

I have no intention of attempting to analyse precisely what does or does not, constitute a stamp box. I personally have them in silver, glass, wood, leather, brass, bog oak (bog oak?), I also have 'containers' for the storage of stamp booklets, my first & enduring philatelic love. I therefore plead, that the storage of stamps in bulk (not trade of course, but privately) as in booklets, puts these items under the generic term of 'Stamp Box'. I presume you will all be making up your own version of what a stamp box is, but hopefully, in this society, we will not be tied to too rigid a definition. I therefore plead, that anything that boxes stamps, is by definition a stamp box.

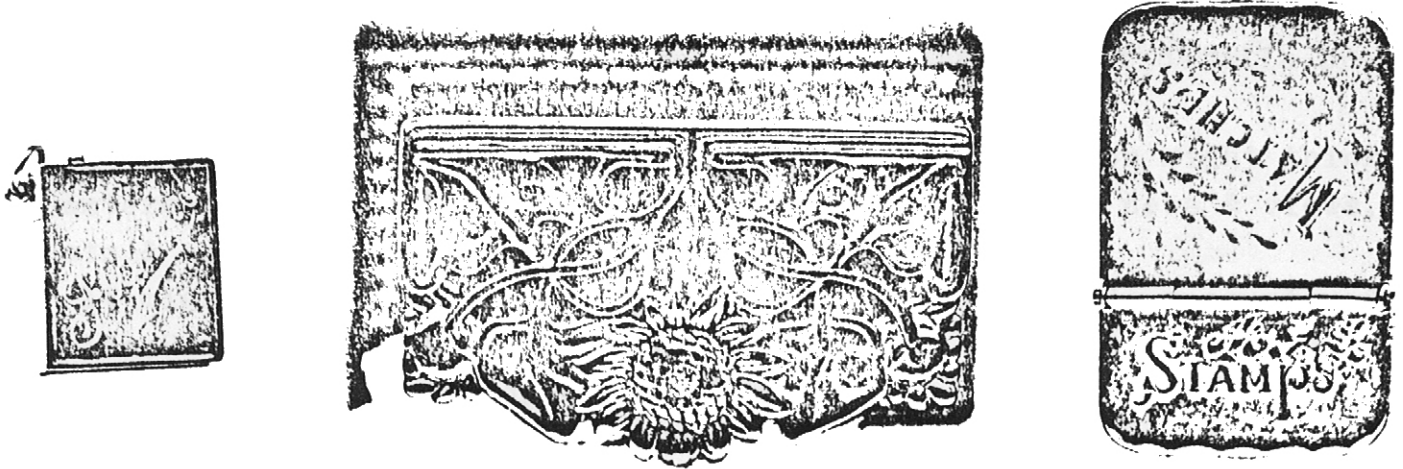
This society would have been started a long while ago, but it occurred to me that the exchange of information in this field was not as simple as the exchange of information on philatelic matters. Photocopying is always available for postal history items & stamps always carry a cat. no.

Stamp boxes present a different problem, as it appears that a camera would have to be an essential part of any equipment required. Not so. I recently discovered to my surprise, that it is perfectly possible to photocopy most of my stamp boxes via the machine at my local library. I copied the smaller silver & other flat boxes with ease, but a little difficulty arose with the larger items. The copy obtained appears quite sufficient for exchange of information, as can be seen by the brass box in this newsletter, & my library's machine is almost clapped out.

This box incidentally, is the subject of my first item. I bought this at the huge annual fair at Ardingly, & paid about £5 for it. Some months later, I was surprised to find it on sale at a fair at Bognor Regis for £2.95. The saleslady was honest enough to volunteer the information that it was a repro. I was recently on holiday at my old hunting ground of N. Wales & attending a bric-a-brac fair at Conwy, I was asked £10 for this item. When challenged for its provenance, the saleslady said she had bought it in

a house clearance lot. A few days later, mentioning this to an old business friend in the same area, he calmly informed me, that he was wholesaling them at 80p.+ VAT, & that they were made in Italy. Needless to say, I did not take him up on this, as the 2 I have are enough for me, so be warned, there are repros. about. Nothing against repros. as such, but dead against them being palmed off as originals.

My next item is concerned with stamp booklets. But first here is a rather sad photocopy of the brass box in the story above. Also a copy of my boxes also copied, gives you some idea of the scope.



Now to the article which is self-explanatory. Further to this article, we received a letter from the actor Eric Portman, who has one given by his gran-father as a present from Glasgow in the year of the Silver Jubilee of G.V. c. 1935. I have researched this item, & for anyone interested enough to send me a s.a.e., I will send a photocopy of the record in the patent office of the firm that made these items.

