

**CONFIDENTIAL.**  
No. *C/11/36*

*1936*  
~~1929.~~

C.S.

S. of S. Confidential desp.

SUBJECT.

~~192~~  
1936.  
13th May.  
Previous Paper.

ENQUIRY REGARDING CERTAIN PACKAGES OF POSTAL STAMPS FORWARDED TO CROWN AGENTS FOR MESSRS WINGFIELDS.

*138/35*

MINUTES.

*1-5*  
*6-7*

Confidential despatch from S. of S. of 13th May, 1936.  
*[Signature]* 13/7  
*Conf. despatch to S. of S. of 14/7/36.*  
*Y.E.*  
*Despatch submitted for signature.*  
*[Signature]*  
*14/7/36*  
*[Signature]* 14/7  
The correspondence was shown to the Postmaster today at an interview at 2-30pm. *[Signature]* 27/7/36.

Subsequent Paper.



S. of S. Confidential despatch of 26/5/36. 8-13.

The Postmaster.

The Despatch and correspondence referred to therein submitted for any observations you may wish to make.

JCS  
4/8/36

Hon. Col. Sec.

The negotiation concerning these postage stamps was arranged before I arrived in the Colony from vacation leave.

I understand that Mr Newing made an application for the stamps to be cancelled in sheets to the Ag. Colonial Postmaster who refused to comply with his request.

Mr Newing then applied for an interview with the Colonial Secretary and obtained permission for the stamps to be cancelled.

MC  
P.M.  
10<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1936.

Y.E.

Draft despatch submitted.

JCS  
13/8/36

You told me verbally that according to Mr. Hunt, the Col. Sec. said that I had approved the cancellation. I am confirmed please reply as is advised draft

JCS  
14/8/36



Mr. Stewart will you please verify that the position as stated in His Excellency's minute is correct. *Recd. 15/8/36*

H.C.S.,

The position as set out in the draft despatch is correct and I confirm that I refused to cancel the stamps in question and that I was subsequently informed by Mr. Craigie-Halkett that His Excellency had granted permission for Mr. Newing's request to be complied with.

*G. D. S.*  
C. C.  
17/8/36.

*The only request that came to me was for authority for the sale of the balance of the stamps in those words. The reason for the reference was that the number & price were undetermined. Was it stated in so many words that I had authorized cancellation?*

*W. S. S.* 18/8/36

Hon. C. S.,

In my minute of the 17th August, I should have made it clear that the application by Mr. Newing for the cancellation of stamps in sheets was made in connection with a previous consignment some two months prior to the receipt of the order from Messrs Wingfields to purchase "the balance of the stamps".

2. Mr. Newing called at the Post Office and

requested that a certain number (5,000 as far as I can remember) of 1d stamps should be cancelled in sheets. Although I could find no instructions in the Post Office prohibiting the cancellation of stamps not affixed to letters, I refused to comply with his request without further authority. Thereafter Mr. Newing sought and was granted an interview with the Colonial Secretary who I understand told him that he would speak to His Excellency concerning the matter. Some days elapsed and Mr. Newing 'phoned me to enquire whether I had received any instructions to proceed with his request; I replied in the negative but stated that I would speak to the Colonial Secretary on the subject. I telephoned the Secretariat the same day and was informed through one of the Clerks, Mr. L. W. Aldridge, that "the Colonial Secretary had spoken to His Excellency about the stamps and that it was alright". The same afternoon I saw Mr. Craigie-Halkett myself and again mentioned the matter to him when he stated that he had "spoken to the Governor who had said that he would raise no objection to the request being complied with." The matter is the more clear in my mind because it was with some reluctance that I complied with the request.

3. The consignment of stamps to which I refer is distinct and separate from that to which reference is made in enclosures (1) to (5) and subsequent correspondence in this minute paper; this particular consignment was paid for by Mr. Newing locally before the stamps were taken away from the Post Office. They were forwarded direct to Messrs Wingfields.

