

Bahamas Postal Stationery 1881 - 1965

The objective of this eight-frame exhibit is to show the range of postal stationery available during the period 1881 to 1965. The display does not include Letter Cards or Wrappers as they were not requested by the country from the Crown Agents.

The structure is chronological but within this time frame follows the style of first Postal and Reply-Paid Cards, Postal Envelopes, Registered Envelopes, Air Letters and finally an International Reply Coupon.

The Content of this exhibit, within the constraint of the dates, consolidates as far as is known, the majority of all the known De La Rue Essays, Proofs, Artists' Drawings, Die Proofs and Archive material that exists. Of course the British Library In their Philatelic Section In London contains remaining material from the De La Rue Archives. However all significant items including overprint varieties such as the double strike on the 1883 Reply-Paid Postal Card, locally produced Specimens as well as De La Rue own types and Instructional Markings are indicated. Major varieties can be viewed including those which to date have not been previously identified.

This exhibit is being continuously updated and upgraded with fresh material. English Pound Sterling values only are displayed.

Rarity. Where possible from personal research through to existing sources, printing numbers are shown. In some cases overprinted material, quantities are simply not known. In many printings the production run was small due to lack of demand. **Exceptional items have grey borders.**

Personal Research. This exhibit is based on some existing records, Higgins & Gage (except no quantities listed and there are factual errors) and G. Hooley's extraction of some data from the De La Rue Day Books at the British Postal Museum and Archive. This has been considerably extended by the use of the Crown Agents Records at the British Library but again some areas are not covered – particularly since 1960. Further research at the BPMA has proved productive. The Country Archivist and the Post-Master General's Office in Nassau have both been approached for information but they are unable to assist. Past auction catalogues have proved useful from a factual viewpoint but generally quantities are not given. H. Gisburn in the *Postal History of the Bahamas* is informative for postal rates but these end in 1940. Some articles in the British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin have been of assistance.

Provenance. Most of the main Archive and special material, either wholly or in part, were at one time the property of Von Ascher, T. A. Matthews, Morris Ludington, and Graham Hooley. Some material has been obtained from other vendors, ie, Vestey and some Continental and North American sources.

New Project. As a result of my further research I have provided an original chapter on postal stationery in a fresh Bahamas book. Publication date is imminent.

Acknowledgements: De La Rue Private Day Books at the British Postal Museum and Archive; British Library Philatelic Section for Crown Agents Records; G. Hooley for articles in the BWISC Bulletins; H. Gisburn for postal rates to 1940; additional personal research from various sources.

All frames contain De La Rue Archive material

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Queen Victoria 1½d Postal Cards 1881

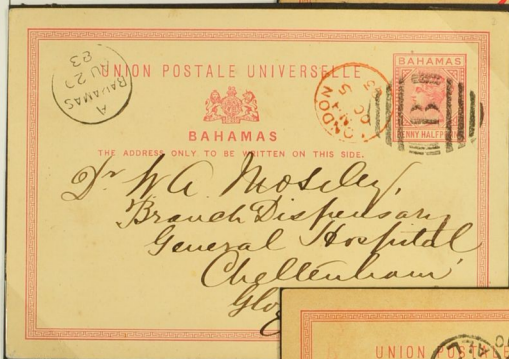
As for many British Colonies and Territories including the Bahamas, De La Rue acted as printer for the Crown Agents. The first 1½d issue went on sale in March 1881, size 128 x 89mm, in rose on buff card being twice the thickness of the English International Post Cards. Bahamas joined the Universal Postal Union on 1st July 1880 and set the postcard rate at 1½d. The card has a decorative border.

One printing only of 10,150 items, invoiced on 2nd December 1880. There were no Specimens.



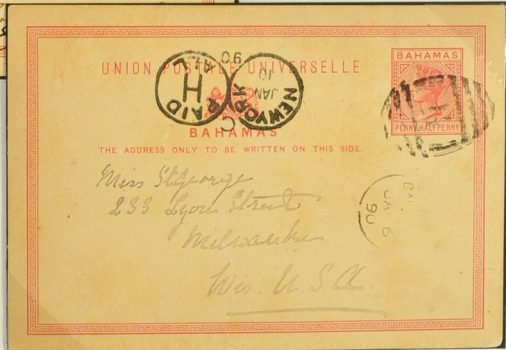
Above, pale rose on buff card.

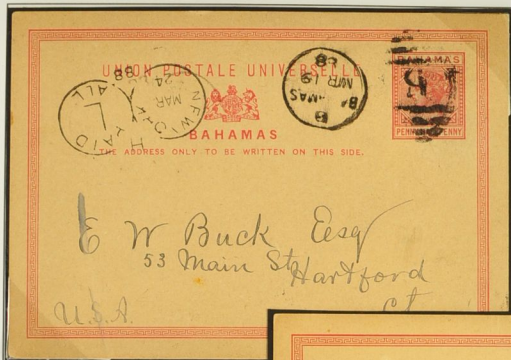
Card written in German from Nassau with 'barred B' killer to Frankfurt, Germany, October 1883.



1883 to England with 'barred B' and skeleton cancel 'A' with red London arrival mark.

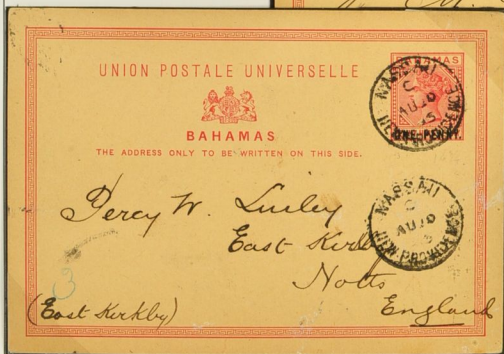
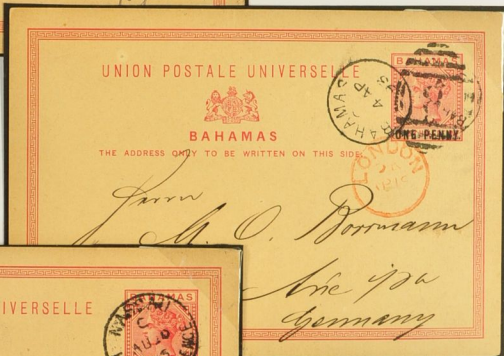
To Wisconsin via New York with 'barred B' cancel and New York Paid All Pcode H duplex, January 1890. The 1½d rate covered postal cards to UPU countries.





'Barred B' oval cancel
March 1888 to America
with New York Paid All
duplex, code L.

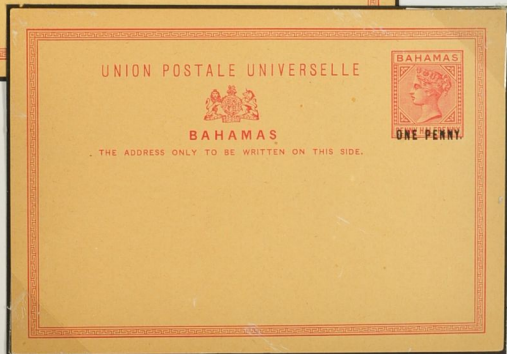
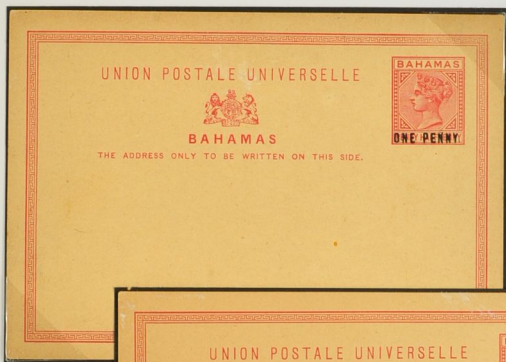
April 1893 to Germany
via London. Unusual
as there are three types
of Bahamas cancels – a
'barred B' and two other
Circular marks. Red
arrival mark London.

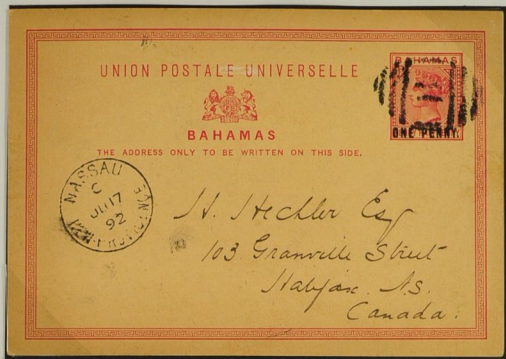


Nassau New Providence
cancel to England, August 1895.

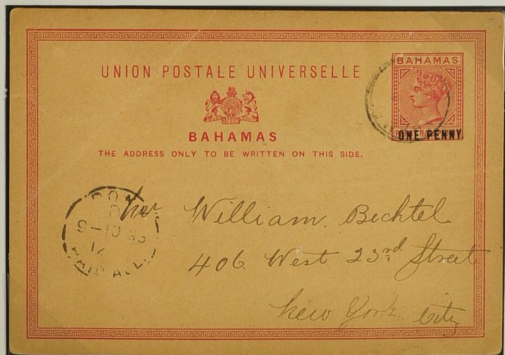
Queen Victoria 1892 Provisional Overprinted Postal Card of 1881

The original card of 1881 has now been surcharged 'One Penny.' in black capitals, length 16.75mms. This was brought about in 1891 by the postal card rate reducing from 1½d to 1d for UPU countries. Pending arrival of the new postal cards from De La Rue in July 1892 a limited and unknown quantity from the first printing was surcharged. Used examples are scarce. The overprint was effected locally with slight variations in the setting as may be seen below.





Above, barred B and a New Providence cancel June 1892 to Halifax, Canada. Below, Nassau to New York September 1893, back-stamped reverse, E/ Date/ N.Y. Front has a circular black Paid All mark.



Queen Victoria 1½d + 1½d Reply-Paid Postal Cards 1883 Die Proofs

Shown are the two examples of the De La Rue Head and Frame Dies – one being the Die Proof. Black on white card.

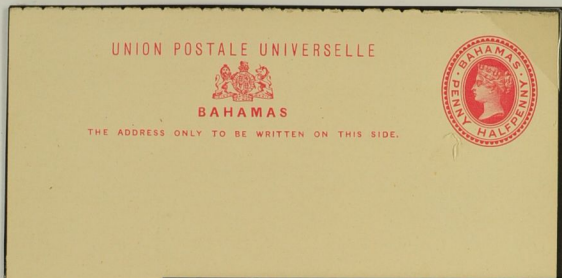


Lower dated 'April 24th' in blue ink and then in red '1883'.

The printing plate for this was invoiced on 16th July 1883 with one printing only of 8,150 items. Size was 142 x 90mm rose on pale buff card. Higgins and Gage via Ascher state that there were two perforations: six and seven.

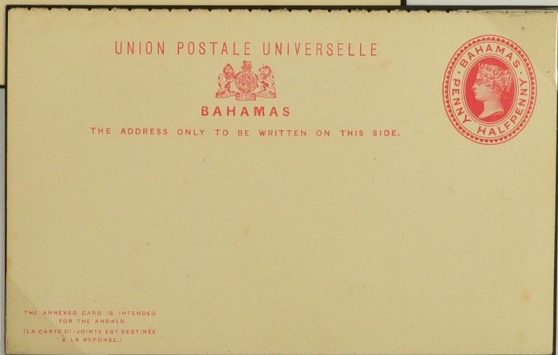
So far research indicates no trace of the six, so the examples shown here are all seven. This accords with Hoey's findings. There were no 'Specimens' printed.

The accent over the 'E' of 'REPONSE' is weak and failed to print in some instances, therefore two different types of this card are known. This card was also used to print the 1892 provisional issue subsequently known with and without the accent.



No accent.

Very small red dot
for accent.



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE



BAHAMAS

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



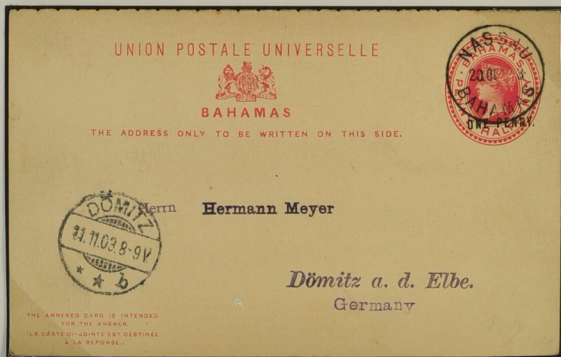
Alfred Hayforn
Chaux de Fond
Switzerland

THE ANNEXED CARD IS INTENDED
FOR THE ANSWER.
(LA CARTE CI-JOINTE EST DESTINÉE
À LA RÉPONSE.)

Substitute
K

To Chaux-de-Fonds
December 1902 with
arrival strike.

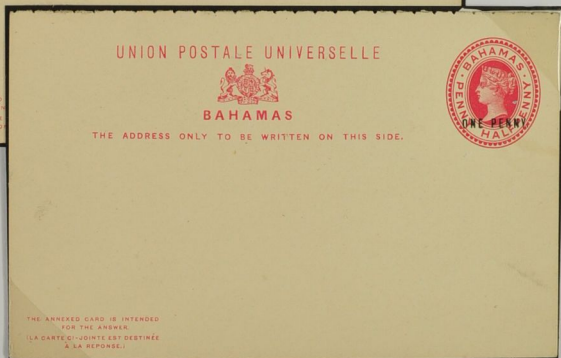
Complete reply-paid
postal card Nassau
New Providence to
Ulm, Germany,
December 1894.
Small dot.



Complete to
Domitz, Germany,
November 1903,
no dot.

Queen Victoria Provisional 1892 Overprinted Reply-Paid Postal Card of 1883

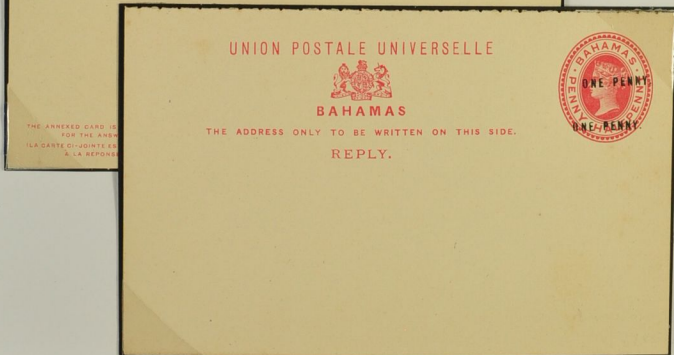
Due to lack of stocks of the revised UPU 1d rate being available from England, the issue of 1883 has now been overprinted locally in 1892 'One Penny.' in black capitals measuring 16.75mm. The quantity of overprinted postal cards is unknown.



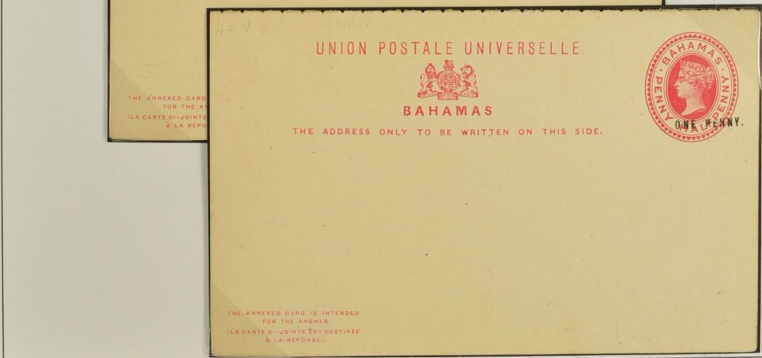
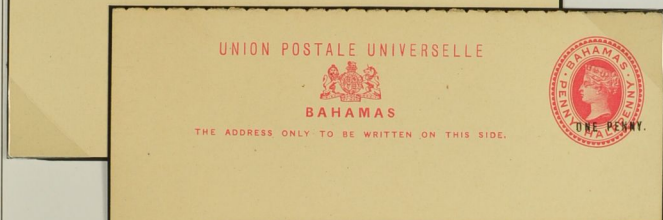
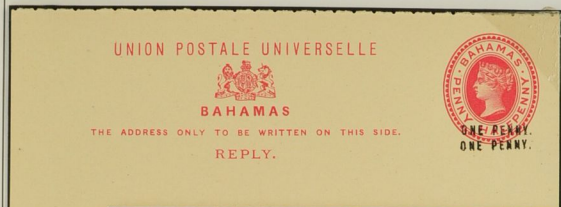
Top example has no accent over the 'E'; the lower does. Also the upright leg of the letter 'P' in 'Penny' is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm shorter than the normal $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This variety is unrecorded. Overall the overprint is higher up the Queen's neck compared to the postal card.

Errors of the 16.7mm black overprint on the provisional 1892 postal card. Shown is a previously unrecorded overlapping double overprint. Also seen, middle and lower, are double overprints on both the message and the reply side cards. The weak accents resemble small red dots.

Rated as very rare and to date used examples have not been found.



There was a second local printing of the 1892 overprint measuring 17.75 mms with the setting slightly to the right when compared to the 16.75 mms examples. These are far scarcer than the first setting. The top card shows the very rare double overprint but on the reply side only, while centre and below, the overprint is misplaced considerably to the right. Also the centre card has a slight accent over the 'E' while the lowest card the accent is missing.



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE



BAHAMAS

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

REPLY.

Mr. F. Ewald

Bahamas



Outward Nassau to Ulm, December 1894 with arrival strike on reverse of 11th January 1895. The reply half has a Neuoffingen strike in a blue-green of 4th February, no year indicated. Overprint is the scarcer 17.75mm.

Although sent to a dealer from Nassau to Germany there is a commercial message. May 1909.



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE



BAHAMAS

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Herrn

Paul H. Dürre

Germany

Gera

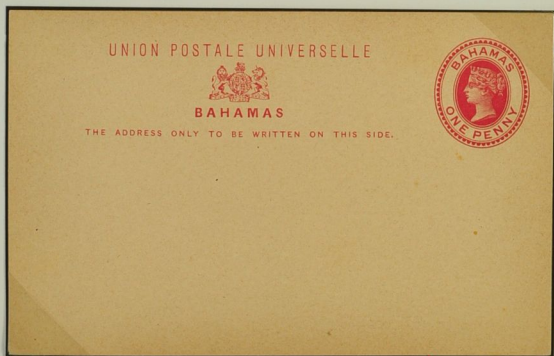
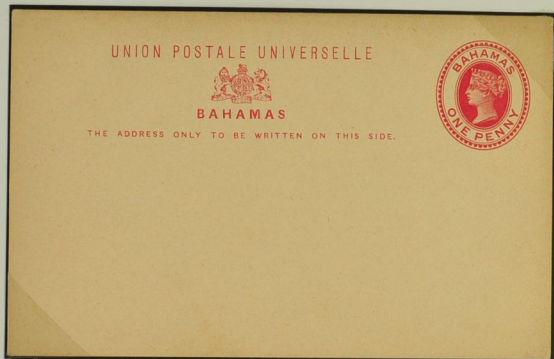
Harboust. 1.

THE ANSWERED CARD IS INTENDED FOR THE ANSWER.
LA CARTE CI-JOINTE EST DESTINÉE A LA REPONSE.



Two De La Rue 1892 new value 1d postal cards but printed on a slightly thinner card. Quantities: July 1892, 10,200 with 400 PSD1 Specimens; June 1896, 10,320; June 1900, 3,132. Size 141 x 90mm.

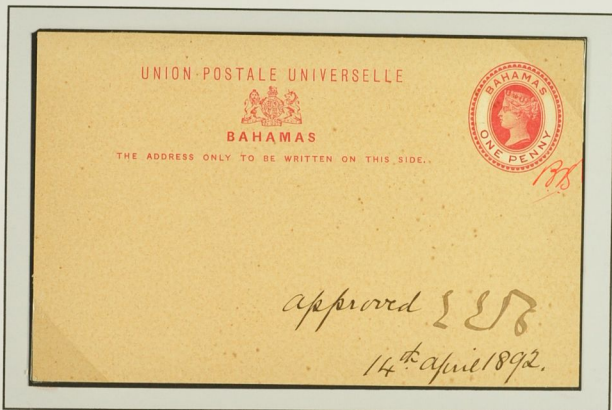
This example is printed carmine-red on buff card.



Deeper carmine-red on a brownish-buff card.

Queen Victoria 1d Postal Card 1892 Hand-Painted Essay

In style very similar to the 1883 reply-paid postal card except this De La Rue essay in carmine on buff card has the value tablet *hand-painted in Chinese White*. Endorsed 'Approved' and dated 14th April 1892 and initialled *E E B* (E.E. Blake, Chief Crown Agent). There is also a red manuscript initial to the right side of the value tablet. Size is 141 x 90mm. The printing plate was invoiced on 2nd July 1892.



Three printings are known: 7th July 1892, 10,200 including 400PSD1 Specimens; 3rd June 1896, 10,320 and 8th June 1900, 3,132.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE



BAHAMAS

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



SPECIMEN

Machine typeset by De La Rue in June 1892, this is a standard overprint commonly found on Colonial stamped postal stationery for UPU distribution between 1885 and 1920 as 'Colonial' type PSD1, the overprint measuring about 90 x 9mm.

Commercially used to Toronto, Canada, March 1896, New Providence cancel but no year slug In date stamp. New York duplex.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE



BAHAMAS

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



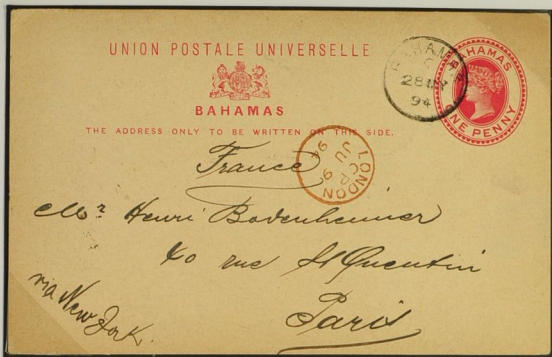
Mr. Marks.

Manufacturers Life Ins Co
Toronto
Canada

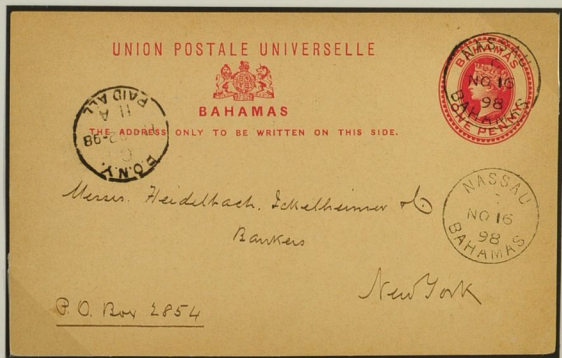


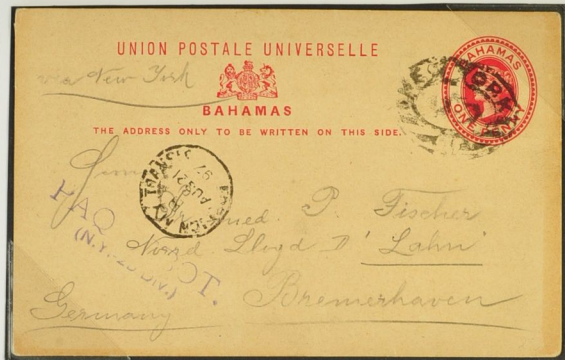
These overprints have certain peculiarities in that for any one issue there are flaws in one or more of the letters used and that these flaws are constant within that issue. It is suggested that only one cliché of this typeset overprint was available at any one time and this was struck on one piece of stationery at a time.

The cliché used was probably repaired or perhaps suffered additional damage before being used on another issue of the same period.



Commercial uses of the new value postal 1d card of 1892. Upper, Bahamas cancel May 1894 to Paris via New York and, with a red strike, London. Lower to New York November 1898 with a good P.O.N.Y (Post Office New York) Paid All mark.





August 1897 card
to Bremerhaven,
Germany. Cds
Foreign N.Y. Transit
and a two-line
PAQUEBOT (N.Y.
2D Div.)

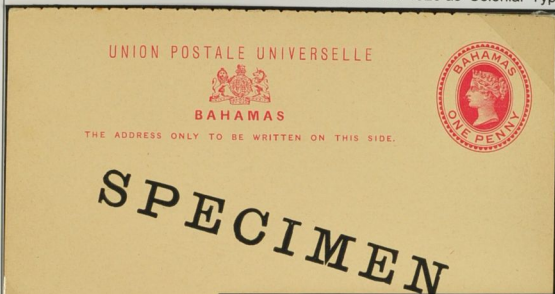
New Providence cancel
To England, June 1898.
Other cancels as seen
after re-direction.



