

# Newport Philatelic Society

<https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>

## Newsletter 30th Release: Number 90 April 2021

### Introduction:

Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> issue of the newsletter. In this issue there is an interesting first article from Bryan and some of the Letter J submissions from our recent Zoom meeting for those who were unable to attend. We have now published a programme for Zoom meetings taking us through to the summer, and I am sure you will agree, we have organised a full and varied speaker selection. This meeting programme is included in this newsletter but can be found on the society's website. With the gradual relaxation of the lockdown rules, we may be able to consider normal face to face meetings later this year, but the society is planning on the expectation that the rest of the year may well be "virtual"!

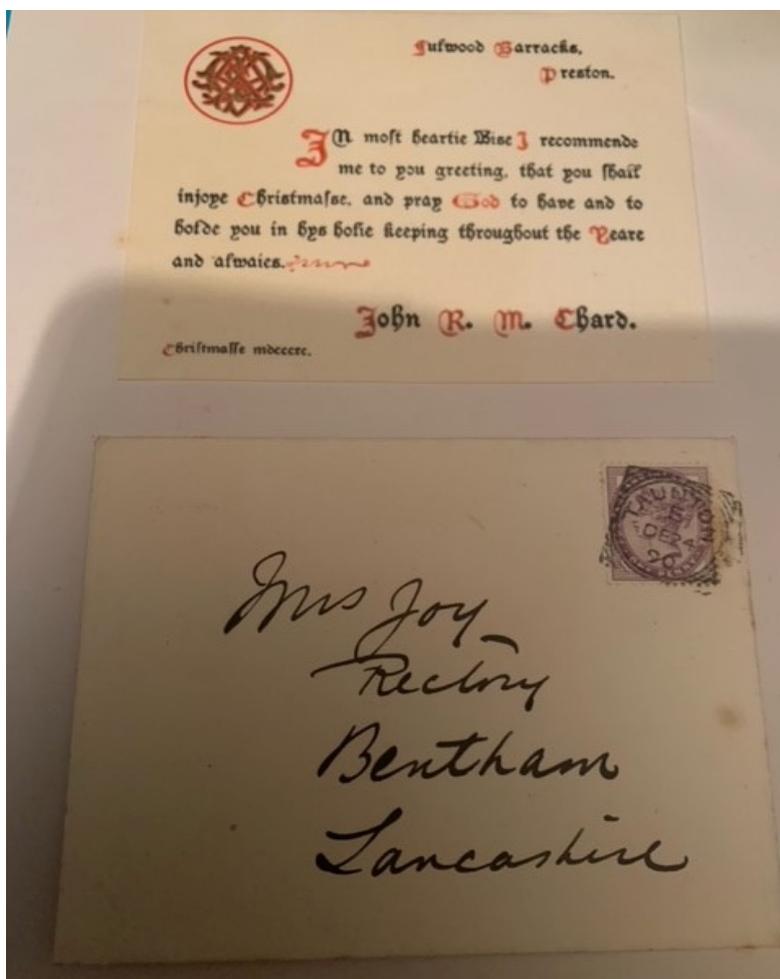
A recent E-Bay purchase from Uruguay, one of the miniature sheets is actually wrapped around the cover, anybody want some Uruguayan stamps?



## An interesting piece of social/postal history: Bryan

"I thought that members may like to see the attached envelope which is in my collection. The envelope was written out by Colonel John Rouse Merriott Chard VC. Chard was the Royal Engineers officer commanding the defence of Rorke's Drift in January 1879. The letter contained a printed Christmas greeting for the year 1890.

The envelope has two date stamps, firstly a Taunton postmark Dec 24th, 1890 on the front, and on the rear a Lancaster postmark dated 26th December 1890. Quite a result to post something to Lancashire on Christmas Eve and have it arrive at Lancaster on the Boxing day.



