

PHILATELIC BULLETIN



Sarasota Philatelic Club

2025

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Stamp Quiz



Welcome to this month's Stamp Quiz. This is another one that tests how well you know your

definitive stamps. Here's a hint: it was issued on 21 November 1923 and was printed by photogravure. It is watermarked and perforated 13½. If you think you know the answer, send your guesses to me at:

centonzevincent@gmail.com.

Good luck!

Interesting Great Britain Cover

By Vincent Centonze

The cover shown in Figure 1 is interesting on many levels and enigmatic as well. It was sent from London to New York on 4/13/59 franked with a 3 pence (d) dark purple Queen Elizabeth II definitive (Scott 297 or 327 (Stanley Gibbons 520 or 545) depending upon the watermark). The stamp is machine cancelled with slogan, PLEASE PUT YOUR / CORRECT ADDRESS / ON YOUR OWN / NOTEPAPER (type 144, cat. no. 274 in Parson, Peachey, and Pearson's, *Collecting Slogan Postmarks*).¹

Regarding the franking, Great Britain allowed concessionary letter rates to places in the British Empire or Commonwealth as well as to some other territories. From 10/1/1908 through 9/30/57, letters to the U.S. qualified for these reduced rates. After 10/1/57 the rates to the U.S. reverted to the general foreign rate, which was 6d from 10/1/57 through 10/2/66.² Therefore, because this cover was sent in 1959, the 3d franking short paid the required amount of 6d. The sender may have assumed that the concessionary rate which had been in effect for many years was still valid and franked the cover with only 3d. Interestingly, in Wawrukiewicz's *Great Britain Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1871 - 1999*, the concessionary rate to the U.S. is shown as 3d from 10/1/57 through 5/16/65.³ Wawrukiewicz is likely in error about this because in *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*, also by Wawrukiewicz, the rate for a surface letter from Great Britain to the U.S. is listed as 6d from 10/1/57 through 10/2/66.⁴

Because the cover was short paid by 3d, a postal clerk in London applied a postage due (tax) marking "T" in hexagon, with "L" beneath (for London) (variety of type 18/237 in Whitney's *Collect British Postmarks*).⁵ There is a pencil manuscript "24" written in the hexagon, for 24 gold centimes. This was double the 3d deficiency expressed in gold centimes. However, this was an error on the part of the British postal clerk; the amount due should have been 21 gold centimes. The U.S. postal clerk correctly recognized that double the deficiency was 7¢, and since 1948, 3 gold centimes had become equal to 1¢; therefore, the deficiency written by the British postal clerk should have been 24 gold centimes. A New York Opera Glass DUE / 7/ CENTS

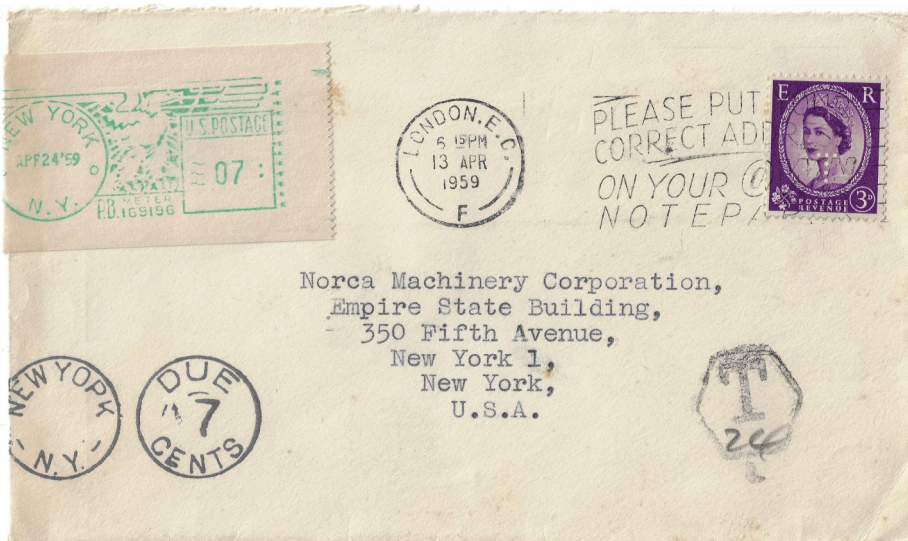


Figure 1. Cover from Great Britain to New York dated 4/13/59 and shortpaid with 3d Queen Elizabeth II definitive.

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The Prez Sez ...

Dear Club Members,

Our second summer meeting is coming up soon. Please plan to arrive early enough that we can enjoy dinner before we hold our program. Let's try to be a bit more organized about starting the meeting so that folks don't feel the need to leave early!

This will be another "Show and Tell" session. We will try to rearrange our seating to be more conducive to the "show" part of the evening.

On another note, I hope all of you had a chance to read Jim Mazepa's very thoughtful letter—I know some of you have sent him responses. Unfortunately he will not be able to be at the July 1st meeting to lead a discussion as he is out of town and returning too late to attend; however, I will be happy to hear what you have to say.