Queen Victoria 1d + 1d Reply-Paid Postal Card 1892

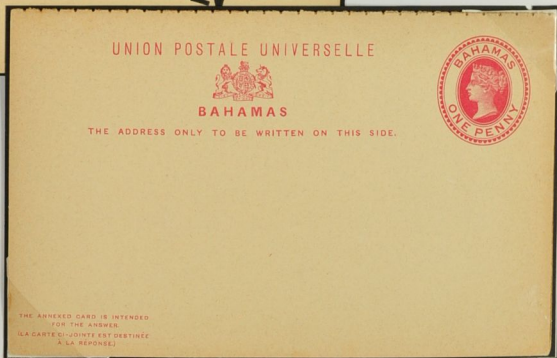
Design as for the 1d postal card but this time the accent on the 'E' of REPOSE has been strengthened on this and all subsequent issues. Printed carmine on buff/cream card but the perforation has been altered to eight.

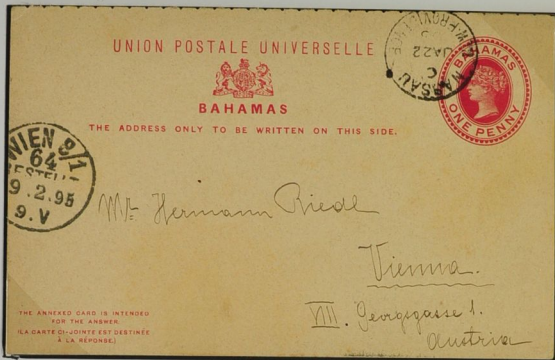
One printing of this issue, 5,100 on 7th July 1892 with 400 PSD1 Specimens – one of which is seen below. Machine typeset by De La Rue, these are standard overprints commonly found on Colonial stamped postal stationery for UPU distribution between 1885 and 1920 as 'Colonial' Type PSD1.



The overprint measures about 90 x 9mms and can vary from top left to bottom right or vice versa.

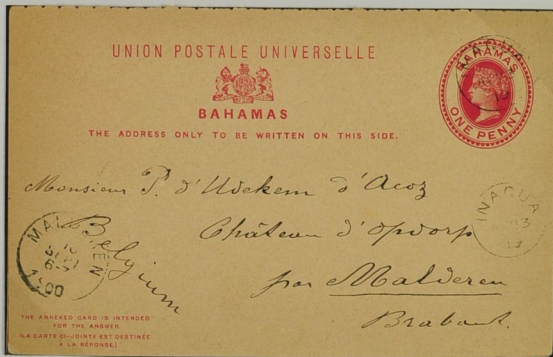
Perforation has now been altered to eight.

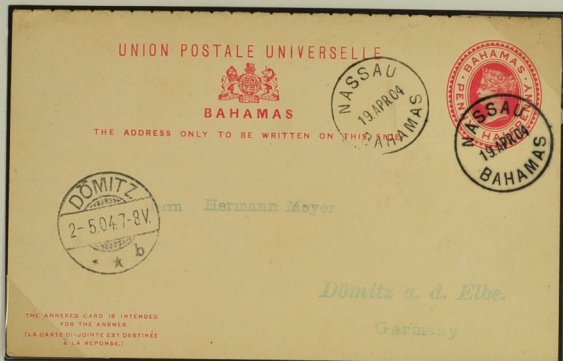




Above to Vienna, Austria, February 1895 with a Nassau, New Providence strike, also a Vienna arrival mark on the card's address portion.

Below, this commercial reply-paid postal card has two good Inagua cancellations and a Malderen, Belgian arrival mark, September 1900. Early cancels on postal stationery other than Nassau itself are rated as very scarce.



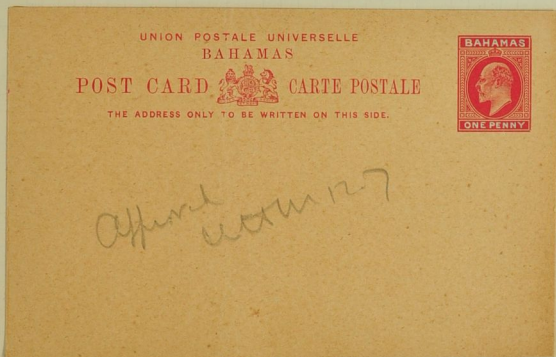


Used to Domitz, Germany,
April 1904. Small accent.

Edward VII 1d Postal Card 1902 Hand-
Painted Essay

27th February 1902.
Bahamas Reg. 97/1901

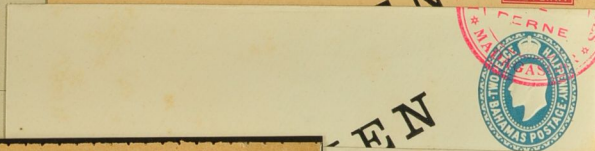
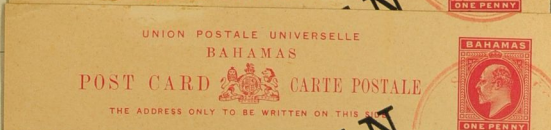
Appendix.



28.2.02.
[Signature]

Ex-De La Rue Archives, this Appendix sheet is dated 27h February 1902 with the Bahamas Requisition number 97/1901. This adopted essay has the country title and value hand-painted in Chinese White. Endorsed 'Approved' by W.H.M. (Sir William Hepworth Mercer, Chief Crown Agent) and initialled and dated at lower left. Ex-Vestey.

Edward VII
De La Rue
Archive



SPECIMEN

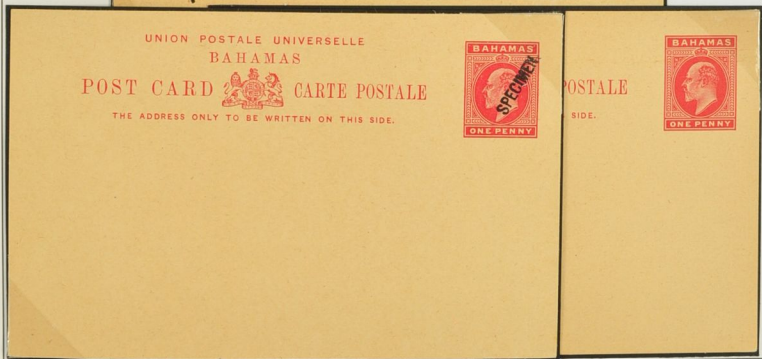
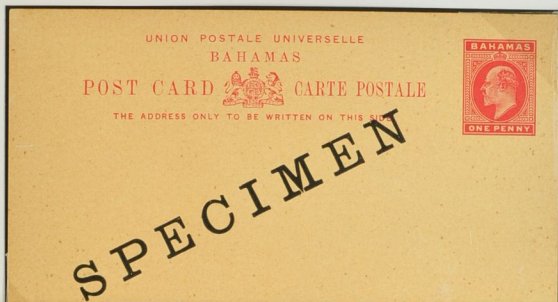
Released from the Archives of the Madagascar Post Office these seven postal stationery cards/envelope have each been cancelled by a large red double circle 'POSTES ET TELEGRAPHES * MADAGASCAR * COLLECTION DE BERNE' and have been affixed to a part ledger page. Originally sent from the UPU in Berne to Paris where the postal authorities then sent these Specimen items to their Colonies.

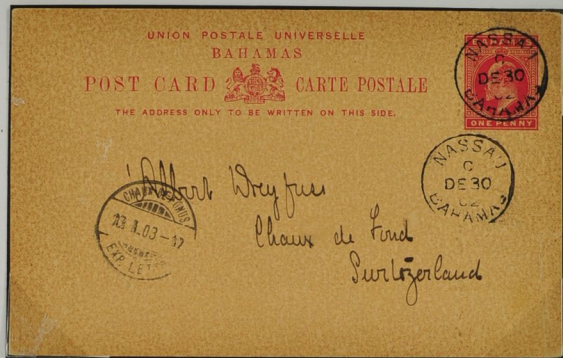
Edward VII 1d Postal Card 1902

The four-set De La Rue printing plate was invoiced on 9th December 1902. There were three printings: December 1902, 10,176 with 722 PSD1 Specimens; May 1906, 10,272; and October 1912 with 2,076.

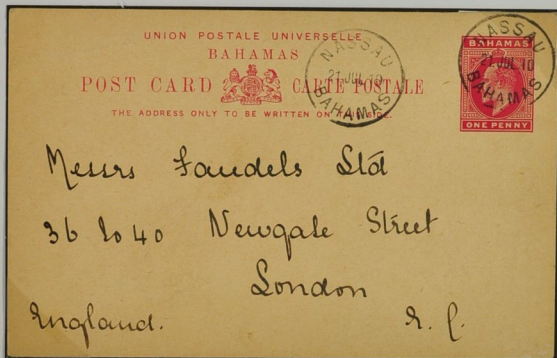
Carmine on buff or mottled-buff card, size 142 x 90mms.

Top item is a standard PSD1 Specimen. A small number – quantity unknown in spite of research – were hand-stamped locally for presentation purposes at some time after 1907. This included examples both of the current definitive issue and the postal stationery, an example of which is seen below.



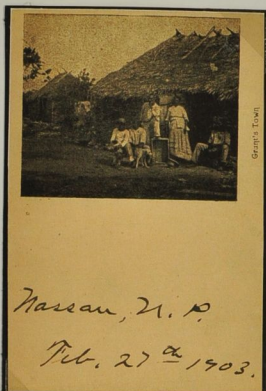


To Switzerland,
December 1903



To London,
July 1910

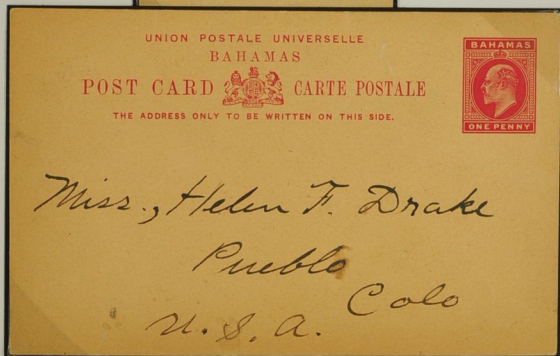
Card addressed to Colorado, America written - but not posted - 27th February 1903. This may be the only example of an illustrated postal card known from the Bahamas. Other countries such as Natal used cards similar to this both in Queen Victoria and King Edward VII's reign but this example is not documented by the authorities but may be just a private printing. Research has now commenced.

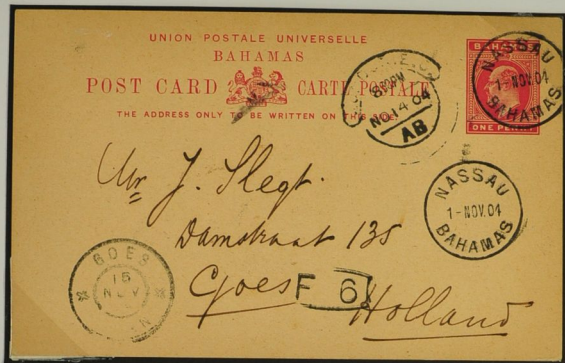


Probably printed by lithography, year unknown, the monochrome illustration shows a local family group outside their hut in a section of Grant's Town.

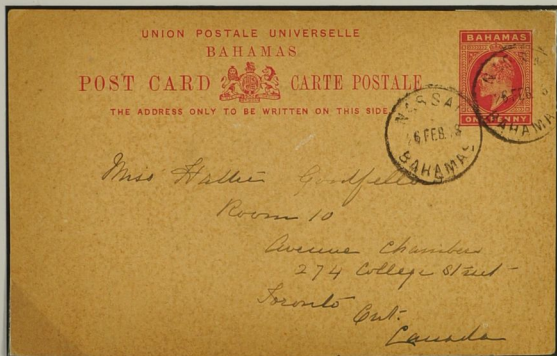
Nassau, N. P.

Feb. 27th 1903.



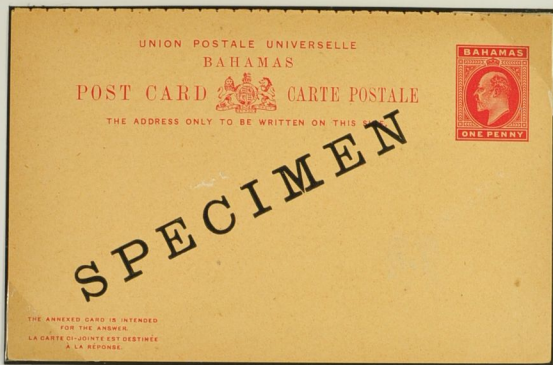


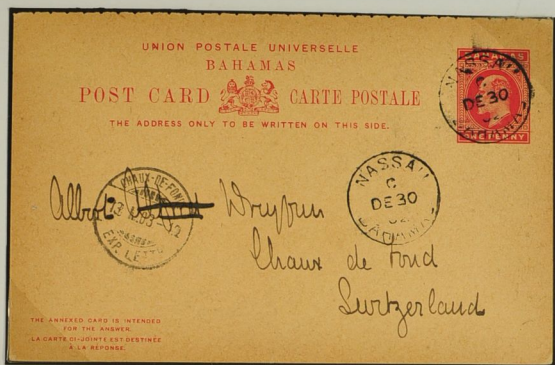
Above, to Goes, Holland November 1904 via London. Strikes as shown including a delivery number, F6.
Below, to Toronto, Canada February 1913.



Edward VII 1d + 1d Reply-Paid
Postal Cards 1902

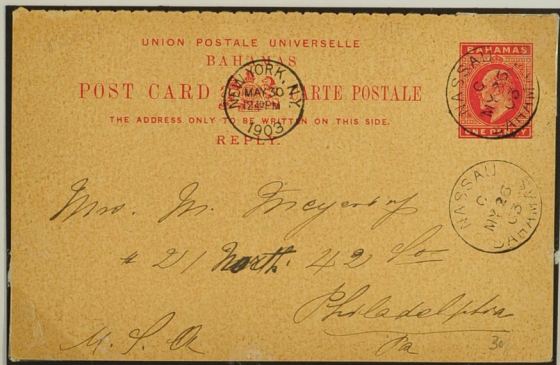
Seen are two further Specimen overprints – the upper a standard PSD1 and the lower produced locally for presentation/example purposes. Perforation remains at eight for this issue.





Upper to Switzerland 30th December 1902 with an arrival strike Chaux-de-Fond 13th January 1903.

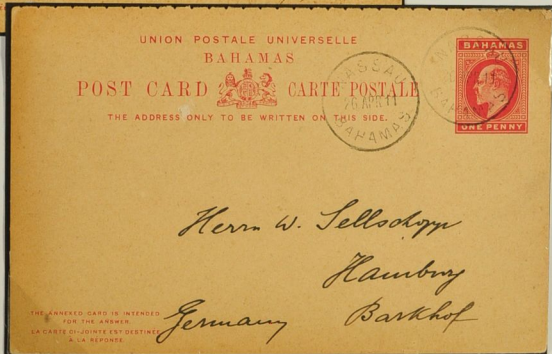
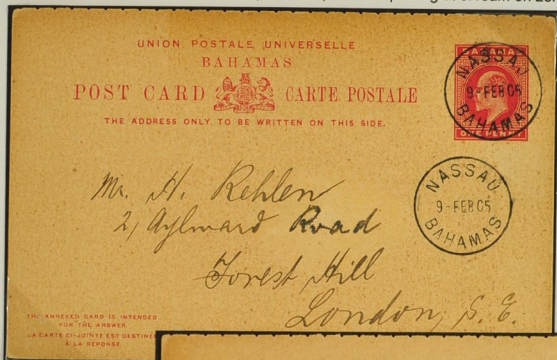
Lower commercially used to America 26th May 1903 with a New York arrival mark 30th May 1903.



De La Rue's four-set printing plate was invoiced on 9th December 1902. There was only one printing on 9th December 1902 for 2,046 items including 727 PSD1 Specimens. Colour is carmine on buff card although mottled-buff cards are known. With this new plate the accent over the first E of REPONSE has been strengthened and can be clearly seen.

Perforation is eight and not seven as indicated in Higgins & Gage.

The upper complete card was sent from Nassau 9th February 1905 to London with receiving cancel 23rd February. Inside he has listed the ports visited on board the S.S. Oceanic (Nassau 11th February, New York 15th, Queenstown 22nd and Liverpool 22nd) with the posting at 8.15am on 23rd February.



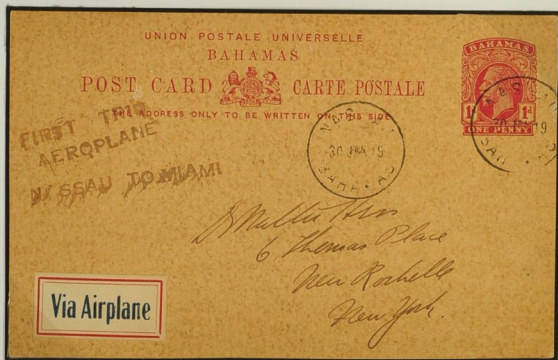
Right, complete card to Hamburg, Germany, April 1911.

Message in German.

George V 1d Postal Card 1913

Higgins and Gage is incorrect in stating the date was 1912 as this four-set De La Rue printing plate was invoiced on 25th August 1913 and ran to four printings: August 1913, 5,160 including 404 PSD1 Specimens; July 1914, 5,184; July 1924, 5,736; and March 1932, 1,200 items. Printed in carmine on buff card measuring 142 x 90mm.

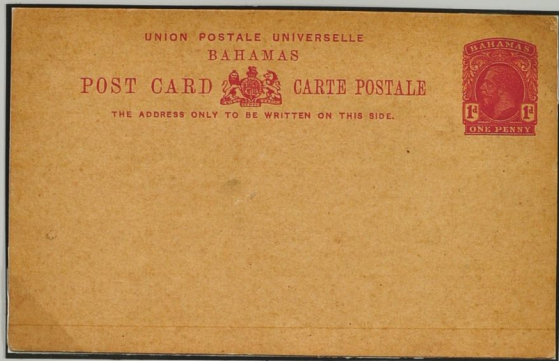
Shades of both the carmine and the buff card are known.



First flight cover
Nassau to Miami,
30th January 1919.
Note small 'Via
Airplane' label and
faded black three-
line cachet.

At first glance a standard George V postal card of 1913 but on the reverse - and unrecorded until now - is a black and yellow, probably by litho, design incorporating flamingos.

The card is unused so it may be a 'modern' attempt to brighten up the card but whatever its provenance it has not been seen by any authority before. Research is now underway on its origin.



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
BAHAMAS

POST CARD  CARTE POSTALE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

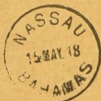


Deeper carmine
on buff card.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
BAHAMAS

POST CARD  CARTE POSTALE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



Georges Dnquesne,
2, Rue Petit
Candebe - Sis - Elbeuf,
(Seine - Inferieure)
France.

May 1918 to Seine,
France, used
commercially.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
BAHAMAS

POST CARD  CARTE POSTALE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



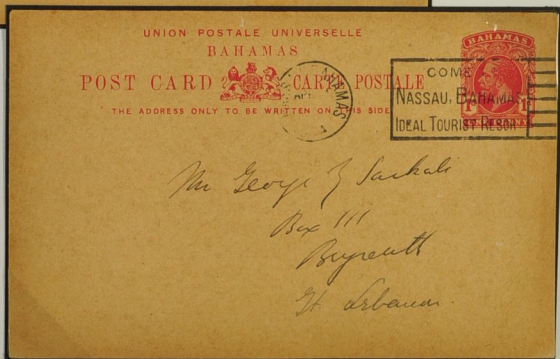
Mme S. Cramer.
Schreibade w 2 50's
52 Rotterdam
Holland

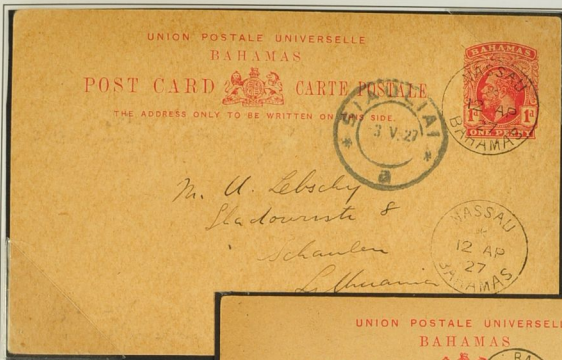


Commercial use to
Holland, October 1921.

Interesting two cards from Nassau to Beyrouth, Syria and to Beyrouth, Lebanon. Sent by Dr Walter Hess, Chief Medical Advisor to the Bahamas, in July 1933 and April 1934 to the same person requesting payment for various goods.

Note the upper card which is probably a 'grace and favour' as indicated by the black horizontal bars but the value tablet has been cancelled.





Unusual destination to Lithuania in April 1927 with Siauliai transit the fourth largest town in Lithuania.

Deep carmine shade to Finland, April 1933.



Antwerp, Belgium in August 1934 with slogan on a paler carmine buff card. Surcharged with a 70c Belgian postage due cancelled on arrival as the rate had changed from 1d to 1½d in May 1934. Label has been 'cancelled'. All cards are commercial.

George V 1½d Postal Card Essay 1934

A change in the rate for postal cards took place on 12th May 1934 when a new four-set printing plate was prepared by De La Rue with the new value of 1½d. The new adhesives were issued at the same time. There were four printings: May 1934, 1,344 including 409 Specimens; December 1934, 1,200; March 1936, 1,248; and March 1937, 1,260 items.

An essay was prepared by De La Rue for a projected illustrated airmail postal card with a pictorial adhesive. The original photographs are seen on the following display sheet. Note the manuscript measurements for a new, larger adhesive and the proposed change to a divided back.

The proposed design was not adopted.



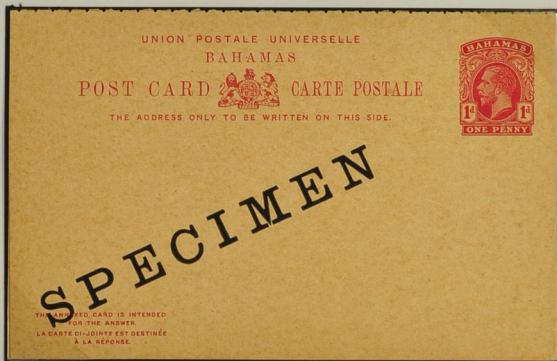
The original photographs for the proposed air mail postal card - see previous display sheet.



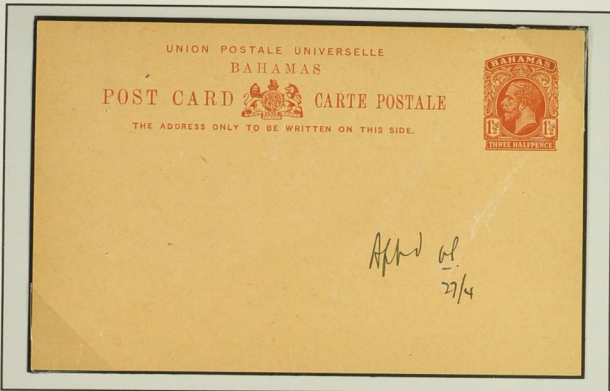
George V 1d + 1d Reply-Paid Postal Cards 1913

One printing of this item: 2,052 including 404 PSD1 Specimens on 25th August 1913. Carmine on buff card measuring 140 x 90mm.

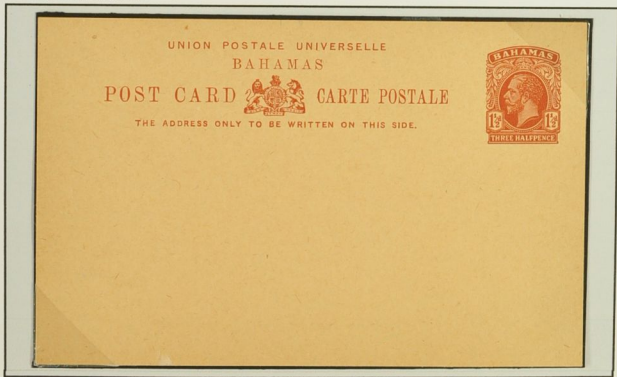
It should be noted that although this card was printed, none appear to have been issued. Despite intensive research both in the UK and abroad no used copies have been located. It may be that on reflection the authorities decided that it was not required for postal use and dropped the issue. the cost would have been minimal given that it was of a standard type.



George V 1½d Postal Card
De La Rue Proofs 1934

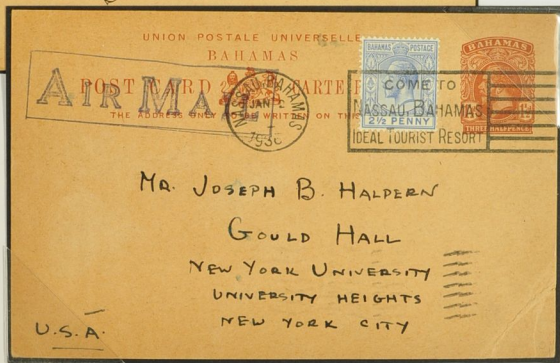
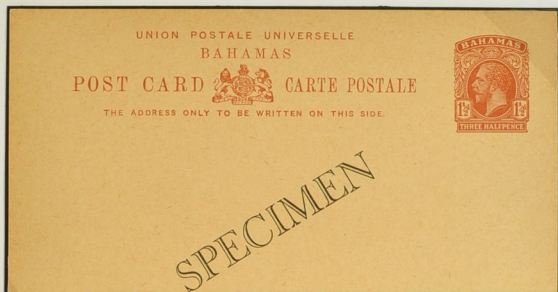


Two Proofs from the De La Rue Archives, one marked 'Appd (initialled GP.) 27/4'. These proofs have a very clear and sharp imprint.



