



# Stamp collecting



David Simpson

is for  
You!



George Purves Smith

No matter your age, sex or interests in life, here is a hobby for all ages that can either stand in its own right or augment any of your existing leisure activities. The hobby is ideal for children looking to learn about all manner of things. Equally, it is a relaxing hobby that is an excellent distraction for the recently retired and an absorbing and mentally stimulating hobby for older people.

**Take a peep and discover some interesting content!**

## **Scottish Missionary Mail**

## Scottish Missionary Mail

Many Scottish missionaries dedicated their lives to not only spreading Christianity round the world but also improving the lives of local population by setting up much needed hospitals and medical centres. This was all done at their expense by and large by taking out loans to fund their travel. Some countries such as China still resent their interference but there is little doubt that the missionary work was done with the best of intentions and made a difference. Many of these dedicated missionaries paid with their life due to the inhospitable environment in which they worked. Mail to and from the missionaries provides a fascinating window on their lives and this booklet shows examples relating to China and India. This mail is also of great philatelic interest.

### David Simpson Murray (China)



David Simpson Murray was an evangelist, ordained in Aberdeen in 1893, and appointed by the London Missionary Society to Tientsin in 1893. He spent most of his time in China in Tsang Chow. His work was evangelistic and for some years he was in charge of the Preacher's Institute and was also secretary of the LMS Advisory Council. He retired from active service in April 1913, under medical advice.

An envelope sent by David Simpson Murray in  
June 1903 via Siberia

At this time overseas mail from China was handled by foreign post offices. Mail from outwith the main cities was usually franked with Chinese stamps to cover the postage to the main city and then by stamps of the foreign post office to cover the remainder of the postal charges. As Russia had a strong presence in Manchuria at this time, it is natural that most of this mail was carried by the Russian post Office via the Siberian route.

Mail from the Tientsin and Peking area would usually be taken to Yingkow (Newchwang) in Southern Manchuria and then via the Chinese Eastern Railway up to Harbin and then eastward on the Trans-Siberian railway to Europe. Mail from southern locations would tend to be taken to Shanghai and then transported by ship via Suez.

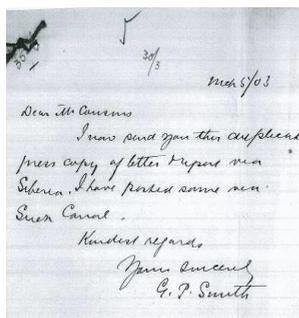


## George Purves Smith (China)



George Smith, a graduate of Edinburgh University, was appointed by the LMS as a medical missionary in 1898. After a short spell in Mongolia, he moved to Tientsin. He returned to Mongolia in 1890 but came back to Tientsin in 1899 until his retirement from the LMS in 1906. He then established an eye hospital and was also appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Imperial Chinese Railways. He died aged 71 in Tientsin in 1921.

An envelope sent by Dr Smith from Tientsin in March 1903. It is franked with a 20c Chinese stamp cancelled by the bi-lingual Tientsin single circle postmark. The envelope is also franked with two pairs of 5 kopek Russian Post Offices in China stamps cancelled by the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Post Office postmark. There was a covering note with the letter as shown on the left below which states that a duplicate letter had been sent via the Suez Canal. That duplicate letter arrived at the LMS in London on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, fourteen days after the letter sent via Siberia



## Charles William Sommerville (China)

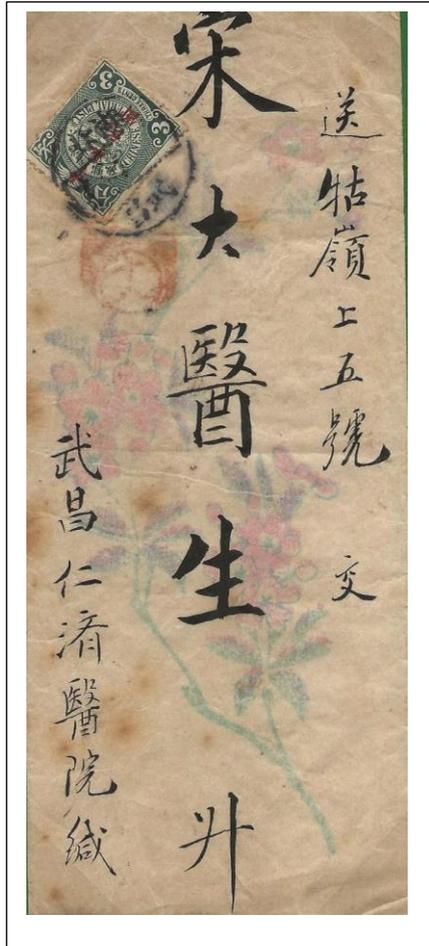
Charles Sommerville was appointed as an LMS missionary and sent to Wuchang in 1904. He married Janet Lithen Liddell, daughter of James Dunlop Liddell who was also an LMS missionary, in 1932. Janet was the sister of Eric Liddell of “Chariots of Fire” fame.