4. The actual cancellation marking of the consignment of stamps which forms the subject of the Secretary of State's Confidential despatch of the 26th of May, 1936, and previous correspondence, was not performed during the period that I was Acting as Colonial Postmaster, but I had informed Miss Carey of the facts regarding the previous case, and I believe she discussed the matter with the Colonial Secretary



before the stamps were despatched.

*C. J. Hewitt*  
C. C.  
24.8.36.

*Y.E.* / Submitted.

*J.S. Cal*  
26/8/36

*The draft had better go as he  
Hewitt considers that it is a correct  
statement of events.*

14-15

*Confidential despatch to S. of S. of 24/8/36.*

*Y.E.* / Despatch for signature

*J.S. Cal*  
27/8/36

*H.H.H. 26/8/36*

(3)

13. May, 1936.

4704/2/36

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Thomas to address you with regard to a number of sealed packages of postal stamps of the Falkland Islands which have been received by the Crown Agents for the Colonies from the Government of the Falkland Islands for delivery to you against payment of their value of £571.17.6. The Secretary of State is informed by the Crown Agents that the contents of one of these packages have become exposed owing to damage to the wrapper in transit and appear to be envelopes with Jubilee stamps affixed and postmarked.

2. I am to explain that while there is a practice, approved by the Secretary of State, whereby dealers may place orders for parcels of postage stamps for delivery through the Crown Agents, who collect payment for the parcels

MESSRS. WINGFIELDS.



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parcels so delivered at their face value plus a specified commission for the services rendered, this practice naturally applies only to stamps in mint condition, and the Secretary of State could not countenance a practice whereby stamps were defaced by affixation to covers and cancellation without prior payments being made for these stamps. Nor can he countenance the use of the postmark of the Falkland Islands on covers which have not been posted in the ordinary way but have been enclosed in packages for delivery through other channels. In the circumstances therefore he regrets that he must refuse to sanction the delivery of the stamped envelopes included in the packages addressed to you.

3. Any stamps in mint condition will, however, be delivered against payment, and it is suggested that you should send a representative to the Crown Agents, in whose presence the packages could be opened and delivery of the stamps in mint condition arranged.

①


4. A copy of this letter is being sent to the  
Crown Agents for the Colonies.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. V. VERNON.





FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DOWNING STREET,

13 May, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your telegram No. 18 of the 31st of April regarding certain packages of postal stamps consigned to the Crown Agents for delivery to Messrs. Wingfields, and to transmit to you for your information the accompanying copy of a letter on the subject which has been addressed to that firm.

2. I note from your telegram that the order for those stamps was received in the Colony on the 31st of December by private individuals but it is not stated that the order was received in the Post Office on that date. I assume, however, that it was, as the sale of Jubilee stamps after that date would have been a direct breach of the instructions conveyed in paragraph 3 of the circular despatch of the 6th December, 1934 from Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister (now Viscount Swinton).

3. Your telegram, moreover, states that the stamps were affixed to the envelopes by private individuals. In other words, the postal authorities parted with these stamps to private individuals, or at any rate allowed them to be affixed to envelopes by those private

individuals

GOVERNOR

R. BENNIKER-HEATON, ESQ., C.M.G.

etc., etc., etc.

Red 48  
138/35

13.5.36.

Red 31  
227/34



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individuals without first receiving payment for them. It is quite clear that such a practice is contrary to the intention of standing instructions regarding the sale of postage stamps.

4. Furthermore, it is apparent that in this transaction the cancellation stamp has been put to improper use. Its use should be confined to covers intended for separate postage and it should not have been used to cancel stamps on covers intended for enclosure in a further package.

5. The action taken in this matter by those responsible in the Falkland Islands has therefore been open to serious objection, and I should be glad if you would enquire into the circumstances in which this has taken place and take steps to ensure that it does not occur again. I shall expect to receive a report from you explaining what actually occurred.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

14th July, 1936.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Secretary Thomas' Confidential despatch of the 13th of May, 1936, I have the honour to inform you that I have caused enquiries to be made regarding the consignment of stamps sent to the Crown Agents for delivery to Messrs. Wingfields.