This 'skeleton' Specimen is one of 409 that were printed on 12th May 1934 along with 1,344 ordinary cards. Other printings in December 1934, 1,200; March 1936, 1,248; and March 1937, 1,260.

This type of Specimen is unusual as research to date indicates that it has been used only twice on Bahamas postal stationery. The colour of the inscription is now brown - to agree with the adhesive - on buff card.

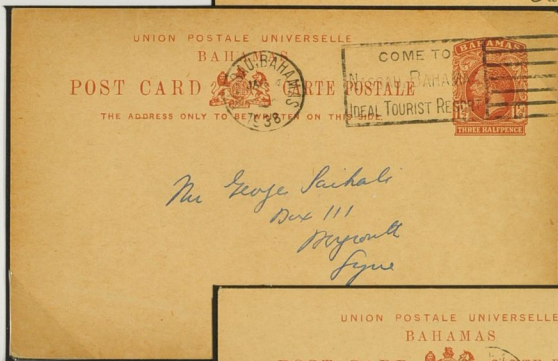
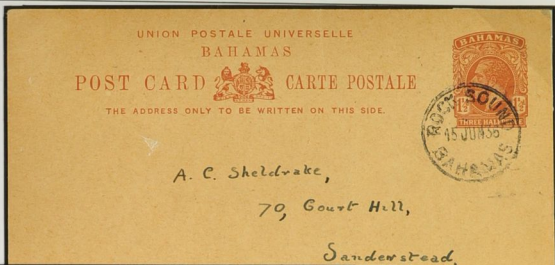


Nassau to America, January 1936, uprated by 2½d to take into account that this commercial postal card was being sent by air mail. Reverse has cancel of New York.N.Y.Station J1.

Used examples from the third or fourth printing.

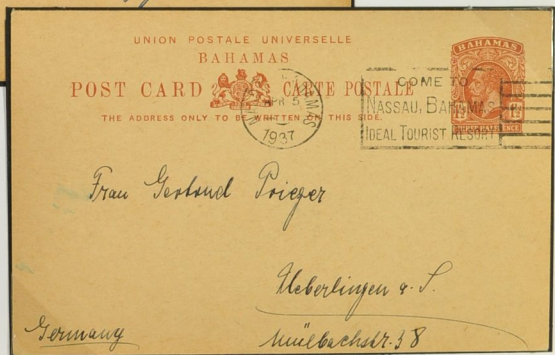
Top to England, June 1936 with a good Rock Sound cancel.

Slightly mottled finish to the deeper buff card.



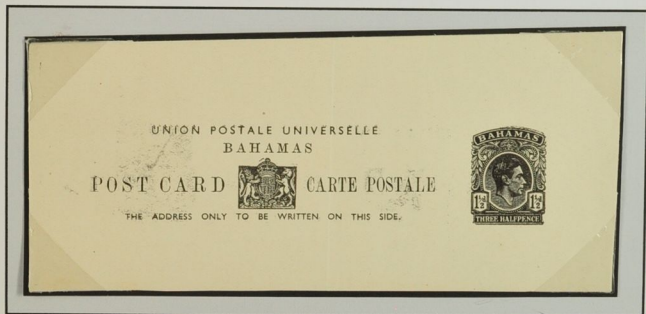
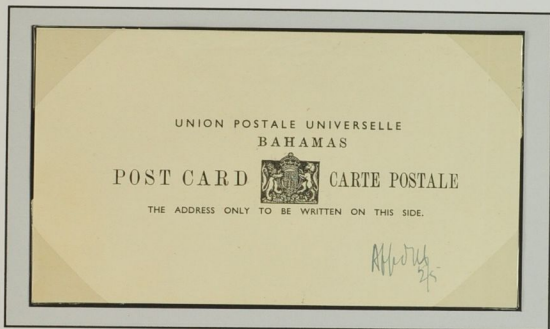
Sent to Beirut (Syria)
January 1938. Slogan.

To Germany April 1937
with slogan.



George VI 1½d Postal Card
Proofs 1938

These two proofs, black lettering on thin white paper backed by white card, are from the De La Rue Archives. The upper proof in spite of being marked 'Approved 2/5', the word BAHAMAS is set too far to the right. On the lower proof this has now been corrected to a central position.



George VI 1½d Postal Cards 1938

This shows the new King's head with the remainder of the postal card following the same design as before. Colour is now brown on buff card – shades are known - size 142 x 90mms. The De La Rue printing plate was invoiced on 30th May 1938 and there were four printings: May 1938, 1,320 with 392 Specimens; December 1938, 1,380; July 1939, 1,200; and April 1940, 1,344 items.

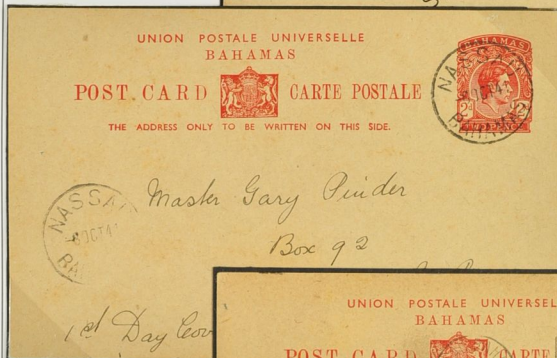
The De La Rue Specimen in black capital letters, 41 x 4mms, has now been changed to a thermographic process.

The card below has been overprinted Specimen with an additional 'Postal Services Department/H.M.B.' cachet in blue-black. This is an acronym for 'Home Mail Branch' and was one of three being returned as surplus to requirements from the UPU. Note the archival 'spike' hole lower left.



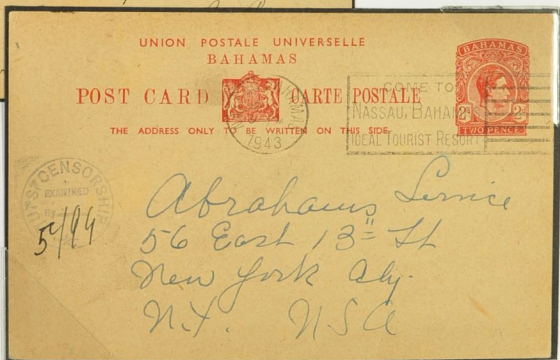
One example is known to have been sold by a major London auction house about 15 years ago.

A first printing Specimen. The Crown Agents Records indicate that 346 Specimens were thermographically overprinted.



Annotated First Day
Cover (sic) 6th
October 1941.

April 1943 card to
America. USA
Censorship/
Examined mark
with 5/99 seen
on left.



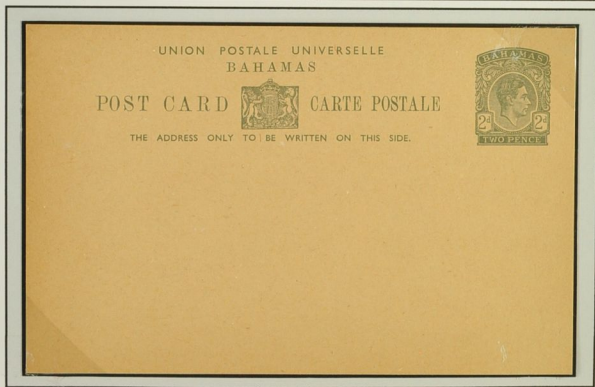
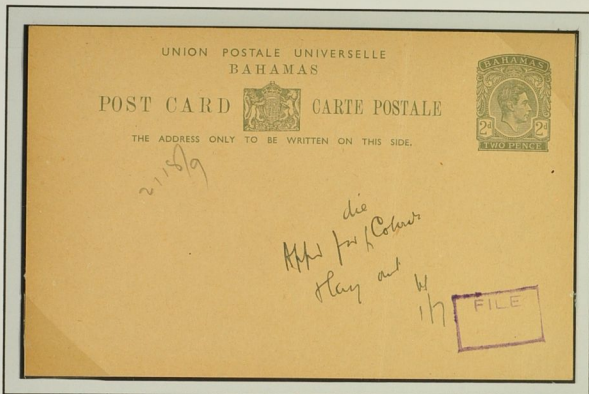
One of the 392 Specimen postal cards below.



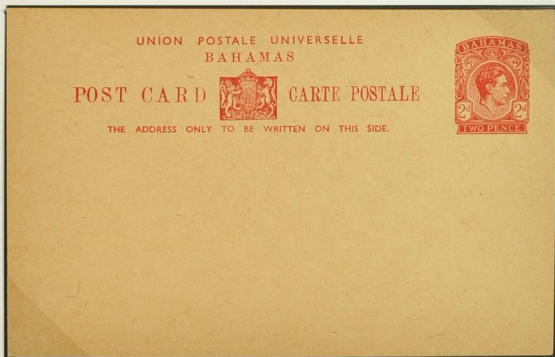
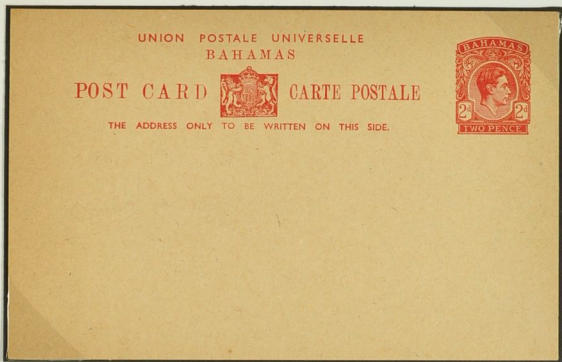
Above a commercially used first printing postal card with a Nassau Bahamas cancel to Beirut (Syria), October 1938. Note slogan.

George VI 2d Postal Card Proofs 1940

Two proofs from the De La Rue Archives, one marked 'Appd for die Colour & Layout 1/7' and marked FILE in a violet rectangular box. These proofs have very clear definition compared with the actual 'commercial' printing.

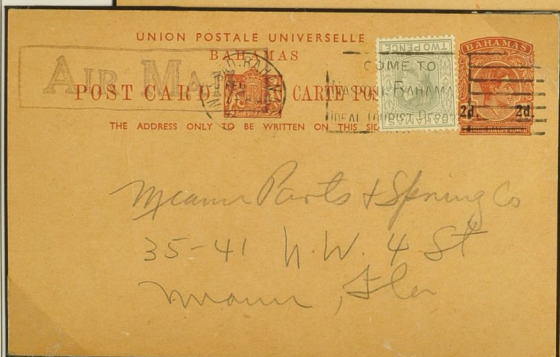
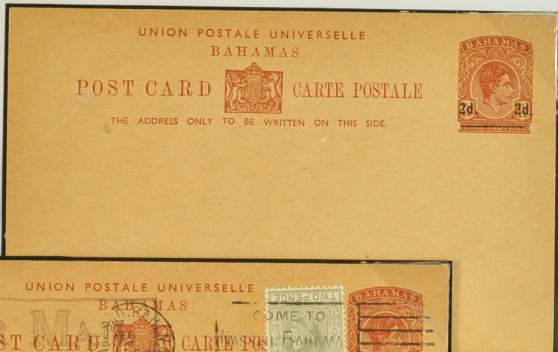


Two ordinary brown-red on brownish-buff card showing colour variations.



George VI 1½d Postal Card 1938 Surcharged 2d 1940

A small number of the current 1938 postal cards were surcharged 2d in black over the value tablets to cover the increased postal rate. The Bahamas Post Office has no record of such a card being issued but earlier research indicates that perhaps 100 were so overprinted. Of these it is estimated that three or four only are known used commercially from the early months of 1941. The over-printing was locally produced.

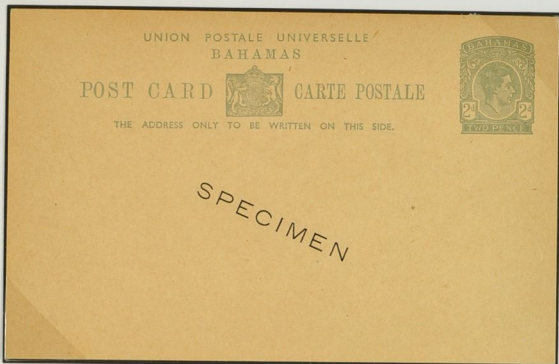


Sir:-
Kindly airmail
me immediately your
price for 1938
Reconditioned or new
Radiators for Chevrolet
Car - Also Price for
Cloth for Tops -
Your early airmail
response would be appreciated
Yours truly
Mick Des. Diamond
Box 732 Nassau

The above used example has been uprated to the air mail rate of 4d to America. Note 'Air Mail' rubber stamp top left - and slogan.

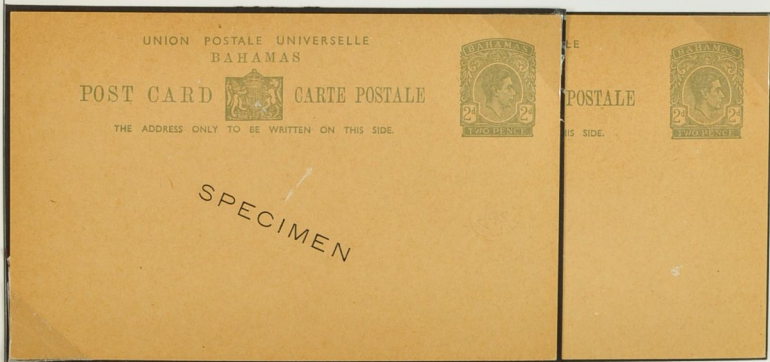
George VI 2d Postal Card 1940

The war-time 2d postal card was introduced to cater for the increase in rate from the previous 1½d to 2d. The new grey imprint on buff or paler buff echoes that of the adhesive, but the measurements of 142 x 90mm remain the same as for earlier issues. Just one printing on 8th August 1940 when the new plate was invoiced of 2,040 with 357 Specimens.



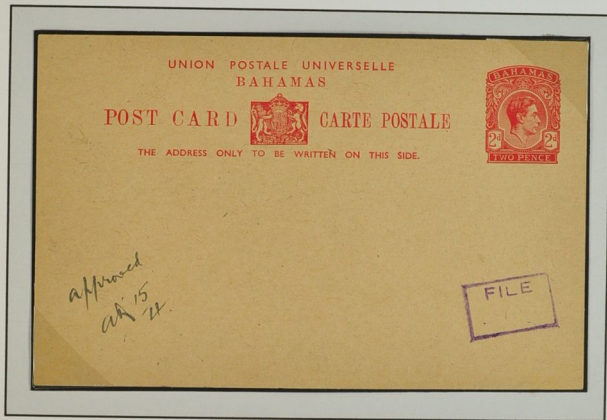
Left,
thermographic
Specimen on
paler buff card.

Below, deeper
buff card.



George VI 2d Postal Card Archive Proof 1941

There was a further change of colour to the imprinted postal card to a brown-red on buff card with striking shades of the imprint and the card itself. This was to bring the postal stationery into line with the newly issued 2d carmine adhesive on 17th September 1941. It is thought that the postal card was printed on 8th October 1941, the size being as before – 142 x 90mm.



This De La Rue Archive proof has been marked 'Approved 15/4' in ink manuscript and the card itself is marked FILE within a violet rectangle.

George VI 2d Postal Card 1941

Change of colour of value tablet and imprint to brownish-red on brownish-buff or greyish card, but see below. Due to war-time exigencies De La Rue's colour varied both of the card and the imprint and are displayed here. Size is still 142 x 90mm. The carmine adhesive was issued on 17th September 1941 and postal stationery was released on 8h October.

The records of the De La Rue Day Books for this period no longer exist so the numbers printed and dates have been extracted from the from the Crown Agents Requisition Records. 4th July 1941, 5,136; 17th November 1943, 1,197; 4th December 1946, 5,040; 15th February 1949, 6,533.

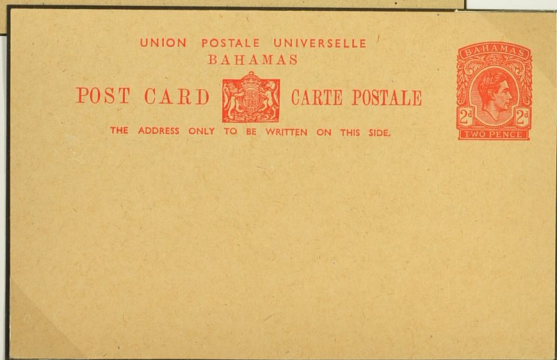
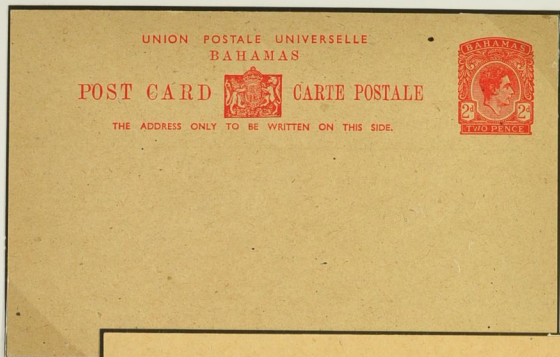
Higgins & Gage list the colours as:

- (a) brown-red on greyish-buff card
 - (b) brown-red on grey card
 - (c) carmine-red on brownish-buff
- but show no dates.

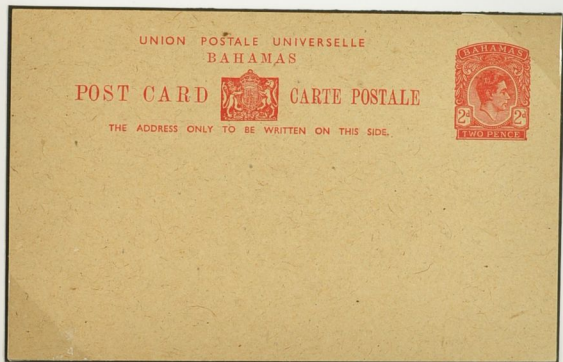
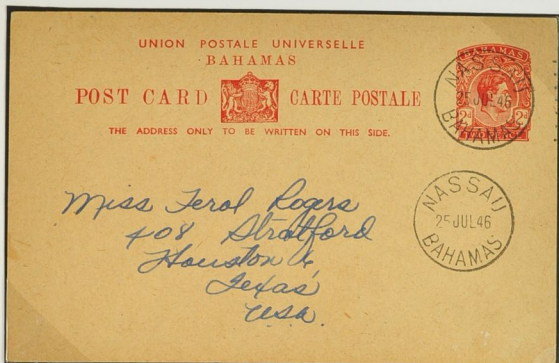
There is still a problem as the Crown Agents also list a printing in 1941 (no day or month shown) of a red on granite pale grey card of 2,192 items. The requisition number for this is 2118 while the number for the printing for July 1941 is 2118/1 – but not on a granite card. This would indicate that there were two separate printings on this date or very close to it, or the same printing but on different card.

Below, thermographic Specimen brown-red on buff, first printing.



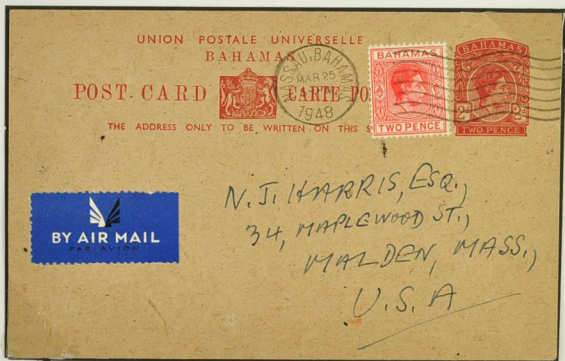
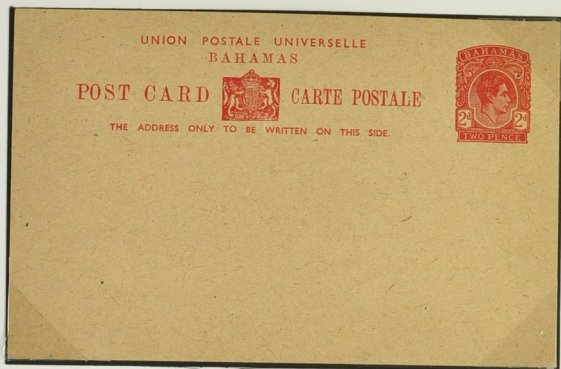


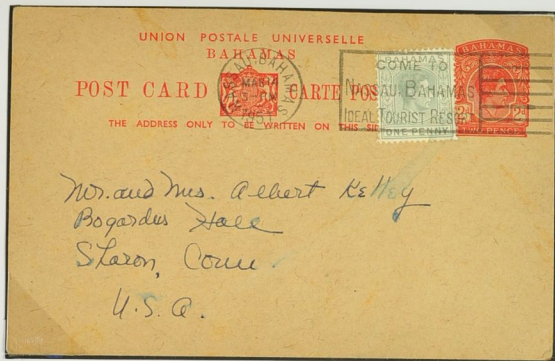
Top, provisionally identified from the November 1943 printing, carmine on coarse grey card and lower either the December 1946 or August 1949 with bright carmine on a pinkish-buff smooth card.



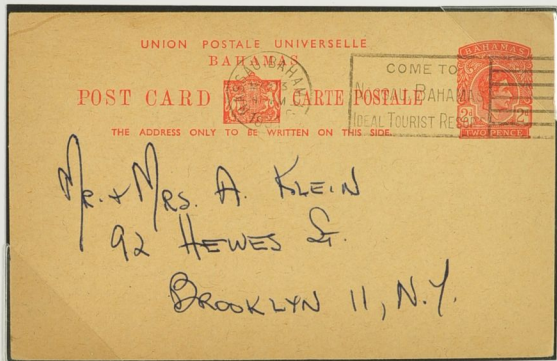
The upper commercial postal card to America is from the 1941 printing but not posted until 1946 at the then correct 2d rate, while the lower has been provisionally indentified as coming from the 1949.

These examples are thought to be from the 1941 printing as the imprint and card colour seem to be close but the lower commercially used postal card was not used until 1948 when with an extra 2d adhesive - to cover the increased postal rate - it was sent to America.





Cards from 1951 with a carmine shade on brownish-buff rough card. The upper has been uprated by 1d to comply with the revised postage rates to America but the lower escaped the extra payment.



Queen Elizabeth II 3d Postal Card 1954

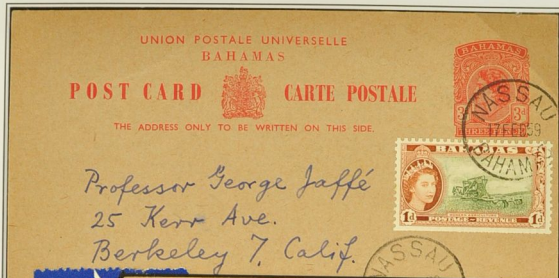
The authorities quote 1953 (no further narrowing) as the date these postal cards were printed by De La Rue. However research through the Crown Agents Requisition Books Order indicates that the only early printing was made on 9th September 1954 of 6,240 items. The overprinting of 'Specimen' on postal stationery was discontinued in 1948 although Crown Agents records indicate that some (367) were still being printed after that date. No reason is given. The value of the postal card has now been increased to 3d.

The imprint was carmine and the card colour varied from yellow-brown to grey-brown according to Higgins & Gage. They measure 140 x 90mms. However these examples are carmine on pinkish-buff and deeper carmine on pinkish-buff card.

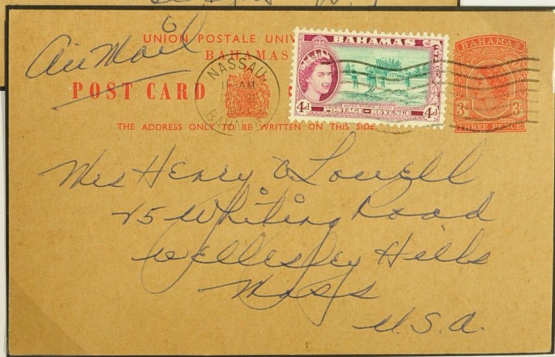
The only other printing of the 3d value occurred on 17th May 1957 with 6,720 items.



Pale carmine shade top and deeper below.



To America uprated by 1d to cover the airmail rate in February 1959 and an unsurcharged postal card to Scotland, February 1960.



Colour variations in the card with shades of buff. Right, to America in December 1960, 4d adhesive added incorrectly to cover the air fee.

