

## An interesting Jethou label used on a postcard dated 1896.

by Andre Dufresne



I am a collector of the smaller Channel Islands stamps, actually concentrating on "the hou's" (Jethou, Lihou, Brecqhou, Burhou, the Ecréhous and Tatihou) and I recently added to my collection an interesting label used on a postcard to Jethou which may be the earliest Jethou postally-related label. It measures 61 x 28 mm and it might be interesting to point out that there should be no circumflex accent over the "a" of "Via". The volume of forwarded mail was high enough to warrant having this label printed. More should have survived.

The addressee, Sir Henry Austin Lee, was the tenant of Jethou from 1890 to November 7<sup>th</sup> 1918, the date of his death. He was born in 1847 and was a diplomat, governor and landowner. He was counsellor of embassy, commercial attache for France, Belgium and Switzerland. He married Madeleine Smith. He was appointed KCMG (Knight Commander) of The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George in 1902. This postcard, addressed to him at 39 Faubourg St-Honoré, Paris (the British



Embassy in Paris) on September 15th, 1896 was forwarded to him at his residence on Jethou by affixing over the address a printed label bearing the text "Viâ Angleterre / Isle of Jethou/ GUERNSEY." The French stamp was cancelled twice on September 15, 1896 (probably upon posting), the item being delivered on the same day and re-posted at once, hence a second cancel of the same date at the " rue de Choiseul, Paris" Post Office.

## UNUSUAL PRE-OCCUPATION COVER

by Gerald Marriner FRPSL

I illustrate a recent acquisition - an unusual cover sent from Totnes, Devon, to a member of the R.A.F. stationed at Fort George, Guernsey on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940 in fact to John Sercombe from his wife. This was posted at the 1½d letter rate.



Unfortunately for the addressee, this rate had been increased to 2½d on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1940 hence this cover was underpaid. A 2d surcharge mark was applied at Totnes. On arrival in Guernsey, a 2d postage due stamp was affixed and was cancelled with a St Peter Port Guernsey double circle datestamp on the 13th May 1940.

Earlier, Guernsey Airport had been taken over by the RAF in September 1939, but Channel Islands Airways, however, were allowed to continue a limited flying service at the same time.