

CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE

OF

*Uniform Inland*

**PENNY POSTAGE**

AT THE

**VENETIAN CHAMBER, HOLBORN RESTAURANT**

*AT THE GUILDHALL*

AT THE

**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART, SOUTH KENSINGTON**

AND AT

*Various Towns and Villages throughout the*

*United Kingdom*

**1840 - 1890**

## **CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST**

### **OVERVIEW**

As there had already been a "Jubilee Stamp Issue" some three years earlier in 1887 in honor of Queen Victoria's reign, the Post Office did not want to have another issue for the Jubilee of the Introduction of the Penny Post.

Instead they decided to hold several events and issued Postcards instead.

The events were as follows:

#### **May 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 1890:**

A Conversazione and Exhibition held at the Guildhall, London

Conversazione held on the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup> with 3,000 specially invited guests, including the Prince of Wales.

Exhibition open to general public in 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with 21,000 attending.

A special postcard was issued: 10,000 printed and plate destroyed.  
Special cancel for the event.

#### **July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890. (Evening Only) and celebrated throughout the country.**

A Conversazione and Exhibition held at the South Kensington Museum.  
An evening event only attended by 4,000 paying guests.  
Attendees included Duke of Edinburgh

Special Envelope with insert issued and five (5) special cancels.  
Envelope was available throughout the United Kingdom on July 2<sup>nd</sup> only.  
40,000 Envelopes and Inserts printed: plate was destroyed.

#### **November 1890**

Special Christmas Card Issued

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

### FACTS AND FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE

#### COST OF POSTCARD, ENVELOPE AND CANCELS:

Guildhall:	Postcard:	6 pence
	Cancel:	1 pence
South Kensington:	Envelope	1 Shilling
	Cancels:	4 @ 1 pence each and 1 @ 3 pence

Jubilee Envelope and all 5 cancels = 19 p  
(\$90 in today's dollars)

Ticket to July 2<sup>nd</sup> Conversazione = 7 shillings & 6 pence  
(\$ 425 in today's dollars)

#### ANNUAL SALARIES IN 1890 (Approx)

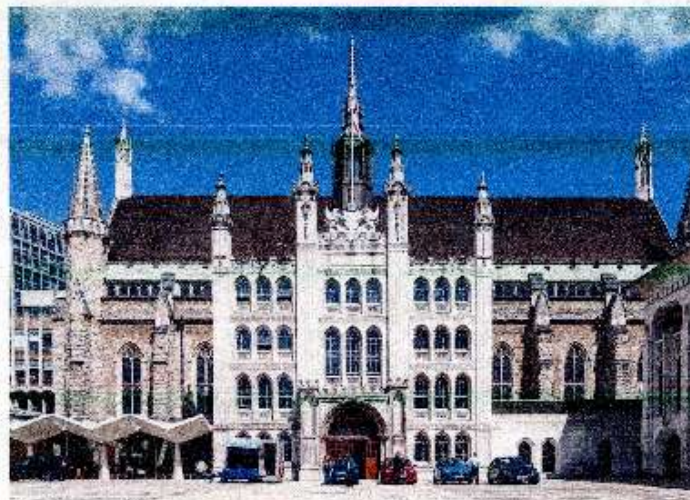
Governor of the Bank of England	400 Pounds	30.8 pence per hour
Engineer	110 Pounds	8.5 pence per hour
Postal Clerk	90 Pounds	6.9 pence per hour
Average Earnings	42 Pounds	3.2 pence per hour

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION

MAY 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 1890

Example of Special Jubilee Card issued for this event: Cost 6d plus 1d for cancel



