



Postmark Atlanta  
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



#0357-031583

September 2020 Newsletter

As we emailed earlier, physical meetings are not being held until the public health danger is past. I've included many ways to connect with other stamp collectors online in this newsletter.

We are aiming for a "virtual" Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting the first Tuesday of September (the 1st). Clicking on the link below works well but you may experience some audio or video problems. If you want, Lloyd Nutter says he can do a dry/test run with you at your (and his) convenience by emailing him: [trains56@charter.net](mailto:trains56@charter.net). You should have received a detailed email about the meeting from Scott Holmberg on August 10. If not, email Lloyd and he will get the information to you. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84361610488?pwd=ODlnaFJUTEI0R0pzZURlQ0VYSDVwdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 6161 0488

Passcode: 599654

For this first meeting we'll each try to share an item of philatelic interest. If these work we might move to presentations.

---

## **The Many Uses of a Propaganda Stamp**

**By Steve Swain**

Released by Germany on April 5, 1937, the souvenir sheet pictured below, Scott *B102*, was issued to celebrate Adolph Hitler's 48th birthday. Hitler was born April 20, 1889 in Braunau am Inn, Austria. The sheet contains four perforated stamps with the same portrait of Adolph Hitler which some have described, appropriately, as "ghoulish." In the lower margin is the inscription "WER EIN VOLK RETTEN WILL / KANN NUR HEROISCH DENKEN", which means "*He who wants to save his people must think heroically*".



The B012 sheet was used as the foundation for pieces using various imprints and cancellations in a 1937 propaganda campaign for Hitler and Nazi Germany. An item offered at a recent stamp club meeting auction, below, seems at first glance to be the same 4-stamp souvenir sheet. However, it is Scott B104 issued June 10, 1937 for Hitler's Culture Fund. This is a first day of issue sheet, per the Hamburg postmark.



A significant difference from the April issue is the June issue is rouletted along the top and bottom of each of the stamps, extending to the edge of the sheet, as seen in the image of the reverse side of the sheet. Additionally, the rouletted sections were inscribed "25 Rpf. / einschließlich / Kulturspende" ("25 Rpf. / including / cultural donation") denoting the surcharge on the stamps.

Below left is an image of the Scott B104 sheet used to publicize the 1937 Nuremburg Rally, officially Reichsparteitag (meaning Reich Party Convention), the annual rally of the Nazi Party in Germany held from 1923 to 1938. This version was overprinted on the stamps' left side with "REICHSPARTEITAG" and on the right side with "NÜRNBERG 1937".

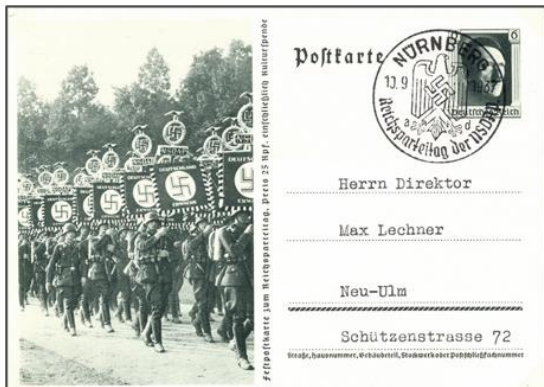


The Berlin National Stamp Exhibition took place on April 16-18, 1937. Above right shows the original Scott B102 souvenir sheet with a special cancellation for the philatelic exhibition.

The Scott B104 sheet was used to commemorate the 700th anniversary of Berlin, celebrated between August 14-22, 1937, below left image. The below right image is the Scott B102 sheet used to celebrate the 1938 German Book Expo.



The Scott B102 stamp image was used for a set of eight official postcards issued for the 1937 Nuremberg Rally. The stamps on the postcards are pre-paid imprints of the souvenir sheet stamp. Below are images of two of the eight postcards.



