



Postmark Atlanta  
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



Affiliate club #0357-031583  
October 2021 Newsletter

**We will continue with two zoom meetings for October.** We hope November might be an in person meeting – watch for updates via email from Scott confirming a meeting at Manuel's Tavern, 602 North Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta. This is just a block from our previous Java Vina meeting location. We will have the "back room" which is to the right when you enter the front door. There are a couple of lots marked for Manual Tavern parking.

We will continue our Third TUESDAY as a "virtual" Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting hosted by member Lloyd Nutter. Lloyd sends out a Zoom invitation a couple days before the meeting. If you do not get an invitation for the meetings, please contact Lloyd to make sure he adds you to his list. Emailing him: [trains56@charter.net](mailto:trains56@charter.net). Also, if you need to test how Zoom works, Lloyd will be glad to give you a test.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 2                      Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

Tuesday, October 5    7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. This will be a member show-and-tell.

Tuesday, October 19 Zoom meeting. Program: "Hidden engravers' marks on stamps of Czechoslovakia, Croatia, Serbia and Yugoslavia: a fun way to spice-up your collection" by Vincent Rehder.

November 1 or 2 – watch for confirmation on location.

November 16                Zoom meeting. Program: Virtual Field Trip to Ireland by John Allensworth.

December 7                 Club Holiday Party at home of Bob Lewallyn.

# BUILDING VICTORIAN POST OFFICES

By Colin Clark

*Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness – Frank Gehry*

Historically, the British Post Office was **not** responsible for the design and construction of its own buildings. Rather, it was the architects working within the **Office of Works** (1851 – 1940), and then subsequent government ministries who carried out this work.<sup>1</sup> The post office architects were civil servants, so often very little is known about them. However thanks to surviving archive documentation, there is now some idea of who these architects were.

One such architect was **James Williams (1824 – 1892)**. He was born on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1824. He entered the **Office of Works** in the late 1840s at the age of 24, and he was one of the main post office architects between 1859 and 1884. He was a **Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (F.R.I.B.A.)**.

He utilized a variety of architectural styles for various projects. For example, the Nottingham post office (1868) style was Italianate and the Sheffield post office (1871) was Free Classical style.

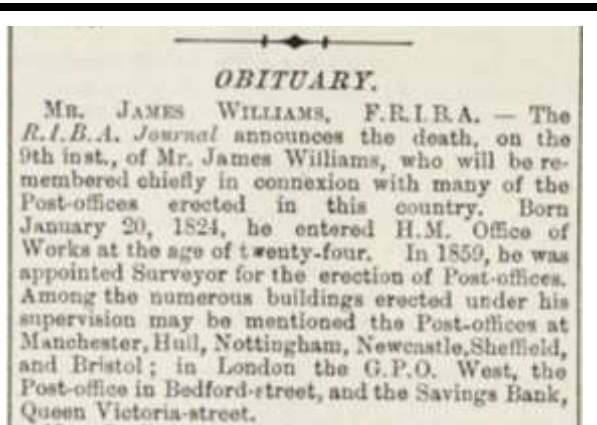


Figure 1. Obituary of James Williams<sup>2</sup>

## Post Office Case Study (1<sup>st</sup> of 2): Newcastle-upon-Tyne



This first post office case study is of **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, which has the associated numeric allocation of **545**.<sup>3,4</sup> The city is located in the North East of England, on the River Tyne.

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



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

## Newcastle Post Office Building

The landmark post office in Victorian Newcastle was built between 1871 and 1874. It was designed by James Williams. The building still stands today. Photographs are shown below.



**Figure 4:** photo of Post Office building (circa: **1900**).



The image opposite shows an example of **NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE 545** code usage.<sup>6</sup>  
**Figure 3: 6d deep lilac (plate 5) issued March 7<sup>th</sup> 1865 (magnified size)**



**EXAMPLE OF 545 CODE**



**Figure 5:** Modern close-up of “**POST OFFICE**” stone façade on Newcastle 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.

## Post Office Case Study (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2): Durham

The post office in Victorian Durham was designed by James Williams and it was opened on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1880.<sup>1</sup> The building still stands today at 66 Saddler Street. Durham is located in the North East of England on the River Wear. Photographs are shown below.



**Figure 6:** Durham Post Office.



It is interesting to note the similarity between the “**POST OFFICE**” stone façade on both the **Durham** and **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** post office buildings. **Durham** had a numeric allocation of **267**.<sup>3,4</sup>



**Figure 7:** Close-up of “**POST OFFICE**” stone façade.

The Durham building design, in common with most post offices of the time, had architectural decorative features in addition to functionality. An example is shown here.



**Figure 8:** Durham decorative feature (above front door):

**Teamwork:**

James Williams was only one of many semi-anonymous **Office of Works** Victorian architects that designed post offices.<sup>1</sup>

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|  | <p>The <b>Office of Works</b> was given its separate identity in <b>1851</b>, derived from its precursor incarnation as the <b>Office of Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works and Buildings</b>. This refocusing of the department was legislated in order to bring the <b>Office of Works</b> under the direct control of the British Parliament.</p> | <p><b>OFFICE OF<br/>WORKS HISTORY</b></p> |
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As the postal system expanded in the Victorian era, there was an ever increasing demand for post office infrastructure, which required a veritable team of architects. Just a couple of other examples of architects are **John Boston** and **Edward George Rivers**.

**John Boston (1856 – 1899)** was an Assistant in the Office of Works, and he designed the **Greenock** Post Office, which was opened in **1881**.<sup>1</sup> Greenock is located in Scotland.

**Edward George Rivers (d. 1918)** designed many post offices including the **Plymouth** Post Office, which was opened in **1884**.<sup>1</sup> Plymouth is a port city located on the south west coast of England.