A registered envelope sent from Chungking to Wuchan in June 1909. It is addressed to Mrs and Dr Sommerville and also is Chinese script to Dr Song”. This may be a Chinese synonym for Dr Sommerville to aid the postman who would probably be unfamiliar with English



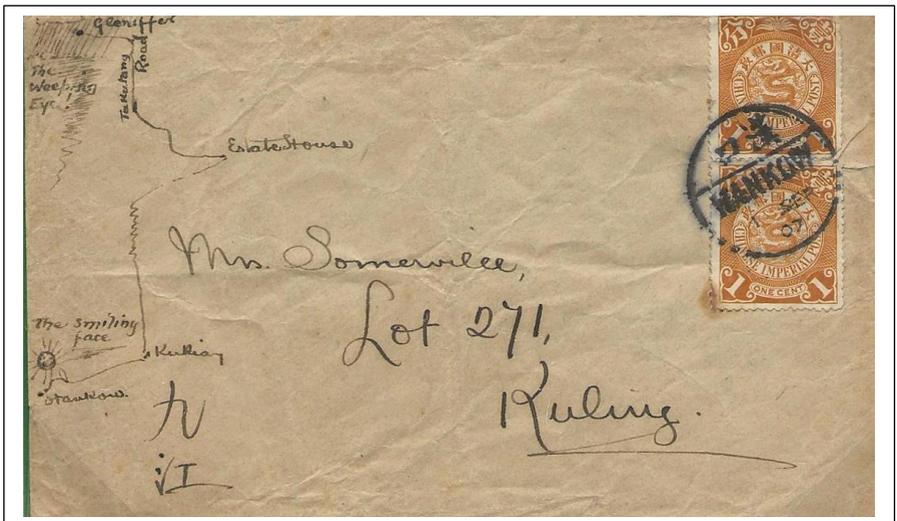
## Charles William Sommerville

A decorative fragile Chinese style envelope sent from Renji hospital at Wuchang to "Dr Song" (Sommerville) at Kuling No 5 in August c 1911



## Charles William Sommerville

An envelope sent from Hankow to Kuling in September 1907. It is addressed to Mrs Sommerville. The sender, who may be a Mrs Bunsey, has provided a nice map to guide the postman.



## Charles William Sommerville

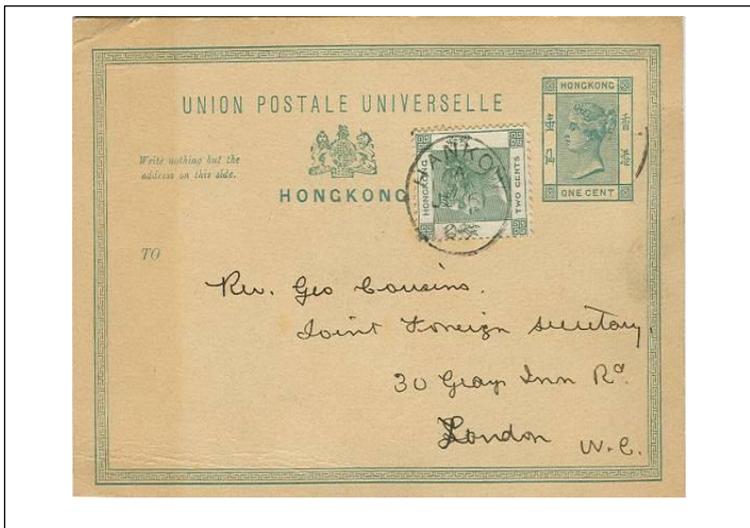
A postcard from Charles Sommerville to his mother in Dalkeith from Wuchang in March 1913



## Charles Robertson (China)

Charles Robertson studied at the EU Theological Hall in Glasgow. He was appointed as a missionary by the LMS in 1889 and sent to Wuchang. He transferred to Hankow in 1902 but died aged only 33 at Kuling in 1904.

