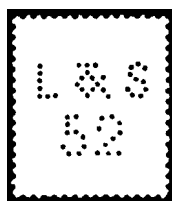


The 'Miss Kendall' covers.

Forty-five covers written in the same hand exist with either "L&S/52" or "L&S/66", addressed to either *Miss Kendall*, or her married name of *Mrs W A Smith*.

1870-1875



L5190.01



Cover posted Friday, 27th December 1872.

Painstaking research carried out over the years by *John Mathews* has resulted in the following scenario:

The letters were written by *William Arthur Smith*, a colonial clerk working for *Luchtenberg & Schmits*, who were Merchants in Mark Lane, London EC, to his sweetheart *Annie Kendall*. They may well have originally contained 'love letters', but sadly none have survived. The earliest known cover is dated *11th November 1872*, at which time William and Annie would both have been in their early twenties. The last known cover addressed to *Miss Kendall* is dated *2nd March 1876*.

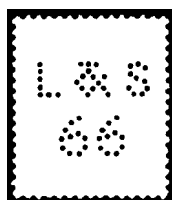
The change in Perfin from "L&S/52" to "L&S/66" simply reflects the change in company address from N^o. 52 Mark Lane to N^o. 66 Mark Lane, London EC. This was not a re-numbering exercise but an actual move that took place between *June and November 1875*.

Official records show that the two were married at Lambeth on Thursday the *22nd June 1876*, which ties in perfectly with the last of the covers addressed to *Miss Kendall* which was posted *2nd March 1876*.

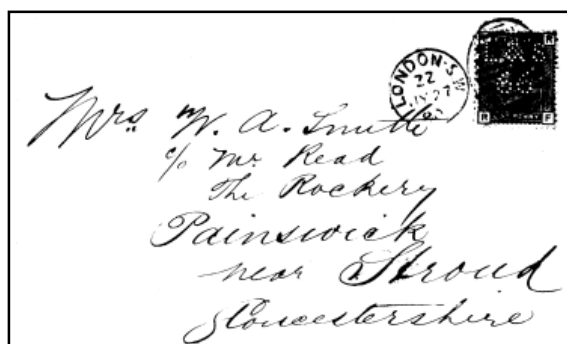
Records also show that by 1881 they had two children, Walter in 1876, and Arthur Cansdale in 1879.

The final *five* covers in the intriguing sequence are all addressed to *Mrs W A Smith*, and were posted between the *9th December 1879* and the *3rd August 1880*.

1875-1881



L5200.01



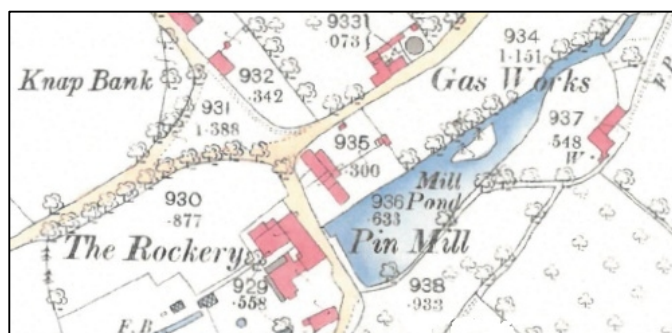
Cover posted Tuesday, 27th July, 1880.

Of special interest is the penultimate cover (illustrated above) which was sent to an address in Gloucestershire, again written in the same hand. All bar one of the previous letters were sent to 388 Brixton Road, London SW. This 1880 cover also has the 'new' 1d Venetian Red stamp ('penny dreadful'), whereas the previous letters have Line Engraved 1d Reds. Note the c/o surname has been spelt 'Read' rather than 'Reed'.

William's signature taken from the 1911 census.

W. A. Smith

It would seem that Mrs Annie Smith (nee Kendall) was visiting her *cousin* Mrs Charlotte Emma Reed (nee Cole) and her husband Mr Edward Reed, a Pin Factory Manager, living in 'The Rockery', on 'old' Manor House in Painswick. The Reed family had not long moved to Gloucestershire after the death in 1878 of Charlotte's father, Thomas John Cole, who owned the Pin Factory just down the road from the Gas Works (which opened in 1860).

