

Buckingham Palace Post Office -A Journey of Royal Correspondence

Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA London United Kingdom

Buckingham Palace has its own exclusive court post office established by Queen Victoria located in one of the most famous, recognizable buildings on earth.

Purpose Statement The purpose of this exhibit shows the journey of a selection of royal postal correspondence to and from the Buckingham Palace Court post office during the era of every reigning Monarch since the post office opened in Queen Victoria's reign to current day. Included are covers, cancellations, privy purse ink stamps, royal letters, royal stationery, cyphers / franking stamps, photographs and stamps. The philatelic material in this exhibit dates from 1840 to 2024.

Scope Statement- In this exhibit it will not be showing watermarks and gum varieties

Historical background - Buckingham Palace became the principle official London residence for all reigning monarchs since the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837.

Significance of the exhibit -Buckingham Palace, used for daily Royal postal correspondence since 1840 with the introduction of the uniform Penny Postage. With the increase of mail to the Royal Court a special postal facility was provided in 1897 as a Court Post Office at Buckingham Palace when in residence and by 1902 was open all year round by the Court Telegraphist and in 1906 was changed to rank of Court Postmaster a rank that still exists today. The Reigning Monarchs since Queen Victoria did not need to have an actual stamp on their royal mail but rather a franking ink stamp. Not all corresponded is replied to that is sent to Buckingham palace and is at the discretion of the recipient therefore to receive a personal letter from Buckingham Palace is seen as an honor and keepsake.

Special / difficult to source exhibit items- A cover/ letter posted into Buckingham Palace, 1840, (page 2). Covers during the reign of King Edward VIII, difficult to source as no coronation and short reign due to abdication (page 5.)

The Plan

Page 1. Title	Page 2. Queen Victoria 1837-1901
Page 3. King Edward VII 1901-1910	Page 4 .King George V 1910-1936
Page 5. King Edward VIII Jan 1936-Dec 1936	Page 6. King George VI 1936-1952
Page 7, 8,9,10. Queen Elizabeth II 1952-2022	Page 11,12 King Charles III 2022 (current)

Personal research and literature references- The focus on this research was to source and catalogue the covers/ correspondence of Buckingham Palace during the various reigning monarchs. Personal letters were sent to and received from Buckingham Palace in 2024 and use of online references from the following - Great Britain Philatelic Society, Royal Collection Trust UK- www.rct.uk The Royal Family Website- www.royal.uk. A history of Buckingham Palace- English Monarchs- www.englishmonarchs.co.uk



Queen Victoria .
10/02/1841 Imperforate
.Perkins, Bacon &Co



King Edward VII
01.01.1902 Wmk
Imperial Crown Perf 14
DeLa Rue &Co



King George V 1911-
1912 Die A Perf 15x14
Wmk Imperial Crown
Typographed Harrison
&Sons



King Edward VIII
01/09/1936 Perf 15x14
Wmk CrwonE8R
Photogravure-Harrison
& Sons



King George VI
10.05.1937Wmk Crown
GviR Perf 15x14
Photogravure Harrison
&Sons Designer
E Dulac



Queen Elizabeth II
1952 Wildling Series
Wmk Tudor Crown E2R
Queen depicted wearing
the State Diadem made
for King George IV and
the same piece of royal
jewelry shown on the
Penny Black stamps of
1840.



King Charles III
Martin Jennings
portrait. Dark Pine
Green Cartor Security
Printers -Gravure.
Perf 15x14.5



Buckingham
Palace
2018
Souvenir
Coin



Photo Post card of Buckingham Palace Dated 1915-1918 Publisher Tuck&Son



Photo of Queen Victoria writing correspondence at Buckingham Palace
W&D Downey 1872 Albumen Cabinet Card

