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To T. MARTIN WEARS, ESQ.,

AND OTHEE PEOMOTEES OF THE DUNDEE JUBILEE EXHIBITION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

DEAR SIRS,
While Philatelists throughout the world are now celebrating the jubilee year of the introduction of the Adhesive Postage

who, by years of persistent labours in and out of Parliament, gathered together the principles

by

OF MAY NEXT.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC

SOCIETY, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP ON 6iH MAY, 1840.

EXHIBITION OF THE STAMPS OF JAMES CHALMERS, ORIGINATOR
OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

WIMBLEDON,

EXTRACT FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES CHALMERS lianding his plan of the Adhesive Postage Stamp to the Mercan-
tile. Committee of the City of London, and now in the South Kensington Museum Library, bequeathed by the late Sir Henry

Cole: "4, CASTLE STREET, DUNDEE,
" 8th February,

10

' and of which the only one in known existence is at present in " the Postage Stamp Museum at

11

WIMBLEDON, March Z2nd, 1890.
DEAR SIR,
I have to thank you for your letter of 20th inst. accepting my

themselves. On the other hand the very

14

upon a flimsy pretext, the claim of Mr. Chalmers, thus

The pages transcribing this letter and plan from the original, nearly two years before the Penny Postage Bill was brought forward, are full of interest, giving us as they do the very thing we

17

From the STAMP NEWS, for January, 1890.

(THEODOR BUHL & Co., London.) " JAMES CHALMERS.
" THE INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP. "
In now celebrating the jubilee year of the Penny Postage Reform of 1840, which introduced to the world that Adhesive Postage Stamp so

18

movement. The pages in the pamphlet referring to this, and giving the plan of James Chalmers in detail, are of the highest and most curious interest. The advantages of the Adhesive Stamp are ably set forth in this letter, while the same is accompanied by specimen stamps on

20

as bountiful as they were deserved were showered upon the memory of Rowland Hill, the deviser and initiator of the great postal scheme. No one will grudge these oratorical honours conferred upon a subject who served his

22

From the WHITEHALL REVIEW, February 1st, 1890.
" The complete and most accurate version is told in the Encyclopaedia

Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the management of the Post Office," urged amongst other improvements which

Po-,"

urged

ursed sethe

inquire

26

" ' 10. That the "

Mercantile Committee of the City of
London," a body of London bankers and merchants spe-cially associated for the purpose, were largely, if not, indeed, mainly instrumental in obtaining Parliamentary sanction for this reform by aa

27

of August, 1834, and had been urged

28

he got all his proposals from our countryman, Wallace,

who, when Rowland Hill gave up his school and took to postal-reforming, provided him with the whole materials
for his subsequent pamphlet of 1837; while our other countryman, Chalmers, showed how alone the reformed system could be carried out.' "

From the ECHO, January %5th, 1890. " Mr. Chalmers insists that Sir Rowland Hill did not
invent the Adhesive Stamp, but that the honour belongs to his own father. And now some cruel iconoclast

29

any one in France or elsewhere a cruel attempt here to strip Chalmers of his due now that the pretensions of

80

From BRIC-A-BRAC, Febrmry, 1890. " THE JUBILEE.
"In the miles upon miles of print in which the Jubilee of the Postage Stamp has been celebrated, in

32

however, availed himself of his position in the control of the new penny postage system to set aside, by letter of 80th January, 1840, and upon a flimsy pretext, the claim of

Mr. Chalmers, thus usurping the merit to himself. What is the use of a scheme, however excellent, even had same been
original on the part of Mr. Hill, which it was not, if you cannot carry

34

Observer, West of England Observer, Manchester Guar-dian, Northern Echo (Darlington), Wednesbury Herald, &c. Recent provincial notices are now added:

From the BATH AND CHELTENHAM GAZETTE. " PENNY POSTAGE. Neither the London Press in their
late Jubilee articles, nor the

added

Observe

th

36

Hill kept green and honoured, when his own father, to whom the success of the Penny Postage scheme was
greatly due,

37

gather that he is still pegging away at the old controversy.
He does

39

father, James Chalmers, a Dundee bookseller, who invented the Adhesive Stamp, and, as the pamphlet declares,
introduced it to the notice of Eowland Hill. It is well known that before the Adhesive

41

have gone a step further. Mr. Hill's own plan of stamp covers completely broke down, and had it not been for the Adhesive Stamp invented by Mr. James Chalmers, the Penny Postage experiment might have collapsed. To Mr. Chalmers are we indebted for the ultimate triumph of the scheme. The idea was a grand one