All three postal cards are commercially used.

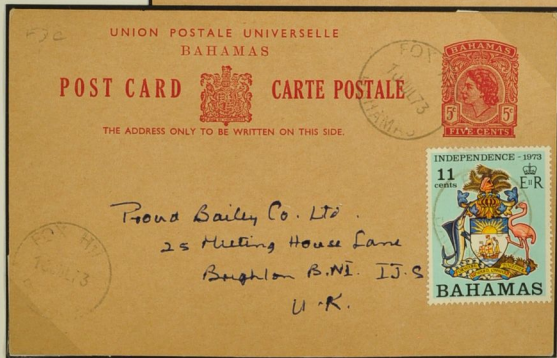
Queen Elizabeth II 5c Postal Card 1966

The Bahamas gained limited Self-Government in January 1964 that was later broadened in 1969. However on 25th May 1966 the country switched from Sterling to a decimal currency where 100 cents equalled one Bahamian dollar, this on a par with the United States of America.

To date no records can be found of quantities printed as the Crown Agents Books are deficient and the Bahamas Postal Services Archivist cannot assist.

Probably printed by De La Rue with a carmine imprint on pinkish buff paper, there are two different types of imprint. Seen below is Type 'A' where the words '...To Be...' are not centred under the Coat-of-Arms. POST CARD/CARTE POSTALE measures 88mms.

The used postal card is from Fox Hill on 10th July 1973 which is the first day of Bahamian Independence. The adhesive is from the series that was issued to celebrate Independence.

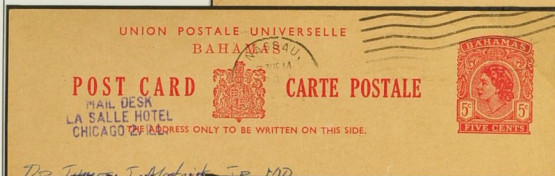
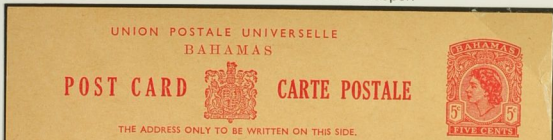


Queen Elizabeth II 5c Postal Card 1967

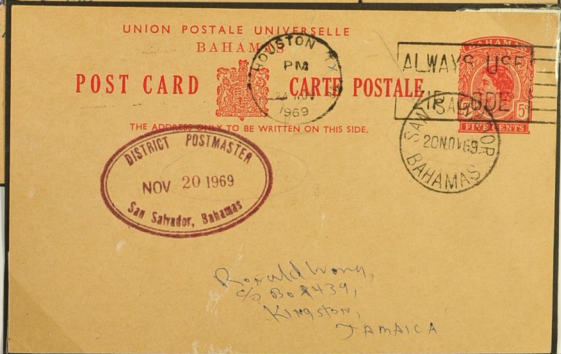
Higgins & Gage allege that this postal card was printed in 1967 but this still needs to be verified. However there was a significant issue of adhesives on 25th May 1967 which ran for four years so this card may have been issued to coincide. Probably printed by De La Rue.

There are small changes in imprint to the cards, called Type 'B', to that seen on the previous sheet. The card is now buff and the words '...To Be...' are now centred under the Coat-of-Arms. Also the words POST CARD/CARTE POSTALE now measures 89mm. The carmine colour is deeper.

Lower, commercially
used to America
February 1968.



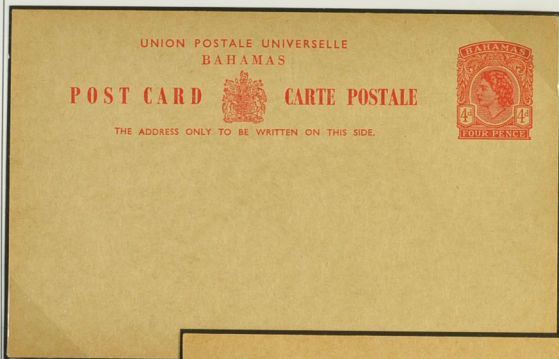
*Dr. James J. ...
1968 FEB 21 ...
Room 216 La Salle
Chicago, Illinois
U.S.A.*



November 1969 to
Jamaica. Note purple
cachet on the lower
postal card.

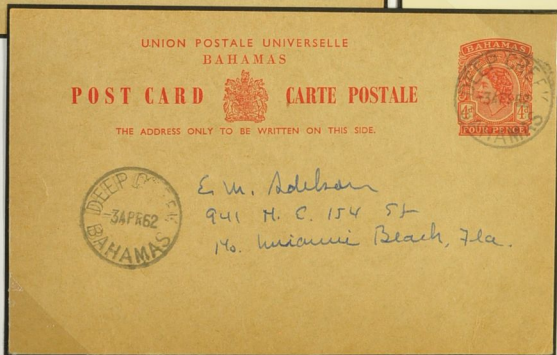
Queen Elizabeth II 4d Postal Card 1961

On 9th August 1961 there was a change in the postal rate for cards being increased to 4d. De La Rue imprint was now brown-red on shades of buff, the size still 142 x 90mm. The Crown Agents record a requisition on 8th January 1961 of 6,300 items with 374 PSD1 Specimens for Post Office use which ties in with the printing date. There was a further printing by De La Rue of the 4d postal card on 15th March 1962 of 6,000 items with unusually a further 420 PSD1 Specimens.



Unused and a used example from Deep Creek April 1962 to America.

A band wrapper is shown at top right.



Bahamas 1880 - 1892
Postal Envelopes - Queen Victoria
Original Artist's Drawing 1880

This was the original design for a 4d envelope produced and approved in 1881 and from this De La Rue prepared an embossing die and from that a working die in December 1880 (see next display sheet).

The design is hand-painted on creamy-brown tracing paper in Violet and Chinese White and then affixed to a rough brown card measuring overall 78 x 107mm.



The artist is unknown but probably was a member on De La Rue's staff.

Queen Victoria Postal Envelope Die Proofs 1880

The top item shows a die proof of the head and frame die with uncleared surround. Embossed in black on a creamy card and dated 13 OCT 80 top left corner in a blue handstamp. Value shown is FOUR PENCE. Size 85 x 48mm.



Below, completed die proof with cleared surround in black on thick creamy card. Value shown is FOUR PENCE. Size 35 x 48mm.



Both prepared by De La Rue.

Mr Richardson

Bahamas
Envs.

Paper 24.7
6m
1.1
1.1
5/2 5.2

Chy. Cameo head 1/4 1/4

8 1/2 is the nearest size to the pattern for
which we have a tool.

Samples here with (8 1/2) are cut from

327/55 6th (722) C^k 22 3/8 x 29 1/4. 500's
12 out of a sheet.

(1. D^m Ect^d)

~~24/1/rough~~

9/8/80 W

Above is the original note of 9th August 1880 from De La Rue to a Mr Richardson endorsed 'Bahamas Envs' enclosing samples of postal stationery envelopes with an example below lettered 'A'. Size is 8 1/2 which corresponds to 140 x 85mm: this together with the quality was approved for the issued envelopes.

A

There were two printings of this first issue 4d envelopes; 10,125 on 2nd December 1880 and 6,000 on 7th January 1891. It is thought that the latter printing provided the bulk of the various provisional issues that were later surcharged in November 1891, *q.v.* Embossed value tablet printed in violet on a white laid paper with a gummed flap but not embossed with the printer's imprint.

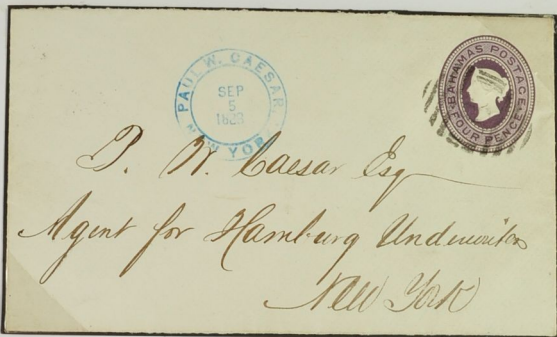
Below are three examples – the centre item is the standard shade.



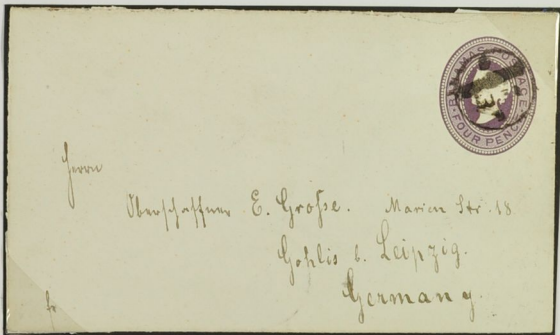
Deeper violet



Paler violet



Above, Nassau barred oval strike August 1883 to New York. In blue-green is the cachet of the addressee. Reverse has a small New York Paid All black duplex. Below, to Germany September 1891 with on reverse an arrival strike of Leipzig-Gohlis 3 10 91.



With the reduction of postal rates in 1891, new envelopes to reflect the revised postage were required from De La Rue and until these were obtained from the printer a series of complicated provisional envelopes overprinted '2½d' were locally printed. There are two different types of overprint which occasioned a number of errors and varieties – some of which are illustrated on the next pages.

Using the un-overprinted January 1891 issue as a base for the first set of '2½d' overprints these had the value printed in red over the words 'Four Pence' in the value tablet. Earlier authorities stated that possibly 3,000 were printed although this figure cannot be verified with precision as yet.

On the examples below note the colour variation in the over-printing.

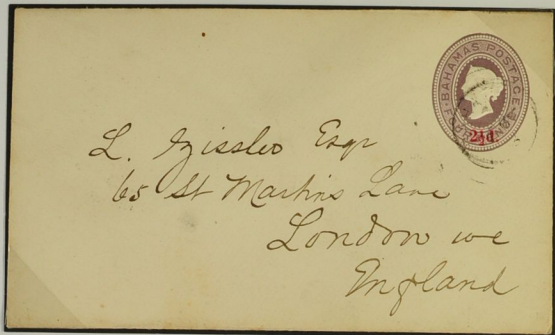


Unrecorded by any authority to date including Higgins & Gage, Hooley and others, these two envelopes have now become available for research – but for general details see previous display sheet.

The upper envelope has to the left of the value tablet an additional albino printing of the red 2½d surcharge value. The lower has the same but the albino print is to the right of the violet oval. It is thought that these are the first albino printings known on Bahamas postal stationery but the much later Air Letters did have missing colours.

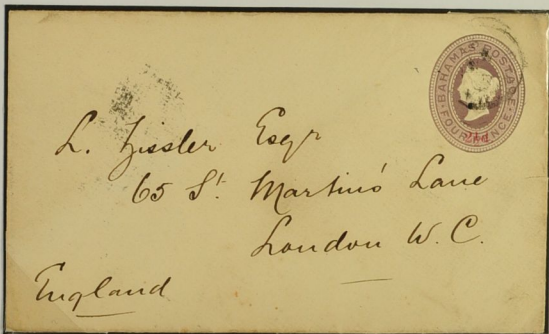
How many were affected is not known and the process is unclear but was probably caused by a machine error in failing to slide the envelopes though continuously to be surcharged.





Probably non-commercial examples sent to England 2nd May 1893 but are included for their importance. Arrival backstamps indicate that the journey took 13 days.

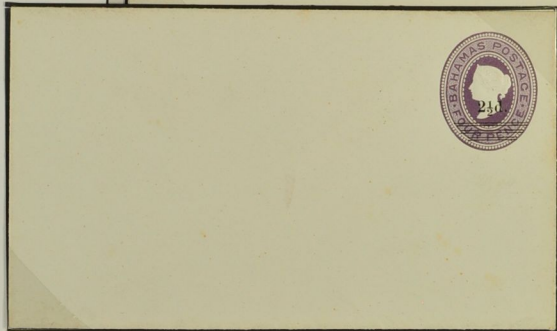
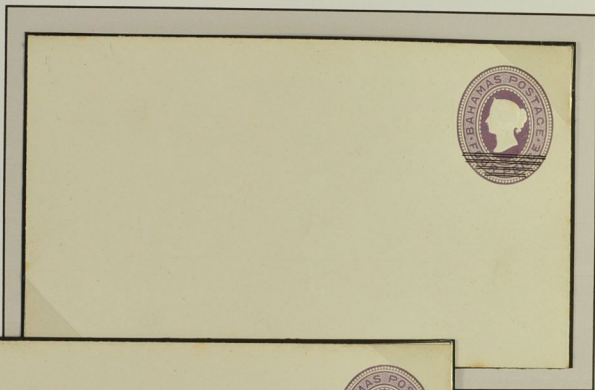
One envelope has been annotated in pencil on the reverse, 'first available envelope 2½d red surcharge over 4d' making these two first day covers at the new rate.



The second type of overprint appears unnecessarily complicated. The figures '2½d' were applied across Queen's neck and the words 'Four Pence' were obliterated by a series of black or red horizontal parallel lines, the normal being black with eight lines grouped in four sets of two with a wider margin between each pair. 'Varieties' are known with both six and nine lines – and of differing thickness – and one with the '2½d' omitted, but only in black. It is now thought that this may be a trial for the overprinting and is shown below. The paper shades vary between white and a light buff. There appears to be no reason for this.

The black surcharges with six bars and eight bars were probably issued in June 1891. The number for the former is thought to be only 500 and for the latter 3,000. Again, these figures cannot yet be verified as the envelopes were overprinted in the Bahamas with no research records available.

No value indicated.



Six bar version.

Examples of the eight-bar version that appeared in June 1891 with 3,000 being issued.



Left, envelope with very thin black lines.



Right, thin black lines.



Left, thick black lines.

Immediately below, an envelope with nine bars, the top group consisting of three. This is rated as rare.

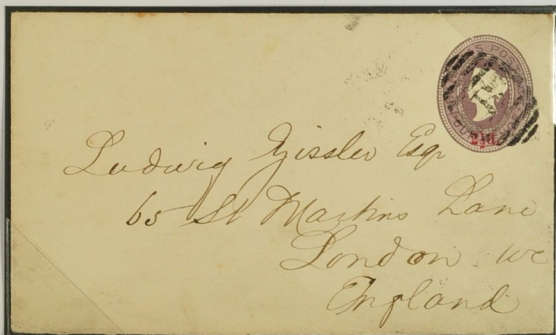


Above are six bar versions but printed in red presumably to offer a comparison to the black version. It is believed that just 500 were so overprinted in November 1891. Note that on all examples there are clear red marks that resemble smudging on the value indicator. Unrecorded until now.



Upper, July 1892 commercial red 2½d on 4d envelope to an unusual destination — Belize in British Honduras. Arrival strike on front and on the reverse transits of New York and New Orleans.

Lower, March 1893 commercial red 2½d on 4d to England. The 'B' obliterator has been used with solid side bars — unrecorded by Proud — London cancel on reverse.

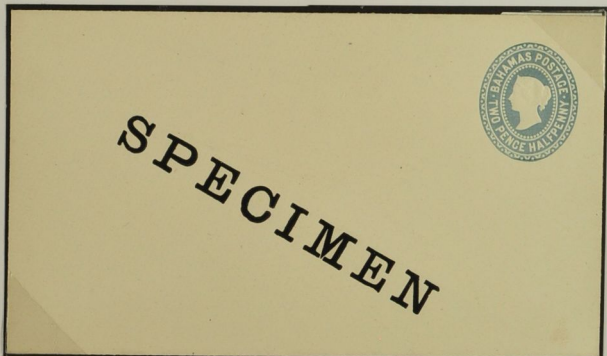


Queen Victoria Postal Envelopes New Head and Frame Die of 1892

Below, left, is a progressive De La Rue Die Proof with the outer frame line uncleared. Embossed in red on light buff card. Right is the completed die proof with cleared outer frame.



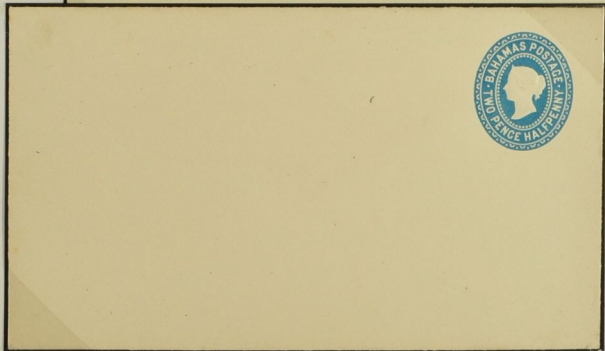
Below, PSD1 Specimen – one of 400 – but value tablet printed in pale blue.



This issue followed very closely the earlier design of 1880 but had a slightly different oval portrait with the value changed to 'Two Pence Halfpenny', see previous display sheet.

De La Rue produced four printings: 25th March 1892, 5,000 with 400 Specimens; 4th September 1893, 10,075; 3rd June 1896, 10,250 and 8th June 1900, 8,125. The size is 159 x 89mm with no embossed imprint under the pointed flap.

There are two distinct shades listed, grey-blue and a deeper blue on a creamy-white paper. Examples are shown below.





Above, envelope with the Nassau, New Providence cancellation to Scotland, March 1897, backstamped Currie. Lower, late cover with deep blue embossing to London May 1902 that has been registered. The new postage rates had been applied with the changes in 1898 with the extra 2d in adhesives covering the registration fee. Backstamped London W.C.D.O 10th June 1902. Note the black 'R' in circle.



Right, May 1895
Registered cover
to Leipzig, Germany.
Pale blue embossing,
cancelled with B31
strike, there is a
red London transit
strike and a Leipzig
arrival mark on the
reverse.

Note black 'R' in
Circle.



Left, June 1895
cancelled 'A05'
alongside a red
Registered
Nassau strike to
America.

Extra 2 x 1d
adhesives have
been added to
cover cost of
registration.

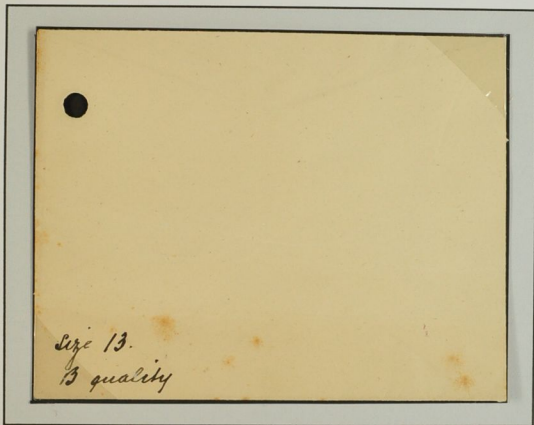
Note black R in
oval.

Ex-Seybold.

Queen Victoria 1d Envelope of 1901 Ex-De La Rue Archive

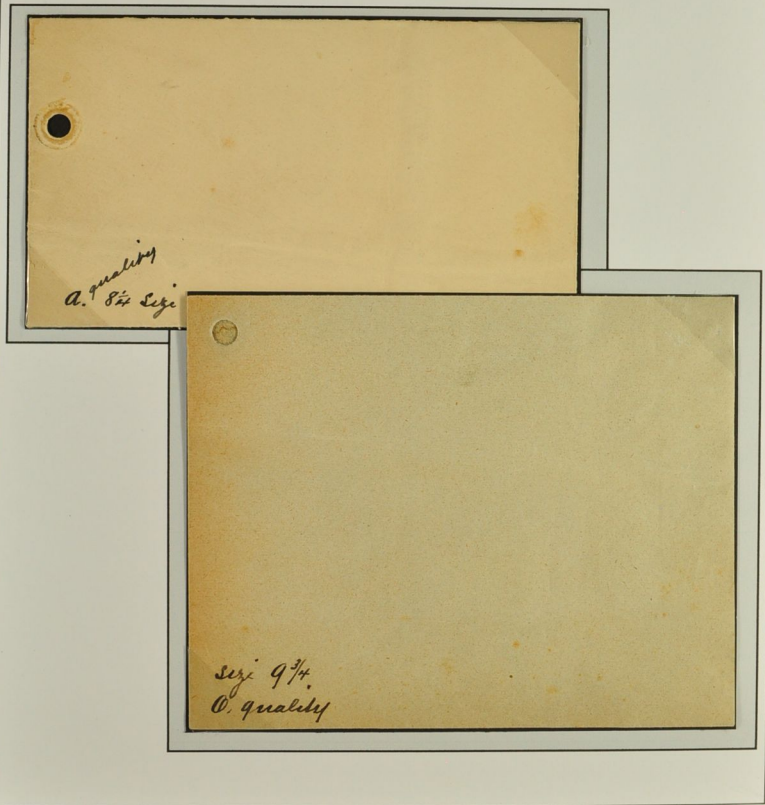
This envelope is the first of the Queen's Staircase design so named after the contemporary adhesive. Lithographed by De La Rue with a red value tablet of which shades are known. The paper used was a thick cream wove, size 154 x 90mms, with a pointed flap and was issued on 11th September 1901.

Below is an alternative sized envelope that was submitted for this design requesting approval on 19th May 1901. It was not accepted. File copy from the De La Rue Archives.



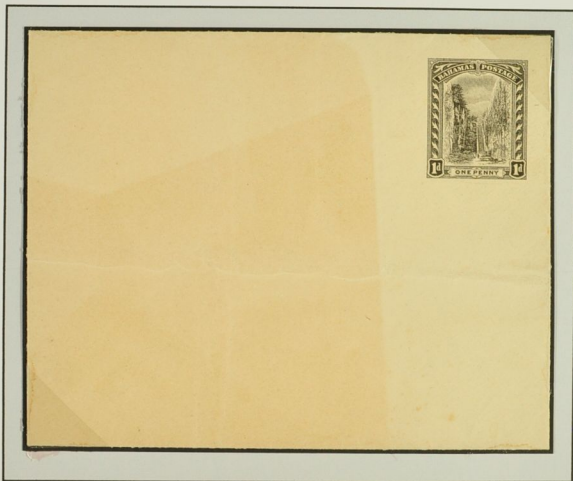
Annotated in ink manuscript 'Size 13. B quality'.

Two further De La Rue File archive copies of their unaccepted alternatives for the Queen's Staircase design. Top, marked 'A. Quality 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ Size'. Lower, marked 'Size 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ O. quality'. Both in ink manuscript.



Queen Victoria De La Rue **Staircase Proof of 1901**

Proof struck in black of the 1d Queens' Staircase accepted design postal envelope 19th May 1901.



The design is printed by lithography and for all subsequent 'Staircase' issues.

Queen Victoria De La Rue Proofs/Colour Trials of 1901

Two De La Rue Proofs/Colour Trials of 20th May 1901 in scarlet (shades), one endorsed 'Appx B' in pencil, this having been removed from the Files and the lower marked 'Approved' and initialled. Both have an ink manuscript marking 'Size 9½ A.A. quality'.

(E)



appx B

Size 9½

A. A. quality



Approved
LHM

Size 9½

A. A. quality

B. P. A. Expertising Limited
London - England

EXPERT COMMITTEE

No: 78,301

7th July, 2011

The Committee is of the opinion that the
BAHAMAS - Postal Stationery: 1901 1d postal stationery
envelope colour trial, "Queen's Staircase" in bright rose, on
unissued 132 x 196mm envelope, endorsed "Size 9½/A.A.
quality" in manuscript, small split at foot, is genuine



A. F. N. N. N.

[Handwritten signature]

Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept
any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed.

Below, right, is a locally overprinted Specimen in black for presentation or example purposes that included adhesives as well as samples of postal stationery.

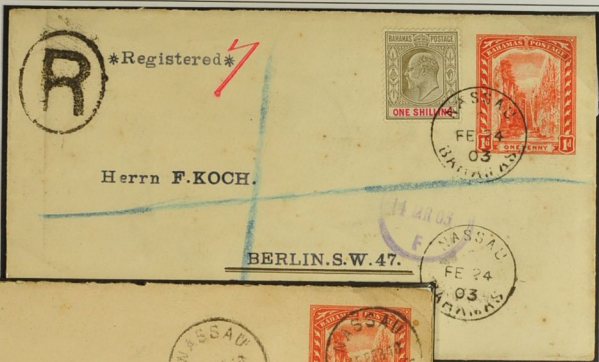


Above are two PSD1 Specimen De La Rue Queen's Staircase postal envelopes of 1901 with a plain pointed flap on a cream wove paper, measuring 153 x 89mm. Two shades are shown, centre a paler scarlet from the UPU Archives at Berne and marked on the back in pencil '572.35/v 1901'. A deeper shade is shown last. There was one printing only on 11th September 1901 of 5,025 of which 722 were Specimens. The overprint is the standard black PSD1 on which ink flaws are noted.