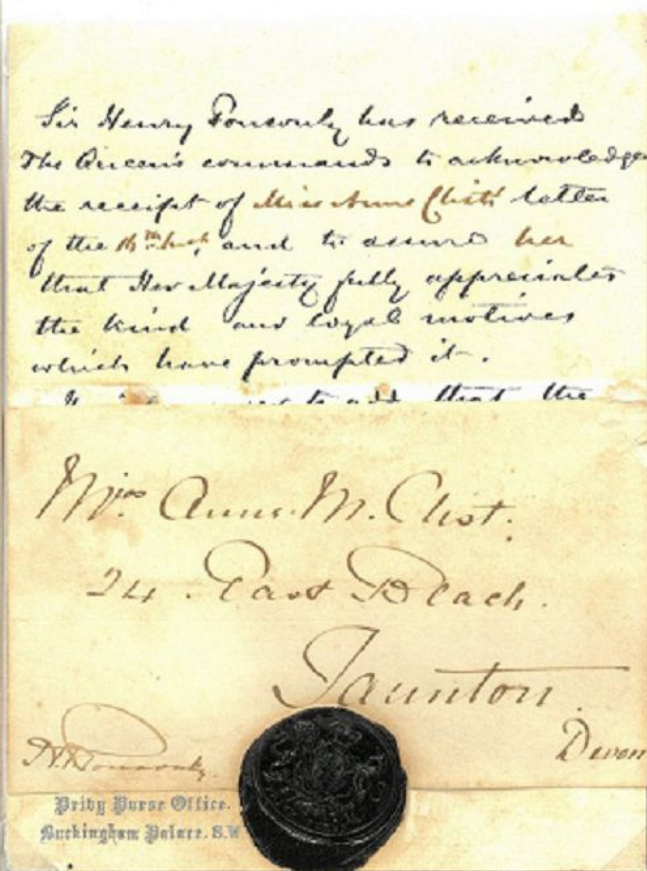


QUEEN VICTORIA
Monarch form 1837 to 1901

Early 1840, for a period of time, Queen Victoria voluntarily surrendered her right to Royal Franking and correspondence bore stamps like those of her subjects but only delivered by Royal Messengers. The Royal Court Post offices opened at Buckingham Palace by Queen Victoria provided the Court Telegraphist various hand dated stamps. (refer ink stamp on left)

←
1840- A letter posted to Buckingham Palace from Cambridge for Francis Seymour the Courtier to Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband. The letter is from Francis Seymour brother who was studying at Cambridge University congratulating him on his new rank of Courtier to Prince Albert with interest and excitement. This letter would have been processed through the infancy of the Buckingham Court Post Office

↓
1887-Henry Ponsonby was Queen Victoria's Private Secretary and this is a Privy Purse wax-sealed letter from the private secretary of Queen Victoria who has signed the front near the address. The letter mentions The Queen in reference to returning a gift received for her Majesty's Jubilee and notes the "Her Majesty fully appreciates the kind and loyal motives of the gift". The Envelope has an official Privy Purse wax seal and also printed on the lower left section it is from Buckingham Palace SW. This letter was sent from the Buckingham Palace Court Post office during the Reign of Queen Victoria from the Privy Purse therefore no stamp required.



Queen Victoria
Half penny 1894

**King Edward VII
Monarch form 1901-1910**

1905 Photo Postcard of King Edward VII and his wife Queen Alexandra Lafayette London Photographer. A.L Series104 Southampton Row London W.C . Printed in Taucha

1905- A letter sent from Buckingham Palace post office. Privy Purse official paid October 1905 during the reign of King Edward VII. The Privy Purse official Paid circle is 25 mm and the 17 within the date stamp has been retouched by the official body as the correct colour ink has been used

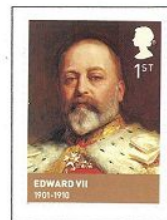
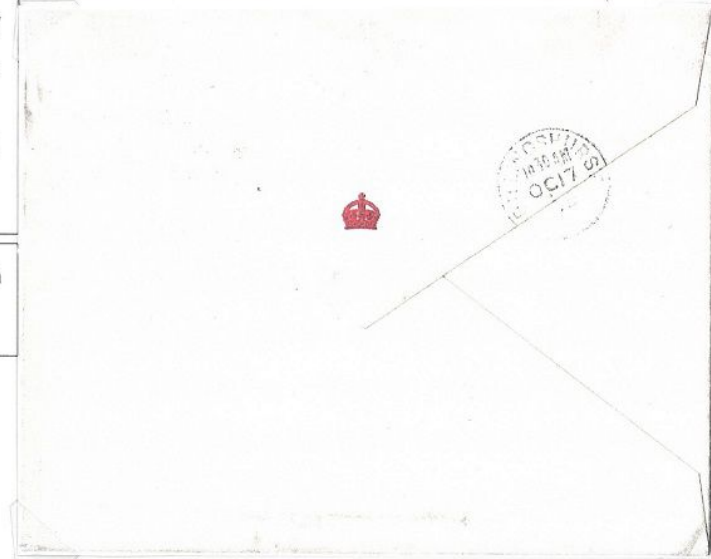