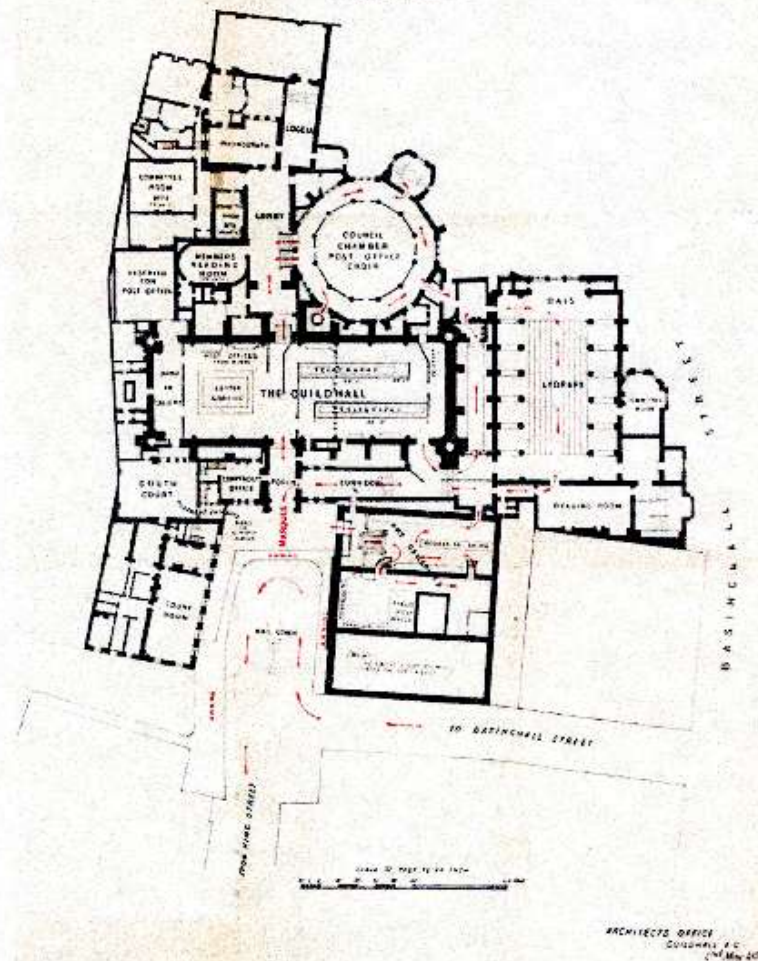
Guidhall, London – Built in 1440

# CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

GUILDHALL CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION

Layout of Exhibits and Activities - May 16<sup>th</sup> 1890

PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE.  
PLAN OF THE EVENING ARRANGEMENTS  
16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 1890.



**CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST**

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at THE GUILHALL  
May 16th 1890 - Postcard mailed at the Conversazione

Only 5,000 of these postcards were available on the night of May 16<sup>th</sup>.

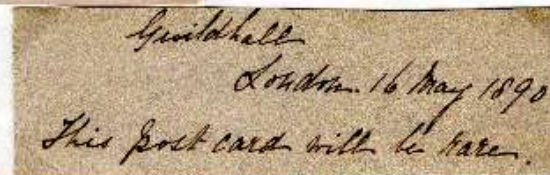


## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

Guildhall Postcards with Cancels for all three dates

On the first evening only 5,000 of the 10,000 postcards were available. With 20,000 visitors they sold out so quickly that Post Office Employees had to go to nearby post offices to get 15,000 regular post cards in order to satisfy demand.

Hence the example below for May 16<sup>th</sup> is a regular postcard but the May 17<sup>th</sup> cancel is on a "Special Jubilee" postcard one of the other 5,000 available.



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

Examples of cancels on May 19<sup>th</sup>: The last day of the Conversazione.

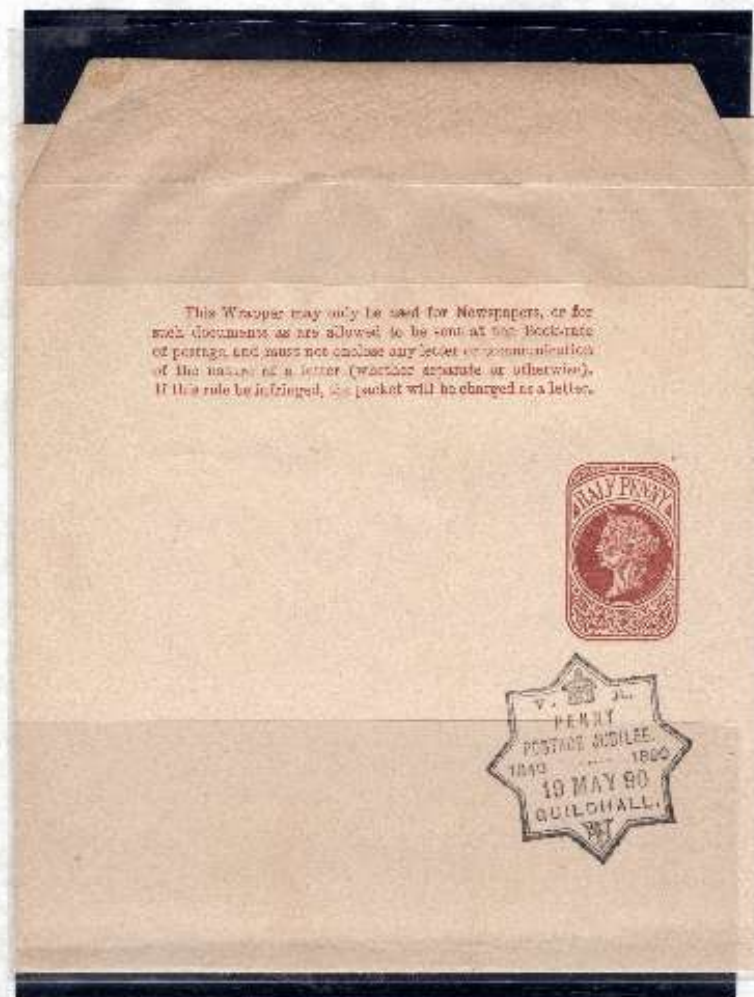
Some visitors just brought their own envelope and on the following page is an example of someone getting the special cancel on a Newspaper Wrapper



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at THE GUILHALL  
May 19th 1890 - Postcard mailed at the Convesazione

Rare Unused Newspaper Wrapper with last day Jubilee Cancel.