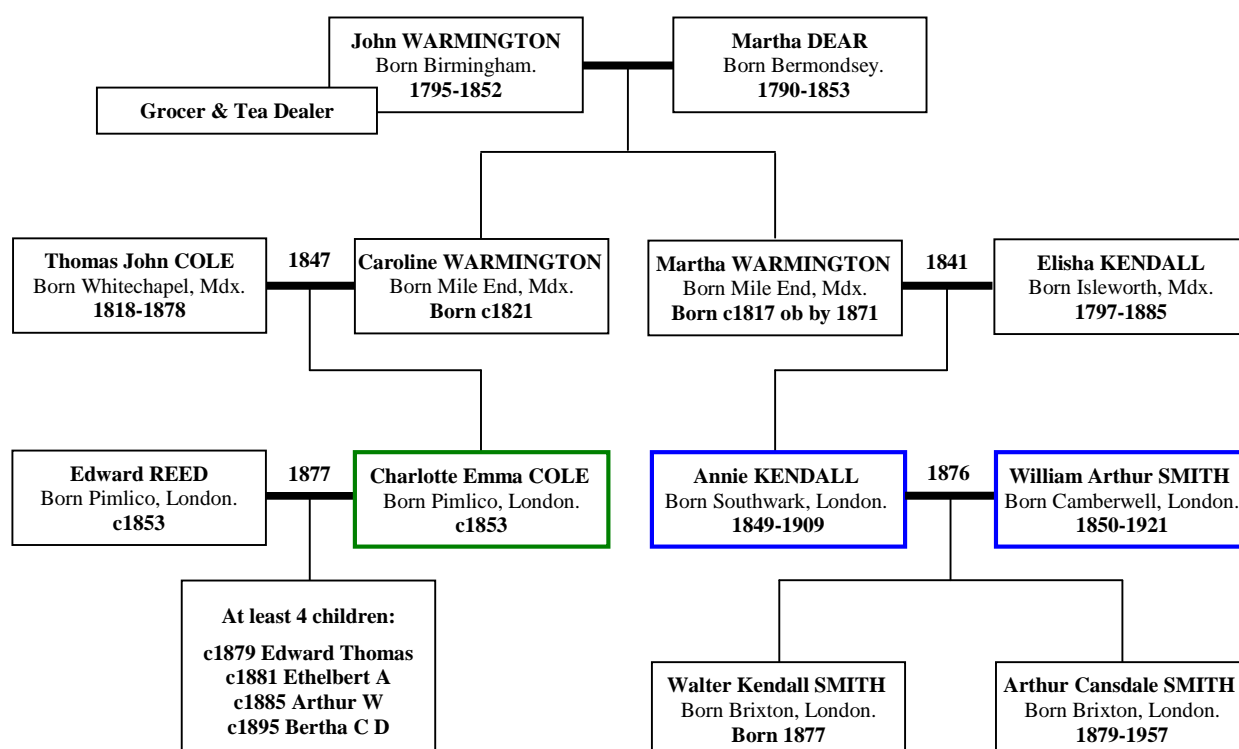


© Ordnance Survey

Of interest is this OS Map from the early 1880's showing both 'The Rockery' and the Pin Factory.

Smith Family Tree.

A truncated version showing the relationship between Annie Smith (nee Kendall) and Charlotte Emma Reed (nee Cole)



William Arthur Smith was the son of Charles Smith and Ann Cansdale (they married in 1846 in Lewisham), hence the 'Cansdale' name in one of William & Annie's sons, Arthur Cansdale.

Arthur Cansdale Smith, born Brixton 13th November 1879, later changed his name (to avoid confusion with another Insurance Agent called Arthur Smith) to **Arthur Cansdale** (The London Gazette, 7th September 1917).

In 1925 (3rd Qtr) **Arthur Cansdale** married **Maud Mungall** (divorced, nee Hodge).

Both died in Durban, South Africa, Arthur in 1957 and Maud in 1963 - information from a relative.

Special thanks go to **John Mathews** for his painstaking detective work in piecing together the 'family tree', only a fraction of which has been presented here.

The following table shows brief details of all known covers and post cards - **correct to 29th Mar 2021**.
If you know of any covers not on the list, please let the Catalogue Editor know!

	Addressee	Address	Postmark	Day	Date	Year	Perfin	Plate
1	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Mon	11 Nov	1872	L&S/52	160
2	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Mon	25 Nov	1872	L&S/52	160
3	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Fri	27 Dec	1872	L&S/52	150
4	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Mon	13 Jan	1873	L&S/52	illegible
5	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Mon	27 Jan	1873	L&S/52	unknown
6	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	24 Apr	1873	L&S/52	162
7	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	28 Apr	1873	L&S/52	unknown
8	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Tue	3 June	1873	L&S/52	unknown
9	Miss Kendall	8 Cambridge Terrace	London Diamond	Tue	24 June	1873	L&S/52	153
10	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	18 Aug	1873	L&S/52	149
11	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	11 Dec	1873	L&S/52	138
12	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Fri	19 Dec	1873	L&S/52	137
13	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Tue	27 Jan	1874	L&S/52	138
14	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	2 Feb	1874	L&S/52	138
15	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Wed	25 Feb	1874	L&S/52	138
16	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	19 Mar	1874	L&S/52	138
17	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Tue	14 Apr	1874	L&S/52	137
18	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	4 May	1874	L&S/52	147
19	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	25 Jun	1874	L&S/52	157
20	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Tue	21 July	1874	L&S/52	172
21	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Sat	29 Aug	1874	L&S/52	137
22	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Fri	6 Nov	1874	L&S/52	172
23	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Sat	14 Nov	1874	L&S/52	164
24	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Wed	23 Dec	1874	L&S/52	161
25	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Fri	19 Feb	1875	L&S/52	130
26	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	8 Mar	1875	L&S/52	130
27	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Wed	17 Mar	1875	L&S/52	130
28	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London SE	Mon	3 May	1875	L&S/52	177
29	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	6 May	1875	L&S/52	177
30	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Fri	14 May	1875	L&S/52	177
31	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	31 May	1875	L&S/52	177
3 rd Qtr 1875 - <i>Luchtenberg & Schmits</i> - address changes from 52 to 66 Mark Lane.								
32	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	11 Nov	1875	L&S/66	198
33	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Tue	7 Dec	1875	L&S/66	174
34	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Wed	8 Dec	1875	L&S/66	174
35	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Mon	13 Dec	1875	L&S/66	174
36	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	16 Dec	1875	L&S/66	167
37	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Fri	21 Jan	1876	L&S/66	174
38	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Wed	26 Jan	1876	L&S/66	174
39	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	3 Feb	1876	L&S/66	174
40	Miss Kendall	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	2 Mar	1876	L&S/66	167
22 nd June 1876 (Thursday) - <i>Annie Kendall married William Arthur Smith</i> in Lambeth.								
---	Mrs W A Smith	388 Brixton Rd	Three Post Cards from Germany - 9 th , 10 th , 12 th September 1879.					
41	Mrs W A Smith	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Tue	9 Dec	1879	L&S/66	196
42	Mrs W A Smith	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Thu	11 Dec	1879	L&S/66	205
43	Mrs W A Smith	388 Brixton Rd	London EC	Sat	27 Dec	1879	L&S/66	illegible
44	Mrs W A Smith	Painswick, nr Stroud	London SW	Tue	27 July	1880	L&S/66	SG166
45	Mrs W A Smith	Painswick, nr Stroud	London SW	Tue	3 Aug	1880	L&S/66	SG166