King Edward VII
One penny 1903



Upon King Edwards accession in January 1901 Royal Franking was restored and on 2nd May 1901 a personal franking hand stamp incorporating King Edwards VII cypher was approved and subsequently used by the King and the Court Telegraphist. In August, the same year the post office produced rubber hand stamps to signify what department of the Royal house was sending the correspondence using a system of initials to represent the different offices. For Buckingham Palace The Privy Purse stamp was ink stamped on correspondence from the Keeper of the Privy Purse, assistant to Privy Purse , personal secretary to the King and assistant private secretaries. No paper stamp was needed. The Buckingham Palace Court Post office was open every day from April 14th 1902 unlike the other Royal houses which had limited access to the postal system.

The **Privy Purse** is represented by an embroidered bag borne by the Keeper at coronations and is both official expenditure incurred by the reigning Monarch as sovereign and private expenditure. In 2019 £1.1m was spent from the Privy Purse on printing, postage and stationery.



King Edward VII

Photocopy of reverse of envelope showing the Royal Stationary embossed emblem for King Edward VII. During Queen Victoria reign Smythson Of Bond Street were commissioned to produce stationary for each of the Royal residences including Buckingham Palace and to this day Smythson of Bond St continue to hold the Royal warrant.

**King George V
Monarch form 1910 - 1936**

1914 A letter with envelope sent from Buckingham Palace from the honorable treasurer on behalf of Queen Mary during the reign of her husband King George V. The letter thanks the recipient for a donation for the Work of Women fund. Stamped with Official Paid Nov 20 1914 . ->

1933 Posted from Buckingham Palace on 6 November 1933 during the reign of King George V using the Privy Purse ↓

Messrs G. Faulkner & Co.,

81 Golden Lane,

E. C. 1.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

20th. November, 1914.

Madam,

I am desired by The Queen to express Her Majesty's sincere thanks for the donation of

- 2s. 6d. -

which you have so generously given to the "Work for Women" Fund.

Your obedient Servant,

John Pearson

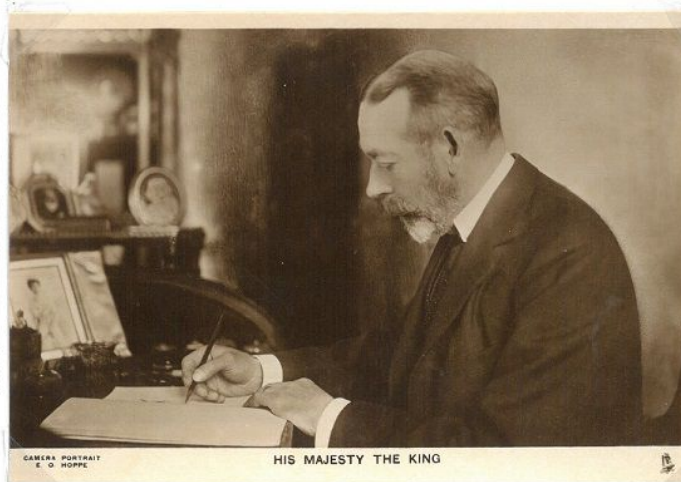
Hon. Treasurer.



Photocopy of embossed Privy Purse cypher on back of envelope



Photo of H.M King George V at his writing desk in Buckingham Palace Photographer E.O Hoppe, Raphael Tuck & Sons, Card no.3741 Art Publishers. Royal Portrait Series ↓



King George V
One penny 1917

LONDON S.W.1
OFFICIAL PAID
NOV 20 1914
1. 30

Miss W. Tyson,
Lake Road,
Ambleside,
Westmorland.

