

Official Seals of Great Britain

INTRODUCTION

This exhibit presents the official seals of Great Britain from their introduction in 1882 through today. The British approach to the use of seals, unlike most other countries, creates different seal types for each of the more frequently required use situations such as repair and closing, customs and currency control, Returned Letter Office, compulsory registration examination, and other roles. Britain was among the early adopters of printed tapes for repair and reclosing purposes. The tapes first appear in 1928. As these printed tapes fill the same role as the repair seals they have long been treated as seals in a "different" format.

SIGNIFICANCE

Over 160 postal administrations worldwide have used official seals since their introduction by Italy in 1864. This is a larger number than those that have used designated stamps for either airmail or special delivery. The seals have been and continue to be an essential element of postal operations and the story of how mail is handled would be incomplete without an understanding of their history and use.

SCOPE AND GOALS

Since no archival material is known to the exhibitor, nor is any present in the Freeling House archives, and as no unused seals are in collectors' hands, this exhibit presents the usages of the seals to demonstrate how problem mail of all types was handled by the Royal Mail.

There are two primary goals for this exhibit:

- To show in-depth coverage of all of the various seal types used by the Royal Mail
- To show the many ways in which the seals and tapes have been used and thus their role in the handling of problem mail.

This exhibit represents 25 years of acquisition and research. It is the first (and only) systematic study of the seals (Gibbons is entirely silent on the subject) and shows 180 distinct designs that represent 95% of the known types. It is the basis for a continuing series of articles by the exhibitor on the British official seals in the *GBCC Chronicle*.

SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL

In addition to the early material, a strength of this exhibit is the usages of the British seals throughout the colonial empire. All are very scarce, and the exhibit contains over thirty examples. Based on the exhibitor's research, significant material is highlighted with a **brief note in red** adjacent to the item

FORERUNNER

Prior to the use of seals, problem mail was handled by whatever means were near to hand. This letter to Nuremberg, Germany was received unsealed, and a clerk merely closed the envelope and added the handstamp "Received open and resealed at the General Post Office". It is the earliest known example (May 2, 1869) of this very scarce marking.

Inconsistent handling of such mail led to the introduction of the official seals.

Exhibit Plan

The presentation is first by type of seal, and then chronologically within each of those types.

General Use Seals
General Use Tapes
Returned Letter Office Seals
Delayed/Damaged Seals
Customs & Currency Control Seals
Compulsory Registration. Seals



Type 1

To the left, the first British seal, used to close a registered letter received open as verified by the manuscript notation "Rcd Open" on the back.

One cover reported

Type 2

Below, two type 2 seals used to repair relatively minor damage to a letter posted in November 1893 to England from Cartagena, Columbia, a very unusual point of origination. The back has New Orleans and New York transit markings.



General Use Seals

Queen Victoria Introduction

Two basic designs with variations in text, crown, perforation, and upper right corner imprints were used over a period of twenty years. The table below summarizes the design types.

Type	Crown	Text	Perf	Imprint	EKU
1	1	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED."	11½	None	6/15/1882
2	2	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED."	11¾	None	3/20/1883
2a	2	Same as type 2	11¾	"M.-No. 11." at UR	5/16/1890
2b	2	Same as type 2a, but no period after "SEALED"	11¾	"M.-No. 11." at UR	11/3/1892
2c	2	Same as type 2, but missing "Y" in "OFFICIALLY"	11¾	"M.-No. 11." at UR	11/13/1897
3	2	Same as type 2	10½	None	11/4/1891
4	3	Same as type 2	10½	None	12/17/1887
5	2	"RECEIVED TORN OPEN AND OFFICIALLY REPAIRED AND SEALED."	10½	None	7/13/1893
5a	2	Same as type 5, but no period after "SEALED"	10½	None	7/13/1893
6	3	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED AT GLASGOW."	Roul. 12	None	7/29/1890
7	3	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED AT P. O. GLASGOW."	Roul. 12	None	3/22/1899



Crown 1



Crown 2



Crown 3

(The Type 1 seal is shown on the next page)

Type 2

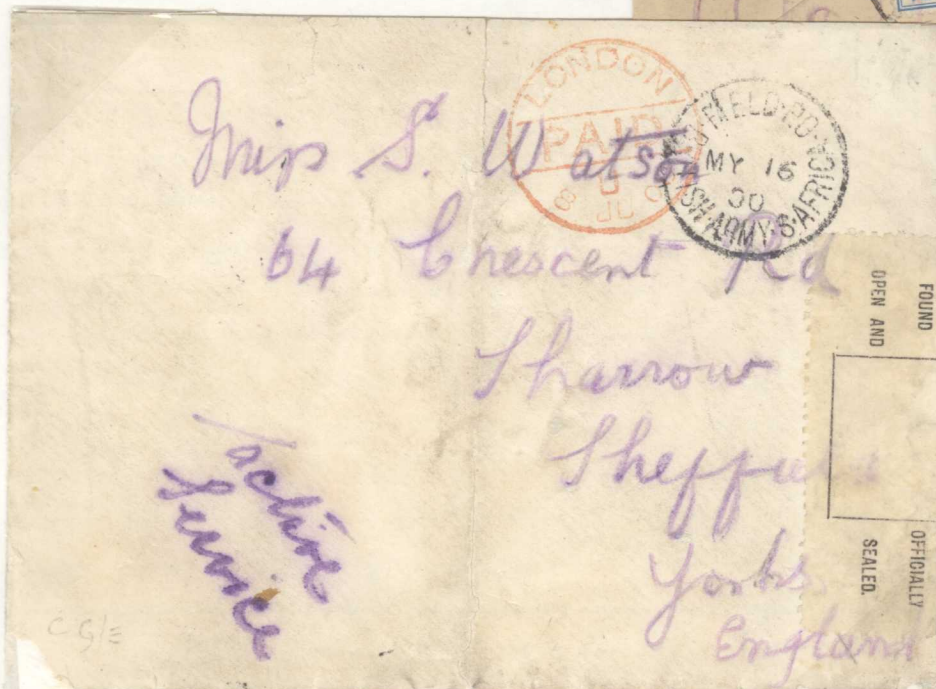
To the right, an 1895 registered letter from Mauritius to Hartford, Conn. Damaged in transit between Mauritius and London and repaired in London with three type 2 seals and placed in the mail to the United States.



Type 2

An unfranked active service cover from South Africa dated May 16, 1900 during the Boer war. It was received slightly damaged in the Bloemfontein Army Post Office whose cancel just ties the type 2 seal. (Ex. West)

The only reported use of any Victorian seal in South Africa and the only reported use in a Military Post Office.



Type 2

A registered letter from a British serviceman mailed at the Pretoria, military post office in 1900 during the Boer War. The letter suffered slight damage at the lower left and was repaired in England with a type 2 seal tied with wax seals.

Registered mail was likely to receive more attentive handling than regular mail.



Type 2

An 1896 letter from Calcutta to England with a rather colorful franking. It was slightly damaged in transit and repaired with a type 2 seal at the top right.



General Use Seals

Queen Victoria Type 2a St. Helena Usage

St. Helena Usage

A Victoria type 2a seal used as a censor seal on a registered 1901 cover from Krugersdorp, Transvaal to a Boer POW interned at Dead Wood Camp at St. Helena. The cover was censored upon arrival at St. Helena with a faint double circle violet handstamp (at bottom left center) "CENSOR PRISONERS OF WAR" type 1 marking. The official seal must have been applied in St. Helena as the censor's initials "EW", are written in pencil on the seal. "EW" stands for "E. Walton," a well-known censor at the Dead Wood Camp.

The only reported use of any Victorian seal outside of Great Britain.



Type 2a

A registered letter from London to the German Consul in Ispaham, Persia (now Iran). The letter was opened by mistake (manuscript notation on the back), and returned to London via Berlin still unsealed. The seals at the top have the manuscript notation "Received open from the Berlin-Hannover Mail." (ex West)



59 3/99-[10,864] 10,000 sheets 2.00sv

Type 2a and 2b Combination

A domestic letter damaged in transit with manuscript "Came to hand torn apart". The envelope is repaired a pair of type 2b seals at the left, and four type 2a seals at the bottom and right.

The only reported multiple of the type 2b seals

One of three combination usages reported



The type 2b seal exhibiting a missing "." after "SEALED" is from the second row of the pane of seals. Three type 2a and 2b combination covers are reported; one is shown on the prior page and the other two are shown below.

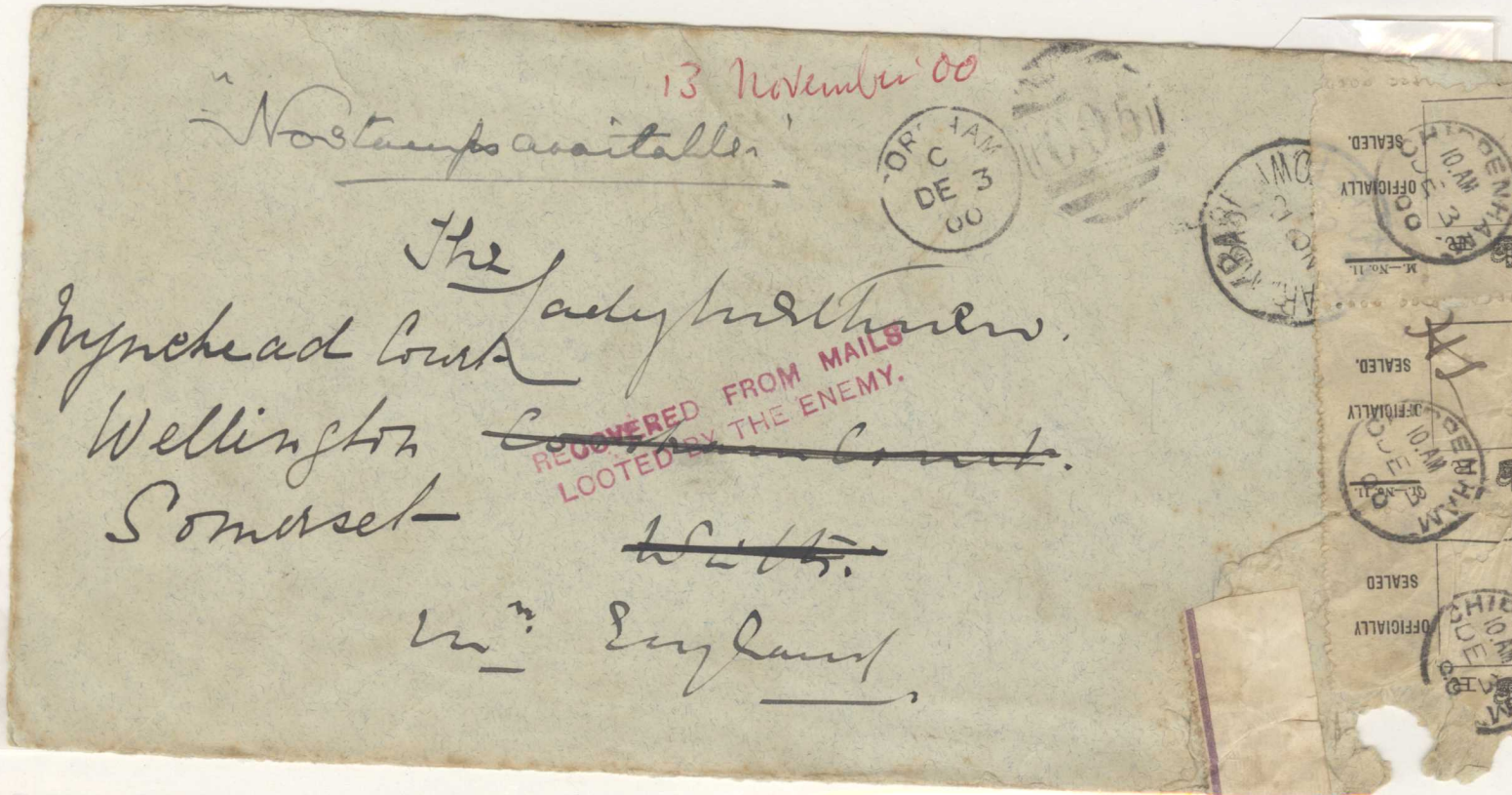
**Type 2a and 2b
Combination Usage**

An 1890 Registered packet damaged in transit with three type 2a and one type 2b seals. The type 2b seal is at the top of the envelope.



Type 2a and 2b Combination Usage

Three seals, the bottom example on the cover is type 2b, the others are type 2a, used with sheet selvage to repair an unfranked active service cover from South Africa during the Boer War. A very scarce "RECOVERED FROM MAILS LOOTED BY THE ENEMY" handstamp provides the reason for the damage. This letter was recovered after being seized by Boer Forces and entered into the mails a second time. (ex. West and Griffen)

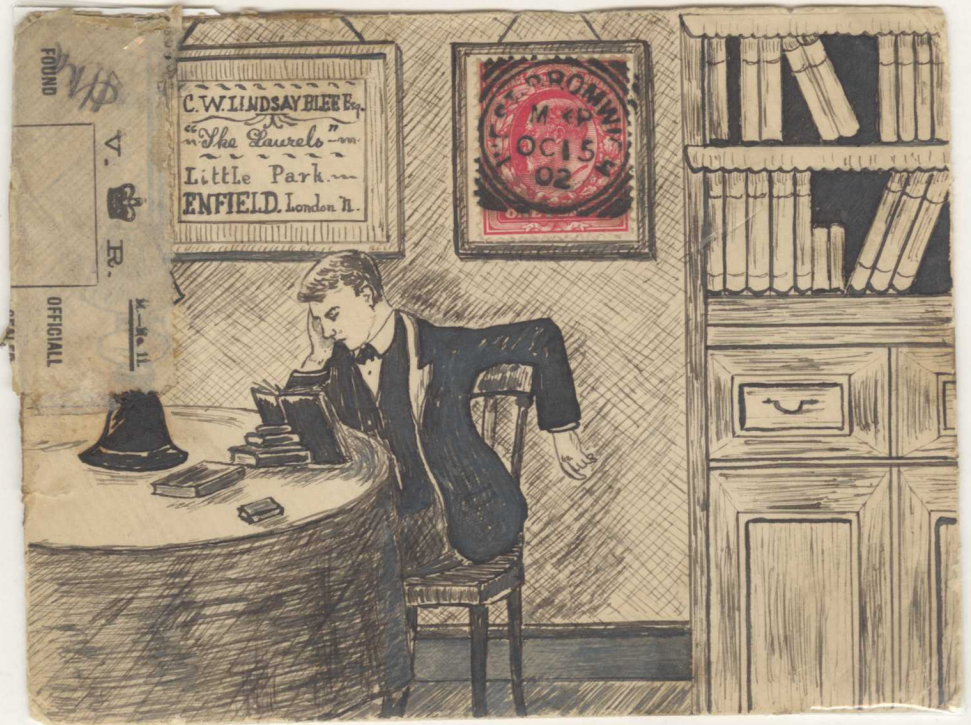


Type 2c

The type 2c variety is missing the "Y" in "OFFICIALLY".

Both reported type 2c usages are shown on this page. Both are used in combination with a type 2a seal.

The hand drawn illustrated cover has the stamp in a picture frame, and the addressee in a "Sampler" at the top left. Slightly damaged in transit it was repaired at the left with the type 2c seal, and on the back with a type 2a seal.



Type 2c

A very interesting cover that was originally posted in India to a local address, redirected twice within India and returned to the sender. The sender then placed additional franking on top of the original domestic franking and readdressed the letter to the Isle of Wight where it was redirected again to Llandrindod, Wales. During this final step in its it was damaged and was repaired in Llandrindod two type 2a seals and a type 2c seal. The type 2c seal is at the bottom left of the envelope.

The only reported use of any Victorian seal in Wales

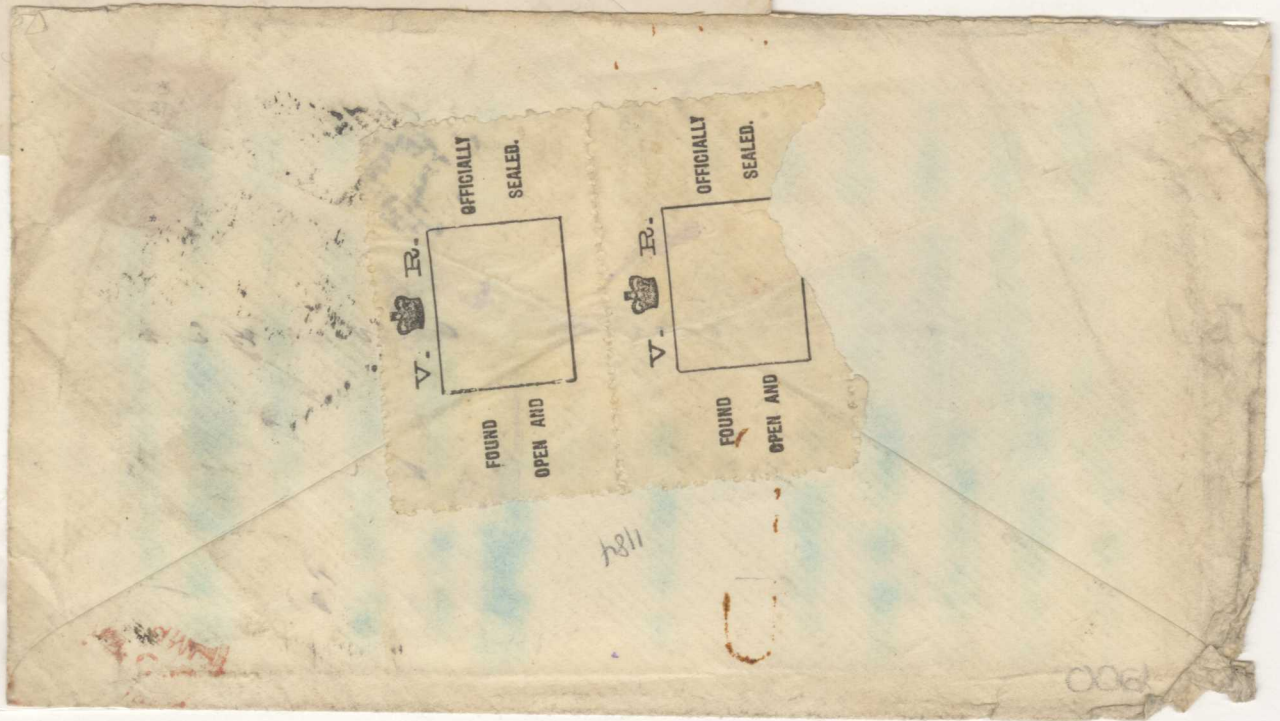




Type 3

Type 3 seal on an 1896 letter from Canada, received unsealed, and closed on arrival in England.

Two type 3 covers reported.



Type 3

Eider Wreck Mail

Above, a letter recovered from the wreck of the SS Eider and the soaked apart seams closed with two type 3 Victorian seals. About 30% of the 100-200 covers known have type 2 or type 2a seals.

Two Type 3 covers reported.



Type 4

Two type 4 seals used to repair a letter sheet from South Africa to Scotland. Damaged by Boer looters, with the very scarce "RECOVERED FROM MAILED BY THE ENEMY" handstamp and repaired upon arrival in Scotland with the type 4 seals.

The type 4 seals have a different crown design than types 1, 2, and 3. Seals with this crown style were used only in Scottish post offices.

One cover reported.



General Use Seals

**Queen Victoria
Types 5, 5a, and 6**

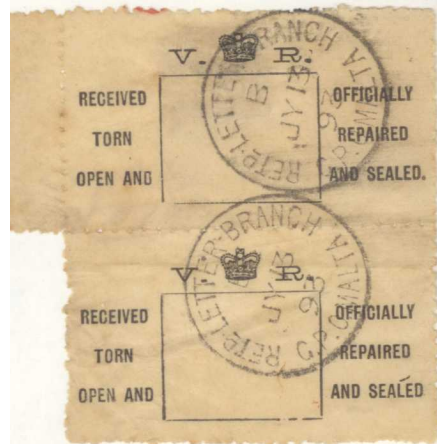
**Type 5 and Type 5a
Malta and US Two Country Usage**

A letter to Malta, damaged in transit, and repaired in Malta with a type 5 seal. Returned to the DLO in Washington DC where a US 1888 typographed seal was added before returning to the sender. A very unusual two-country use.

One cover reported.

Below, a pair with both types 5 and 5a.

The only such pair reported.



Type 6

A local cover, opened in error, and reclosed with two type 6 seals. The seal at the left shows the printing information (5,000 panes) and date of issue, January, 1900.

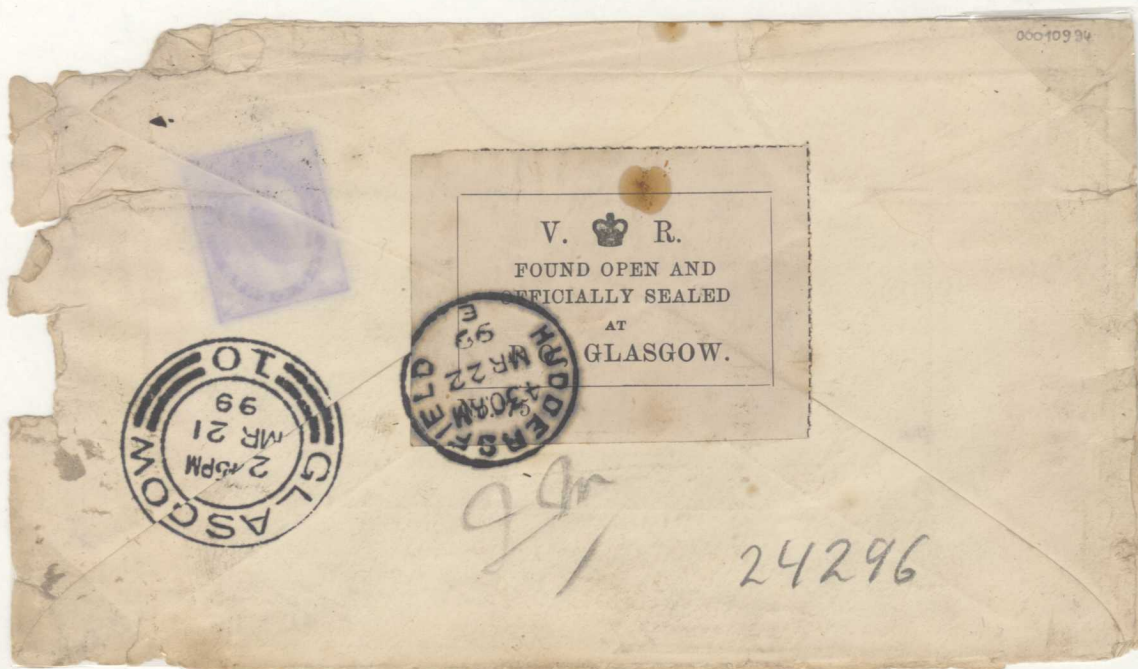
One cover reported.



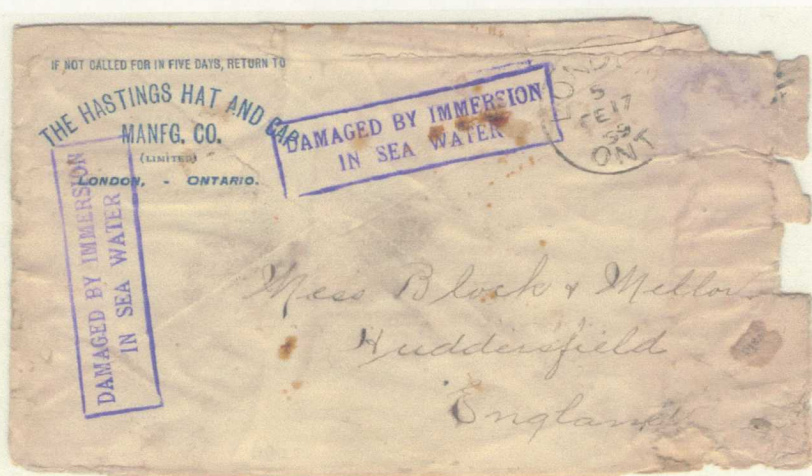
RMS Labrador Wreck Mail

A letter recovered from the wreck of the Royal Mail Steamer Labrador from St. John with a stop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and bound for Liverpool. The ship was wrecked in a dense fog on the Mackenzie Rock in the Hebrides. Of the 153 bags of mail in the ship's hold, only 7 bags were recovered. All of the mail was soaked, and the stamps floated off the envelopes. Of the 30 to 35 surviving covers, the example below is the only one with this Glasgow seal. The purple blotch to the left of the seal is the soaked image of the stamp from the envelope adjacent to this.

One cover reported.



Reduced image of the cover front showing the missing stamps and the handstamp explaining the damage to the letter.



General Use Seals

**King Edward VII
Introduction, Type 1 and Type 1a Combination Usage**

Six design types that are similar in many respects to the Victorian seals, but with the "V. R." inscription replaced with "E. R." Four different crown types are found. The table summarizes the type characteristics.

Type	Crown	Inscription	Perf	Imprint	EKU
1	1	Bold sans-serif	11¾	"M. - No. 11." at UR	6/10/1902
1a	1	Same, no period after "SEALED"	11¾	"M. - No. 11." at UR	6/10/1902
2	2	Bold sans-serif italic	11	"M. - No. 11." at UR	7/25/1904
3	3	Serifed Roman	11	None	4/24/1903
4	1	Bold sans-serif	12	"M. - No. 75." at UR	11/24/1906
5	3	Bold serifed	11	"M. - No. 11." at UL	4/6/1908
6	4	Bold sans serif	11	None	9/24/2909



Crown 1

Crown 2



Crown 3

Crown 4

Type 1 and 1a Combination Usage

An apparently short paid letter to France. The French dues were added, but the letter could not be delivered as addressed. It was opened and reclosed in the Fontainebleau post office with an 1898 issue French official seal (just peeking out beneath the British seals at the top left) and the return address added.

Upon return in England ten Edward VII seals were added completely around the edges. All are type 1 except for the seal at the bottom center right that is type 1a.

**The only reported combination usage.
The only reported two-country usage.**



Type 1

At the right, a type 1 seal used to repair a slightly damaged letter from Gambia, an unusual point of origination



Type 2

Below; a type 2 seal used in Ireland to close a booklet of scenes of Harrogate.

EKU for the type 2 seal



General Use Seals

King Edward VII
Type 3 and Type 4

Type 3

Below, two type 3 seals used to repair a
post card torn in half.

Post and postal card usages are scarce.

Type 4

At the right, a letter posted in the British
Post Office in Shanghai, franking is from
Hong Kong.

Sent to England, received damaged, and
repaired with two type 4 seals.

One cover reported.



E. R.
FOUND OPEN
AND

E. R.
FOUND OPEN
AND

W. R. LITTLE, Esq.

St. GILES,
SALISBURY,

ENGLAND.

EASTERN TRADING CO. LTD.
SHANGHAI
信記洋行

General Use Seals

King Edward VII
Type 5 and Type 6

Type 5

Letter from the United States to London, redirected to Inverness, and again to Edinburgh, damaged between London and Edinburgh (manuscript notation on the back "Received Torn") and repaired with three type 5 seals each precanceled with Edinburgh datestamps.



Type 6

Registered letter from Ecuador (an unusual point of origination), damaged in transit and repaired upon arrival in England with two type 6 seals.

One cover reported



General Use Seals

King George V

A large variety of seals were released during the twenty-six year reign of George V. The table summarizes the types.

Type	Crown	Text or Identifying Characteristic	Perf	Inscription	EKU
1	3	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED."	11	(none)	?
2	1	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED."	11¾	"M.-No. 11."	4/12/1912
2a	1	Same as 2, no period after "SEALED"	11¾	"M.-No. 11."	12/15/1913
3	2	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED."	11	"M.-No. 11."	12/20/1913
4	4	"OFFICIALLY SEALED AT P.O., GLASGOW"	11	"No. 77."	?
5	1	"FOUND OPEN AND OFFICIALLY SEALED."	10	"M.-No. 75."	10/14/1911
6	1	"FOUND OPEN (OR TORN) AND OFFICIALLY SECURED."	10	"M.-No. 75."	5/6/1915
6a	1	Same as type 6	10	"Pmrs.-480./(Late M.-No. 75)."	4/24/1916
6b	1	Same as type 6	10	"Pmrs.-480."	7/22/1916
6c	1	Same as type 6	10	"P. 480."	2/26/1916
7	1	Same as type 6	12	Same as type 6a	10/24/1918
8	1	Same as type 6, but no period after "SECURED"	10	"M.-No. 75."	4/8/1915
9	1	Same as type 8	11	Same as type 6a	7/20/1918
9a	1	Same as type 8	11	"Pmrs. - 480."	5/22/1917
9b	1	Same as type 8	11	"P. 480."	3/30/1922
10	2	Same text as type 6, but in a bold font	11¼	"M. - No. 75."	6/26/1916
11	2	Same text as type 6, but in a bold font	10	Same as type 6a	8/17/1916
12	2	Same text as type 6, but in a bold font	Roul. 7	"P. 480."	3/19/1928
13	3	"G. R." bold sans-serif font, "OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE POST OFFICE."	11	"R.L.B. -No. 54" at BL	10/9/1916
14	3	"G. R." Roman font, otherwise same as 13	10	"R.L.B. -No. 54."	9/11/1916
15	3	Same as type 14	Roul. 7	"P. 665." at BL	9/17/1916
16	3	Printing data vertically at left of box	10	"P. 480"	5/21/1921
16a	3	Same as type 15	10	"P 480:	20/12/1921
17	5	Same as type 14	11	"R.L.B. -No. 54."	4/12/1922
18	1	"FOUND OPEN (OR TORN) AND OFFICIALLY SECURED."	Roul. 7	"P. 480."	6/20/1924
19	1	"FOUND OPEN OR DAMAGED AND OFFICIALLY SECURED."	HH 6	(none)	8/28/1935
19a	1	Same as type 19	Roul. 6	"P. 480."	8/11/1926
19b	1	Same as type 19	Roul. 6	"P.480"	3/19/1935
20	1	Same as type 19	Imperf.	"P. 480."	12/17/1931
21	1	Same as type 19, no period after "SECURED"	Roul. 6	"P. 480."	8/15/1926
22	1	Bilingual "Found open or damaged and officially secured."	HH 7	"O. E. 151."	7/24/1927
23	1	Same as type 22	10	"O. E. 151."	7/25/1927
24	5	"G. R." Roman font widely spaced letters	11	(none)	5/29/1934
25	3	"G. R." Roman font very closely spaced about crown	10	(none)	4/27/1948
26	3	"G. R." Roman font widely spaced letters	HH &	(none)	10/25/1937



Crown 1



Crown 2



Crown 3



Crown 4
Type 2



Crown 5

Scarce use of seals to repair a post card torn in half.



Type 2a

**Combination Use with
Type 2**

Letter with a combination of type 2 and 2a. The type 2a seal (missing period after "SEALED") is at the top right and is paired with a type 2 seal at the left.

One type 2a cover reported.



Type 3

A letter from China with ms notation "Rcd open" on the back. Closed with two type 3 seals.

The type 3 seals were used only in Scottish post offices.

One cover reported.



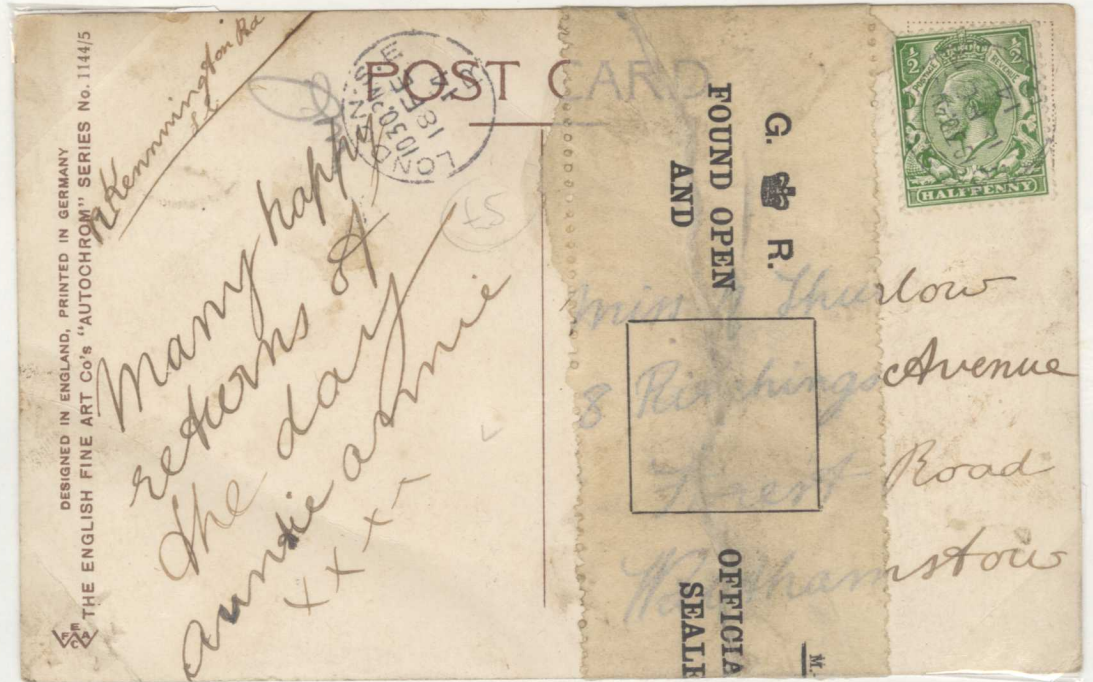
General Use Seals

**King George V
Types 5 and 5a**

Type 5

The very large size of this seal made it convenient for the repair of this post card torn in half.

Post and postal card usages are scarce.



Type 5a

This seal from the bottom left position in the pane of unknown size contains the printer's initials ("G & S"), the date of issue (December 1912) and the quantity issued, "10m" or 10,000 either sheets or seals. Since there are no records in the Royal Mail archives, this is the only way to obtain this kind of information.



General Use Seals

**King George V
Type 6 and Type 6a**

Type 6

A much-traveled letter from New Zealand addressed to a soldier in an army field hospital in France.

Forwarded at least three times, and opened in error once requiring the seal for closure, it is not obvious if this letter ever reached its destination.



Type 6a

**Kingstonian Wreck
Usage**

Two seals used to close a soaked letter "Damaged by Immersion in Sea Water." Most probably from the sinking of the Kingstonian by German submarine U68 on April 18, 1918.



General Use Seals

**King George V
Type 6a Usages in Egypt**

Two examples of seals used by the MEF during WW I. Base Post Offices were larger operations that serviced personnel in a fairly large region. Field post offices were units that were typically assigned to units in a smaller area.

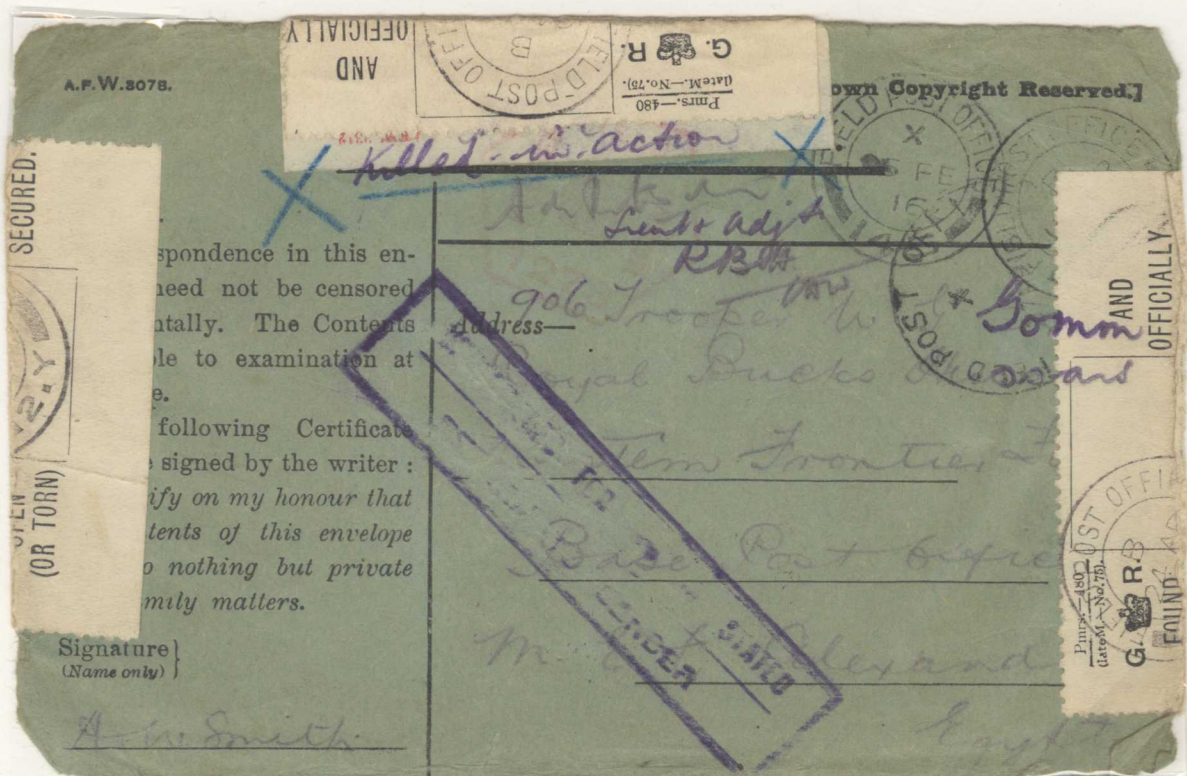
**Egypt
Army Base Post Office**

Registered letter posted from an Army PO to a civilian address in Alexandria. There is an unofficial repair under the seal that was not signed or initialed. The George V type 6a seal was added in the dispatching PO.



**Egypt
Army Field Post Office**

Letter sheet to an active duty serviceman in Egypt. It was undeliverable (explained by the "Killed in Acton" notation), and opened by the field post office to determine a return address and reclosed with George V type 6a seals. A field PO CDS is on each seal.



General Use Seals

King George V
Type 6b and Type 6c



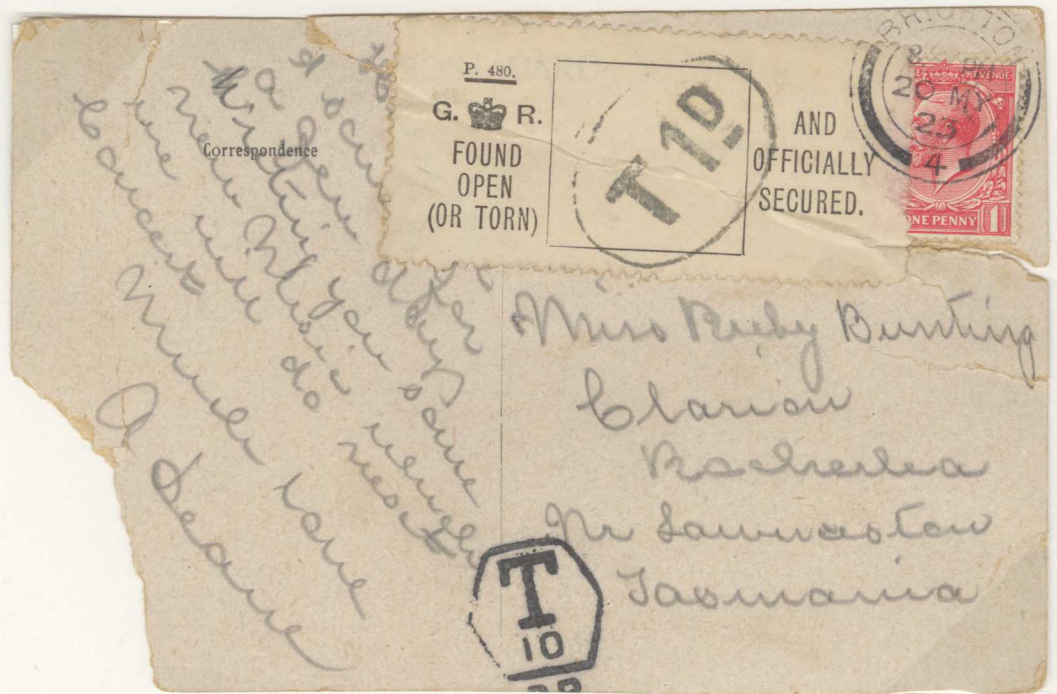
Type 6b

A type 6b seal used to repair a slightly damaged registered letter from South Africa.

The EKV for the type 6b seal.

Type 6c

Torn post card to Tasmania repaired with two type 6c seals (a second is on the back). The 1d due marking is applied as the rate was 2d.



General Use Seals

King George V
Type 6c Usages in Palestine and Kenya

Palestine Usage

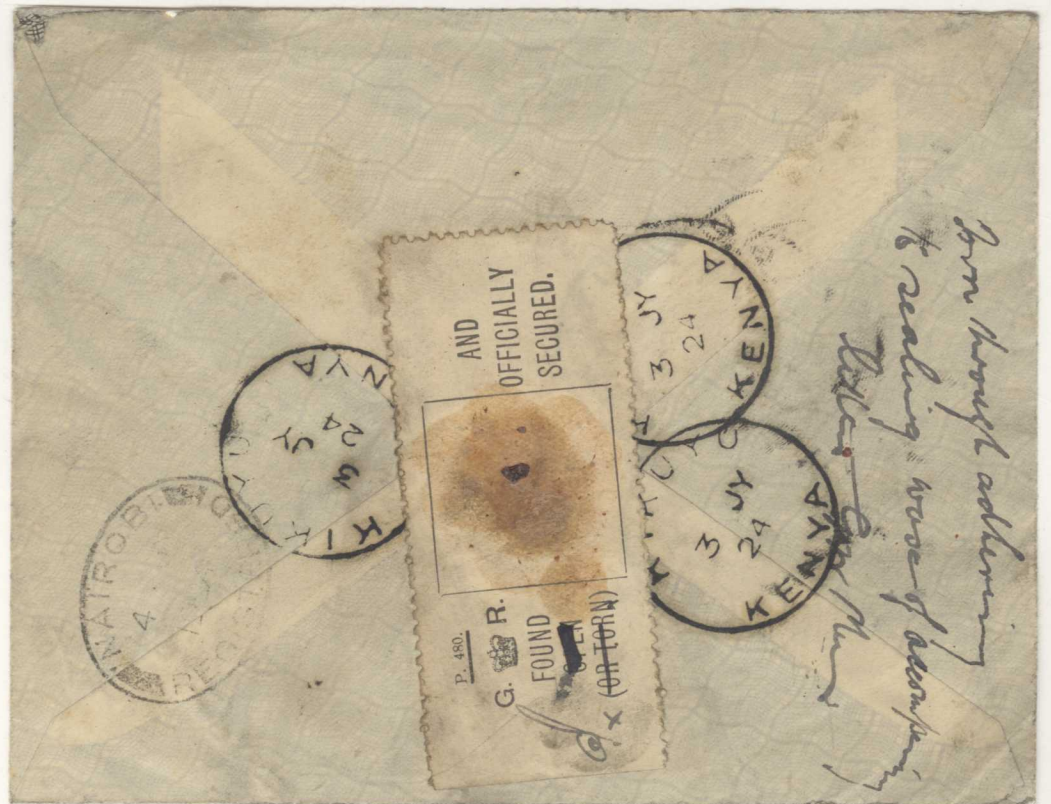
Two type 6c seals used to repair a damaged 1928 letter from the United States.



