

MESSRS W E BALE & MORTIMER

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1908-1909 (RP26Fv)_Messrs W E Bale & Mortimer, Church St, Maritzburg, Natal (actually used Merton Rush / Wimbledon 21 OC 10)

Comment:

William Ebrington Bale was baptised on 19th April 1820 in Tedburn Saint Mary, Devon. He was the son of Henry and Jane Bale. He married in the December QRT 1846 in Exeter. He emigrated to South Africa from Devonshire circa 1850.

William Elrington [sic] Bale and John Mortimer established the firm W.E. Bale and Mortimer (formerly W E Bale), Conveyancer, House, Estate and Financial Agents, in Pietermaritzburg in 1849. Bale retired from the firm in 1897 and died 1903 ¹. The offices of Messrs W E Bale & Mortimer were at 135 Church St, Pietermaritzburg, Natal. The firm existed until 1966.

William Ebrington Bale, J.P., member for Ward 1, who was elected Mayor of Maritzbnrg in 1890, and again in 1893, first joined the Council in 1857 ². He was honorary President of the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A)

Henry Bale was born at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, on 12 January 1854 was the only son of William E Bale. A lawyer by training, later His Excellency Sir Henry Bale, KCMG, KC, became Chief Justice of Natal and Administrator of the province.

References:

1. South Africa Archives Repository, Pietermaritzburg
2. Ingram, J. Forsyth. The Story of an African City. Publ: C. Coestek, Maritzburg. 1898
3. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints : <http://www.familysearch.org>
4. FreeBMD <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>

¹ NAB MSCE VOLUME_NO 0 REFERENCE 19/152. DESCRIPTION: BALE, WILLIAM EBRINGTON. STARTING 19030000 ENDING 19400000

² NAB CSO VOLUME_NO 1371 REFERENCE 1893/3599. DESCRIPTION: TOWN CLERK, PIETERMARITZBURG. NOTIFIES THAT COUNCILLOR WILLIAM EBRINGTON BALE HAS BEEN ELECTED MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. 1893