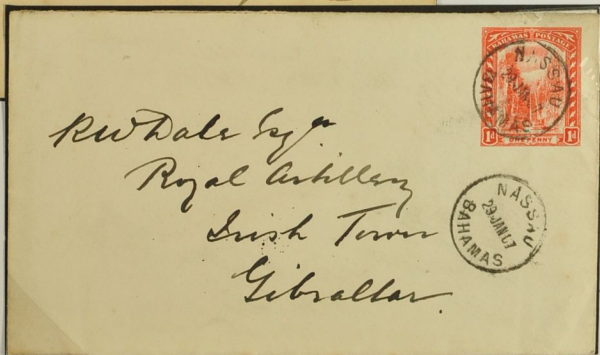
Clear shades of the scarlet printing.



A hand-registered envelope, right, although 'proper' registered envelopes had been available since 1893. From Nassau February 1903 to Germany, back-stamped. The rate is incorrect as the fee was 2d for registration and 2½d per half ounce thereafter since 1898.



Centre to Virginia with a late date of 1910, correct 1d rate. Lower with an unusual destination to Gibraltar, back-stamped there, February 1907. Correct 1d rate.



Edward VII Postal Envelope of 1902 Die Proof

Following the accession of King Edward VII a new design, similar to the Queen Victoria design of 1892, was produced by De La Rue. The actual embossing was in blue but some shades can be distinguished.

There were three printings: 29th December 1902, 10,200 with 722 Specimens; 30th December 1905, 10,075 and 22nd March 1908, 10,000.

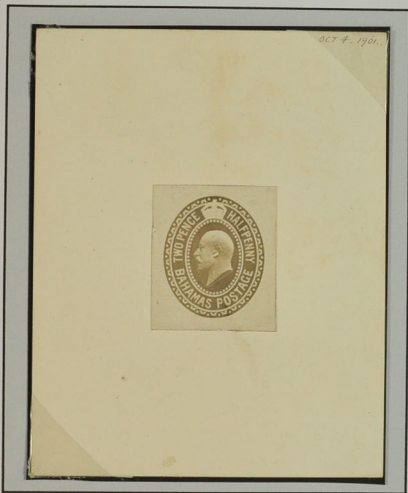
Seen below is the embossed Die Proof in red on thin brownish card and two examples of the PSD1 Specimen, still with a pointed flap, that show that the Specimen overprints came from the same printing.



SPECIMEN

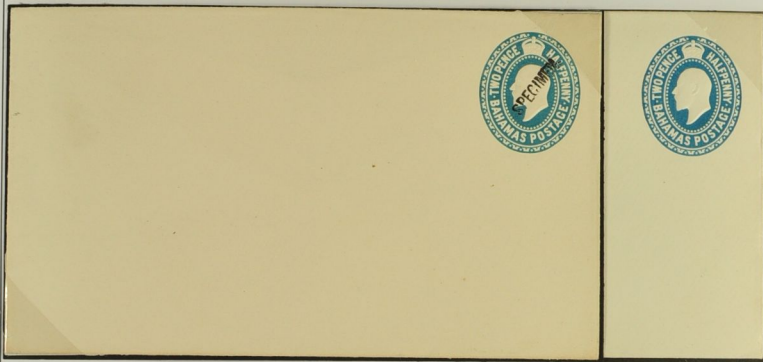


**Edward VII Postal Envelope
of 1902 Photographic Essay**

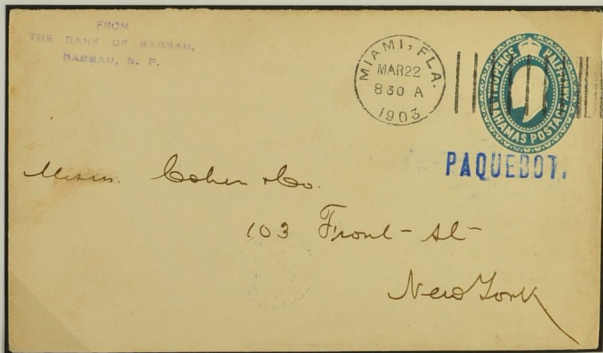


*De La Rue Essay in grey and mounted on thick white card, dated OCT 4. 1901. in top right-hand corner.
It is believed that either one, two or three were so produced but certainly no more.*

As has been seen earlier, a small number of postal stationery items were overprinted Specimen locally for presentation purposes along with the current adhesives. Below is an example together with the issued postal envelope, size 153 x 90mm.



Bank of Nassau cachet to New York, March 1903 where the 2½d value tablet has been obliterated by black vertical straight lines and a Miami transit strike with a 'Paquebot.' cancel in deep blue. The reverse has two New York arrival marks, one a New York, N.Y. and a New York, N.Y. STA.P.

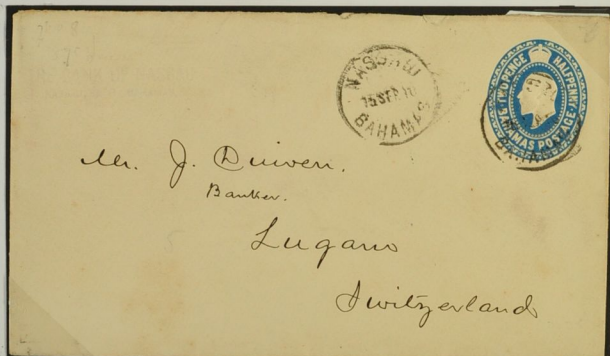
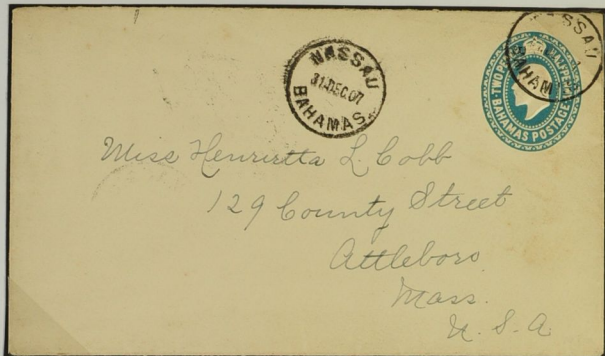




Above, Governors Harbour cancel, October 1906 with barred 'B', transit Nassau, to Bohemia, arrival mark Deutschbrod on reverse. Lower to Oporto, Portugal, February 1907, backstamped.



Upper, December 1907 to Attleboro, America. Backstamped. Lower, posted to Lugano, Switzerland, September 1910 with an ultramarine value tablet, backstamped.



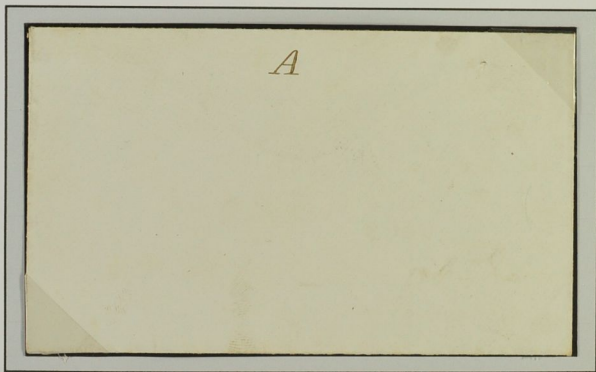
After this Edward VII 1902 issue there were no further issues for any following reigns of the 2½d postal envelope. The 'Staircase' issues that followed were all at the 1d rate.

King George V Second Queen's Staircase Envelope of 1912

This is similar in design to the Queen Victoria 1901 De La Rue issue except that the flap is now scalloped instead of pointed. The cream laid paper envelope now measures 147 x 91mm although there are small variations. The imprint is carmine of which there are shades.

Below is an example, stripped from a De La Rue Appendix B sheet, of the Bahamas George V postal envelope of 1912. This is identical to the earlier Queen Victoria (*q.v.*) sample postal envelope of 1880. Marked 'A', the size of 141 x 85mm was not accepted.

Quantities printed: 2nd May 1912, 5,112; 27th July 1921, 5,136 and 15th February 1926, 5,328.



The next display sheet shows the issued envelope with its scalloped flap.

Nassau March 1922
to New York.



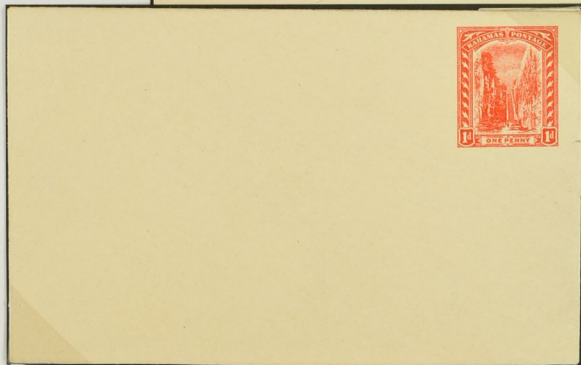
Mr Wm Broadhurst
128 Pearl St
New York

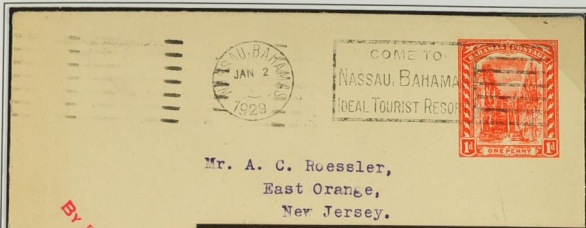


George V Third Queen's Staircase Envelope of 1927

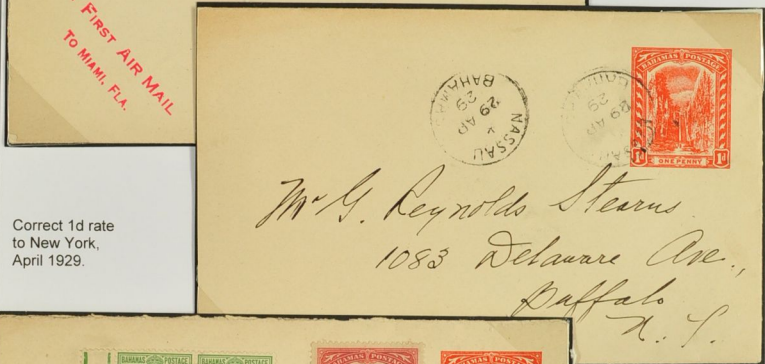
*The De La Rue Day Books and the Crown Agents Books differ on this printing. De La Rue indicates that there was a printing of 5,000 envelopes on 29th July 1927 but this is *not* confirmed by the Crown Agents records and perhaps should be considered part of the Second issue. Where both agree is that there was a further printing on 27th June 1929 of just 1,128 items during George Vs reign. After this printing there were no further issues of postal envelopes for any reign.*

The distinction between the two printings is slight; for this third printing, the paper used is of a thicker, yellowish quality again with a scalloped flap. There is a slight height difference although this can fall within normal printing tolerances.





First flight cover
2nd January 1929
Nassau to Miami.



Correct 1d rate
to New York,
April 1929.



Registered cover to
America, May 1929.
Correct rate of 1d
plus 2d registration
fee. Backstamped
in violet at Downing-
town with two New
York oval cancels.

Bahamas Registered Envelopes 1893 - 1913

Structure of exhibit. This single frame exhibit commences with a unique De La Rue artist's drawing of 1893 through to the George V issue of 1913. Examples of Die Proofs, Specimens and an Essay are included. The Bahamas used Nassau and variations thereof as their main postmark cancel. It has been estimated that about 92% of all cancels emanate from here.

The design, below left, is hand-painted using Chinese White, violet and a shade of grey on creamy brown tracing paper and then affixed on a rough brown card measuring overall 78 x 107mm. Added in black ink in small print at the top right-end edge 'July 27th.93'. This was used by De La Rue to prepare the embossing and working dies for the 1893 registered envelope '2d registration fee value' on the blue flap.

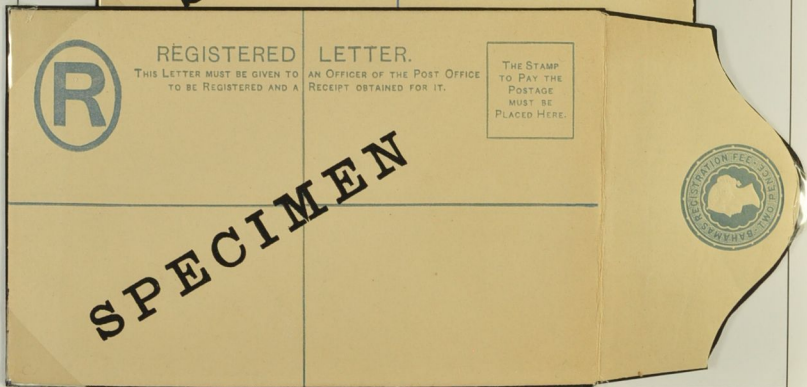
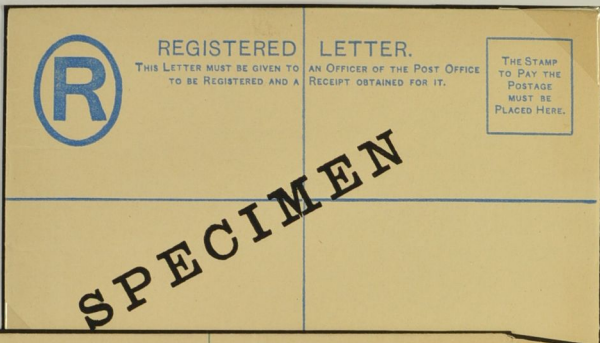
Below right, research indicates that there was just one die proof embossed in red on a whitish card with no markings, but must have been produced prior to the first printing although no positive date can be attributed to it so far.



Acknowledgements: De La Rue Day books, Crown agents Records at the British Library, H. Gisburn – Postal History of the Bahamas.

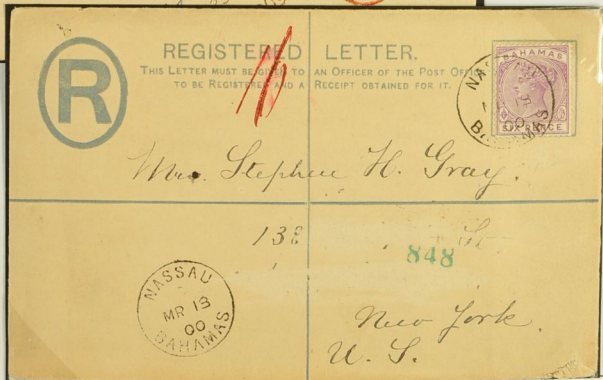
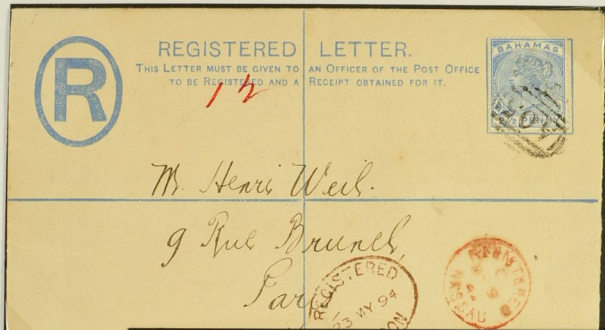
De La Rue produced five printings by letterpress: 20th November 1893, 5,000 with 750 Specimens size 152 x 96mms; 17th February 1894, 5,050 size 154 x 97mms; 17th February 1894, 1,000 size 225 x 100mms; 17th February 1894, 500 size 295 x 155mms and 8th June 1900, 1,525 size 154 x 97mms. Actual sizes do differ because of paper shrinkage and folding.

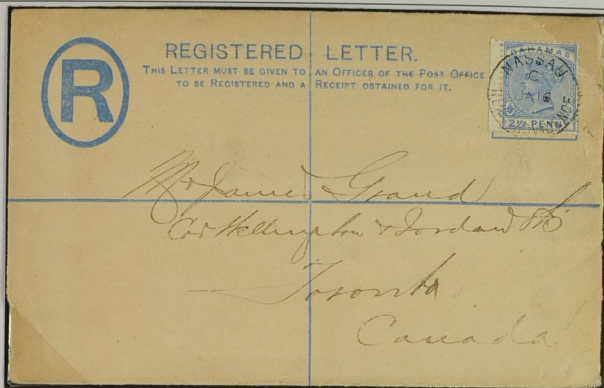
The envelopes appeared with imprint inscriptions in either ultramarine or grey on shades of buff. Seen below are PSD1 Specimen overprints on both shades. Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent. under flap.



Research has shown from examining used examples that it would appear that the ultramarine printing may have been printed first but the De La Rue Day Books make no differentiation between the inscriptions. Printings of ultramarine and grey inscriptions may be found on other Colonial postal stationery. Below to Paris May 1894 with ultramarine inscriptions - note the red Registered Nassau strike, also the black barred oval AO.5 cancel - with a London Registered and a Paris arrival strike.

The second example has grey inscriptions, sent Nassau March 1900 to New York with a New York oval cancel as well as a Received Mount Vernon backstamp. This should have been charged at 2½d consequent upon the lowering of postage rates in 1898 with the introduction of the Empire Penny Postage. A rate of 6d to America was the Parcel Post rate for weight of up to 1lb.

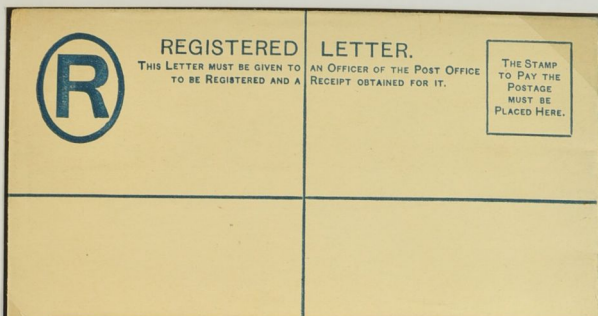




Upper to Toronto, Canada, January 1895. Backstamped with a transit New York A duplex Paid All and a Toronto arrival strike. Correct rate.

Lower, November 1898 cover to England with London transit and Liverpool arrival mark. Correct rate.





Top, a very deep ultramarine shade above, followed by a paler shade from Nassau April 1896 cancelled with a barred 'B' to England. The front has a good red circular strike of Registered Nassau and a black hooded Registered London in May 1896. On the reverse is a black oval Registered Birmingham.

The postage of 2/6d on this commercial item is difficult to determine. Registration was 2d, with letters at 2½d per half-ounce. Parcel rates were 10d for the first pound weight then in steps of 9d. But this does not qualify for parcel purposes. One theory is that this high rate covered the contents with insurance.

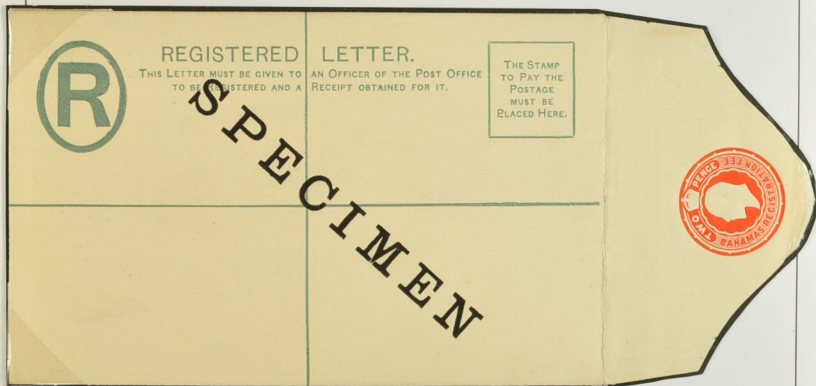
Two registered envelopes that caught the same ship from Nassau on 13th March 1900. Top at the 2d rate to cover weight up to one ounce to London, backstamped Registered (London) S.E.D.O. 26th March 1900 and on the front a Registered Liverpool strike two days earlier.

Lower at the correct rate of 2½d to New Jersey America, with a New York backstamp. The cover has been given an extra black R in oval handstamp.



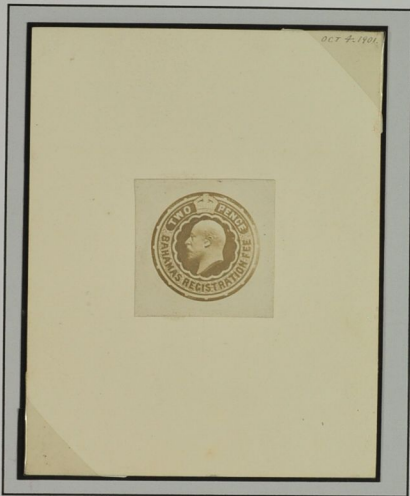
Edward VII Registered Envelopes Die Proof of 1902

Similar to the Queen Victoria Die Proof, qv, there is just one De La Rue die proof for Edward VII embossed in red on an unmarked white card – again no firm date can be attributed to it although it must have been produced prior to the first printing in December 1902.



It is assumed that the PSD1 Specimen came from the first letterpress printing in grey. Under the flap, as for Queen Victoria is the imprint – Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent – in grey.

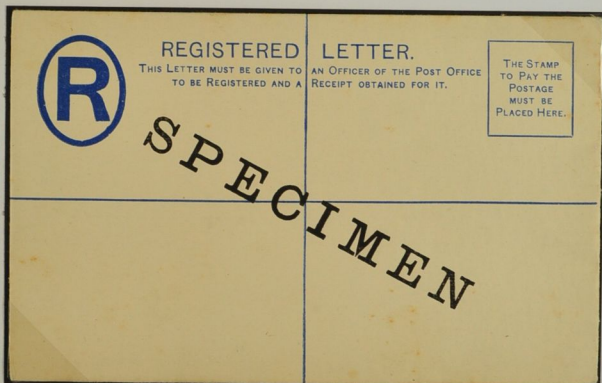
Edward VII Registered Envelopes
Photographic Essay of 1902



Similar to the postal envelope Essay, this De La Rue Registered Essay in grey has been mounted on thick white card and dated OCT 4. 1901. in the top right-hand corner. No more than three were produced.

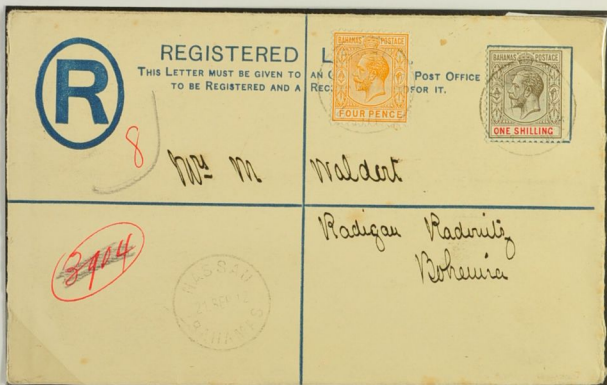
George V Registered Envelopes Die Proof of 1913

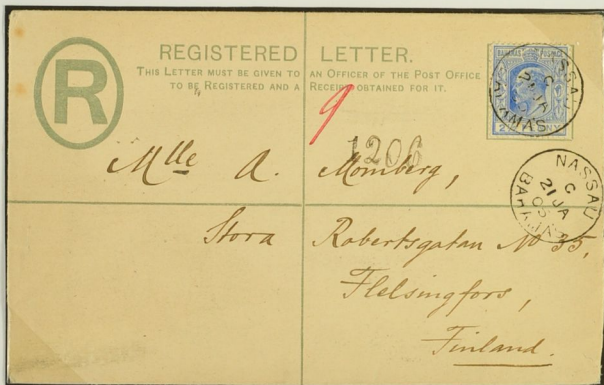
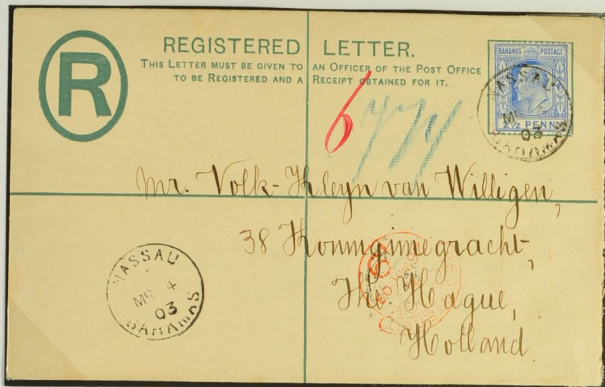
A die proof was prepared for the first George V registered envelope which followed the pattern of Queen Victoria and Edward VII – embossed in red on white card. The PSD1 Specimen shown now has the overprint running from top left to bottom right.





Above, January 1910 to Austria, correct postage rate of 2½d. Scarce violet U.S. Seapost. Reg. transit cancel on reverse (shown same size for clarity) together with a Registered London and an arrival mark of Villach, Austria. Lower, September 1912 to an unusual destination – Radigau Radiwitz, Bohemia. The rate cannot be determined but may have covered the enclosure for insurance purposes. Also on the reverse is the scarce violet U.S. Seapost Reg. and a strike of a black hooded London mark of 5 OCT 1912.