2. The order for these stamps was received in the Post Office on the 31st of December, 1935, when Messrs. Wingfields' agent in the Colony, Mr. A. Hoving, personally placed the order with the Postmaster. Mr. Hoving who is an ex-Government servant, a Justice of the Peace and a man of the highest integrity, was allowed to take over the stamps for affixing to envelopes as at that time Government held sufficient securities to cover the value of the stamps involved.

3. With regard to the cancellation of stamps by postmarking it has not been the usual practice in this Colony to cancel stamps on covers intended for enclosure in further packages but in this particular transaction in the absence of prohibiting regulations in the Post Office Guide no exception was taken to the application. Furthermore no information had been received that the arrangement for the transmission of stamps through the

Crown/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. C. ORMSBY-GORE, F.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.



Crown Agents for delivery to dealers against payment of value, applied to stamps in mint condition only.

4. Since the receipt of the despatch under reference, I have issued instructions forbidding a recurrence in future of the action taken in this instance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

(Sgt.) H. HENNIKER-HEATON



25 May, 1936.

4704/2/36.

Gentlemen,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st of May, on the subject of the Jubilee postage stamps consigned to you from the Falkland Islands, and to state that, for the reasons explained in the letter of the 15th of May from this Department, it is regretted that it is not possible to accede to your request for the delivery of the stamped envelopes, or of the sheets of cancelled stamps which it is now learned were also included in the consignment.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(su) R. V. Vernon

MESSRS. WINGFIELDS.



Copy.

Albert Newing,

Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

21st April, 1936.

Messrs. WINGFIELDS,  
24, Chancery Lane,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

Dear Sirs,

I confirm having today received your telegram,  
reading:

"Holdup this end their excuse you are not the  
sender arrange relief cable position"  
(release)

which message I understand refers to stamps sent via the  
Crown Agents.

On receipt of your telegram I immediately called  
at the office of the Colonial Secretary, produced your  
message and asked if any explanation could be offered.

He at once informed me that a telegram had been  
received from the Secretary of State requesting to know  
who had affixed the stamps to envelopes, and whether the  
stamps had been purchased before the 31st December, 1935.  
A reply had yesterday been sent from the Colonial Secretariat  
to the effect that "stamps had been purchased by a private  
individual before the end of the year and had been affixed  
to envelopes by the same individual".

Although the message from the S of S had been  
received some days previously it had not been replied to  
until yesterday. The delay was due to the sudden illness  
of the Colonial Secretary and the Governor's temporary  
absence from the Town. His Excellency only returned  
yesterday morning when the telegram to the S of S was  
approved and despatched immediately.

The



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The Colonial Secretariat are of opinion that once the S of S receives their telegram of yesterday the stamps will be released.

Accordingly I have today cabled you as follows:-

"Government arranging matter"

and I trust now there will be no further difficulty in getting delivery of the stamps.

I am quite at a loss to understand why there has been any difficulty, but you will appreciate the fact that I am entirely "in the dark" regarding what is occurring at your end.

If, as I surmise, the Crown Agents were of opinion that the stamps were sold after the end of the year and were affixed to envelopes by the Post Office officials, surely on production of my letter to you the matter would be quite clear. However, I have no doubt you have written me concerning the difficulty you have had in getting the stamps delivered.

I very much regret to learn you are experiencing difficulty, or shall I say, annoyance, at your end. From this end everything appeared to be quite straightforward and simple to arrange. It was really on the suggestion of the Postmaster that the stamps were sent through the Crown Agents and he appeared to be quite certain that everything would be alright. Had I had any doubts about it I could have made other arrangements, but personally I took it for granted that sending through the Crown Agents was the best way, and that the arrangement would suit you better.

I am now convinced that it is best to send stamps direct to you and not have the C.A's intervene in any way.

Awaiting your further news,

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) A. NEWING.



Copy.

WINGFIELDS

Stamp Dealers,

24 Chancery Lane,

London, W.C.2.

May 21st 1936.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Ref. 4704/2/36.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th inst. in accordance with which we have collected the 4000 mint sets of stamps of the Falkland Islands from the Crown Agents and paid the amount of £325.