Pat Walker

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday July 1st at 5:30 PM

Bob Evans on Fruitville

Interesting Great Britain Cover (continued)

International Postal Supply Company machine was placed in the lower left corner (service marking type IMS 71 in Payne's *Machine Cancel Specialized Study No. 30*).⁶

A Pitney Bowes postage meter stamp tape label was applied to confirm payment of the 7¢ postage due. The study of meter stamps is a fascinating area of philately in its own right. It was a challenging endeavor to identify the postage due meter stamp label on this cover. The label was applied such that part of it was placed on the front, and part was folded

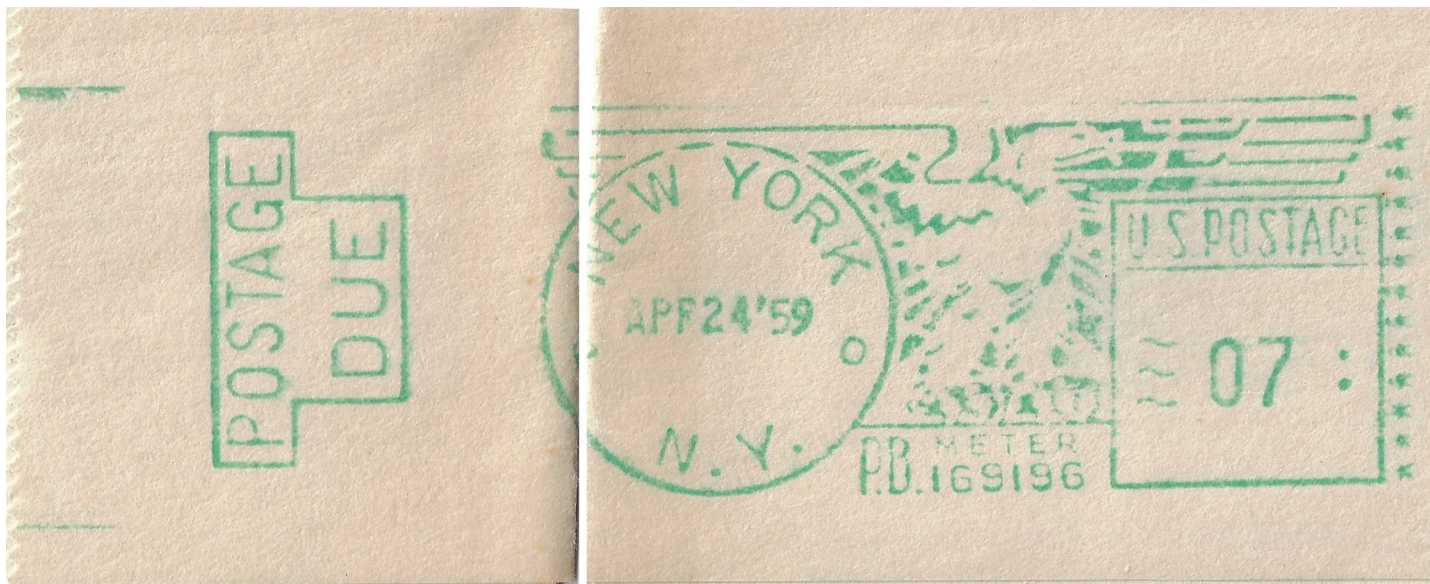


Figure 2. Complete postage due meter label, which was scanned and digitally manipulated so that it appears unfolded. Identifying meters can be a challenging endeavor and there have been several different identifications for this particular meter through the years.

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Interesting Great Britain Cover (continued)

over to the back. Figure 2 shows the complete label, which was scanned and digitally manipulated so that it appears unfolded. There have been several different identifications for this meter through the years. As a casual collector of meter stamps, I have always used Hawkins' and Stambaugh's 1994 version of the *United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalogue* to identify meter stamps. There it is shown as type PD-E-IA4A subtype B, with "P O" at the sides of the town mark.⁷ Since 1994 there has since been significant study on postage meter stamp classification. A current expanded and updated online version of Hawkins' and Stambaugh's catalogue produced by the Meter Stamp Society contains more detailed analyses of meters and identifies several varieties of the "Postage Due" slogan. The online catalogue lists this postage due meter as type PD-E2.1, Pitney Bowes "R" series, starting in 1953 and continuing through the early 2000s.⁸

Not to be overlooked is the perfin "T" on the stamp. Figure 3 shows the perfin "T" pin pattern. According to the *Great British Perfins Catalogue*, the perfin pattern is T0006.03M and was in use from 1942 – 1975. There were several different users of this die and because there is no return address, the exact one is impossible to determine. Nevertheless, because the cover was sent to a machinery company and was postmarked from LONDON E.C., the most likely candidate was EAP & A Triefus, later Triefus & Co. Ltd, Diamond Importers and Diamond Tool Manufacturers, located in London EC1.⁹

It is always fun to deconstruct covers, such as this one, that have many interesting facets and perhaps a few uncertain aspects as well. If you have interesting multi-faceted covers in your collection that you would like to share, email me at centonzevincent@gmail.com. We would love to hear about them. Happy collecting.



Figure 3. Wilding portrait 3d Queen Elizabeth definitive with perfin "T" die pattern. Several companies used this pattern between the years 1942 and 1975. If the stamp was off cover, it would be impossible to identify the user; however, based on the postmark and the addressee, a most likely user can be identified.

References

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4. Wawrukiewicz, A.S., *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*, Portland, OR: CAMA Publishing Company, 1996, pg. 301.
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6. Payne, R.J. (Billings, B (editor)), "International Service Markings – Service Markings attributed to The International Postal Supply, Company 1889-1980," The Machine Cancel Society Specialized Study No. 30, Warren, OH: Machine Cancel Society, 1999, pg. 33.
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8. Wikibooks, The Meter Stamp Society, *United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalogue*, Section "GROUP PD – Franks generated to indicate Postage Due," https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/United_States_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog.
9. Gault, R., *Gault-2 A Catalogue of Great British Perfins*, London, UK: The Perfin Society (of Great Britain), 2022, pg. T-001.

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