Colonel John Rouse Merriott Chard VC (21 December 1847 – 1 November 1897) was a British Army officer who received the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration for valour "in the face of the enemy" that can be awarded to members of the British armed forces. He earned the decoration for his role

in the defence of Rorke's Drift in January 1879 where he commanded a small British garrison of 139 soldiers that successfully repulsed an assault by some 3,000 to 4,000 Zulu warriors. The battle was recreated in the film Zulu in which Chard was portrayed by Stanley Baker.



Born near Plymouth, Chard attended the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in July 1868. He was involved with the construction of fortifications in the Bermuda Garrison (three years) and at Malta (two years) before he was deployed to southern Africa at the start of the Anglo-Zulu War. At the end of the war, he returned to a hero's welcome in England and was invited to an audience with Queen Victoria. After a series of overseas postings, he returned to the United Kingdom in 1887 being based at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. He retired from the army as a colonel in 1897 after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died at his brother's home in Somerset later that year.

### Rorke's Drift

The first waves of Zulu assault were repulsed by British volley fire, but the attackers pushed on relentlessly, particularly along a vulnerable section of the British perimeter by the hospital which became the centre of fierce hand-to-hand combat. With British casualties mounting, Chard ordered his troops to withdraw behind the biscuit boxes, which left the western half of the station in

Zulu hands, including the hospital, which was subsequently set alight by the attackers. Once inside, Chard ordered the construction of a redoubt made from a tall pyramid of mealie bags to provide shelter to the wounded and form the last line of defence. The Zulus continued to attack in intermittent waves during the night, but they were illuminated by the burning thatch, which enabled the defenders to spot their advances. By 5 am, the exhausted Zulus had abandoned the attack, and British reinforcements arrived later that morning. Chard counted 351 dead Zulus scattered around the perimeter. The British suffered 17 killed and 10 wounded.

Chard remained at Rorke's Drift for several weeks after the battle and assisted with the construction of a new stone perimeter wall. However, conditions at the camp were poor; Chard became ill with fever and was taken to Ladysmith for treatment. Once recovered he was attached to Colonel Evelyn Wood's column for the second invasion of the Zulu Kingdom. Meanwhile, Chard's report of the battle had been dispatched to England and received with enthusiasm by the British press and public. The War Office subsequently promoted Chard to captain and brevet major and awarded him and 10 other defenders of the station with Victoria Crosses, the highest decoration for valour that could be awarded to British troops.

Wood took a particular dislike to his new subordinate. Unimpressed with his temperament and sceptical of his role in the battle, he denounced Chard as a "useless officer" and "a dull, heavy man, scarcely able to do his regular work".

Lieutenant General Sir Garnet Wolseley, who thought the desperate defence of the Rorke's Drift was merely a case of "rats [fighting] for their lives which they could not otherwise save" presented Chard with his VC on 16 July. Likely influenced by Wood, he subsequently said of Chard that a "more uninteresting or more stupid-looking fellow I never saw".

Sadly, the Victorian and Edwardian British army were very much cursed with protégé and patronage, and it has to be said, snobbery.

His final posting was as Commanding Royal Engineer at Perth, Scotland, and was promoted to colonel on 8 January 1897.

While stationed in Perth, Chard, a lifelong pipe smoker, was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue. He underwent two operations: the second, which took place in March 1897, resulted in the removal of his tongue but despite this it was reported that he could still converse clearly. However, by August it was

discovered the cancer was terminal and Chard retired to his brother, Charles', rectory at Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset. After two weeks of "terrible suffering", Chard died on 1 November 1897.

I hope members find this interesting, for me it combines three of my great passions, all things stamps and covers, with military history and gallantry medals, and the people who were awarded them."

The letter J by the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society:



UNITED KINGDOM L. G. Y. BASES (1<sup>st</sup> July 1957 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1958)



"Base J" Prospect Point on the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, was set up by "R.R.S. John Biscoe", on 2 Feb 1957. The base was used for geological & survey work, and closed on 24 Feb 1959.