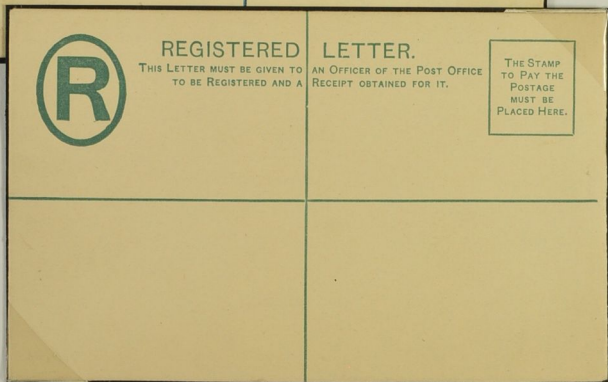
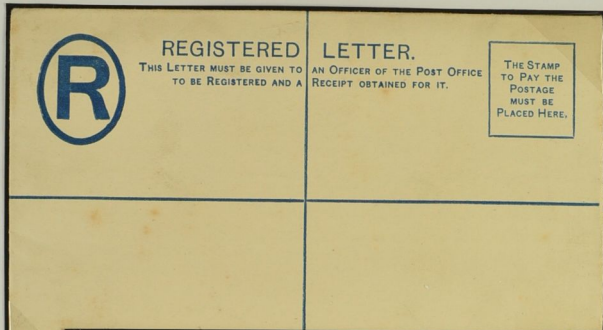




Both on shades of grey inscriptions. Upper to Holland March 1903 with London red registered strike and 'SGravenhage arrival mark. Lower to Helsingfors, Finland January 1905, black London registered transit mark and a tri-lingual Helsinki arrival strike. Unusual destination.

There were just four printings for Edward VII: 29th December 1902 of 3,050 with 750 PSD1 Specimens size 155 x 97mm; 13th September 1910, 2,025, size 154 x 97mm. A larger size 230 x 103mm was printed on 29th December 1902 with 2,050 items and lastly on 17th October 1906 1,025 registered envelopes measuring 295 x 155mm.

Examples of the blue and grey inscriptions on the smallest envelopes are shown.





REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED

13587



Messrs Grooms & Lindley

The Lion Buildings.

Ann
Gerald Fitzgerald.

Huddersfield.



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR

6569 10



J. E. Ridgway

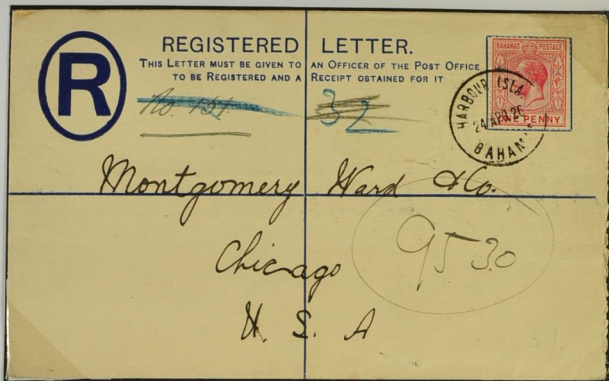
63a Fullham Park
London S.W. 6



Return Receipt
Demanded

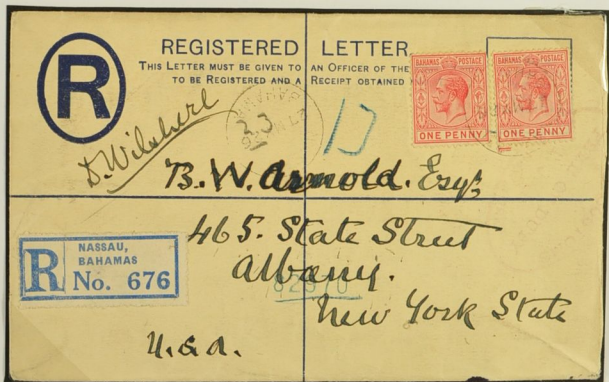
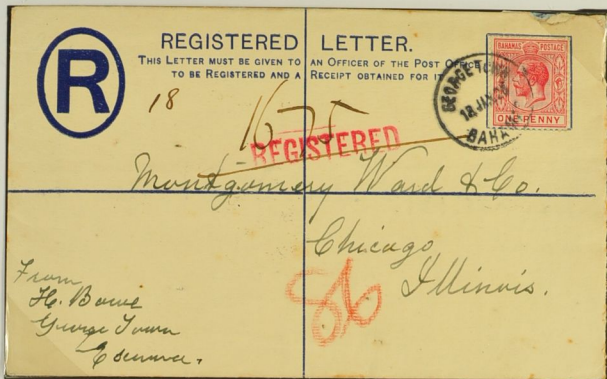
John
Graham
John

Upper to England with a good The Ferry, Exuma cancel, July 1925, with black Registered, London on reverse. Correct 1d rate for a half-ounce weight. The larger envelope is very scarce to find either used or unused as few were printed. This copy posted in December 1918 has War Tax overprints on the 3d adhesives - correct rate to the UK.



A good Harbour Island cancel of 24th April 1926 on this upper 'No stop' variety cover to America with Miami and Chicago backstamps. Lower in November 1937 – using the older 1913 envelope - to Chicago with a pictorial 8d value that was issued separately on 22nd May 1935 to cover the new air mail rate of up to 1½ ounces. With stop. Purple boxed Air Mail cachet. Backstamped.

Envelopes to America, top with the 'No Stop' variety from Georgetown, January 1926 and lower from Nassau, May 1926 at the 2d rate for a letter over one ounce in weight. This was later reduced to a 1d in 1927. On the lower cover can be seen mid-right a faint purple oval cachet 'Customs/Free of Duty' cachet.

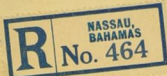




REGISTERED

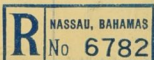
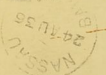
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT*Mr E. Payne**a/r**9**Joslyn**Debington**Ches
England*

REGISTERED

LETTER

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND AAN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAIN*Mr. Lennis Lightbourn**5310 N. Lincoln Avenue**Chicago Ill.**Fee Claimed by Office
of First Address*

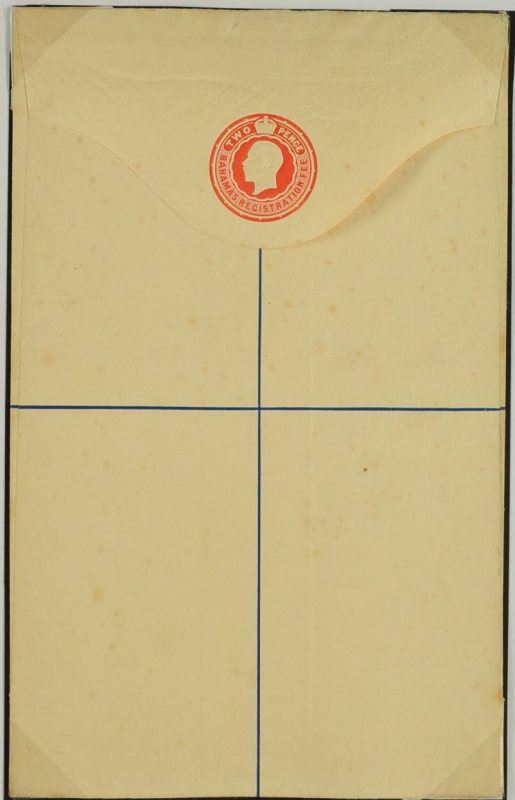
Upper to England May 1928 with the 2½d adhesive covering the A/R fee (Advice of Receipt). Registered black London backstamp. Lower to Chicago, America, August 1936 but still at this date is using the earlier 2d registration fee envelope although the rate had been increased to 3d that included both registration and postage in 1930. See next display sheet.

Rated at 1/2d, this includes air mail and Express delivery rates. Good violet cachet 'Fee Claimed by Office/of First Address' and Air Mail cachet. Miami and two Chicago backstamps.

The smaller size was particularly popular with an extra 36,005 items being printed up to January 1930 when the second type of envelope was introduced. For size 205 x 127mms a further 4,090 were produced in four printings and for size 290 x 152mms 3,113 in three printings.

Seen is a
205 x 127mms
envelope
with imprint
'...Patent'.

With stop.



George V Registered Envelope **Photographic Essay and Die Proof of 1930**

De La Rue introduced a new style of letterpress registered envelope into the country on 6th January 1930 which now combines both the registered and postage fee of 3d and has a different flap that folds over the face of the envelope showing the value tablet. The colour is changed to an orange-vermilion and the inscription now appears in three lines in blue. The imprint under the flap is 'Thos. De La Rue & Co.'.

Below are two significant items to illustrate this change:



Left is a De La Rue Photographic Essay in grey on thin buff card of this new style of registered envelope. No more than three copies were made. Undated.



Seen right is the Die Proof embossed in orange-vermilion on a light buff laid card. Undated.

The only size that De La Rue printed for this new definition envelope was 154 x 95mm. There were a number of printings: 6th January 1930 10,176 including 420 Specimens; 5th November 1930 10,416; 17th March 1932 10,272. Unusual skeleton Specimen overprint for the Bahamas, not the usual PSD1, and is identical to the May 1934 postal card.

Following this there were further printings of the 3d registered envelope on 12th May 1934 10,128; 8th July 1936 5,016 and finally on 30th May 1937 5,040 items.



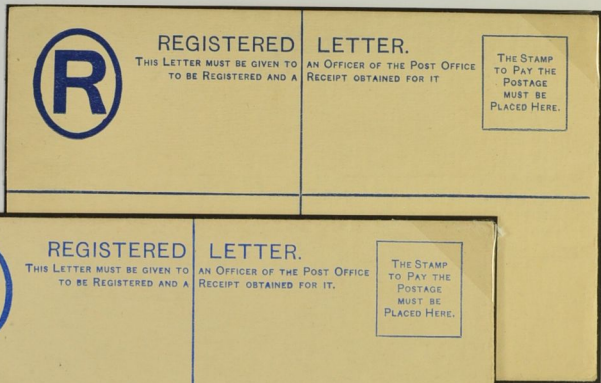
The example above has a bright blue shade and the embossing is a deeper colour.

There were two major issues during George V's reign, the first in 1913 and the other in 1930 when the envelope was altered to take into account combined registration and postage.

The first printing by De La Rue was on 7th July 1913 that covered 4,050 items including 404 Specimens of size 153 x 95mms; 2,025 size 200 x 125mms and 500 of size 290 x 152mms. In all there were 12 printings of the 'G' size, five of the 'H' and four of the 'K' totalling 42,070, 6,165 and 3,613 items respectively.

The letterpress printing is in shades of ultramarine and blue. There are two types of inscription under the flap: either 'Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent.' and 'Thos De La Rue & Co.' Still 2d registration fee.

An unrecorded variant shows a 'no stop' after '...it' in the second line of the inscription, see first item below.



Deep blue without stop and a bright blue with stop. Both are '...& Co.'



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

LETTER.

OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

132



The ... Co.

(Mail Order Dept)



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

LETTER.

OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Eng ...

FEE PAID.

13

34



May 1933 to America.
Backstamped New
York and Scranton.

Woman's Institute of Domestic Arts
Sciences & Inc.



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

LETTER.

OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Groves & Lindley,

Huddersfield,

England

NASSAU
9 APR 34



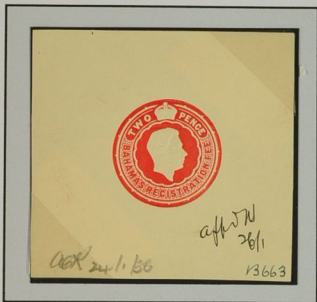
FEE PAID.

Scuffed cover but
shows the good
strike Governor's
Harbour, to London
July 1933.

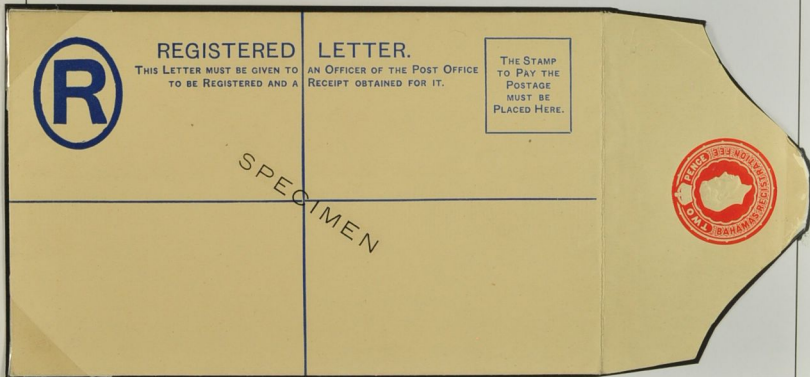
To England April
1934 with an extra
1/2d adhesive
added to cover the
1934 increase in
the postage rate to
the UK.

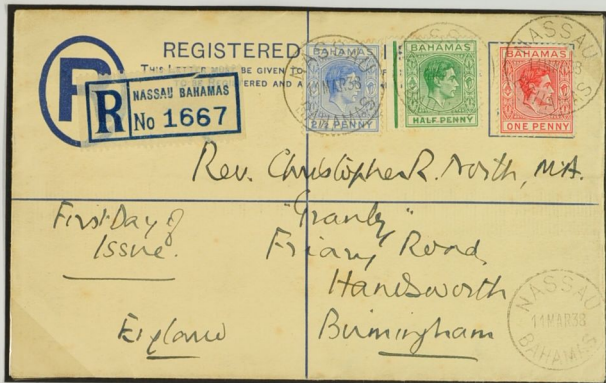
George VI Registered Envelopes Die Proof of 1938

De La Rue produced a dated die proof on 24/1/38 and this was approved two days later, endorsed 13663. Embossed in red on thin cream card but now has just the registration fee of 2d.



At this time De La Rue produced a new type of Specimen overprint that was used for postal stationery, probably by thermography.





Although a George V registered envelope, this was posted to England on 11th May 1938 with low values of the new George VI adhesive issue.

This is one of the more complex issues to describe due mainly to the lack of historical records available as many De La Rue files were lost during 1939 – 1945 and also by De La Rue themselves which over the 17 years of the life of this issue produced three different imprints:

(a) Thos. De La Rue & Co; (b) Thos. De La Rue & Co. Ltd; (c) Thomas De La Rue & Company, Limited.

There were a number of printings which have been researched from the De La Rue Day Books and also from the Crown Agents records. As far as is known this is the most comprehensive record to date. It should be noted that the Crown Agents figures differ from De La Rue as the former covers the actual amount charged to the Bahamas while the De La Rue is the amount actually printed.

16th February 1938 10,617 plus 393 Specimens (DLR), 10,224 plus Specimens (CA).

30th December 1938 10,080 (DLR), the same for CA. 11th April 1940 4,872 (DLR), the same for CA but dated 8th May 1940.

7th May 1941 3,840 (DLR), the same for CA. 26th May 1941 3,648 (DLR), 3,840 for CA.

9th July 1941 4,872 (DLR), 4,800 (CA). 2nd January 1942 7,208 (DLR).



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.

Both Type (a)
imprints.

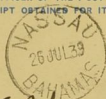


REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



Dr. H. W. Elders

Schneider

Bldg. St Joseph Missouri

u. d. a.



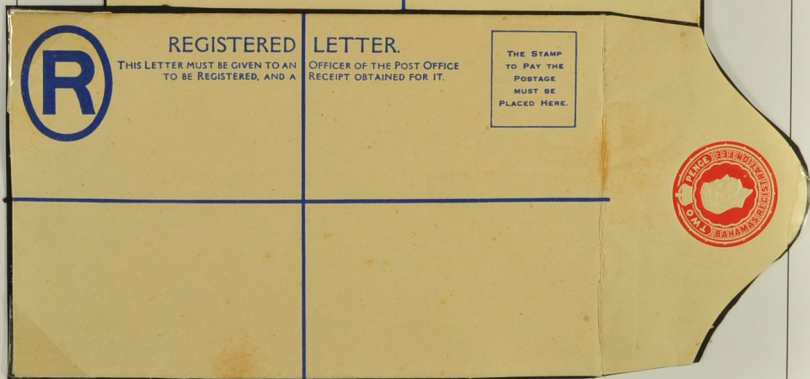
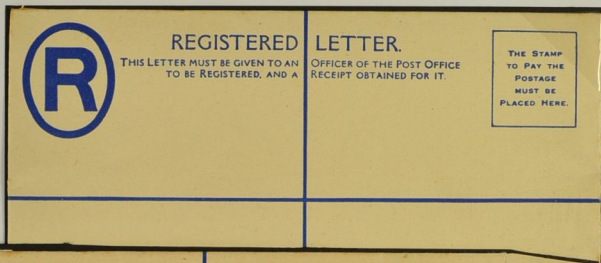
Correct air mail
rate of 8d for this
July 1939 item.
Backstamped
Miami and
St Joseph.

Further printings: 7th June 1945 5,400 (CA). 15th August 1949 12,624 (CA).

24th September 1951 12,384 (CA) with new duty tablet of 4d.

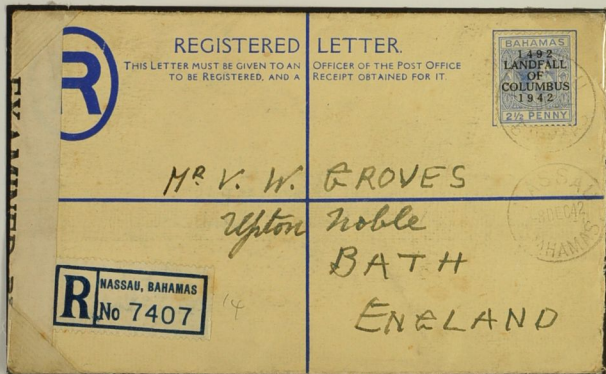
From the 1938 printing to 1949 the registration fee was 2d. The inscription came both with a stop after '...For It' and without. The latter are scarce.

Note that these registered envelopes have changed inscriptions compared with the George V. Also there are differences between the George VI imprints themselves: for example the space between 'R' and 'This letter...' is much smaller in Type (b) than in Types (a) and (c). Also the 'stamp' tablet lettering in Type (b) is in a smaller type font as can be seen below. Type (c) has finer and lighter lettering.



Type (b) registered envelope December 1942 Nassau to England with black and white Examined By/9825 censor label with manuscript number 5186 inserted above printed number.

Reverse is also marked with the scarce violet circular Customs House/Nassau hand-stamp 8 December 1942 in centre with manuscript 'App for Export' and signed. This strike was used to denote that censorship was not actually required having been passed previously by the authorities. Other backstamps as shown.

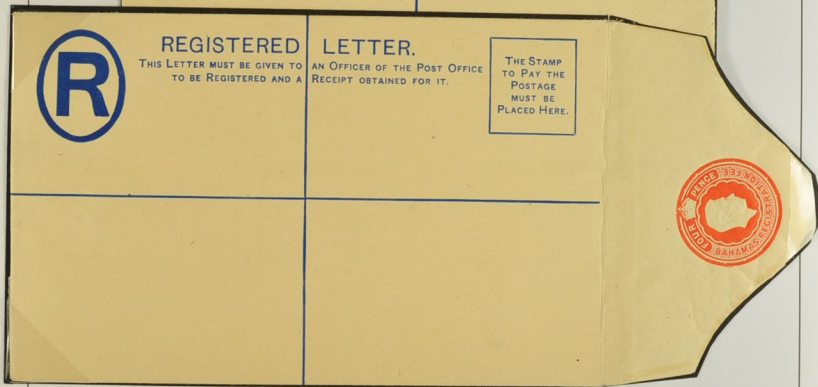
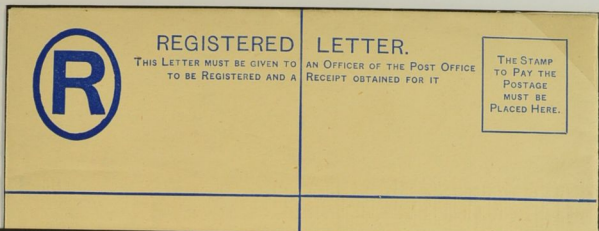




Probably from the January 1942 printing this uprated Registered envelope to New York, December 1944, cancelled Nassau, with an extra 5d in adhesives to cover the increased fee in 1940 of 2½d per ounce. This item must have weighed over that hence the extra 2½d. The front of the cover has a number of cachets – as has the reverse. 'Collect Postage Due For Customs Service' in two-line purple and Customs Free/Port of New York/P.R.B. in a purple box. Also a red one-line strike repeated twice indicating that it was supposed to be liable for Customs Duty.

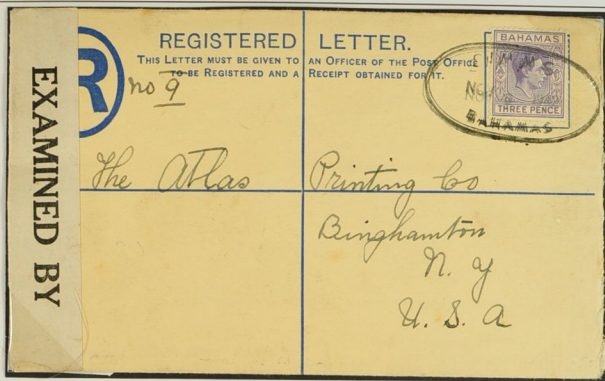
On the reverse is the green Customs C.I. label indicating that the enclosed is a gift of a turtle-shell brooch and handkerchiefs. There is a large blue double circle Customs House Nassau N.P. (see previous display sheet) but this has the rare censorship manuscript in blue inside the cachet. Transits of Miami, New York Regy and New York, Kings Bridge Sta – all in 1944.

Below is a Type (c) imprint registered envelope detailing the finer lettering and is also a 'no stop' example.



Registered envelope showing the increased fee to 4d. Imprint (c) Printed as before in letterpress with blue inscriptions on 24th September 1951. The Crown Agents indicate that 12,384 items were issued with 350 PSD1 Specimens.

This was the last printing for George VI later followed by the first Queen Elizabeth II registered envelope printed by De La Rue on 8th September 1954.



Two envelopes used with, above, a type (a) inscription and lower a type (c). Above is cancelled by an oval Simms Bahamas November 1942 with a black and white Examined By USA 1798 censor label. Backstamped Miami, Florida and Binghamton, N.Y. Lower, uprated to cover the air mail rate cover from West End Bahamas October 1944. to America. Examined By 30389 censor label and backstamped Miami and Kansas City. Small boxed purple Air Mail cachet on front.

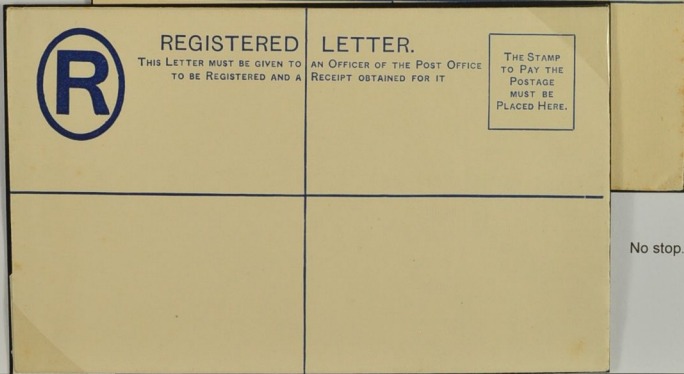
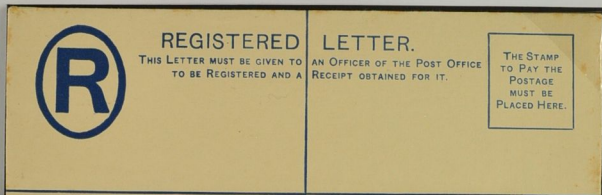


Queen Elizabeth II Registered Envelopes of 1954

The first printing of these envelopes for Queen Elizabeth II, but with the substitution of the Queen's Head, followed Type (c) of George VI by De La Rue, was on 9th September 1954 – not 1953 as indicated by Higgins & Gage – when 12,593 including 367 PSD1 Specimens were sent to the Bahamas. This was followed on 23rd July 1957 by 12,000; 8th January 1960 with 12,816 and 15th April 1962 with 24,000.

It is confirmed by Crown Agents Records that printings up to and including the January 1960 had the registration fee of 4d. Printings that followed carried the same design but the registration rate had risen by 2d to 6d. This can be borne out, generally, by the dates on the envelopes. All these were size 153 x 96mms and were printed with an orange-red 4d value tablet on a buff paper by letterpress. Blue inscriptions with and without a stop at the end of the second line.

Stop.



No stop.

On 15th April 1962 registration was increased by 2d from 4d to 6d. Thomas De La Rue & Company, Limited imprint under the flap with ultramarine inscriptions. Centre is a scarce outer island cover from Green Turtle Cay, which has been wrongly date-stamped April 1954 instead of May 1964 as indicated by the Nassau backstamps. Correct inter-island rate. Lower, February 1964 from Mackey Street at the 8d rate to America that has two purple backstamp strikes: Miami Biscay Annex and Miami Uleta Br.