A postcard sent from Hankow to London by  
Charles Robertson in June 1903



## David Ewart (India)

David Ewart became a Church of Scotland Missionary and was sent to India in 1834 following on from Alexander Duff. The Scottish General Assembly sent Alexander Duff out to India as their first missionary in 1830. A correspondence between David Ewart in Edinburgh and his father and brother William in Lochee near Dundee began in 1832. In 1833 David Ewart had decided to become missionary in India. The entire letter illustrated below was sent on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1833 by David to his brother William. This letter is all about his decision to become missionary in India and his concern about the effect of this on his family. He writes:

*“The committee of the General Assembly of the Church have resolved to send out another missionary to their establishment in Calcutta – under the superintendence of Mr Duff – and a proposal has been made to me from Dr Chalmers – through the medium of a friend – to allow him to recommend me to the committee.”*



A manuscript “8” indicates the postage charge for carriage from Edinburgh to Dundee. There is an additional ½d mark for carriage by mail coach on the front plus a two line “Dundee / Penny Post” mark for delivery within Dundee. The manuscript 9½ at the lower left indicates the full postage charge due = 8 + 1 + ½.

## David Ewart

This entire was sent on November 29<sup>th</sup> 1833 by David Ewart in Edinburgh to his brother William Ewart in Lochee. This long letter thanks the family for their support on his decision and goes into much detail about his feelings and justification for the decision. He also writes about the financial support:

*“The allowance which they are to give is I think sufficient to enable those whom they send to Calcutta to live respectably in that city but I do not consider that it is any thing more – and it is no doubt better – that a moderate allowance should be held out than that so much should be promised as might have the effect of bribing many to accept the appointment of the Committee- I understand that the person to be appointed will have his passage out paid, with £350 per annum of salary – which becomes due from the period of his appointment. This looks like a large sum – but to those who know anything of living in Calcutta – it is but very moderate.”*



This mourning envelope was sent in May 1859 from Calcutta to William Ewart in Alyth. There are no contents but this is almost certainly contained notification of the death of David Ewart.



## What you Need to Know

The Caledonian Philatelic Society meets every Thursday evening, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. from October to March in Room GH 542 in the Graham Hills Building of Strathclyde University. There is pedestrian and disabled access from George Street and pedestrian access Richmond Street. The latter gives access to the car park for the building – but only from 7.0 p.m. onwards. There is ramped access to the entry points within the car park.

Membership is open. Please come along for a trial evening or two to start with. The annual membership fee is currently £12. Every week, there is a display or other event with an interval half-way through. Attendance is usually about thirty so you will meet many new friends with a great spread of knowledge about different aspects of stamp collecting. For further information about the Society, please contact the secretary: [secretary@caledonianphilatelic.org.uk](mailto:secretary@caledonianphilatelic.org.uk) or use the website -

[www.caledonianphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.caledonianphilatelic.org.uk).

## Other Stamp Clubs in the Glasgow area

**Bearsden:** Every Second Wednesday September to Easter 7:30pm. Westerton Church Hall, Crarae Avenue, Westerton, Glasgow G61 1HY

**Glasgow:** Every Second Tuesday between September and April 1:30pm - 3:30pm. room 10, Partick Burgh Lesser Halls, Burgh Hall Street, Glasgow, G11 5LW

**Glasgow Thematic:** First Monday of each Month between October and April at 7:30pm. Automated Processing Centre, St Rollox Business Park, Turner Road, Springburn, G21 1AA

**Kirkintilloch and District:** Meetings at 7:00pm, Board Room, Lenzie Academy, Myrtle Avenue, Lenzie

**Lanarkshire:** Fridays Twice Monthly September to May, Hamilton Caledonian Bowling Club, Motherwell Road, Hamilton, ML3 7BL

**Old Eastwood:** Alternate Mondays October to April at 7:30pm. Netherlee Church Hall, 1 Ormonde Avenue, Glasgow, G44 3QU.

**Paisley:** Second and fourth Wednesdays from end of September to April at 2.0 to 4.0 p.m., in Ralston Community Centre, Allanton Avenue, Paisley, PA1 3BL

**Please contact clubs directly for information about access for the disabled**