- **What can be gleaned from the covers?**

An analysis of the covers shows that William posted his letters to his sweetheart, destined to become his wife in 1876, on any day of the week except Sunday, with a distinct bias for Monday (12 - 26.7%). Monday to Saturday would have been the normal working week at the time, although William probably left work at 1pm on Saturday. The closure of businesses such as warehouses, mills, and the like, on a Saturday afternoon had its beginnings in Manchester way back in the 1840's, which they called a 'half-holiday' (with pay).

William posted his letters predominantly in the London EC postal district (34 - 75.6%), which is to be expected as this is where his employers, the Merchants **Luchtenberg & Schmits**, were based.

In the 1871 census William A Smith, aged 21, **Merchant's Clerk**, was with his parents Charles Smith (68), a Printer, and Anne Smith (59), living in the household of William (Henry) Kohler (1835-1895), a 35 year old Printer born in Hanover, at 93 Albany Road, Camberwell. William A Smith was William Kohler's cousin.

By the time of the 1881 census William is described as a **Colonial Clerk**, so was probably still employed by **Luchtenberg & Schmits** who were Merchants. In 1884 he is listed as an **Iron Merchant**, then by the 1890's as a **Metal & Hardware Agent**, and finally by 1915 he's back to being an **Iron Merchant**, always in London EC. In the 1911 census, by then a widower, he's described as a **Metal Merchant (Employer)**. His two unmarried sons and two female servants were living with him at N°. 34 Brixton Hill, London SW.

A number of potentially unanswerable questions may also be posed.

- Did William write every day, and do any covers exist with non-perfined stamps?

A partial answer at least! No non-perfined covers have yet been reported, but three German Post Cards posted in Hannover (9th & 10th September 1879) and Harzburg (12th September 1879) are known to exist in a family archive.

- Why did William start writing to his wife again when they had been married for over 3 years?

- **Luchtenberg & Schmits - change of address.**

Originally it was not known if the change in address from N°. 52 to N°. 66 Mark Lane was an actual move or simply a re-numbering exercise, but **John Mathews** has consulted the appropriate volumes from a run of London Directories from the 1600s through to 1900 held on microfilm at the National Library in Canberra and has discovered the following:

In the 1875 Directory (probably compiled in 1874), Luchtenberg & Schmits were listed at N°. 52 Mark Lane, along with 4 other tenants. In the 1876 Directory, Luchtenberg & Schmits were listed at N°. 66 Mark Lane (first floor), but the other tenants were still at N°. 52 Mark Lane, so Luchtenberg & Schmits had moved rather than the street being re-numbered. Also, the Old and New Corn Exchange buildings were between N°. 52 and N°. 66 in both years, on the east side of Mark Lane - N°. 52 was adjacent to the Old Corn Exchange on the southern side, and N°. 66 was 3 doors to the north of the New Corn Exchange building.

So there we have it, Luchtenberg & Schmits **moved offices** from N°. 52 to N°. 66 Mark Lane. The dated examples in the list of covers suggests sometime between June and November 1875, say the 3rd Qtr.

John Mathews also reports that their last entry was in the 1882 Directory, which would have been compiled in 1881. This is explained by an item in the London Gazette of 6th January 1882 (page 62) which says:

'the partnership between Emma Luchtenberg, Frederick Luchtenberg, Charles Wendt and Hermann Schmits (trading under the name of Luchtenberg & Schmits at N°. 66 Mark Lane) was dissolved on 31st December 1881'.

Hermann Schmits (1826-1883), a Naturalized British Subject, and his Austrian wife Fanny (nee Pertish) appear on both the 1871 and 1881 Censuses living in Islington. Hermann is described as a Merchant (aged 43 in 1871) and General Merchant (aged 54 in 1881). Hermann Schmits died in the fourth quarter of 1883 (Islington), aged 57 years. Perhaps it was Hermann's ill health that precipitated the demise of the partnership, which also set William Arthur Smith off on a new tack as an Iron Merchant eventually becoming an 'Employer' himself, although he probably only employed one of his two sons, Walter Kendall Smith (1911 census).

• **Covers coming onto the philatelic market.**

The earliest reference I can find to any 'Miss Kendall' cover is in the March/April 1978 (Nº. 174) edition of the Bulletin produced by the 'Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of G.B.', in which **Mike J Burrows** lists twelve covers, ten with "**L&S/52**" and two with "**L&S/66**". This had increased to twenty by the time an updated list was published in the Perfin Society Bulletin B320 (Oct 2002), and 24 when Section 'L' of the 'New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins' was published in May 2003. And today, 43 years after the first list, the figure has almost quadrupled to *forty-five*.

SMITH William Arthur of 34 Brixton Hill **Surrey** died 5 April 1921 at 33 Brixton Hill Probate **London** 10 May to Arthur Cansdale manager and Stanley Baldwin Worth solicitor. Effects £8915 gs. 2d.

