

## MEfS NORDMANN & HALF

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:**

1870 (CP2)\_Mef's Nordmann & Half, 11 Hatton Gardens, London E.C. (actually used London OC 10 73)

### **Comment:**

**"11 Hatton Gardens, London E.C."** Since 1870, Hatton Gardens has been internationally recognised as the premier location for Jewellery in London. The name Hatton Gardens was taken from Sir Christopher Hatton, born in 1540 and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I. The Queen gave Hatton the land and Ely Place.

The façade of an old bluecoat school designed by Sir Christopher Wren stands in Hatton Gardens. The world's first machine gun was developed by invented by the American-born Briton Sir Hiram Maxim (Maxim Gun Company est. 1884) at 55 Hatton Gardens.

Situated at 100 Hatton Garden is the London Diamond Centre, where the diamonds for the Hatton Gardens jewellers are fingerprinted. Several hundred businesses in the environment of Hatton Gardens are concerned with the manufacture and sale of jewellery, with more than fifty outlets making the area the largest cluster of jewellers in the UK.

Over the years, 11 Hatton Gardens has been occupied by a cross-section of businesses, some interesting and appealing, other droll and unremarkable. Amongst the former were: Negretti & Zambra (1850-1859) the famous instrument makers, Nathan Samuel Lewis & Co. (est. by 1882) the wholesale jewellers & watch manufacturers, Louis Abrahams (1891) local benefactor to the elderly, Edwards & Co (est. 1900) Diamond Merchants and, of course, in the 1870's the unknown **Nordmann & Half**.

### **References:**

1. Post Office London Directory, 1882. [Part 2: Commercial & Professional Directory]
2. Business Directory of London, 1884. [Part 1: Alphabetical Section]
3. Family Search. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  
<http://www.familysearch.org>
4. FreeBMD Home Page <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>