Plain cover from Prospect Point to the U.K. with correct Commonwealth rate 2d + 1/2d Falkland Islands Dependencies stamps, cancelled "Base J Graham Coast" MR 12 58.

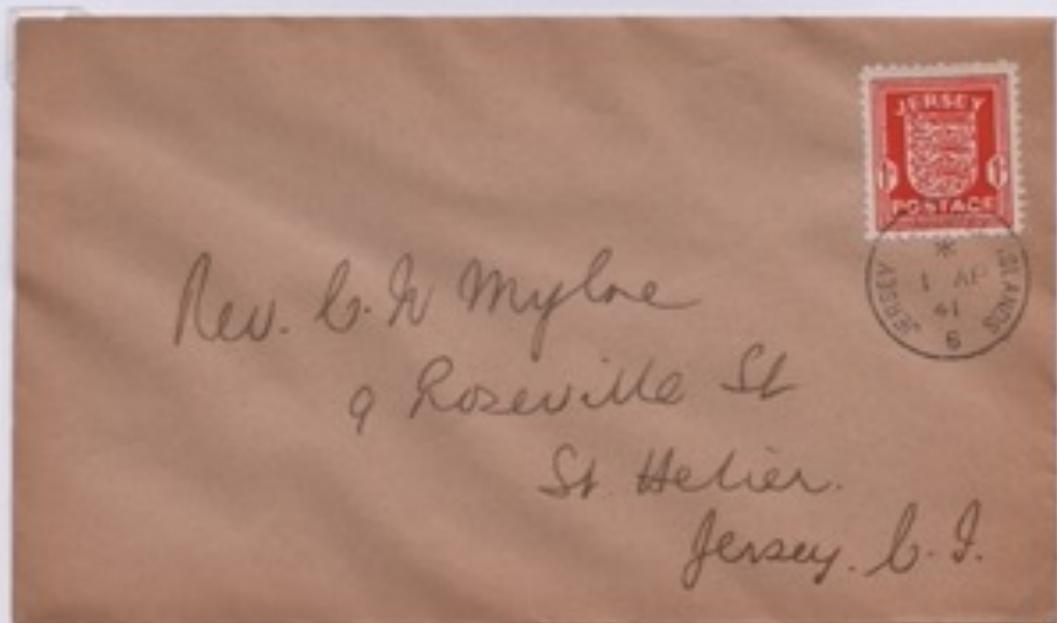


Plain cover from Prospect Point to the U.K. 1/2d overpaid with 1/2d Falkland Islands Dependencies stamp + 2d with TAE overprint, cancelled "Base J" JA 17 58. This particular cancel was used on the one day only.

## Jersey - German Occupation

On June 30 1940 the German forces invaded Jersey and the other Channel Islands starting a five-year occupation that ended on 9 May 1945. Up until this point Jersey operated under the British postal system and initially the German authorities allowed the use of British postage stamps for inter-island mail only. No post was permitted outside of the islands. On Jersey the local German authorities overprinted some sets of George VI stamps with a swastika on a trial basis, but this was rejected by the Bailiff of Jersey and Berlin, along with a locally commissioned 1 penny stamp.

Jersey eventually issued a 1 penny vermillion stamp on April 1 1941. It was designed by a local artist, Major Rybot and printed by the Jersey evening Post. A ½ penny bright green stamp followed on January 29 1942. Rybot hid masked insults to the Germans in each of the 4 corners of the stamps. On the 1 penny he used the letter A, which stood for 'Ad Avernum, Adolphe Atrox' or 'To hell with you, Atrocious Adolph.' In the ½ penny he used the letters A in the top corners and B in the bottom corners, meaning 'Atrocious Adolph' and 'Bloody Benito.'



This cover is dated on the first day of issue. The recipient, Reverend Clement Noble Mylne (1885 - 1970), was a Methodist minister who moved to Jersey in September 1939, the day before war was declared. In February 1943, Reverend Mylne, his wife and daughter were convicted and imprisoned for possessing wireless sets which should have been surrendered to the German authorities. Their sentences were remitted later that year on the condition of good behaviour in particular to the Army of Occupation.

