Mr. Walter Blell, Magdeburg.

SECTION 7.

Miss W. Penn-Gaskell, Gt. Britain.
 Mr. P. J. Drossos, Athens.

SECTION 8.

Dr. Max Kronstein, Germany.

SECTION 9.

Mr. D. Emmerich, Zurich-Hongg.

SECTION 10.

Dr. H. E. Radasch, Philadelphia.
 Mrs. Gertrude Piers, Christchurch,
 N.Z.
 Mrs. Eilers, Gt. Britain.
 Mr. D. S. Glover, Gt. Britain.
 Mr. W. H. Kettle, Gt. Britain.

Silver Medal - -

The Airpost Collecto

SECTION 7.

Silver Gilt Medal - -
 Silver Medal - - -
 Silver Medal - - -
 F.I.P.P. Silver Medal -
 Bronze Medal - - -
 F.I.P.P. Bronze Medal -

Gibbons Stamp Mon
 Boletim, Sao Paulo.
 British Philatelist, C
 Australian Stamp M
 West End Philatelist
 Journal of the Aero
 of Corea.

CLASS R. ALBUMS AND ACCES

SECTION 1.

Silver Gilt Medal - -
 Silver Medal - - -

SECTION 2.

Silver Medal - - -
 Silver Medal - - -
 Silver Medal - - -

SECTION 3.

Bronze Medal - - -



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