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION MAY 16<sup>th</sup> 1890

On the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup> four Mail Coaches each with four horses were brought in to deliver mail that was accumulated during the evening.

Below is a drawing of the drawing of the loading of the Mail Coach to Brighton.



THE MAIL COACHES AT THE GUILDHALL.  
The postmen are loading the coach with mail.



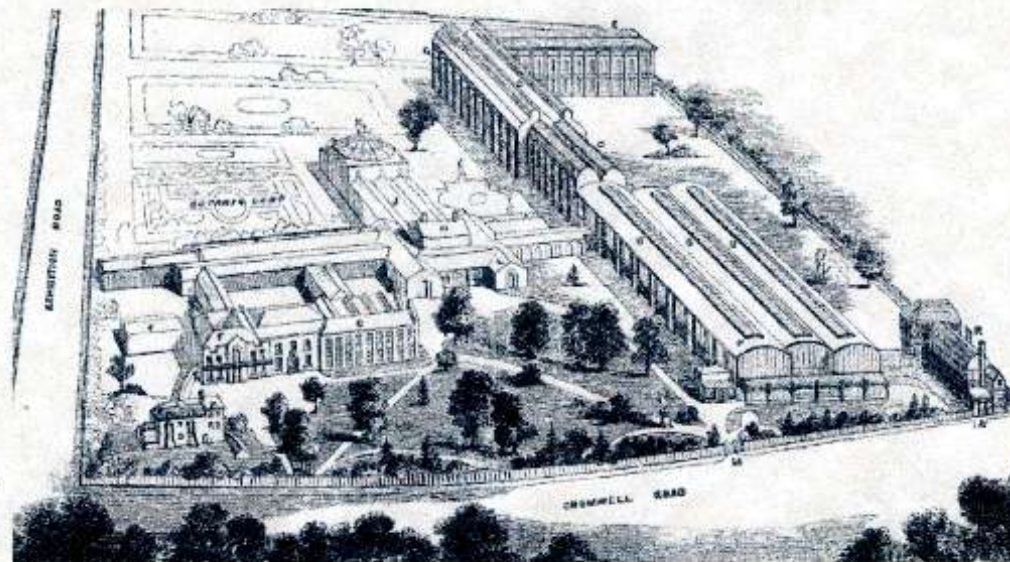
TELEGRAPH BOOTH.  
The telegraph messages of the Guildhall Cancell.

Above is a drawing of the Telegraph Booth.  
A total of 422 telegraph messages were sent on the night, each having the Guildhall Cancel

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890



CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890

POST OFFICE  
**CONVERSAZIONE,**  
SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM,  
Under the Most Gracious Patronage of HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,  
On **WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1890,**  
IN AID OF THE  
**ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.**

Their Royal Highnesses the DUKK and DUKCHUKK OF EDINBURGH, have graciously signified their intention of being present.

*President of the Convention—His Royal Highness the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.C.*

[illegible]

Extract from the  
Announcement of the  
Post Office Conversazione  
*"Tickets may now be  
obtained, price 7s. 6d  
each, an application to  
the Hon. Secretary,  
Jubilee Committee,  
General Post Office,  
Uniform, Levée or Evening  
Dress.*

*The doors of the Museum  
will be opened at 7 p.m.  
and carriages may be  
ordered for 12 o'clock.*

The cost per ticket would be \$ 375 per person in today's dollars

TO MEET THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUCHESS AND DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH

**CARD OF ADMISSION.**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

POST OFFICE CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE.

CONVERSAZIONE

Under the Most Gracious Patronage of Her Majesty THE QUEEN,  
DEATH OF 1871.

**ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND,**  
AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM,  
(ENTRANCE IN VICTORIA ROAD).

*From 7 p.m. to Midnight on Wednesday, July the 2nd, 1874.*

Uniforms, Secured at Working Crocus.

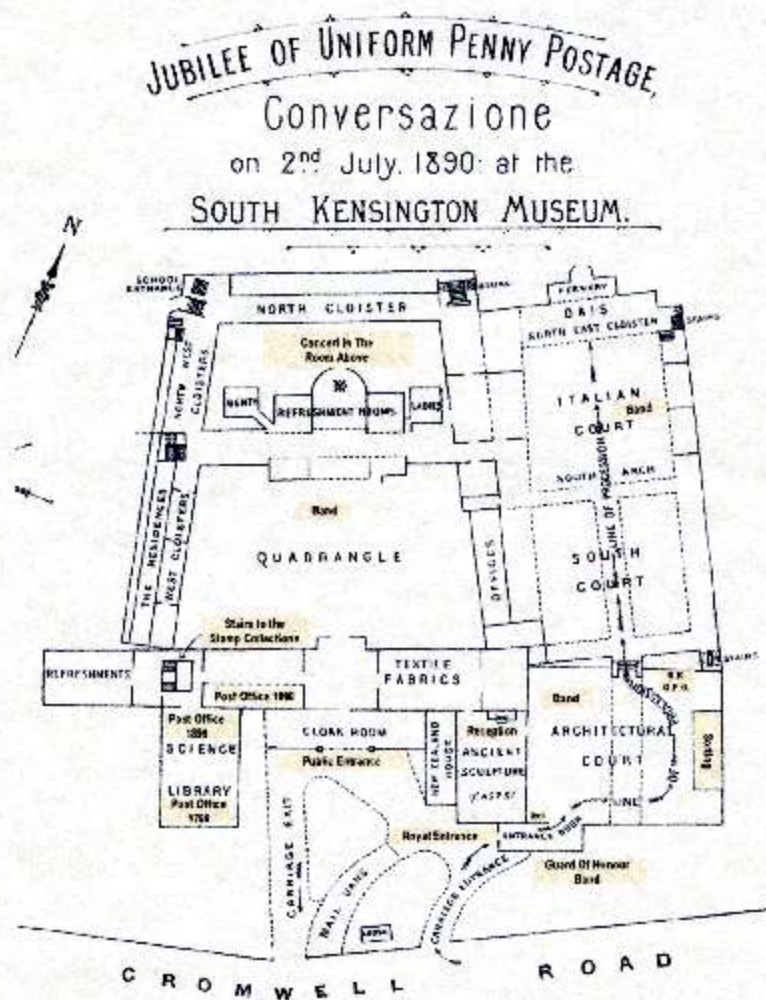
Doors open at 7 p.m.

