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Camp P. O.

Service
To the Military Secretary
of His Excellency
The Governor General
Head Quarters
Mandali.
P. O. Secy. to Govt.
G. P. O. Secy. to Govt.

9 Feb 15

CS

Camp Bangalore P. O. 3 Feb 15

My dear Beagle

I have at length got a letter from you, dated the 19th Ult^o, and in reply to mine of the 5th of the same month, long ere now you will have received several others from me, by which (as well as from other sources) you will have formed still stronger opinions respecting the utter improbability of this Man — would you believe that we have not two thousand Bayonets at Head Quarters! Koughdye has about 1400 at that Bog-house Bharnagurree, where he is in daily expectation of an attack, and altho' he may, & I have no doubt will, repulse it, he must sacrifice Men in doing so; and this without having any ultimate good in view — (Colonel Gregory

instead of joining us, provided from
Singapore to Jannickpore, (Roughridge's
old station) and sixty miles from
any support, he having the 12th Regt
with him, about 700 strong) The Europeans
will arrive here tomorrow, when
I have no doubt some fresh Detachment
will be thought of, for I am convinced
that if 10,000 men ~~are~~ were sent
our General would continue to fatten
them away.

Hoping to hear again from you
immediately. I remain

very faithfully Yours

Thompson

Handwritten notes on the right page, including "Camp B. 10" and other illegible text.

The Kings 17th and 25th N.I. arrived at
Pettah yesterday and will join us on
the 2nd March - The 14th crossed from
Dinapore on the 24th but for that
purpose all these are coming I cannot
devise - to attempt the Hills appears
to be totally out of the question - the
enemy will not wait for us in the
Jungle, and surely such a force cannot
be necessary to sweep the Terai -
even supposing that Lord Maira should
sanction such a measure - which,
upon mature deliberation, I cannot
think he will; as independent of
humanity (for which his Lordship's
name is justly exalted in every corner
of the globe) I conceive it would be
politically wrong - in as much as

Camp Banjan Pokra

28th Feb 1858.

My Dear Doyle

I almost hate the thought
of sitting down to address you, because
I have ^{been} invariably the Herald of disaster
or disappointment - Of the former,
however, thank God, ^{there is} nothing near to
communicate - On the contrary
there was a neat little affair in this
vicinity on the 20th in which a
handful of Amateur Officers, charged,
and routed a considerable body of the
Enemy - amongst them, I am told,
Lasement and Stewart were very
conspicuous - there also are named
with deserved praise - of these, young
Murray of the irregular Horse, is
spoken of as having charged more

than once through the Yarkas, before
his people could be persuaded to follow
him - after which they did great
execution - At Kien Kill (on whom
they made the first approach)
appears to have conducted himself
with much resolution & judgment

The next day our new Commander
arrived. when the natural and common
expectation was, that our recent success
would be followed up by an immediate
advance - so far from it, ~~that~~ his
first act plainly indicated that he
had no intention of attempting the
Kills this season - in short he sent
away such Ordnance, and ordnance
stores, as would have been indispensably
requisite for that undertaking - I have

this from Major Mason - for I have only
seen the General in my visit of ceremony
on the day of his arrival, having been
confined ever since by severe indisposition

My last letter would tell you of our
late leader's very abrupt departure - at
that time I felt for the Man, tho' I despised
the Officer - since then I have heard
some reports about the Peasants, which,
if true, would change my pity into strong
indignation -

Quid non mortalia pectora cogis

Auri sacra fames!

I sat down with the intention of
writing a long letter; but have been
so frequently interrupted by the villainous
or rather feminine custom of paying morning
visits, with their cursed "Chokas", that
the ferrous scribendi is quite gone -

REPORT by Dr.L.J.Dunn, B.Sc., Ph.D.(Lond.), A.R.C.S., D.I.C., F.R.I.C.
on the postmarks on two letters, dated 3rd February 1815 and 28th February 1815.

The object of the examination was to establish that the postmarks are genuine.

Conclusion: Technical examination has revealed nothing to suggest forgery.

An outline of the procedure followed is given below. It will be noted that technical "traps" have existed since well before 1960. To avoid them all would seem to demand a wide knowledge of the technology and history of the many inks in the group of which Post Office stamp-cancelling ink is a member. That the "traps" could all be avoided by luck would seem to strain credulity too far. The writer has no doubt of the authenticity of the two postmarks examined.

Procedure followed in technical examination:

Preliminary examination was along routine lines to investigate the general point as to whether the ink of each postmark showed any sign of recent application to the paper. No evidence of this was found.

The special circumstance that postmarks were being examined was then brought into account, and the assumption that forgeries were being examined was added to suggest the lines of scientific tests.

The forger (s), no doubt, would take into account that, as the values of documents were being considerably enhanced, such documents would probably be seen at an early stage by a professional philatelist. This aspect would demand attention; the possibility of scientific examination would be less apparent.

