

DUNDEE AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
ONE HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS
www.dundeephilatelic.org

NEWSLETTER 2015

Letter from the President

SESSION 2015-16

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I start to write this as I am finishing the preparation of my exhibit for Singapore 2015. Singapore was selected this year for the FIA World Stamp Championship as on the 8th August 2015 the country is celebrating 50 years as an independent state. This WSC will be my third International and as I was adding sheets with new material (an important thing to continue to progress) I still noticed that there were improvements to make in what I had previously written. This just brought home to me that even from a position of starting out with a society display, creating a new display, or having a well-developed display there is always something that may be updated from what we learn as we continue our philatelic journey. It is good, and I believe rewarding, to prepare material to 'show' - using show in the broadest sense of the meaning. This has been especially seen from last year's efforts of the 'first time displayers' as they have confidently gone on during the year to display at the visits to local Scottish societies. As I noted in my AGM report, we had an excellent participation in the 'L' night theme which showed it is about sharing, and knowing that one can share, the philatelic material one has. So again I will encourage all to participate in whatever way on our member's evenings and specifically ask that everyone considers the one sheet evening. (You still have several months to go.) As I work through my exhibit I recognise I was privileged to be selected for Singapore 2015 as many of the UK applications did not make it.

I once again managed to get to York Stamp Fair and so stopped at my mother-in-law's in Filey. Lynn and I decided to take a walk up to a new housing development there. In walking around we only came upon one person - who happened to be mowing their lawn. We started talking about the weather (as one does) and eventually he invited us in to see his new house being new to the area having moved from London. Anyway, on getting to the box bedroom, the gentlemen said that this would be his study as 'he was a stamp collector' and 'there are not many of us these days'. You can imagine how the rest of the conversation went. However, I was able to encourage him now to participate in a local society as Lynn had picked up an information leaflet on the Yorkshire Philatelic Societies and so we were able to pass this on. It is a small thing, but this brought to me that to encourage philately in general we must tell people what we are and what we do and not seen as something not to be proud of. I wrote in my last President's letter about promoting the society, and again at the AGM, so once more, I would like to express our thanks for the wonderful job Colin had done as our Publicity Officer ensuring over the years a very high profile for our society. I know this as my father and brother keep mentioning it to me and were jealous!

The last philatelic year went quickly and I am looking forward to this year's meetings. My thanks, as ever, go to our officers for their continued commitment behind the scenes to

ensure smooth running of our society. I hope you have had a relaxing summer and some chance to indulge in philately ready for the new season.

Francis .

Francis Podger FRPSL

News of Members

At the census date, 1 July 2015, our membership had fallen by one and as a result the current membership is 42 (39 members and 3 honorary members.) Fred Cochrane & Cameron Raynor who had been members for less than a year have resigned. We are pleased to welcome back Colin Rochester.

Review of the 2014-15 programme

The 2014-5 programme opened on the 25th September when Doug Howkins substituted for our President who had been called away on business. Doug gave a comprehensive review of *Latin America* that revealed how the history and culture of these countries influenced their stamps and how the designs have evolved. Francis was able to give his Presidential display at the second meeting, *Singapore – Incoming Postal Stationery*, a fascinating collection of postal stationery from around the globe. The ingenuity of some senders amused us – deliberate under-franking to receive taxation and thereby ensure delivery! The rescheduling of these two displays produced a welcome bonus - both meetings were followed by refreshments.

We welcomed three visitors whose individual displays filled complete evenings. James Podger presented *Africa and Adjoining Oceans*, an entertaining evening peppered with personal recollections as a ship's master (& philatelist) at Ascension Island. Colin Caskie showed the stamps of *Jamaica* from the first issue until independence which gave us the opportunity to see some beautiful engraved stamps. He did not ignore postal history, completing his display with railway stations and travelling post offices. Our third visitor was Iain Dyce who brought us *Letters from the Eastern Seas*, a fascinating collection of postal history on the development of postal services in this region together with a great variety of items of early mail (notably from the Malayan Peninsula).

Turning to other members: Alec Steele last displayed his *British South Africa Company and Early Rhodesia* in 1977! The display given this time was one to enthuse the specialist and generalist alike. His fine collection of varieties (colours and flaws) was supplemented with great items of postal history, such as mail from Bulawayo in 1896 when the town was besieged by the Matabele army. George Lewthwaite gave the last display of the year, *British Postal Stationery*. It was an excellent finale to a successful season; a treat to see his comprehensive collection of (GPO) postcards, letter cards, registered envelopes and early air-letters and to hear the history behind these.