F. H. KENNEDY,  
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

W. G. GATES,  
Principal Secy. Secretary's Office, General Post Office, London.

# CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890



GROUND PLAN.

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890

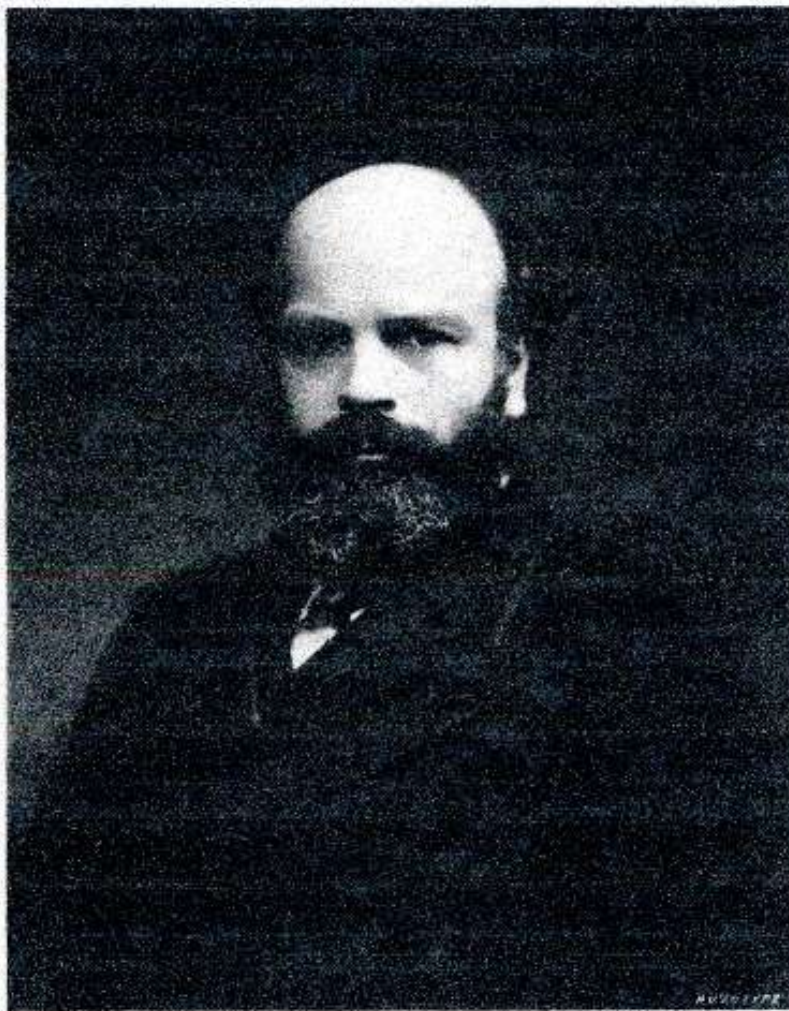
*An extract from the Official Account of the Celebration of the Jubilee of the  
Uniform Penny Postage (Pages 224 and 225)*

An ex-guard of the London and Exeter mail coach, who began his duties in the year 1836, presented to the Duchess of Edinburgh a letter signed by old officers of the Post Office who entered the service more than fifty years ago, the first signature being that of Mr. Frederick Hill, the sole surviving brother of the late Sir Rowland Hill, and another signature being that of an officer of the Post Office, Mr. R. S. White, who entered the service in the year 1818.

This letter was as follows:

"May it please your Royal and Imperial Highness, we, the undersigned, who are old officers of the Post Office, desire to welcome your Royal and Imperial Highness to this, the celebration of the Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage. We desire to thank your Royal and Imperial Highness for your condescension in coming amongst the officers of the Post Office and in lending approval to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund by your gracious presence."

