

◀ 188 Great Britain

Add after last paragraph on p. 188:

In the Bechuanaland Post Office collection the 1902 KEVII ½d to 1s are represented by examples handstamped 'CANCELLED'.

For more information on this 'CANCELLED' handstamp see Chapter 5 Bechuanaland.

Insert after introductory text:

Postal Stationery

As stated above, in August 1892 an International Bureau circular²²⁸ announced that Guatemala had requested that stamps distributed as specimens should not be marked with 'Specimen' overprints. The same request was made by several other members of the UPU over the following three years.

The British Post Office complied with these wishes until the issue of the King Edward VII stamps in 1902 when, whilst the values to 1s were sent for distribution in normal mint condition, higher values were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. By 1913 protection was extended to include 1s values. Similar considerations applied to postal stationery as to adhesive stamps. As a result (with two exceptions detailed below) since no postal stationery issued before the reign of Queen Elizabeth II had a face value of more than 1s, all items distributed after 1892 were in normal mint condition.

In 1905 British regulations were amended to allow cut-outs (cut-squares) of stationery indicia to be used as postage stamps. Examples of unprotected stationery were sent to the UPU so that other countries would become aware of the change should they see mail franked in this manner. However, the 6d and 10d examples were not immediately available, and telegraph forms with these values inadvertently handstamped 'SPECIMEN' type GB26 diagonally BL to TR across the embossed stamp were sent a week later.

That they were indeed distributed by the UPU is confirmed by an example of the Foreign and Colonial 10d form with additional 'ULTRAMAR' handstamp applied by the Portuguese Ministry for the Colonies.²²⁹

class	H&G	Huggins	year	value	description	specimen type	notes
telegraph form	H133	TP59a	1903	10d	KEVII Foreign and Colonial Telegram	GB26	1
	H39	TP17a	1904	6d	KEVII Inland Telegram	GB26	2

Notes

1. Form imprinted 'JAS TRUSCOTT & SON, LTD., PRINTERS, LONDON'; embossed stamp printed by Inland Revenue.

2. Form imprinted 'PRINTED BY McCORQUODALE & CO. LIMITED'; embossed stamp printed by Inland Revenue.

²²⁸ International Bureau Circular No. 6131/602 dated 1 August 1892.

²²⁹ Illustration courtesy of Alan Huggins.