In June 1943 a set of six stamps was issued depicting local scenes. They were designed by local artist Edmund Blampied and printed in Paris by Henri Cortot, whose names can be seen in all six stamps. Blampied also incorporated very subtle insults towards the Germans into his designs - the denominations are contained within inverted V's (for victory?) and on the 3 pence value the initials GR for Georgius Rex.





MAIL FROM ABROAD TO ST. BRELADE

Active Service Envelope from Germany to St. Brelade

Censor Mark 1237. Postmark Double Circle.

Field Post Office 792 (With Letter)

Dated: 17 July 1945



MAIL FROM ABROAD TO ST. BRELADE

Cover from Germany to St. Brelade

Handwritten T Marker in Blue. 2d I.S.R. Marker in Green .

Two German stamps (10 & 20) and 2d. Postage Due Mark

Postmark: Single Circle Jersey Channel Islands

Dated: 31/05/52 (Sent) 04/06/52 (Arrived)



MAIL FROM ABROAD TO ST. BRELADE

Postcard from Hong Kong to St. Brelade

T Marker. Metre Mark. Unpaid Surcharge Mark SG type J154 (28p)

Two Jersey Stamps 20p & 8p. Message in English and Chinese in Braille.

Dated: 01 September 1982 Sent (22 October 1982) Arrived



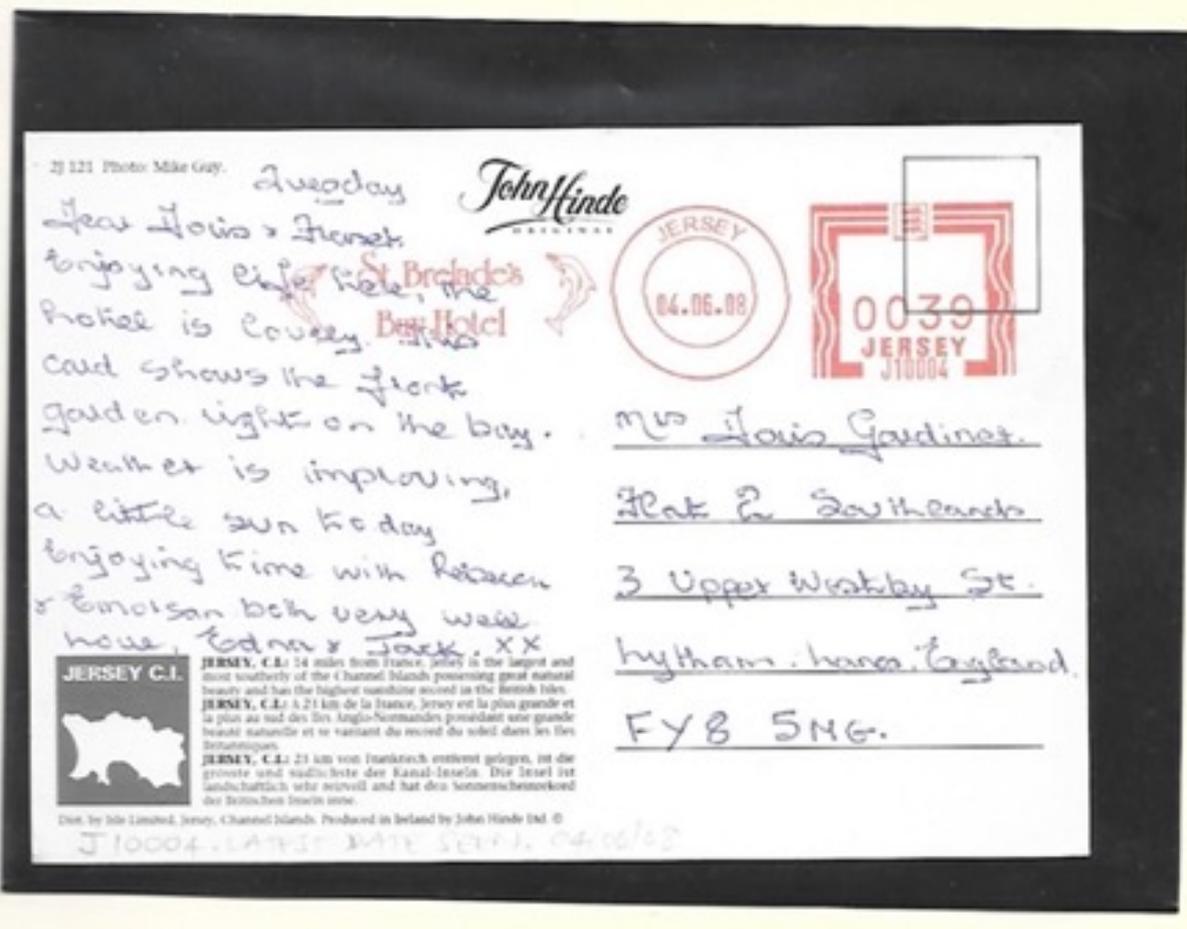
METRE MARK MAIL TO AND FROM ST. BRELADE'S BAY SUB POST OFFICE  
AND ST. BRELADE.