Stephen Steere discovered the above probate record which shows that William Arthur Smith, who would have been in his early 70's, left effects to the value of £8,915 9s 2d, which would equate to more than £335,000 today!

In the 1911 census, **Arthur Cansdale Smith** is described as an 'Insurance Clerk', living with his widowed father, brother, and two female servants at Nº. 34 Brixton Hill, London SW. Further research by **John Mathews** has established that Arthur Cansdale (Smith) travelled abroad frequently, presumably as part of his job as an Underwriter and Insurance Manager. For example:

- 1923 - Arthur Cansdale, a 43 year old 'Underwriter', sailed for Port Said, Egypt, on board the 'Madura', bound for Calcutta, India. The ship departed London 11th October 1923.
- 1923 - Arthur Cansdale sailed for Marseilles, France, a 44 year old 'Insurance Manager'. The address on both of these 1923 entries is shown as 4 Earl's Terrace, London W8.
- 1925 - Arthur Cansdale married Maud Mungall (divorced, nee Hodge).
- 1927 - Mr & Mrs A Cansdale, of Nº. 2 Mansfield St, Portland Place, London W1, sailed from Liverpool on a 'round cruise' on the 'SS Aguilla' bound for Lisbon, Madiera, and the Canary Islands. Nº. 2 Mansfield St was a block of flats, with Mr Cansdale living at Flat 7 (1928 Directory reference).
- 1933 - Arthur Cansdale is listed at Flats 7 & 12, Nº. 2 Mansfield St, Portland Place, London W1.
- 1939 - WWII Census of England & Wales - Living at Nº. 2 Mansfield St, St Marylebone, London, was Arthur Cansdale (born 13th November 1879), Secretary of Insurance, and his wife Maud Cansdale (born 18th September 1890), Private Means.
- 1948 - Arthur Cansdale returned from Durban, South Africa, arriving at Southampton on 19th March 1948, aged 68 years. When he went out to South Africa is not known.
- 1949 - No mention of Arthur Cansdale in the London Directory - presumably out of the country.
- 1950 - Arthur and Maud Cansdale returned to England on the 'Llangibby Castle' from Cape Town, arriving in London on 24th November 1950. Arthur was a 'Retired' 71 year old, and Maud was 59 years old. Their London address was shown as 28 Campden Hill Court, London W8.
- 1952 - London Electoral Roll lists Arthur and Maud Cansdale at 28 Campden Hill Court, London W8, but had left by 1953. Note - They moved permanently to Durban, South Africa, in 1952.

It is thought that Annie Smith died in 1909, and William Arthur Smith is known to have died 5th April 1921, so presumably the covers came onto the market after both of their deaths, perhaps sometime during the early 1920's. Of course, another possibility is that it was after whichever son (probably Arthur Cansdale) or perhaps some other relative who had inherited the correspondence had died, making it much later. We know from the England & Wales 1939 census taken just after the outbreak of WWII that Arthur & Maud Cansdale were still living at Nº. 2 Mansfield St, Marylebone, London, but by 1950 they had moved to Nº. 28 Campden Hill Court, London W8, so perhaps the covers come from their effects. They moved permanently in 1952 to Durban, South Africa, where they died - Arthur in 1957 and Maud in 1963.

The three German Post Cards in the main list came down the family line stemming from Arthur and Maud Cansdale. Arthur Cansdale was the principal beneficiary in William Arthur Smith's will, so it's likely that the covers came onto the market after his death in 1957, or possibly after the death of his wife Maud in 1963.

If anyone knows of an earlier/later reference to a 'Miss Kendall' cover, I'd be please to hear from you!

With acknowledgements to Kim Bjarnt, Jack Brandt, Mike Burrows, Joe Dooley, Fins Frimærke Service, Gustav Hansen, Maurice Harp, Richard Husband, John Marriner, John Mathews, Ron Mills, Larry Rausch, Alan Sandy, David Scott, Stephen Steere, and Richenda Wakefield, all of whom have helped to re-create this 'window in time'.

The Time Lord would be proud of us!

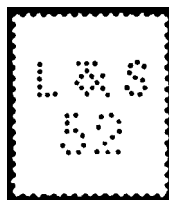
Maurice Harp has assembled scans of as many 'Miss Kendall' covers as can be tracked down, and has kindly allowed them to be displayed here, *each numbered according to the main list*. If you have examples of any of the missing covers, or perhaps even covers not listed, please let Maurice know - mauriceharp@aol.com

1870-1875

This first group of **8**
covers are all addressed to

Miss Kendall
388 Brixton Rd, SW.

Each bears a QV 1d Red
perforated "L&S/52"



L5190.01

①



11 Nov 1872

②



25 Nov 1872

③



27 Dec 1872

④



13 Jan 1873

⑤



27 Jan 1873

⑥



24 Apr 1873

⑦



28 Apr 1873

⑧



3 June 1873

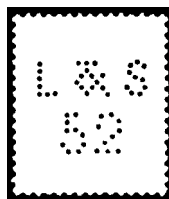
This next cover is unusual
in that it has been sent to

Eastbourne.