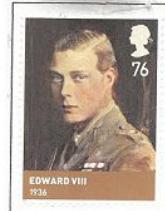


King Edward VIII
Monarch form January 1936 to December 1936

Photo post card of King Edward VIII .Publisher unknown



H.M. KING EDWARD VIII.



King Edward VIII
 Replica 1936 Coin
 Note the image is facing the incorrect way at the insistence of King Edward VIII. Breaking with tradition of the direction as the head faces alternated since Charles II reign . The coins were not put into circulation due to the abdication and remained as pattern pieces. Only two are known to be owned privately.

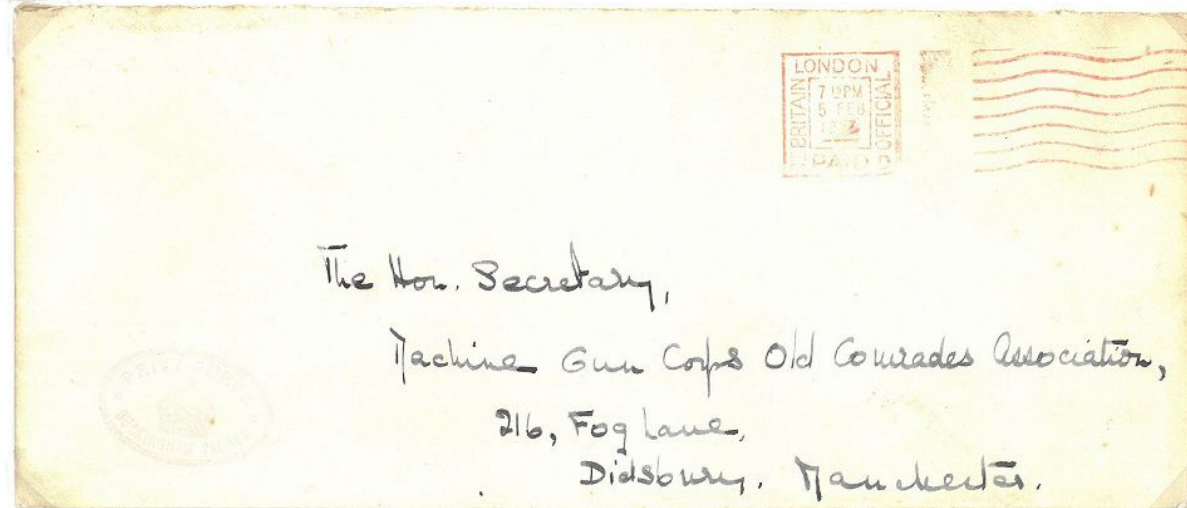
1936- 2.5d 1.5d 0.5 d Edward VIII definitives posted from the Buckingham Gate in 1936 during the short reign of King Edward VIII



1936- Correspondence posted from Buckingham Palace during the reign of King Edward VIII. King Edward did not have a coronation and abdicated in December the same year. The design of eight square franking stamps were provided for Edward VIII in February 1936 including the letter I denoting Edward Rex Imperator based on a sketch King Edward produced early in his reign which did not include a crown unlike previous and future monarchs. Two King Edward VIII franking stamps were provided to the Buckingham Palace Court post office.

ERI
 VIII

Copy of Edward VII hand drawn franking stamp sketched early in his reign with no symbol of a crown .



King George VI
Monarch form 1936- 1952

Post card of H.M King George VI , 1942, at his writing desk in Buckingham Palace. Photographer Cecil Beston Prescott Sovereign Series No 1.



King George VI
 One penny 1947

Franking stamps were issues by the post office in January 1937 for King George VI. Circular in shape and including a crown but one year later the King requested it changed, as the Royal Cypher was not correct. New franking stamps were issued in June 1938.

1952 ,10th April A cover sent to The Railway Executive Kings Cross Station in 1952 form Buckingham Palace during King George VI reign. An image of the crown can be seen on the Privy Purse stamp and with initials . ↓



1937, May 19th A letter with envelope sent form Buckingham Palace from the Private Secretary and commanded by The King George VI. A thank you for the senders message "of loyal assurances" on his Majesties coronation. The letter is on the official Buckingham Palace stationery and cover is stamped with purple Privy Purse and cancelled May 19th1937 at Buckingham Palace Court Post office. ←↓



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Private Secretary is
 commanded by The King to convey
 an expression of sincere thanks
 to

M^r Angus McMillan

for *his* message of loyal
 assurances on the occasion of
 Their Majesties' Coronation.