Kenya

Seal applied over sealing wax as the letter was received open. The manuscript notation is at the right: "Torn through adhering to sealing wax."

A George V type 6 seal was used to repair the tear in the Nairobi Post Office.



General Use Seals

King George V
Type 7; Type 7 Usage in MPO

Type 7

A much-traveled letter from Canada in 1918 to an address hidden by three redirection slips. Delivery was attempted in Blandford, Hythe, New Romney, and two other towns prior to being returned by the Reading DLO to the Ottawa DLO. At least one unsuccessful attempt was made to return the letter in Canada, as there are two Ottawa DLO handstamps with dates two weeks apart.



Two Type 7 covers reported.

Type 7
Military PO Usage

A letter posted to a soldier in the Royal Field Artillery in the Mesopotamian expeditionary force. Unknown there, with a manuscript "Western Front" in purple, the letter was redirected to the MPO (S.12 APO number) at Harfleur (near Havre) in France where the addressee was also not known. The letter was opened by the MPO to determine a return address and closed with two seals canceled with the MPO handstamp. The round trip took about six months.

Two Type 7 covers reported. An extraordinary usage and the only MPO example reported



A type 8 seal used to repair the corner of a registered letter from Dahomey, an unusual point of origination.

One cover reported.



General Use Seals

King George V
Type 16 and Type 16a

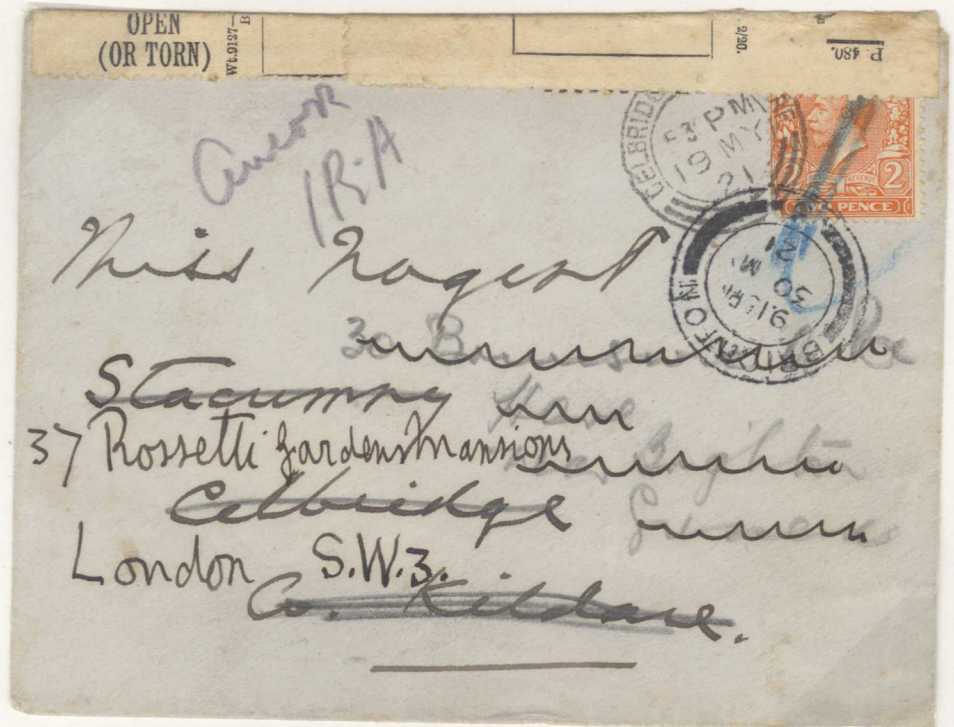
The type 16 seal is the only design where the printing data appears on each seal. In all other cases, the printing data is found in the margin, typically on the bottom right seal. The type 16 seal was released in February of 1920, with 10,000 sheets of unknown size prepared.

Type 16

IRA Censor Usage

Letter posted in Northern Ireland on May 19 during the 1921 Civil War. Locally addressed, it was redirected to Brighton, and was intercepted showing "Censor/IRA" pencil marking on the front. The opened letter was reclosed with two type 8 seals canceled with a Dublin May 29 CDS.

The blue crayon defacing the British stamp is characteristic of this type of usage.



Type 16a

Possibly another IRA censorship usage but without the characteristic defacement of the king's image.

Either damaged or censored, it is closed with two type 16 seals at the top and a single type 16a (missing "." after the "P" in the form number) seal at the right.

**The only reported example
of the type 16a seal.**



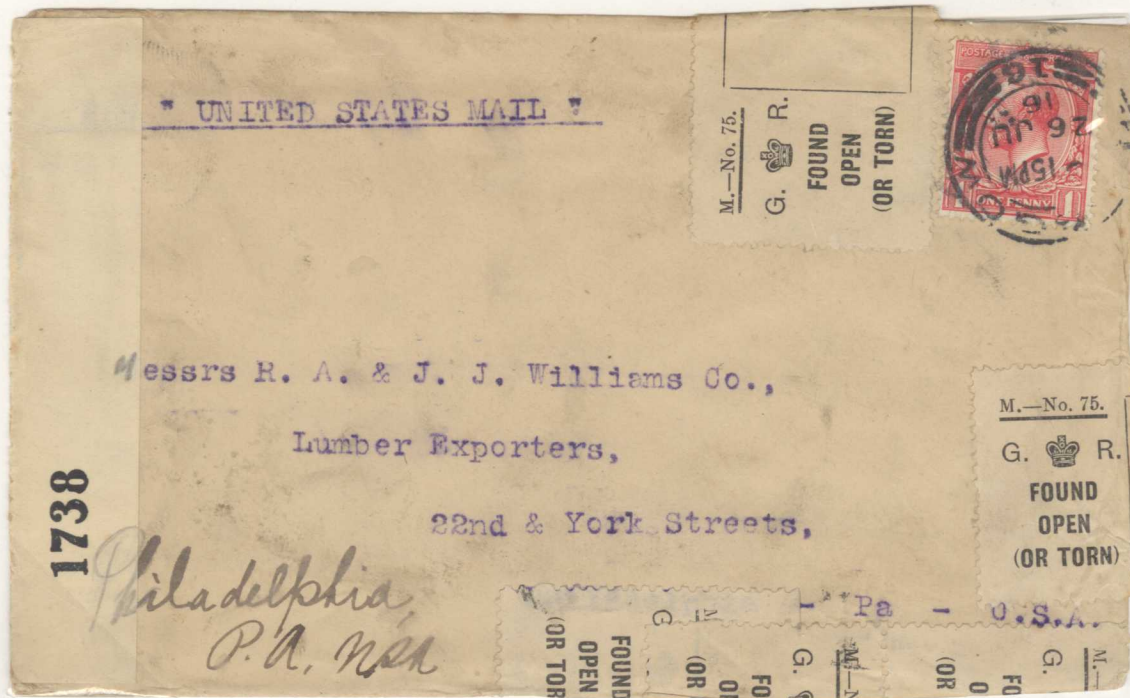
General Use Seals

**King George V
Type 10 and Type 12a**

Type 10

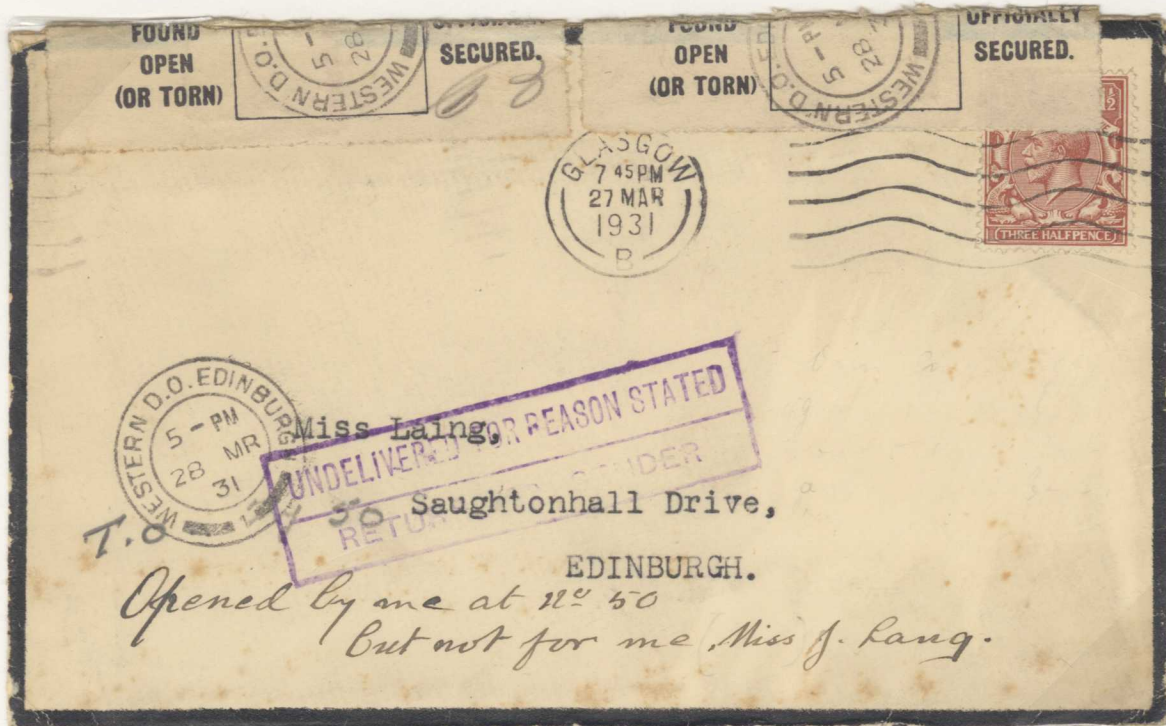
The cover from Glasgow to the US was first censored, with the clerk reentering the "M" of "Messrs" on the censor label. The letter was damaged and five type 10 seals used to repair the damage. As the seals covered a portion of the address, it was rewritten at the left, partially on the censor label.

The 1d franking to the US was a special treaty rate that was in effect between October 1, 1908 and January 2, 1918. The endorsement at the top right is to remind the GB clerks of this rate.



Type 12a

A mourning letter from Glasgow to Edinburgh with a neatly typed address but no street number. A penciled "50" was added, but was incorrect. A note is found on the front "Opened by me at No. 50 but not for me - Miss J. Lang". Two seals were used to reclose the letter before it was returned to the sender.



General Use Seals

King George V
Type 13 and Type 14

Both types probably printed in vertical panes of ten, five seals tall and two wide. The printing information is in the margin below the bottom right seal.

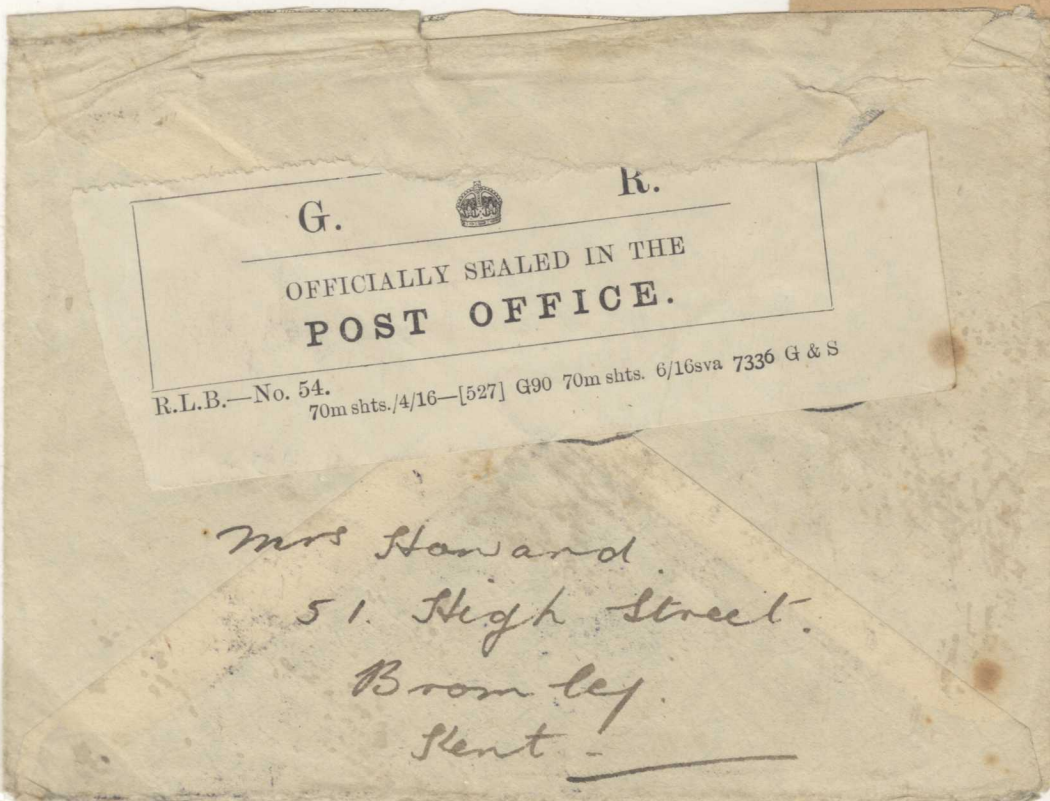
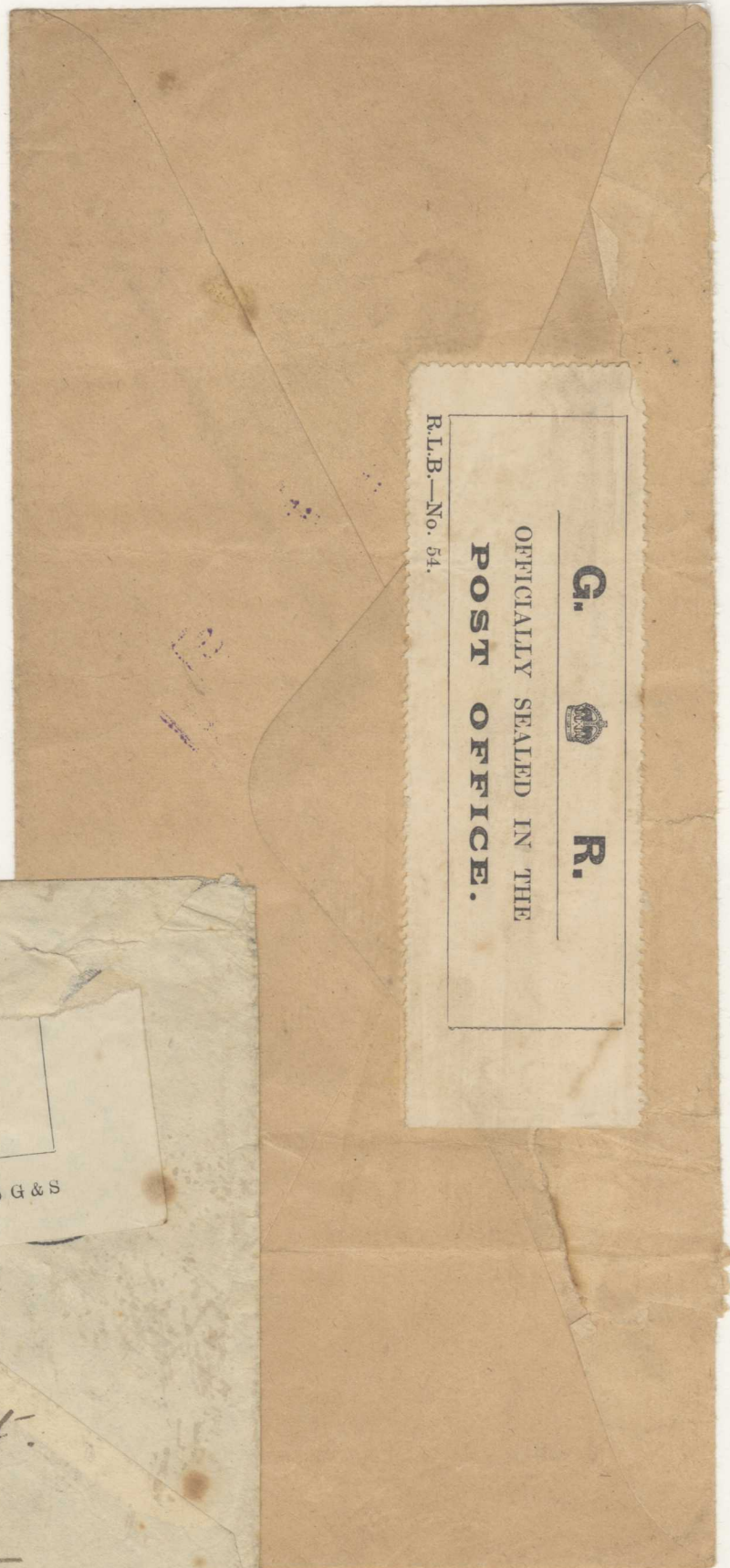
Type 13

To the right, a type 13 seal used to reclose a letter opened in error with a "Gone away" manuscript notation on the front. This marks the first use of this design that was to be used with only small changes for the next sixty-five years.

Type 14

Below, a letter to a BEF serviceman in France, redirected to a field hospital, and finally found to be undeliverable.

The letter was opened in the Birmingham Returned Letter Branch, the return address found and written on the back, and the letter reclosed with the type 15 seal showing the printing data of 70,000 panes issued in April 1916.



Type 15

A letter from the US to Devon opened for customs inspection and closed with a type 15 seal. This use is extremely unusual as there were at this time seals expressly designed for use in closing mail opened for customs inspection.

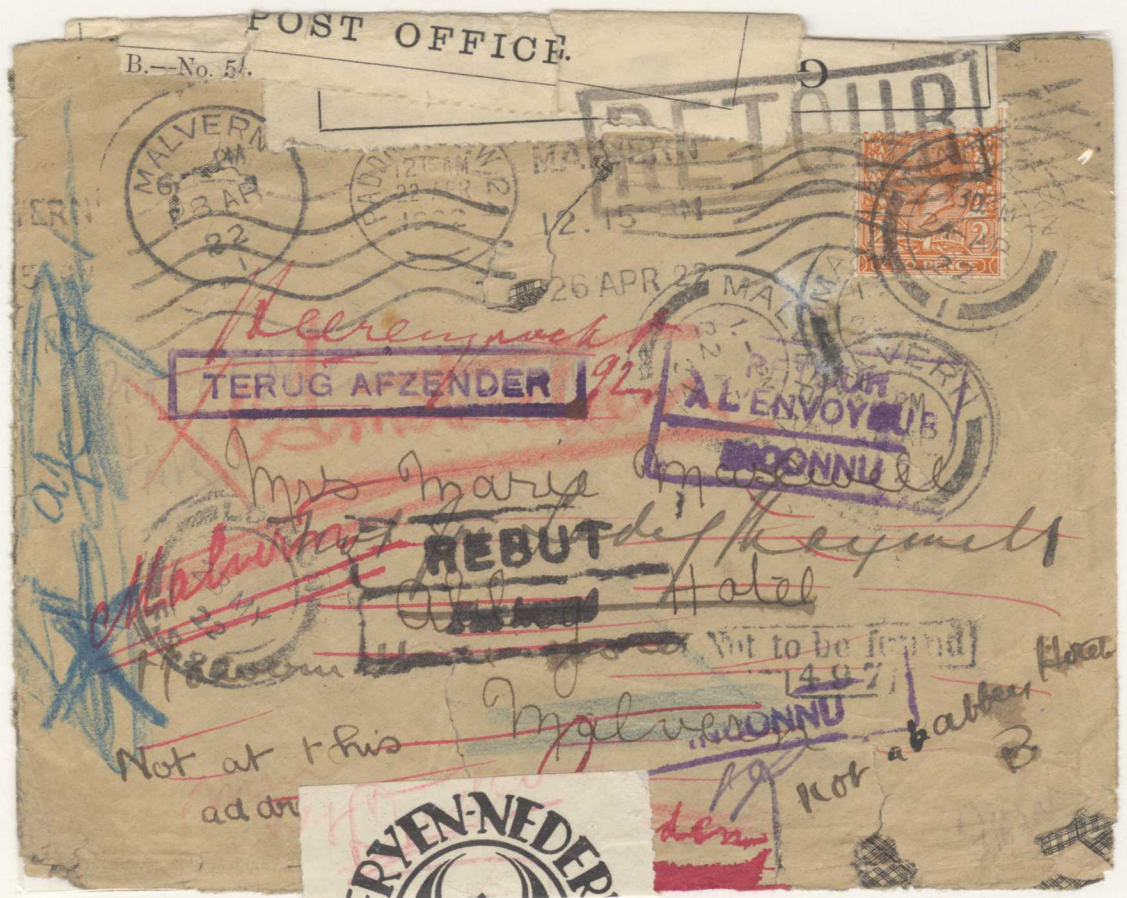


Type 17

Two Country Usage

A much-traveled letter with many markings that indicate that it traveled at least twice between Malvern (where it was posted) and Amsterdam. It was opened in Amsterdam to determine a return address and closed with a Dutch official seal. Opened for the same reason in RLO, the letter was reclosed with two type 17 seals.

A very scarce use of seals from multiple countries and the only reported usage of the type 17 seal.



General Use Seals

King George V
Types 19 and Type 19a

Type 19

Jordan Usage

City of Khartoum Crash

At the right three George V type 19 seals used to close a water-soaked letter recovered from the wreck of the Imperial Airways flying boat "City of Khartoum" that crashed in the harbor in Alexandria Egypt. Recovered mail was forwarded onwards. This letter addressed to Amman, Jordan was repaired with three seals applied in Amman.



Only reported use of any seal in Jordan.

Type 19a

Palestine Usage

Two type 19a seals used to repair a damaged cover from France to Jaffa in Israel.



Malta Usage

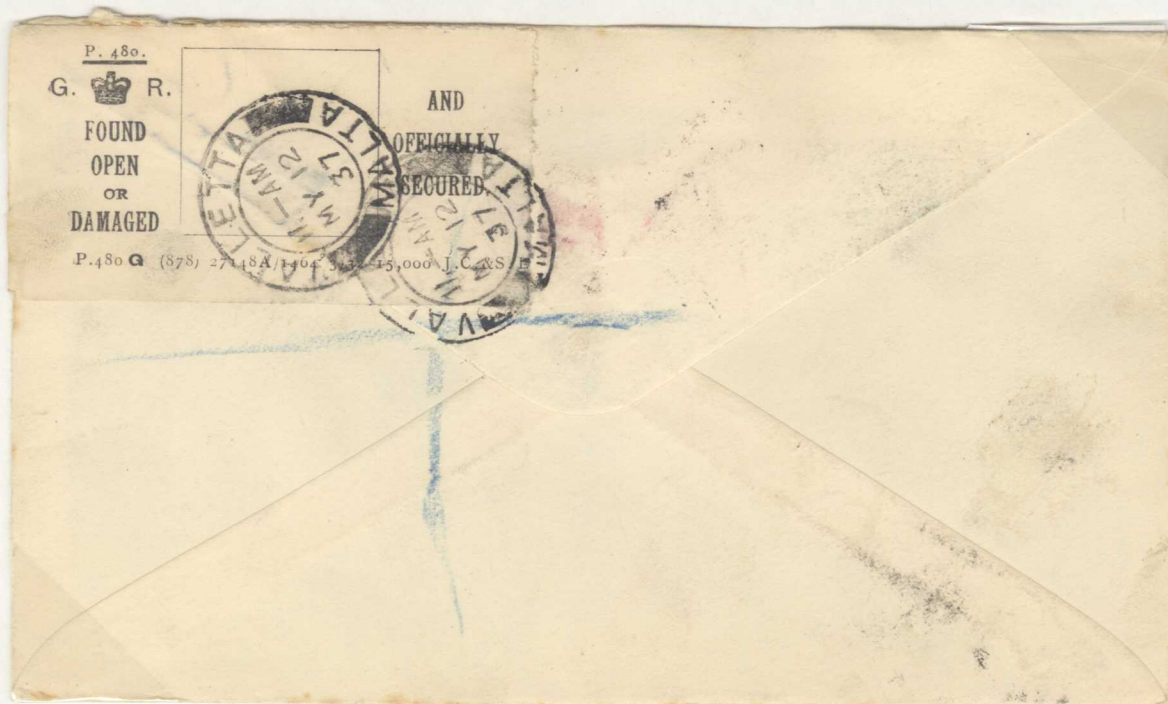
A 1945 registered letter from the Transvaal to Malta, censored twice, with the type 19a seals used with the censor tape to close the letter.

A rather unusual use of the seals in the censorship role.



Malta Usage

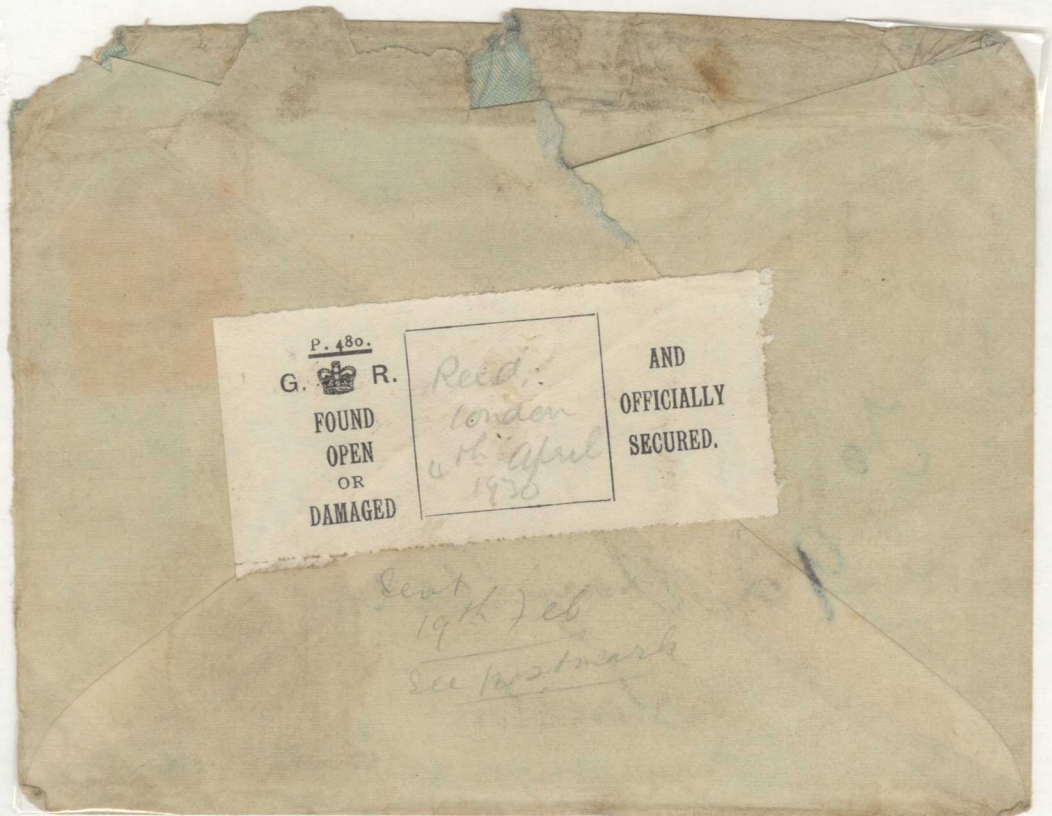
Beyond the unusual use in Malta, this single seal used to repair slight damage to a FDC of the George VI Coronation issue, has the printing data for the seal at the bottom. This data is found only on the bottom left seal in the pane of 10.



Type 19a

Comorin Wreck Mail

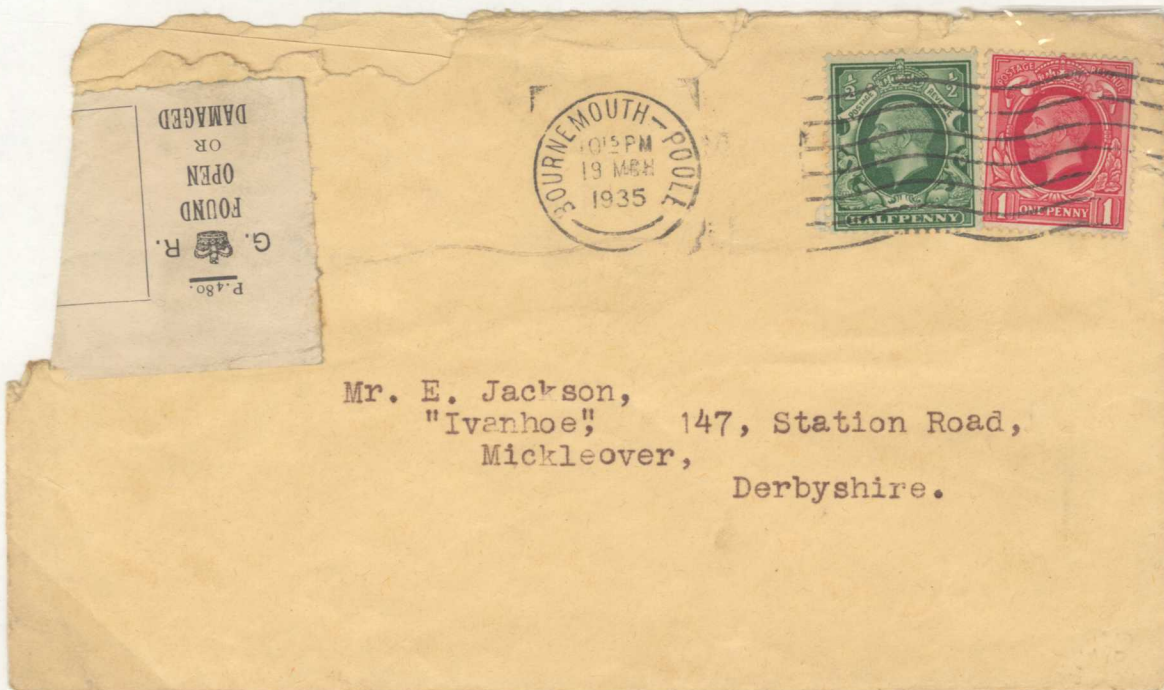
An offset stain from a stamp can be seen at the top left of the seal. All of the seams of the envelope are opened and are tied together by the type 19 seal. Based on the date of the cover it is likely that it was recovered from the sinking of the SS Comorin.



Type 19b

Below, a rather ordinary cover somewhat damaged at the left and roughly opened by the recipient. The form number at the top left of the seal shows the variety with the missing space between "P." and "480".

One cover reported.



Type 20

"All Australian Air Mail to England" with a very colorful franking on the front. For the return the addressee crossed out his name and added the return address in Australia adding English stamps on the front to pay the return registry fee. Slightly damaged at the top and repaired with an imperforate type 20 seal.

The only example reported on or off cover.

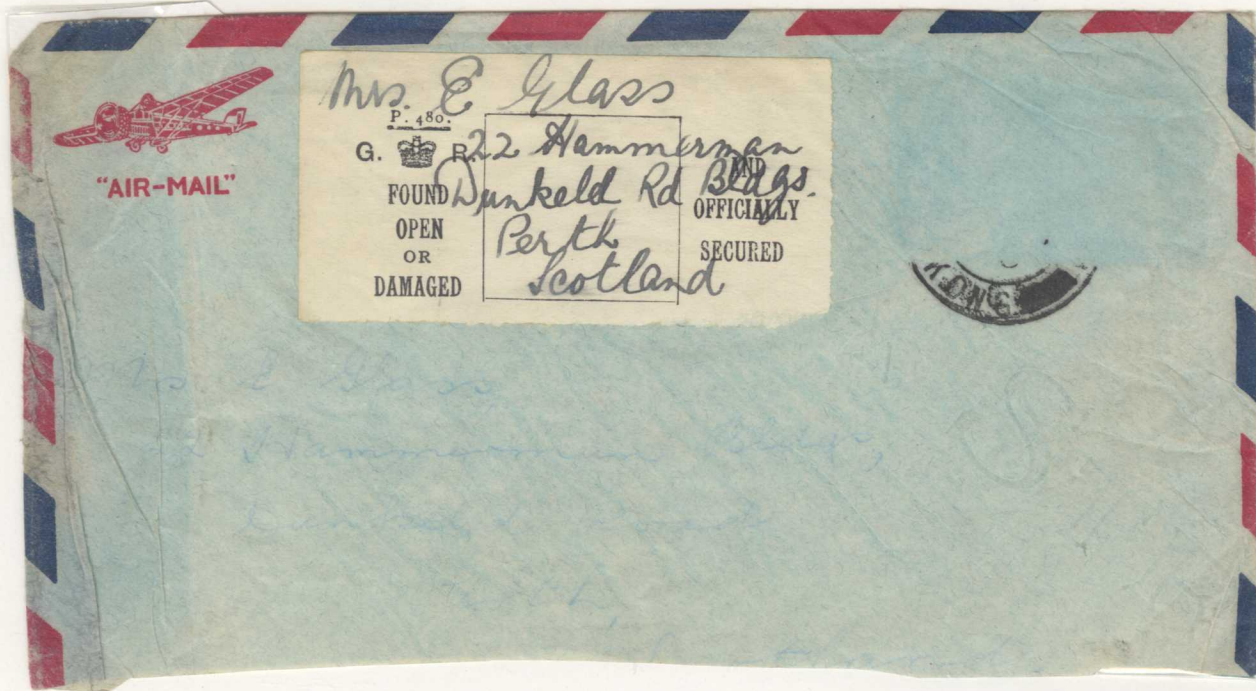


Type 21

Cygnus Crash Mail

A type 21 seal used as an address label for a water-soaked letter recovered from the crash of the Imperial Airways flying boat Cygnus in Brindisi during a fueling stop. The front has a type 7 tape used to repair the envelope.

A very unusual combination usage.

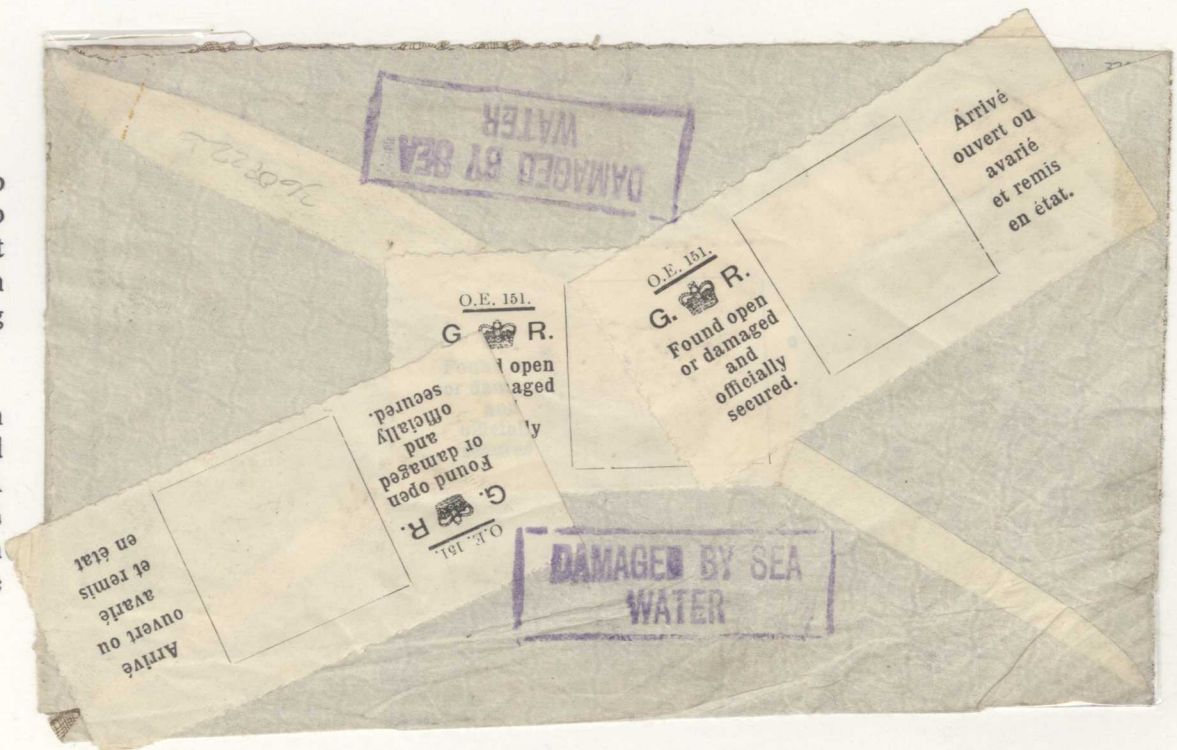


Type 22

Scipio Crash Mail

Airmail letter from Ceylon to London on the Karachi to London route of the flying boat Scipio. The plane crashed in Mirabella Bay in Crete during a fueling stop.

Mail recovered from the crash was waterlogged and received the "DAMAGED BY SEA WATER" handstamp. About 1/4 of the covers from this crash have repair seals to reclose the envelopes.



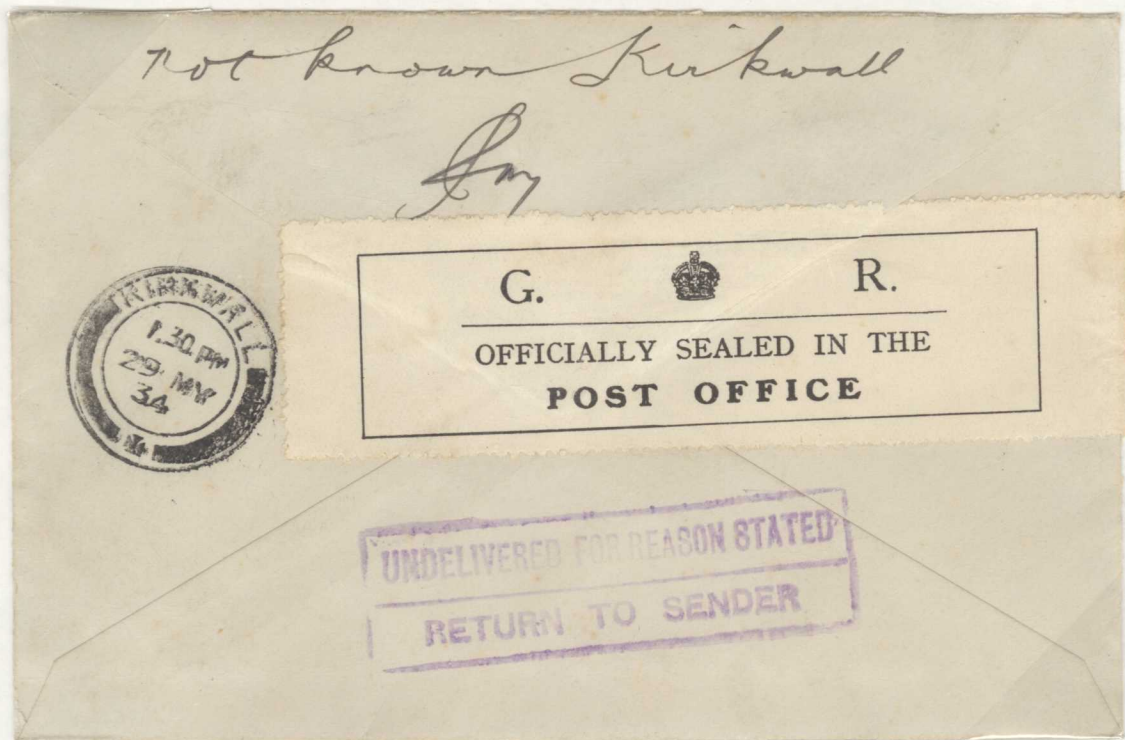
General Use Seals

King George V
Type 24 and Type 25

Type 24

Letter carried on the first airmail service to Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands. The addressee was unknown, and the letter was opened in the RLO to determine a return address.

One cover reported.



Type 25

The type 25 seal is used to close a letter opened for customs examination. This is an unusual usage as the letter is not registered and there was at this time a seal specifically intended for this purpose.

One cover reported.



General Use Seals

King George V
Type 26

Type 26

Seal used to reclose a letter opened for customs inspection, a very unusual use as there were at this time seals specifically prepared for this purpose.

This is the last of the repair seals to have the initials of the monarch.

One cover reported.



General Use Seals

King Edward VIII
Introduction, Usage

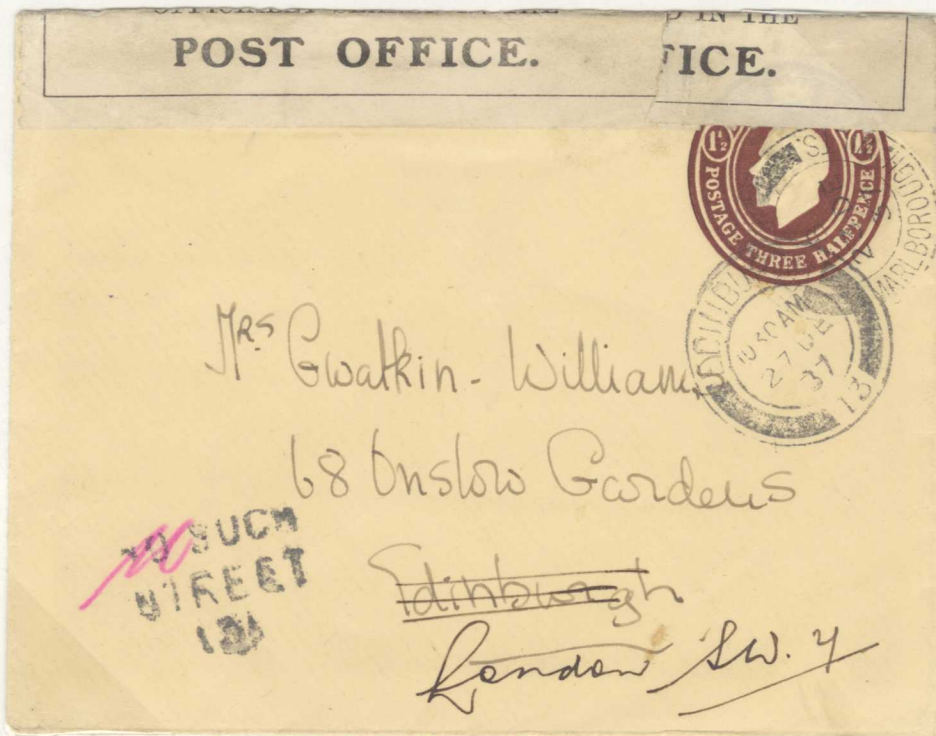
Due to the very short period of time between Edward's accession to the throne, and his abdication to marry Wallace Simpson, only a single seal design with the "E. R." initials was released.

Letter with an incorrect address, it was opened to determine a return address for the sender, or a correct address for the recipient.

Reclosed with two Edward VIII Seals.

One cover reported.

Reconstructed seal shown below.



General Use Seals

King George VI Introduction, Type 1 Usage

The differentiating characteristics are the crown design, the lengths of the first and second lines of text, and the size of the box surrounding the design. The table below summarizes the design characteristics.