A Postcard from St Brelade's Bay Hotel to Lytham, England

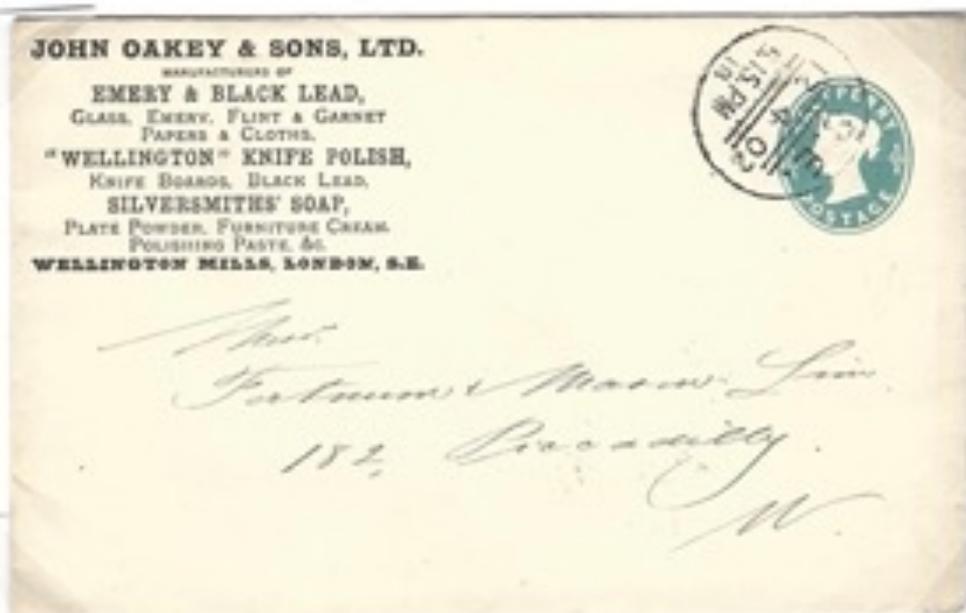
Metre Mark J10004 (39p) With slogan St Brelade's Bay Hotel

This was after the closure of the Sub Post Office.

Dated: 04 June 2008



**JOHN OAKLEY & SONS LTD, Producer of abrasives and polishes, London**



John Oakley and Sons Wellington Knife Polish advert "if constantly used, the Knives present the brightness of new Cutlery."