42

the whole world more good than can ever be properly and adequately estimated and rewarded. For many years his son, Mr. Patrick Chalmers (a

43

the gratitude of the country at large. Mr. Boberts, as is well known iri12

45

From the GLASGOW LITERARY JOURNAL, April, 1890. " JAMES CHALMERS, THE ORIGINATOR OF THE ADHESIVE

POSTAGE STAMP. We have received several circulars on

this important question, showing beyond a doubt that
the claims of James Chalmers, the pioneer of the Penny Postage system, have been passed over. We have only to
note that the claimant was a native of Dundee to inspire interest in the matter, and also give a reason

the

46

I conclude this section of my

47

From the NEWCASTLE DAILY LEADER, January 16th, 1890. " The notices which have been published and the speeches

which have been delivered in celebration of the uniform

Penny Postage, elaborate and interesting though they have been, have omitted several points which ought not to have been overlooked. Perhaps the most remarkable and impor-tant of these omissions is the practical aid given to the reform by the Committee over which Mr. Wallace, the Member for Greenock, presided, and which recommended the adoption of the principle of

48

The writer of the following letter or "Warning," (brother of the eminent savant of the same name, lately deceased and whose scientific discoveries and services have

formed matter of eulogy throughout the Press) will be
listened to in

49

suggestions from the public (after the Bill had been

been from 49been

51

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THE SEEVICES OF EOBEET WALLACE, M.P. FOE

52

that ever sat in the House of Commons. Among his other great services he was the very first to assail the then Post Office abuses,
and to urge their reform. I am old enough to have aa

H(to)Tj ET /F1 14.44 Tf BT 1 0 091 40032663 Tef(retses,)Tj ET /F1 43.33 Tf BT 1 0 01 1140032663 Tonong of

Office and was theat

54

' Why should we be called upon to pass this Bill when no mortal being at that moment had the remotest conception of how it was to be carried into execution.' (See

' Han-

sard.') In this dilemma Mr. Wallace favourably sug-gested the Adhesive Postage Stamp.

"

This stamp was the invention of James Chalmers in
the year 1834. (See Encyclopedia Britannica, after special investigation, and Dictionary of National Biography.) On
the appointment of the Select Committee of the House of
Commons, insug-

of

invent 5j 2ET /F13

SelecT2411 42.22 Tfl1419 2156 Tm (of)Tj06

account of all this, with recognitions of James Chalmers from all quarters of the globe,

57

Having sent a copy of the above to the Editor of the Liverpool Daily Post, lately representative in the House of Commons for a Glasgow constituency, the following very satisfactory article was the result of this gentleman's desire
to

to

58
interest in this subject on the part
onthe

59

My part having been performed, any vindication of
Scotland's share in Penny Postage reform and title to take
part in celebrating this Jubilee now rests with the Scottish
Press and public. Should these pT /6 0 0 0.17986 0 0 cm /F1 43

pmenpart

r(My)Tj ET /F1 41.25 Tf BT 1 0 0 1 30291186 Tqu (perT /6 0 0 0.136 42.67 Tf BT 1 0 0 1 293 2611 Tm (t

in this pmenpart

62

postal rate is due in a general sense to Rowland Hill." Mr. Vine
writes me: " When I delivered this paper there were

66

important d'histoire postale, et je vais le deposer dans la Biblio-theque de cette Administration.

"

69

STOCKHOLM.

In the Tedningfiir Frimerkamlare, the editor, M. E. J. Bruze-lins, has published an account of the services of James Chalmers as originator of the Adhesive Stamp, with portrait.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

An excellent Philatelic journal published here in the French language, Le Timbre Levantin, editor-in-chief,

70

a printer of Dundee, who had already devoted much attention to postal matters,

devo59s,

73

facts of the case so as to overcome long-cherished delusions. The same may be said with respect to many editors, literary men, and others here, too prejudiced even to read what has been published, with many important cases of which nature I am well
acquainted.

LATER.

Letters from Lieut. -Colonel Von Gundel, Herr Himmelbauer, and Dr. Former, show the continued and increasing interest taken in this subject by German Philatelists. Under date March, 6th, Von Gundel writes.: " All is in the best way for your

cause.

Lett(I)Tj ET /F1 42.5 Tf BT 1 0 0 1 137151506 Tm (from)Tj ET /F1 44.17 Tf BT

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a copy. In the Vienna Volks Zeitung of 22nd is a short but very good article concerning James Chalmers. I believe that
paper

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