Type	Crown	Size	Line 1 Length	Line 2 Length	EKU	Notes
1	1	79 x 25	51	48	6/5/1938	
2	1	79 x 24	58	45	12/20/1940	
3	1	82 x 25	53	48	10/4/1940	
4	3	79 x 25	58	43	2/15/1941	
5	4	80 x 24	65	39	8/6/1941	
6	2	79½ x 25	65	41	11/21/1941	
7	3	79 x 25	58	60	1/26/1942	Army post offices only
8	2	79½ x 25	65	62	5/23/1941	Army post offices only
9	2	79½ x 25	65	63½	7/8/1942	Army post offices only
9A	2	79½ x 25	64½	40	5/16/1946	Form "P 665G"
9Aa	2	79½ x 25	64½	40	7/3/1945	No form number
10	6	58½ x 22	53	42	12/9/1941	“.” after “OFFICE.”
11	7	58 x 22	53	38	9/16/1943	No “.” after “OFFICE”
12	6	57 x 21½	51	41	6/17/1946	
13	7	81 x 25	52½	38	3/15/1949	No form number
13a	7	81 x 25	52½	38	5/28/1951	Form "P655G"
14	5	81 x 24½	55	45½	6/16/1949	
15	1	58 x 21	53½	40	10/6/1950	
16	4	80½ x 25	54½	43½	5/30/1951	
17	8	56½ x 20	52	37	9/21/1952	
18	8	79 x 24	54	43	3/30/1953	



Crown 1



Crown 2



Crown 3



Crown 4



Crown 5



Crown 6



Crown 7



Crown 8

Type 1

A 1938 letter with ½^D of postage. There was at this time a printed matter rate of ½^D for two ounces requiring use of a wrapper, not an envelope. On the front are handstamps: "Liable to letter rate", "2^D to pay." and a 2^D postage due. The seal has the note: "To safeguard contents." The creasing at the edges of the envelope suggests that the contents were quite thick.



General Use Seals

King George VI
Type 2 and Type 3

Type 2

Seal used to reclose a letter opened to determine a return address. The addressee had moved ("gone away" manuscript marking) without providing a forwarding address.

The red "PTO" ("Please turn over") is almost always a RLO marking.



Type 3

Seal used to reclose a letter opened in the Glasgow RLO to determine a return address.

One cover reported.



Type 4

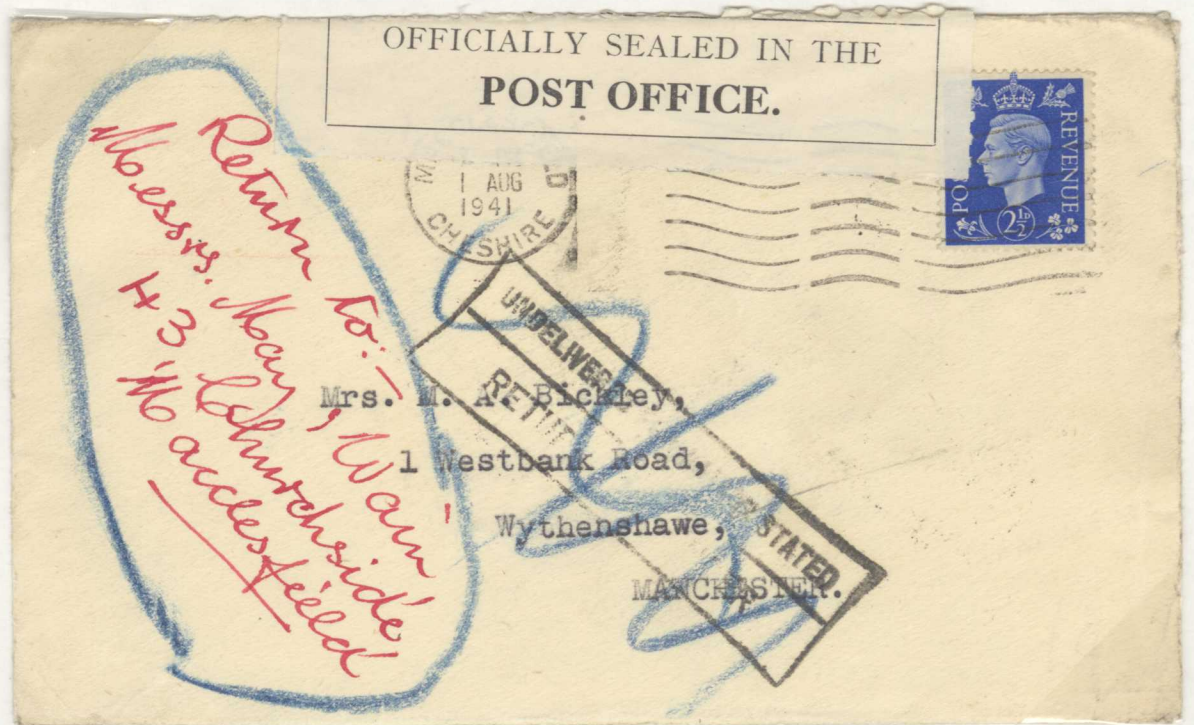
Posted in Canada with a British franking(!) and no due markings to a very cryptic address in Northern Ireland ("34 Years Old Craley"), it is not surprising that this letter was undeliverable and was opened in the Belfast RLO to determine a better address.

One cover reported.



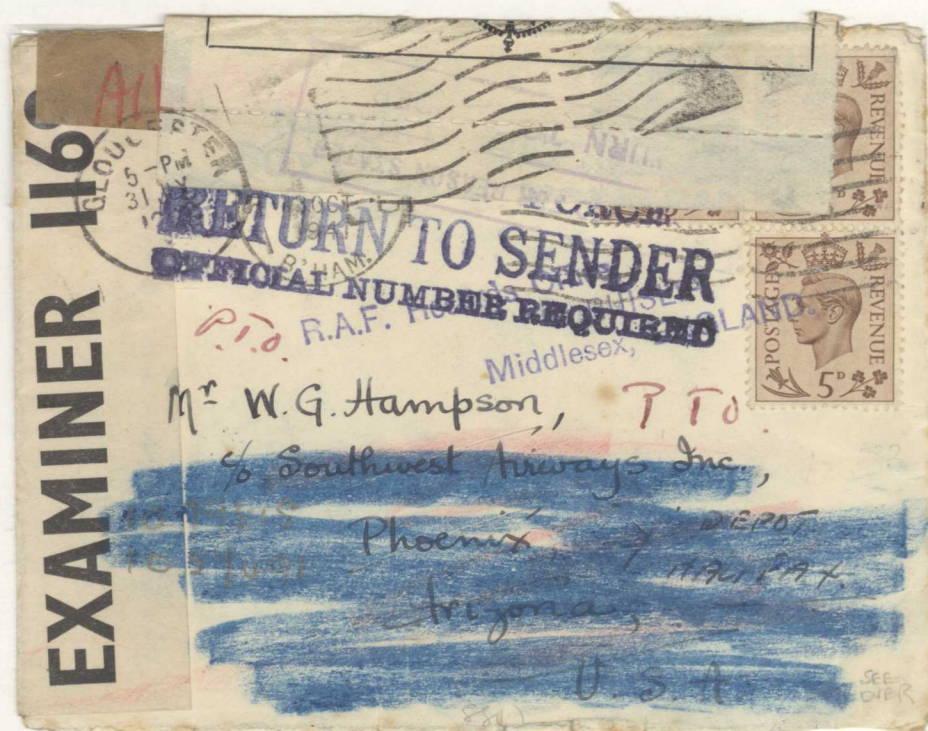
Type 5

Seal used to reclose a letter opened to determine a return address. The back has a manuscript notation: "No such road Wythenshawe"



Type 6

Letter to the US, to a British trainee at Thunderbird Field II, a covert US Army Air Force training facility, whose public name was Southwest Airways. The letter was refused for lack of some identifying number, it was returned to England, opened to determine the return address that is added in characteristic red ink on the back.



Type 8

This seal was for use within the military postal service. The design is identical to type 6 but with the word "ARMY" added in the second line of text. The modification was rather poorly executed, as the modified bottom line of text is not centered.

The letter is addressed to a serviceman and has a handwritten note stating that the addressee returned home. Opened to determine a return address that was written in red on the back.



General Use Seals

King George VI
Types 9, 9A, and 9Aa

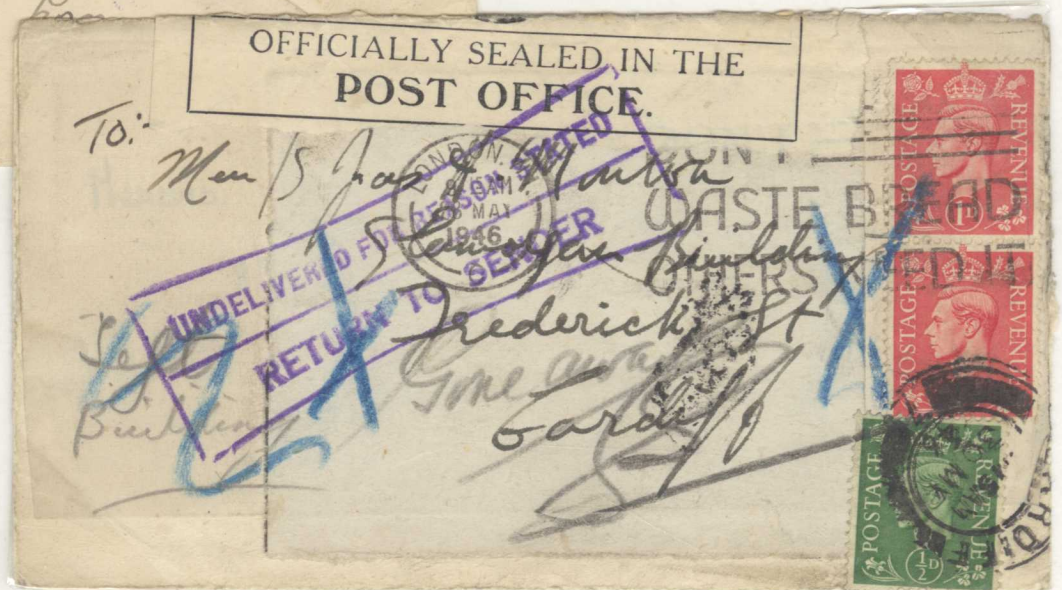


Type 9

The front has the boxed euphemistic handstamp: "It is regretted that this letter could not be delivered at the address stated" which means the addressee had been killed in action. Opened in the Bombay MPO, and the return address added on the back

Type 9A

A letter from London to Cardiff, Wales with a wartime economy reused front. Two redirections with ms markings "Gone away" and "Left building" on the front. The letter was opened in the Cardiff post office and the return address in London is added on the back.



Type 9Aa

Manuscript "not known..." and opened to determine a return address that is in the typical red ink of the RLO.

Similar type 9A except that the form number at the top right of the seal is missing

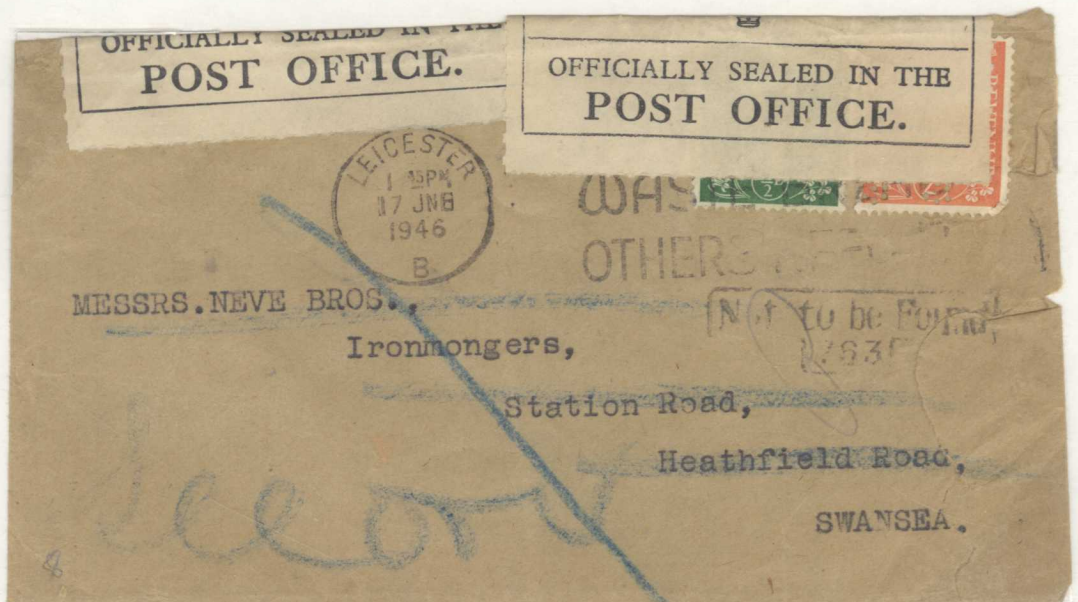


General Use Seals

King George VI
Type 10 and Type 11

Type 10

Seals used to reclose a letter opened to determine a return or better address.



Type 11

Combination Use with
Type 6

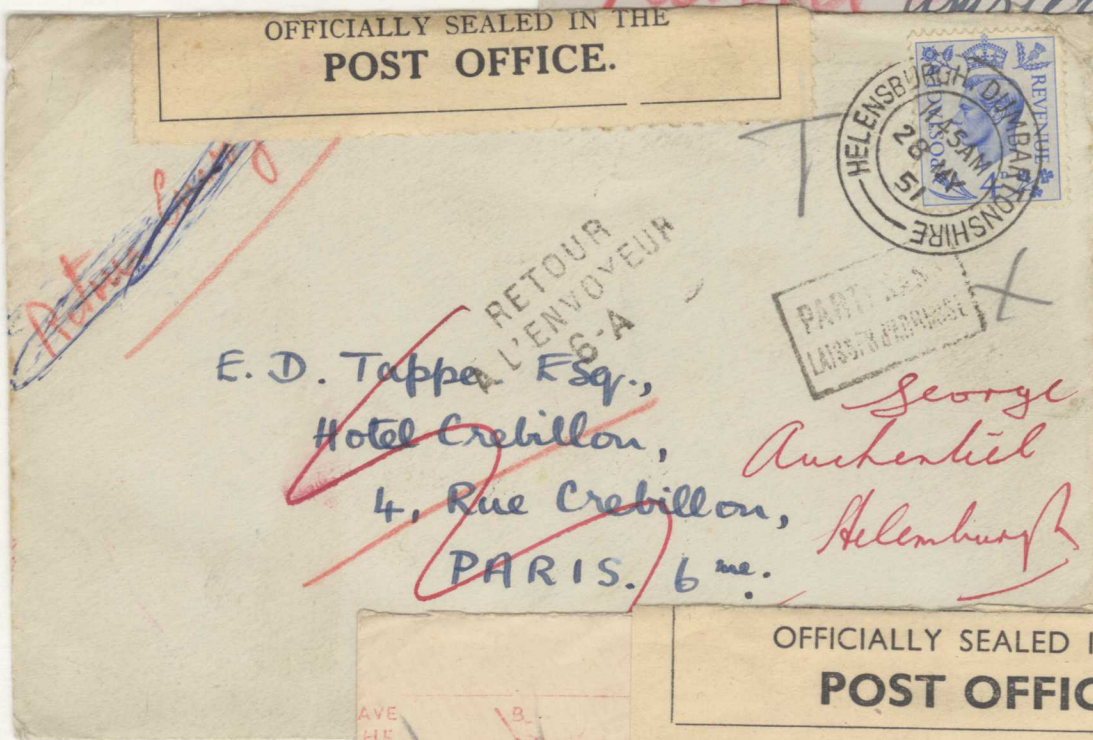
Postage free censored letter from an active duty serviceman to Edinburgh. It was twice opened in the RLO to fine a forwarding address and closed with two different seals. Below the type 11 seal used for the second closing is a type 6 seal used for the first closing.

Multiple usages are scarce.



Type 12

A letter to an unknown address in Amsterdam, returned and opened in the Croydon RLO to determine a return address.

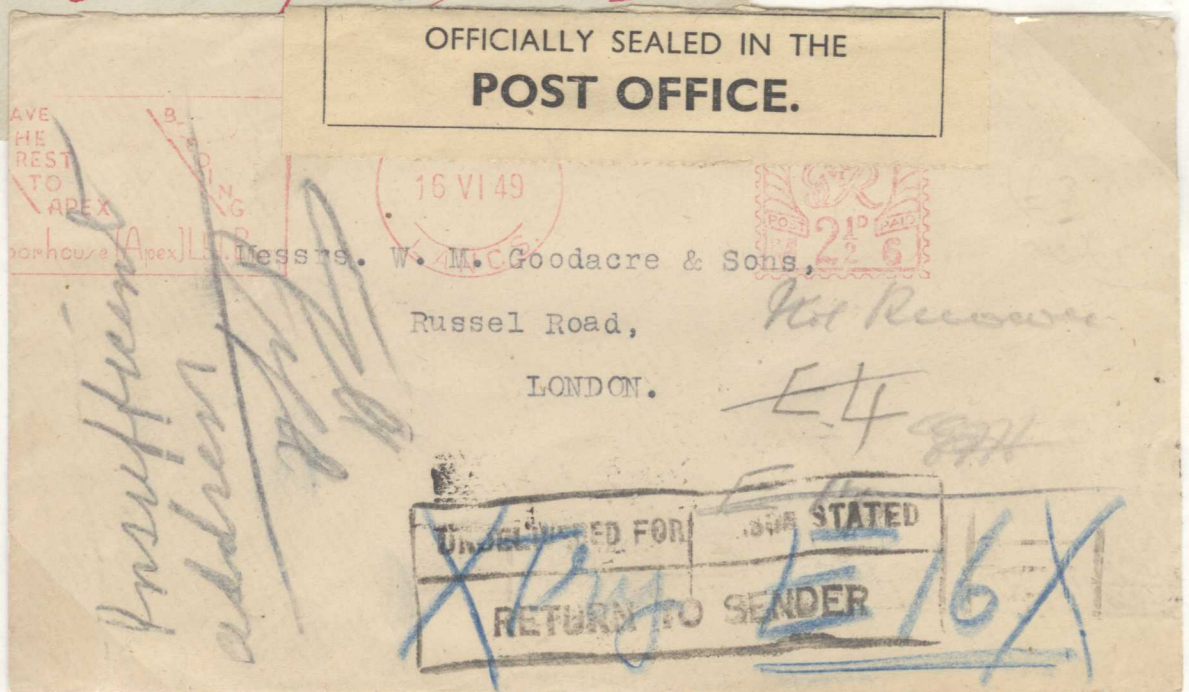


Type 13

Letter from England to an address in Paris where the recipient had left, and the letter was repatriated to England, opened in the RLO, and returned to the sender in a body bag.

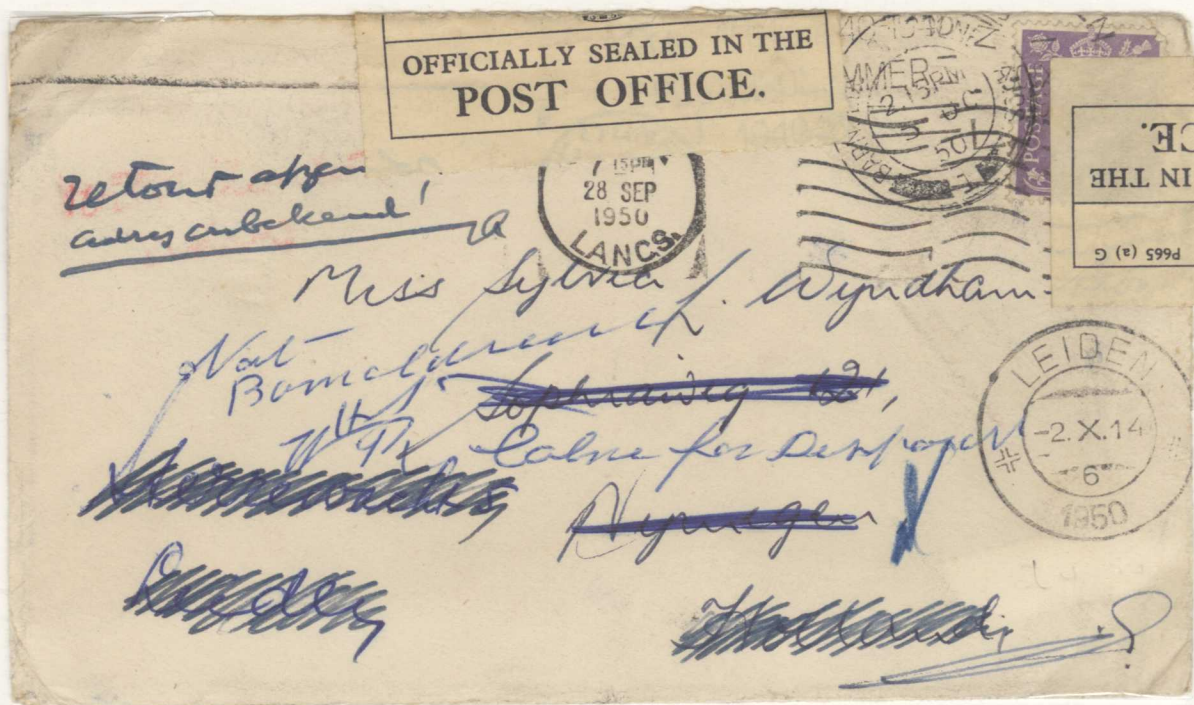
Type 14

My London map shows there are four Russell Roads in various parts of the city. Two were tried without success and the letter was opened to determine a return address and closed with the type 14 seal.



Type 15

Letter addressed to Holland, from a firm of solicitors in Colne, Lancs. Undeliverable and returned. Opened in the RLO and the Colne return address added on the back of the envelope. Closed with two type 15 seals.



Type 16

An undeliverable letter to Folkestone, opened and reclosed in the RLO with a type 16 seal, was returned to the sender who changed the address to Tunbridge Wells, and added another stamp slightly touching the seal, and then replaced the letter in the mail.

A very frugal and unusual usage.



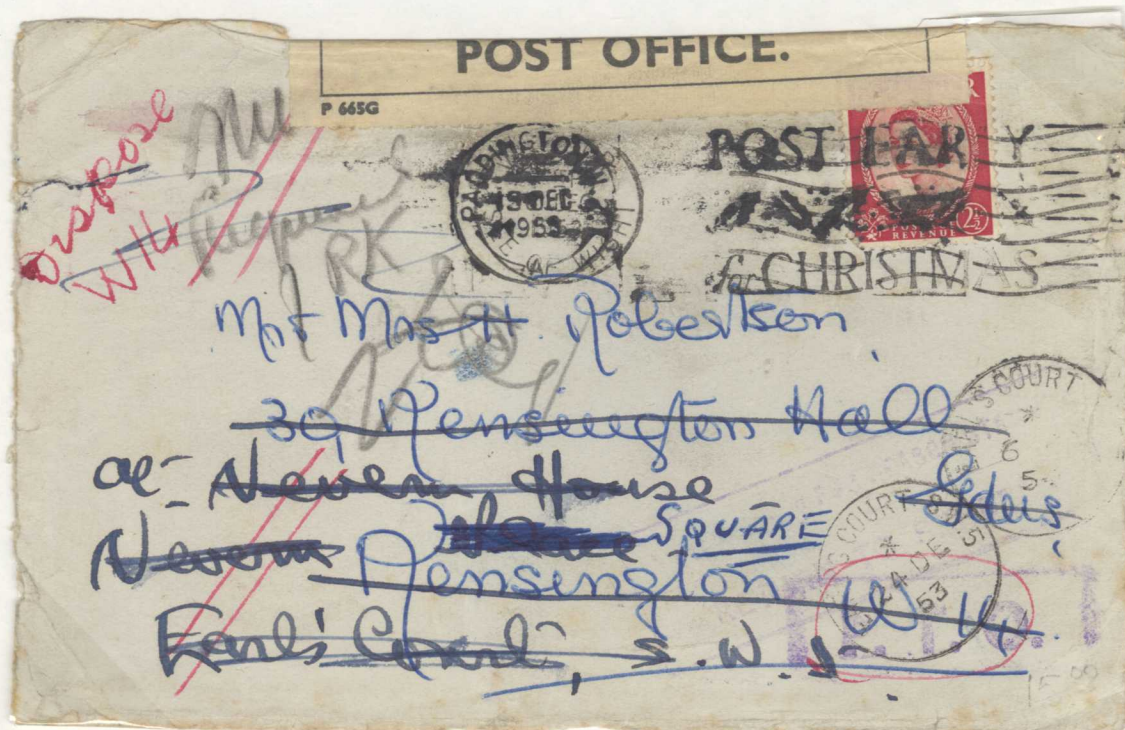
Type 17

After a failed attempt at delivery, the letter was opened in the Bournemouth RLO to determine a return address and closed with a type 4 seal.



Type 18

This cover has four redirections and numerous additional markings. The care lavished here is truly remarkable. Finally, with no alternatives available, the letter was opened in the London RLO and the return address was added on the back.



General Use Seals

**Queen Elizabeth II
Introduction**

When Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne, the use of seals was gradually being abandoned in favor of the tapes shown in the next section of this exhibit. The last seal was released about 1961. The latest known use is in 1964.

The seals can be differentiated by the size of the box around the design and the crown designs. The table below provides the characteristics of the seals.

Type	Crown	Size	EKU	Type	Crown	Size	EKU
1	1(S)	78½ x 24	6/6/1955	4	1	78 x 23	9/24/1959
2	1(L)	79½ x 24	12/7/1956	5	1	60 x 23½	11/21/1959
3	2	79 x 23	8/20/1957	6	1	58 x 23	8/24/1960



Crown 1

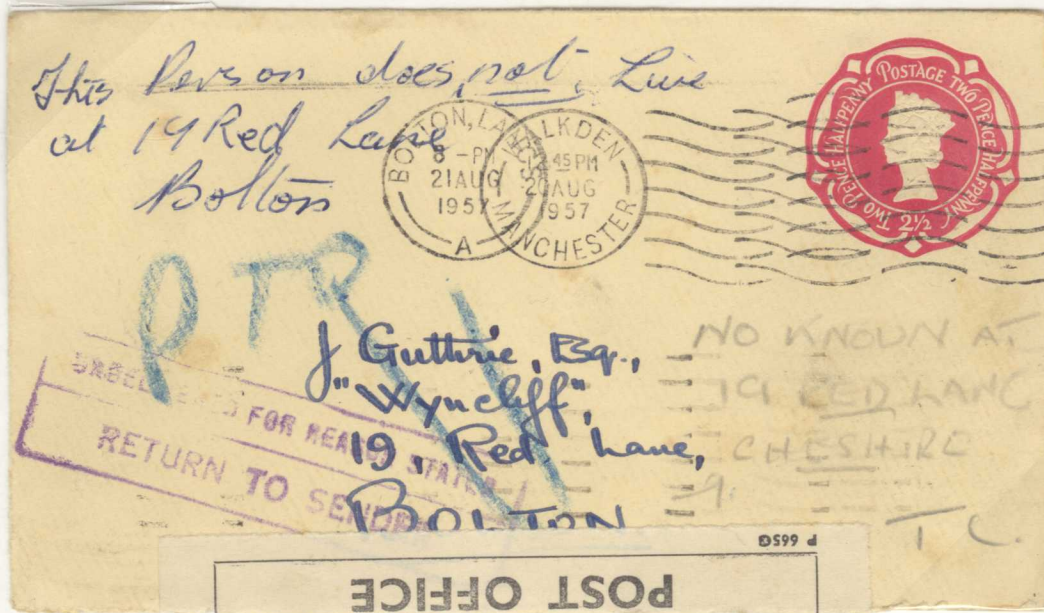


Crown 2

Type 1

Letter to Southampton, first re-directed to Derby, but the addressee was unknown there. Manuscript "Not known" and "No Such No" are on the front. Sent to the RLO, where the boxed "PTO" ties the seal applied there and the return address is added on the back.

Crown is 8½ mm wide



Type 2

"This person does not live at 19 Red Lane Bolton" and "No known at 19 Red Lane Cheshire" After two delivery attempts, opened to determine a return address and reclosed with a type 2 seal.

Crown is 9½ mm wide.

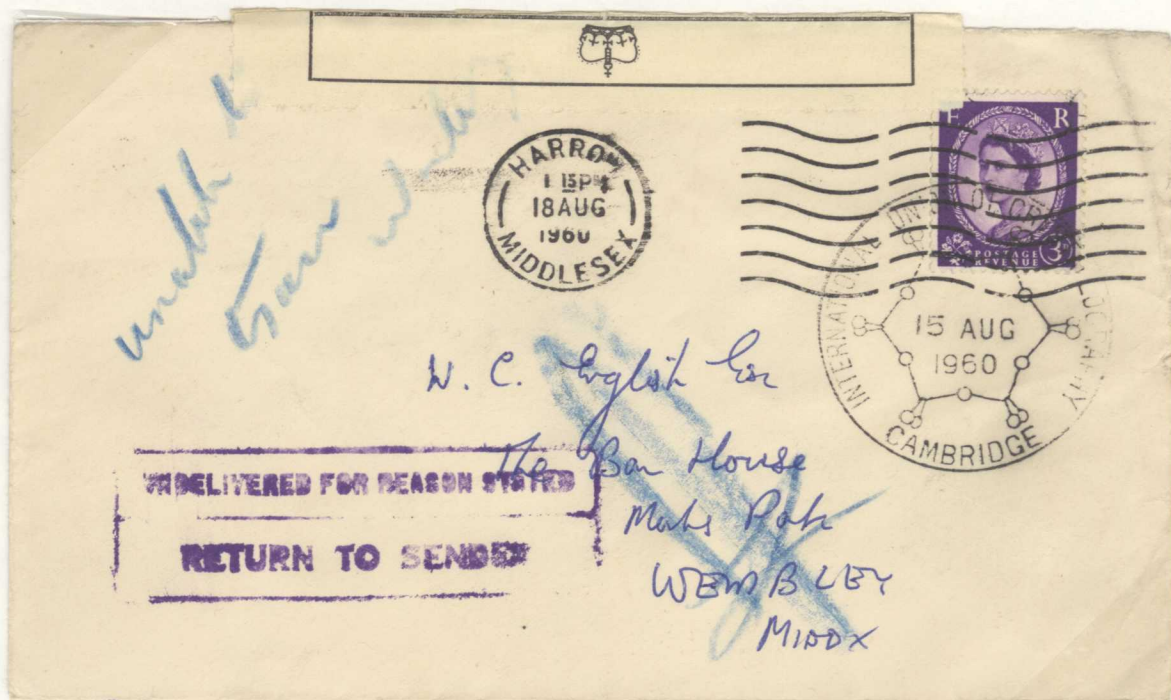
One cover reported.

General Use Seals

Queen Elizabeth II
Type 3 and Type 4

Type 3

Undeliverable letter sent to the RLO and opened to determine a return or forwarding address that has been added on the back. Closed with a type 3 seal.



Late use covers such as the remaining three types are scarce modern usages. The use of seals had been essentially abandoned, replaced with the "easy-to-use" tapes. Covers with seals from the 1930's are much more available than these from the early 1960's.

The following three covers represent the only reported use of the seals.

Type 4

A local letter posted in Birmingham that received five (!) different redirections before being sent to the Birmingham RLO for processing. The return address is written in red on the back as is typical for letters handled in the RLO.



General Use Seals

Queen Elizabeth II
Type 5 and Type 6

Type 5

Letter from England to the United States to a state with mystery identifier "SU". Manuscript "not MASS." Addresses in Illinois, Vermont, and several other possible Springfields in various other states were not considered, the letter was returned to England, opened in the RLO and a return address added to the back.



Type 6

The front has a manuscript "Gone away" and crossed out address in Devon. Opened in the RLO to determine a return address and closed with a type 5 seal.



General Use Tapes

Introduction George V through George VI

Great Britain was the first country to use repair tapes with the first appearing in 1928. Issues through about 1983 were printed on brown (kraft-style) gummed paper 1" or 2" in height. Later issues were on white or transparent tape with red printing. Forty-three different basic designs are reported. A peculiarity of the brown paper tapes is the use of a number in the format "51-nnnn" or "56-nnnn" where "nnnn" is a four digit number. This sequence is found in different locations depending on the issue. For many designs three or four different numbers are typical, but for some there may be as many as ten. The interpretation of these numbers is unknown. All of the tapes are imperforate and supplied to post offices in rolls of 1,000 impressions. Segments of tape were torn off the rolls without regard to the design. All but one of the crown designs is the same as used for the seals. Other than types 1, 1A, 2, and 21 all tapes are bilingual in French and English.

Type	Monarch	Crown	Identifying Characteristics	Height	EKU
1	George V	1	"and officially secured." 66 mm long	2"	10/16/1928
1A	George V	1	"and officially secured." 67 mm long	2"	3/21/1930
2	George V	1	"and officially secured." 67 ½ mm long; form "P.48. B."	2"	8/18/1933
2a	George V	1	Same as type 2, form "P.48. H."	2"	4/11/1930
3	George V	1	"and officially secured." 50mm wide	1"	4/10/1935
4	George V	1	"and officially secured." 44½ mm wide	1"	4/10/1935
5	George V	1	"and officially secured." 73 mm wide	2"	3/10/1936
6	Edward VIII	1	"E. R." and "P144B" under "and"	1"	10/1/1937
7	Edward VIII	1	"E.R." and "P144B" over box	2"	11/23/1937
8	George VI	2	With "51-nnnn"	1"	6/22/1942
9	George VI	3	Period after "OFFICE"	2"	5/15/1943
10	George VI	3	Thin font, no serif on "G"	1"	1/16/1947
11	George VI	3	Thick font, serifed "G"	1"	1/7/1949
12	George VI	3	As 9, but no period after "OFFICE"	2"	6/13/1951
13	George VI	4	Crown design distinctive	2"	19/12/1954

Type 1

1934 letter posted in Abadan, Persia (now Iran), to the United States. It was damaged between Abadan and London, repaired in London with four tape fragments, and then sent onwards to the United States.

Two type 1 covers reported.



Crown 1



Crown 2



Crown 3



Crown 4



General Use Tapes

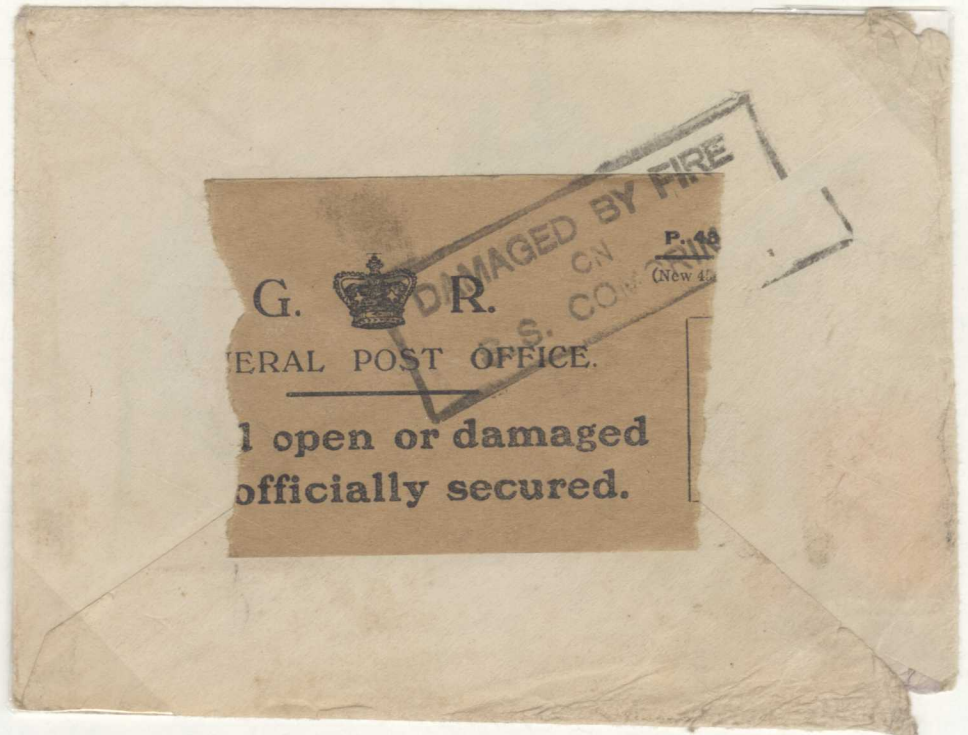
Type 1A and Type 2

Type 1A

Comorin Wreck Mail

A letter recovered from the fire aboard the SS Comorin bound from Sydney to London. The fire was extinguished by flooding the ship's hold. Water soaked mail was dried in London and repaired when necessary.

One Type 1A cover reported.



Type 2

Scipio Crash Mail

Type 2 tape used to reclose a water-soaked letter recovered from the crash of the flying boat "Scipio" in Mirabella Bay in Crete while attempting an emergency landing due to engine trouble.



Kenya Usage

Type 2 tape used in 1935 to reclose a letter from Canada opened to determine a better address. The Nairobi address is crossed out and replaced with that of Naivasha, a city NW of Nairobi.



Palestine Usage

Airmail letter from Chicago to Jerusalem in the very fragile onion paper envelopes used to save weight. The letter was damaged in transit and repaired upon arrival in Jerusalem



General Use Tapes

Type 2a Two Country Usage and Type 3

Type 2a

Two Country Usage

Registered letter from South Africa to Manchester damaged and repaired with two 1926 issue South African seals. Repaired again in Manchester with a type 2a tape.

Two country usages are very uncommon.



Type 2a

A perfect example of the value of the tall tapes is this badly crumpled letter repaired with an almost complete fragment of type 2a tape.

Type 3

Type 3 tape used to repair a post card torn completely in half.

Post and postal card usages are uncommon.



General Use Tapes

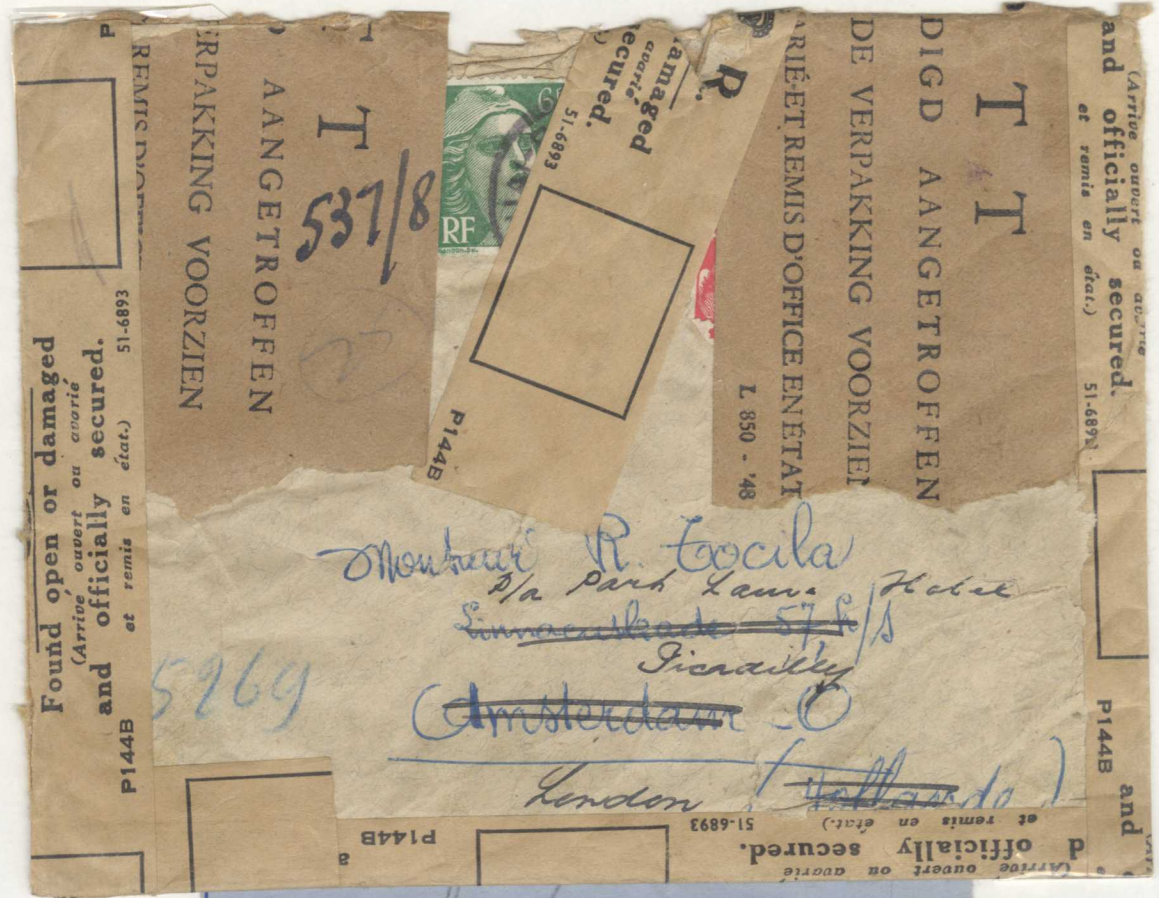
**Type 3
Two Country Usage, Mauritius Usage, Isle of Wight Usage**

Type 3

Two Country Usage

A tattered letter from France to the Netherlands. Badly damaged during that short trip, it was repaired with two segments of Dutch repair tape. Redirected from Amsterdam to London, the British Post Office added a considerable amount of additional tape.

Two country uses are very uncommon.

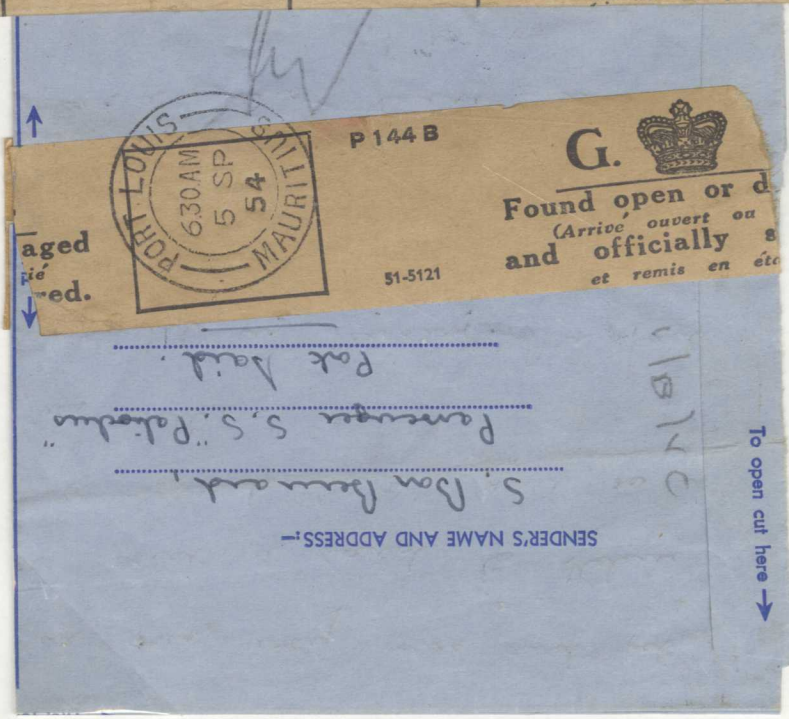


Type 3

Mauritius Usage

Type 3 tape used to repair a slightly damaged aerogramme from Egypt.

The only reported use of a British tape in Mauritius



Isle of Wight Usage

The only reported use on the Isle of Wight



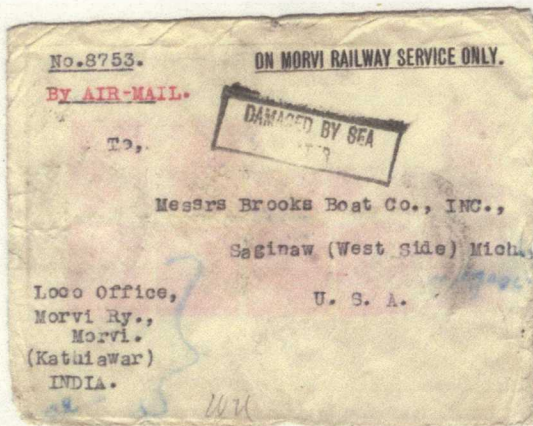
General Use Tapes

Type 4
Cygnus Crash Mail; Bahamas Usage

Type 4

Cygnus Crash Mail

Letter recovered from the crash of the "Cygnus" in Brindisi while homeward bound from Karachi to London. The type 4 seal, in addition to reclosing the envelope, is used to reaffix the postage to the back of the letter.