At other meetings, displays on a diverse range of interesting subjects were given by members of two visiting societies (Lanarkshire and the Postcard Club of Tayside). In return, our Society visited five societies (The Scottish, Falkirk & District, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Arbroath). In total, seven members represented Dundee at these visits, showing material that was very well received. These volunteers deserve thanks.

We held four member's participation meetings, taking the form of "one and a half" competition nights and two and a half "displaying" nights (*The Great War, Recent Acquisitions & One-sheet Competition, Annual Competition and "L"-Night*). All were enthusiastically supported.

Attendance was marginally down this year. The average attendance was 16.8 with the highest attendance being 21 on the 22nd January to see Alec Steele's *British South Africa Company and early Rhodesia*. For comparison, last year the average was 18.3 and the highest of 23 (on 24th October for Stuart Gardiner's *Early Europe*).

The morning meetings continue to be a success and for the first time the number attending exceeded double figures.

As it was last year, we finished this season with a Society Dinner at The Invercarse Hotel on the 7th May. This social event is a very pleasant way to round off our year. We have to thank David Millar for making the arrangements.



ASPS Congress Perth 2015: *Left*. A delighted Doug stands by his winning entry. *Right*. Peter and Lynn man the DDPS desk while in the background Norrie labours on "Post and Go"

Competition Winners and Distinctions (2014-15)

DDPS

One sheet competition: Harry Jackson: *"A Cover from the time of Post-War Currency Reform in West Germany"*.

National & General: Harry Jackson: *"Three Small Indian States (Barwani, Morvi and Idar)"*

Thematic: Charles Lloyd: *"Heroes or Villains? People who have featured on the stamps of Rhodesia and Zimbabwe"*

Postal History: Charles Lloyd: *"The Surcharging of Rhodesian Mail"*

Social Philately: Peter Dix: *"The Union Castle Line"*

National

ASPS Congress 2014

Sandy Forbes: *"The Long Stamps of South Australia: 1886 - 1912"*. Large Silver Gilt

Doug Howkins: *"Seebeck Issues"*. Bronze-Silver

Aberdeen Philatelic Society

Ron Goodfellow: The Edward Jupp Award

International

London2015 Europhilex

Alan Roy: *"From Private Posts to Uniform Penny Post: 1600 to the 1840s"*. Vermeil

David Stirrups: *"Portugal from the UK: Rates on Mail Carried by the British Packet 1810-1859"* Large Gold (David was an active member of DDPS for many years, resigning just over a year ago because he moved to Cambridgeshire on retirement. Members will be pleased to see he continues to win, but surprised his study is not on Gibraltar!)

Secretarial Matters

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to thank Colin Campbell who resigned as Publicity Officer after giving the Society many years of excellent service. This was announced at the AGM. Since then a replacement has not been appointed. Thankfully, Colin has informed me that he will continue in office, though he cannot undertake the range of jobs he built up over the years. This causes me to think about our demographic issue. We are getting older and the membership is not expanding to any great degree. All societies require an organising structure and DDPS follows a well-established model, a committee with delegated responsibilities. We cannot deny that work is required from each officer, though now might be a suitable time to consider what is essential and what is not. The Society exists to give pleasure, friendship and inform members, and to encourage philately in general. I am sure that our officers are content to contribute in the way they do. The experience of members bears out the belief that we are a happy and successful philatelic society. But, we should not allow ourselves to drift into complacency. There is the danger that what is now an enjoyable job for any committee member could in time become a chore. Perhaps we should look at succession planning. At present, this is done only for the President. Also, it is healthy to refresh offices with new faces. The demographic issue I mentioned earlier means we should plan for the future before an issue becomes a problem.