Angus McMillan Esq^r.
15. Dunn Street.
Paisley.
Scotland.





Post card of Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, Coronation by Sir Cecil Beaton, Eileen Hose. 1955

**Queen Elizabeth II
Monarch form 1952-2022**



Queen Elizabeth II
One penny 1967

Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning British Monarch to date. During Queen Elizabeth's reign, the royal post office headquarters were at Buckingham Palace with the Buckingham Palace Court post office providing postal and telephone services for the Court and Royal Household. Correspondence from the Buckingham palace Court post office is stamped with the Queens franking stamp. Letters from offices of the Royal household also carry certifying stamps.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Private Secretary is commanded

by The Queen to thank

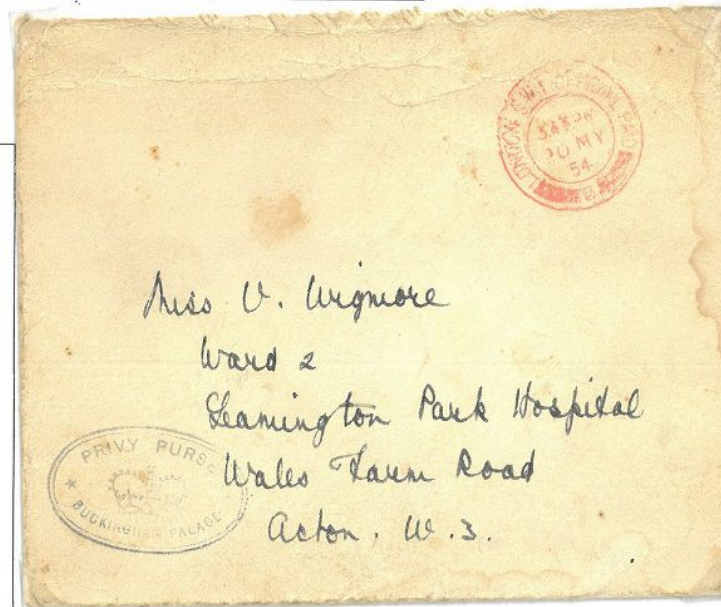
Miss U. Wignore

for *her* message of good wishes

on Her Majesty's return.

20th May, 1954.

1954 20th May- A letter posted from Buckingham Palace during the reign of Queen Elizabeth thanking the recipient for well wishes on the Queens return. The Queen toured Australia arriving in February 1954 and is currently the only reigning Monarch to visit Australia (King Charles plans to visit late 2024)



*Miss U. Wignore
Ward 2
Seamington Park Hospital
Wales Lawn Road
Acton, W.3.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1956 February 22nd A
thank you letter
posted from
Buckingham Palace to
a patient or staff
member of
Leamington Hospital
Acton. The same
recipient (Miss V
Wigmore) received
letters on 20th May
1954, 25th February
1957 and 23rd October
1957. Leamington
Hospital was an
isolation hospital for
patients with
infectious diseases.

The Private Secretary is

The Private Secretary is

commanded by Her Majesty The Queen

commanded by Her Majesty The Queen

to thank Miss V. Wigmore

to thank Miss V. Wigmore

for her letter & verses.

for her letter.

Correspondence
posted from
the Buckingham
Palace Court
post office was
stamped with
Official Paid
S.W.1 During
Queen
Elizabeth's reign
and the purple
Privy Purse
Stamp



Miss V. Wigmore
Ward 2
Leamington Park Hospital
Wales Farm Road
Acton
W.3.



Miss V. Wigmore
Ward 2
Leamington Park Hospital
Farm Road
Acton. W.3.



Queen Elizabeth II
Monarch form 1952-2022

1974- A letter sent to Ardath Tobacco Company stamped official paid from Buckingham Palace , may have been a payment enclosed for tobacco supplied for the Royal smokers ? Stamped P E R H Buckingham Palace ↓

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Private Secretary is
commanded by Her Majesty The Queen
to thank *Miss D. Wignmore*
for *her* letter .

23rd October, 1957.