Type 4

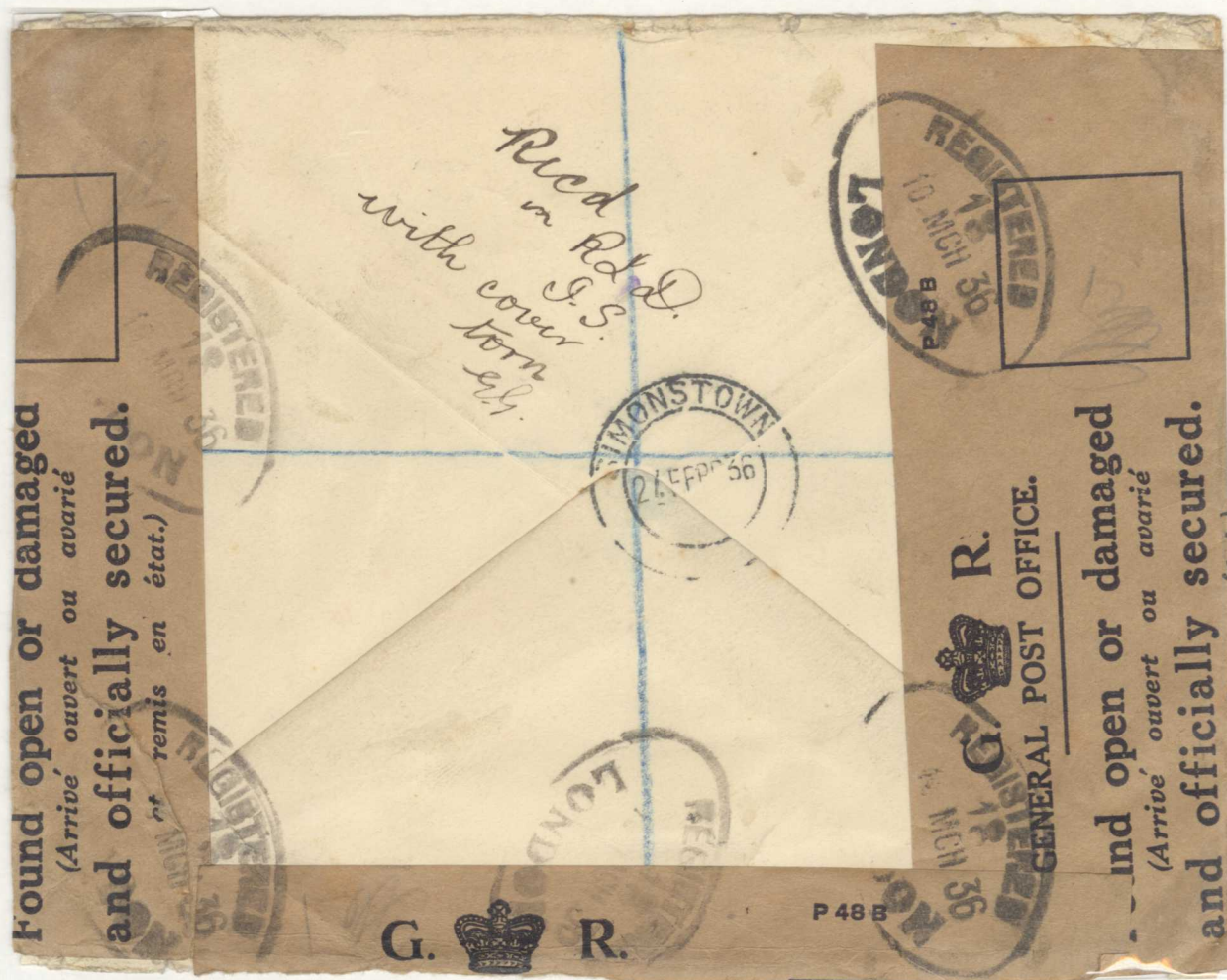
Bahamas Usage

Letter from Nassau to San Jose, California that was received unsealed and closed with the type 4 tape. It was opened again for censorship.



Type 5

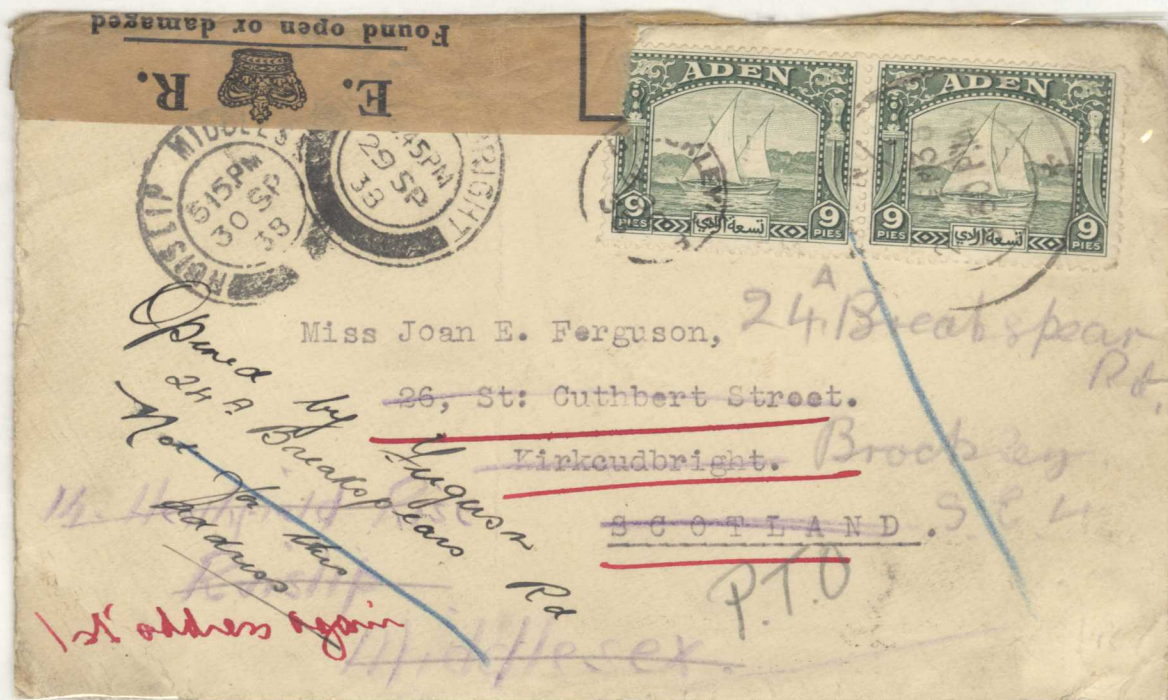
Three segments of type 5 tape used to repair a registered letter received damaged in London. It is unusual to find complete designs such as those present on this cover.



Type 6

Type 6 tape used to reclose a cover from Aden opened in error. Redirected to three different Breakspear Road addresses in different towns, none of which were correct, a final attempt at delivery was made to the original address.

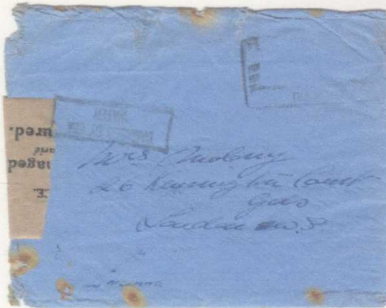
The tape was added after one of the failed attempts at redirection.



Type 7

Cygnus Crash Mail

Another example of mail (see type 4) recovered from the crash of the Cygnus in Brindisi. In this case the repair is made with a large segment of type 7 tape.



Type 8

A letter from an active duty serviceman in Italy (Field Post Office 748 cancel) to another in the Indian service. The letter passed through the Lucknow and Bombay DLO's and was opened by the military and reclosed with the type 8 repair tape in the army field post office. The back has the notation "DEMOB" (de-mobilized, i.e. sent home), and the letter was returned to the sender in Italy.

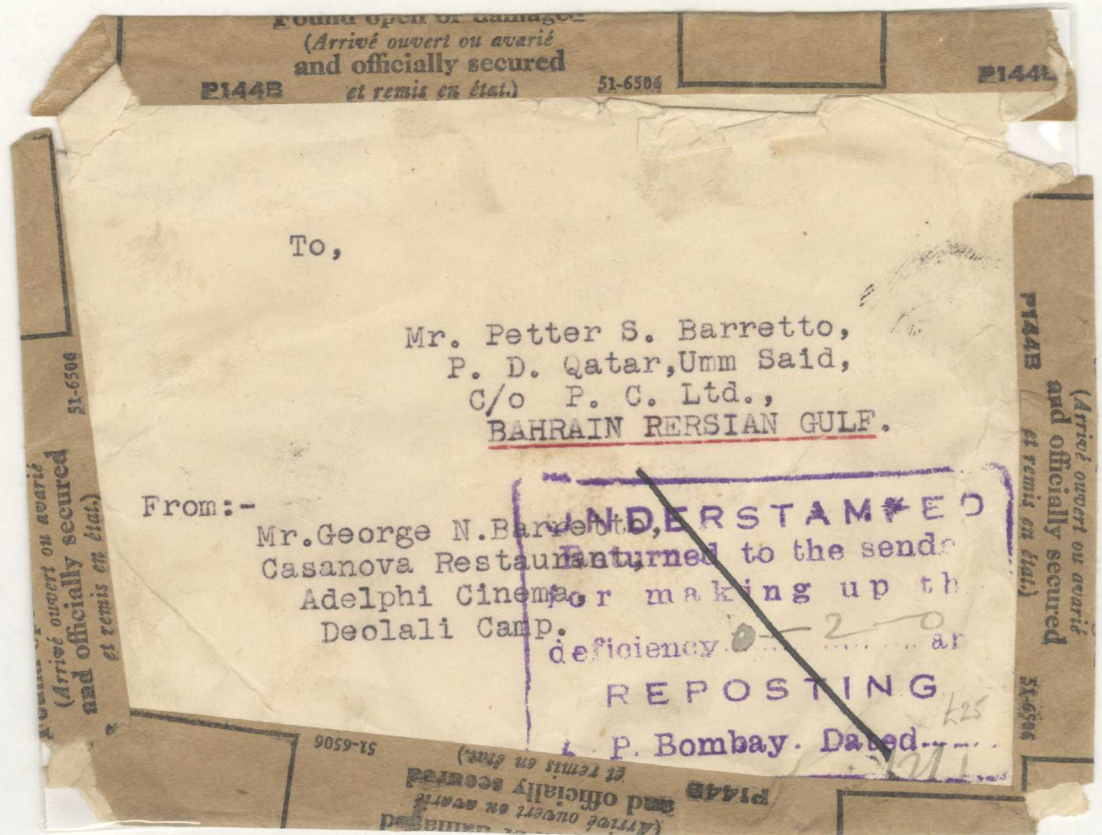
A very scarce use of the tape in a military PO.



Bahrain

Type 8 tape on all four edges of a letter from India to Bahrain. Originally short paid, the letter was returned to India for added postage (on the back) and redeposited in the mail.

The only reported use of any British seal in Bahrain



Malta

A large segment of type 8 tape used to repair the top edge of a first day cover sent to New York.



Four complete and two partial type 9 tape segments used to repair a registered letter from Tananarive, Madagascar to the Red Cross in London. Opened by British censors. The tape segments were applied after censorship, and may be a censor use or a later repair use. In either case, a very colorful and scarce franking from an unusual point of origination.

BRITISH CENSORSHIP

BRITISH CENSORSHIP

BRITISH CEN



N°-1289

1001

1.824



ANARIVE R P
N° 323

*Monsieur le Délégué
de la Croix Rouge Internationale de Londres
Intercross London*

and officially Secured.
et remis en état.)

Fo
arr 608

Found open or dama
(Arrivé ouvert ou avarié
and officially Secu
et remis en état.)

G.  R.
GENERAL POST OFFICE.

P 48 B

G. 
GENERAL POST OFFICE

KUT Usage

Type 9 tape used in 1948 to repair a badly damaged registered letter to Kampala, Uganda from Germany.

The tape segments are tied on the front and back by Kampala CDS handstamps.



Tanganyika (a British Trust Territory) was grouped with Kenya (Colony) and Uganda (Protectorate) for postal purposes in 1935. This new postal organization issued its own Official Seals (seven types are known) and tapes (three types), but continued to use British seals and tapes concurrently. The 1937 cover below has an example of one of the locally produced seals. It is difficult to understand why the postal authorities would use both the GB and the locally produced seals and tapes.



Type 10

At the right a type 10 tape used to repair a registered letter from Jerusalem. It was opened in error and redirected to one London address and then again to a second London address.

One cover reported.

Type 11

Type 11 tapes used to repair a badly tattered letter from the Russian occupied portion of Germany.

One cover reported.

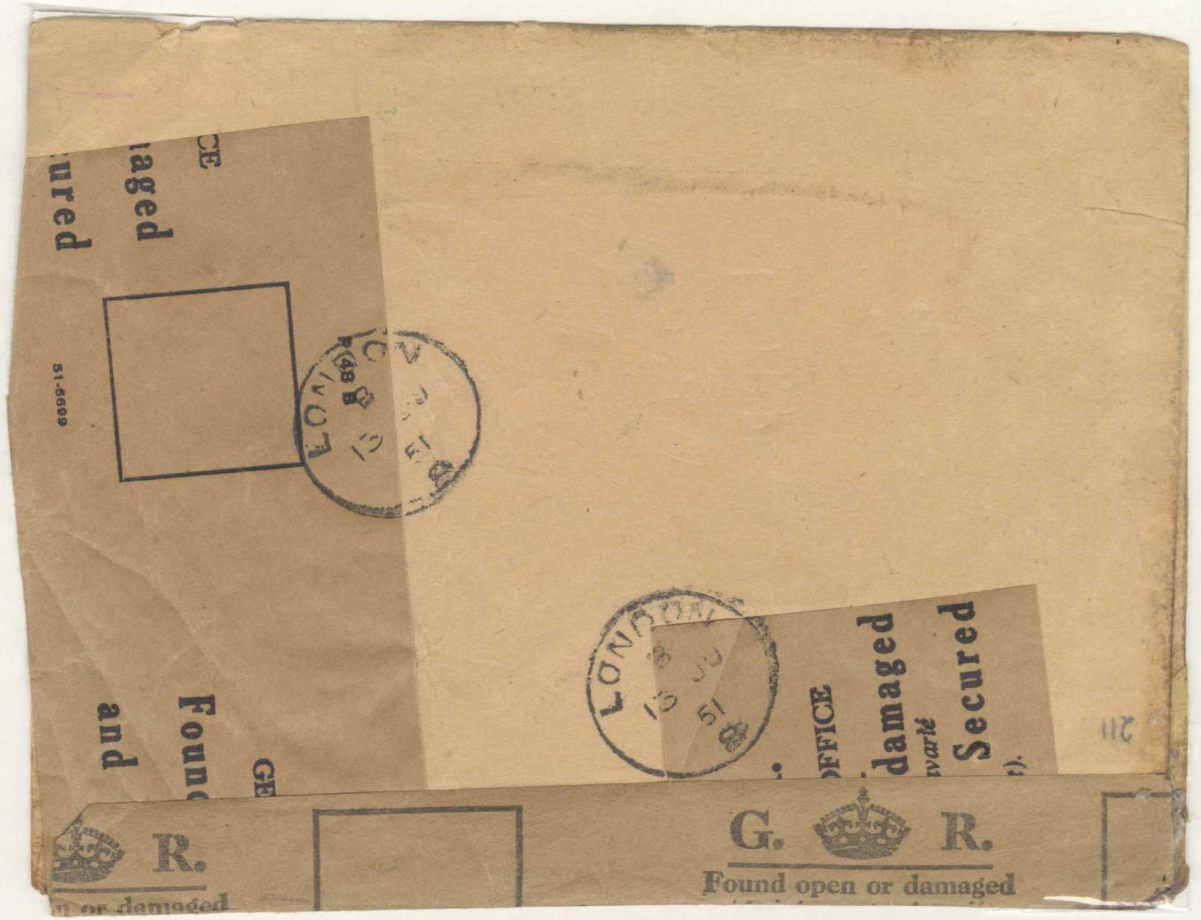


Type 12

Combination Usage with Type 8

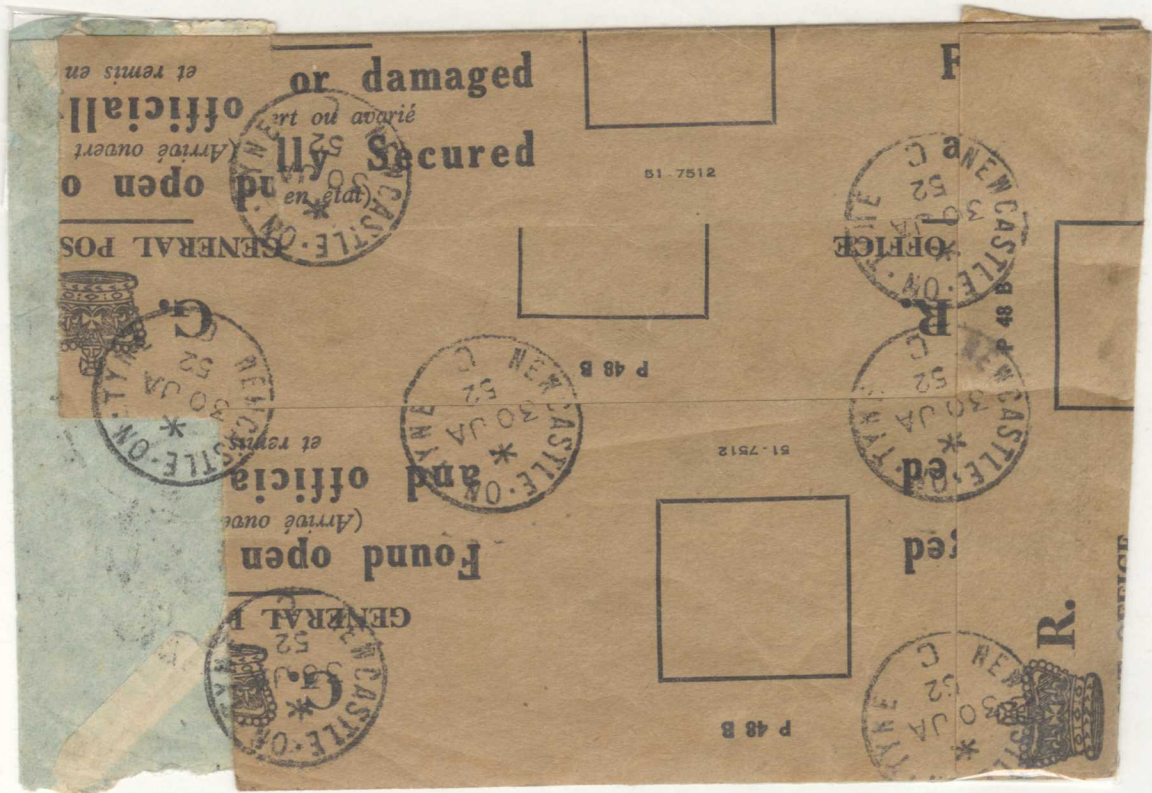
Letter from the US repaired first with a type 12 tape (at the left) in London, and again using a type 8 tape (at the bottom) in Wickham.

Use of two different types is unusual.



Type 12

A massively repaired letter from Pakistan that appears very much as if it had been water-soaked during its trip to England. The paper has the typical overall wrinkling of such types of damage. There are, however, no postal markings to indicate any problem at all in the handling of the letter.



Type 13

Fragment of type 13 tape used to repair an aerogramme to the actress Doris Day.

From a young fan (Ann Shepard) who has been to see the film "Calamity Jane" six times and requests a picture of Doris Day in her Calamity Jane costume.

The letter concludes: "I am only 13, and do not have many friends. I am hoping to make a friend of you."



Type 13

Two fragments of type 13 tape are used to repair this very badly tattered letter posted in the British mail agency in Tangier. A very diligent repair has one of the tape strips inside the envelope.

The type 6 "Damaged/Delayed" label is scarce.



Returned Letter Office Seals

Introduction, Type 1 and Type 2

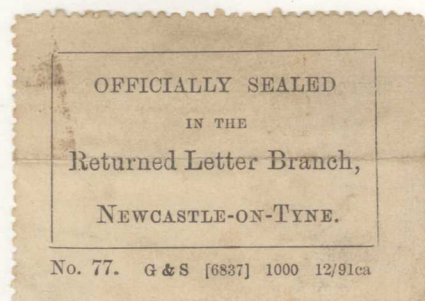
The Returned Letter Office in the Royal Mail has a role similar to that of the Dead Letter Office in the United States. Seals specifically for use in the Returned Letter Office have been used since the first repair seals appeared about 1883. Other than one type, seals have the name of the Returned Letter Office where they were used. Seals used in offices other than London office are rare. The presentation is chronological for all of the RLO seals. The monarch in whose reign they appeared is shown. The crown design identifiers are those used for the General Use Seals.

Type	Crown	Design Size	Distinguishing Characteristics	Perf.	EKU
1	(none)	33 x 16	"No. 49" at bottom left	11½	11/11/1884
1a	(none)	33 x 16	"No. 55" at bottom left	11½	11/10/1987
2	Victoria-1	89 x 26	"No. 48" at bottom left	12 horiz.	11/9/1884
3	(none)	42½ x 26	"No. 77." at bottom left	10½	?
4	Victoria-1	86 x 29	"OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE" 55 mm long	12 horiz.	?
5	Victoria-1	?	"RETURNED LETTER BRANCH, NOTTINGHAM"	12 horiz.	2/27/1895
6	Victoria-1	89 x 27	"No. 54" at bottom left	12 horiz.	3/3/1900
7	Edward VII-1	90 x 25	"No. 54" at bottom left	12 horiz.	9/2/1904
7A	Edward VII-1	90 x 27	"No. 54" at bottom left	12 horiz.	2/22/1906
8	(none)	31 x 16	Similar to 1, but "R.L.O.—No. 55" at bottom left	11½	8/21/1908
9	George V-1	90½ x 25½	"OFFICIALLY ..." 55 mm long, cypher centered	11 horiz.	9/26/1914
10	George V-1	89 x 25	"OFFICIALLY ..." 57 mm long, cypher shifted left	11 horiz.	10/26/1914
10A	George V-1	89 x 25	"OFFICIALLY ..." 55 mm long, cypher shifted left	11 horiz.	11/9/1914
10B	George V-1	90 x 25½	"OFFICIALLY ..." 55 mm long, cypher shifted left	11½ horiz.	8/3/1914
11	George V-1	90 x 26	"OFFICIALLY ..." 55 mm long, cypher shifted left	12 horiz.	8/14/1914
12	George V-1	90 x 26	"OFFICIALLY ..." 58 mm long, cypher shifted left	12 horiz.	8/4/1914
13	George V-1	90 x 24	"RETURNED LETTER BRANCH, MANCHESTER"	?	6/5/1915
14	George V-3	89 x 25	"OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE" 52 mm long	10 horiz.	7/27/1916
14A	George V-3	89 x 25	"OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE" 54 mm long	10 horiz.	7/10/1916
15	George V-3	91 x 25	"OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE" 55 mm long	10 horiz.	6/14/1916
16	George V-3	89 x 25	"OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE" 57 mm long	10 horiz.	6/24/1916
17	George V-3	89 x 25	"OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE" 55 mm long	10 horiz.	8/21/1916
18	(none)	33½ x 15	"L.P.S. (R.L.S.)—No. 55." at bottom left	11	12/4/1916
19	(See item)	88 x 26	"L.P.S. (R.L.S.)—No. 54." at bottom left	HH 7 horiz.	8/19/1918
20	George V-3	89 x 25	"L.P.S. (R.L.S.) 54" at bottom left	Roul. 7 horiz.	5/11/1927
21	George V-3	88½ x 25	Horizontal bar on "G" is low, "R.L.S. 54." at BL	Perf. 10 horiz.	7/5/1935
22	George V-3	88 x 25	"E.[crown]R." only Edward VIII seal, "RLS 54" at BL	HH 6 horiz.	8/8/1936
23	(none)	39 x 15	"R.L.B. — 55" at bottom left	11	4/12/1939
24	George VI-1	88 x 24	"RLS 54" at bottom left	Roul. 7 horiz.	6/26/1939
25	George VI-1	85½ x 24	"RLS 54" at bottom left	HH 7½ horiz.	11/27/1941
26	George VI-4	85 x 23½	"RLS 54" (sans serif font) at bottom left	Roul. 7 horiz.	4/11/1942
27	George VI-1	85 x 23½	"MP 4108." (sans serif font) at bottom left	Roul. 7 horiz.	1/5/1955
28	Elizabeth II-2	84½ x 24	"MP 4108." (sans serif font) at bottom left	Roul. 7 horiz.	8/23/1960

Type 3

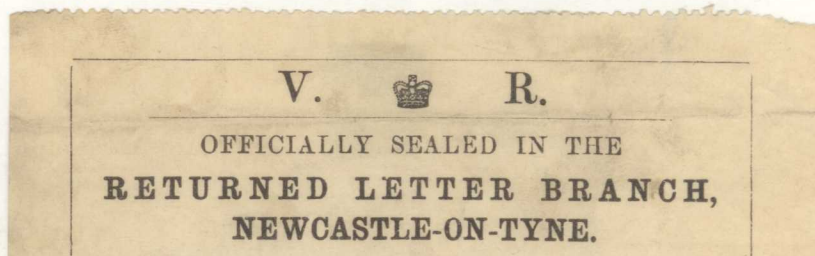
Seal for use in the Newcastle RLO. The inscription at the bottom provides the issue date of 1901.

The only reported example



Type 4

Unfortunately only a portion of the seal, but it represents the only reported example.



Type 1 and Type 2 Combination Usage

Posted November 6, 1884 from Portsmouth to Brussels, it was refused in Brussels and returned to the London RLO where it was opened and closed with the type 2 (larger) seal. The address was changed to Southsea (a Portsmouth suburb). This attempt at delivery also failed and the letter was sent again to the RLO where the type 1 seal was used to reclose the envelope and an apparently good address in Twyford, Berks was added.



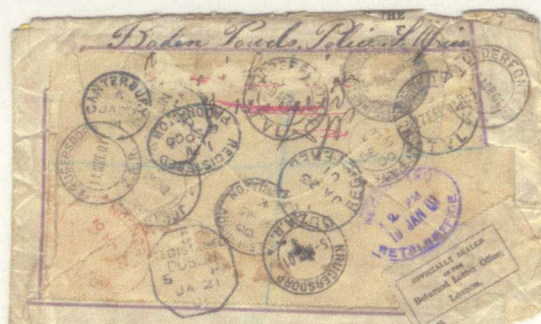
The only reported cover with either type 1 or type 2 seals, and a very scarce example of two different seal types on the same cover.

Type 1a and 6 Combination Usage

Letter from Notting Hill in England to a serviceman in South Africa. A well traveled cover with numerous redirections including "Try Baden Powell's Police". Posted on September 8, 1900, and during its travels visited at least a dozen different post offices, was censored twice, and had visits to the London, Durban, and Dublin RLO's. Two type 1a seals and the type 6 seal (folded over the top of the envelope) were added along the way.



The only reported cover with either type 1a or type 6.



General Use Tapes

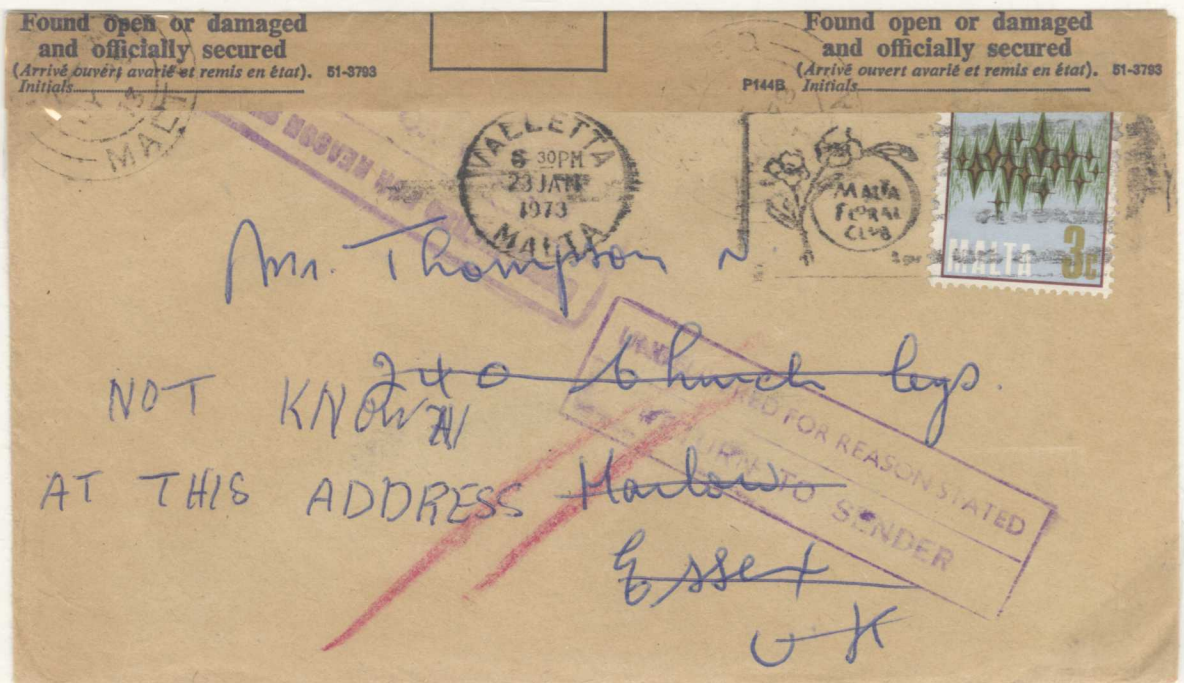
Elizabeth II

At the start of Elizabeth's reign, the use of seals was winding down and by 1960 their use was abandoned, and tapes came into general use for both repair and RLO usages. (The type numbers are continued from the prior section.)

Type	Identifying Characteristics	Height	Paper	EKU
14	"and officially secured" 31 mm long	1"	Brown Kraft	10/2/1959
15	"and officially secured." 37 mm long	1"	Brown Kraft	2/18/1958
16	57 dots in line after "Initials"	2"	Brown Kraft	2/26/1957
17	21 dots in line after "Initials"	2"	Brown Kraft	9/4/1959
18	Same as 15, second line of English text expanded	2"	Brown Kraft	2/2/1958
19	Same as 16, Line after "Initials" has 30 short closely spaced dashes	2"	Brown Kraft	11/28/1958
20	Leg in "R" is wide and straight	2"	Brown Kraft	4/2/1961
21	Printed in purple, 36 dots in line after "Initials"	2"	Brown Kraft	5/19/1964
21A	Same as type 21 but in black	2"	Brown Kraft	8/13/1964
22	Same as 22 in black	2"	Brown Kraft	6/24/1966
23	English in bold, sans-serif font	2"	Brown Kraft	5/27/1966
24	Crown and "E. R.", tall font for English, no period after "secured."	2"	Brown Kraft	11/3/1971
25	English text compressed and bold	1"	Brown Kraft	8/20/1971
26	"GENERAL POST OFFICE" at top	2"	Brown Kraft	6/23/1970
27	"POST OFFICE" at top; "Found open..." 36½ mm long	1"	Brown Kraft	9/20/1971
27A	Same as type 27, "Found open..." 35 mm long	1"	Brown Kraft	5/27/1976
28	"POST OFFICE" at top	2"	Brown Kraft	6/2/1971
28A	"POST OFFICE" at top	2"	Brown Kraft	5/5/1973
29	"POST OFFICE" at top	2"	Brown Kraft	2/6/1976
30	"POST OFFICE" in double line sans serif letters	1"	Brown Kraft	10/4/1979
31	Same as 30	2"	Brown Kraft	5/15/1980
32	Same as 30, all text sans serif, "480169" under square	1"	Brown Kraft	3/4/1985
33	Same as 32, "480062" under square	2"	Brown Kraft	8/27/1981
33A	Same as 33; all text in taller, bolder font	1½"	Brown Kraft	1/23/1980
33B	"Royal Mail Parcels"	1½"	Transparent Tape	8/27/1984
34	Red, text as type 33	1"	White Tape	1/24/1988
35	Same as 34, second group of text in bold font	1"	White Tape	8/21/1987
36	Red, text as 35, "and officially secured" 38 mm long	2"	White Tape	4/14/1984
37	Same as 36, "and officially secured" 41 mm long	2"	White Tape	6/6/1987
38	Red "Post Office" in double line oval	1"	Transparent Tape	12/23/1989
39	Same as 38	1½"	Transparent Tape	4/7/1988
40	"Royal Mail", dots above "date stamp" 18 mm long	1"	White Tape	9/21/1994
41	"Royal Mail", dots above "date stamp" 15 mm long	1"	White Tape	11/8/1999
42	Crown and negative "Royal Mail" in red	1"	White Tape	3/20/1999
43	Same as 42, two lines of English and French each	2"	White Tape	8/1/1991
44	Crown and negative "Royal Mail" in black, text in red	2"	White Tape	5/11/1993
45	Crown and negative "Royal Mail", all text in italics	2"	White Tape	4/10/1995
46	Crown and negative "Royal Mail", all text in sans serif font	2"	White Tape	10/19/2007
47	Same as type 46, "The Real Network" under logo	2"	White Tape	?

Type 14

Letter from Malta with an incorrect address opened in error and closed with a type 14 tape.



Type 15 and Type 19

Combination Usage

The use of two different tape types is very scarce. At the left and top edges of the envelope are two fragments of type 19 tape, and the two pieces in the center are type 15. This kind of usage generally is the result of repairs taking place in two different post offices that have different kinds of tape in their office. This example is even more unusual in that both types were added in the same post office.

Mixed usages are scarce
E.K.U. for the type 15 tape

Type 15

Unusual use to repair a postcard from Poland torn completely in half. The type 15 tapes have 9 different "51" numbers reported. This piece shows "6435" and the larger combination use to the right has "1932".



A massively repaired letter from South Africa to England.

This is one of tapes that has a rather large variety of the "mystery numbers" under the box reserved for the "Date Stamp" that is almost never used. This example has the string "51-3813" but is known with three other different four digit numbers following the "51". The interpretation of these numbers is still waiting for a solution.

Found and

Found open or damaged
(Arrivé ouvert ou avarié)
officially secured
et remis en état).

Initials.....

51-3813



GENERAL POST OFFICE

Found open or damaged
(Arrivé ouvert ou avarié)
officially secured
et remis en état).

Initials.....

P 48 B

Date Stamp



51-3813

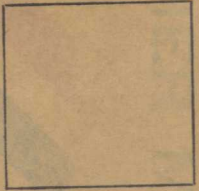
Messrs. Leopold Joseph & Sons Limited,
7 & 8 Princes Street,
LONDON, E.C.2,
England.

ARRIVON
AIR MAIL
LUGPOS

SECOND CLASS:

P 48 B

Date Stamp



51-3813



GENERAL POST OFFICE

Found open or damaged
(Arrivé ouvert ou avarié)
and officially secured
et remis en état).

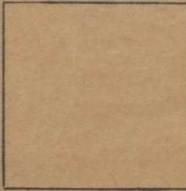
Initials.....

Found open or damaged
(Arrivé ouvert ou avarié)
officially secured
et remis en état).

GENERAL POST OFFICE



P 48 B
Date Stamp



51-3813

No. 391

Initials.....

Type 17 and Type 16 Combination Usage

A registered letter from Bolivia addressed to Norwich. Somewhat damaged by its long trip it was first repaired in London with two segments of type 16 tape at the left and bottom of the envelope. Apparently the Norwich post office felt the repairs were insufficient and another long strip of type 17 tape was added at the top.

two segments
The only reported usage of the type 17 tape. *were left and*





Type 18

Combination Usage with Type 14

To right a letter from London to NY damaged in a canceling machine and first repaired with two large strips of type 18 seals, and again damaged, or perhaps other handlers felt the first repair insufficient, with fragments of type 14 seals at the top and bottom

Combination usages of multiple types are scarce.

Type 19

Above, a 1962 letter from New York with the stamps washed off and a manuscript notation "Damaged by water" on the front. The type 19 seal was used to reclose the envelope that had become unglued due to the soaking.



General Use Tapes

Type 20 and Type 21

Type 20

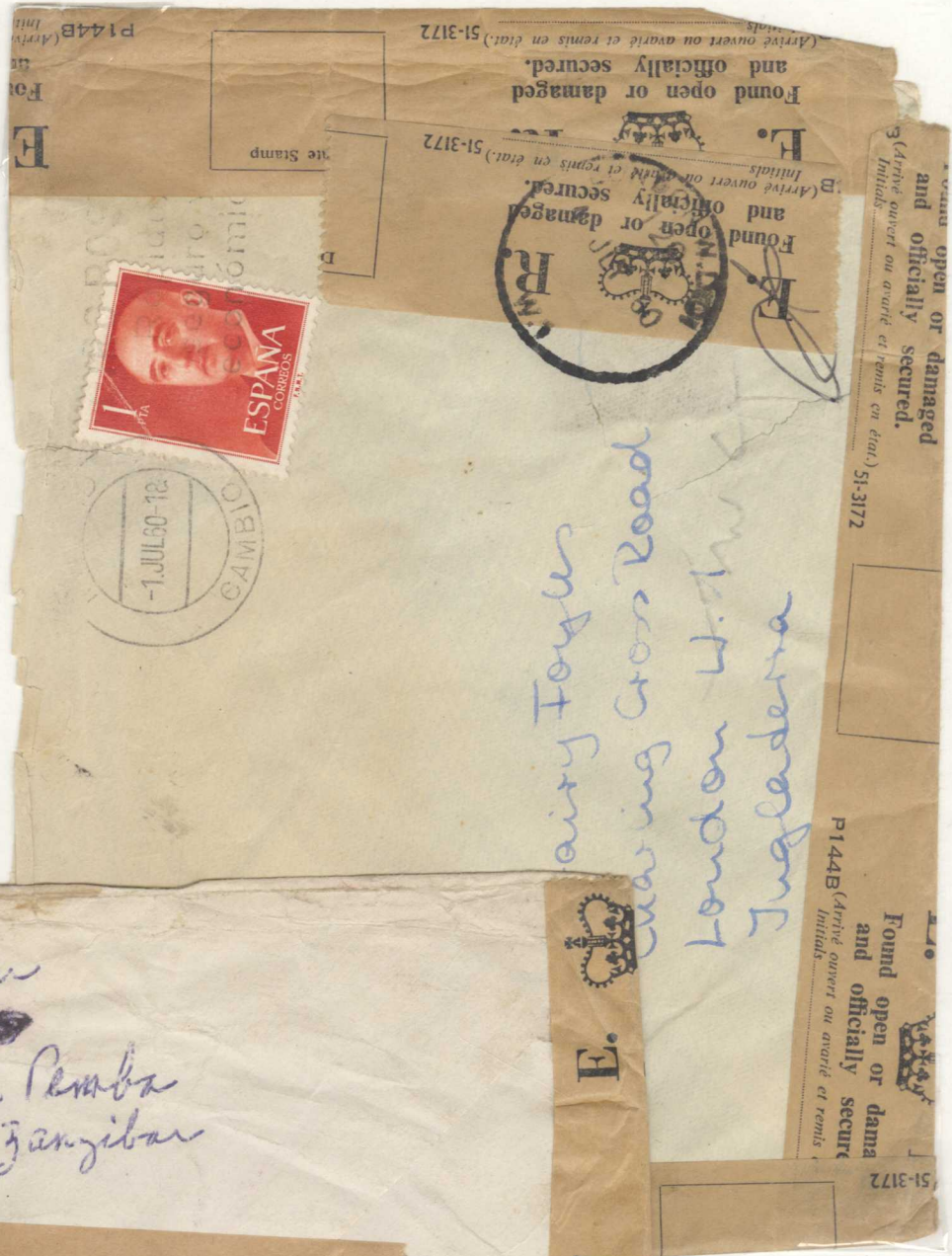
To the right, a massively repaired letter from Spain. In addition to the tape segments on the edges, the back has two strips over the edges of the flap. The repairs are similar to those found when a letter has been water soaked although there are no other markings to indicate that problem.

Type 21

Combination Use with Type 14

Below, type 22 seal in the center with a type 14 seal at the right both repairing a letter from Zanzibar to New York

One type 21 cover reported.



General Use Tapes

Type 21A and Type 22

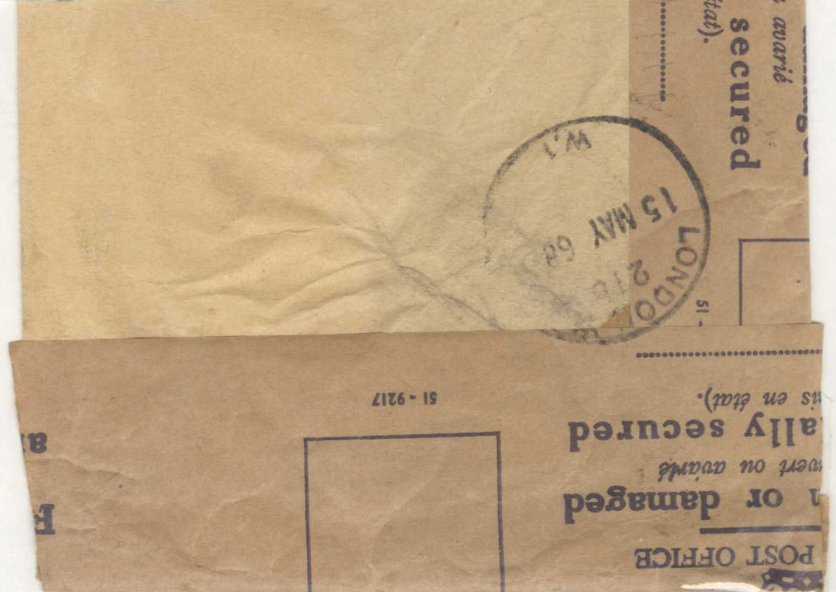
Type 21A

Below, a letter from France to the Isle of Wight. The tape was added in Bournemouth to repair a bad tear at the top of the envelope. An Isle of Wight usage would have been much more interesting.



Type 22

To the right, a very generous application of type 22 tape is used to repair a letter from London to Dumfries, Scotland badly damaged in a canceling machine.



Type 23

Below, a letter to the United States, torn completely in half in a canceling machine and repaired with a complete segment of type 23 tape that almost wraps completely around the envelope.



Type 24

To the right a complete segment of type 24 tape used on a letter from Glasgow to South Africa.

The letter is not damaged in any way and the purple Glasgow handstamp tying the tape looks very much like that found most frequently on mail opened for customs inspection. It is likely that this is an example of that usage.