Harry Jackson has made a very helpful suggestion to enhance our meetings. Until now speakers have introduced each part of a display (sometimes at too great length) and then we have walked past the boards, viewing the sheets and sometimes asking the visitor questions (individually). We are then called to order and a vote of thanks is given. I agree with Harry that there is value in a short discussion / question period after the viewing. Very often an observation I overhear (as an individual) is of general interest and would add to the appreciation of the display if it could be heard by everyone. I propose a small modification of the structure of meetings and greater attention to following a schedule. This would be for a trial. I suggest: 20 minutes, Speaker introduces his display & first part; 25 minutes viewing first part; 5 minutes discussion & questions; 15 minutes business (to allow the speaker to change his display); 15 minutes, Speaker introduces second part; 25 minutes viewing second part; 15 minutes discussion, questions & vote of thanks. (120 minutes – 7:30pm to 9:30pm).

Finance

Our Honorary Treasurer, Robert Duguid, has reported that the financial position of the DDPS continues to be sound. Last summer, with the impending maturity of our Treasury Stock, the investment portfolio was reviewed. The Treasury Stock was redeemed (early) and this money together with other funds being held in low yield accounts have been reinvested in an Alliance Trust account in a way that is intended to produce an income much as before together with an adequate increase in value over time. This year we enjoyed an increased surplus, partly due to a one off benefit from the reinvestment. Member will be pleased to read that this allowed Robert to recommend that the subscription should not be increased for 2015-6, which has been approved at the AGM. (The subscription is £10 payable on the 1st October 2015.) Robert is to be congratulated for keeping the Society in the black and Dennis Collins thanked for his sound advice on the reinvestment of our reserves.

The Exchange Packet

We are very grateful to David Easson, our Packet Secretary, for all his hard work in preparing and administering the Exchange Packet. Five Exchange Packets completed their circulation in 2014 and another four early in 2015. The level of sales was similar to year (~18% compared with ~16%), a percentage which is about normal for club packets these days. Consequently, David was able to give £110 from his surplus to the general funds of the Society. A proposal was put to the AGM was accepted unanimously. It states: "The rate of commission charged in the Packet is increased from 10% to 12.5%, starting with those packets issued in season 2015-6." This is to pay for the

postage of booklets returned to sellers after circulation. It replaces deducting a varying amount from each booklet sales total and greatly simplifies the process. It is intended to be cost neutral.

The Library

The re-cataloguing of our Library continues. We now know that the stock exceeds 700. Phase 1, allocation of books to categories, has been completed and Phase 2, adding stickers and writing in the main reference (in red) and any cross-reference (in black), is underway. In the library list, a book may appear in as many sections as are relevant. Each member will be given a four page paper copy of cataloguing sections. (To produce a full list of the books would increase the length to 80+ pages!) There will be a complete list as a computer file, but members without a computer can ask for a paper list. The suggestion that the full catalogue should be on a CD has been rejected because of cost and the difficulty met when updating this format.

A few books (mainly on Scottish postal history) have been purchased this year. Whereas David is still open to suggestions, we still maintain a policy to add books that will strengthen areas of interest particularly if they are on a subject that is poorly represented.

Morning Meetings

Morning meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (from 10:00 to noon) throughout the year. On a regular basis, attendance is now approaching double figures and on occasion exceeded 10. There are some members who find it difficult to get to evening meetings and for them a daytime event is a boon. Some of those present regularly attend evening meetings as well. It is pleasing to see that there is this integration of attendance. An informal atmosphere exists in which material is shown, technical points explained and issues discussed. If you know of any retired person who collect stamps or would like to start collecting please direct them to these morning meetings. More experienced members are very willing to help newcomers. Free coffee and tea are always available.

The venue is the Art Society's Rooms but when there is an Art Exhibition and the Gallery is unavailable, we use a room at the Methodist Church in West Marketgate. Other one-off circumstances may lead to alternative arrangements for particular meetings, details of which will be advised ahead of the day.

The Society's Web-site

www.dundeephilatelic.org

Minor changes have been made to improve security and provide more information. A contacts page has been established to allow messages to be sent to either the Secretary or Webmaster without divulging either member's e-mail address. A list of honours achieved by current and former members has been created.

The software added two years ago to monitor usage is proving useful for developing the site to optimise its appearance no matter what type of device is used. Although Windows is still the predominant operating system, others are becoming more popular. In 2013-4 15% of visits were by iOS (iPAD), Macintosh (mobile phone) or Android using devices. A year later the figure had increased to 33%. Our Webmaster, Norrie Kelso, intends to review the structure of the website with a view to completing necessary changes by 2016.

