

# NOT ENVELOPES NOR POSTCARDS

*An occasional series from a large collection*

## Part 2 Instructional Labels

*Basil Cheverton*

Postal Stationery can cover a much wider of material than the imprinted items that are normally the basis of exhibition entries. The Post Office made use of a range of stationery items to both serve the public, i.e., the Advice of Delivery cards that were attached to registered items, and to aid delivery. Basil has exhibited this type of material, and copies from his pages are shown **on our back cover** this issue

### **V.P.P. LABELS**

The labels that came in to public use were mostly associated with the V.P.P. (Value Payable) Service. It was a prominent feature of the India that was. Firms like Whiteway Laidlaw in Calcutta and Rangoon sent large quantities of goods up-country by this means.

Many of the V.P.P. labels were explicit as to the amount to be recovered, whereas others relied on a manuscript entry. The Government Book Department made a great use of V.P.P. labels of many kinds, including large ones intended for sealing parcels. Most of the stamp issuing states had their labels.

### **YELLOW LABELS**

The little yellow labels have a lot to tell us about routes and procedures. There was a huge variety of 'Missent' and 'Please Return to Postman' labels, which effectively pre-paid a further transmission through the post, just as the locally produced 'The Postman is Requested' labels did later. These can be found in Urdu and Hindi, and are early instances of the use of vernacular languages in the work of the Post Office.

### **DEAD LETTER OFFICE**

The Dead Letter Office was a great user of labels, with a variety arising partly from printings peculiar to particular offices, including Bengal, Bombay, Ajmer and Lahore. Items reaching a D.L.O. collected the designated labels 'Refused', 'Undelivered' or 'Redirected'. DLO Numbers 10, 11 and 12. This is a simplification. The point is that the labels sometimes authorised a further journey through the post, either 'Free' or Postage Due.

### **TRANSIT LABELS**

The Post Office had a series of 'Transit' labels, which identified the contents of mail bundles. They included .. M14 'Missent', M15 'Over-carried' and M 16 'Wrongly Posted'.

There were also 'Destination Bundle' labels S10.

Particularly interesting is that Pakistan followed the system, while also making use of colour. For example: blue was for airmail, pink was for RMS and green served for Unpaid. To stretch the point, there were the Mail Bag seals, although the only example to have come my way was on a Form RP-54 (purely by chance I suppose) with a c.d.s. of Rawalpindi Race Course P.O. in April 1969.

In 1961 the use of Label Lab 47 enabled the Ramma Post Office to send an item by Registered Post without adhesive stamps, and therefore Post Paid.

Staying with Pakistan, we have RP-54 Acknowledgement Forms, from 1968 and 1986; the latter is entirely in the vernacular.

### **ECONOMY LABELS**

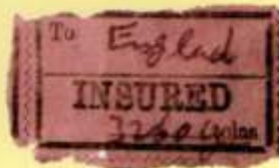
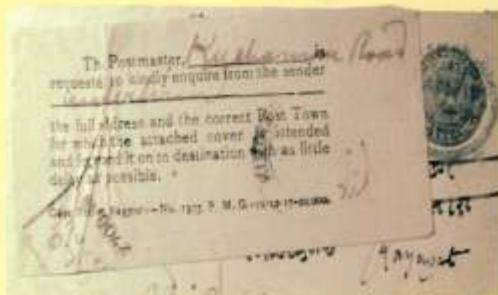
These 'On Postal Service' labels were phased out (together with other so described items) in probably the 1920s, whereas the 'O.H.M.S.' labels which required postage stamps grew in number and size, and were often known as 'Economy Labels'. These Official labels had form numbers: 47, 66, 87, etc.



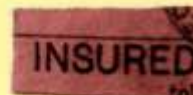
see Q06/04: MANUSCRIPT DATESTAMPS



'Value Payable' service labels, various periods.



'Yellow' labels



'Insured' labels, various periods. The early ones were Form MS 24



Urdu yellow label on cover Bhiwani to Ramgarh 1885, see 'Not Envelopes nor Postcards'