

MESSRS B HYAM & SON

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:

1883-1885 (RP13FAa)_Messrs B Hyam & Son, 22&23 Red Cross Street (close to Fose St)
London (actually 8 JA84)



Comment:

In the 1830-1840 two Jewish families dominated that group's move from the lower end of the clothing trade into the middle-class, from hawking through slopselling and pawnbroking to mass garment manufacture and sales; they were the Moses and Hyam families. In 1841, Benjamin Hyam based in Manchester, operated from upmarket premises in St. Mary's Gate, with branches in Birmingham, Bristol, Colchester and Bury St. Edmonds. Hyam Hyam mass produced affordable clothing in Colchester.

By the 1870's, Messrs B Hyam & Son were Wholesale and Export Clothiers in 1874 operating out of 56 Cannon Street, London and 124 & 126 High Street, Edinburgh.

The story is a long one and worthy of a more proficient review.

References:

1. Commercial Overprints of Great Britain <http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/overprints/>
2. The Scotsman (various editions) 1871 - 1874
3. The Jews of Britain, 1656 to 2000. Todd M. Endelman. University of California Press. 2002
4. Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom. G Eugene Harfield.