

C.S.

Postal & Telegraphic	
(Stamps)	
No.	70/29

1929  
1928.

Sops.	SUBJECT.
1928. 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sale of Postage stamps to collectors
Previous Paper.	

Subsequent Paper.	<p>MINUTES.</p> <p>12 Sops. Circ. Despatch 15/12/28</p> <p>Ch. Postmaster</p> <p>There see for</p> <p>Secretary Conference and for any</p> <p>Comments that may occur to</p> <p>you.</p> <p><i>J. M. [Signature]</i></p> <p>15.2.28</p>
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Hon. Col. Sec.

Seen.

I have no comments to make except to remark, with reference to the last sentence of para 6, that the present method is to issue stamps from the Treasury Vault to the Chief Clerk in the P.O. who has to account for the stamps by cash payments to the Treasury, irrespective of the nature of the sales.

The Ch. Clerk keeps an account book showing details of stamp sales & the amounts paid in to the Treasury from time to time & this book is available for audit at any time.

H. Chey  
~~Assistant~~ Postmaster  
M.P. 24

7.2. Submitted. A sufficient stock of

How our  
order  
fact issue  
received 26/12/28  
"Boys" 98

stamps of all denominations of the  
all issues is already an order cut  
in case of supply at a station  
a order for telegraphic confirmation  
has been placed for stamps of  
all denominations of the new issues.

2. The former will of course

be entirely used up or destroyed

before the latter are brought into

use.

3. Ed. Postmaster should put

special instructions to see that

the directions contained in paras

6 & 7 of rules 1-2 are strictly

complied with.

4. I might now refer to

local matters and enquire whether

he has any comment to make

in regard to the machinery of

credit outlined by the Commission.

5. On return of Mr. C.

Craigie. Halliday This paper should be

brought particularly to his notice and

he should be asked similarly to

comment on the county procedure

involved

introduced by

JWS

23. 2. 29.

H. C. S.

Beane.

M.

$\frac{25.27}{2}$

Col Postmaster  
Local auditor

Referred to you for necessary  
action.

A. S. L.  
26/2/29.

Local Auditor

W. S. passed to you

H. C. S.  
Postmaster  
27/2/29

Hon. Col. Sec.

The <sup>method of</sup> accounting in connexion with the sale of stamps is efficient and is carried out satisfactorily

A. N. Brown

Local Auditor

5 March 1929

4. 20. 5. 29

(100. N.C. C-11 to me

per 42. 3. 29.

a token for love

(2)

Hon. M. C. Craigie - Kalkett

Referred for your comments.

A. N. B.

A. N. B.

21. V. 29.

Hon. Col. Sec.

The procedure indicated in para 3 of red (2) is duly carried out in this Colony. The practice indicated in para: 5 of red (1) is also carried out.

2. Stamp orders received from Dealers and other persons are very carefully dealt with in this Colony, all such orders are opened and recorded by the Postmaster. I agree, however, that "A" of para 6 red (1) would be an additional safeguard and I recommend that instructions be issued to the Col.

Col. Postmaster accordingly.

3. The proper method of bringing such remittances to account is for same to be paid into the Treasury, on receipt, as Revenue - Stamp Sales. The local Auditor examines all such transactions.

M. Craigie Harbott

Treas  
22.V.29.

~~Classical Postmaster.~~

Minute to the Col. Postmaster, of 27<sup>th</sup> May 1929.

3.

EXCERPTED FROM M.P. 457/27.

P.A.  
31/5/29

Hon. Col. Secretary.

Noted.

Red 1.

I beg to draw attention to para 7. of S. of S. Circular Despatch of 15/12/28 in C.S. 70/29 with regard to cancelling stamps and to enquire, in view of this, whether it is still desired that cancelled stamps should be supplied.

(Sgd) H.C. Ley.

Postmaster.  
11/7/29

4. E. Submitted. Your Excellency will rule that the instruction in customary stamps. The Queen has assented in connection with the order given that cancelled stamps should be included on the specimen stamps of the new and present issues to be prepared for Her Majesty and the D.G.S. The ruling would not apply in such a case

S.P. J.

A.G. C.S.

13. VII. 29

C.S.O. No. 7029

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 27

14th C.S.

no, of course it does not apply  
in this case which is exceptional.

(13.29)  
7

All.

Colonial Postmaster,

For info.

R.S.

Ap.S.

15. VII. 29.

Hon. Col. Secretary

Wald Allen

Postmaster's

16/7/29

P.A.

16/7/29

4. D. of D. circular despatch of 2nd Jan. 1932.

Hon. Treasurer. MCH  
16. 2. 32

Col. Postmaster. E.M.C.  
17/2/32

Local Auditor. on file

Please refer for

reference Comptroller

J. Miller

16. 2. 32.

