

No. 783309 ✓	CLASS 1.	Date of Registration 24th. May, 1933.
<p>George Alfred Rogers, and Harold Rogers (both British Subjects) trading as E. E. Rogers, 101 Vyse Street, Birmingham, B.</p> <p>30th. April, 1938. COPYRIGHT EXTENDED FOR SECOND PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.</p> <p>9th. June, 1938. In pursuance of an application received on the 13th. May, 1938 E. E. Rogers (Stamps) Limited of 101, Vyse Street, Birmingham registered as proprietors by virtue of a deed dated 11th. May 1938 executed by George Alfred Rogers and Harold Rogers.</p> <p>11th. May, 1943. J. E. S. Lockwood, 3 New Street, Birmingham, 2.</p>		

CHROME STAMP CASES

“You collect stamps, John?”
 “Yes”, I replied with some reservation.
 “This any interest to

you?” We were moving offices and here we were in the old loft clearing out old files, deed boxes and correspondence which may not have seen the light of day for over forty years. I had never seen one of these before, a chrome case with “Stamps” inscribed across one corner, which opened to house a stamp booklet. This must have been used during the ‘forties or ‘fifties or indeed much earlier.

A nice article to complement my stamp collection. Little did I realise that from that day, twenty-five years ago, I would be embarking on another fascinating hobby - the collecting of stamp boxes!

In researching the origins of the chrome stamp booklet case, I found that the patent was registered as early as 24th May 1933 by George Alfred Rogers and Harold Rogers, trading as E. E. Rogers in Birmingham. Their copyright was extended for a further five years in 1938 and assigned to J. E. S. Lockwood in 1943 before finally expiring in 1948.



ART DECO



DESIGNS

There are a few variances from the basic design depicting ‘Stamps’ across one corner to the ‘art deco’ motif in various forms. The patent number, 783309, can be found on three design formats and it must be construed that they were all in production at the same time.



Bearing registration mark ‘R 3087-1-2’ are cases with ‘STAMPS’ engraved in rectangular format providing a very ‘modern’ appearance.



All the foregoing examples have a five joint hinge with straight sides and open to accommodate stamp booklets with either a full sleeve or broken sleeve effect. The interior having either chrome finish or ‘gold’ wash.



A more ornate design (Reg. No. 790801) exists with 'Stamp Book' inscribed from one corner to the other and with scalloped edging within.

Following the 'art deco' design cases can be found having six joint hinges and the internal sleeves tend to be full and bevelled. No patent numbers have been found on these examples.

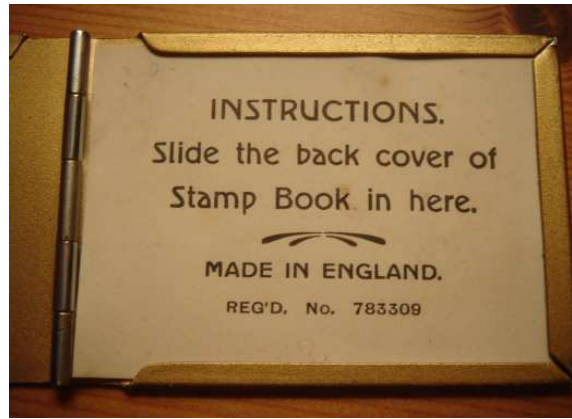
Adopting the 'art deco' style, and again with no evidence of patent registration, are cases with six joint hinges and outer clip fastening. Two further clips are found inside to hold the booklets instead of the sleeves found on cases mentioned earlier.

There also exists a spring loaded stamp booklet case with clips to hold a booklet, in a Greek Key design around the outer edge both on front of case and also on the back and STAMPS engraved in bottom left hand corner at front.

In addition to cases which were made



specifically for holding stamp booklets, E. E. Rogers (Stampings) Ltd, as it now became, designed cases or holders for loose stamps and applied for patent in April 1940. The agent seeking registration on behalf of Roger's company being J .E. S. Lockwood, to whom the original patent for the stamp booklet case was assigned in 1943. *"The postage stamp case presents a very neat appearance and is very compact. Individual stamps can be quickly removed by sliding the top stamp over the edge of the case or over the hinge."* - Patent Registration 538215, July 24, 1941.