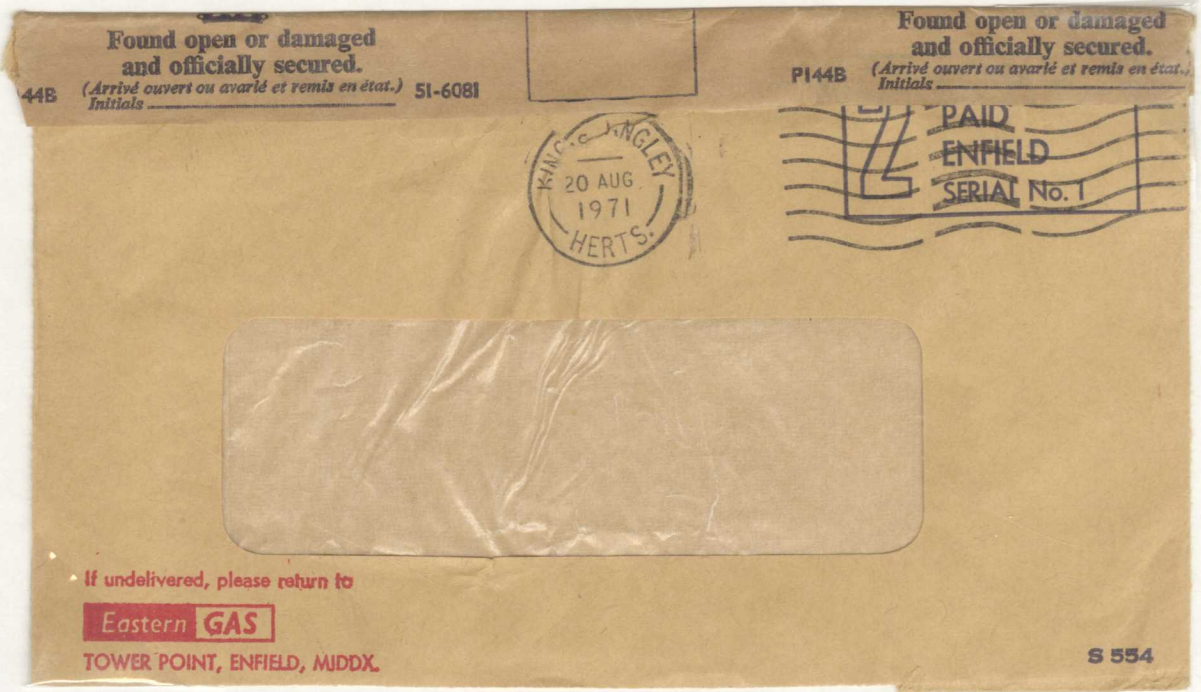


General Use Tapes

Type 25 and Type 26

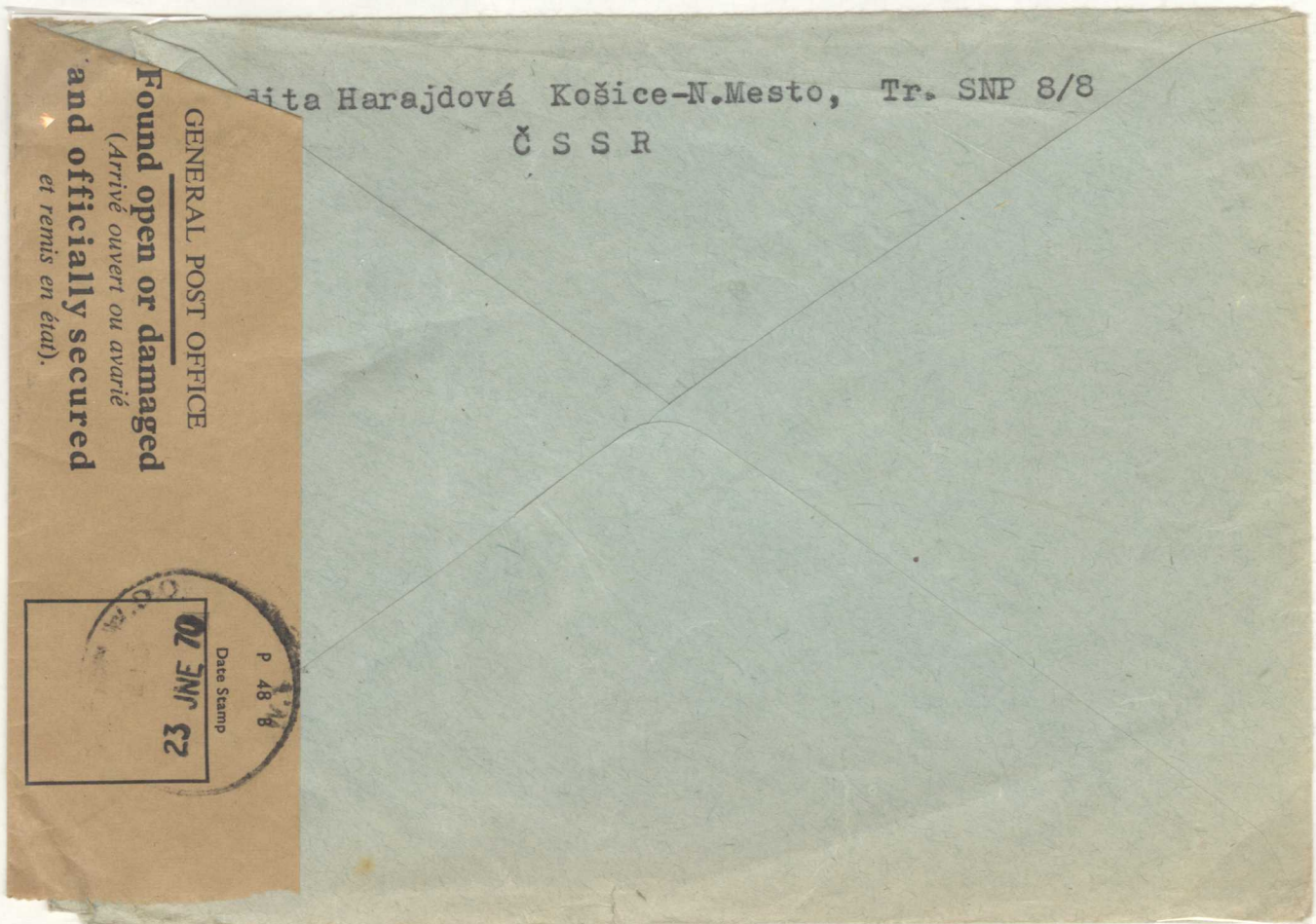
Type 25

Two type 25 tape segments used to repair a damaged gas bill. This tape appears to have had very little usage. Only four covers are reported.



Type 26

A letter from Czechoslovakia to London, where the addressee was unknown. The letter was opened to look for a better address and closed with the type 26 tape. The updated address is on the front.





Type 27

Above, a type 27 tape segment in the center used on a registered domestic letter. It is not obvious why the tape and the two type 24 fragments are present as there is no apparent damage and the envelope appears properly sealed.

Type 27A

To the right a local letter mangled in a canceling machine. The back has an additional six tape segments to repair the damage.



Type 28

To the left a letter damaged in a canceling machine and repaired with a double length segment of type 28 tape. There is a type 10 Damaged/Delayed label begging forgiveness.



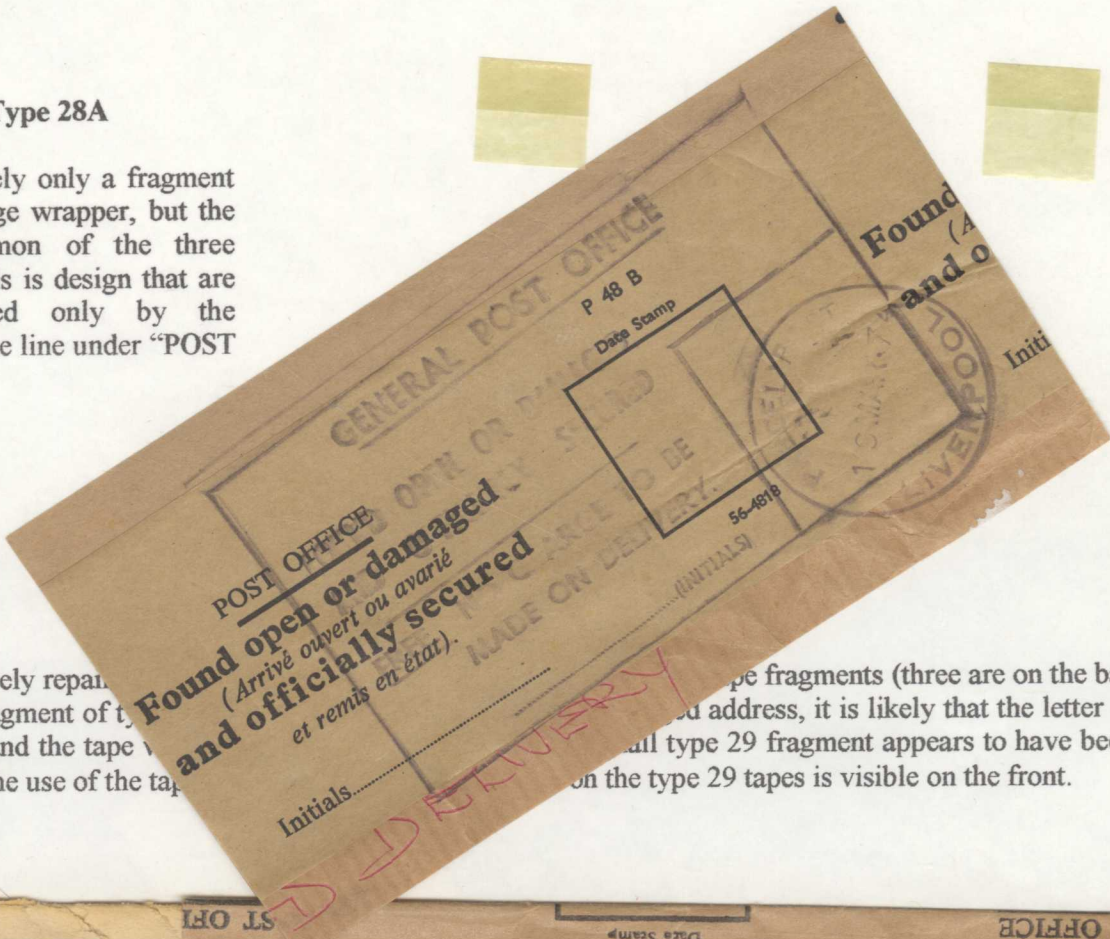
Type 29

Montserrat Usage

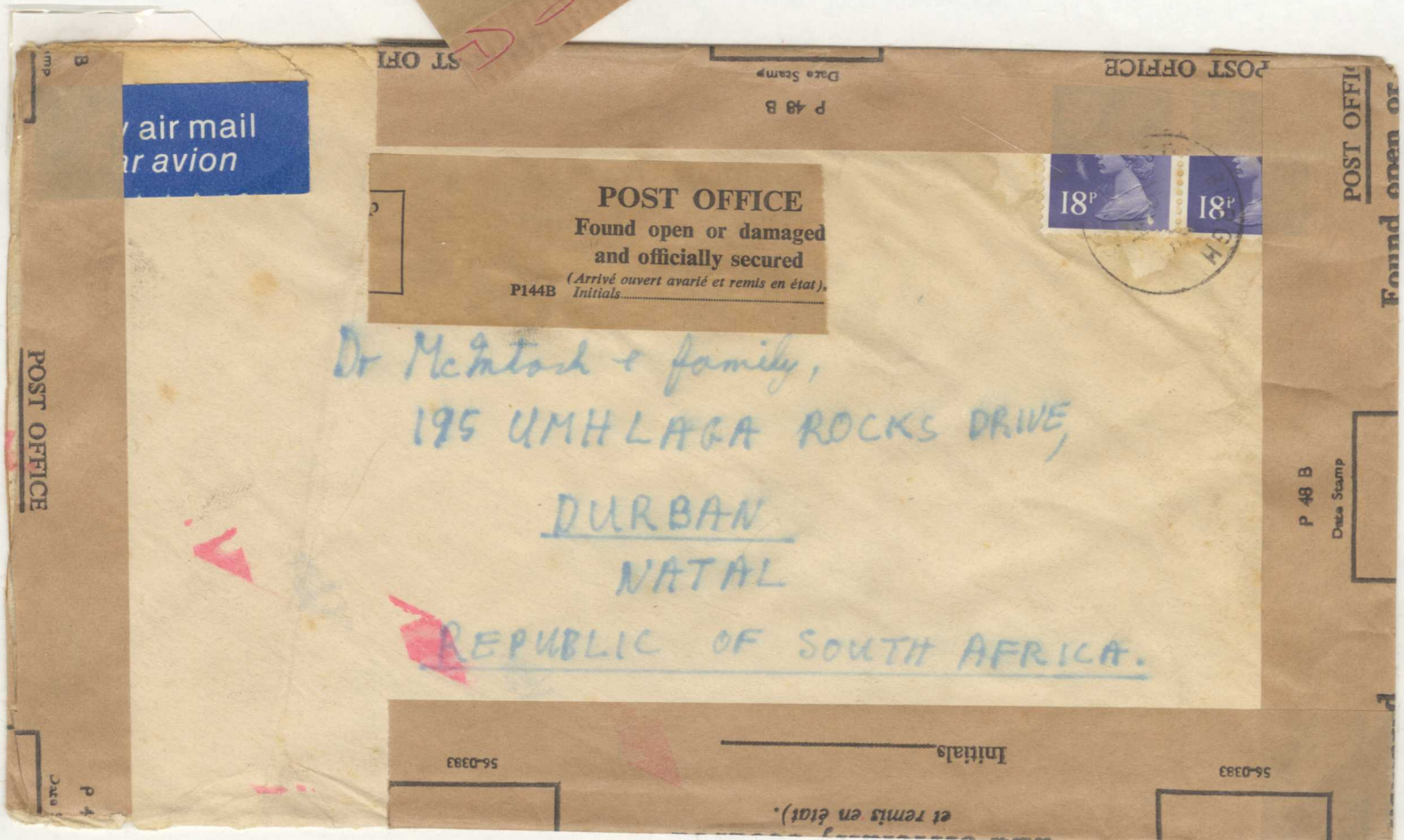
Above, a 1979 letter from Antigua to Montserrat found unsealed on arrival in Montserrat and closed with a type 29 tape.

Type 28A

Unfortunately only a fragment of a package wrapper, but the least common of the three types of this is design that are distinguished only by the length of the line under "POST OFFICE"

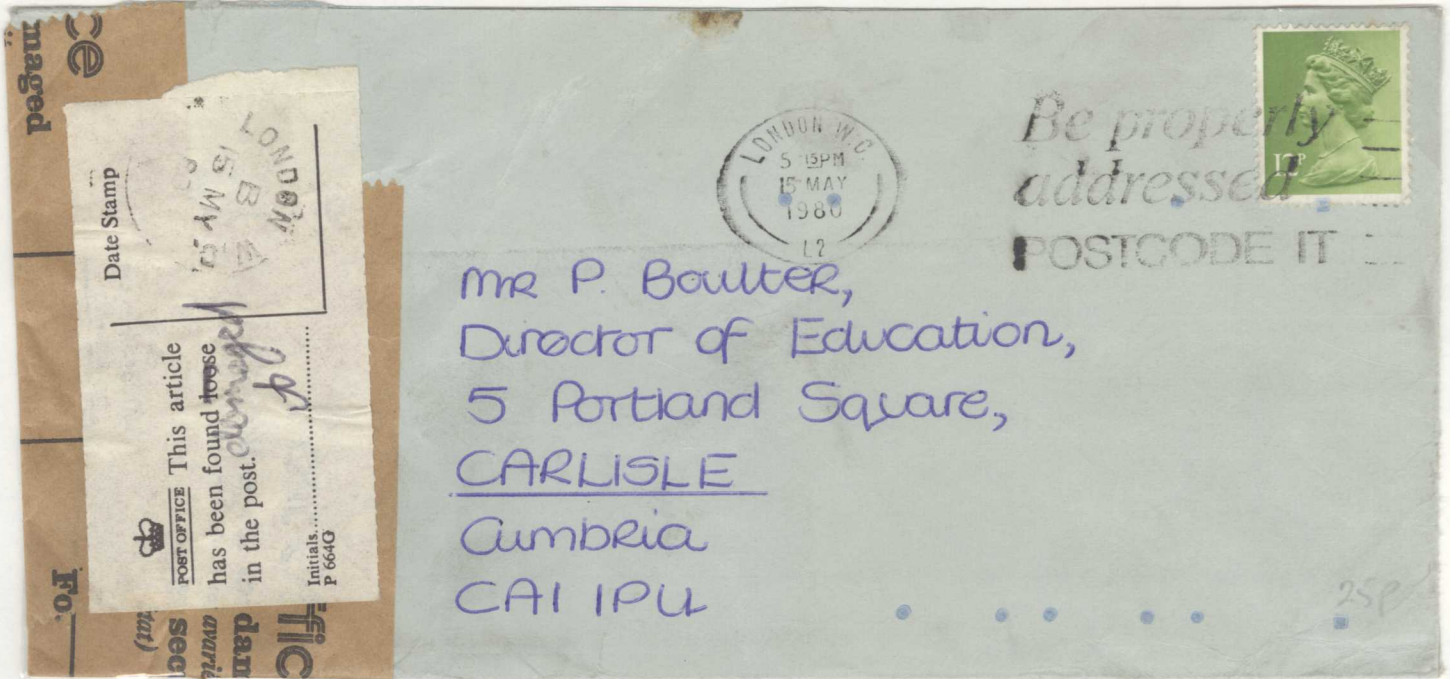


A massively repaired single fragment of tape, soaked, and the tape explains the use of the tape fragments (three are on the back) and a red address, it is likely that the letter was water soaked. All type 29 fragment appears to have been used to explain the use of the tape on the type 29 tapes is visible on the front.



Type 31

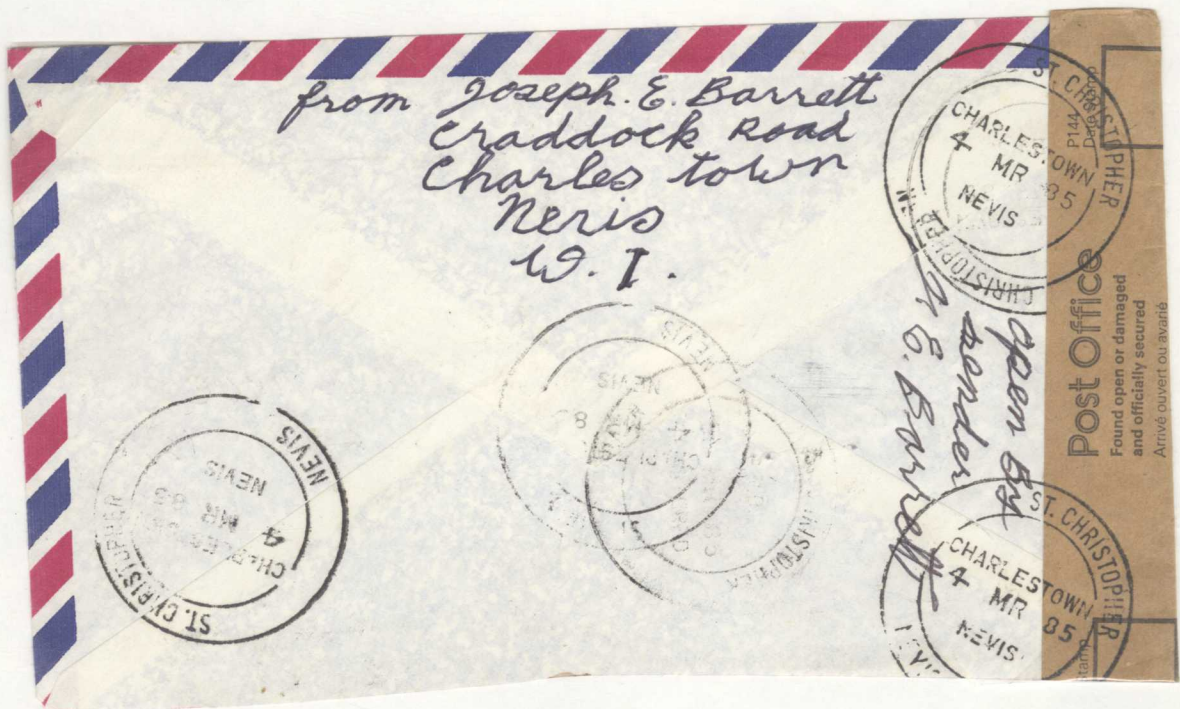
A letter damaged in a canceling machine and repaired with three fragments of type 31 tape (two are on the back). Also present is a "Loose in the Post" label modified in script to note that the item was "... found damaged in the post". There are other labels for this purpose (Damaged/Delayed - see the section on these labels in this exhibit) but presumably they were not available at the post office where the repair was made.



Type 32

Nevis Usage

The letter below was posted in Nevis to Chicago. Apparently the sender forgot to include something and it was noticed at the post office as the back has the manuscript notation: "Opened by the sender J. E. Barrett". The letter was opened and the forgotten material added, and the letter was reclosed with the type 32 tape. A rather unusual usage of the tape.



Type 33

Below a type 33 seal used to close a letter damaged in a canceling machine. A type 10 "Damaged/Delayed" label offers the post office's apologies.

Type 33 is the last of the brown paper seals.

Type 34

At the right, two tape fragments used to repair a letter addressed to a famous seals collector in the US and damaged in a canceling machine.



The type 35 tape with the bold font used of the English text is at the bottom of the registered letter from Tallinn, Lithuania. This tape is rather scarce, with only three covers reported. The unused strip at the left shows the differences in design from type 34 more clearly.

The Post Office
 Found open or damaged and officially secured
 Arrivé ouvert ou avarié et remis en état
 Initials _____ Date stamp _____ P144

The Post Office
 Found open or damaged and officially secured
 Arrivé ouvert ou avarié et remis en état
 Initials _____ Date stamp _____ P144

15к ПОЧТА СССР
 из Красной книги СССР
 Ирбис

10к ПОЧТА СССР
 из Красной книги СССР
 Сурок Мексика

5к ПОЧТА СССР
 Речной флот
 ПАССАЖИРСКИЙ ТЕПЛОХОД «МАКСИМ ГОРЬКИЙ»

10к ПОЧТА СССР
 Речной флот
 ПАССАЖИРСКИЙ ТЕПЛОХОД «АЛЕКСАНДР ПУШКИН»

30к ПОЧТА СССР
 Речной флот
 ПАССАЖИРСКИЙ ТЕПЛОХОД «СОВЕТСКИЙ СОЮЗ»

10к ПОЧТА СССР
 Чемпионат по фигурному катанию
 Тимирязев 1987

10к ПОЧТА СССР
 Спортсменка

10к ПОЧТА СССР
 40 лет ЮНЕСКО
 ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ И СОДЕЙСТВИЕ
 ВЕЛАСЬ И ТАКТИКА ОБЩАЯ

50к ПОЧТА СССР
 ДРЕЙФ ВО ЛЬДАХ АНТАРТИКИ
 НАУЧНО-ЭКСПЕДИЦИОННОГО СУДНА
 «МИХАИЛ СОМОВ»

15.III - 26.VII.1985.

№ 107814

PAR AVION

ТАЛЛИНН
 EST. SSR
 Nr. 491

England - Arnamia
 Coventry CV79HH - Tobempen
 81 Deans Way
 P. E. M. Marsh

USSR - СССР - ЭССР - ЭССР
 Keila 203053 Keisla
 Vakra 10
 K. Tiira

Recommandé

The Post Office
 Found open or damaged and officially secured

The Post Office
 Found open or damaged and officially secured

An aerogramme from England to the United States that appears to have been both soaked in water and torn in half. Rejoined with a type 36 seal and a type 11 Damaged/Delayed explanatory label.



26P

Mrs. L. A. Winters
Cortez KOA Campground
E. Cortez Highway 160
P.O. Box 1257
Cortez, CO 81321
U.S.A.

Arrived - Aug 10/12
car - DTV 933 VA.
Olds, Cobless Cruise.

Date Stamp

The Postmaster is very sorry that this packet has been accidentally damaged / delayed in the post.

(Initials)
P 125H



By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme

Royal Mail

Sender's name and address

Mrs. L. Winters
Bleed Cottage
Rd 1 St. James
Wick
PO7 6QZ England

contain any enclosure

The Post Office

Found open or damaged
and officially secured

Arrivé ouvert ou
avarié et remis en état

Initials
P48

Date stamp



The
Found open
and officially secured
Arrivé ouvert
et remis en état

To open slit here

General Use Tapes

Type 37 and Type 38

Type

A local letter posted in Winch and repaired with a strip of ty

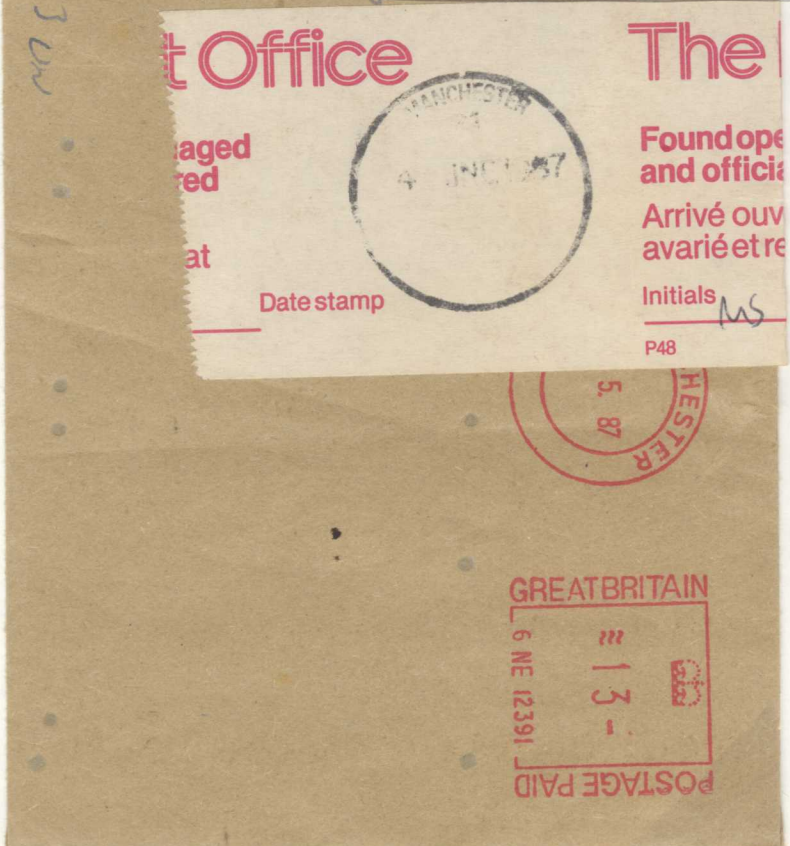
Type 38

er to New York is repaired on all 8 tape.



Handwritten on the envelope:
 Dir. - Mr. Dek.
 Hindemian 23
 Eubuisen 23

Handwritten on the tape:
 Trouvé Ouvert
 Officiellement Réparé



Handwritten on the envelope:
 Greeties
 van
 ten

Handwritten on the tape:
 Trouvé Ouvert
 Officiellement Réparé

Handwritten on the envelope:
 Mr. G. Brown
 26 Ludington Lane
 London, SW 15 5LJ

Handwritten on the tape:
 Trouvé Ouvert
 Officiellement Réparé

Handwritten on the envelope:
 The

Handwritten on the tape:
 Trouvé Ouvert
 Officiellement Réparé

Type 40

Type 40 tape used to repair a letter opened to determine a return address.

Only a very small number of the modern British tapes are found tied by cancels or other postal markings. Because of this, it is often difficult or impossible to determine where the tape was applied.

This is one of those cases. This tape is known to have been used in Kiribati as well as in England. The black handstamp under the red Royal Mail label is that of the Kiribati Philatelic Bureau.

It is entirely possible that the letter was returned to the Bureau, opened there to determine a better address and resealed with the tape in Kiribati.

An example of undoubted use in Kiribati is shown on the next page of this exhibit.



General Use Tapes

Type 40

A first day cover sent by the Kiribati Philatelic Bureau (boxed return address on the back) to an PO Box address in Santos Brazil.

The back has a boxed "why this letter could not be delivered" handstamp with "invalid address" checked and the entire box tied by a Santos CDS. Returned to Kiribati, the reason for the type 43 tape is not apparent. However, the use of the tape in Kiribati is undoubted and is the only such usage reported.

Kiribati Usage

The only reported use of any tape or seal in Kiribati



General Use Tapes

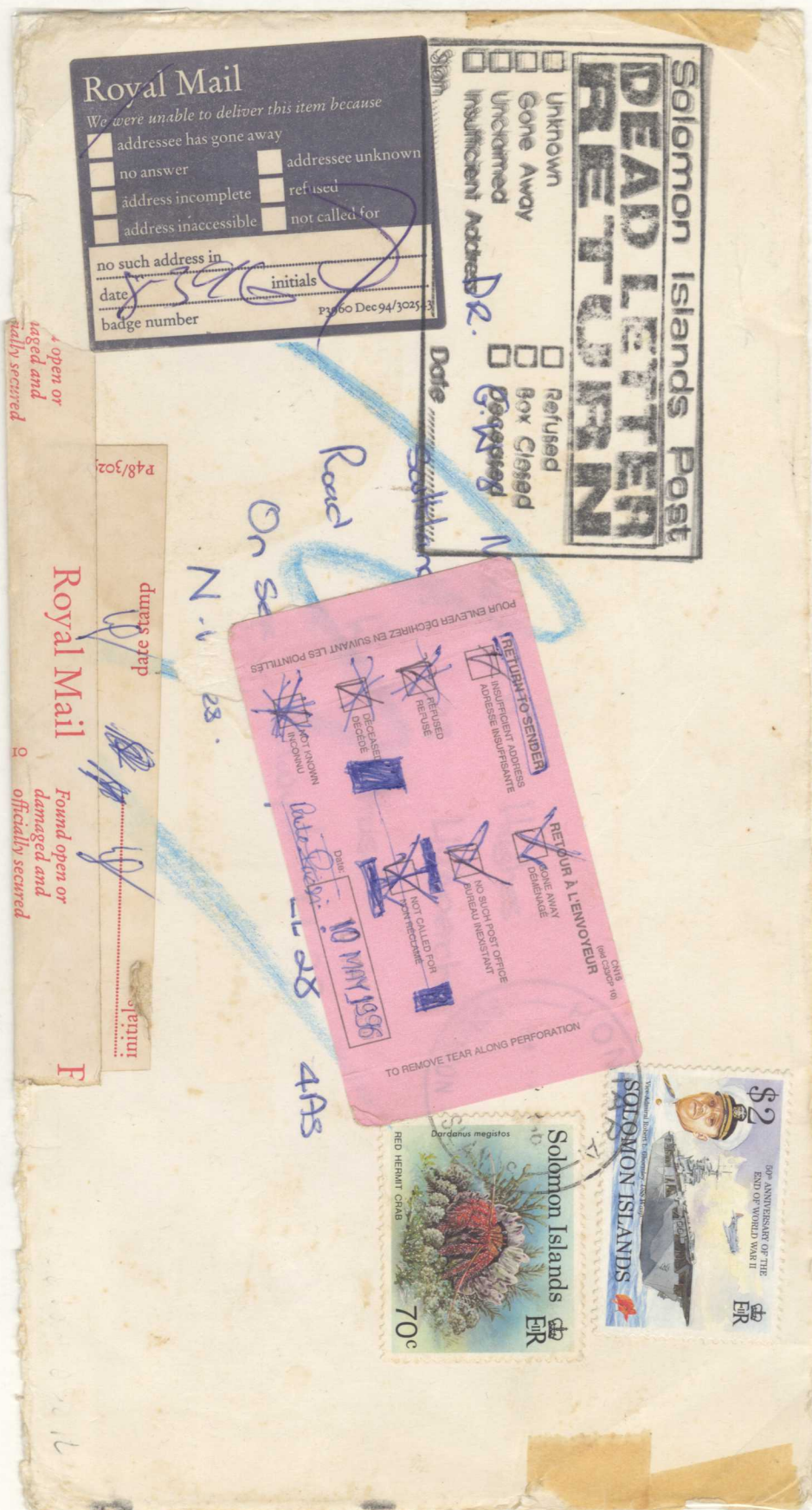
Type 40 and Type 45 Combination Usage

**Type 40 and Type 45
Combination Usage**

A cover from the Solomon Islands addressed to a town in Wales. The addressee was not known, and the letter was opened and reclosed twice, first with a type 40 repair seal, and the second time with a type 45.

Without success in locating an addressee, the letter was returned to the Solomon Islands.

Below is a cropped image of the tapes on the back of the cover.



St. Vincent Usage

At near right, a registered 1999 commercial letter from Dominica to St. Vincent.

According to the boxed statement of condition, the letter was in very battered state: "Damaged," "Partly Opened," and "In A Wet Condition." It is repaired by two strips of the type 40 seal, and tied with a "Postmaster General, St. Vincent and the Grenadines" double oval handstamp.

It is very unusual to find the modern tapes tied to mail.

The only reported usage of any British seal or tape in St. Vincent

St. Kitts Usage

At the far right, type 40 tape used to repair a local mail item "Received in damaged condition".



Cook Islands

To the right a letter from the Cook Islands addressed to "Poste Restante" in Bangkok, Thailand.

The letter was never picked up by the intended recipient (the 2nd box check in the Thailand Post array of reasons) and was returned to the Cook Islands.

The "RTS" (Return to Sender) and arrow pointing to the cachet at the left confirms the return.

Opened in the Cook Islands Post Office to determine a return address and closed with a type 41 British tape.

The only reported example of seals or tapes used in the Cook Islands.



Antigua

A registered letter from the Czech Republic to Montserrat. Officially sealed two times, the first in the Netherlands Indies with a locally printed tape (the only example of this tape reported), and then again in St. John's, Antigua. The Netherlands Indies tape is at the bottom, and the British type 41 tape applied in St. John's is at the left.

A very unusual two country usage.

The only reported use of the British tape in Antigua, and the only reported example of the Netherlands Indies tape.



Type 42

A slightly damaged letter from the United States to St. Helena, the tiny island in the South Atlantic Ocean. The envelope was repaired upon arrival with a fragment of type 42 tape. This tape is not scarce for uses in Great Britain, but overseas usages such as this, particularly in locations where the use of repair tape is very likely to be infrequent, and where there is a low volume of mail, are very scarce.

One St. Helena usage reported.



Type 43

Below, a fragment of type 43 tape used to close a PO form letter that notifies the recipient that a parcel could not be delivered. As one option the card allowed the Post Office to redirect the parcel, and new address is given at the bottom of the folded-over card that was closed with the type 43 tape.

A I authorise _____ collect the item on my behalf

Signature of addressee _____

This must be completed if the item is to be collected by someone other than the addressee. Whoever collects the item must produce some form of identity appertaining to the addressee eg driving licence, passport, pass card.

B Please deliver the item on

Date _____ 19 _____

when I shall be able to receive it. (See note 1)

C Please deliver the item to

Address ARNOLD SCHOOL,

LYTHAM RD., BLACKPOOL Postcode F4 1JG.

when there will be s _____

Note 1 Please n _____

Note 2 If you rec _____ folding a _____

Found open and officially secured Arrivé ouvert et officiellement sécurisé P48

Type 44

On the cover to the right, a complete tape segment used to repair a letter damaged in a canceling machine.

For unknown reasons this tape, the only bi-color design, appears to have had very little usage with only a handful of examples reported.



Type 45

A letter from Kiribati to Scotland to a famous name (Ian Fleming the writer of the James Bond thrillers, but probably not THE Ian Fleming), that was undeliverable. The Royal Mail label at the bottom has the "Addressee has gone away" reason checked.

There is no indication of how the letter was handled when delivery failed. No RTS, RLO or any other indication other than the type 44 tape at the bottom of the envelope.

The handling of this letter is rather a mystery.



AIR MAIL

2104

Ian Fleming
69 Brackensbrae
Broxburn, West Lothian
EH52 6AH, Scotland

RECEIVED
17 JUL 2000



Royal Mail

We were unable to deliver this item because

addressee has gone away

no answer

address incomplete

address inaccessible

addressee unknown

refused

not called for

no such address in

date 11/11/98

initials JF

badge number 8

P366097/302543

P48/302905

Found open or damaged and
officially secured

Arrivé ouvert ou avarié et remis
en état

initials

date stamp
U.K.

A generous application of type 46 tape to repair a bulky letter that was damaged in transit.



Type 7

This 1904 registered letter from Brazil to Mafeking, Cape Colony, was slightly damaged and repaired with a previously unreported Brazilian seal. In Mafeking, the letter was refused and without a return or forwarding address was sent to the Johannesburg RLO. It was opened and then closed with the GB London RLO seal. The letter was either returned to Brazil, or forwarded in a "body bag"

This is the only reported combination cover with British and Brazilian seals. It is also the only reported use of any RLO seal in an overseas post office. This is the kind of cover every seals collector hopes to find.

One example of the type 7 seal reported
The discovery copy of the Brazilian seal
The only reported GB/Brazil two country use



Type 7A

Seal used to reclose a letter with a street address but no city name. Opened in the RLO to determine a return address. The text at the bottom right provides the printing data (10,000 sheets of unknown size) and the release date of December 1904.

One cover reported.



Type 8

Unpaid letter from Russia to Perth Amboy, New Jersey that was received damaged in London and repaired with two type 8 RLO seals.

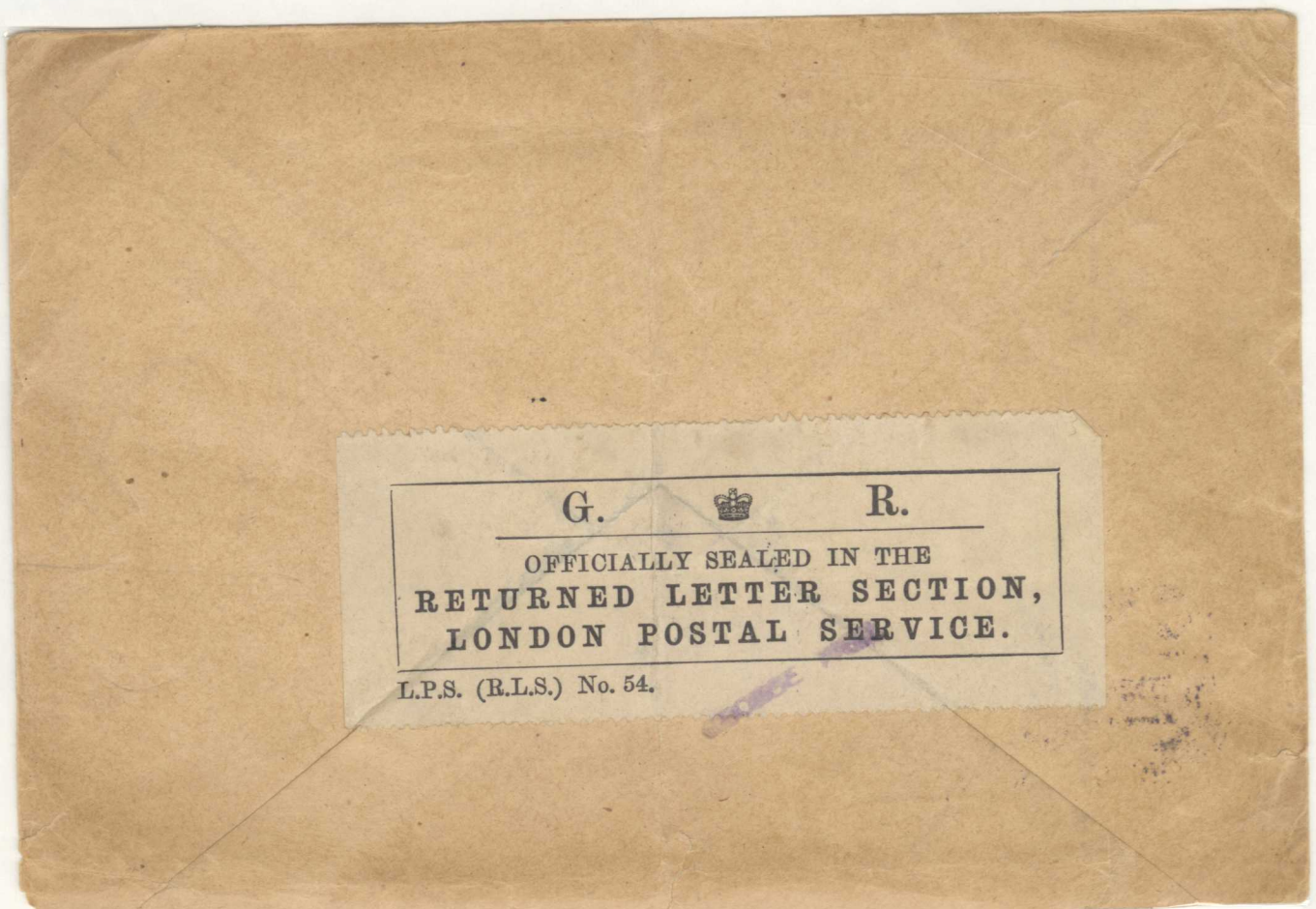
The 10¢ postage due pays twice the deficiency in the 5¢ rate.



Type 9

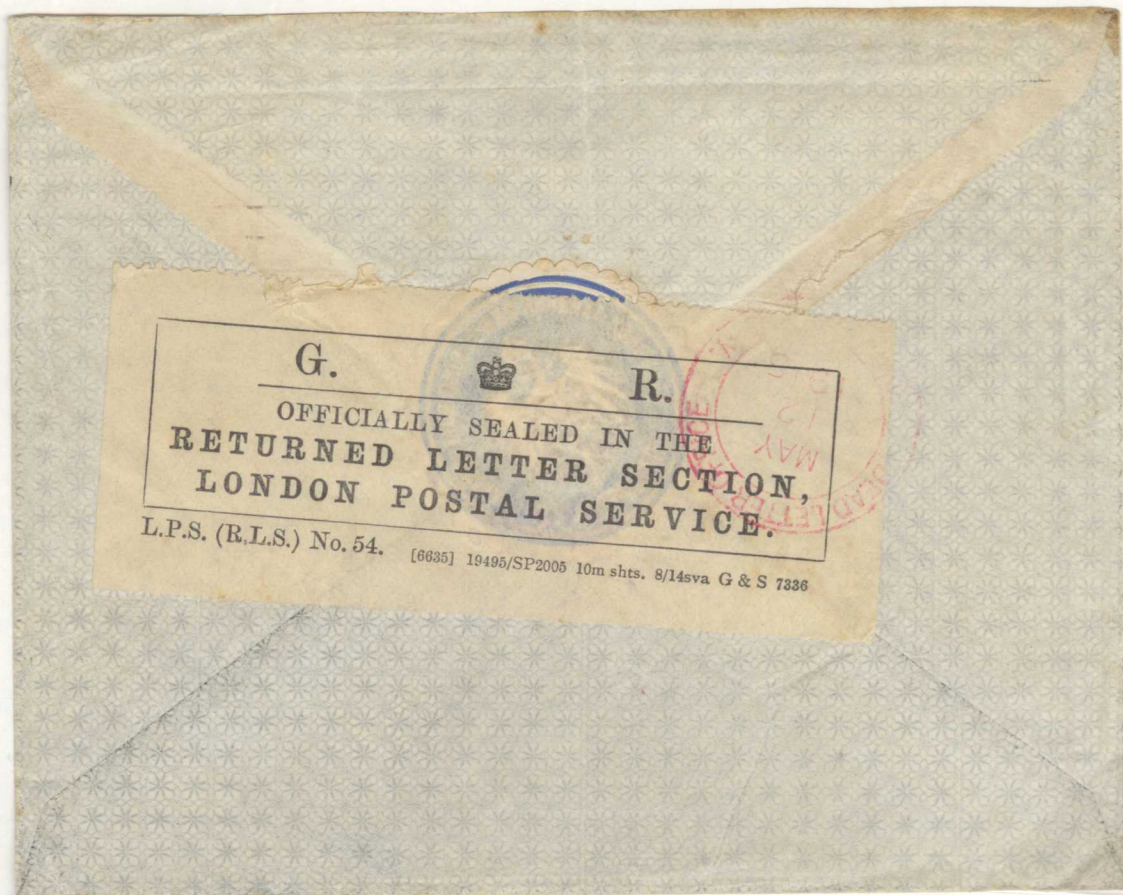
The reason for the appearance of this type 9 seal on the cover is a mystery. The envelope is not damaged, and there are no markings to indicate the need for a seal. The purple marking at the bottom is not readable. Perhaps the envelope was received unsealed and closed. The presence of the seal across the flap allows, but does not confirm this supposition.

