

NEW TITLE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Blindman's Mail

How the blind have been served by the post

by Gavin Fryer FRPSL

ISBN 978 0 9529178 1 6 published in the UK in 2010

A casebound book of 184 pages US letter format including colour

This work examines an unusual postal tariff, namely the postal rates around the world applied to the blind and spanning 190 years. Early examples arose in Britain for infirm Members of Parliament under a Public General Act of Parliament in 1802. The first concessions for the blind in Great Britain were made in 1904, though the first specific tariff was introduced in 1906. Discussions among member countries of the Universal Postal Union took place from 1906 to consider how concessions could be accorded to the blind. These were pursued in Madrid in 1920, concluding with the Treaty signed at Vienna in 1964 by which a worldwide Franchise was approved from 1966.

This book in four Parts has a Foreword on behalf of the Royal National Institute of Blind People:

- Part I gives a brief history of help for the blind and a narrative about Louis Braille and his system of symbols and the establishment and development of the RNIB.
- Part II details the correspondence between institutions established for the blind and the Post Office from 1894 to 1939. More recent documents bring the chronological story up to date.
- Part III summarises the involvement of the Universal Postal Union, the Treaty of Lisbon in 1886, the UPU surveys in 1906 and 1907 of tariffs in foreign countries and relevant UPU Postal Congresses from 1920 to 1969. This Part comprises the major pool of data from Postal tariffs around the world. It begins with a selection of terms or phrases in use. The Regulations and conditions of service in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland are laid out in detail augmented by data for 67 countries around the world from 1898 to date. These are arranged from Australia to Uruguay with 40 Tables of rates supported by 55 illustrations in colour.
- Part IV gives short biographical details about 35 well-known Blind People ranging from Homer to Ray Charles.

The work has over 85 colour and black and white illustrations, 110 references and a detailed index.

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