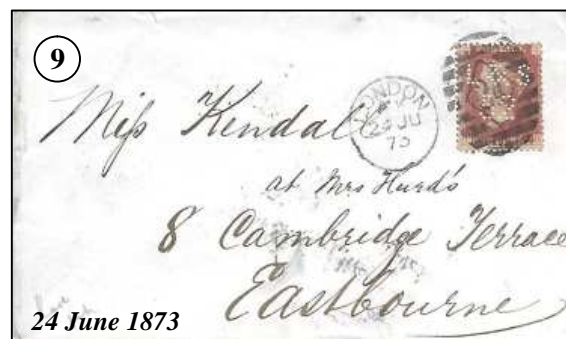
**Miss Kendall
at Mrs Hurd's
8 Cambridge Terrace,
Eastbourne**

QV 1d Red - "L&S/52"

1870-1875



L5190.01

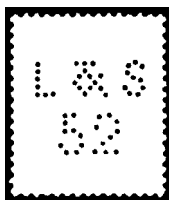


The main sequence
continues with **22** covers,
all addressed to

**Miss Kendall
388 Brixton Rd, SW.**

Each bears a QV 1d Red
perforated "L&S/52"

1870-1875



L5190.01



11

**Cover posted London EC
11th December 1873
1d plate 138**

Listed by Mike Burrows in 1978.

12

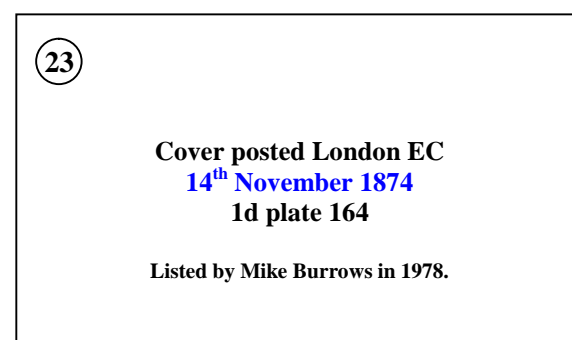
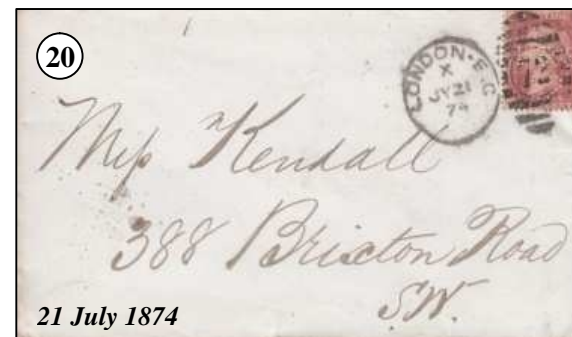
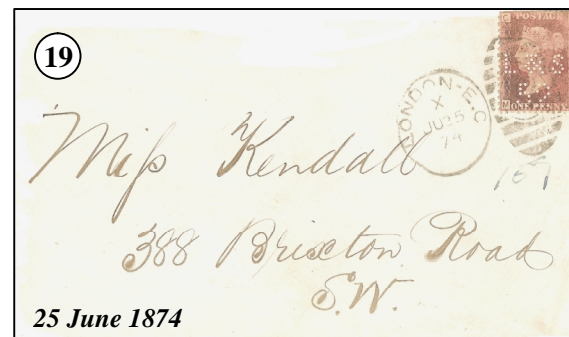
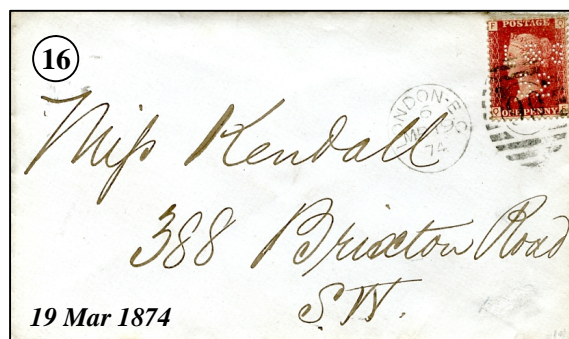
**Cover posted London EC
19th December 1873
1d plate 137**



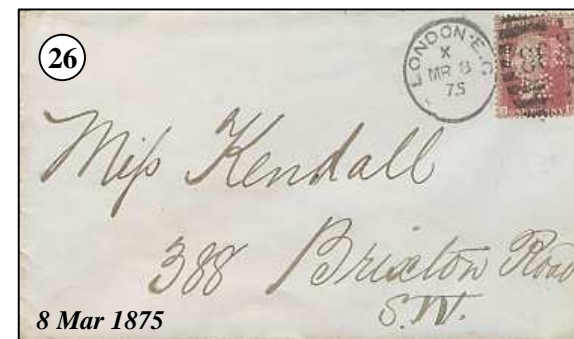
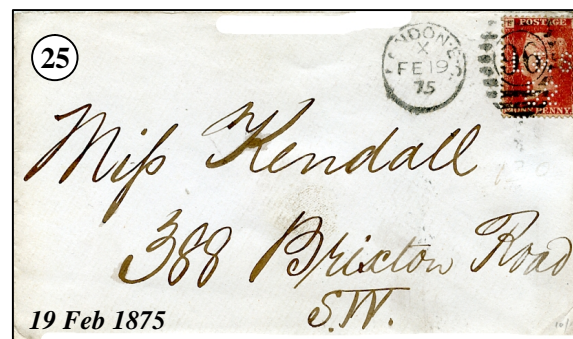
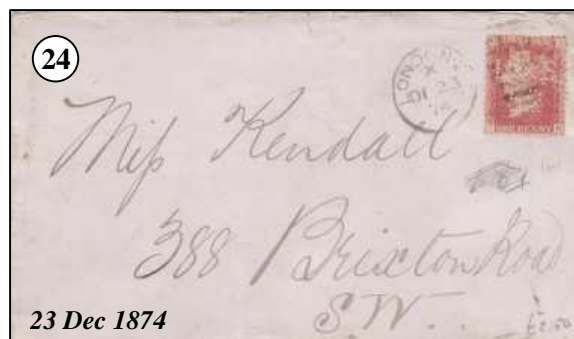
14



Covers perforated "L&S/52"



Covers perforated "L&S/52"



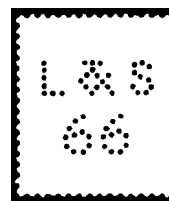
Covers perforated "L&S/66"

1875-1881

This group of 9 covers are
all addressed to

Miss Kendall
388 Brixton Rd, SW.