Is there a potential artist out there who can make a better job of the logo on the front of this newsletter? if so, I will be glad to incorporate your effort into my next sending.

A potential member has asked me whether it is in order for a person of modest means to join this society. I should like to remind the readers of this, that funds or no funds, all genuinely interested people are welcome. My collecting unfortunately, restricts me to mostly non precious metal items, so I get all the fun I wish for, in attending jumble & bric-a-brac sales, that are plentiful anywhere, & I leave the acquisition of

silver & other costly items, to Xmas & birthday presents.

Another potential member has already asked me for details of the Chester assay office, I feel sure that someone out there knows, if so let me know to pass it on. No names or addresses will be passed on without their owners say so, so you can write to me in confidence & let me know whether you require your identity kept to your self. Whilst on the questions, someone else has already asked me if I know the names of the firms making the Tonbridge Ware, any one know?

Our hon. secretary tells me, he has a book on stamp boxes at the publishers. Hopefully therefore, we shall be starting this society with a definitive book in the near future. More about that when further details are to hand.

I shall welcome anything for this newsletter that you might think will interest other members, so be sure to write with your news & views, requests & questions.

It might interest members, to know, that we have already encountered a problem. Some people have called to tell me that a society for the collectors of stamp boxes already exists. When questioned further, they refer to the Pillar Box society, the one who gets regular features in the Philo Bulletin. Incidentally, I have been invited to leave some membership forms at the Post Office Archives for potential members, thanks to a member of staff. I also believe I can get the odd feature in the Phil. Bulletin, so write in you lot, if you are too lazy to write, why not phone me? In most evenings, & will do what I can to get ^{us} thoroughly organised, when I shall be only too happy to have to hand over to a younger person. So for now ciao & hopefully we will get a second newsletter in the not too distant future.

Happy hunting.

REFLECTIONS ON PANES — 11

Sam Lawrence

Anyone like myself who has been collecting stamps since pre-historic times (actually for around 35 years) is bound to have seen, bought, pinched, won, been left, collected or otherwise acquired, many an odd bod.

Because I was born with only half a brain I have never been interested in the stamps of Queen Victoria. I put this down to the fact that as a lad the local tuckshops usually sported a few tatty album leaves in their windows covered in Penny Blacks, Reds and Twopenny Blues. To all those now going green I will have to turn the knife a little more and inform them that although the tatty copies were priced at ½d the good copies were priced up to 3d, not an inconsiderable price in those days. So I am firmly of the opinion that that is what put me off collecting the stamps of Queen Victoria.

My collecting instincts were really aroused when the Wembley set first went on sale in 1924. I remember it took me ages to assemble the few coppers that were necessary to get this set and even then I would not accept used copies; they had to be mint. So as far as Sam Lawrence is

retired colonels per square mile than anywhere else on earth, I spotted three more of these covers in the window of a real antique shop. On asking the prices (once again these items were unpriced) I was given a price of a fiver for the tattiest and more for the other two which were in a better condition. Making my excuses I left, but was more than compensated when visiting an itinerant antique fair some time later, when I bought the item labelled Fig. 2 for about £2.50. Fig. 3 I acquired soon after for about £3. Fig. 4 shows what the inside of these booklet containers looks like, most are chromed inside, but one however has a gilt finish within. I also have one or two

concerned he knows the precise date he became a stamp collector; April 23rd 1924

Working my way through adolescence, marriage, fatherhood, a trifling matter called W.W.2 and sundry other things, such as starting afresh after demob., home building, etc., we come to the real start of my present day collection. When the pressures mentioned above had subsided somewhat I was able to put together quite a respectable collection of 20th Century G.B. which naturally enough had to contain all the booklet panes that exist in this field.

About 15 years ago I entered into what has become my burning passion; the collecting and study of the booklet panes of G.B. Curiously I never was interested in the complete booklets as such; I always felt that I was more interested in the contents than the wrapper!

However, I have always added to my collection of panes such complete booklets or other items that I felt necessary to show off some particular facet or other. It was with this thought in mind that the following farrago was written.

A few years ago, passing what was laughingly called an antique shop, but was in actual fact a glorified cupboard with a few bent pots and some fly-blown bits of non-identifiable rubbish, I noticed in one corner of the window the item marked Fig. 1. It is chrome plated and as I had spent my adolescence during the period when everything in sight was chrome plated, I was

others, with different town crests for which I suppose I paid around £2/3 each and I should imagine that around these figures is the going rate these days for these items, subject of course to condition.

All the above may or may not be of interest to the reader, but as collectors we need something more and that is the history of these items, so here goes as far as the information I have takes us.