*An officer of the Post Office then delivered a letter*



*Yours sincerely,*  
*F. E. Baines,*

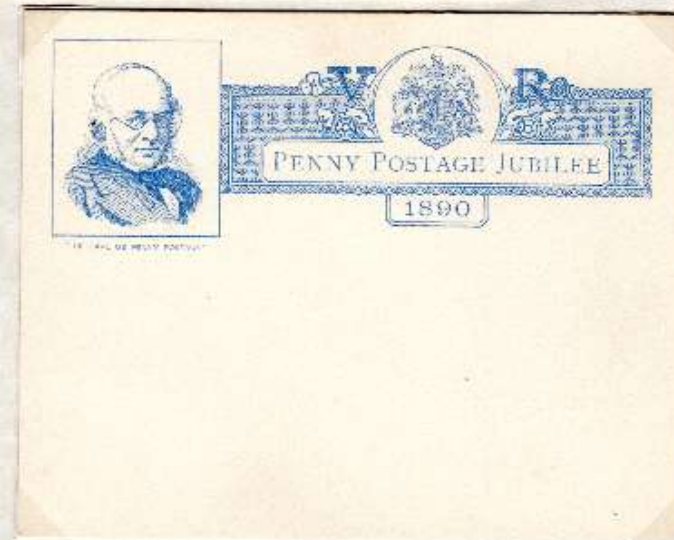
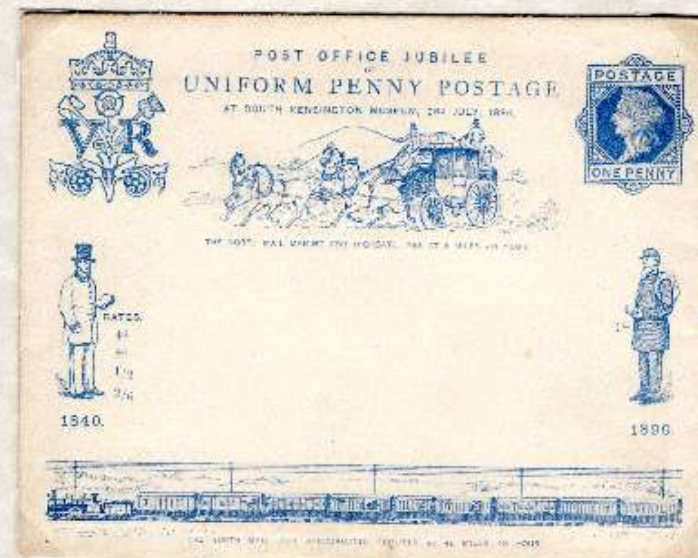
*From a photograph by Lombardi & Co.*

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890

Example of Special Jubilee Card issued for this event: Cost 1shilling plus 1d per each cancel except return Tube Cancel which was 3d



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890

Below are the cancels that were available on the night.  
This sheet also includes the cancel from May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Guildhall

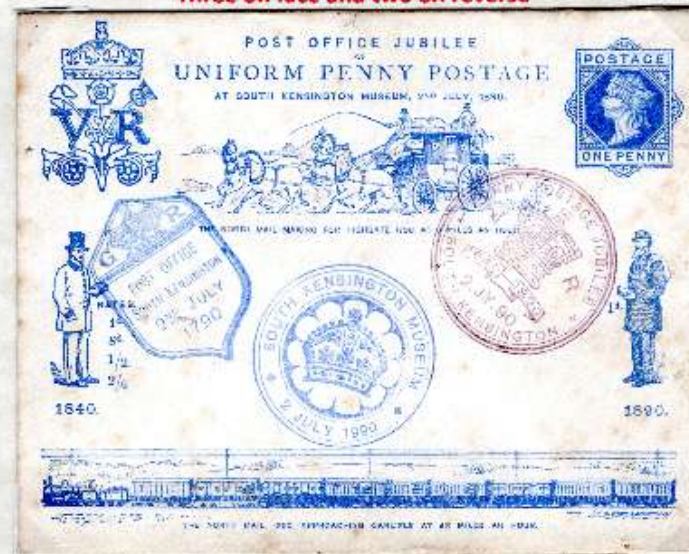


Tube Cancels were a novelty and nothing to do with the London Underground. Pneumatic tubes were installed so that patrons could have an envelope sent for 1 penny from the 1890 Post Office to the far end of the Architectural Court, where they could pick it up, or they could pay 3 pence and get a different cancel to have the envelope returned to the 1890 Post Office

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

### JUBILEE ENVELOPE AND INSERT CARD

Example of Envelope with all five cancels  
Three on face and two on reverse



This Envelope has all 5 cancels on front and back costing One Shilling and 7 pence  
or \$90 in today's dollars

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

Example of Inset with all five cancels  
Three on face and two on reverse



This is the insert to card and again has all 5 cancels costing another 7 pence in cancels.  
Total cost of Card with Insert and two sets of cancels: Two Shillings and 2 pence.  
or \$ 124.00 in today's dollars.

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890

### A Regular Postcard with 4 Cancels

This postcard may not look special but it is a rarity.