We enclose letter we have to-day received from our Agent, Mr. Newing, dated the 21st April, from which we gather that he purchased the stamps from the Post Office before the 31st December 1935 and affixed them to the envelopes himself, and so far as we know paid for them in the same way as he paid for the 1/- values which he has sent to us direct. Being without the lower values - which are held by the Crown Agents - which are necessary to make up the sets, will entail on us great loss, and as we are quite innocent of any breach of regulations ourselves, we feel it is very hard that we should be penalised. Further these stamps have been sold ahead as naturally we do not do a big deal of £600 without ensuring the placing of at least a good part of it. Had we purchased direct from the Post Office and deliberately contravened your regulations, it would be another matter but this is a private deal from an Agent and as far as we are concerned the Government does not enter into it at all. Our supplier was also apparently ignorant that he was doing anything wrong, and that both

he



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he and we should be the victims of the fault of the Post Office does not seem to us just. After this explanation we think we are justified in asking your indulgence in this particular matter by allowing us to take delivery of the stamps in question on the payment of \$246.17.6.

Trusting this application will receive your due consideration.

We are, etc.,

WINGFIELDS.

(Sgd.) A. W. WINGFIELD.

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13.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Downing Street,

26 May, 1936.



Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my confidential despatch of the 13th of May regarding certain packages of postage stamps consigned to the Crown Agents for the Colonies for delivery to Messrs. Wingfields, and to transmit to you, for your information, copies of further correspondence exchanged with that firm.

*Red S. 1-5*

21.5.36.

25.5.36.

2. It has now been ascertained that, in addition to unused stamps and envelopes bearing sets of cancelled stamps, the consignment included a quantity of sheets of stamps bearing the cancellation marking of the local Post Office. As you are aware, it is directly contrary to the terms of paragraph 7 of Mr. Anery's circular despatch of the 15th of December, 1928, for Government officers to cancel stamps which are not affixed to letters, and I shall be obliged if you will furnish me with a full report on this aspect of the matter when replying to my confidential despatch of the 13th of May.

*Red 1-2  
70/29*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

(Signed) J. M. THOMAS

GOVERNOR

H. BERRILL-REAYNE, ESQ., C.M.G.,

etc., etc., etc.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

27th August, 1936.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Mr. Secretary Thomas' Confidential despatch of the 26th of May, 1936, in which further reference is made to the packages of postage stamps consigned to the Crown Agents for delivery to Messrs: Wingfields.

2. As previously reported in my Confidential despatch of the 14th of July, the irregular cancellation of postage stamps by postmarking has not been the usual practice in this Colony although in the absence of prohibiting regulations in the Post Office Guide such a procedure as outlined in the despatch under reference was permitted.

3. I now learn with the greatest concern that a direct instruction issued in 1910 by Lord Crewe and repeated as recently as 1928 in Mr. Amery's Circular despatch of the 15th of December should have been overlooked and disregarded. I wish to express my profound regret that this should have been possible.

4. As reported in paragraph 4 of my Confidential despatch of the 14th of July, 1936, explicit instructions have been issued to prevent a recurrence of the blunder committed.

5. I should in fairness to the officer (Mr. A. I. Fleuret) who was acting as Postmaster at the time of the

sale/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
W. G. ORMSBY-GORE, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.



sale of these stamps, state that I am informed that he refused to cancel the stamps without authority. The Agent then approached the Colonial Secretary who authorized the cancellation. Mr. Fleuret reports that he was told by Mr. Craigie-Malkett, the Colonial Secretary, that I had said on oral reference that I would raise no objection to cancellation. My own recollection does not go further than that I was asked by the Colonial Secretary whether I approved of the sale of the large quantity required on the 31st of December, but in any event I accept the whole responsibility for the actions of the officers of this Administration. Mr. Craigie-Malkett was Colonial Postmaster from 1911 to 1926. He would certainly never have supported or approved of the application for cancellation had the circular instructions been within his recollection.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) H. HENNIKER-NEATON