In conclusion, the **Office of Works** was a major contributor to the overall success of the British Victorian postal system.

**References:**

1. British Post Office Buildings and Their Architects: an Illustrated Guide: <http://britishpostofficearchitects.weebly.com/>
2. Builder, v. 63, 26 November 1892, p. 426.
3. *Collect British Postmarks: The Handbook to British Postmarks and their Values*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (December 2013, p.130 - 131, 138, 144), Stanley Gibbons.
4. List of Index Numbers Used in Surcharge, Explanatory and Other Stamps in Great Britain & Northern Ireland (1962, p.5, 8), Weatherby & Sons: Printed for HER MAJESTY’S STATIONERY OFFICE.
5. Ordnance Survey Map (1888-1913) online resource: <https://www.archiuk.com/>
6. *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition (April 2007, p.17), Stanley Gibbons.



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.

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## WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR STAMPS?

Because of Covid, there are far fewer opportunities to purchase stamps from stamp shows. The main options are then stamp auctions or individual sellers or dealers who have their own Web sites. Many of them are accessible through eBay. Others may be contacted directly. I prefer eBay access because I can pay them directly through the PayPal function that eBay provides.

Perhaps it would be useful if members of the Club could provide LeA Coe with their suggestions as to auctions or other dealers who might be of interest, together with a brief description of why you like them.

Here are the auction sites I have recently used:

Amsterdam Stamps. They are located in the Netherlands. They focus on the sale of European collectors' stock books. They have very few U.S. items, and when they do they often have higher-denomination U.S. stamps because postage to Europe was higher. Go to Google and enter "Amsterdam-Stamps eBay store". Postage to the U.S. on their lots is higher than we see on domestic purchases.

CK Stamps. They are located in Flushing, New York. They have a wide variety of worldwide including U.S. They range from albums and stock books to singles and sets. I find they often have difficult-to-find singles. You can use their search function to locate all listings from a particular country, for example "Italy." Go to Google and enter "CK Stamps eBay store". Currently, they offer free postage on items like singles and sets. Postage for heavier items like stock books is quite reasonable.

NobleSpirit. They are located in Pittsfield, N.H. They have a wide variety of U.S. and worldwide items. Go to Google and enter "NobleSpirit eBay Store". They do not give free postage on singles and sets. Their other postage appears higher than I expected.

Personally, I put items I might be interested in on my eBay watch list. I then go to an item on my watch list and click on it. There is a click-through to that seller's other items. You can organize those other items as "recently listed" or "ending soonest."

Tip of the Month. I use Showgard mounts. I save practically all the scraps. Those scraps are used to paste over separations in the rows of see-through stock book pages that inevitably come detached from their backing over time. I use the gummed black portion of the mount and glue it to the thin bottom sliver of each stock book backing row. Best to remove stamps from that row you are repairing and reinsert after the glue dries.

Good hunting!

John R. Fitzpatrick

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Button Gwinnett Stamp Club is starting in person meetings on third Wednesdays. Their church location does require masks on all attendees. If you plan to attend, please contact club president Mack Will at 770-381-5956 so he knows who is planning to attend. Mountain Park United Methodist Church, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Meetings are in the Youth Fellowship Hall. If you are facing the church this is on the right side of the main building. (If you came to the stamp show that was on the opposite side of the church campus).

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The Seapex Philatelic Exhibition SEAPEX 2021, was held September 10 – 12. They invited Virtual Exhibits and received submissions from all over the world. This link to virtual exhibits is still available.

<https://www.seapexshow.org/vexhibits.html>

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Allen Johnson with the Button Gwinnett Stamp Club has created a Facebook Group for their club. Contact him to get invited to the group to see their process of buying and selling stamps. [Ajrj1957@yahoo.com](mailto:Ajrj1957@yahoo.com) is his email.

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**If you have not visited the National Postal Museum, you should check out their YouTube site. There are links to lectures and videos of museum exhibits.**

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).

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### **Stamp honoring Japanese-American Soldiers of World War II**

On June 3 a single stamp was issued honoring Japanese-American soldiers of World War II. What was unique for this stamp titled Go For Broke was the printing process. Unlike most stamps issued by USPS now this was printed by Intaglio. I was impressed by the beauty of this stamp process on this simple stamp design. Go to [https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/go-for-broke-japanese-american-soldiers-of-wwii-stamps-S\\_480504](https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/go-for-broke-japanese-american-soldiers-of-wwii-stamps-S_480504) for full story from the US Postal Service.

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If you are getting a snail mail copy of the newsletter your envelope has the Mystery Message stamp issued 7/14/21 (In Washington DC – not sure if that is an additional mystery message). Can you solve the mystery?



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To access the club's website page (per the below image):

1. Enter sefsc.org in your browser.
2. From the main top-of-page menu, hover over Stamp Clubs.
3. Hover over Georgia.
4. Click Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club.



## UPCOMING STAMP SHOWS

- September 25 – 26 Columbia SC Stamp & Postcard Show. <https://classic.stamps.org/CPS>
- October 22 – 24 NAPEX 2021 McLean, VA [www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org)
- October 30 Montgomery Area Stamp & Coin Show, Doster Community Center, Pratt, AL  
email: [russtoo@netzero.net](mailto:russtoo@netzero.net)
- December 3 – 5 FLOREX 2021 Kissimmee FL [www.florexstampshow.com](http://www.florexstampshow.com)
- January 28 – 30, 2022 SOUTHEASTERN STAMP EXPO. Hilton Atlanta Northeast

Be sure to confirm the COVID protocols for upcoming shows.

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There are online Stamp Chat events sponsored by American Philatelic Society 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 Stamp Chats scheduled all through the end of 2021. 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.

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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

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