1

Ardath Tobacco Company Ltd.
10 Smith Square
LONDON S.W.1

6:15 PM
14
OCT 23 1957

P E R H
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Deals

4

1978 A letter sent to Chas.Gray.&Co from Buckingham Palace during Queen Elizabeth's Reign Official Paid .The company was a knife/ sword maker.

LONDON SW1 OFFICIAL PAID
6:15 PM
23 OCT
57

*Miss D. Wignmore
Llanington Park Hospital
Wales Farm Road
Acton
W. 3*

PRIVY PURSE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

LONDON
7:15 PM
23 JUNE
1978

Chas. Gray & Co. (Stamford) Ltd.,
Wharf Road,
Stamford,
Lincs. PE9 2DY.

P E R H
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Queen Elizabeth II
Monarch form 1952-2022



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

15th September, 1978.

1978, 15th September An employment rejection letter. A letter posted through the Buckingham Palace Court Post office during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II from the Master of the Household replying to a job applicant. The letter states that the Master of the Household is unable to give "serious consideration" for the post in question. Also mentions that the request for husband and wife job vacancies and accommodation will be considered. Official paid cancel on cover and EIIR stamp

Dear Mr. Freeman,

Thank you for your letter of the 11th September, in reply to the advertised post of Porter.

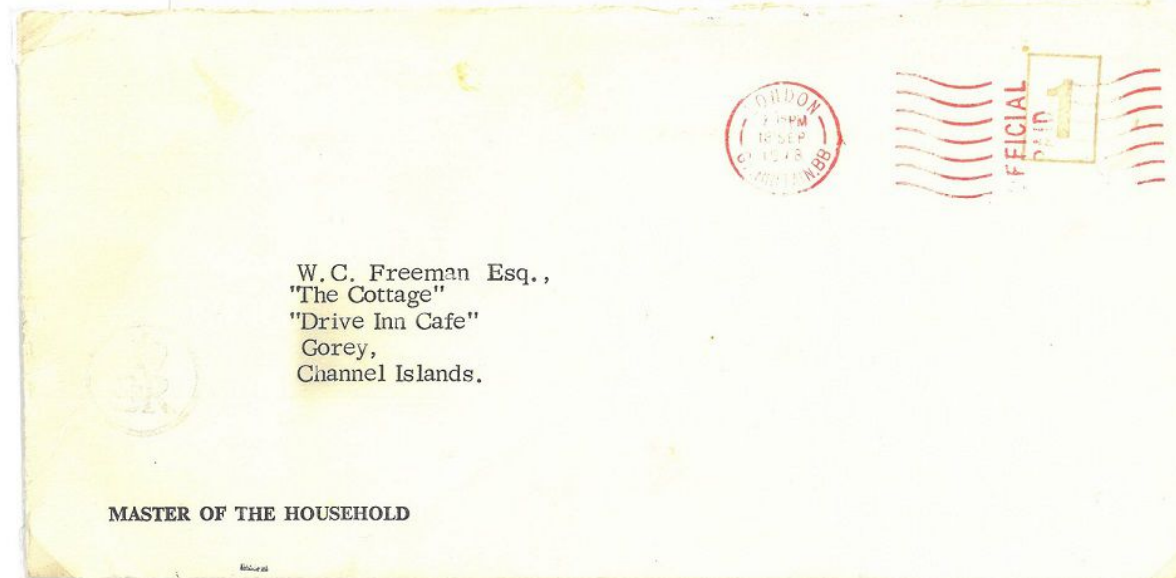
I have carefully studied the details of your background and experience but very much regret that I am unable to give you serious consideration for the post in question. I should add that there is no married accommodation available; neither are there vacancies which would in any way be suitable for both husband and wife.

I am so sorry not to sound more hopeful and I do trust that you will soon find rewarding and suitable employment back in this country.