Norrie must be thanked and congratulated for producing a website that gives such a positive image of our Society around the world. Moreover, he updates it continuously. Please visit it regularly for the latest information and for new links that are added to reach other sites of which we have been informed and that feature something that would interest members.

Norrie seeks your views and suggestions. If anyone feels that there is anything missing from the site or even if you feel there's something you don't like about the site please contact Norrie at norman.kelso@btinternet.com

The 2015-16 Programme

2015	
24 th September	The Presidents Evening: Francis Podger FRPSL (DDPS) <i>Censorship of Singapore mail during World War 2</i>
8 th October	Terrence Pickering FRPSL (Gateshead Philatelic Society) <i>Japanese Military and P.O.W. Mail of the Thai - Burma Railway</i>
16 th & 17 th October	Scotex, Dewar Centre, Perth*
22 nd October	Jean and Crawford Alexander (Great Britain Philatelic Society) <i>Surprises in GB</i> <u>Please Note: This meeting will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Perth Road.</u>
23 rd & 24 th October	Dundee Philatelic Weekend, Queen's Hotel*
12 th November	Jimmy Crawford (Bearsden & District Philatelic Society) <i>Scottish Golf Courses / The Glasgow Penny Post Numbers</i>
26 th November	Visit from Perth PS
10 th December	<i>One Sheet Competition & Recent Acquisitions</i> – A members' evening
2016	
14 th January	<i>Annual Competition</i> – A members' evening
28 th January	"M" night – A members' evening
11 th February	Visit from the Caledonian Philatelic Society
25 th February	Visit from Aberdeen Philatelic Society
10 th March	David Mekie (The Scottish Philatelic Society) <i>Malaya – Four Unfederated States</i>
24 th March	Harry Jackson (DDPS) <i>India and States from The East India Company to Independence.</i>
14 th April	<i>Philatelic Miscellany</i> (Organised by David Millar) – A members' evening
15 th & 16 th April	ASPS Congress, at The Dewar Centre, Perth*
28 rd April	AGM
12 th May	Society Annual Dinner

*These are not a part of the DDPS meetings programme and are open to all collectors. They are included here for your convenience.

This year we have a full programme, 6 individual displays (2 by Dundee members and 4 by visitors) and 3 visiting societies (Aberdeen, Caledonian & Perth Philatelic Societies). There will be 4 members' nights. The year will be rounded off, as we have become accustomed to, with the AGM and our Society Annual Dinner.

It is our tradition that the President presents a display at the first meeting of the year. Francis Podger will be showing us another part of his prize-winning Singapore collection. This year it is the censorship of mail in Singapore during World War 2. Then, Singapore was a travel hub as well as a colony and both transit and its own mail were affected. Add to this a Japanese occupation for 3½ years and we have the prospect of a complex and varied treat. Displays given by two of our visitors complement this. At the second meeting Terrence Picking is to present his gold medal winning study of mail from the Thai – Burma railway. The story of its construction needs no introduction due to its infamy. In March, David Mekie, will show the third Malayan peninsula display, four unfederated states of Malaya. There were five of which four were perhaps the last addition to the Empire (in 1909). Each was a British protectorate with its own administration which included postal arrangements. Post-war events

hastened integration of all except one of Britain's Malayan territories, but the un-federated states had existed at what was arguably the high water in colonial philately.

Jean and Alexander Crawford are visiting Dundee for the Dundee Philatelic Weekend and will be arriving a day earlier to mount a display for us. After some thought, Jean decided on *GB Surprises*. This will feature unusual and little known items. Jean has been a member of the UK Stamp Advisory Committee and was privy to the Royal Mail stamp issuing policy decisions. She has pressed Royal Mail to be faithful to the reason why we have stamps – to service mail and to issue stamps that are relevant to the general public. In other words, not to follow philatelic fashions with stamps issued for “collectors”. While Royal Mail has issued many more stamps we have not (yet?) seen the excesses of many postal authorities. (No Marilyn Monroe miniature sheets, no Chinese new year sets for Far East collectors!) This meeting will be held at the Queen's Hotel because another organisation (Dundee Civic Trust) pre-booked our accepted Thursday date and is not open to any rearrangement.