The obvious ink to use would appear to be official postage stamp cancelling ink. No doubt small quantities can be obtained quite easily. Knowledge of the constituents of such ink would, however, be very difficult to obtain (and in any case, probably quite meaningless); the tests that a chemist, who happened to have a knowledge of the constituents, could apply positively to identify the ink as having been made in the 20th century could hardly be suspected.

A small sample of official cancelling ink was therefore obtained from an unimpeachable source, and used to produce (using a small Office printing outfit and various types of paper) lettering similar to the postmarks on the letters under examination.

From the tests made, it can be stated positively that the postmarks on the two letters handed to me do not contain any trace of the 20th century official ink for cancelling postage stamps.

Although the above was conclusive, another germane matter arose out of this, and arrangements were made to see a collection of old letters (public property but not as yet exhibited) and to use scientific examination and instruments such as were portable by car.

A private room was put at my disposal and fifteen clearly postmarked letters covering the period 1806-1828 were selected by the writer for examination. In each case it was confirmed that the postmarks conformed under test to the behaviour of the postmarks on your two letters (your letters were not taken there - they remained locked up in the laboratory here, where all work on them, since receipt, has been done). It has not thus been necessary to investigate more exactly when the change-over in cancelling ink took place (probably during the period 1890-1900. The change-over was due to a newly available material, both economically and technically desirable. The fact of its ready detection by scientific test is probably fortuitous).

Continuation of Report by Dr.L.J.Dunn.

The main purpose of seeing these old letters, however, was to confirm that all - where a thinly stamped area of cancelling ink was visible - had the same brown undertone as appears in the postmarks of your two letters. This was verified. The fifteen letters that I had chosen were post-marked from a different town in each case (except two which merely carried the letters "E" and "G" respectively, and the date).

The writer has had wide understanding over some thirty years of this question of brown undertone in the group of inks of which postage stamp cancelling ink is one member. In general, manufacturers of all these inks would have liked to have a grey undertone, but could not do so economically, and therefore competitively.

During the 1930's, a new blue substance was discovered and quickly brought into commercial production as a blue pigment of outstanding qualities. At the time, the writer was Chief Chemist to a firm making some tons per year of one of these black inks and realized (as would any competent chemist) that the new substance would allow the brown undertone to be "killed" economically. This was so, and became standard formulation.

The point is that, by 1960, it is very unlikely that a black ink with brown undertone could be bought (it is noted that Post Office cancellation ink is now "corrected" against it). Since the postmarks on your two letters show the characteristic brown undertone expected, any remaining suspicion of forgery would suggest that the inks used were "home made".

The use of "home-made" inks by a forger would at once place him very much "at risk" against a scientist with detailed knowledge of the properties of possible materials close at hand for such work. No discrepancy in this direction has been noted.

At this stage it was decided that forgery could reasonably be ruled out, and testing was discontinued.

(Signed) L.J.Dunn.

18th February 1963.

Lot No:

727



THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

For the protection and help of all interested in stamp collecting

3 BERNERS STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telephone : Museum 7564 (4 lines)

Joint Secretaries : C. McNeil Greig
I. R. Hall

Assistant Secretary: Miss W. G. Worsell

As from:

ROBSON LOWE LIMITED,
50 Pall Mall, S.W.1.

2nd May 1962.

Major General Sir Frederick Gwatkin, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,
Cherrybank, Roundwell,
Nr. Maidstone, Bearsted,
Kent.

Dear Sir Frederick,

At the B.P.A. Meeting yesterday, we examined your covers and had a long discussion on them. We came to the conclusion that it was impossible to give a Certificate at the present moment, but we are not unduly suspicious.

As far as the type is concerned, there is no doubt that it was set off from movable type. We cannot find anything quite like the letter "M". However, the "P" is "C.P.O." type seems to match other movable type which we have seen.

As far as the ink is concerned, there is no doubt that both come from the same source as one would expect. The rather wet consistency is similar to that used for the Mey War Field Force although the copy with which we have compared it is dated 1833 - eighteen years after your letter. We also have a soldier's letter from Dr. Parsons which has a framed "TRICHINOPOLY, POST FREE" which could be well struck in the identical ink.

P.T.O.



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Continued:

We have been in touch with Mr. Hammond Giles in India and I am enclosing a copy of his letter of the 24th April which may well interest you.

To sum up, if the Committee gave their opinion it would be on the following lines:

"The Committee is unable to express a definite opinion on the hand-stamps struck on the 1815 covers as apparently these have not been previously chronicled. However, having compared the ink and type used, they can find no reason to be suspicious of their authenticity."

I am sorry that this is the best that we can do for you in this instance but I am sure you will understand.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

RL/BD.

Encs. Registered.