P.A.  
22/2/32

Post Office Notice

⑤



Downing Street,

15th December, 1928.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have recently had under consideration certain questions relating to the sale of Colonial postage stamps to collectors. In the course of the last 46 years, my predecessors have had occasion to address no less than ten despatches relating to this subject, of which a list is attached hereto as a schedule, to the Officers Administering the Governments of the various Colonies and Protectorates, and it will, I think, be convenient if in this despatch I summarise the directions contained in those despatches, with the object of avoiding the necessity for further reference to them, and at the same time add certain directions which experience has shown to be desirable.

2. These despatches have related to two main aspects of the question; the first is that of the maintenance of stocks and stamps in the Colonies, the second that of the measures to be taken to regulate the sale of postage stamps to dealers and collectors outside the Colony for purposes other than their use in payment of postal dues.

3. As regards the question of the maintenance of stocks in the Colonies, I attach very great importance to two points. The first is that no new postage stamp of a particular denomination should be brought into use until all the remaining specimens of the previous issue of that denomination have been either sold or, if unduly large stocks exist, destroyed. Apart from the irregularity and inconvenience to foreign postal administrations of allowing two different stamps of the same denomination to circulate simultaneously, there is the further consideration that, if comparatively poorly paid officers are permitted to retain in their possession simultaneously stamps of the same denomination and of different issues, they are subjected quite unfairly to the temptation of attempting to induce members of the collecting public, who are foolish enough to do so, to pay a premium for the obsolescent issues.

4. The second point to which I attach very great importance is the necessity for avoiding recourse to the practice of locally surcharging stamps of another denomination in order to meet a temporary deficiency in stamps of a particular denomination. This practice opens a door to widespread abuses and reflects discredit on the efficiency of the Administration which is compelled to adopt such devices. Lord Ripon, in 1893, directed that in every case where a locally surcharged issue was made, the officer responsible for keeping up the supply of stamps should be liable to be fined, and in 1910 Lord Crewe directed that the Officer Administering the Government, the Colonial Secretary, and the Colonial Postmaster, should be held collectively and individually responsible for ensuring that an adequate stock of stamps is kept in the Colony or Protectorate, and for ordering a fresh supply as soon as the stock in hand falls below the amount normally required

The Officer Administering

the Government of

for a period of, say, six months. He also suggested that if a supply of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps, or stamps of an equivalent value, were kept in excess even of this scale, temporary shortages of stamps of higher denominations would not necessitate resort to the expedient of surcharging. Further, it is a remarkable fact that in the case of so many provisional issues of stamps locally surcharged there have usually been one or more sheets with inverted surcharges or double surcharges. These constitute "errors" and for some reason appear to appeal to collectors, who are usually willing to pay considerably more than face value for them, and again constituting a severe temptation to the local postal staff.

5. I come now to the question of regulating the sale of postage stamps to collectors and dealers. A practice exists, and has my approval, by which when a new issue of stamps is made in a Colony, the Crown Agents are authorised to have an extra supply printed and issued in this country, on payment, to dealers who place with them a bulk order for the new issue. There is also a practice, which I similarly approve, by which dealers may place orders for parcels of postage stamps with the Colonial Government for delivery through the Crown Agents, who collect payment for the parcels so delivered at their face value, together with a commission of  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. with a minimum of 10s. for the services which they so render.

6. It is not, however, possible for dealers outside this country or for private collectors here or elsewhere to obtain Colonial postage stamps otherwise than from dealers, except by sending an order accompanied by a remittance to a local officer in the Colony, and, in a negligible number of cases, by purchasing them from Colonial Trade Agencies in London. I see no objection to the continuance of the practice of sending such orders by post, and it is the duty of any Postmaster who receives an application for postage stamps in current use accompanied by a remittance in full to comply with it, if he is able to do so. It was suggested by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in 1896, that as a safeguard against improper practices all orders of above £5 in value should be dealt with by the Receiver-General, and not by the Colonial Postmaster, but he did not issue specific directions that this should be done; and Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, in 1905, stated that he considered it desirable that all such orders should be passed through the Colonial Secretary for directions. While I realize that for local reasons it may not be practicable to adopt either of these practices, I consider that, where they are not adopted, it is not fair to the officers concerned that they should be subjected to the temptation of receiving remittances in such a form that their receipt cannot easily and quickly be traced. I, therefore, request that you will issue directions that remittances received in the form of bank-notes, or currency notes, should be returned to the sender with the intimation that orders for postage stamps cannot be met unless they are accompanied by a remittance in the form of a draft, a money-order, or a postal order, made payable to the officer concerned by his official designation. You will no doubt consider in consultation with your advisers what is the best machinery for dealing with the remittances received in these forms and bringing them to account and audit.