One cover reported.



Type 10

A letter from the German Embassy in Australia back to Germany, via England that due to the outbreak of WW I was undeliverable. It was processed in the London RLO where the seal was added, and returned to Australia. A faint red cancel of the Australian DLO ties the seal.



Type 10A

This letter from Singapore to Germany was posted on August 5, 1914; the day after Britain declared war on Germany. By the time it had arrived in England, postal relations between the combatants had been severed. The envelope was opened and then closed with the type 10A seal, but with no obvious reason for doing so, as there is a valid return address. The letter was returned to the Singapore DLO on November 18, 1914. The letter was censored after handling in the DLO.

The Swiss TPO postmark "AMBULANT" on November 9, 1915 is a puzzle. The 1915 date is a full year after the return of the letter to Singapore. It is possible that the letter was sent from the Singapore DLO to Switzerland, where a fair amount of mail for addresses in Germany was held until the end of the war.

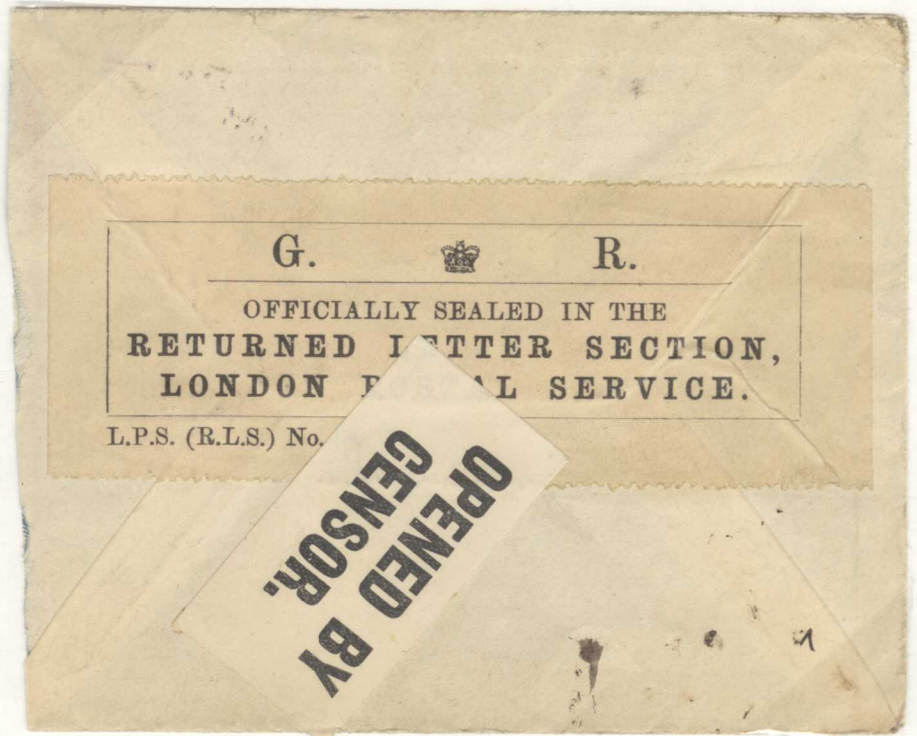


Returned Letter Office Seals

Type 10B and Type 11

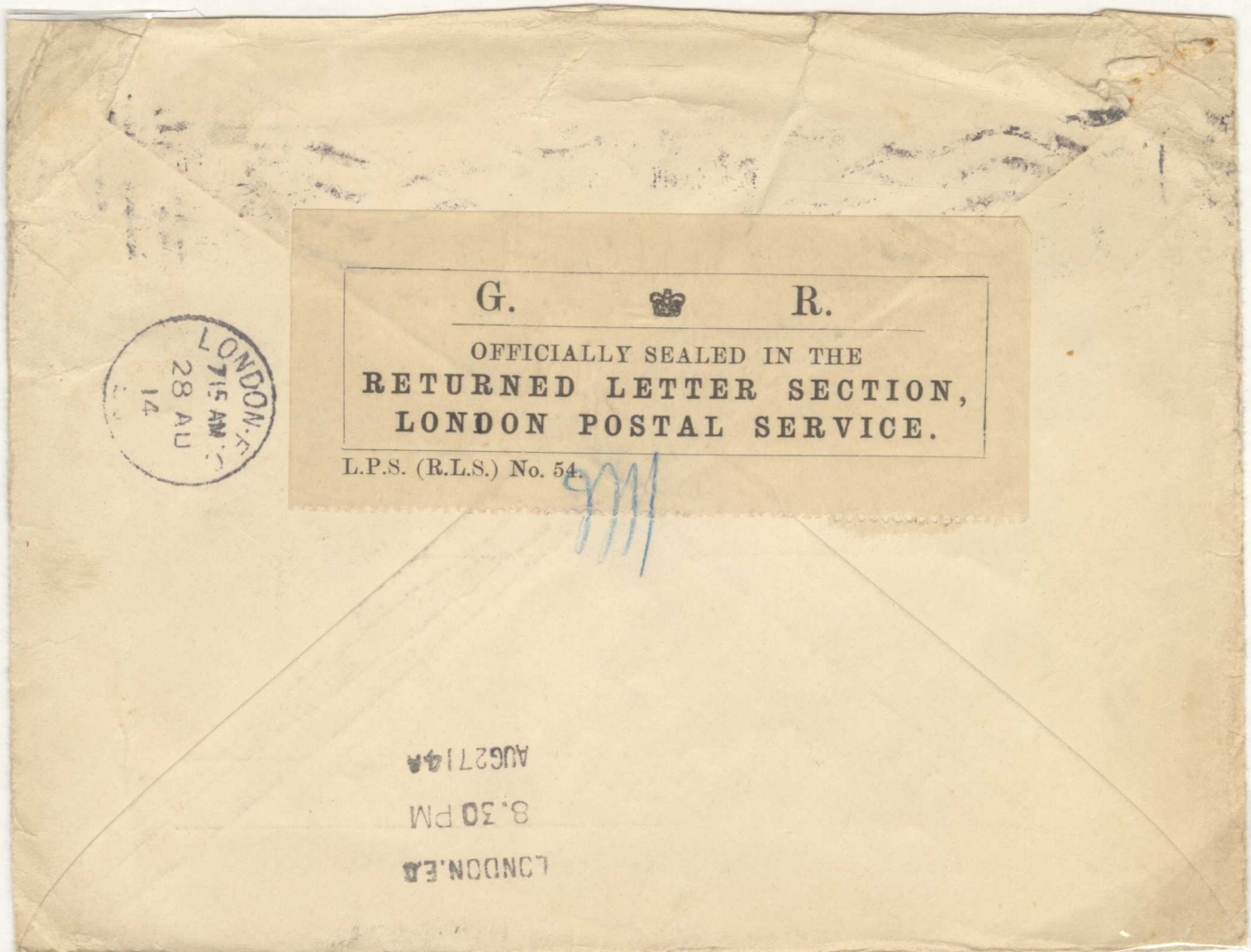
Type 10B

Letter from Radmannsdorf in the Duchy of Krain, then a part of Austria-Hungary (now Slovenia) with August 4, 1914 CDS addressed to the United States. War was declared by England against Germany on this date, and again on August 11 against Austria-Hungary. This letter was intercepted in England, opened for censorship, and reclosed with the type 10A seal, and a plain "OPENED BY CENSOR." label.



Type 11

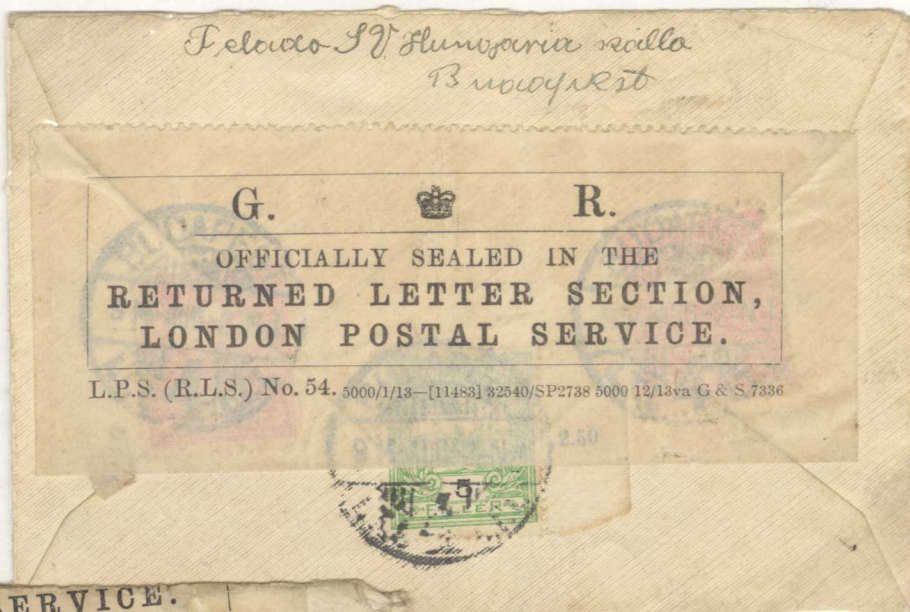
Another letter opened for censorship, and close with a type 11 RLO seal. This example is a bit later (10 days) than the type 10B example.



Type 12

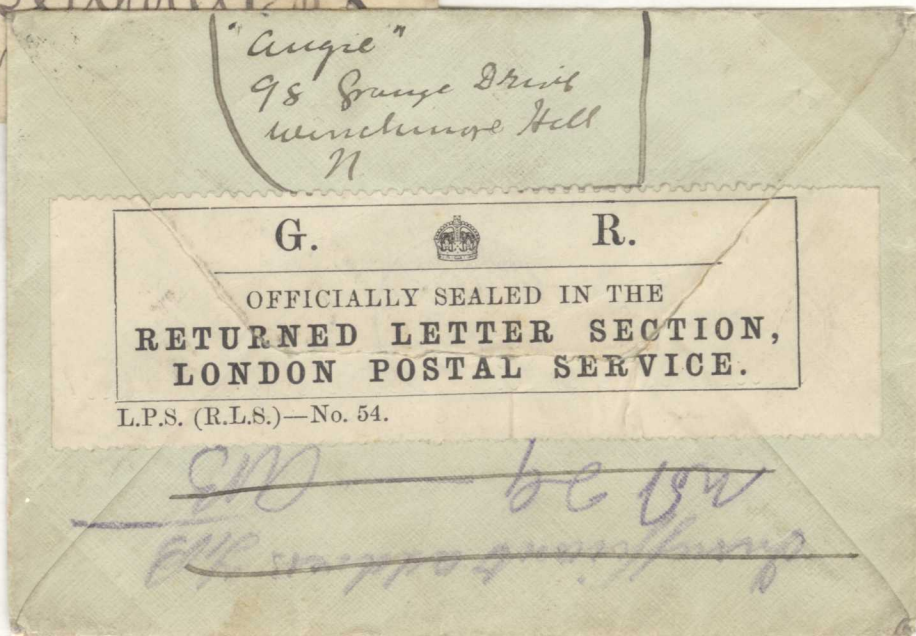
A cover from Budapest in Austria-Hungary, dated August 3, 1914 to England. No evidence of damage is visible and the letter appears to have been delivered normally. This is possible a censorship usage of the seal. The text at the bottom provides the issue date of the seal (January 1913) and the size of the printing (5,000 sheets of unknown size).

EKU for the type 12 seal



Type 14A

Local letter from one London address to another. The front has a ms "Not known at this address. The letter was opened in the London RLO and the return address added at the back top of the envelope

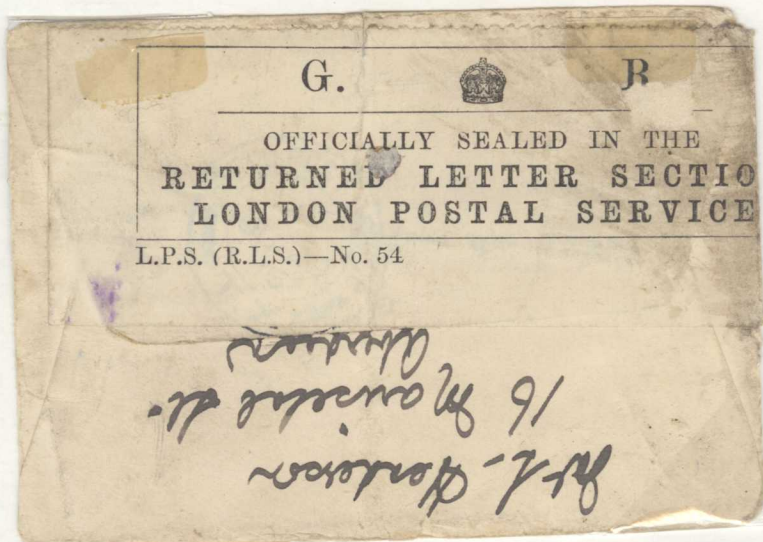


Type 14

Letter to Switzerland, where the addressee was unknown and a manuscript "Retour England" and a small "Refusé" label were added. 3d postage due charged as the original letter had only 1d postage when 2½d was required. The 3d due was twice the deficiency. The letter was opened to determine a return address and reclosed with two type 14 seals.

Type 15

Letter with no address or postage of any kind opened in the RLO to determine a return address. The 1d due marking was for the missing postage.



Type 16

A petite letter from Aberdeen, Scotland to Belgium where it was undeliverable.

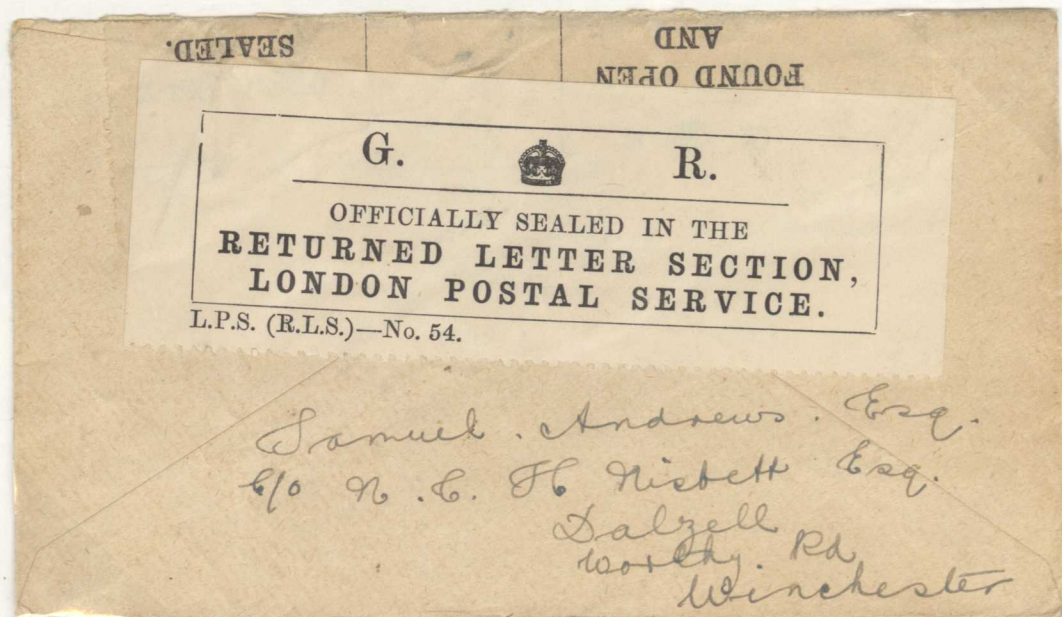
Returned to the London RLO, it was opened to determine the return address that appears below the seal.

Type 17

Combination Usage with George V Type 5 Repair Seal

Local letter mailed in Manchester. The addressee was not found and the letter was opened and a George V type 5 repair seal was used to close the envelope. A new address was supplied, this time in London. This address also was incorrect and the letter was opened again in the London RLO. A return address in Winchester was found, and a type 17 RLO seal was used to reclose the letter.

Combination usages are scarce



Type 18

Two Country Usage

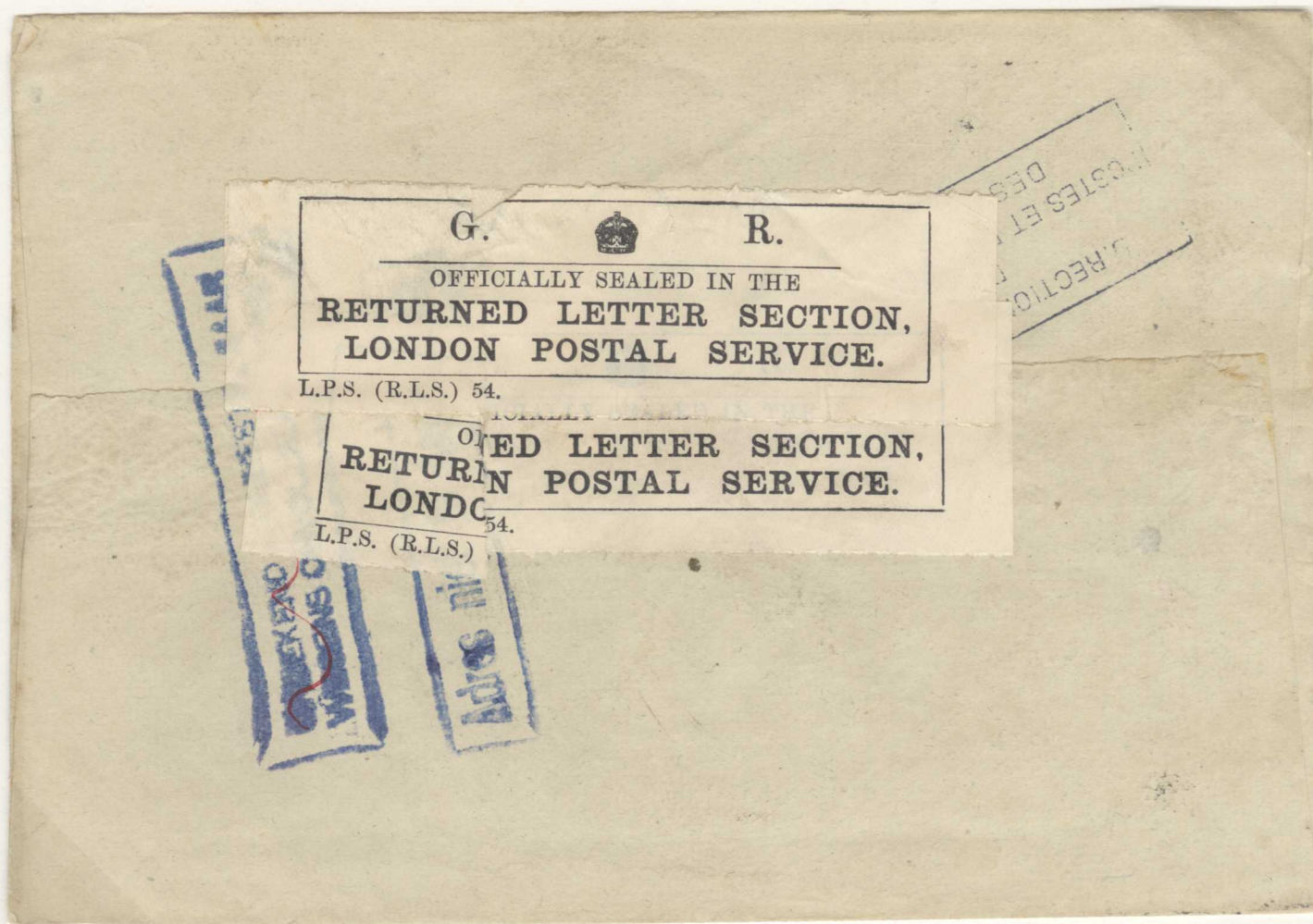
Letter from the United States to Germany, posted in December 1916 after the United States had entered the war.

Censored first in the United States (label at the left) then again during transit in England (type 8 seals at the right) a very unusual use of the British official seals. The letter was undeliverable in Germany after several attempts at redirection. The German seal in the center was applied in the Berlin Dead Letter Office and the letter was returned to the sender.



Type 20

Letter to Amsterdam, the addressee could not be located. The letter was opened in the London RLO to determine a return address and two type 20 seals were used to reclose the envelope.



REGISTERED FAIR
 FEBRUARY 18
 LONDON POSTAL SERVICE.



R.

OFFICIALLY SEALED IN THE

RETURNED LETTER SECTION,
 LONDON POSTAL SERVICE.

LONDON
 BRITISH INDIA
 LONDON 18 FEBRUARY
 LONDON & HAROLD
 BIRMINGHAM
 54.

D-20A



Spore

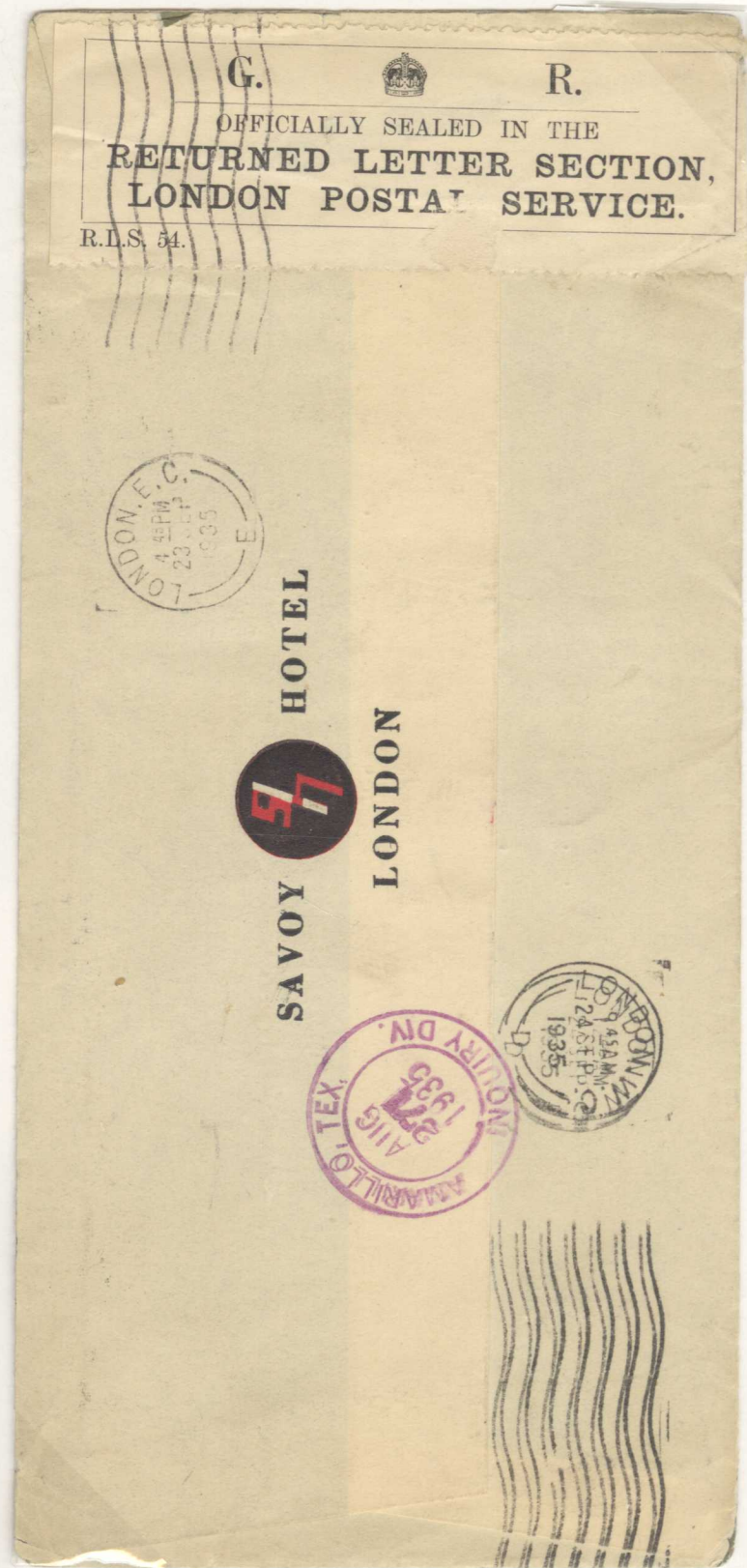
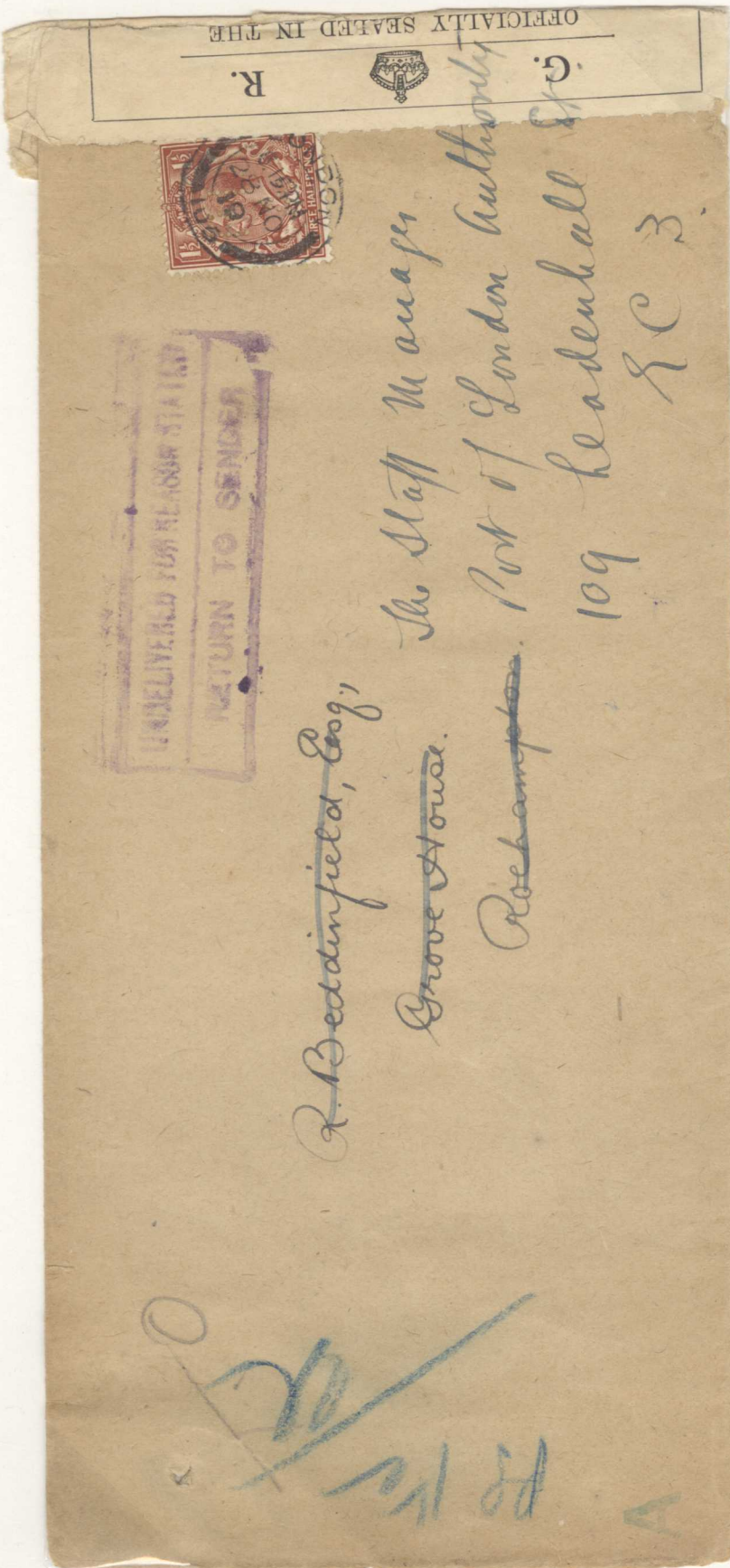
[Handwritten signature]



Returned Letter Office Seals

Type 19 and Type 21

Type 19 seal on the left used to reclose an undeliverable letter after opening to determine a return address. At the right a type 21 seal used on a letter returned from the United States after two attempts at redirection. The type 21 seal was applied in the London RLO after opening the letter to determine a return address.



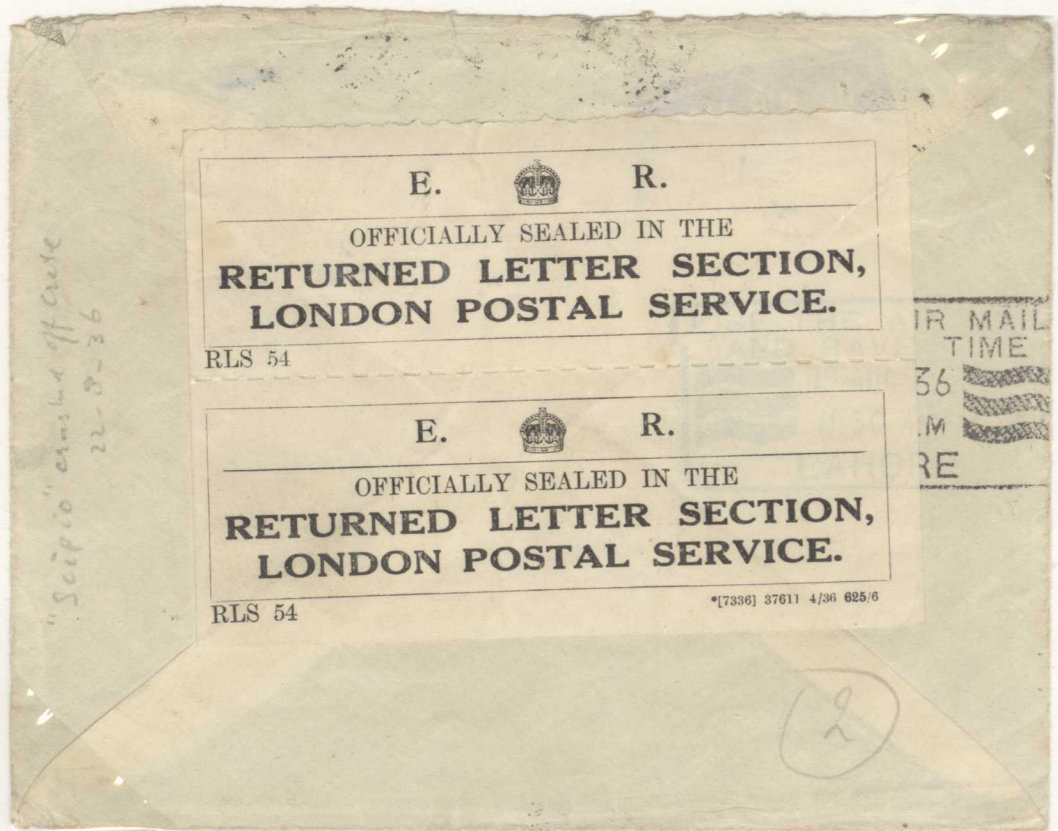
Type 22

Scipio Crash Mail

Two type 22 seals (the only Edward VIII seal) used on a letter recovered from the wreck of the Imperial Airways flying boat "Scipio" as it made a forced landing due to engine trouble in Mirabella Bay, Crete.

The boxed handstamp on the front is one of the less frequently encountered types. The stamps floated off and were reattached with library paste. Very few covers with even some of the franking still present have survived.

One cover reported



Type 23

Two type 23 seals on an undeliverable letter to the United States. The back has an "UNCLAIMED" handstamp, and circular San Francisco Directory Service handstamp.

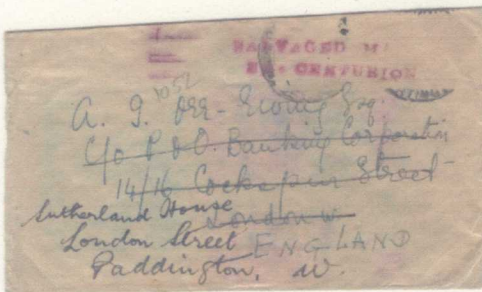
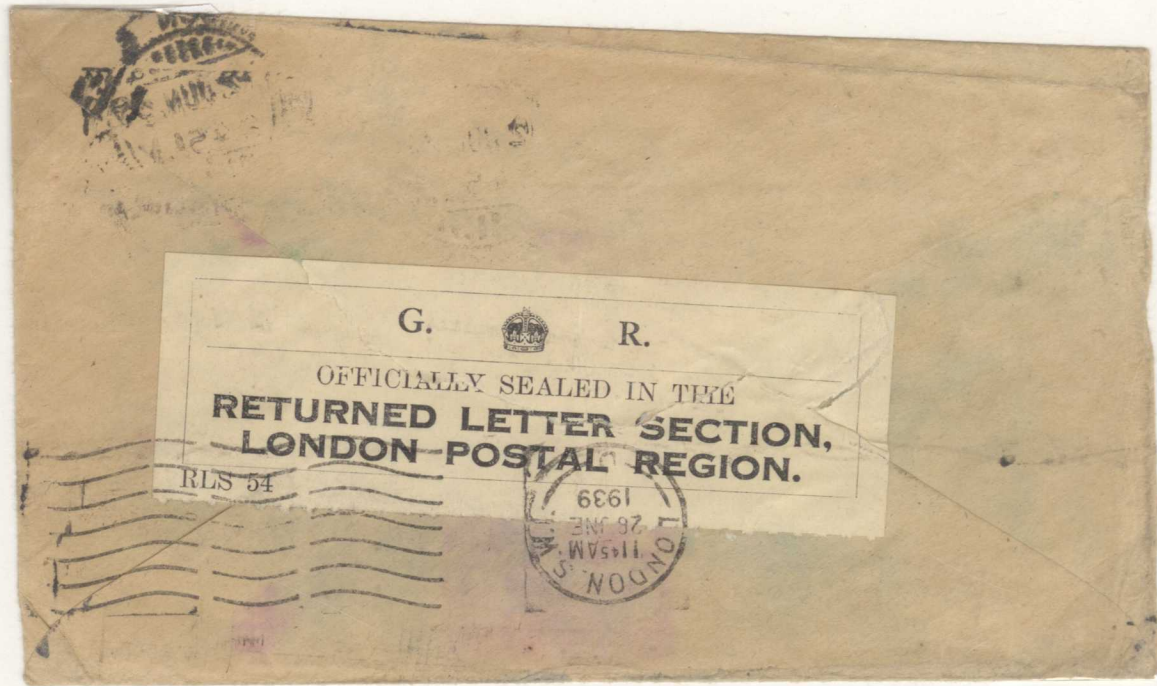
It is not apparent why the seals were added in the London RLO as the return address at the bottom right appears to have been used.



Type 24

Centurian Crash Mail

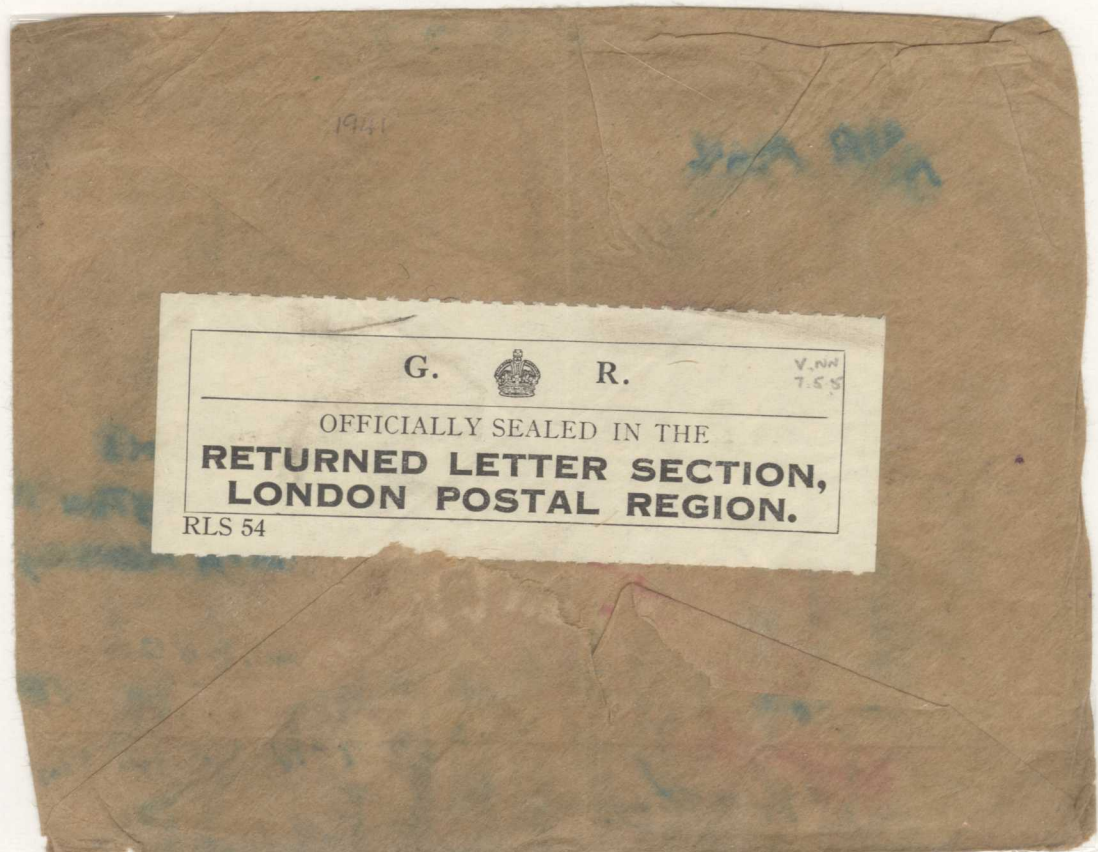
Seal used to reclose a letter salvaged from the wreck of the Imperial Airways flying boat "Centurian" on a trip from Sydney to London. It crashed during its approach at an intermediate stop in Calcutta. The front has a red handstamp "Salvaged Mail Ex Centurian". Although four similar handstamps are known, this style is not listed in Nierinck.



Type 25

Cygnus Crash Mail

Type 25 seal used to reclose a letter salvaged from the wreck of the Imperial Airways flying boat "Cygnus" while taking off from Brindisi Harbor on an intermediate stop on its trip from Bombay to London.



Type 26

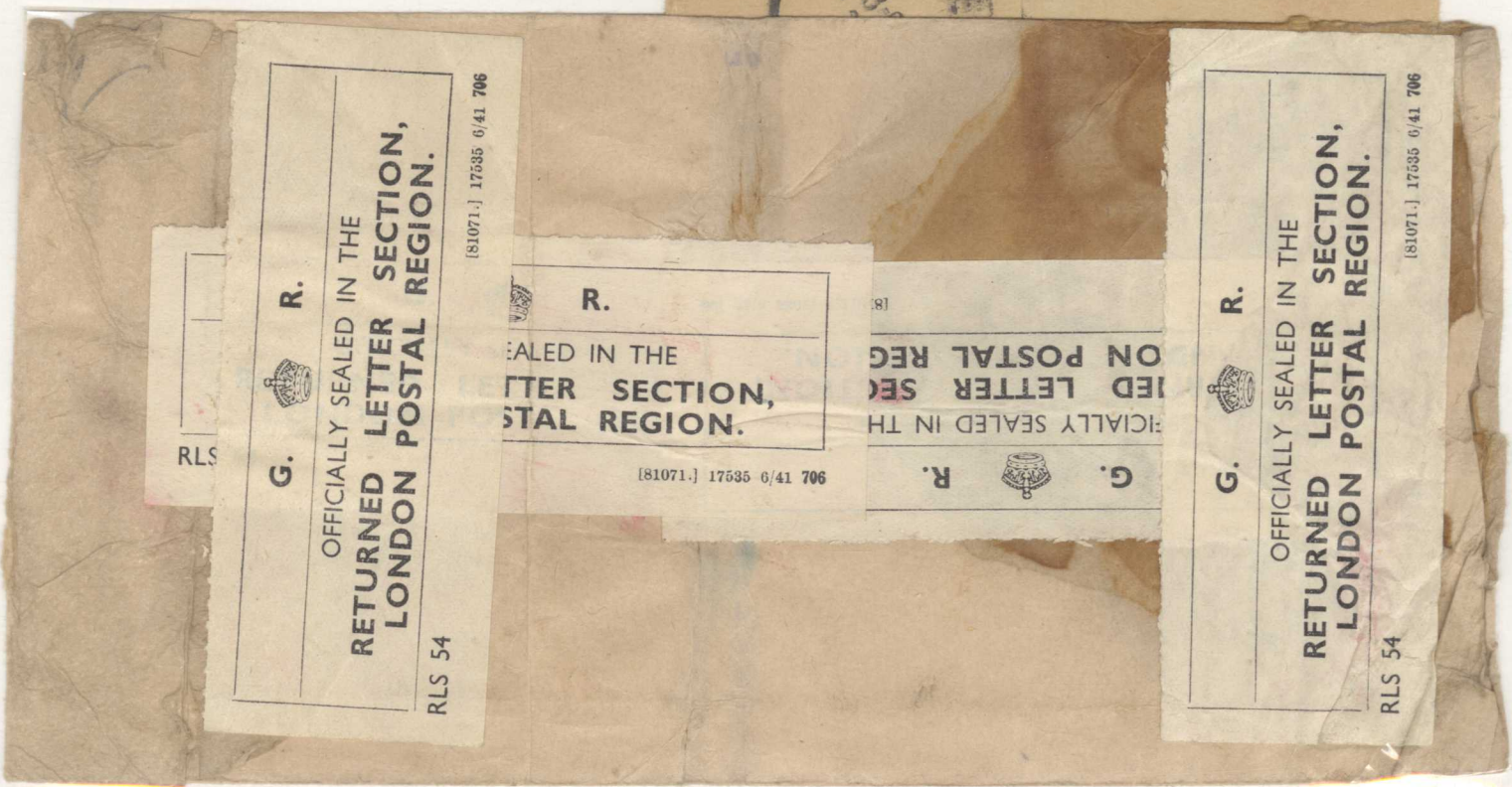
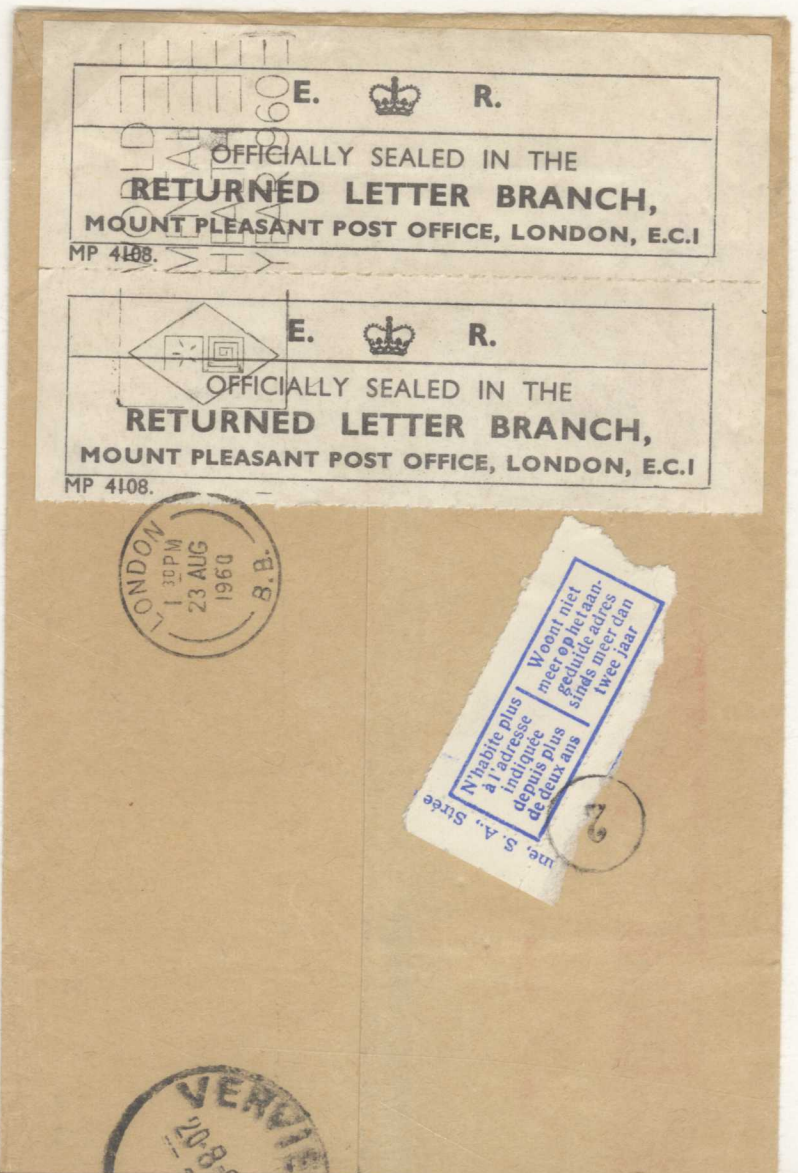
Yankee Clipper Crash Mail

Below, four type 26 seals used to repair a water soaked letter from Australia that was recovered from the crash in Lisbon harbor of the Pan Am flying boat Yankee Clipper.