Little Bay September 1962 to America with two Miami backstamps – Annex and Uleta Br. Incorrectly sorted as the value covered air mail but was found in ordinary mail as shown by the red cachet.

Lower from Shrub Hill January 1964 to Australia but, again, was posted incorrectly for air mail – hence the boxed violet two-line cachet. Nassau and a Colac V.C. backstamps. On reverse is an official General Post Office black and brown label – 'Found Open and Officially Secured'.





REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN
TO BE REGISTERED AT

60

J. K. Amoury

Box 15

NASSAU NP



Posted locally
from Salvador in
May 1962.
Rate was 3d.



REGISTERED

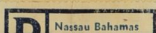
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE P.O.
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR



Church Street June
1962. Note purple
American 'Passed
Free U.S. Customs'
cachet. Correct rate.



Handwritten: 60
Yours of Ring
church \$4
T. H. 82
New York 7.11



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE
TO BE REGISTERED

24 JAN 64



Form 2921

Handwritten: 30
PASSED FREE U.S. CUSTOMS
TAMPA FLA

From
Jamaica - The Ferguson
Delectable Bay
Bekkins Island.

Mr Edward Collier
Clark Fruit
(Wutz) July 14 1964

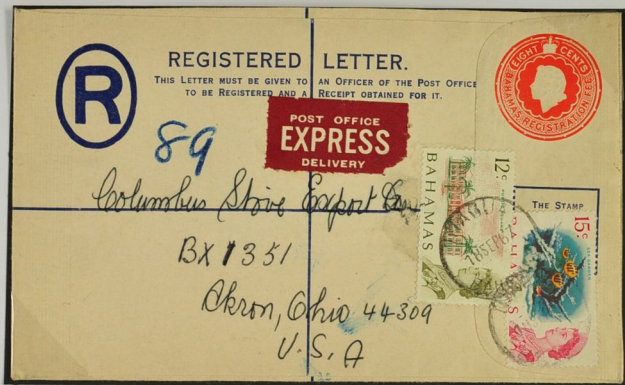
Pompey Bay,
1964, with different
'Passed Free U.S.
Customs' cachet.
Correct 1/2d rate.

Queen Elizabeth II Registered Envelope of 1967

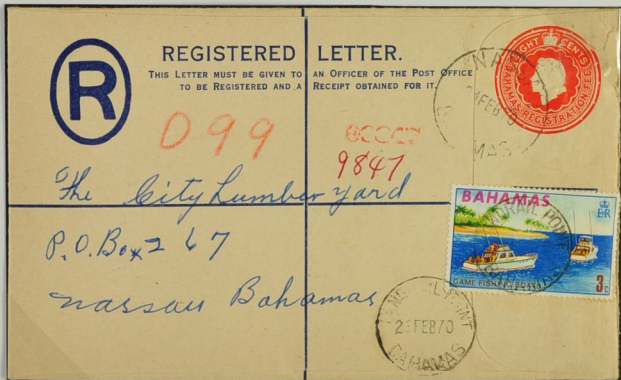
The actual date of the release of this decimal issue registered envelope is unknown as there appears to be no record in the British Library. The date of the first issue of overprinted decimal adhesives was 25th May 1966 and were printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson with 100 cents equalling one Bahamas dollar. The first true decimal definitives appeared exactly one year later in litho and recess by Bradbury, Wilkinson.

Examining the following postal stationery items it would appear that they are still prepared by Thomas De La Rue, although there is now no imprint under the flap. Also this flap now folds on to the front of the envelope with a postage box much the same as the George V issue of 1930. The embossed head of Queen Elizabeth II is slightly smaller than that of the previous issue. The paper has changed to white with the value tablet still in red. Higgins and Gage do not list an eight cents value which was equivalent to sixpence in sterling as previously.

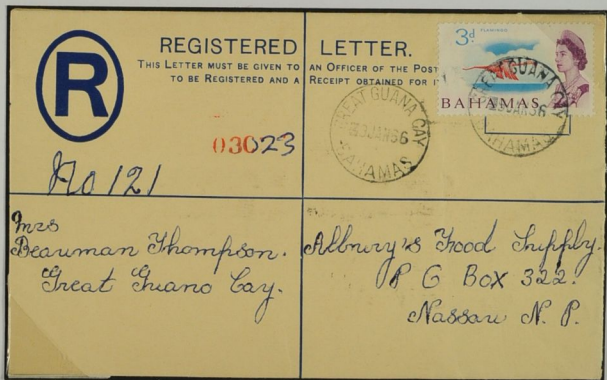




Upper, Inagua to America September 1967 uprated to include Express Delivery. Lower, posted from Land Rail Point in February 1970 and sent locally, this 8c envelope has been uprated by the addition of a 3c adhesive.



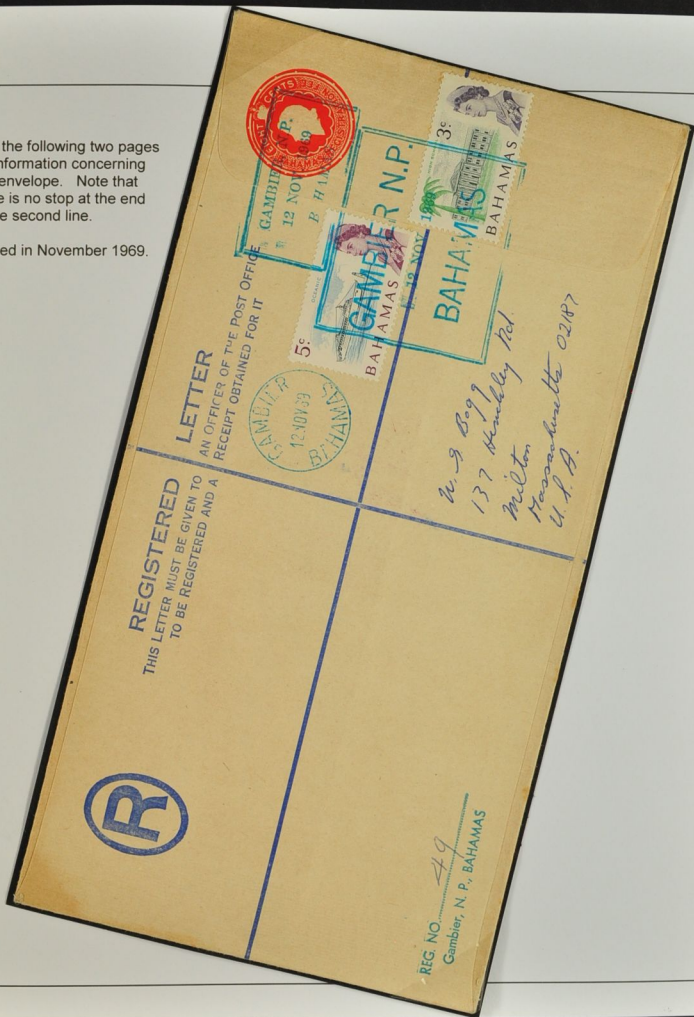
Two further 6d registered envelopes. Below in February 1964 from Mackey Street to Florida, America, backstamped Miami at the correct 8d airmail rate.



Above from Great Guana Cay, January 1966 sent locally, Nassau backstamp.

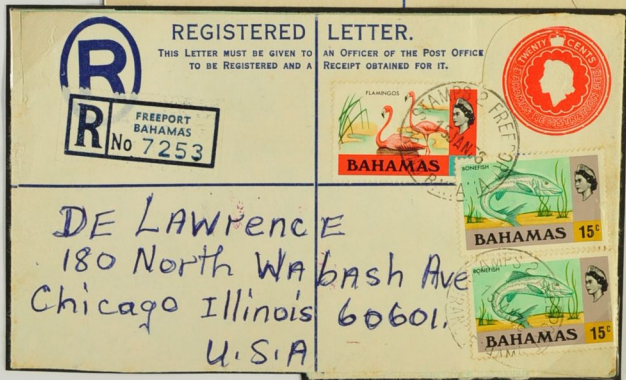
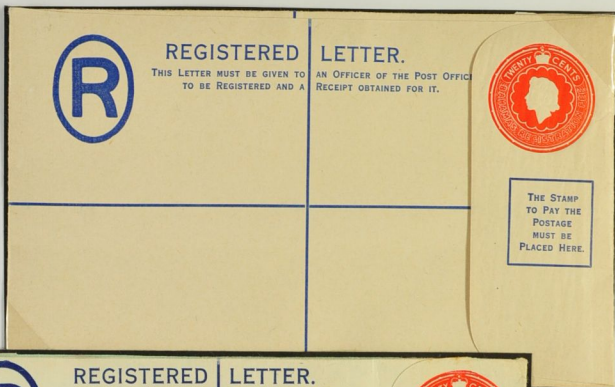
See the following two pages for information concerning this envelope. Note that there is no stop at the end of the second line.

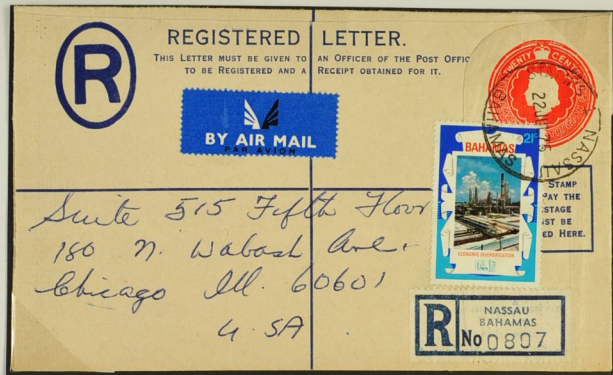
Posted in November 1969.



Later, at an unknown date, caused mainly by lack of records available, the registration envelope fee was increased to 20c – but still with the Queen's Head. The used copies seen here date from 1975 but the earliest adhesives come from the 1971 definitive set so the envelope must have been produced before that time. Probably still produced by De La Rue.

Note that on the used copy it has been cancelled Stamps 1 Freeport.





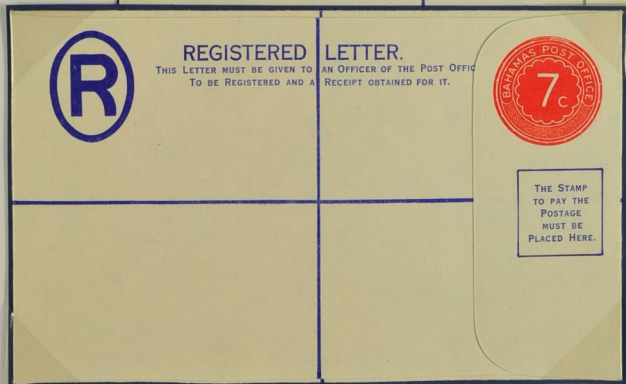
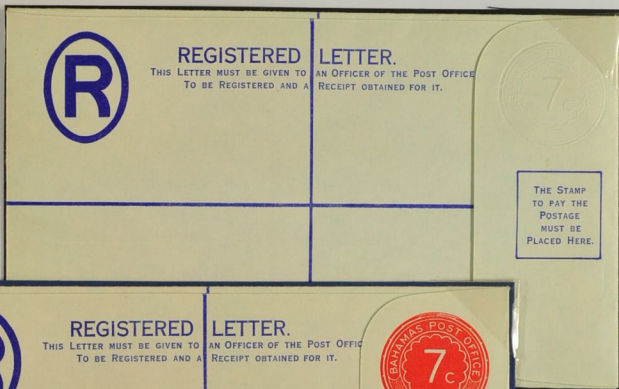
Cancelled Stamps 2 Freeport, backstamped Chicago in purple, and Stamps 3 Freeport respectively.

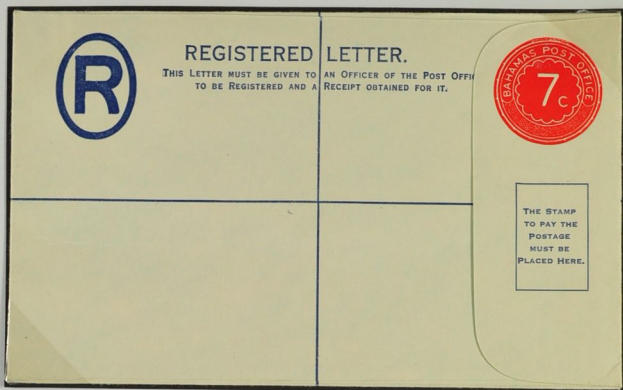


Independence Registered Envelopes

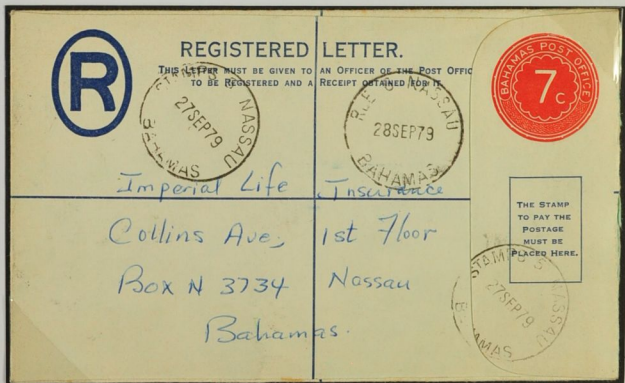
Independence Day was 10th July 1973 and at sometime after that date – no information is available – the Bahamas issued a new set of registered envelopes, although some of the Queen's definitives were still used to make up the postage rate. As will be noticed the registration rate had been reduced from 20c to just 7c. It is probable that the printer remained De La Rue as the design is very similar.

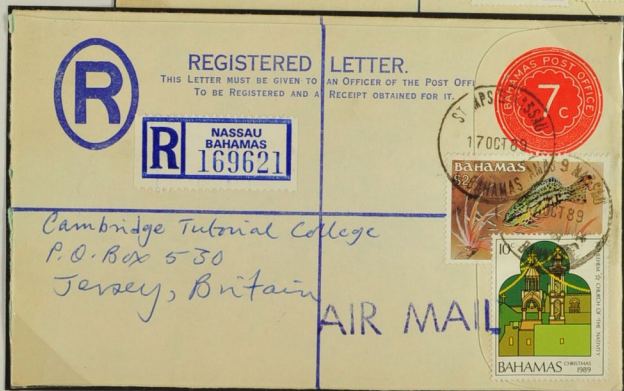
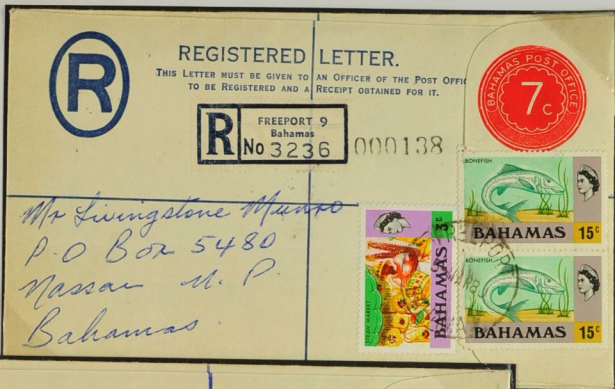
Below is an albino printing of the value tablet – the rest of the inscriptions are printed in bright blue. The reinforcing paper inside is a pale green.





These registered envelopes have been printed in deep blue, the adhesives for the lower are on the reverse. Cancellation is Stamps 5 Nassau in September 1979.





Upper, deep blue used locally in March 1980 with backstamps Shirley Street, Bahamas and Freetown. Lower, a bright blue example sent to Jersey, Channel Islands in October 1989 with a Stamps 9 Nassau cancellation.

Probably this 8c value was contemporaneous with the 7c issue as this used copy date appear to coincide. Also the cancel Stamps 3 Nassau would cover the same period in February 1977.

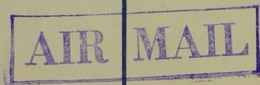
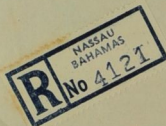


REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE TRANS - WORLD TUTORIAL COLLEGE
P. O. BOX 42

JERSEY, BRITISH ISLES



It would appear that the 10c value was also issued at the same time with the deep blue printing being printed first. Used locally in December 1978.



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



To,
COMPTROLLER

DEPARTMENT

AA1034



TRAFFIC
ROAD TRAFFIC
NASSAU B.
BAHAMAS



Bright blue inscriptions. The used envelope is dated 20th August 1986 – just a few days after the definitive issue of 5th August – and sent to Sliema, Malta and is backstamped there.



REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE
TO BE REGISTERED

POST OFFICE
EXPRESS
DELIVERY

**By air mail
Par avion**



THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.

Mrs. Monica Galea
"Taiwan House"
153 Old College St.
Sliema, Malta.



Bahamas Air letters **1943 – 1965**

Structure

This 16-sheet display covers the use of Air Letters from the first issue of 1943, George VI, to the last issue in sterling of Queen Elizabeth in 1965. Where possible archive material has been sought for and included. Unfortunately historical information is lacking as modern records appear to be scanty unlike earlier material that can be sourced through the De La Rue Private Day Books, for example.

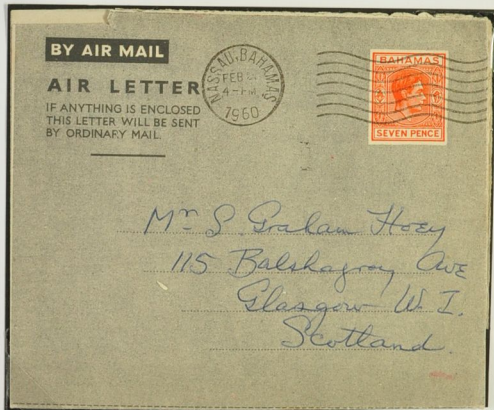
I have made use of the British Library Philatelic Section but they lack important information as to numbers printed, the paper manufacturer etc. The microfiche system that the British Library uses is outdated.

I have attempted to obtain information from the Bahamas Country Archivist and the Bahamas Postmaster-General but they have been unable to help. So to date, in spite of much research, there would appear to be no easily available actual record of these important postal stationery items.

A number of varieties may be seen – again how many were printed in this way is unknown – but does include all the major known items and some unknown until now, although the Higgins & Gage catalogue does offer some help here.

From Nassau
February 1960
to Scotland.

Although an
extremely late
posting, the
contents indicate
that it is commercial.

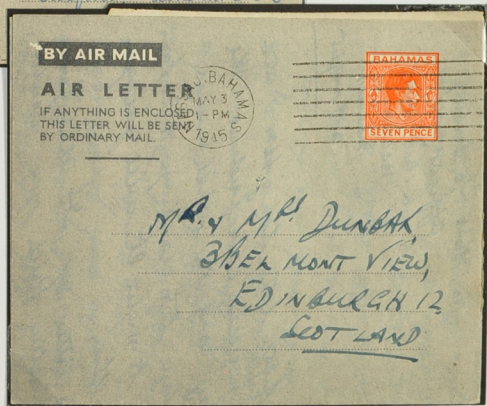


George VI Air Letter 1943

Despite research the paper supplier for George VI air letters cannot be traced. Probably it was either John Dickinson or Wiggins, Teape.



From Pilot Officer Green at RAF Station, Nassau to England, February 1945, expressing sympathy for the 'Robot Bombs' that are falling on London.



To Scotland May 1945.

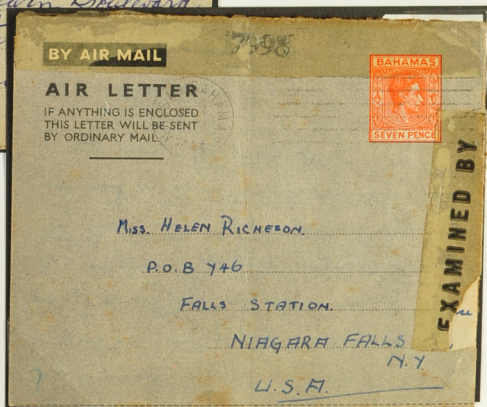
Due to their short life – just two years – and during the period of WW11, good used air letters are harder to locate than the 1945 version.

Right, sent from RAF Station, Windsor Field, Nassau in August 1944 to England.

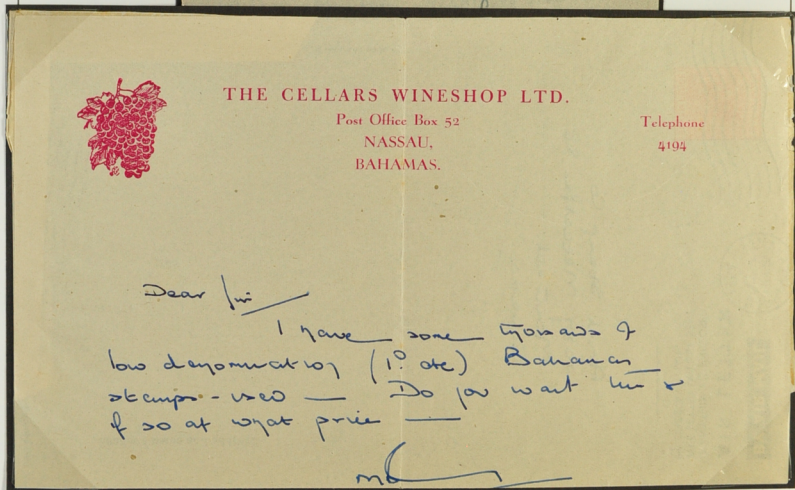


Centre, cancelled in Florida but sent to Canada at the correct 7d rate, this air letter has a 'Postage Due 72c' applied en route with the 72c crossed through.

Right, a scarce example of a censored air letter sent to America, October 1944.



A very late dated - February 1955 - commercial air letter from Governors Island to Paddington and backstamped there, London. Lower, a 1943 air letter with late usage in June 1954 but has, as is shown, a private printing of an advertisement for The Cellars, Wineshop, Nassau. These do not appear to be listed and can be counted as scarce/rare.



George VI Air Letter 1945

De La Rue, acting for the Crown Agents, printed 610,080 air letters and invoiced the authorities on 13th December 1945. Their records show that no Specimens were printed. This was a long run as the next air letter did not appear until 1963, eleven years after the death of George VI.

These follow the same format, 7d orange on white greyish-paper but now there is a white border around the value tablet. This was the final air letter printed for the Bahamas by De La Rue.



Nassau to Kingston, Canada 29th January 1947. Left, a pencilled annotation on the reverse indicates arrival 3rd February 1947.

Right, late commercial Air Letter to the UK in 1951.

Below, to an unusual Destination, Denmark in 1956. Another example of being over-printed Inside with a commercial address.



Right, special violet cachet of R.M.S. Mauretania, undated but with 'Posted At Sea' additional mark. Addressed to America.



Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1963

The first Queen Elizabeth II air letter was not issued until 8th April 1963. It was printed by Harrison & Sons with watermark 'Imperial/S/Air Mail'. Numbers printed are still unverified as no records appear to be held by the relevant authorities.

According to files from the Crown Agents it was approved on 5th October 1962 subject to comments regarding cutting and changes to the figure in the stamp. The 8d rate covered world-wide mail.

Similar to the George VI air letters there is no record in the various research registers as to which company supplied the paper.



Top is a rare 'No Watermark' variety.

Lower is a first day cover from Mackey Street to Scotland.



These two Harrison examples show misplaced red flashing at the air letters edges and misplaced frames/vignettes.

Unused and a commercially used item on 16th January 1964 to England.



This example of the Queen Elizabeth 11 1963 air letter shows the very rare variety of missing vignette.



Vignette misplaced upwards.



A commercial air letter to London in February 1964 showing the missing vignette. Rated as very rare used.

Scarce No Watermark.



Misuse of a 1963 Bahamas air letter. Posted in Trinidad January 1965, it has been marked with a manuscript .T. indicating Void, a green boxed '8d More To Pay' cachet and a violet T- boxed 21. The 'adhesive' itself has been boxed off with a blue crayon.

Scarce No watermark.

Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1965

Produced, most probably, by McCorquodale & Company Limited, although there is no reference in the Crown Agents Requisition Books, on 20th September 1965.

The new design was approved by J. Simpson on 29th July 1965. This issue and all subsequent printings by McCorquodale were produced without a watermark as it was thought that security was now less of a problem. The rate was still set at 8d.