I am taking steps to bring this new rule to the notice of collectors generally.

7. I desire also to repeat the direction issued by Lord Crewe, in 1910, that officers should refuse to comply with requests to affix stamps to letters, or to cancel stamps which are not affixed to letters.

8. If the directions contained in the previous paragraphs of this despatch are scrupulously complied with, there should be no occasions on which particular stamps in current use will immediately obtain a special value by reason of their rarity, or some imperfection in their manufacture. But should such a stamp by some accident be issued, I desire to repeat the intimation made by Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, in 1905, that any officer who by some means obtained knowledge of the existence of such a stamp and took steps to buy up supplies of it would be worthy of the greatest censure.

9. It is perhaps unnecessary to repeat the direction issued by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in 1897, that the sale of spare specimens of postage stamps, postcards, etc., received by Colonial Governments from the International Bureau of the Postal Union is strictly prohibited. But I take this opportunity to request that if a greater number of specimens of such stamps, etc., is received by you than is required for purposes of necessary record, I may be informed to that effect in order that I may make arrangements that only the requisite number of specimens is forwarded to you in future. Generally speaking, it is desirable that these "specimen" stamps should be gummed into a reference book and that special care should be taken in regard to its custody.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

L. S. AMERY.

SCHEDULE OF CIRCULARS *re* POSTAGE STAMPS.

(SALE TO DEALERS, ETC.)

- |                        |     |                                                                                                     |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31st July, 1882        | ... | Duty of Postmasters to comply with applications from dealers.                                       |
| 18th August, 1893      | ... | Discouraging practice of surcharging.                                                               |
| 14th December, 1893    | ... | Repeats instructions given in 1882.                                                                 |
| 29th September, 1896   | ... | Practice of "obliterating" stamps for sale to be forbidden.                                         |
| 26th May, 1897         | ... | Specimens supplied for official collections. Sale to be prohibited.                                 |
| 4th September, 1901    | ... | Method of dealing with Victorian stamps consequent upon introduction of new issues.                 |
| — 19th September, 1905 | ... | Orders for stamps to be passed through Colonial Secretary.                                          |
| 19th January, 1906     | ... | Crown Agents' commission charged on parcels of postage stamps forwarded to dealers.                 |
| — 13th July, 1910      | ... | Sale to dealers. Maintenance of adequate stocks and instructions to prevent irregularities arising. |
| 29th January, 1924     | ... | <i>Re</i> immediate destruction of all old issues on introduction of new issue.                     |
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No. 70/29.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

27th May, 19 29.

*From*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

*To* The Colonial Postmaster,

STANLEY.

I am directed by the Governor to inform you, with reference to orders received by you for postage stamps, that remittances received in the form of bank notes, or currency notes, should be returned to the sender with the intimation that orders for postage stamps cannot be met unless they are accompanied by a remittance in the form of a draft, a money order, or a postal order, made payable to the Colonial Postmaster.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

CIRCULAR.



*Downing Street,*

*2nd January, 1932.*

*Sir,*

*Red 2.* *With reference to paragraph 6 of Mr. Amery's Circular despatch of 15th December, 1928, I have the honour to inform you that it has recently been brought to my notice that certain stamp dealers apparently continue to send currency or bank-notes with their applications for supplies of postage stamps in lieu of the authorized drafts. You have no doubt given instructions that if such notes are received by the Postmaster-General or other authorized officials in the territory under your administration they are to be returned to the senders with a request that they should comply with the ruling laid down in the despatch referred to above.*

*I have the honour to be,*

*Sir,*

*Your most obedient, humble servant,*

**P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.**

*The Officer Administering  
the Government of*

POST OFFICE NOTICE  
CANCELLATION OF STAMPS

Postmasters in the Colony and Dependencies are forbidden to comply with requests to affix stamps to letters; or to cancel stamps which are not affixed to letters, or which otherwise are not legitimately used on covers destined to go through the post.

When a request is received to cancel stamps affixed to envelopes and to return them by post, the Postmaster will return the envelopes under official cover with a note to the effect that it is forbidden to comply with requests of this nature.

There is no rule against (i) the supply of stamps in mint condition, provided that orders are accompanied by a remittance in proper form; or against the cancellation of stamps affixed to envelopes sent with an order for mint stamps for the specific purpose of being used as a cover for the new stamps ordered; so long as the stamps do not exceed in value the appropriate charges for post and registration, (if they do exceed the appropriate charges, the Postmaster will cancel stamps up to the value of the charges), or (ii) the cancellation of stamps on stamped covers handed in to the Post Office in the ordinary way; provided always that the Postmaster is not required to cancel stamps up to a higher value than the postage and other charges (such as insurance on the cover).