It has cancels from the three different Post Offices, 1790, 1890 and 1990 at the  
Conversazione all dated July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890

### What makes this card unique?

It has two cancels for 1890. The smaller size is not referenced in the "Official Account"  
Refer back to Cancel Examples from the "Official Account".



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - Envelopes mailed at the Conversazione



Hoop House, Dunoon (NB) Scotland - Used as an Orphanage in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPE MAILED AT THE CONVERSAZIONE

Mailed with insert to Jack Horne at the School House in Shrewsbury from his father



Founded by Edward VI in 1552 by Royal Charter.<sup>1)</sup> The present campus, to which the school moved in 1882, is on the banks of the River Severn.

Shrewsbury School is one of the original seven public schools as defined by the Public Schools Act 1868, and one of the 'great' nine identified by the Clarendon Commission of 1861.

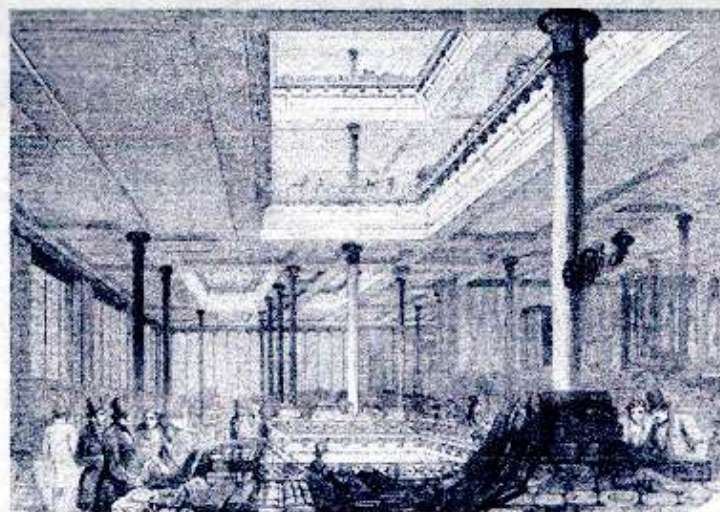


## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPE MAILED AT THE CONVERSAZIONE

Mailed with to N Cooper Esq. Messers Pawson & Co



Pawson & Co S. Warehouse, St Paul's Churchyard

1854 - old antique vintage print

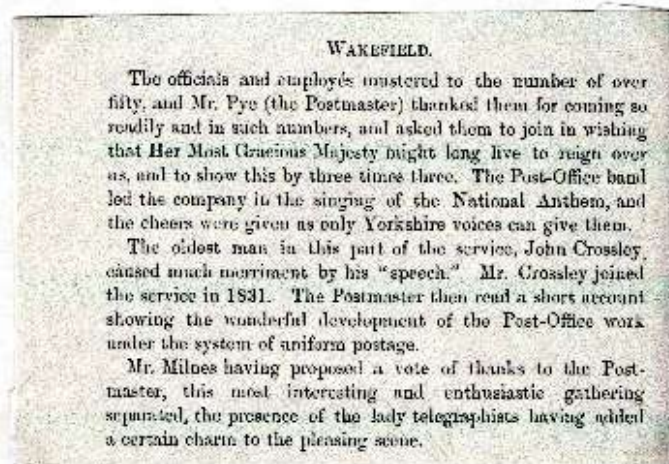
## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

### CARDS MAILED OUTSIDE OF LONDON

MAILED ON JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> 1890 from WAKEFIELD YORKSHIRE to WINCHESTER

Cancel is a good example of the WAKEFIELD Town Square Cancel.

Below is an excerpt for Wakefield taken from the Official Account of the "Celebration of the Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage".



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CARDS MAILED OUTSIDE OF LONDON

MAILED ON JULY 11<sup>th</sup> 1890 from MORCHAND BISHOP TO THE  
EAST WORLINGTON RECTORY

Cancel is a good example of the Morchand Bishop Town Square Cancel



Courtesy of Google Maps and aerial view of East Worlington, Devon, England

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - INSERT ONLY MAILED AT LATER DATE

Inserts were not meant to be mailed separately. They did not include Postage. However they were mailed and the recipient had to pay two pence in order to get the card.



The note on the reverse makes an interesting reference to the Post Offices at the Exhibition for 1790 (see next page for illustration) and 1990.

No illustration has been found for the 1990 Post Office.

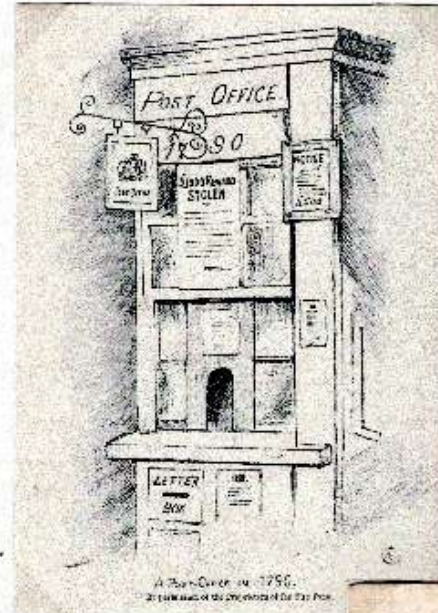
Dear Fred!