1938 Invoice



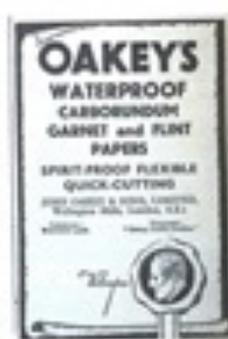
Company overprints from 1938 and the 1880's



1889



1932



1937

**An extract taken from the 2015 website of John Oakey and Moham Ltd.**

**"THE COMPANY** ... was incorporated in the year 1962 by the great visionary, Late Padamshri Shri N. N. Mohan Managing Director of Dyer Meakins Breweries Limited (presently Mohan Meakins Limited) in association with Late Shri B.S. Mohan. **John Oakey & Sons of Wellington Mills, London, the pioneers in introducing the concept of coated abrasives to the world, rendered Technical Assistance and Guidance to the project.** The vision was christened as John Oakey & Mohan Limited with registered office at ... New Delhi and manufacturing facility at Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad.

**Late Shri B. S. Mohan** saw in this venture his dream project to cater to the industry with quality abrasive products. Through his Untiring Dedication and Leadership he steered the company to the present heights. He achieved this by incorporating in the vision, the concept of total grinding solution for fine finishing applications.

**Shri Satish Mohan** the present Managing Director is ably carrying forward the vision with the same Dedication and Understanding. The Goal is to become a Global Player.

This would be made possible by imbibing the latest trends of technological up gradation and advancement in production, providing international quality products, innovative customer service, and moral, ethical and transparent business practices.

Constant vigilance at every turn is our action statement and constant improvement our MOTTO.

We shall make our presence felt in export market."



Their logo today

## Letter J



1942  
coil strip  
perf 15 x 14  
width 13

### 2 cent Brown 'Jump Strip'



*Coil strip of four with a subtle 'jump' between the 2nd and 3rd stamp*



*Guidelines superimposed on the image to illustrate the misalignment*

Coil stamps are printed on rotary presses which print from two identical curved plates fastened to opposite halves of the rotary cylinder. In precise alignment the distance between final stamp image on one plate and the first stamp image on the other plate will be exactly the same as the gap between any other pair of stamp images on either plate. All images on the two plates will also be in perfect alignment with the rotation of the cylinder. Misalignment in either direction results in either 'jump strips' or wide and narrow spacing.





Japan



This stamp was issued in 1979 by Japan to commemorate a centenary of medical culture. Here are two different FDC for April 7<sup>th</sup>. The stamp shows Leonardo da Vinci's image of the "Vitruvian Man", Michel 1385.



1941-43 JERSEY Part II



J1



J2



J3



J4



J5



J6



J7



J8

1958-67

Printer HARRISON W/M 179 Perf 13x14



8-6-64

J9



18-8-52

J10



9-6-67

J10P



7-2-66

J11



5-9-67

J11P

1968-69

NO W/MK



6-9-68

J12



26-2-69

J13



4-1-68

J14



F5C70PA

*Centenary of the U. P. U.*

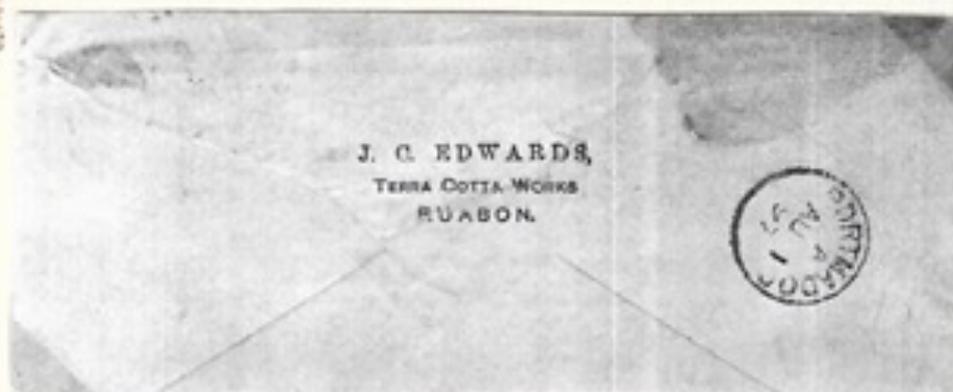
Mrs. A.B. Gill,  
Morud,  
Four Mile Bridge,  
HOLYHEAD,  
Anglesey, LL65 2EJ.