The embossed Royal Coat of Arms in red on reverse of envelope for Queen Elizabeth II stationary

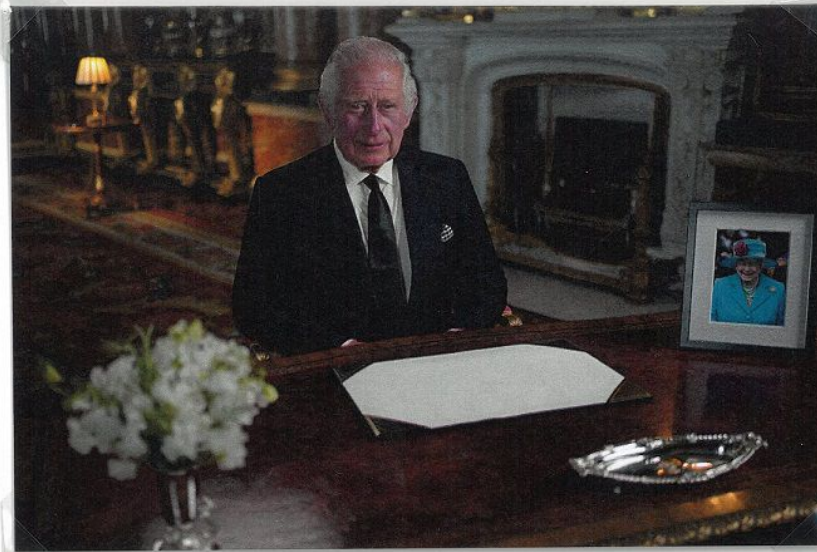


The embossed Royal Coat of Arms in red on reverse envelope used by The Queens Father and by Queen Elizabeth in the early stages of her reign



**King Charles III
Monarch 2022 - present**

Greeting card of King Charles III at a desk in Buckingham Palace 2024,
Kenobass Stationary



King Charles ascended the throne in 2022 and although his main residence is at Clarence House, his official offices are at Buckingham Palace in keeping with tradition. Therefore the King and Queens Royal Mail is posted through the Buckingham Palace Post Office and transported between Clarence House and Buckingham Palace via the Buckingham Palace Court post office sorting office

2024 May 15th A letter posted through the Buckingham Palace Court Post office during the reign of King Charles III from his wife Queen Camilla. Although on Clarence House stationary the letter was posted through Buckingham Court post office with King Charles cypher, stamped Royal Mail Buckingham Palace SW1A 1AA marked Private & Confidential



CLARENCE HOUSE

15th May, 2024

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL



UK
22-05-24
E8.15 PB5577562



IS
ROW2
10g

Mrs. Vanessa Henry,
21 Turner Road,
Highett 3190,
Victoria,
Australia



Great Britain
Recommandé
International
Signed



*c/p 5/6/24
M.B.H.*

Ca.



Signature Required
PRIORITY MAIL

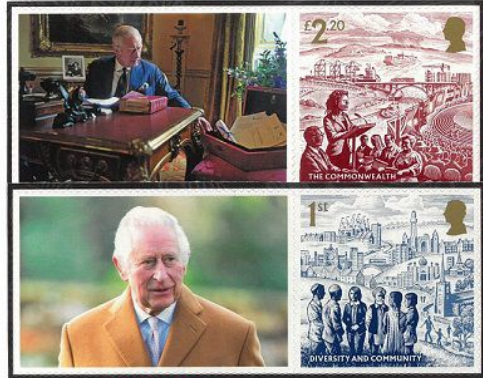
Dear Vanessa,

Thank you very much for your kind letter about my husband's health. I am terribly sorry that your husband is living with prostate cancer and I do hope that both he and you are receiving the support that you need. You are much in my thoughts and prayers...

With best wishes

Camilla

King Charles III
Monarch 2022 - present



2024 May 23rd A letter posted through Buckingham Court Post office during the current reign of King Charles III using the official Buckingham Palace Stationary for King Charles in Blue rather than the previous monarchs red. Machine printing on the cover of the cypher and cancellation. The letter is form The Princess Royal Anne from the LVO Royal Navy Commander Anne Sullivan Deputy private secretary to HRH The Princess Royal

King Charles III
50P 2022



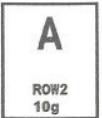
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

23rd May 2024

Dear Ms Henry,

The Princess Royal has asked me to thank you for your kind letter dated 30th April. Her Royal Highness was very touched by your kind thoughts in writing and sends you her best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Vanessa Henry
21 Turner Road
Highett 3190
Victoria
Australia

AIR MAIL

DLC 996-4
22:40
02/06/2024