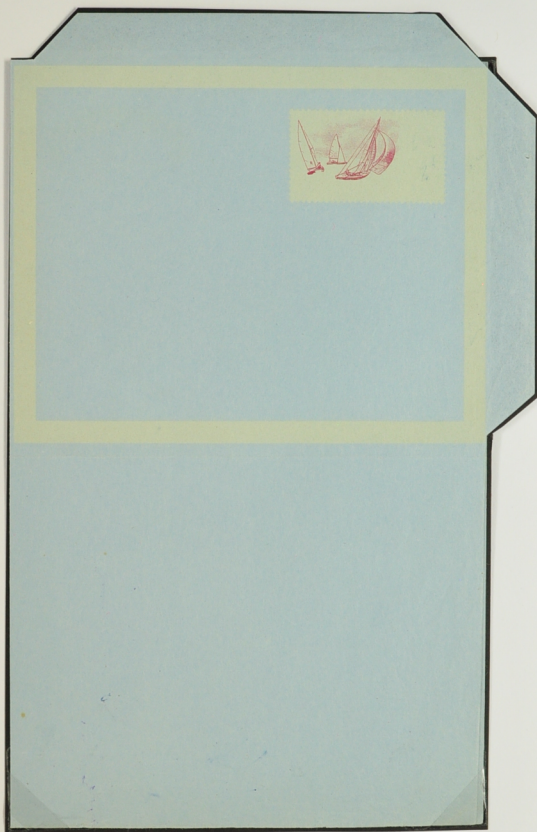
The definitive adhesive issue was produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson in litho and recess in January 1965 from which this value was taken. Numbers printed are as yet unknown.

Unrecorded by Higgins & Gage, this air letter printing variety, left, has the olive-green omitted that leaves the Queen's Head and the country name missing. Ex- Kaspar.

Unused example of the missing colours on this 1965 air letter leaving just the sail boats in the vignette.

This is rated as very rare. It is unlikely that used examples exist.

Quantities are unknown.



Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1963

The first Queen Elizabeth II air letter was not issued until 8th April 1963. It was printed by Harrison & Sons with watermark 'Imperial/S/Air Mail'. Numbers printed are still unverified as no records appear to be held by the relevant authorities.

According to files from the Crown Agents it was approved on 5th October 1962 subject to comments regarding cutting and changes to the figure in the stamp. The 8d rate covered world-wide mail.

Similar to the George VI air letters there is no record in the various research registers as to which company supplied the paper.



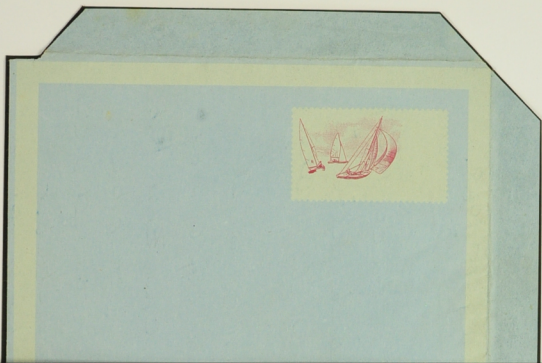
Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1966

This issue by McCorquodale signalled a change in currency with cents and Bahamian dollars replacing Sterling on 25th May 1966. Issued on the same day as the change-over the sterling value of 8d has been blocked out by three black bars and decimal 10c overprinted. The Crown Agents has a copy marked 'Specimen' in ink manuscript. It is marked 'Proofed OK 13/4/66'. Numbers printed are unknown, as yet.



To America, August 1966.

A second example of the missing carmine and greenish-blue colours leaving just the reddish-purple Of interest is part of a second airmail which was written on 16th January 1968 to an address in Cornwall, England, which states, "Dad, I wrote on the air letter yesterday and when I came to stick it up found that the stamp was improperly printed and the air mail markings deficient. Is this valuable. I will keep it and let me know in Mum's next letter what to do with it. Unfortunately it is written on".



We did send a card to Alan, unless we put the wrong address and it has gone astray. Well, I have a long list of letters to catch up with since Christmas. We have been having dreadful power cuts for about 2 months now, and because the generators have been breaking down together, the whole island has been having load shedding. Dad, I wrote on an air letter yesterday and when I came to stick it up found that the stamp was improperly printed and the air mail markings deficient. Is this valuable. I will keep it and let me know in Mums next letter what to do with it. Unfortunately it is written on.

So glad all is settled re the house, Nana, what a blessed relief that it is all behind you now. Hope the dance went off well, Mum and Dad. Well, that is about it, not much news. Having a very chilly spell, about 60 at night and 80 during the day. Peter Leslie has bought a new 24 fibreglass sail boat and he, Tommy and another architect Kixx dick Barrach (australian) are going over to Miami on Thursday night to sail it back (thus getting it in duty free if comes under its own power). They should have gone last weekend but the fierce N.E. winds blew up and the gulf Stream was very very rough. All for now. Much much love and see you soon, if I don't manage to get another letter off to you.

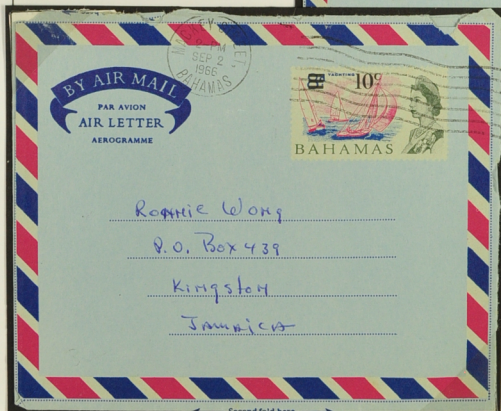
Post

← Fold here →



In May 1966 used locally is a first day cover of the issuance of the overprinted 10c adhesive.

September and October 1966 to Jamaica and Belgium respectively. Lower postmark is Mackey Street.



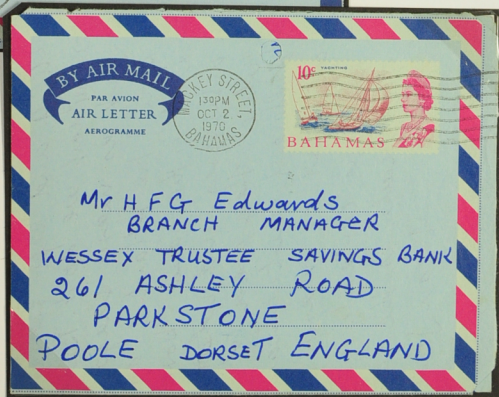
Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1967

The Crown Agents indicate that this new 10c air letter may have printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson on 25th May 1967 which also printed the new adhesives. It was approved by K. Wright on 9th January 1967 although an earlier proof may have been submitted on 9th September 1966. No watermark. Quantities printed are not known.

Also indicated is that there may have been a second printing of this air letter by McCorquodale on 24th July 1969. The further requisition would appear from the example in the Crown Agents records to have more clearly defined perforations. The top example is from the first printing, the lower from the second.

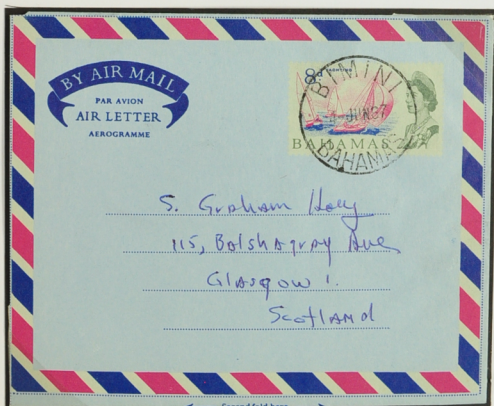


Two used examples of the 1967 air letter. The top item is a first day air letter, 25th May 1967, non commercial, posted internally and the lower sent October 1970 to England.





Air letters January 1966 to England and lower from Bimini to Scotland, June 1967.



Nassau to Cornwall,
England, January 1968.



Mackey Street, March 1971,
to the Captain of the M.S.
Bischofsrein at Cristobal,
Canal Zone, Panama. Purple
arrival strike.

Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1971

New design of 10c air letter in bright magenta and blue on light blue paper.

Printed by McCorquodale on unwatermarked paper. The adhesive proof from which this value was taken was printed by Format International Security Printers Ltd and was approved by T.J. Langley.

The adhesive from which this design was based was part of a full set first issued in April 1971.



Queen Elizabeth II Air Letter of 1971

The cost of this air letter has now increased to 11c. Date, as yet, unknown.

Printed by McCorquodale on unwatermarked paper in Venetian red and green on a light blue paper.

Format International had the design approved on 6th September 1971 by S. Hart.



Higgins & Gage indicates that this revised air letter was introduced also in 1971. The colours are now orange-red and blue on light blue unwatermarked paper. From Mackey Street to Hong Kong, May 1973.





Above, Freeport to England, November 1973 and lower a blue Post Office, Bimini strike February 1974.



Queen Elizabeth II Formula Air Letters

Nonetheless while not official Bahamas postal stationery these two formula air letters were officially Post Office approved and are known as The 'Apsley' Air Letter approval 71995/IN and the lower is 71995/IR. Top shows a probable first day air letter of 3rd June 1953 while the lower dates from February 1963.





Formula air letter – not Post Office approved – sent on the first flight Nassau to New York February 1957. Reverse has the strike New York (IDL)/Air Mail Field P.T.S.

FIRST FOLD HERE



AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT
CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE;
IF IT DOES IT MAY BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

PRICE 5¢ PLUS STAMP

SECOND FOLD HERE



Again no date known for this air letter. The first adhesive of 40c was issued back in July 1976 but the design in full colour of a Boeing 757 and the air mail rate of 40c suggests that this is a much later issue. As can be seen on the following page there are now three full colour illustrations within the air letter.



The first reference to a 25c adhesive was part of the 1977 Christmas issue of 27th October. Now printed in colour but the date is unknown.

FIRST FOLD HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

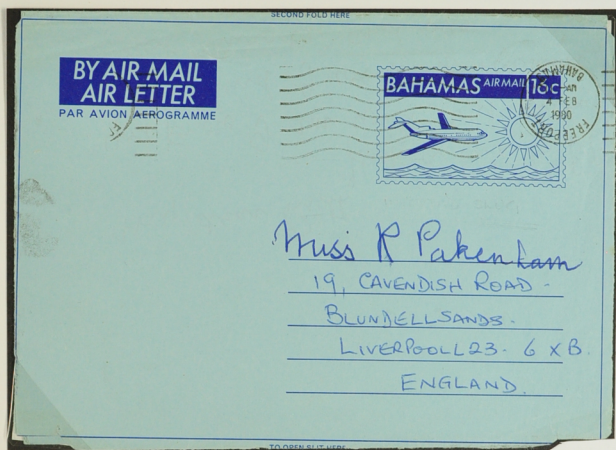
AN AIR LETTER SHOULD
NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE;
IF IT DOES IT MAY BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

PRICE 5¢ PLUS STAMP
SECOND FOLD HERE

**BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER**

PAR AVION AEROGRAMME





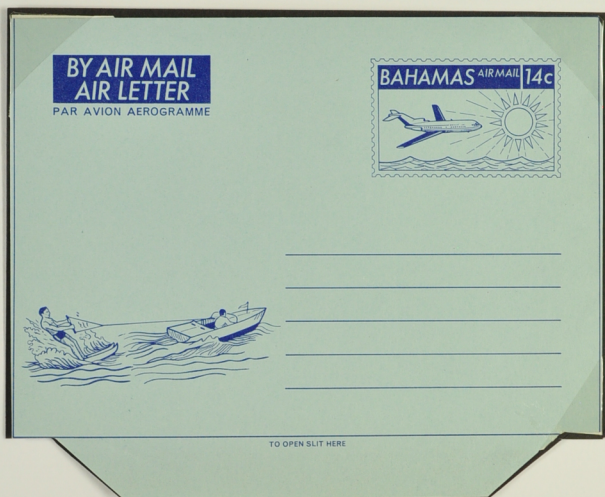
Sent to Liverpool in February 1980 at the 16c rate. Note the inverted Freeport date slug.

By February 1976 the air mail rate had risen to 16c as is seen by the uprated example below. The first 16c adhesive was issued on 1st June 1976. An unused 16c air mail is shown lower, and note that the illustration has been deleted.



Independence Air Letters

Records do not seem to be available for air letters in the Independence period which commenced on 10th July 1973. It is thought that this first air mail was produced on 14th November 1975, dark blue on blue unwatermarked paper with a design of a speedboat and skier bottom left. Rated at 14c although the first 14c adhesive was issued on 23th April 1974.



International Reply Coupon



The Bahamas itself did not issue any Reply Coupons in any Reigns. Any inward items are classed as rare.

Seen above is a 1907 use of a Great Britain Coupon to the value of 3d sent from New Cross Rd, London and cashed in Nassau. What it was used for is, of course, unknown.

International Reply Coupon

Until recently the use of International Reply Coupons in a Postal Stationery exhibit was forbidden. However in May 2011 Lars Engelbrecht, then Secretary of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission wrote "...and the Regulations also say that the following items can be exhibited, Telegraph Forms, Money Orders/Postal Orders/Postal Notes and *International Reply Coupons...*"

The genesis for this was as follows. British delegates at the Postal Union Congress in Rome, 1906, proposed a scheme enabling a letter sent abroad to be prepaid in another country. The Convention that followed the Congress authorised the issue of IRCs from 1st October 1907 and was widely adopted. This design, by Grasser et Florian, depicts a woman holding a letter and flying between two hemispheres. The colour was dark green with a pale green background with a watermark reading 25c/UNION POSTALE/UNIVERSALLE/25c. This 25c, equivalent to 2½d, was the minimum rate that the Coupon could be sold. The International Bureau in Berne arranged for the printing that was done by V. Benziger and Co. A.G., in Einsiedeln, Switzerland.

The imperforate block of four seen below was formerly the property of King Fuad of Egypt and is probably unique in a private collection. (Acknowledgement to Philip Beale for information).



Both of these larger sized registered envelopes were printed on 17th February 1894 with Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent under the flap and a value tablet of 2d.

Letterpress with blue inscriptions.

Numbers printed were small: 1,000 for the upper and just 500 for the lower larger envelope.

The used example was posted October 1897 using a block of four of the 2½d where 2½d was the normal surface rate for registered letters to the UK. This 10d meant that it was a quadruple rate letter which given the size of the envelope is correct.

Cancelled with a barred B, there is a red Nassau Registered mark, a Registered from Liverpool and on the reverse a Registered Birmingham. While other used copies may exist, they have not yet been seen.

The exhibitor does possess an unused example that is held in his reserve collection.



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR



J. W. Bodger Esquire
18, Cowgate
Peterborough
England



As indicated earlier there were two printings for these larger sized envelopes, 29th December 1902 for the upper example and 17th October 1906 for the lower.

Quantities were 2,050 and 1,025 respectively.

Both have Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent under the flap with grey-green inscriptions.

Used copies of the lower envelope probably exist but have not been found.



REGISTERED

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
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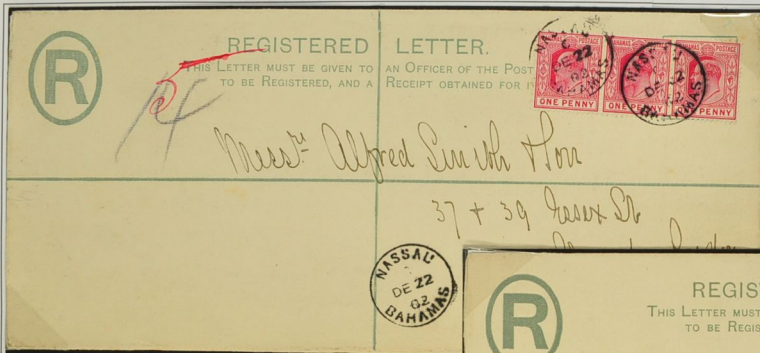
REGISTERED

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AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

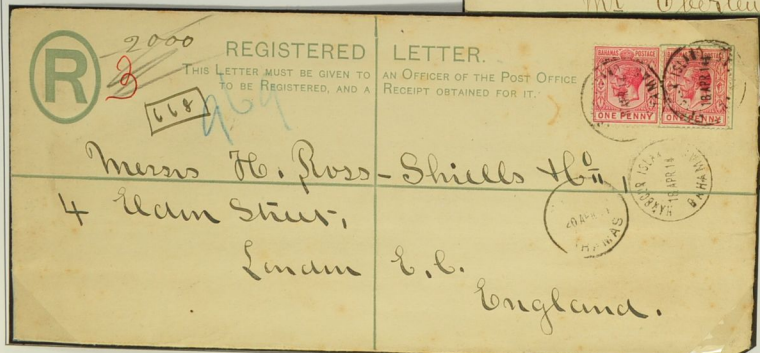
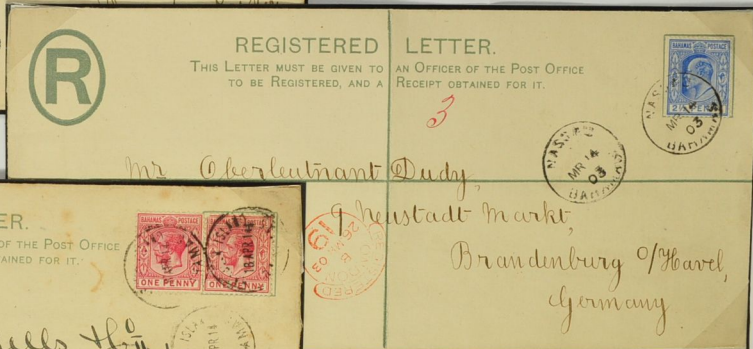
THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.



Three registered Edward VII envelopes with grey inscriptions.
Size 230 x 105mm.

Left, December 1902 to London at the correct 3d rate with both a Liverpool strike and a London arrival mark.

Centre, March 1903 via London, red registered strike, to an Officer in the German Army, Brandenburg backstamp. Correct rate of 2½d for letters at that date.



Left, 2d rate to England with George V adhesives from Harbour Island. Large size envelopes are very scarce from outlying islands which would account for the late date of posting 18th April 1914 with a Nassau transit two days later. The original printing date was 29th December 1902. London arrival mark 4th May 1914.

There were two printing dates for these larger sized registered envelopes, 29th December 1902 for the upper which measures 230 x 105mm and 17th October 1906 for the lower of 295 x 155mm.

Quantities were 2,050 and 1,025 respectively.

Both have Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent imprint under the flap.

The inscriptions appear in a grey-green.



REGISTERED
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A

LETTER.

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.

GJ

ultimanum

E7
1025

GJ
500

295 x 155

**REGISTERED**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

LETTER

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT



THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE.

Later at an unknown date but possibly around 1970, the registration rate was increased to 20 cents (1/6d). Still printed by De La Rue, this size measures 236 x 123mms with blue inscriptions on white paper.

Note that unlike the 8c this 20c has no stop at the end of the second line.

370

**REGISTERED**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO
TO BE REGISTERED AND A

**LETTER**

AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT



Nassau to England December 1970.

John G. Hens.
26 Catterick Rd.
Didsbury.
Manchester 20
England.

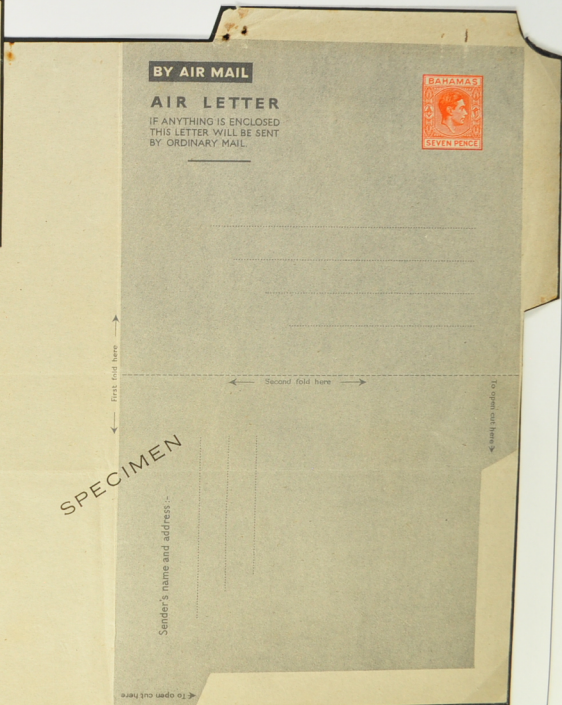
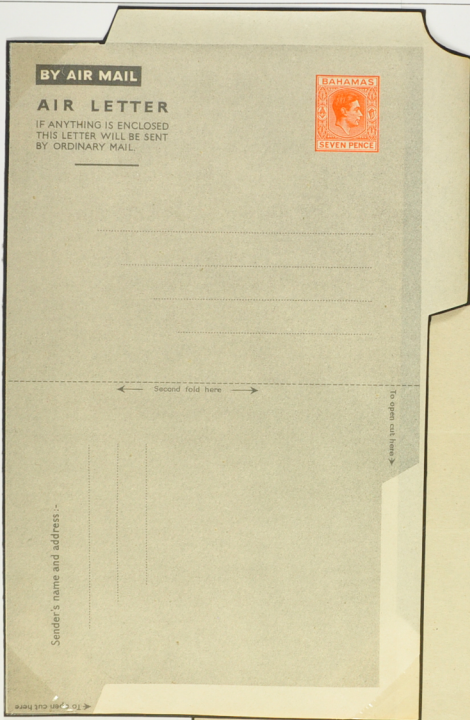
NOTICE LEFT
12-70
4

Right, probably the original File copy as shown by the pin holes top right from the De La Rue Archives overprinted 'Specimen', part of the July 1943 printing.

The value tablet, 7d, is printed in orange on a greyish-white paper. No watermark.

Figures obtained from the Crown Agents Requisition Books indicate that 103,320 air letters were invoiced of which 348 were Specimens.

Left, a standard air letter but note the shades of paper.

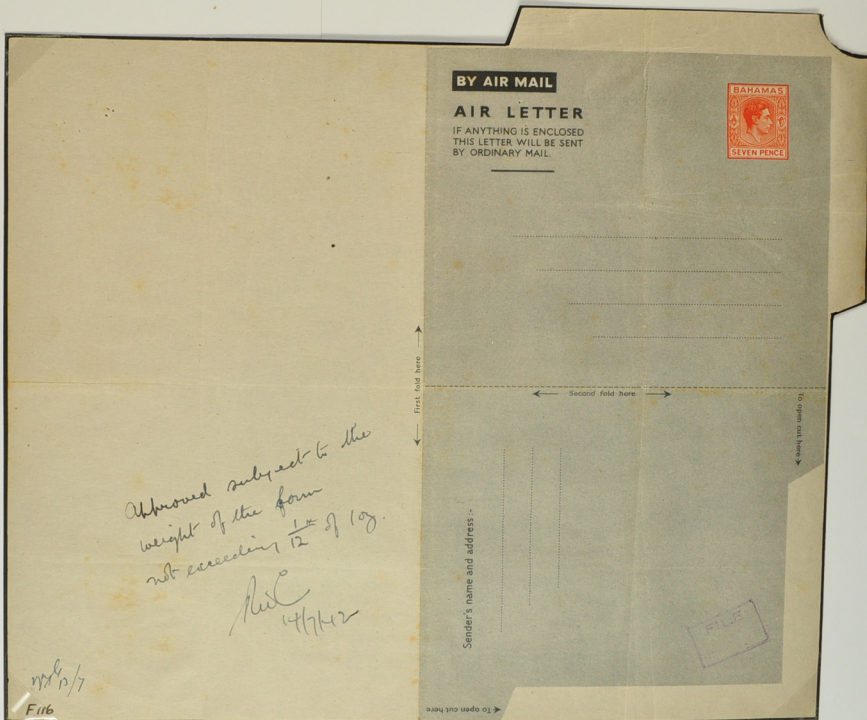


George VI Air Letter
De La Rue Archive
File Copy July 1943

From the De La Rue Archives and is annotated in manuscript 'Approved subject to the weight of the form not exceeding 1/12th of 1 oz'. Marked F116 it is initialled RWC and dated 14/7/42.

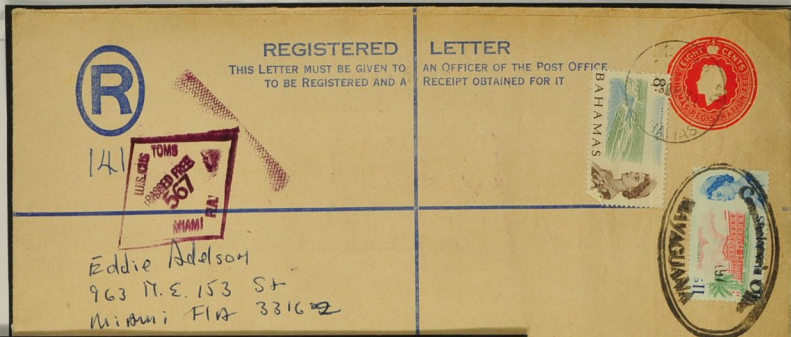
This is incorrect as the file copy F114 held in the Crown Agents records at the British Library is dated 14/7/43. This is borne out by the Crown Agents Requisition Books that state the actual despatch was effected in October 1943. The location of file copy F115 is not known.

Further initialled and dated 13/7 bottom left with a small boxed violet FILE handstamp bottom right.



May 1971 to Miami, backstamped in purple with Miami Fla. Biscayne Tour and North Miami Beach Br. cancels. One adhesive struck with large black double oval Commissioner's Office Mayaguana. Also large purple U.S. Customs Passed Free 567 cachet.

No stops at the end of the second line.



Airmail to England May 1972.