# MR. ABBOTT'S BIG IDEA

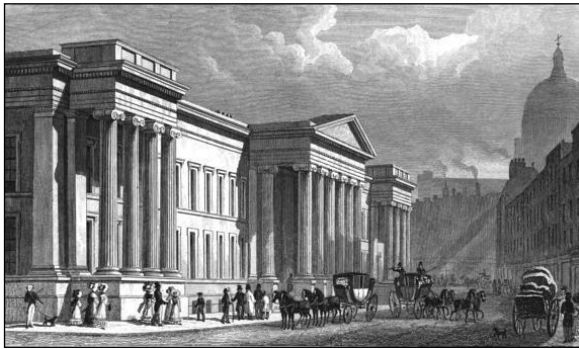
By Colin Clark

*Number rules the universe* – PYTHAGORAS - Ancient Greek Philosopher (570 – 495 BC)

Numbers were not invented in the Victorian era, but the Victorians did use them to solve postal system challenges in the early 1840s. Postmasters were told to date-stamp their letters, as well as obliterating the postage labels. The challenge was to introduce a workable system of obliteration which would uniquely identify every office in the British Isles.

## The Solution:

Step forward **Mr. Francis Abbott**. He was a senior clerk in the Secretary's Office at the General Post Office (G.P.O.) in London.<sup>1</sup>



**Figure 1: View of London G.P.O. (mid-1800s)**

Mr. Abbott was appointed to his position on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1822 and his responsibilities included correspondence to rural English and Welsh post offices, as well as a portion of the Irish and Scottish offices.

His gross annual income, paid from the post office revenue, was 440 British pounds.

His **big idea** was that each obliterator (per office) should carry a different number, which should be assigned to all post offices.<sup>2</sup>

In essence, every office should have its own unique number by which it could be easily identified on a piece of mail that it processed, because the number would be integrated on the postage label obliteration. This unique number would be assigned centrally by London.

**Mr. Abbott's idea was adopted.**

## Implementation:

From 1844, the **Maltese Cross** obliterations were replaced by the **numeral** obliterations. In England and Wales the first day of use was 1st May 1844, with a more gradual introduction in the Irish and Scottish offices in June. These code numbers initially appeared in single cancellations. From 1853, the first double or duplex cancellations, which combined the date-stamp and the number obliteration, started to appear.<sup>3</sup>

Number codes were frequently reallocated, sometimes several times, to a different office when the original office closed, or it was downgraded in status. Sub-offices sometimes used the same code as their main office, with or without a code letter.



## A Case Study: Newcastle-upon-Tyne (545)



This case study is the numeric allocation of **545** for **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, which is located in the North East of England on the River Tyne.<sup>3,4</sup>

The Victorian Newcastle General Post Office (**G.P.O.**) is shown on the map opposite (circled in purple).<sup>5</sup>

The status of city was granted to Newcastle-upon Tyne on 3 June 1882.<sup>6</sup>



**Figure 2: Map of Newcastle-upon-Tyne**  
(circa: 1888).



The images below show examples of **Newcastle-on-Tyne 545** usage.



**Figure 3. 6d deep lilac (plate 5) issued March 7<sup>th</sup> 1865 (magnified size): 545 code.**<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 4. 2 ½ d Blue (plate 23) issued March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1881 (magnified size): 545 code.**<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 5. Penny Pink embossed postal stationery (magnified size): Sideways duplex 545 oval shaped postmark\*.**

Posted: **NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE**

**MR 3 1857.**

\*Obliterator types were all barred and were distinguished regionally by their shape. For example, provincial England and Wales coded obliterator were oval shaped.<sup>3</sup>

### **Newcastle Post Office Building:**

The landmark post office in Victorian Newcastle was built between 1871 and 1874 by James Williams (1824 – 1892). He was appointed surveyor for the building of post offices in 1859. The building still stands today.<sup>8</sup> A photograph is shown below.



