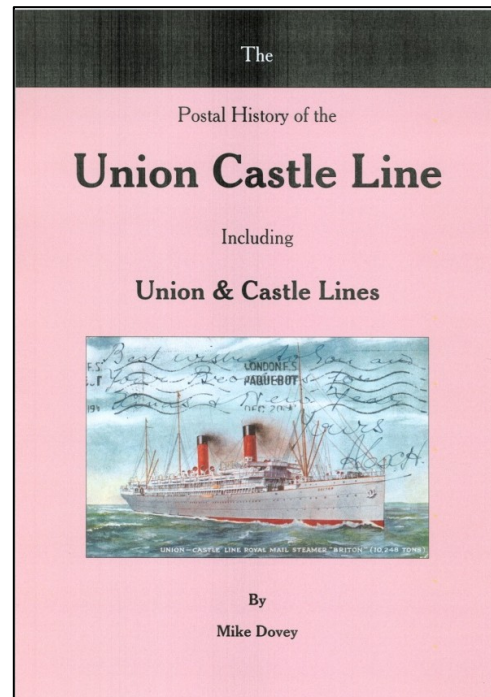




TPO & Seapost Society

For all collectors of Rail and Ship Mail

The Postal History of the Union Castle Line Including Union & Castle Lines By Mike Dovey



Prior to 1850 all mails to and from the Cape Colony in South Africa to Great Britain were posted in the hope that the ship would arrive at a destination and just maybe the mail would be delivered. For a number of years the Post Office in England tried to find a regular service so that the mails could be delivered with a degree of certainty.

In September 1857 a contract was agreed, with the Union Line, after discussions with the Admiralty and a 5 year tender was brought into operation just 11 days later. The contract was for a fee of £33,000 per annum with vessels sailing on a monthly basis allowing a passage of not more than 42 days, the route being from Plymouth to Capetown with stops at Ascension and St Helena.

This book was inspired by a display given by a member of the TPO & Seapost Society, David Hill, at a local philatelic meeting. Afterwards he copied all of the pages of the display and forwarded them to the Maritime Editor of the Society magazine with the thought that they might be worth publishing. The Society asked Mike Dovey to undertake the project with the result that the original idea of 16 pages of Union Castle vessels has been expanded into more than 70 pages to cover all facets of the Line. It is now a pictorial history of the Union Castle Line prepared in a philatelic manner.

The book has been produced in an easy lightweight form showing the history of the Line using as many different postcards and covers as possible to illustrate what is available to anyone wishing to collect such covers. Mike has tried to show as many maritime marks as possible using a variety of cards and covers with the absolute minimum of duplication. The reader may thus see the vast array of postcards, both colour and black & white, that can be found as well as the range of later paquebot covers that are available. This book is therefore a tool for the future to perpetuate the cause of collecting maritime cancels.

76 pages with 60 pages of colour

Price		p+p UK	p+p Europe	p+p Rest of World
Member	£17.95	£2.25	£4.15	£4.15
Non-Member	£19.95			

Payment by £, €, \$ cheques to Keith Morris, 1 St Marys Drive, Fairford GL7 4LQ UK.

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