

"TIT-BITS"

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:

1889 (CP21b)_The Editor "Tit-Bits", Burleigh Street, Strand, London E.C. (actually used MY 1 89)

Comment:

Tit-Bits (or to give it its full title "Tit-Bits from all the interesting Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers of the World") was a British weekly magazine founded by George Newnes on 22 October 1881.

The magazine was a mass circulation commercial publication which reached sales of between 400,000 and 600,000, with the emphasis on human interest stories concentrating on drama and sensation. Tit-Bits was aimed at a lower-middle class (and upper working class) readership, and actual raised the level of journalistic quality for much of the popular press. Short stories, humour and full length fiction were published including works by authors such as Henry Rider Haggard, Isaac Asimov, Christopher Priest and P. G. Wodehouse.

George Newnes was born in Matlock, Derbyshire; educated at Silcoates School and Shireland Hall, Warwickshire, and the City of London School. An entrepreneur, he founded The Westminster Gazette (1873), Tit-Bits (1881), The Wide World Magazine (1888), The Strand Magazine [1891],and Country Life (1897). The company that bore his name, George Newnes, Ltd., continued publishing long after his death, with magazines such as Practical Mechanics; and in 1963, folded into IPC Media (now a branch of Time Warner). Newnes books continue to be published by Elsevier.

Newnes served as a member of the British parliament representing the constituency of Newmarket (1885–1895).

Reference:

1. Tit-Bits. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tit-Bits>
2. Jackson, K. George Newnes and the New Journalism in Britain, 1880-1910: Culture and Profit. Publ: Ashgate Publishing Ltd., Aldershot, England. 2001