**Figure 6 (above):** photo of Post Office building (circa: **1900**).



**Figure 7 (above):** Close-up of “**POST OFFICE**” stone façade on building.

The Post Office building is located on St. Nicholas’ Street in Newcastle (opposite the city cathedral).

Originally there were separate entrances for both male and female staff.

There were also sub-offices in Newcastle on Neville Street and Quayside from 1871.

### **References:**

1. British Parliamentary House of Commons POST OFFICE RETURN (7<sup>th</sup> August 1844 and 6<sup>th</sup> February 1845, p.3). Mr. Thomas Duncombe. Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, 25 February 1845.
2. *The History of the Postmarks of the British Isles - From 1840 to 1876*, (1909, p.10), John G. Hendy.
3. *Collect British Postmarks: The Handbook to British Postmarks and their Values*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (December 2013, p.130 - 131, 144), Stanley Gibbons.
4. List of Index Numbers Used in Surcharge, Explanatory and Other Stamps in Great Britain & Northern Ireland (1962, p.8), Weatherby & Sons: Printed for HER MAJESTY’S STATIONERY OFFICE.
5. Ordnance Survey Map (1888-1913) online resource: <https://www.archiuk.com/>
6. Newcastle history online resource: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle\\_upon\\_Tyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_upon_Tyne)
7. *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition (April 2007), Stanley Gibbons.

8. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Post Office online resources: <https://co-curate.ncl.ac.uk/former-post-office-st-nicholas-street/>, <http://britishpostofficearchitects.weebly.com/architects-w.html> and <http://britishpostofficearchitects.weebly.com/newcastle-upon-tyne.html>



The background of the title bar, located at the top of this article, is a part of the engineering drawing for the Newcastle-on-Tyne High Level Bridge.

---

I hope some of you were able to participate in the Virtual Stamp Show. Congratulations to Mel Coe and Colin Clark who had exhibits in this national show.

To encourage members and collectors to learn more about the APS, they have lifted the members-only restrictions on accessing *The American Philatelist* online. Please feel free to share with your fellow collectors and encourage them to connect and learn more about all the great benefits. [Please access The American Philatelist here.](#) If you are getting a print version of this newsletter, the full web address is: [www.stamps.org/the-american-philatelist](http://www.stamps.org/the-american-philatelist)

Also there will be online Stamp Chat events using Zoom that you can access information on at this link:

<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/aps-to-host-live-stamp-chats-on-zoom-beginning-monday-march-23>

There are replays of these chats available on YouTube. The variety of subjects now available is amazing. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericasStampClub> is the link to check out all the stored Chats.

\* \* \* \* \*

The National Postal Museum continues to engage with the public during the COVID closure online at their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SmithsonianNPM>  
The museum is interested in what needs to be collected to document life under COVID much like they have items from the 1918 Flu Pandemic era. If you have ideas or items contact the Chief Curator, Daniel Piazza at [piazza@si.edu](mailto:piazza@si.edu).

Updates from GwinnPex Show.

Because the August GwinnPex show was cancelled due to Covid-19 Allen has forwarded to us a listing of those dealers who do internet sales.

Ron Alfin                      [WWW.apcstamps.com](http://WWW.apcstamps.com)                      Ebay seller name ro-alfi

Dave Flannery                      Ebay store <https://www.ebay.com/str/collectorclassics>

Drew Fountain                      Ebay seller name: drewfgs

Len Curtis                      len@collect'email

Don LaBerteaux                      Ebay seller name: gastampman

Ebay store <https://www.ebay.com/str/georgiageneralstore>

Allen Johnson                      FaceBook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2125202764429356/>

Dennis Kowski lists on eBay and Hipstamp.

Seller name for BOTH sites is: dmkcollstamps

Dennis Kowski, DMK Collectibles, 678-488-4692

---

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at [sdholmberg1@gmail.com](mailto:sdholmberg1@gmail.com) with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

[leacoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:leacoe@bellsouth.net)