J C EDWARDS  
BRICK & TILE MANUFACTURERS

TERRA COTTA WORKS, RUABON, NORTH WALES

J2500.01      JEC      14,27,19      6½,12,7mm





FIJI



Registered Cover From DEUBA Postal Agency, 6 Sep 1977,

At Pacific Harbour a post Office opened for the Second FIJI

Nation Scout Jamboree from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 1977, using a special handstamp in purple ink. M/S

Registered from temporary post office was inscribed DEUBA.





New printing machines were introduced by de la Rue specifically to print the QV Jubilee Issue, but they ran into problems with the inking of the plate margins. Marginal rules were introduced to reduce the pressure on the edges of the printing plate and so give clearer and better reproduction. They are referred to as Jubilee Lines as they were brought into general use with the 1/2d of the 1887 issue, and thereafter on the QV Jubilee stamps.

Sadly, I do not have a marginal block of mint QV stamps so I have appended some QEII.

On the first panes it was an unbroken line but this caused difficulty with trapped air resulting in cockling of the paper, and so these were replaced by "coextensive" lines extending the width of the stamp.

## Isle of Jethou

The island of Jethou lies three miles east of Guernsey, and 500 yard south of Herm. It covers ninety acres and rises to 295 feet above sea level.

With a well documented history, prior to The Norman Conquest of England the island was granted by Duke Robert of Normandy to his Admiral, Restald. From him it passed into monastic hand until 1540.

After this it was used by rich noblemen from Guernsey as a hunting ground.

Between 1950 and 1969 it was open to the public and in 1960 issued their own stamps to cover the cost of carrying mail to Guernsey.

### Jethou Scenes



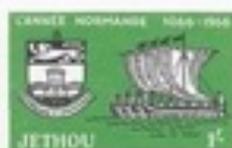
Issued on the 14th July 1960.  
The stamps were designed by Charles Coker.  
Offset-Lithographed by Guernsey Press Co. Ltd.

Isle of Jethou

Norman Year Souvenir Sheet

14 OCTOBER 1066-1966

JETHOU ISLAND



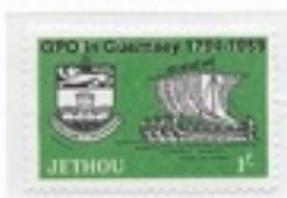
JETHOU ISLAND

BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Issued 14th October 1966  
Printed by Guernsey Press Co. Ltd

500 Imperforate Sheets Printed

Last Day Of G.P.O. In Guernsey Issue.



Issued 30th September 1969  
1000 set overprinted by Melody Press, Guernsey.

## Society updates and Final Notes:

The programme for Zoom meetings for the next few months has now been finalised and is shown below:

14th April, "New acquisitions" by all members

28th April, "Watermarks: from medieval trademark to modern security feature" by Wendy Buckle

12th May, "South Georgia" by Hugh Osborne

26th May, "Copper" by Andrew Millington

9th June "it's patently obvious" by Charles Oppenheim

23<sup>rd</sup> June "Slania's popular engravings" by Graham Bean

Zoom meeting invitations will be sent before each meeting. The society has also decided to invite local societies to invite their members to join us whenever we have an external speaker.

Our next meeting is a member only night on the subject of "New Acquisitions" so all members are asked to contribute one or two sheets showing their latest finds. If you can please email a photo, pdf, or any other electronic format of your sheet(s) I will collect them together for the night of the meeting (14<sup>th</sup> April).

Special thanks to Bryan for his article and to all of the members who submitted items of their letter J for our Zoom meeting. Any mistakes and errors are all down to me, so as before, my genuine apologies for every one of them! If anyone is receiving the newsletter in error or no longer wishes to receive it please let me know and I will remove you from the circulation list.

Until next time.

Les Ashton-Smith