

WELL AT LEAST SHE KEPT THE STAMP!

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In our hobby we occasionally come across items which produce a smile or, at the very least, a puzzled "what were they thinking"?

This 24 May 1939 Royal Train special event cover shown in fig 1 below, complete with the Royal Visit set issued 15 May, was undoubtedly destined to reside in the recipient's collection. It bears the Royal Train machine flag cancellation along with the special double-ring postmark cancelling the 2¢ value which missed the flag cancellation. This was not unusual for a "misplaced" stamp.



Fig 1

What was unusual, however, was that the recipient Miss Wilkinson did not recognize the significance of the two special postmarks and simply proceeded to try and tear or soak the stamps off the cover for her (or perhaps another's) collection.

The 1¢ value seems to have fallen off in the process (the cover shows a bit of water staining) but was saved nevertheless. It was unceremoniously attached via a straight pin to the cover's backflap! (see fig 2 overleaf). We don't know if Miss Wilkinson, or a subsequent owner, did this handiwork but it is somewhat amazing that the cover in its altered condition still survives today.



Fig 2 The back of the cover.

Oh, those collectors.....or unknowing non ones!