Did you amuse yourself yesterday at the Museum? I thought it was awfully jolly, especially the 1790 & 1990 Post Offices. Did you get the Editor's Photo?

Yours truly,  
W. H. R. R. R.

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - INSERT ONLY MAILED AT LATER DATE



Artist Impression of the  
1790 Post Office  
created  
For the Guildhall  
Conversazione and  
Exhibition and the  
South Kensington  
Conversazione



Another example of two pence "postage due" in order to get the card.  
This example had no note on the reverse.

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONALLY

Envelope mailed on August 27<sup>th</sup> 1890 from Eastborne, England to Monsieur Adrien Champion, Geneva, Switzerland, arriving August 29<sup>th</sup> back stamp Geneva Poste Rest.  
The envelope is marked registered and there is "2" in blue for the additional postage.  
It has an additional Ambulant back stamps (see below)



Below is an advert placed in the  
"BULLETIN de la SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE de  
NUMISMATIQUE - Neuvième Année - 1890"  
(Bulletin of the Swiss Coin Society  
- 9<sup>th</sup> year 1890)



VENTE & ACHAT  
DE  
Timbres-Poste  
pour Collections  
Catalogue gratis

**Adrien CHAMPION**  
7, rue du Commerce, Genève  
Achète vieux Timbres de Genève



The AMBULANT cancel with a  
double circle together with a bridge  
across the whole postmark,  
reaching to the outer circle. Most  
train postmarks of this type are  
"BAHNPOST" or "AMBULANT".

They bear the number of the route  
in the lower part of the double-  
circle and the train number after the

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONLY

Mailed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> from the EC2 Postal District of London to Creglingen,  
Wurtenburg (State) by Registered mail with three and one half pence additional postage.



Backstamped Creglingen Dec 25 1890

Christmas day



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONLY

Mailed on February 18<sup>th</sup> from Cornwall Rd (Lambeth) London to Altona, Hamburg.  
Sent Registered Mail with four additional pence postage. Note 4 in blue at top right.  
Card arrived February 19<sup>th</sup> per Altona back stamp (see below right)



Altona is located in the banks of the Elbe River and is now a suburb of Hamburg. Before 1870 it was part of Holstein / Prussia, while Hamburg was a City State. (ref map on left).

The picture below depicts a street in Altona looking from Hamburg made about 1890. It shows two posts that denoted the border between Hamburg (City State) and Altona (Holstein)



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST



1890 Cover mailed on September 13<sup>th</sup>  
1927 from East London to Apolda,  
Thuring, Germany. It has an extra 2  
and ½ pence postage.

It was mailed from Willy Jacoby a  
small London Stamp Dealer to  
Gebruder Michel in Apolda, home of  
the Michel Catalogues.

I wonder what  
the envelope  
contained!



Back Stamped



## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONLY

Mailed on July 11<sup>th</sup> from Bolton Lancashire England to Power & Sons Architects  
Kingston Ontario Canada.

Extra postage of 1 ½ pence and two very clear Bolton Square Circle Cancelations.



**Power and Sons Architects was formed in 1873 by John Power and his son Joseph.**

**In 1840 Kingston becomes the capital of the United Province of Canada.**

**John Power was an English Architect who immigrated to Kingston in 1846.**

**John became Kingston City Architect in 1866 dying in office in 1882.**

**He had designed bridges, hotels and many churches and schools for the city.**

**Even today there are guided tour of buildings designed by John and his Son.**

Mailed on July 11<sup>th</sup> 1890 in Bolton the envelope is back-stamped in Kingston ON Canada on July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

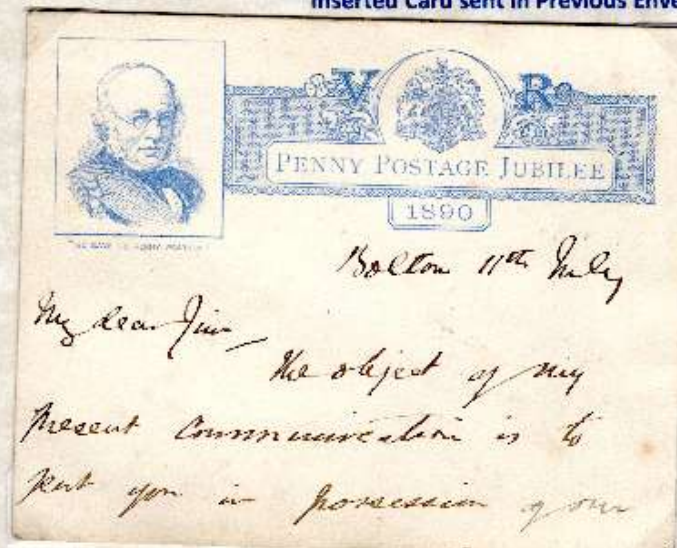


# CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONALLY

Mailed on July 11<sup>th</sup> from Bolton Lancashire England to Power & Sons Architects  
Kingston Ontario Canada.