The front has a boxed magenta handstamp "DAMAGED BY SEA WATER".

Type 28

To the right is an undeliverable letter to Belgium. The small label informs: "The addressee has not lived here for two years". Returned and opened in the Mt. Pleasant RLO to determine a return address and closed with two type 28 seals.



Multipurpose Delayed/Damaged Seals

Introduction Usage

As early as 1918 the Royal Mail had a class of seals that combined the repair function and provided information to the postal customer regarding the damaged or delayed item. These seals were infrequently used for their repair function as the seals and later the tapes were more convenient for that purpose and even the smallest post offices had a variety of handstamps to explain why a particular mail item was damaged or delayed.

Twenty different types have been reported with a number of minor types also identified. These labels are still in use, but are very infrequently seen.

The identifying characteristics of these seals are still incompletely understood, and the viewer is referred to the exhibitor's articles for further information on the types and their characteristics.

Type 1 - Kenilworth Castle Wreck Mail

Two type 1 seals used on a badly tattered and very large envelope (folded for display) from South Africa in May of 1918. The item traveled on the SS Kenilworth Castle from Table Bay (Cape Town) via Sierra Leone to England escorted by a Royal Navy destroyer. In the English Channel the Kenilworth Castle collided with the escort setting off two depth charges. The Kenilworth Castle was beached and the waterlogged mail dried and forwarded.



Type 2

A 1928 registered letter from Bulgaria to Paris. The letter was redirected (address on the back) to Peacehaven in Sussex with a Newhaven, Sussex receiving handstamp on the back. The type 2 seal must have been added in Newhaven as Peacehaven did not have a post office at the time. However the green "Par Avion" bilingual French/Bulgarian seal overlaps the delayed/damaged seal and must have been added later. There is no RTS notation so the sequence of events is somewhat a mystery.

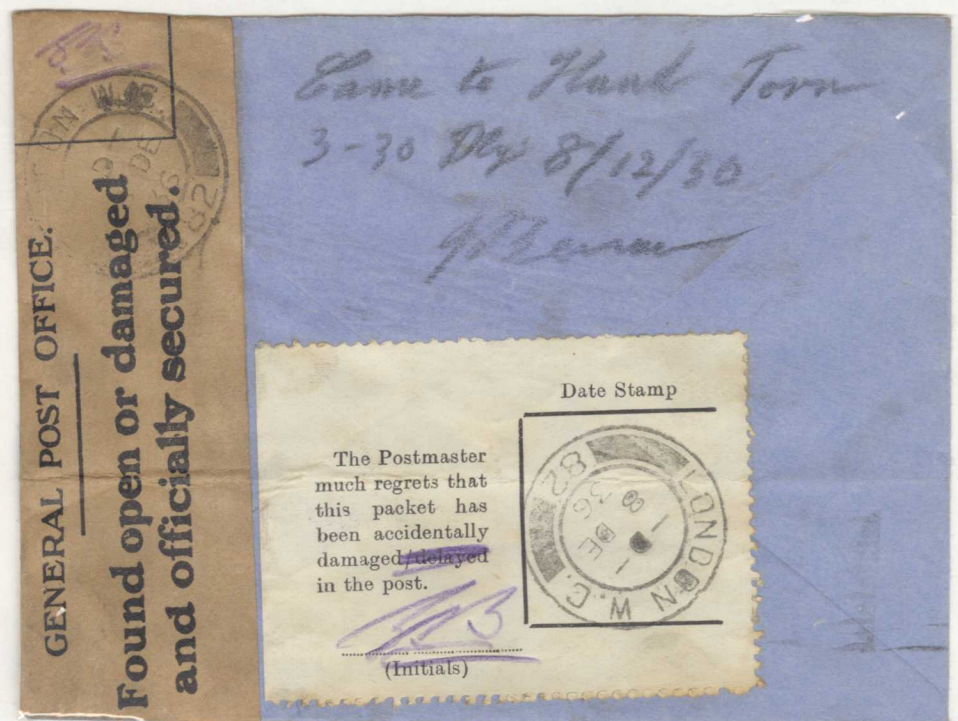
One cover reported

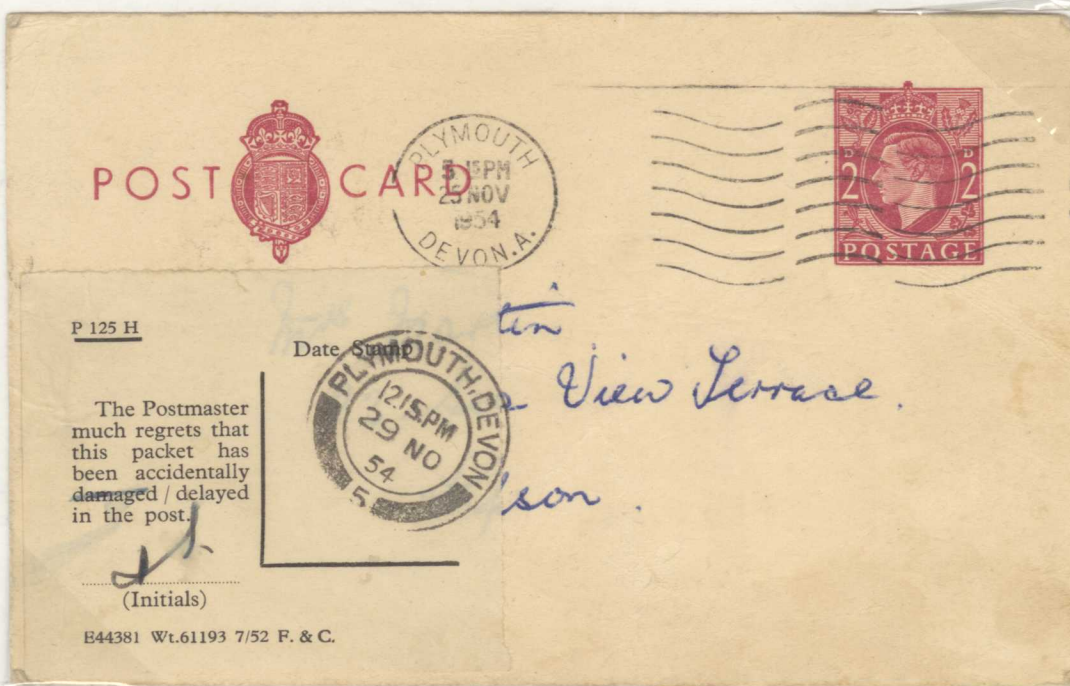


Type 4

Combination Use with Type 2 Tape

A local London letter with damage at the left repaired with a type 2 tape. The type 4 Delayed/Damaged label and the manuscript "came to hand torn" explains the repair to the recipient.





Type 6

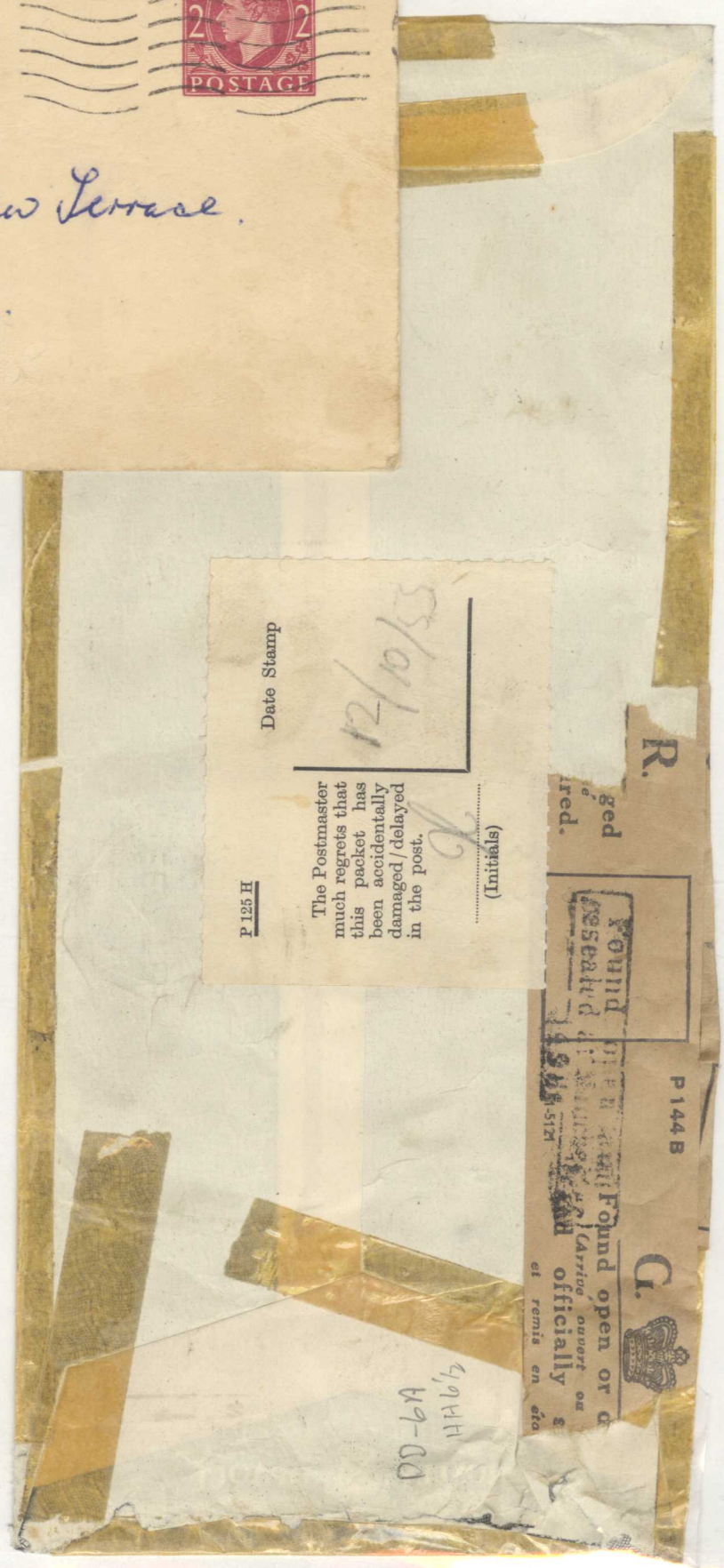
Above, a type 6 seal on a postal card mailed on November 25, 1954, but for some reason not delivered until November 29 (only four days later).

Since the message on the back reads: "Both Mr. Chalmers & myself hope to visit tomorrow..." the post office felt it necessary to note that "tomorrow" had long passed.

Type 6A

At the right a generous application of cellophane tape, repair tape type 3, and a type 6A Damaged/Delayed label repaired this letter from Australia.

Identical in design, type 6 is roulette 10 and type 6A is hyphen hole 6½.





The Postmaster
much regrets that
this packet has
been accidentally
damaged / delayed
in the post.

RL
.....
(Initials)

59-6A
Brighton & Hove 1950 Delayed in
Post Label to Somersham
350204965668
5/28/2009
10:33:56 PM

J. Ronis, Esq.,

SOMERSHAM.

Hunts.

Multipurpose Delayed/Damaged Seals

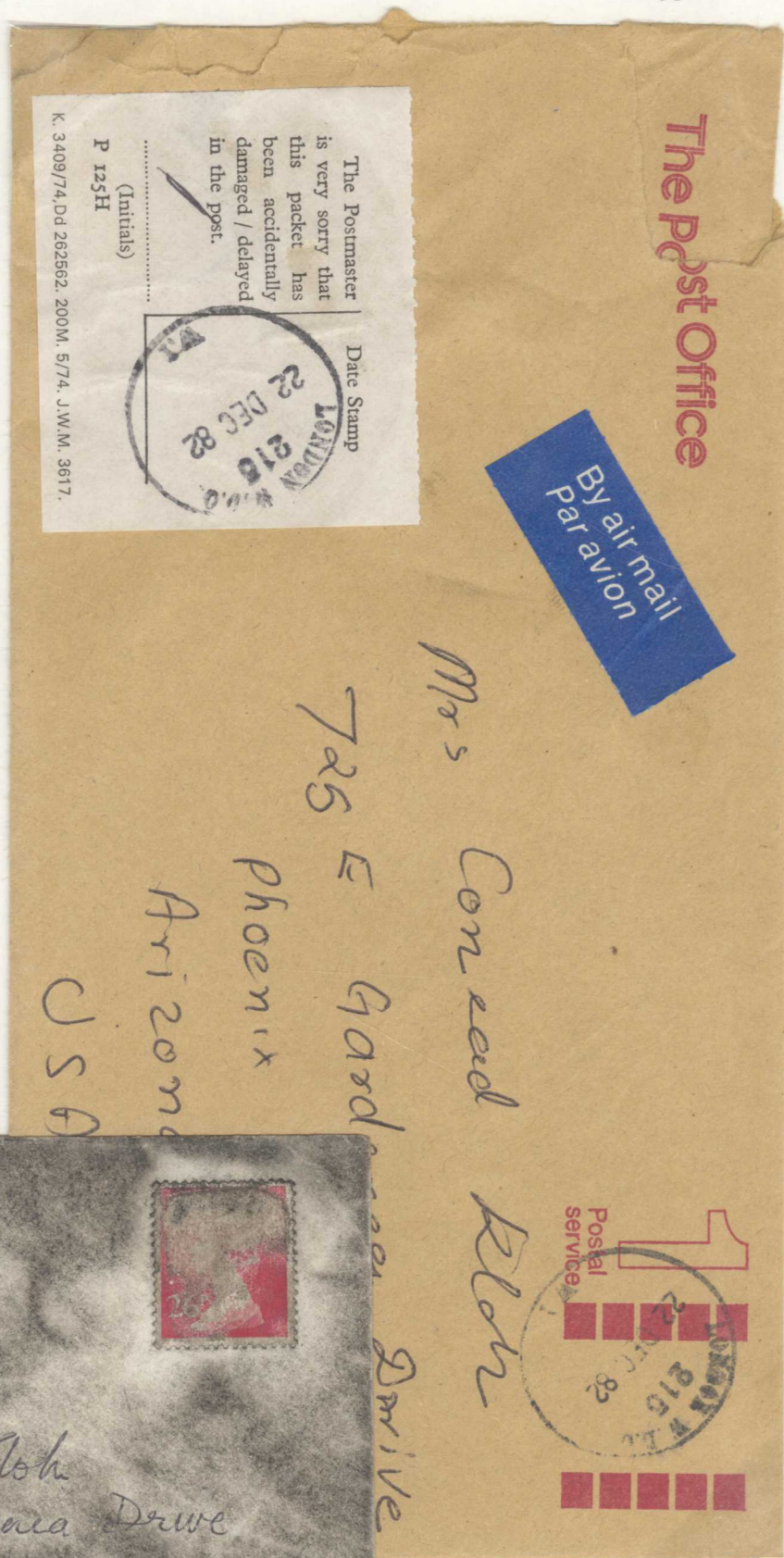
Type 9

Type 9

A letter so badly trashed that the Post Office used an ambulance cover to forward it to its recipient in the United States. The type 9 seal is on the ambulance cover.

Both the front and back of the letter are completely covered in black ink(?) of unknown origin.

The ambulance cover would have been free of postage for a domestic address. However it is surprising that it was carried without postage due to the United States.



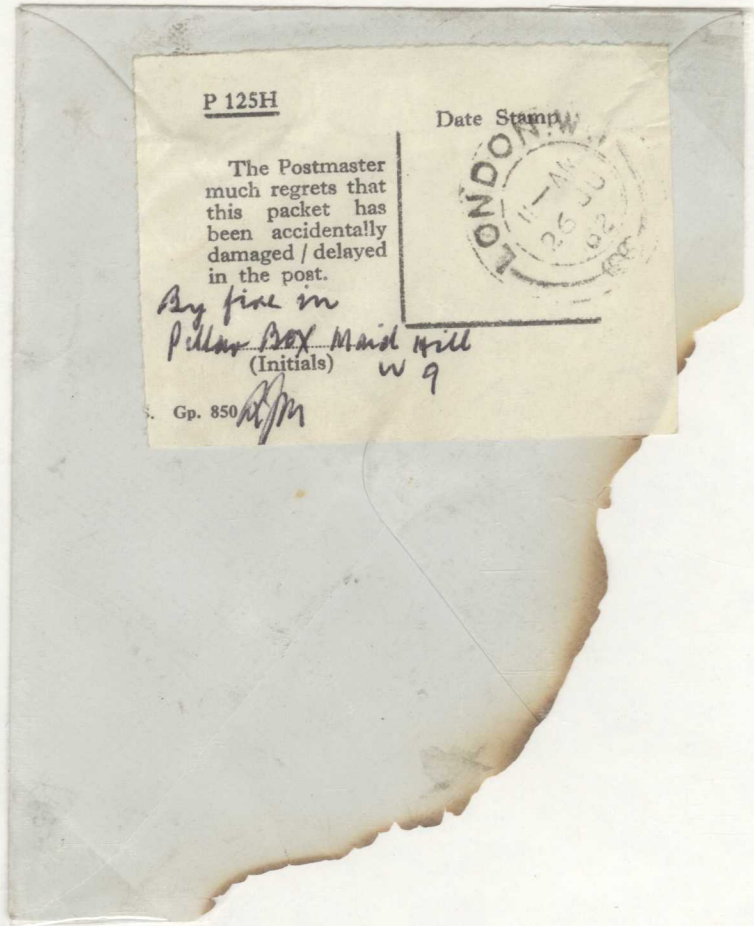
Multipurpose Delayed/Damaged Seals

Type 7 and Type 10

Below are two charred remnants of burned letters. Both are from the period where one of the favorite tactics of the IRA was the blowing up of mailboxes in London.

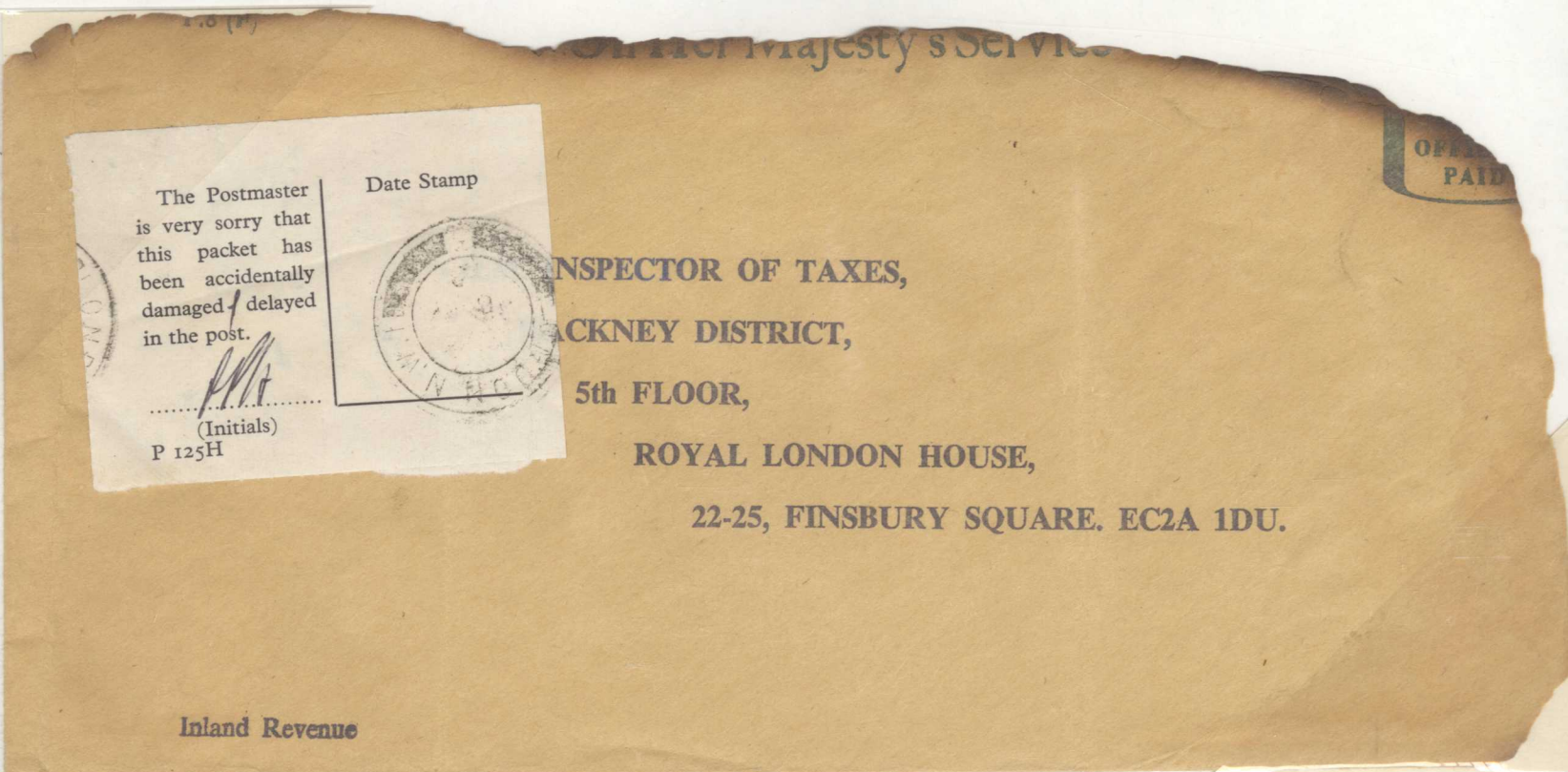
Type 7

To the right, only a fragment of the original envelope remains of a letter almost completely destroyed by fire. The handwritten explanation is: "By fire in Pillar Box Maid Hill W9".



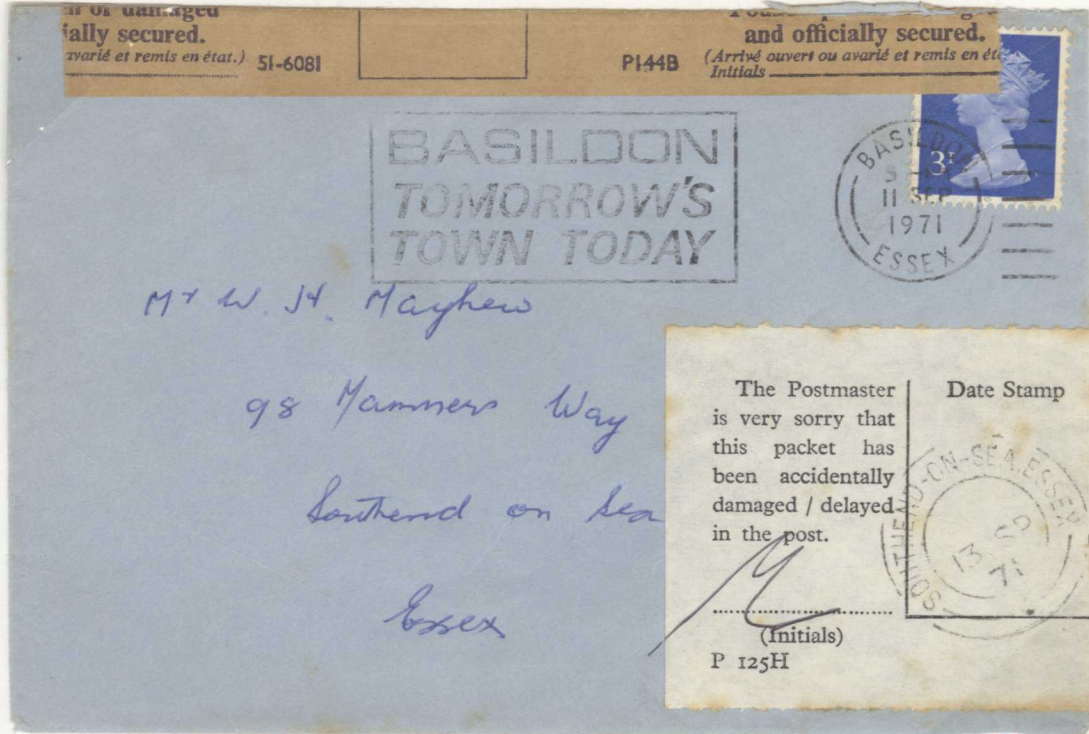
Type 10

Below, from the appearance of the charred letter to the Inspector of taxes, it appears that the letter was both damaged and delayed.



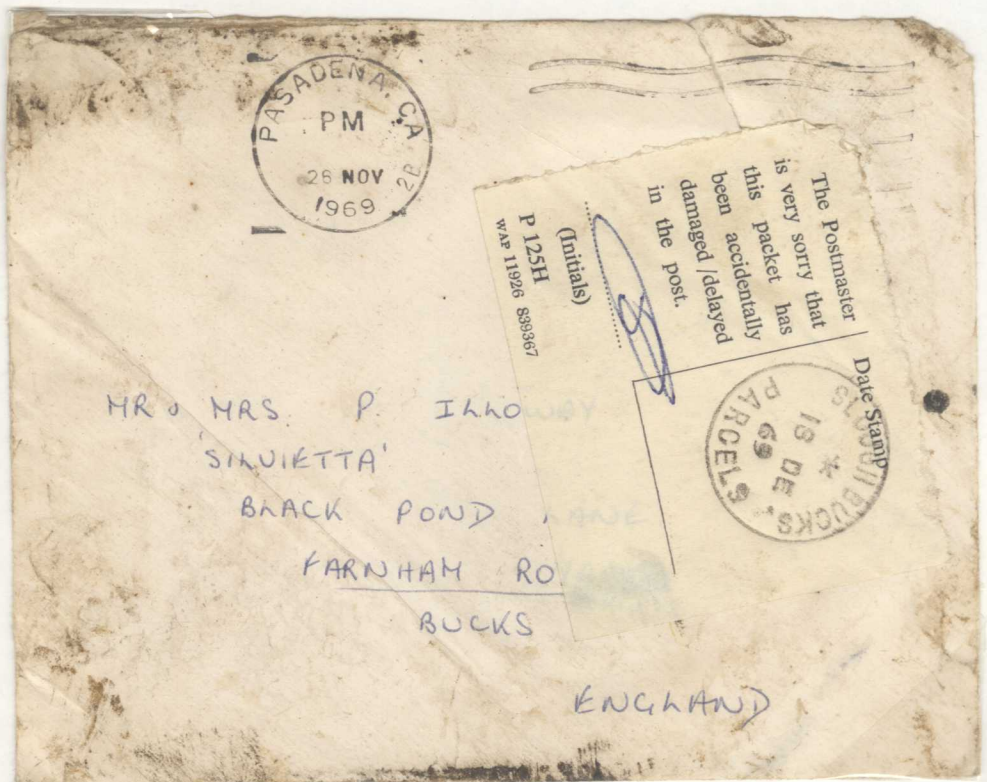
Type 11

This puzzling example of the type 11 seal is found on a 1971 local letter. In addition to the seal a type 25 tape has been used to seal the top of the envelope. No apparent damage is present to account for the tape, and the letter was delivered in a timely fashion (next day) and thus no reason for the delayed aspect of the seal. Perhaps the letter was opened in error, but there are no markings to indicate such a situation. This cover is full of unanswered questions.



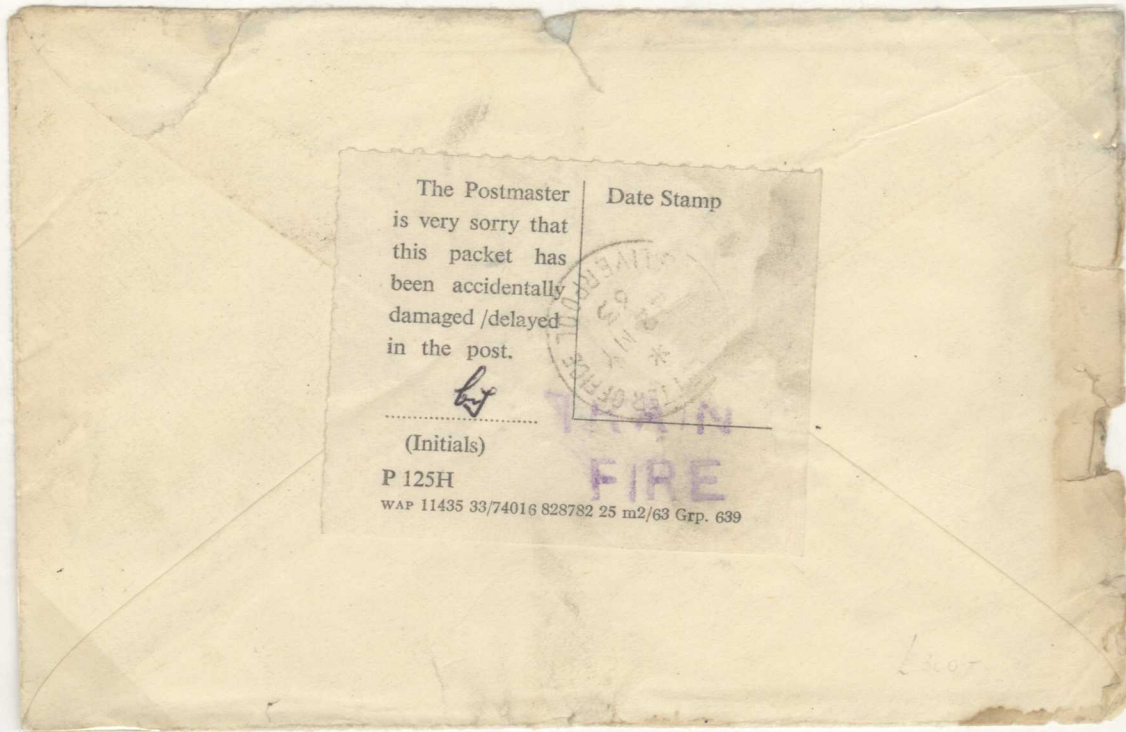
Type 12

A letter posted on November 26 and delivered on December 18, 1969. It is missing its franking suggesting that it was soaked at one point, and is generally ratty, almost as if it had been run over by a truck. Its condition clearly warranted a comment by the post office.



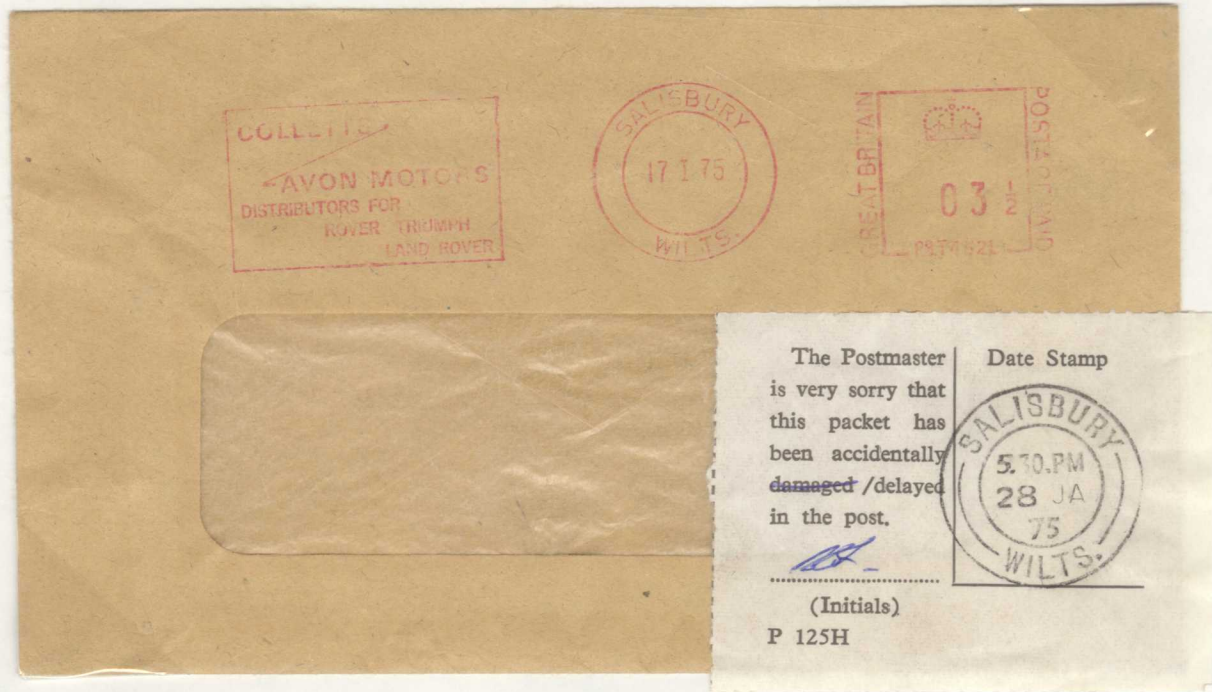
Type 12a

The type 12a seal has a magenta handstamp "TRAIN FIRE". A fire broke out on the 10:30PM Liverpool to Crew train. 17 bags of mail were recovered, but a much larger number were too damaged and were destroyed. Of the 17 recovered bags only a very few received a seal with less than five examples with the seal are reported.



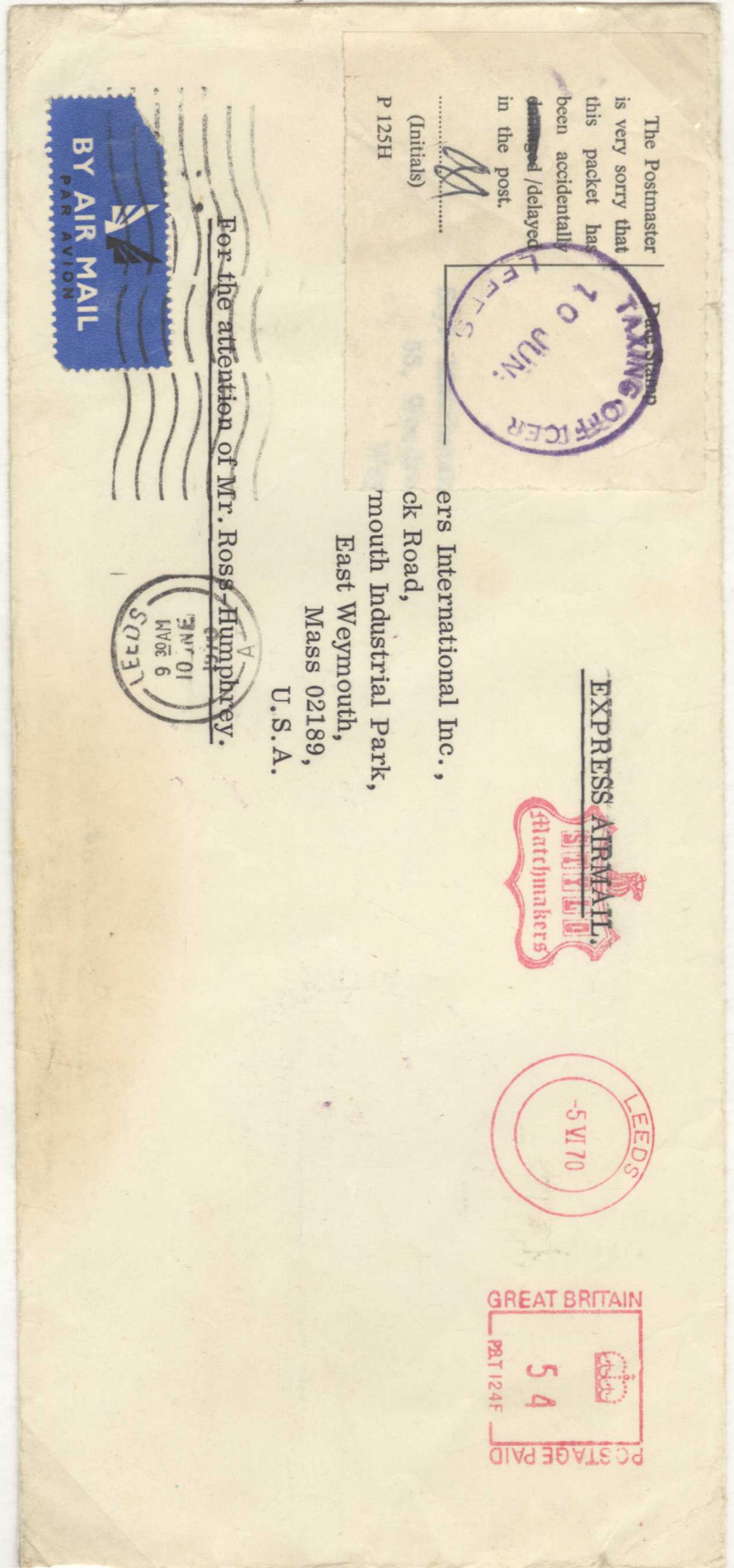
Type 13

A type 13 seal used to apologize for an eleven day delay in delivery.



Type 14

To the right, a letter to the United States that spent six days in the Leeds post office before it began its trip across the Atlantic. The label notes the delay, and is thoughtfully affixed to the envelope only at the upper left corner allowing one to lift the bottom right to see the address.



Multipurpose Delayed/Damaged Seals

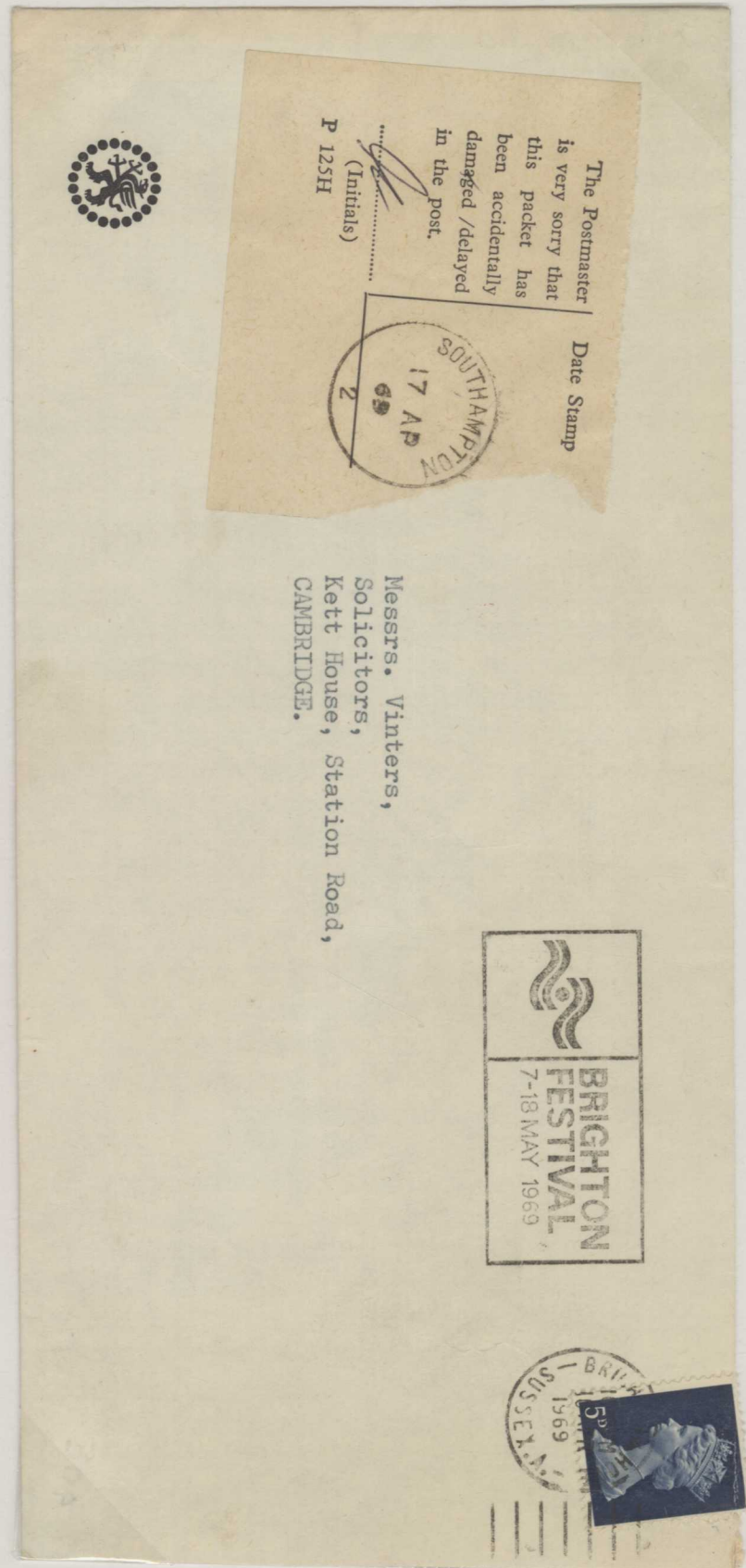
Type 15 and Type 19

Type 15

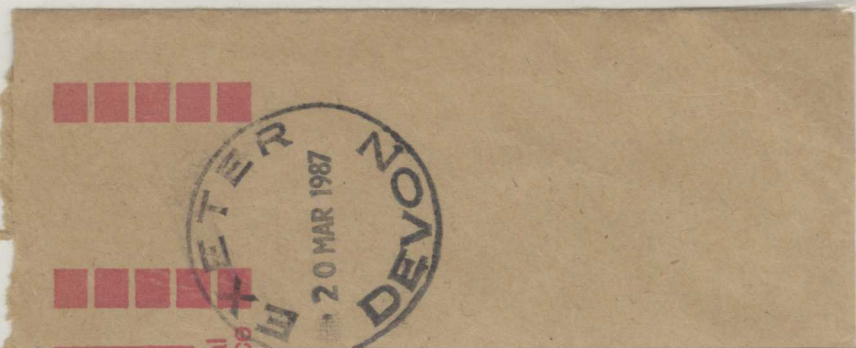
The letter to the right was missent, thus delaying its delivery. Posted in Brighton to Cambridge (150 miles north), the seal (and a handstamp on the back) are dated a week later, but in Southampton, not Cambridge. Certainly delayed, but not damaged.

