

MESSRS WHITFIELD KING

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:

1895 (RP21F)_Messrs Whitfield King, Lacey Street, Ipswich 1895 (actually used from Ipswich MY12 98)



Charles William King (aka. Charles Whitfield King) was born in Ipswich in 1855¹. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, was established 1869. Sometime after 1881, he married, Leah Hamby (1858- circa 1944) (do. George Henry Hamby and Hannah Elizabeth Tunmore)². Together they had at least one child, Charles Whitfield King in the September QRT 1887³. He died in Ipswich in 1930⁴.

And what of his name? The unsuspecting journalist (ref. 1) states the following: " Double-barrelled surnames are so much *de rigueur* amongst our leading stamp dealers that it is no great surprise to find that Mr. Whitfield and Mr. King are one and the same person. In short, "Whitfield

¹ Births Dec 1855 KING, Charles William, Ipswich 4a 478

² Marriages Sep 1883 KING, Charles William, Ipswich 4a 1072

³ Births Sep 1887 KING, Charles Whitfield, Ipswich 4a 820

⁴ Deaths Sep 1930 KING, Charles W Aged 74 Ipswich 4a 890

King & Co." is really only Mr. Charles Whitfield King. " One can only suggest that C W King aspired to an eminence that his baptismal name did not suggest, hence his adopted appellation.

1881 Census of England and Wales.

Family lived at 1 Elgin Villa, Lacey St, Ipswich St Margaret, Suffolk.

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Charles W. KING	Head	M	Male	49	Lavenham, Suffolk, England	Carpenter Master
Adelaide KING	Wife	M	Female	49	Stutton, Suffolk, England	
Charles W. KING	Son	U	Male	25	Ipswich, Suffolk, England	Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps
Arthur C. KING	Son	U	Male	20	Ipswich, Suffolk, England	Bookbinder Apprentice
Alice KING	Daughter	U	Female	17	Ipswich, Suffolk, England	
Earnest G. KING	Son		Male	10	Ipswich, Suffolk, England	Scholar
Amelia A. KING	Daughter		Female	7	Ipswich, Suffolk, England	Scholar

Readers are referred to "*Leading London Dealers - Charles Whitfield King reprinted from Philatelic Journal of Great Britain Mar 1, 1892 Whitfield King & Co. Palatial Premises At Ipswich-The House That King Built [By our Special Commissioner]*" which is detailed in its description of the man and his admirable business career.

Publications:

Whitfield King, Charles. *The Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps of the World* Whitfield King 38th ed. 1939

References:

1. *Leading London Dealers - Charles Whitfield King reprinted from Philatelic Journal of Great Britain Mar 1, 1892* <http://www.stamp2.com/articles/reprints/article3.asp>
2. Melville, Fred J. (Fred John) (1882-1940). *Then & now: Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, established 1869*
3. Charles Whitfield-King (1855-1930) and Morpeth_House http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morpeth_House
4. South African Archives Repositories ⁵

⁵ VAB VOLUME_NO 391 REFERENCE 1950/2/06. DESCRIPTION: WHITFIELD, KING AND CO: APPLICATION TO PURCHASE ORANGE RIVER COLONY STAMPS. 1906

NAB VOLUME_NO 118 REFERENCE T3727/1906. DESCRIPTION: WHITFIELD, KING AND COMPANY, IPSWICH. OFFICAL STAMPS - OFFER FOR. 1906