

DR JOHN EDWIN BLACKBURN

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:

1892 (EP35) Dr J E Blackburn, 145 Boulevard St. Michel, Paris France (actually used Stockton-on-Tees ¹ AP 6 96)

Comment:

John Edwin BLACKBURN [so. John BLACKBURN (1816-1871) and Marie Emma CHAILLET (1829-1911)], was born on 15 May 1866 in Grand Port, Mauritius. In 1887, he Was admitted as a medical student to the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1895 with a M.B.C.M. (Edin).

The British Medical Journal July 1895 carries the following inserts:

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

FINAL EXAMINATION.-The following gentlemen have passed the final asterisk has been prefixed have passed with distinction: S. J. Aarons, J. Allison, C. W. Anderson, G. Anderson, H. H. Balfour, N. D. Bardswell, W. Begg, B.A., J. A. T. Bell, H. M. Benson, E. T. F. Birrell, **J. E. Blackburn**, G. J. Blackmore, *J. E. Bowes

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

THE usual autumn graduation ceremonial took place on Thursday, August 1st; the Vice-Chancellor, Principal Sir William Muir ², presiding.

The following, having passed the requisite examinations, were "capped" M.B and C.M.: S. J. Aarons, J. Allison. C. W. Anderson, G. Anderson, H H. Balfour, N. D. Bardswell, W. Begg, B.A.; J. A. T. Bell, H. M. BensoD. E. T. F. Birrell, J. E. Blackburn, G J. Blackmore, J. E. Bowes

He married Mary Lilia Elizabeth DINNEMATIN on 25 June 1887 at St Thomas' Cathedral, Bombay, India. He became a GMO and was officer-in-charge of plague with the Plague

¹ Stockton-on-Tees is a market town in North East England.

² Sir William Muir, KCSI (27 April 1819 – 11 July 1905), Scottish Orientalist and Principal of Edinburgh University 1885–1903

Authority. He was a member of 'La Loge de la Triple Esperance'³. From 9 March 1901 to at least 1910 John was a GMO/Commissioner in Lunacy at a Consulting Practice in Plaines Wilhems, Mauritius. John Edwin is included in the list below of Chairpersons of the Board of Directors of the Mauritius Civil Service Mutual Aid Association Ltd (date unknown).

He died on 1 October 1911 in Bombay, India.

John Edwin Blackburn had 10 siblings of whom two, Charles William Arthur BLACKBURN (1846-1898) and Alfred William BLACKBURN (1870-1919), qualified as doctors.



Dr John Edwin Blackburn, Paris [date unknown]

References:

1. British Medical Journal 1895; July 13: 114.
www.bmj.com/cgi/issue_pdf/admin_pdf/1/1789.pdf
2. British Medical Journal 1895; Aug 17: 114.
www.bmj.com/cgi/issue_pdf/admin_pdf/2/1807.pdf
3. University of Edinburgh, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, Clerical Officer: Student Records/Assessment. Personal communication September 2009
4. Biographical notes. Elaine Blackburn Watson. Personal communication October 2009

³ Loge La Triple Espérance is the oldest Masonic Lodge on the island of Mauritius, dating from 1778. It went dormant in the 1950's but has since been revived.