

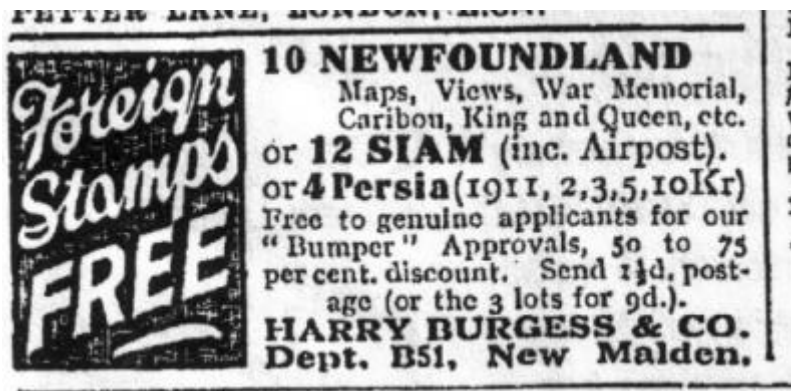
HARRY BURGESS THE PEMBURY STAMP DEALER

Written By: Edward James Gilbert-Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada

Date: November 4, 2018

INTRODUCTION

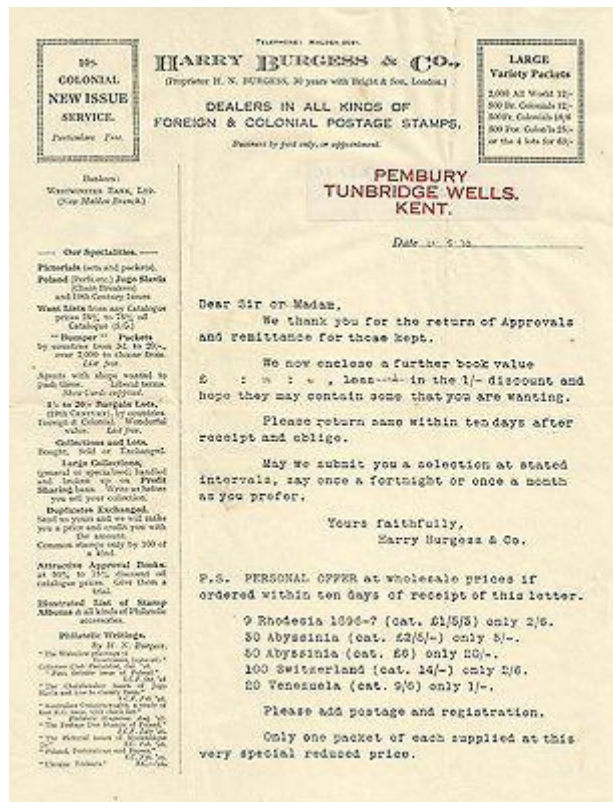
The collecting of postage stamps is a popular hobby, perhaps not as popular today as it was in the 1950's and 1960's when postage stamps were comparatively less expensive than today. Although some collected mint stamps, which could be ordered from the GPO as they came out, the supply of mint and used stamps from other parts of the world had to be purchased from stamp dealers, such as those from Harry Burgess who operated his business from his house in Pembury at 56 Hastings Road under the name of Harry Burgess & Co. He is found at that address in local directories from 1959 up to 1972.



HARRY BURGESS & CO.

I begin my account of this business by noting that directory listings throughout the period of 1959 to 1972 consistently gave "Harry Burgess & Co, philatelists, 56 Hastings Road, Pembury. His place of business was not a shop but like so many other stamp dealers he operated from his residence, which still exists today and is a 2 sty red brick home located on the south side of Hastings Road near the post office on the corner of Hastings Road and Belfield Road. It is known however, from the address of his advertisements and from envelopes address to him that he was living in Pembury from at least 1940.

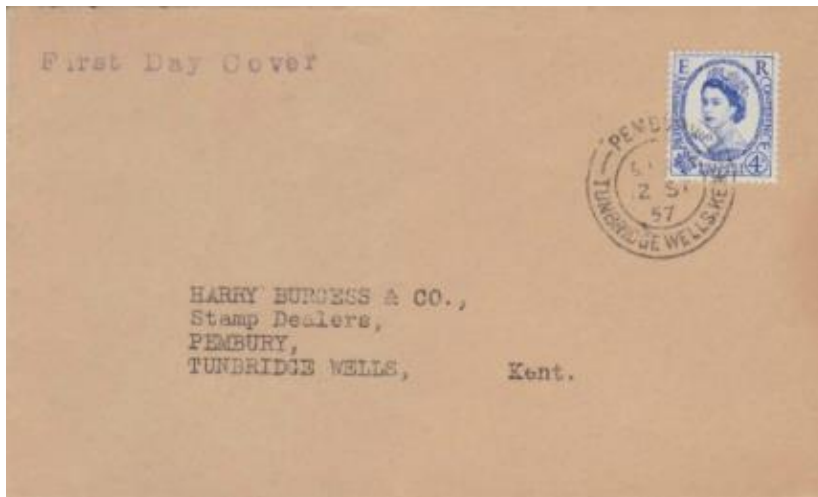




Harry's involvement in the stamp dealers business dates back many years before he settled in Pembury. Shown in the Introduction for example is an advertisement for an offering of free stamps to anyone who subscribed to his stamp approval business. This advertisement gave his address as New Malden where he lived for several years. Shown above is a letterhead with Pembury on it and at the top it refers to Harry having 36 years experience with Reids and Sons in Leeds. For those not familiar with stamp collecting, stamp approvals is a process where the stamp dealer sends to the collector a selection of stamps to look at, from which the collector selects which ones he/she wishes to purchase and returns the unwanted stamps along with payment for those kept back to the stamp dealer. Usually once a month the stamp dealer sends out a new selection of stamps.



It was noted that many similar offers were made by Harry in what generally can be described as children's publications. The advertisement in the 'Introduction' above appeared in the October 25, 1930 publication 'The Children's Newspaper'. He also advertised in such publications as 'The Meccano Magazine' (in which his address was in Pembury) and The Stamp Magazine of October 1934. Shown above are two envelopes postmarked 1940 addressed to Harry Burgess & Co Pembury and shown below is one addressed to him in Pembury for the Royal Philatelic Societies Centenary Exhibition being held from May 6-14, 1940.



In addition to selling stamps Harry offered for sale a selection of stamp albums such as one entitled 'The Royal Family Miniature Stamp Album' "published by Harry Burgess & Co, Kent". He also published an album called 'The Princess Elizabeth New Zealand'.

Harry is also known to have published books on the topic of stamps such as one on stamps of the Indian States described as "A specialized study and catalogue by H.N. Burgess and C.T. Sturton with the title of 'Bundi: The Sacred Cows 1915-1941'.

Shown below is a catalogue published by Harry Burgess & Co. Pembury in 1959 entitled 'The Stamp Collectors Guide and Catalogue'.



A number of philatelic publications and library holdings made reference to the stamp catalogues and albums published by Harry Burgess & Co such as The Philatelic Association of NSW and the International Society for Japanese Philately.

Although nothing has been published or found to date about the man himself there can be no doubt that he was thoroughly knowledgeable about stamps from around the world and no doubt did a good business selling stamps, albums and catalogues. One can only speculate that he was born as Harold Norman Burgess but since many men of the same name were found no definitive information about him was possible.