Jimmy Crawford offered a number of displays and we settled on an evening with two subjects, neither of which would fill a full display on its own. Both are Scottish. The Glasgow Penny Post numbers is self-explanatory. A number of members are golfers and will appreciate his other display. I anticipate that postcards may dominate his display on Scottish Golf Courses, but it will be interesting to see philatelic connections.

Harry Jackson has given us several tasters from the postal systems and histories of several Indian Princely States. For a full display he has agreed to show India in its entirety for the era of British control. With many postal authorities, we will see how these operated individually and as a cohesive entity. This is a challenge and a suitable highlight display for the end of our season.

As yet, we do not have any visits arranged to other societies. Last year we made a larger than normal number of visits and this may in part explain this lack of requests this year. However, late requests are sometimes received.

Three of our members' participation nights are regular features in the programme and need little explanation. The *one sheet competition* brings out creativity, in imagination and in serious study. This event is coupled with *recent acquisitions* and produces suitable end to the first part of our philatelic year. The evening is made all the more enjoyable with the presence of seasonal food and drink. The Christmas break allows us all to focus on the DDPS *annual competitions* that follow on the 14th January. This is followed by “M” Night. [Mozambique, Mexico, Machins, mounted mint(?) etc.] The fourth of these, *Philatelic Miscellany* is a new concept and is to be organised by David Millar. Members are invited to bring an item of that is inherently interesting and will help demonstrate / explain a particular aspect of philately.

Finally

The DDPS Newsletter always features a short article on an aspect of the Dundee postal history. Last year Dennis Collins presented his archive on mail recovered after the Tay Bridge Disaster. This year he has written about perfins, explaining why they were needed, how to collect these and featuring examples from Dundee companies.

It just remains to wish you a good collecting season and we look forward to seeing you at Francis' display on September 24th.

Charles Lloyd
Hon. Secretary

“TO PREVENT POSTAL FRAUD AND DECEIT”

IN DUNDEE AND ELSEWHERE (!)

As the Post Office’s early practice was to pay cash for unused postage stamps this encouraged pilfering. In 1868 J Sloper & Co Ltd, a firm of manufacturers of perforators for cancelling cheques, succeeded in persuading the Post Office to stop this practice, provided the stamps were perforated with the initials of the firm (“Perfins”). Sloper and the few other firms of perforators were eventually recognised by the Post Office as vendors or sub-postmasters and as such entitled to a discount. This allowed firms using perfins to purchase their stamps at face value direct from the perforators.

Perfins are known to have been collected since the 1870s, although many collectors, regarding them as damaged, put them in the waste-paper basket (and may still do so!). The Perfin Society, founded in 1957, now has over 300 members and there are similar societies in USA, France, Germany etc. The Society has produced a catalogue of the perfins of Great Britain listing some 24,000 different dies and these continue to be added to with new discoveries. Collectors tend to collect particular areas, e.g. railways, shipping lines, Penny Reds, Seahorses, or particular towns or counties, or individual countries.

At the moment 109 different dies have been found for Dundee and many of them are scarce with, perhaps, only one copy known. This number includes the perfins of national firms, such as insurance companies (in the days before they all closed their branches in Dundee). Strangely none of the banks used perfins, probably as pilfering was not a problem.

Ideally one wants a perfin on an envelope with the firm’s name on the front or on the back flap and that is an “identity”. However, in the last few years with the availability on the internet of business and local directories it has become possible to investigate loose perfined stamps provided they have clear postmarks such as “Dundee” or “114” (Dundee’s allotted numeral). Recently reported, for example, is a loose stamp postmarked “Dundee, 24 December 1898” and perfined “JFW/DFM”. Could this be other than John F. White, Dundee Flour Mills, East Dock Street, Dundee?

Examples of other single loose stamps with Dundee cancellations recently found are:-

“H&A” suspected to be Halket & Adam, Dundee Rope Works, 8 Union Place, Dundee,

“H.K/Co.” suspected to be Henry Knuck & Co, waste merchants, 42&44 Long Wynd, Dundee,

“L&C/D” suspected to be Lawson & Constable, Silk Mercers and Tailors, 36, 38 and 40, Reform Street, Dundee.

There is now no one using perfins in Dundee. The most recent was the perfin produced for our Society’s centenary in 2005 –a unique item, not being for commercial use and being restricted in its use.