Each bears a QV 1d Red
perforated "L&S/66"



L5200.01

(32)

Cover posted London EC
11th November 1875
1d plate **198**

**This must be an error as plate 198 wasn't
registered until 9th March 1876!**

(33)

Miss Kendall 174
388 Brixton Road
S.W.
7 Dec 1875

(34)

Miss Kendall 174
388 Brixton Road
S.W.
8 Dec 1875

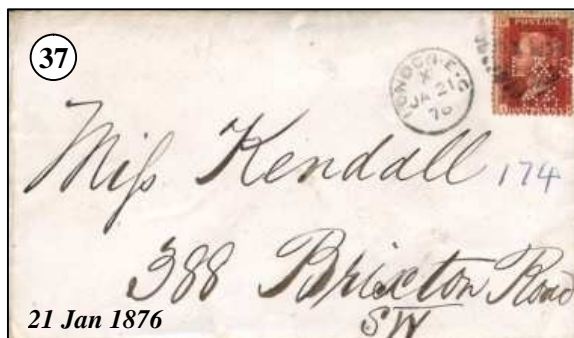
(35)

Miss Kendall
388 Brixton Road
S.W.
13 Dec 1875

(36)

Miss Kendall 161
388 Brixton Road
S.W.
16 Dec 1875

Covers perforated "L&S/66"



German Postcards - September 1879.

This group of three German Post cards (all without Perfins) have been kindly supplied by **Mrs Richenda Wakefield** from her family history archive to share with us. They document a short holiday to Germany that William Arthur Smith undertook (possibly with his cousin William Henry Kohler and his family) in September 1879. The cards clearly show the affection between William and his wife Annie, who had to stay at home as she was pregnant with their second child at the time. They give a rare insight into William's thoughts and where he's been, putting on a par the mountains of Scotland, Ireland and Cumberland with the Hartz Mountains he was visiting. Presumably he had first hand knowledge of the mountains back home. He also commented specifically on the lack of water compared to the Lochs and Lakes he was used to. William may well have been an early hill-walker cum climber as he promises his wife Annie in the second card that he **'will not climb much'**! A transcription of each of the postcards is included at the end of the illustrated cover section.

Card dated 9th Sep 1879 - posted HannoverCard dated 10th Sep 1879 - posted HannoverCard dated 12th Sep 1879 - posted Harzburg

Heute Mahowen.
Hannover 9/9/79
The good people here could not possibly show the kindness in a more marked manner - I am flying my back to thank them good will. Wilhelm Simma & Co. have taken me today to the historical Mahowen very fine indeed - only wish you were with us - Very kind remembrance & regards frequently on all side - your postcard pronounced 'very pretty'. All sent them kind love kiss the little one for me & receive a thousand for yours from your own loving husband.

Wahmanns Hotel Hannover 10/9/79
Mein Liebes Weibchen. I cannot tell you how very glad I am to have letter from you and to hear of your health. But your own words of 4 years ago. Now I love you! We have all been out again today & I have taken the old folk (see 10. 10. 79) out for a short drive to neighbouring forest. This is a very pretty town & I have been well interested while here. The evening we hear a German opera. Wilhelm has taken tickets for all of us. Tomorrow I intend trying to see some of the party and speak to you much will send them. If I carry out my present intention I shall be home next night or next day by the 11. 10. having thereby Sunday 11. 10. I expect that to be a perfect day. High & low very kind regards myself & long think you all again. I promise more than ever the one great. Very best love to all from all your own loving husband.

Brocken Hotel Harzburg 12 Sept 1879
My dear heart, I should you might like a note from this most famous mountain the highest of the Harz. I was up at 5.45 this morning & had a wonderful view. I walked up to this place. The weather being favorable. The views are very fine indeed but I do not say more beautiful than those of either Scotland or Cumberland. There is not water here. I saw some small waterfall on the river but no lakes. I have a two tooth before me today to Harzburg. High. Harzburg to Harzburg. I shall have have obtained a very good idea of what the Harz mountains are like. I suppose I shall be home soon after this card. How I am not possible for what is it with you and I really must be very best love to all from your own loving husband.

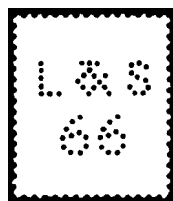
Covers perforated "L&S/66"

1875-1881

This next group of 3
covers are all addressed to

Mrs W A Smith
388 Brixton Rd, SW.