It is more than likely that these items were produced before the last war, in the heyday of everything chromed. They were obviously produced firstly as items for use, but evidently, with the addition of the town

au fait with the *idea* of the thing, if not with the *item*, which was completely new to me. As it still had its original instruction leaflet it was quite obviously a stamp book cover or holder. More than likely, it was intended for purely feminine usage, as in those days most everything my lady had had been chromed; nail file, scissors, tweezers, etc. I went into the shop and was promptly assailed by a very pleasant lady who, after recovering from the shock of actually having a potential customer in the place, proceeded to take me (metaphorically I can assure you) through her childhood, adolescence, marriage, etc., and why she happened to be in her shop at that particular moment. I waited my opportunity and as she paused for breath after one long episode in her somewhat chequered career, asked her if she minded me seeing what I had come into the shop for.

I only had to handle the item to know that here was something I had to have. Strangely enough, there was no haggling (very strange indeed for an antique shop!). I asked her simply "how much?", as the item was unpriced. Quite as simply she said "Is 10p alright?". I said magnanimously "Of course!" and saved the passing out bit for when I had staggered home. And so I thought that would be the end of the matter and I had been lucky to have found what I then thought was a one-off item.

A year or so later, whilst in a south coast town that shall be nameless, but has more

crests, they later were sold as souvenirs of holidays spent in these towns, of the 'Present From ----' genre, on a par with the chrome spoons which carry the town crests and are still sold and collected to this day.

It is unlikely that they survived later than the mid 1950's, the one carrying the Coronation logo shows that they were being sold in some quantity at the time, as the manufacturers would not turn a 'dead' line into a Coronation souvenir. Apart from the registered number, no other markings appear on the covers, so there are no manufacturers to whom one may write for further information. There appears to be so many minor differences in the design of

each cover that one is forced to the conclusion that more than one manufacturer was involved in the production of these items.

If anyone can shed any further light on these items, especially on the dates of their introduction and demise, I would be obliged. Especially, I would appreciate any help in how I may turn the registered number into the first link of a chain that would increase my knowledge of what is a fascinating addition to my collection of booklets and panes.

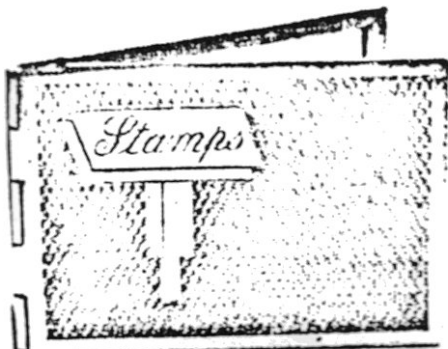
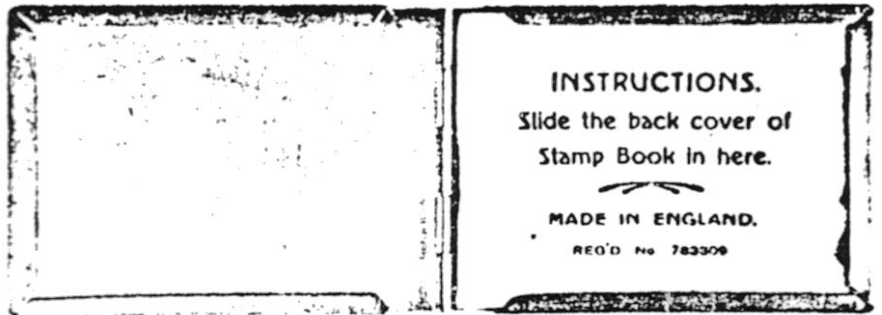


Fig. 1.

See No 373.

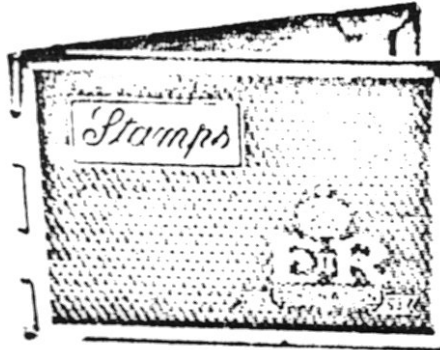


Fig. 2.

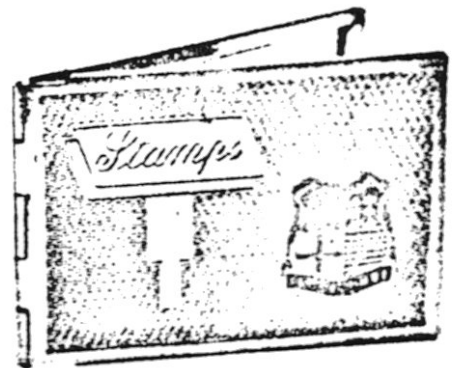


Fig. 3.