Many still contain the original 'instructions' inside the case.



These new cases were made with either two or three pockets to hold different denominations. The design was generally plain with STAMPS engraved in the top left hand corner.



A further development was that of a larger case which could hold both stamps or stamp booklets with no specific inscription for stamps other than flaps inside to retain them.



CRESTS

When manufactured these chrome stamp case were primarily for the tourist trade. Towns, cities and holiday resorts throughout the British Isles provided their crests or coat of arms signifying where they had been bought. Most of these crests were in enamel. Either riveted or soldered on to the front.

The cases were also given away by companies to promote their own goods. Crests or logos of motor car manufacturers in particular, can be found on many examples.



Societies or organisations also found this a way of promoting their cause, some familiar such as Rotary or Masonic Groups and others not so well known.

Who can identify this logo displaying "SURSUM CORDA" (Lift Up Your Hearts)?



Commemorating a special event recognising a particular organisation, or celebrating a Royal occasion provided an ideal opportunity to add a crest and helps to date precisely the year in use.



Heathrow, or London Airport, as it was in 1949

EVENTS

Tracing the period during which these chrome stamp cases have been in use we can have a snapshot in time. Examples:

The Empire Exhibition, Scotland, 1938



The Festival of Britain 1951



There must of course be many other examples for which appropriate crests were used covering an extensive period from 1933 to the mid-fifties.

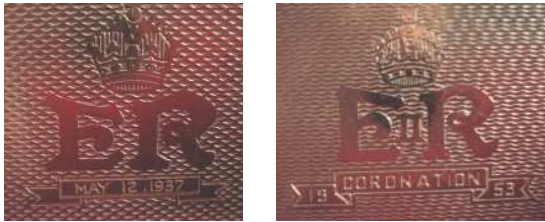
ROYALTY

The earliest case recognising a Royal event appears to be dated 1935 celebrating the Silver Jubilee of George V (1910 - 1935). Note the fine enamel crest recognising this event.



On the death of George V in 1936, it was understood that Edward VIII would be crowned King on 12 May 1937. In anticipation of this event stamp cases, and no doubt many other similar articles, were produced in advance to commemorate this great occasion. Following the abdication, it was George VI who succeeded to

the crown. A new crest was immediately cast, but not before many of the original cases flooded the market.....



The original design for commemorating the “coronation” of Edward VIII was not however completely lost for it was suitably adapted to meet the crowning of Elizabeth II in 1953. A new crown but use of the same lettering deployed seventeen years later!

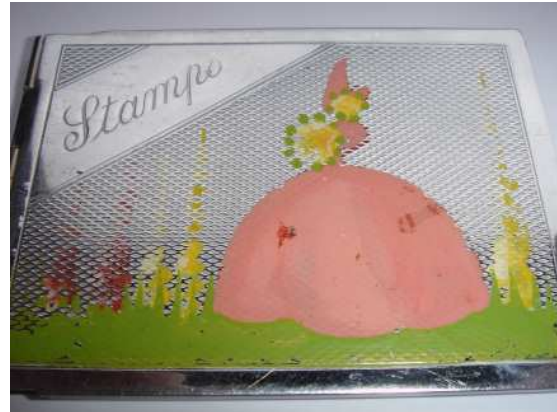


THE ARTIST AT WORK



Adorning many of the chrome stamp booklet cases, and these all appear to be using the original style 1 (with *Stamps* inscribed across the top corner) can be found delightful paintings of a lady dressed in crinoline holding a posy of flowers and walking through a field of tall hollyhocks.

Were these produced from one studio? By one artist or a small team of artists? We may never know to whom these lovely works can be accredited. They do however provide another interesting dimension to a fascinating area of stamp box history.



*John A. Corney
For the Stamp Box Study Circle
February 2010*