Each bears a QV 1d Red
perforated "L&S/66"

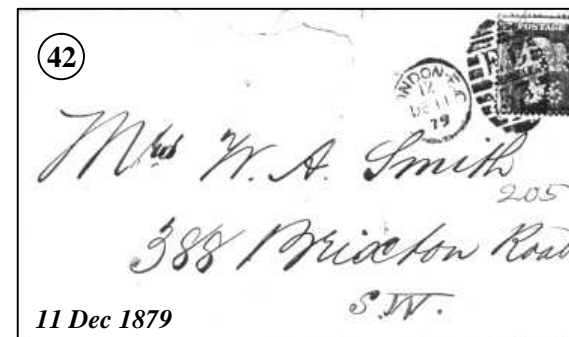


L5200.01

(41)

Cover posted London EC
9th December 1879
1d plate 196

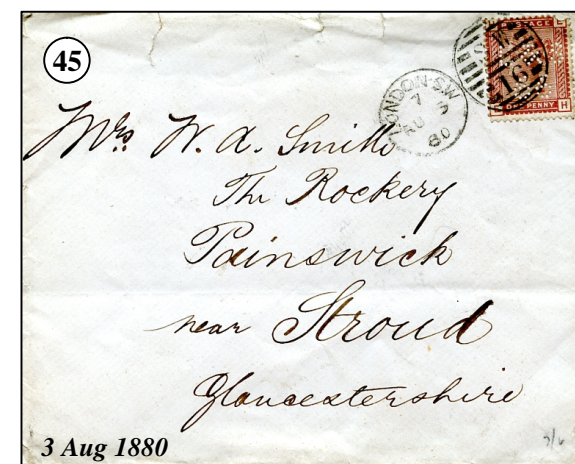
(42)



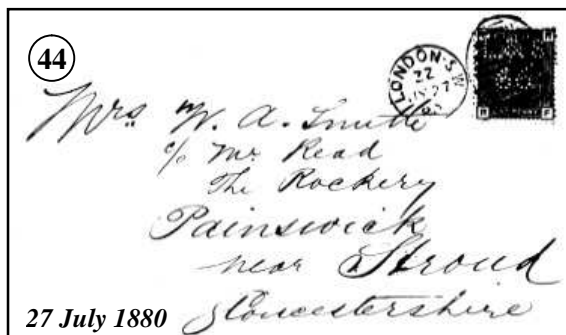
(43)



(45)



(44)

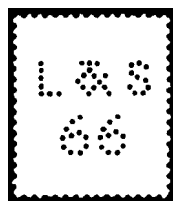


1875-1881

These last two covers are
addressed to

Mrs W A Smith
Painswick

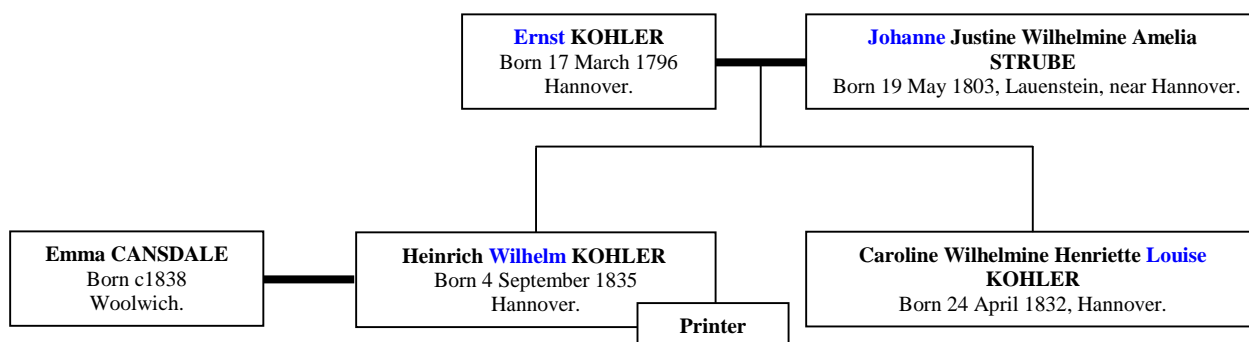
with a QV 1d Venetian
Red perforated "L&S/66"



L5200.01

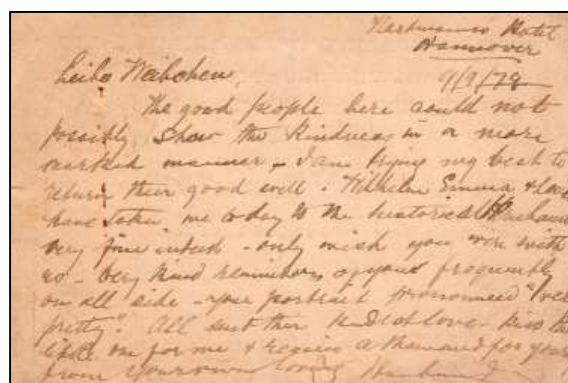
Postcards from Germany

The three postcards sent by W A Smith from Germany to Mrs W A Smith, 388 Brixton Rd, London SW, have been transcribed and placed here with permission from their owner and distant relative, Richenda Wakefield, who we thank for sharing them with us. I'm sure 'WA' would be pleasantly surprised if he saw them now, over 140 years after he'd written them!



John Mathews has carried out a search of German records and come up with the 'Kohler' family William Arthur Smith probably went to Germany to visit. *Ernst* and *Johanne* Kohler are likely to be the 'old folks' mentioned in Post Card #2. The *Wilhelm* and *Louise* mentioned in Post card #1 are brother and sister, children born to *Ernst* & *Johanne*. This is all tied together by the fact that in the 1871 Census William Arthur Smith, along with his father Charles and mother Ann (nee Cansdale), are living in the household of William Kohler, Printer, aged 35, born Hannover, and his wife Emma, aged 33, born Woolwich. William Arthur Smith is described as a Merchant's Clerk in the 1871 census and as a cousin of William Kohler, who we know married Emma Cansdale.