Perfins have been gradually superseded by meter marks which serve the same original purpose of forestalling dishonesty, as well as having other benefits, such as publicity and keeping a record of postage costs. It is, perhaps, a logical step to proceed from collecting Dundee perfins to collecting Dundee meter marks, both tracing the development of trade and industry from Victorian times to the present day – a form of social philately or, perhaps, commercial philately?

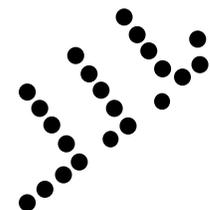
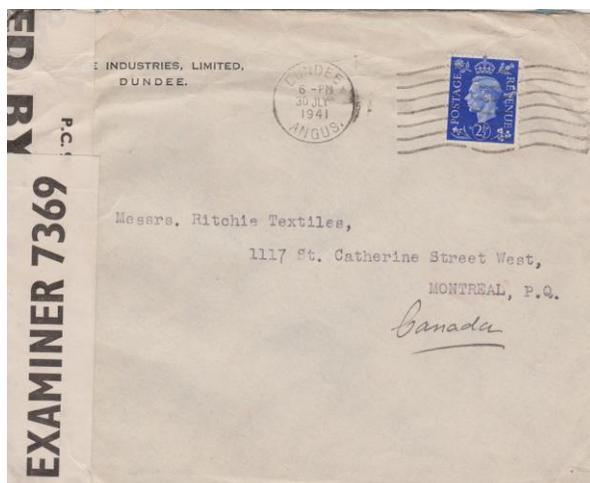
Dennis F. Collins, FR SPL



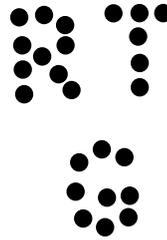
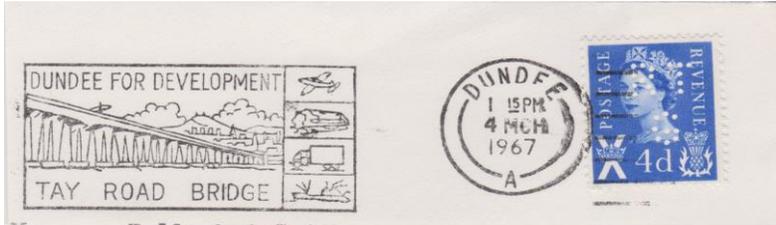
1893 Postal Stationery Registered Envelope to Austria with 2½d Jubilee perfined "M&W" and on front the identity of Moore & Weinberg.



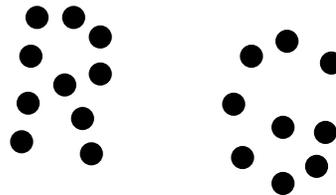
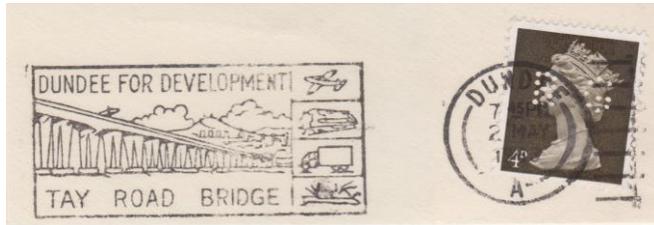
1902 Envelope with 1d KEVII perfined "COX" diagonally and on front the identity of Cox Brothers, Limited.



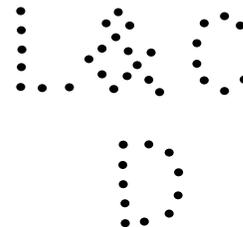
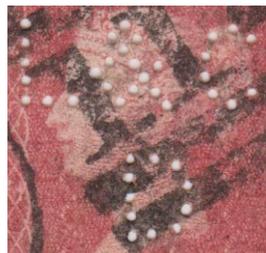
1941 wartime censored envelope to Canada with 2½d KGVI perfined "J.I.L." diagonally and on front the identity of Jute Industries, Limited.



1967 4d QEII Scottish Wilding perfined "RTG" with on the attached back flap of the envelope the identity of Road Transport & General Insurance Company, Limited.



1968 4d QEII Machin perfined "RG" with on the attached back flap of the envelope the identity of Royal Insurance.



1d Red postmarked "114" of Dundee and perfined "L&C/D" suspected of being Lawson & Constable, Silk Mercers etc., Reform Street.