

COL. MICHAEL FOSTER WARD

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:

- 1879 (CP9)_Col Ward, 20 Hess Strass(e), Munich (actually used from Bath OCT 14 92)
- 1888-1889 (CP21a)_Mrs (M F) Ward, Partenkirchen, Bavaria, Germany (actually used from Red Hill Station Office & Chipstead OCT 14 92)
- 1889 (22b)_Col. M F Ward, Upton Park, Slough (actually used from Hoddesdon MR 15 1883 confirmed)
- (CP23b)_Col. M F Ward, Upton Park, Slough (actually used from London via Bath FE 6 97)

Comment:

Michael Foster Ward of Ogbourne St. Andrew, Wiltshire and Bannerdown House, Batheaston, was the eldest son Mr. Thomas Rawdon Ward¹, and was born at his parents home, Round Oak, Englefield Green, Berks, on 12th March 1826². He was educated at Eton College, and subsequently held a commission in the 90th Regiment of Light Infantry, serving for a period in Whitehall.

On 17 August 1854 Colonel Ward married Helen Christina, daughter of Mr. Robert Clark Rattray of Craighall, Rattray, Perthshire, by whom he had seven children³.

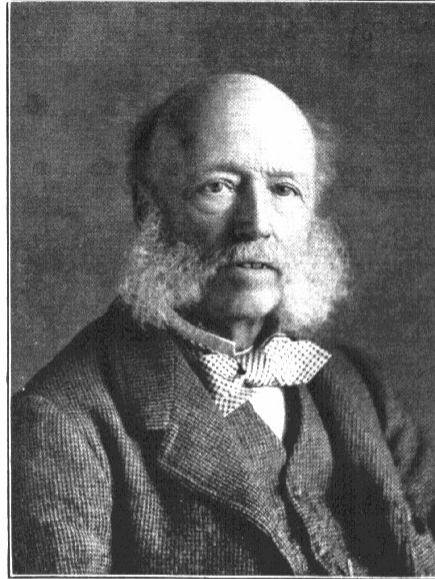
On leaving the army he entered fully into the duties and life a country squire, raising the North Wilts Volunteers which as Lieutenant-Colonel he commanded until 1881; Justice of the Peace; life governor of Marlborough House; and parishioner of St. Laurence Church, Slough.

In 1863 and 1895 respectively, Col. Ward donated the pulpit in St. Laurence Church, Slough and later the two windows and the interposed mosaic of "Christ In Glory", all in memory of his father and mother.

¹ Thomas Rawdon Ward of Upton, Bucks., and of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Draycot Folliot, Wiltshire, was born in Marlborough, Wiltshire on 25th September 1788 and died Slough, , Buckinghamshire on 25th February 1863. On 3rd November 1815 in Bath, Somerset he married Ann Clark born Marlborough, Wiltshire on 20th November 1789 and died 13th August 1845 in Egham, Surrey. He was a magistrate and substantial landowner in Buckinghamshire.

² Michael Foster WARD b: 12 Mar 1826 Ogbourne St. Andrew c: 26 Jan 1827 Englefield Green, Surrey, England d: 13 Sep 1915 Ref: Family Search.

³ Helen Christina CLARK (CLERK) RATTRAY b: Abt 1831 Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland m: 17 Aug 1854 (10 Jun 1854) Rattray, Perth d: 11 Apr 1921 Ref: Burke's (Family Search).



COL. MICHAEL FOSTER WARD, J.P., F.R.A.S.,
F.R.M.S.

Ward spent some years in Switzerland, and where after he sojourned in Partenkirchen, in Bavaria, where he purchased a residence, building a small English church in its grounds. He spent every summer and autumn at Partenkirchen, and was there celebrating his diamond wedding anniversary when World War I broke out, and he became a prisoner of war. On 6th November 1914, he was taken to the local prison preparatory to being transferred to Ruhleben; but, as a result of a medical examination, he was allowed to remain in his own house and freely move about within the precincts of the commune. On 6th May 1915, he was permitted to return to England as part of an exchange of prisoners. Travelling via Switzerland, where he went first to recuperate, he reached Upton Park, Slough, on 2nd June 1915. He passed away peacefully, after two days' illness, on 13th September 1915 in his ninetieth year. His son, Colonel Thomas Rawdon Ward, late of the West Yorks Regiment, similarly being at Partenkirchen at the outbreak of war, was taken prisoner, and was interned in Ruhleben Camp.

Colonel Ward's chief scientific interest was in meteorology. He kept careful records, much of which was published both at home and abroad. The rain gauge in general use at the time of his death was the outcome of no less than twenty-one trial gauges with which he had made

experiments. He was elected a Member of the British (later Royal) Meteorological Society in 1862⁴.

He was interested in astronomy. Publications included a paper on the meteoric display of 27th November 1886 as observed by him at Partenkirchen. He became a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on 13 February 1863⁵.

Natural history also had a strong appeal for him, and he formed an extensive collection of birds, butterflies, and moths at Bannerdown House, Bath, exchanging specimens with many an amateur collector in Britain and the Continent.

References:

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7. Royal Meteorological Society. Personal communication, Prof. Paul Hardaker. 2009. <http://www.rmets.org/about/history/index.php>
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13. Gaskill, W. 58 Wiltshire Leaders: social and political. Portraits and biographies Portrait of Col. Michael Foster Ward, governor of Marlborough College (pg. 61]. 1906

⁴ The Royal Meteorological Society was founded as the British Meteorological Society on 3 April 1850. It became the Meteorological Society in 1866, when incorporated by Royal Charter, and the Royal Meteorological Society in 1883, when Her Majesty Queen Victoria granted the privilege of adding 'Royal' to the title. Amalgamation with the Scottish Meteorological Society took place in 1921.

⁵ The Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) is a learned society that began as the Astronomical Society of London in 1820. It became the Royal Astronomical Society in 1831 on receiving its Royal Charter from William IV. A Supplemental Charter in 1915 opened up the fellowship to women.