#1 Hartman's Hotel, Hanover, dated 9/9/79, postmarked Hannover - 9.9.79.

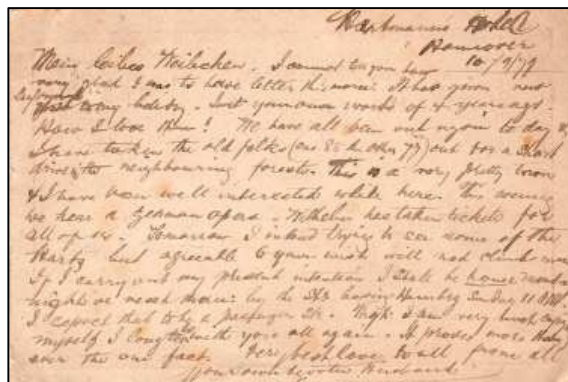


Leibe Weibchen [Dear wife]

The good people here could not possibly show their kindness in a more marked manner - I am trying my best to return their good will. Wilhelm, Emma & Louise have taken me today to the historical *Bruchhausen* [a covered bridge]. Very fine indeed - only wish you were with us. Very kind reminders of you frequently on all side[s] - your portrait pronounced "Very Pretty". All send their kindest love. Kiss the little one [which would be Walter Kendall Smith, born 1877] for me and receive a thousand for yourself.

From your very loving Husband.

#2 Hartman's Hotel, Hanover, dated 10/9/79, postmarked Hannover - 10.9.79.

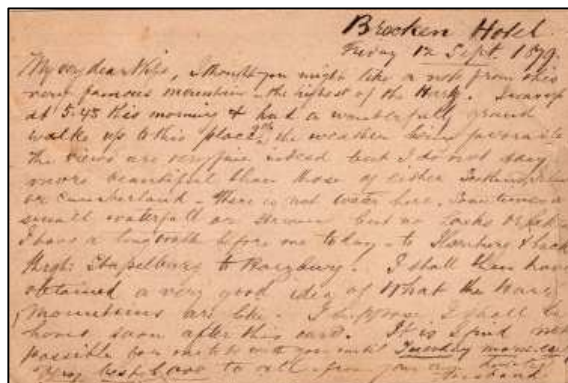


Mein Leibe Weibchen [My dear wife]

I cannot tell you how very glad I was to have letter this morn, it has given most enjoyment to my holiday. Just your own words of 4 years ago. How I love them! We have all been out again today & I have taken the old folks (one 85 the other 77) out for a short drive in the neighbouring forests. This is a very pretty town & I have been well interested while here. This evening we hear a German Opera - Wilhelm has taken tickets for all of us. Tomorrow I intend trying to see some of the Hartz but agreeable to your wish will not climb much. If I carry out my present intention I shall be home Monday night or next morn: by the Str [Steamer] leaving Hamburg Sunday 11 Oct. I expect that to be a passenger Str. Th(ough): I am very much enjoying myself and long to be with you all again. It proves more than ever the one fact. Very best love to all from all.

Your own devoted Husband.

#3 Brocken Hotel - Friday 12 Sep 1879, postmarked Harzburg.



My very dear Wife

I thought you might like a note from this very famous mountain - the highest of the Hartz. I was up at 5:45 this morning & had a wonderfully grand walk up to this place (9 o/c), the weather being favourable. The views are very fine indeed but I do not say more beautiful than those of either Scotland, Ireland, or Cumberland - there is not water here. Sometimes a small waterfall or stream but no Lochs or Lakes. I have a long walk before me today to Ilseburg [on the river Ilse] & back th(ou)gh: Stapelburg to Harzburg. I shall then have obtained a very good idea of what the Hartz Mountains are like. I suppose I shall be home soon after this card. It is I find not possible for me to be with you until Tuesday morn. Early.

Very best love to all from your own devoted Husband.

This postcard, posted to the USA in 1912, shows **Brocken Hotel** - I'm guessing that this is pretty much as William Arthur Smith would have seen it during his visit in 1879, as it was built in 1862. However, during a bombing raid by the US Air Force on 17th April 1945, the Brocken Hotel and the weather station were destroyed.



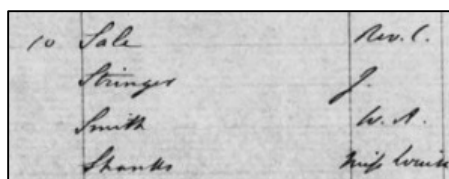
The highest point of the Hartz Mountains is **Brocken** at 3,747 ft (1,142 metres). In comparison, we have

- **Scotland - Ben Nevis (Beinn Nibheis)** is 4,411 ft (1,345 metres) high,
- **Wales - Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa)** is 3,560 ft (1,085 metres),
- **Ireland - Carrauntoohil (Corrán Tuathail)** is 3,406 ft (1,038 metres), and
- **England - Scafell Pike** is 3,209 ft (978 metres).



I believe 'Harzburg' is very close to 'Bad Harzburg' on this 'modern' map (c1975), where the grey boundary line to the left is the old division between West and East Germany. Brocken summit itself is just inside what was Eastern Germany, with Ilsenburg and Stapelburg (about 3 miles apart) just above to the north.

Of Interest!



W A Smith applied for a Passport on September 10th 1878 - of course there's no proof, but this could well be our man as he would have needed one for his trip to Germany in September 1879.