Type 19

Below a pair of modern damaged/delayed seals from 2002. Many of the modern seals and tapes are now appearing in the vivid colors such as this example. No covers with this seal have been reported,



Type 16 used on an ordinary first class letter damaged in a canceling machine. In the US, such mail is almost always dumped into a preprinted plastic body bag at best, or merely patched up with seals and no explanation. Shown is the damaged article, a form letter from the manager of the mail processing facility in which the letter was damaged, and the covering envelope that was used to deliver the letter.



The Post Office

Q/A 26

Head Post Office

Kenneth E Potter
Head Postmaster

Bedford Street
EXETER
EX1 1AA

Telephone
Exeter (0392)

53122 Ext 252

Girobank account 204 7012

Date

Your reference

Our reference



Dear Customer

The enclosed letter has been damaged whilst circulating through our sorting machinery.

The machines operate at very high speeds and in excess of 300,000 items are processed each day. Despite our best efforts jamming does sometimes occur and unfortunately they can result - as in this instance - in damage to letters.

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience you may have been caused.

Yours faith

B T HUDSON
Manager
Customer

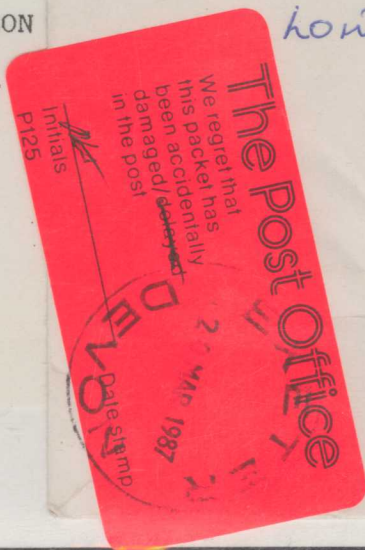
HOWE ELECTRONICS LTD

CHESTERFIELD RD.

MATLOCK

DERBYSHIRE

DEA 5 LE



"Loose in the Post" Seals



Introduction Type 4 and Type 5

These seals used in a fashion similar to the "Found in Supposedly Empty Equipment" handstamps in the US are very infrequently encountered.

Six types have been identified, the first being issued about 1930 and their use continue to the present with the most recent issue about 1993. Only a total of 6 covers for all t

Type 4

Issued in vertical panes of 5 seals.

 POST OFFICE This article has been found loose in the post. Initials..... P 664G	Date Stamp
 POST OFFICE This article has been found loose in the post. Initials..... P 664G	Date Stamp

Type 4

1975 use on a Royal
Mail official busi-
ness envelope



Customs and Currency Control Seals

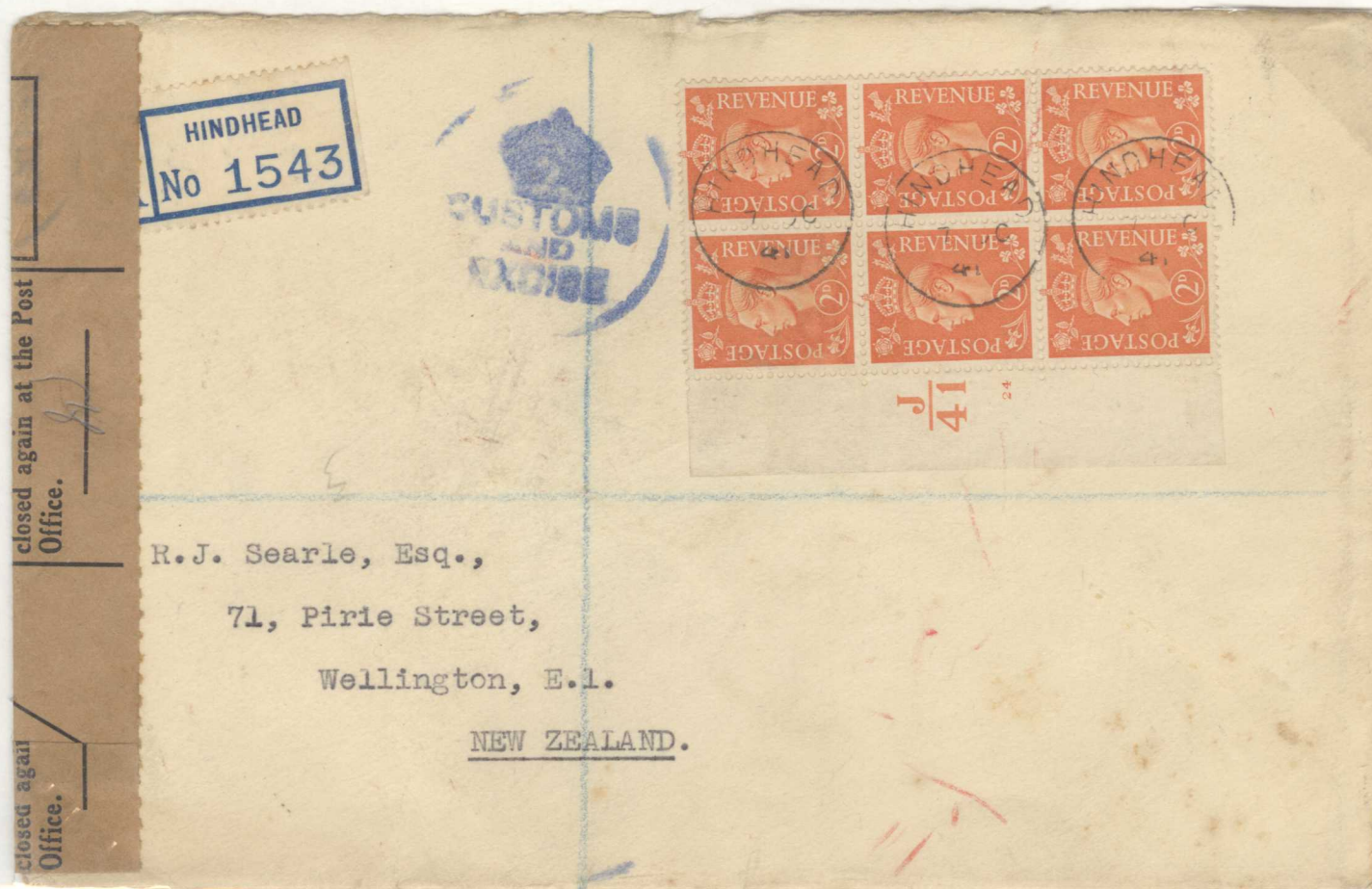
Introduction

Unlike many countries, where the same seal was used in many roles such as repair, closing mails found open or for customs inspection, or used in the DLO, Great Britain used seals with different designs for each task. Seals specifically designated for the closure of mail after customs inspection have been used since 1941. Like the repair seals and tapes, these seals had the initials of the monarch and a crown as major design elements for the first forty years of their use. The modern seals and tapes are more streamlined. The table below describes the design types.

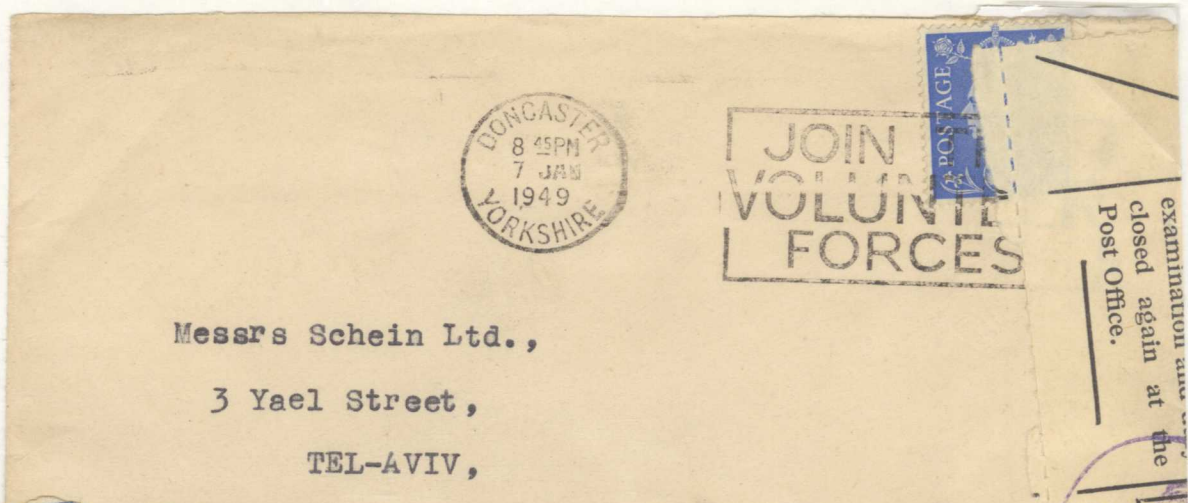
Type	Imprint	Crown	Perf	Text	EKU
1	"G. R."	George VI - 1	HH 8	"GENERAL POST OFFICE"	8/19/1940
2	"G. R."	George VI - 2	HH 8	"GENERAL POST OFFICE" - white paper	4/23/1944
3	"G. R."	George VI - 2	HH 8	"GENERAL POST OFFICE" (Sans-serif)	11/11/1949
4	"G. R."	George VI - 2	HH 8	"CUSTOMS AND CURRENCY EXAMINATION"	1/24/1952
5	"G. R."	George VI - 2	HH 8	"CUSTOMS AND CURRENCY EXAMINATION"	2/28/1953
6	"E. R."	George VI - 2	Imperf	"CUSTOMS AND CURRENCY EXAMINATION"	11/5/1953
7	"E. R."	George VI - 2	Roul. 10	" <u>Customs and Currency Examination</u> "	8/24/1954
8	"E. R."	Elizabeth II - 1	Roul. 10	" <u>Customs and Currency Examination</u> "	5/5/1955
9	"E. R."	Elizabeth II - 1	HH 8	" <u>Customs and Currency Examination</u> "	4/17/1957
10	"E. R."	Elizabeth II - 1	HH 8	"Customs and Currency Examination"	7/20/1965
11	"E. R."	Elizabeth II - 1	Roul 10 x 6½	Same as type 8	?
12	"E. R."	Elizabeth II - 1	Roul 4½	Same as type 8	2/8/1974
13	"E. R."	Elizabeth II - 1	Roul. 9½	Same as type 8	11/24/1978
14	(none)	Elizabeth II - 1	Tape	"OPENED BY THE POST OFFICE FOR ..."	10/3/1985
15	(none)	(none)	Roul. 10	" Customs Examination " (two lines)	11/23/1983
16	(none)	(none)	Roul. 6	Same as type 14	3/29/1988
17	(none)	(none)	Tape	"Post Office" in double line oval	5/3/1984
18	(none)	(none)	Tape	"OPENED AND RESEALED..." on tape	?
19	(none)	(none)	Die Cut	Royal Mail logo and " Customs Examination "	3/14/1996

Type 1

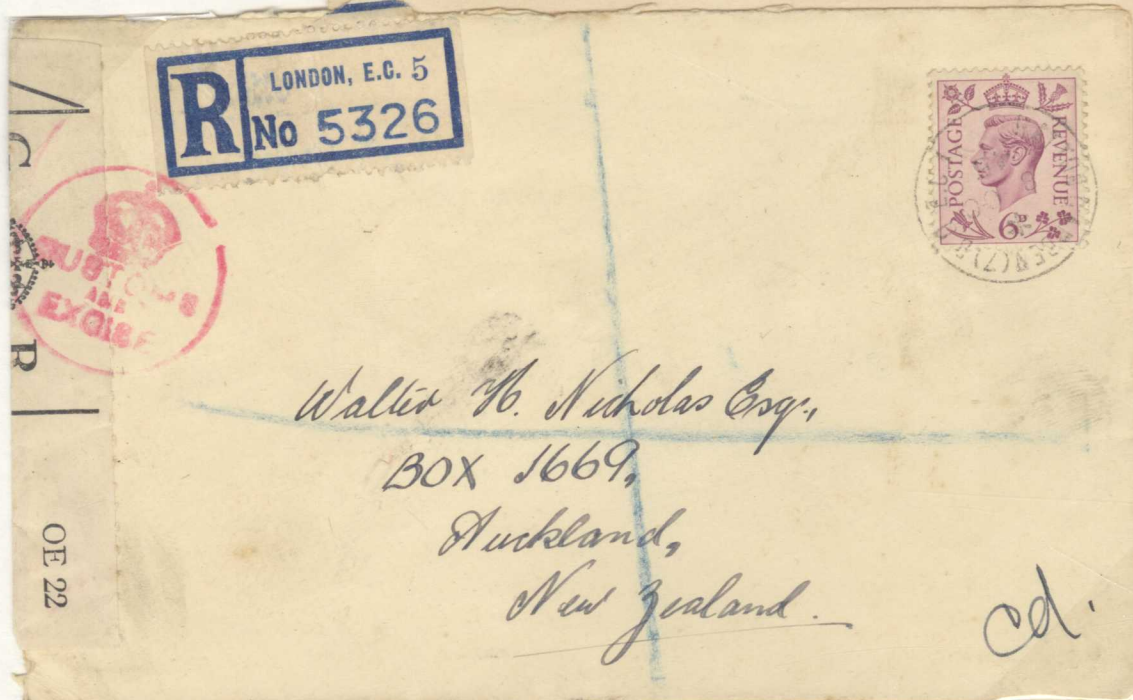
Two type 1 seals used to reclose a registered packet to New Zealand.



This letter, although not registered was opened for customs inspection. Such examples are much less common, as the assumption was that unregistered mail would not contain dutiable items of value.



Messrs Schein Ltd.,
3 Yael Street,
TEL-AVIV,

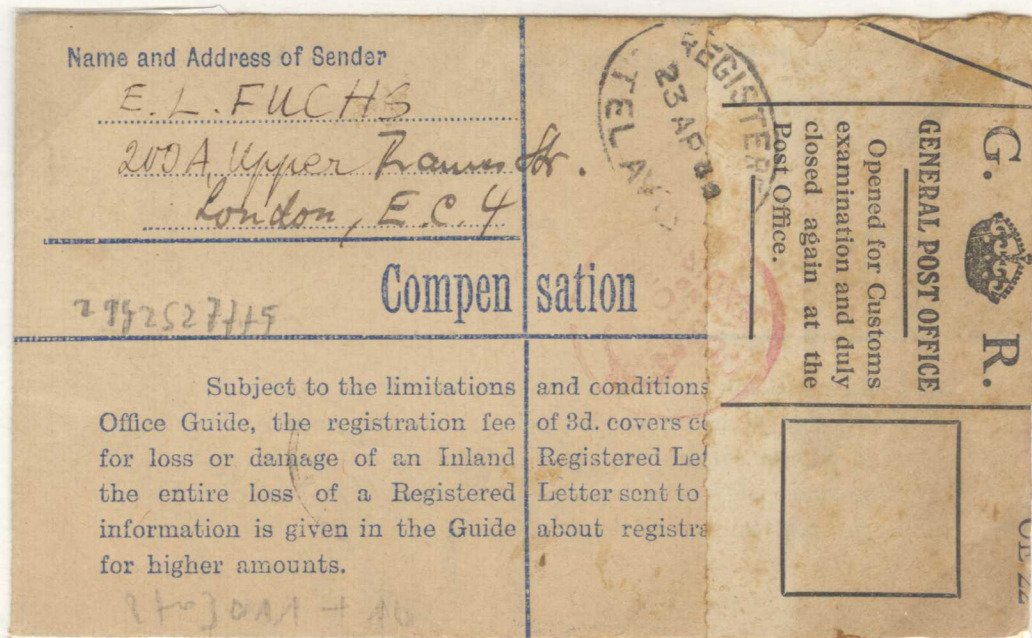


A typical example of the seal's most frequent use, to reclose a registered letter to New Zealand opened for customs inspection.

Palestine Usage

A registered letter from London to Tel Aviv opened there for customs inspection and closed with a type 2 Customs and Currency Control Seal

The only reported overseas use of any of the Customs and Currency Control seals.



Subject to the limitations and conditions of 3d. covers examination and duly closed again at the Post Office. Registered Letter sent to about registra for higher amounts.

Type 3

Incoming registered letter from Switzerland. Opened and reclosed with a type 3 seal.



Type 4

Registered letter from the Orkney Islands to New Zealand.

Opened and re-closed with a type 4 seal.

The EKU for the type 4 seal.



Type 5

Type 5 seal used on a registered letter to the Royal Canadian Air Force recruiting center in Vancouver, BC. It is difficult to imagine what items of value might be sent to a recruiting center.



Type 6

Type 6 seal used on a registered letter to New Zealand.



Type 7

Type 7 seal on a registered letter to a serviceman in the RAF in the Middle East.

The ECU for the type 7 seal.



Type 9

Unusual placement of the type 9 seal (on the back rather than on the opened edge) used on a registered letter to the United States. The closure with tape is very infrequently encountered.

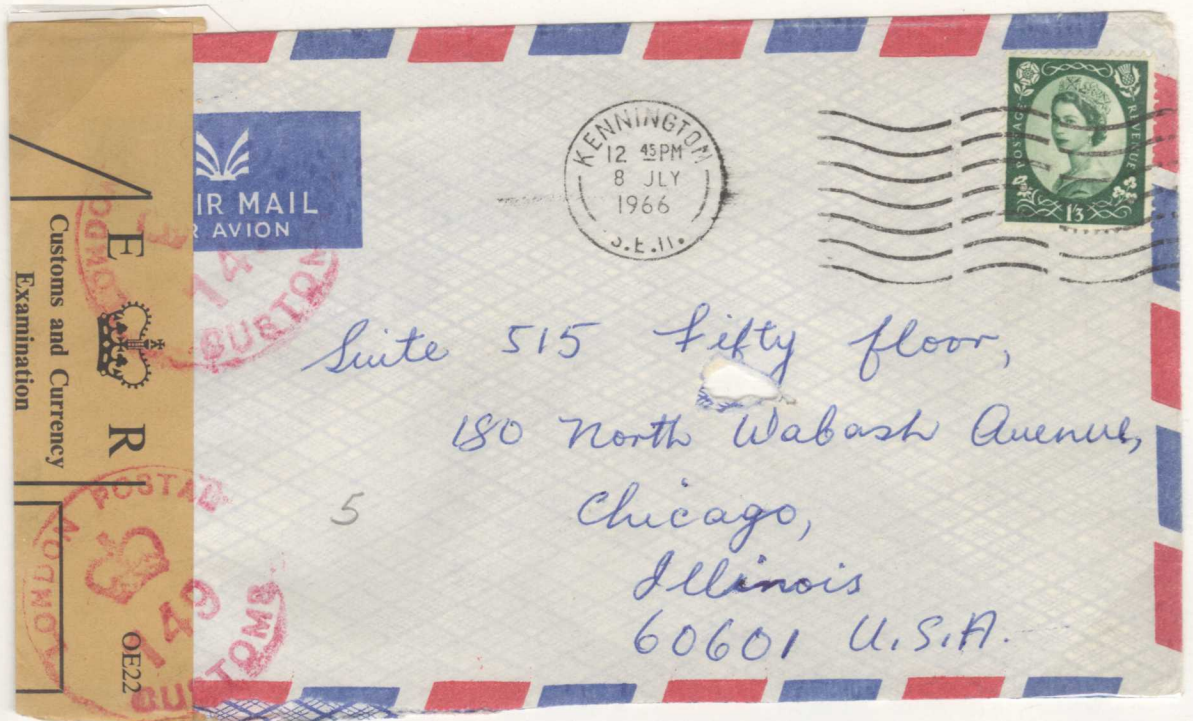


Customs and Currency Control Seals

Type 10 and Type 12

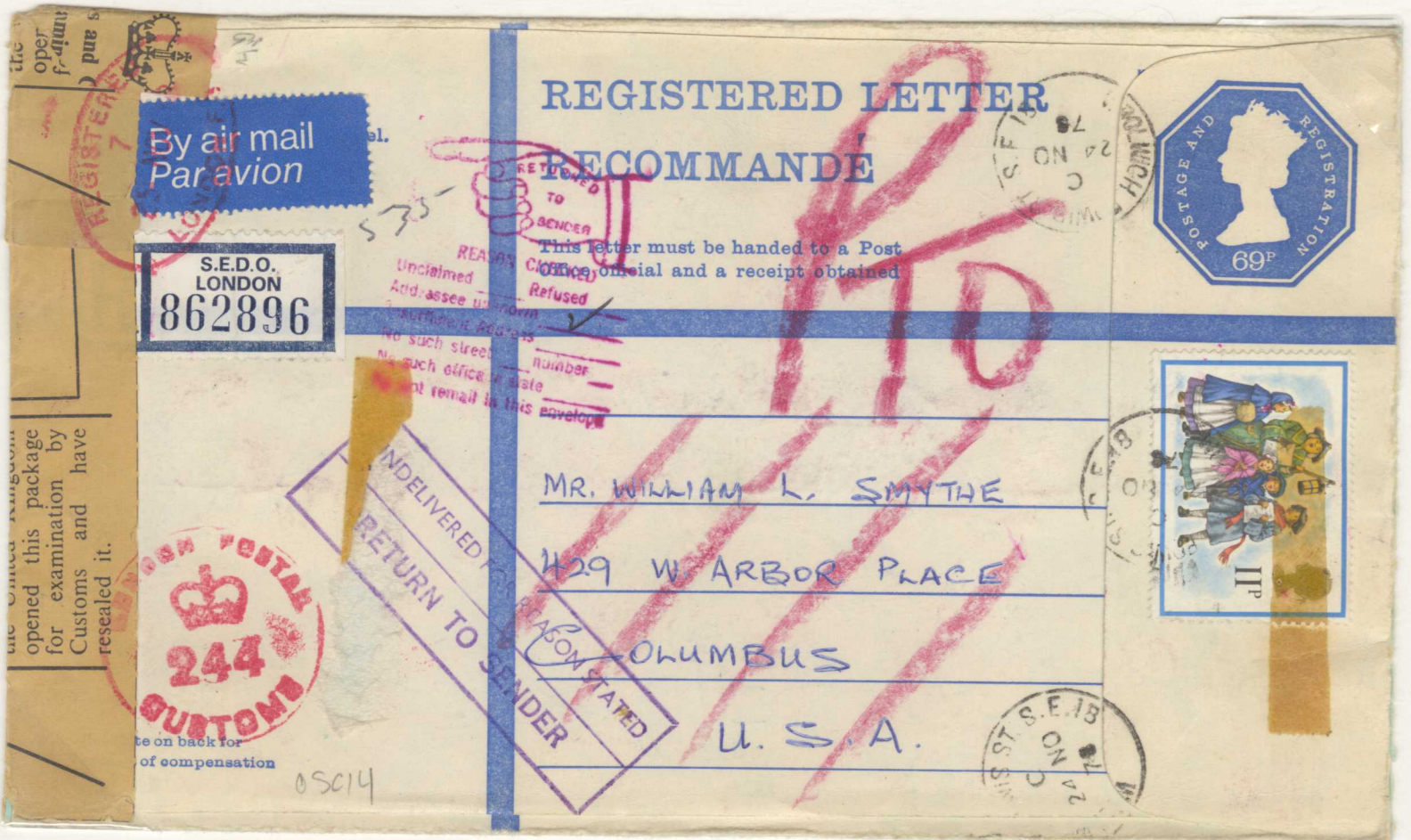
Type 10

Type 10 to the right used on ordinary mail.



Type 12

Type 12 below has an unusual use of multiple seals on the cover.



A large registered envelope (folded for display) from Norfolk Island opened for inspection and closed with numerous segments of type 14 transparent cellophane tape. As with all of the tapes, the adhesive has dried out and the tape is falling off of the envelope.



BY THE POST OFFICE
CUSTOMS EXAMINATION

POST OFFICE

OPENED
FOR CU

POST OFFICE

POST OFFICE

Peter Sutton
 68 Northumberland Rd.
 New Barnet
 Hertfordshire, Eng.

Administration

Type 15

Type 15 seal used on a shipment of covers from the United States to a British auction house. The front (see image below) has a rather colorful assembly of high denomination US stamps. The label at the top on the back with inscription "London Overseas Mail Office" indicates the facility where the inspection took place. This label is infrequently seen.



United States

FROM Expéditeur **LONDON OVERSEAS MAIL OFFICE**

William
PO Box 4
Tulsa, Okla
USA

TO Destinataire
Pennyread
Scotton, Knaresborough
North Yorkshire HG5 9PH
United Kingdom

Instructions
undeliverable:
ins de l'expéditeur
on livraison
to sender
per original
will be returned by
at sender's expense.)
rd to: Reexpédia
(4)
1262-94

INS
PENNYREAD
6933111
1989

Abandon Abandonné

QTY.	Itemized List of Contents Please Print	VALUE (US \$)
2	Antique envelopes (postal history)	\$1200

Signature of Sender *William B. Ashley* Date 12/6/89

Insured No./Numéro d'assurance

Weight/Poids
lbs. ozs.

Insured Amount (US\$) 1200

Post Office OE22

Customs Examination

The Post Office in the United Kingdom opened this package for examination by Customs and have resealed it

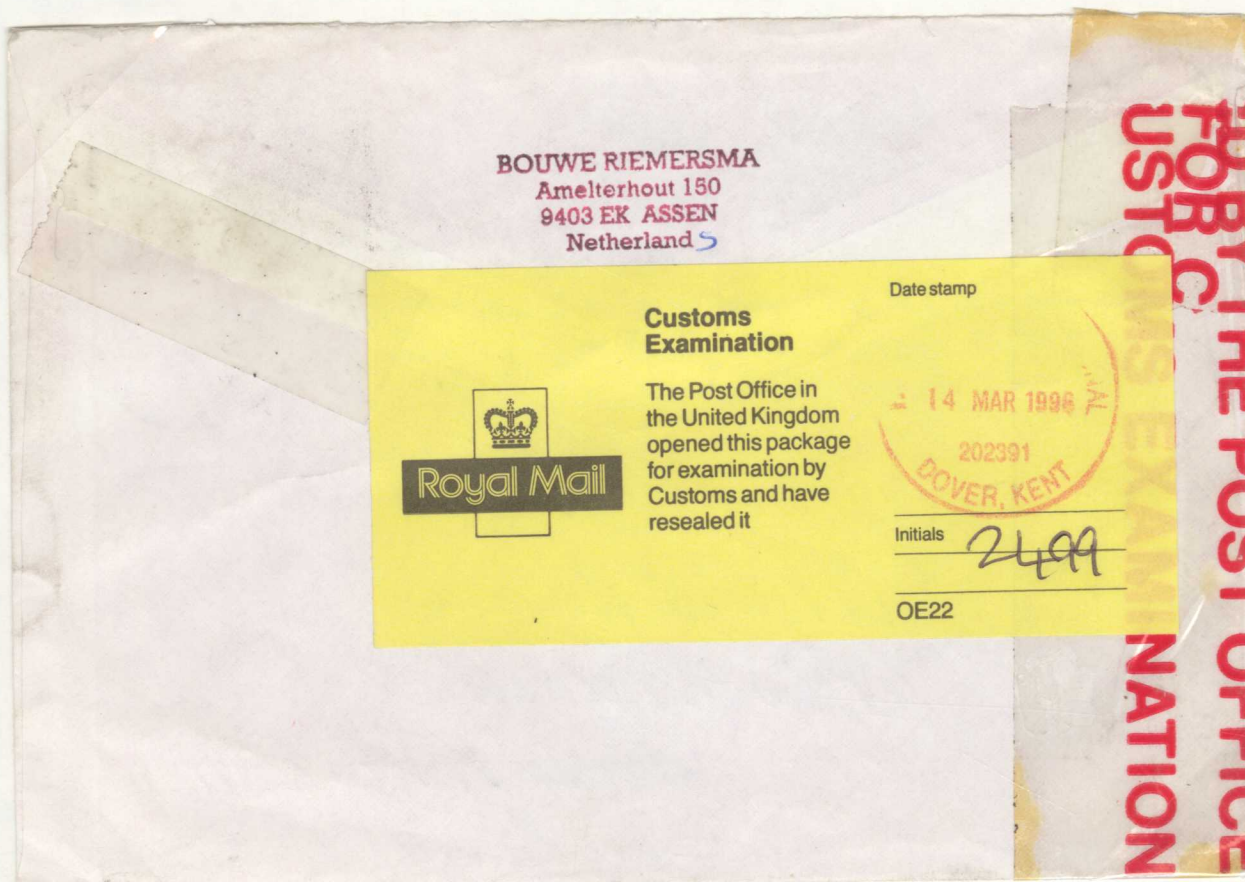
24 JAN-90
MAIL OFFICE

VAT

Types 17 and 19

1996 Letter from the Netherlands to England. Not registered, but still opened for customs inspection. The type 17 clear tape is at the right, and the type 19 customs examination label is added on the back overlapping the tape.

The tape was intended for use in reclosing packages, and the yellow label would normally be found folded across the opened end of the letter.



Type 18

Although this tape does not have any indication that it is a postal service product, it has been found used to reclose large packages that also have type 19 seals. It has also been found used alone on larger packets.

**OPENED AND RESEALED FOR
H.M. CUSTOM INSPECTION**

Compulsory Registration Seals

Introduction and Type 1 and Type 2 Usages

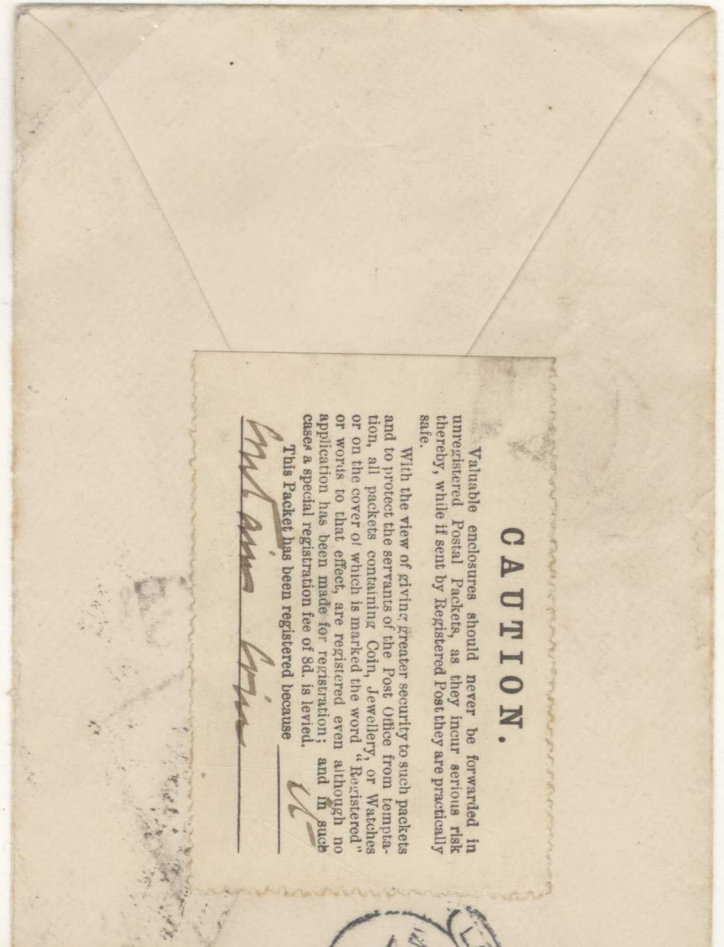
Postal regulations required that mail with valuable contents be registered. The regulations also allowed the inspection of unregistered mail suspected of containing valuable contents, and if such contents were found, the recipient would be charged the registration fee. The post office created special purpose seals used to inform the recipient that upon examination of a mail item it was found to require registration.

Eleven types of these seals are known with the first appearing about 1897. Their use continues to the present. All are scarce and their use is very infrequent.

Type 1

When a coin was enclosed, it was frequently not necessary to open the letter, as the outline of the coin was often visible as in the case of this 1897 letter from the United States. The label was added, the seal has "it contains coins" and a manuscript "4d to pay" was written on the front. All mail containing coins, no matter how small their value, had to be registered, even if the registry fee was greater than the value of the coins enclosed.

One cover reported.



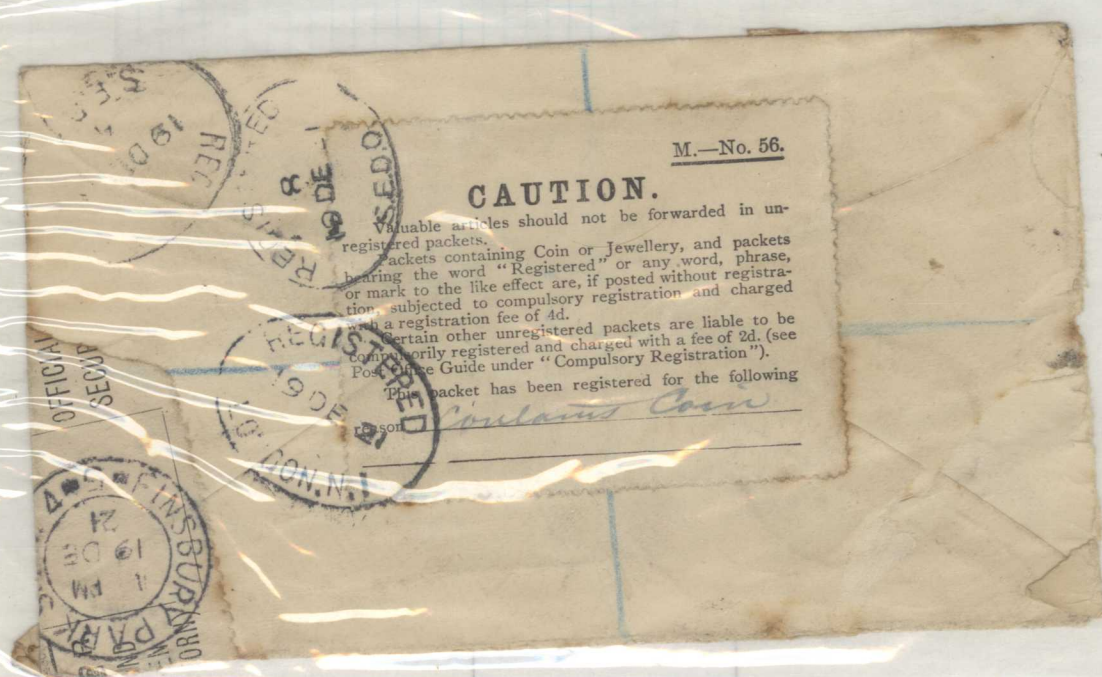
Type 2

1917 letter also from the US and found to contain coins.

One cover reported.



CRZ-8A perf 12



M.—No. 56.

CAUTION.

Valuable articles should not be forwarded in unregistered packets.

Packets containing Coin or Jewellery, and packets bearing the word "Registered" or any word, phrase, or mark to the like effect are, if posted without registration, subjected to compulsory registration and charged with a registration fee of 4d.

Certain other unregistered packets are liable to be compulsorily registered and charged with a fee of 2d. (see Post Office Guide under "Compulsory Registration").

This packet has been registered for the following

Person Contains Coin

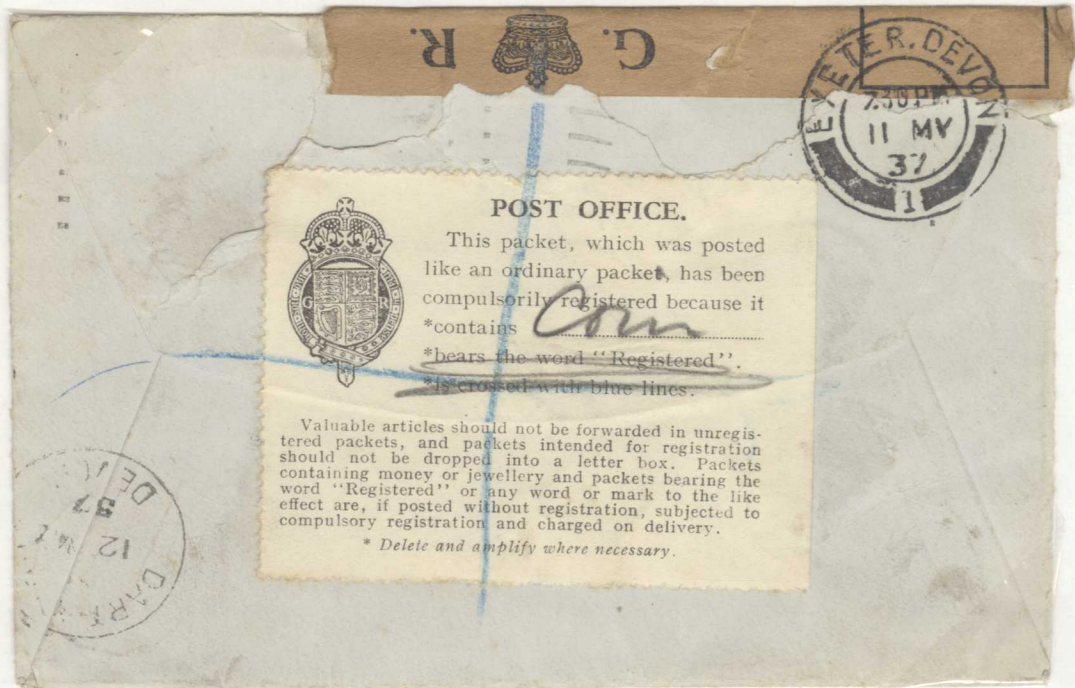
Compulsory Registration Seals

Type 7 and Type 9

Type 7

Combination Use with Type 3 Repair Tape

Type 7 seal used on a letter found to contain coins. Opened to check for the coins and reclosed with a type 3 tape.



Type 9

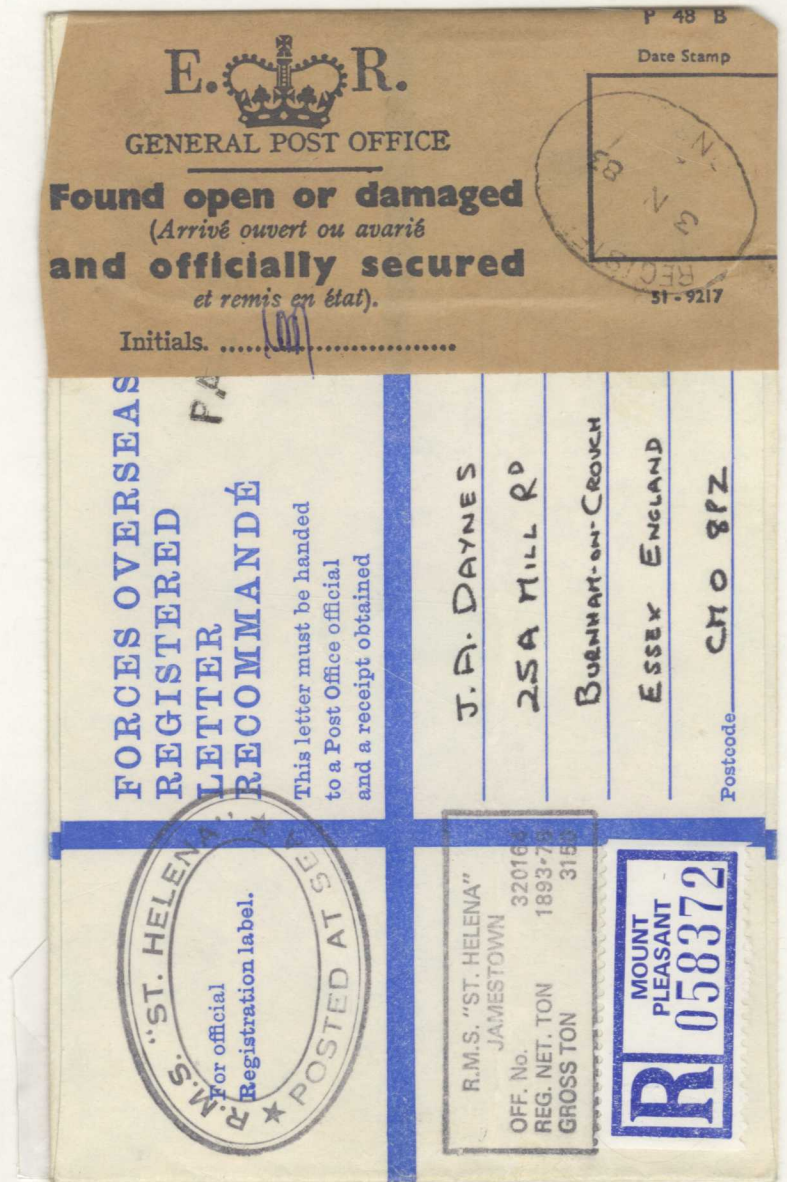
Combination Use with Type 22 Repair Tape

Type 9 seal applied as the envelope contained "currency" with type 22 tape segments for closing the envelope.



A registered letter posted at sea aboard the RMS *St. Helena* by a serviceman using the characteristic envelope provided by the military. For an unknown reason the Mt. Pleasant office in London decided that a compulsory registration label was required, despite the use of the registered envelope.

The type 10 compulsory registration label is on the back, and the front has a type 23 tape over the flap. The franking is hidden under the type 23 tape. The envelope may have been opened, but there is no indication of that it was. The use of the label and the tape is somewhat of a mystery, as it appears that neither was necessary.



Compulsory Registration Seals

Type 11 and Type 12

This design is found in two perforation formats: roulette 5 in color in a sheet format and hyphen hole 6½ without color.

Type 11

Off cover seal roulette 5 seal is below. The black lines between the unbroken paper teeth can be clearly seen. This type has not been on cover.


Type 12

At the right, one of the very few examples of these seals not used when currency or coins are present.

The sender merely dropped the letter in a post box after marking it "Registered Post" and adding the characteristic crossed lines on the front to indicate registered mail.

The post office added the registry etiquette and the recipient paid the postage due (£1.20) for the registration.

This packet, which was posted in the ordinary way, has been compulsorily registered by the Post Office because it

 **POST OFFICE**

*contains.....

*bears the word "registered."

*is crossed with blue lines.

Valuable articles should not be sent in unregistered packets. Packets intended for registration should not be dropped in a posting box, but should be handed in at a Post Office and a receipt obtained. Packets found to contain money or jewellery and packets bearing the word "registered" or any similar word or mark, posted without registration, are registered by us and we charge on delivery.

* Please advise the sender about this.
* Delete and amplify where necessary.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
Registered Post

Liverpool
305331

LIVERPOOL
23.7.86

GREAT BRITAIN
POSTAGE PAID
17

POST OFFICE

*contains.....

*bears the word "registered."

*is crossed with blue lines.

Valuable articles should not be sent in unregistered packets. Packets intended for registration should not be dropped in a posting box, but should be handed in at a Post Office and a receipt obtained. Packets found to contain money or jewellery and packets bearing the word "registered" or any similar word or mark, posted without registration, are registered by us and we charge on delivery.

* Please advise the sender about this.
* Delete and amplify where necessary.

**IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE LIMITED
AT TOWN OF POST MARK**

H11 6 1/2

Jessen Esq,
Company Secretary,
Celebrity Food factories Ltd
Older House,
16-17 High Street,
Cardiff CF1 2DX

£1.20
TO COMPULSORILY
PAY REGISTRATION