Inserted Card sent in Previous Envelope



White Card and Envelope. There were only a limited number printed off and the plates have been destroyed so that at our Centenary 50 Years hence a copy will be of some value. They were sold at 1/- each the profits going to the R.H. Benevolent Fund which has no aspect except to the relief of the poor. There had been your effort. Yours truly  
J.D. Farnham

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM  
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONLY



Envelope and insert  
written on July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
sent to Cape Town,  
Cape Colony with 6  
pence extra postage,  
canceled on July 4<sup>th</sup>  
in London.  
In red marked via  
Lisbon.  
Back stamped Cape  
Town on July 24th

St John's Villa most likely at top center of  
this 1884 map of Cape Town.



**CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST**

**CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM**

**JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - ENVELOPES MAILED INTERNATIONALLY**

### Back stamp of Cape Town

Dated July 24<sup>th</sup> 1890

The Union Steamship Company in 1857 was awarded the mail contract between the UK and South Africa. In 1876 a joint mail contract with the Castle Line was awarded by the Colonial Government with the proviso that the two companies did not amalgamate. It is most likely that this envelope was transported by one of their ships

Information regarding the recipient  
Allen Wright.

In 1905 he was elected as a member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

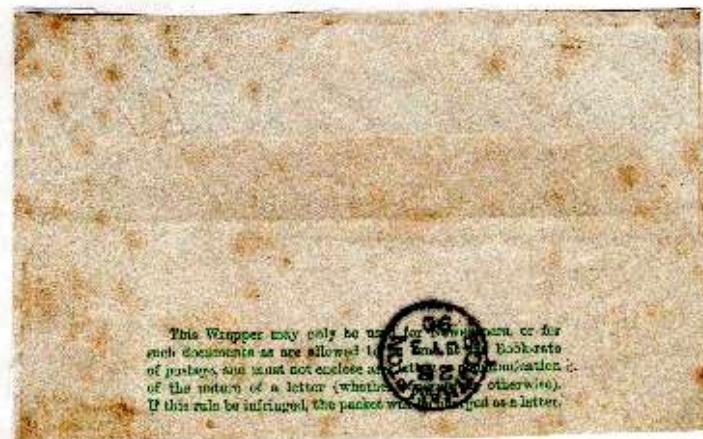


## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

### NEWSPAPER WRAPPER WITH JUBILEE CANCEL

Mailed to W. R. WOLFF in Southampton

W.R. Wolff was the Honorary Secretary of the Royal Southampton Yacht Club



# CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

CONVERSAZIONE AND EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

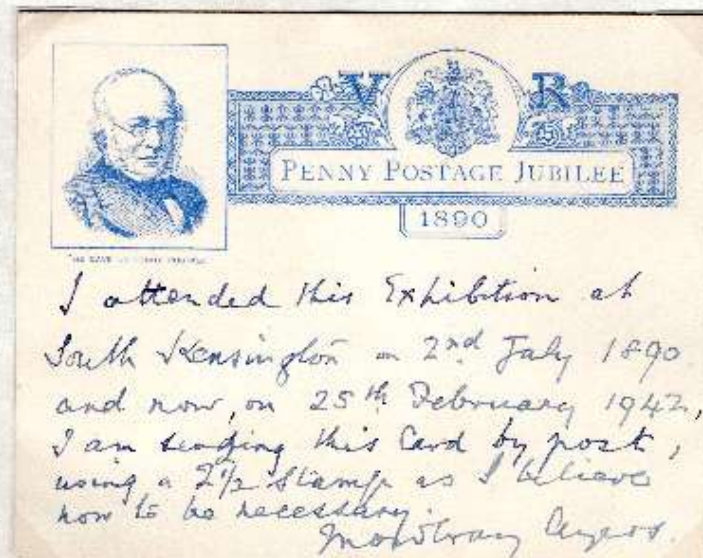
JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - A VERY CURIOUS MAILING



Moybray Ayers  
attends the  
Conversazione on  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890.  
On February 25<sup>th</sup> 1942  
he decides to mail it  
to himself in  
Streatham, adding an  
extra two and one  
half pence stamp.  
Envelope is canceled  
on in Streatham on  
February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am

The address is  
changed to Kingston  
on Thames, Surrey  
and the additional  
stamp is canceled  
over 5 years later on  
April 18<sup>th</sup> 1947.

Who received it and  
what happened to it  
in the intervening  
years is unknown.



I attended this Exhibition at  
South Kensington on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1890  
and now, on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1942,  
I am sending this Card by post,  
using a 2½ stamp as I believe  
how to be necessary.  
Moybray Ayers.

## CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST

### 1890 JUBILEE ENVELOPES WITH MODERN USAGE



**CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST**

**NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 1890: CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETING CARD ISSUED**



# **CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST**

## **FINAL ANALYSIS**

**Proceeds of all excess charges went to the benefit of the  
Sir Rowland Hill Memorial and Benefit Fund**

**Total Raised by all Events in 1890 totaled  
GBP 12,260**

**In 2018 Dollars this is approximately \$ 14 Million**