



# Postcards from Bishop's Waltham

Gaby Fields  
University of Southampton

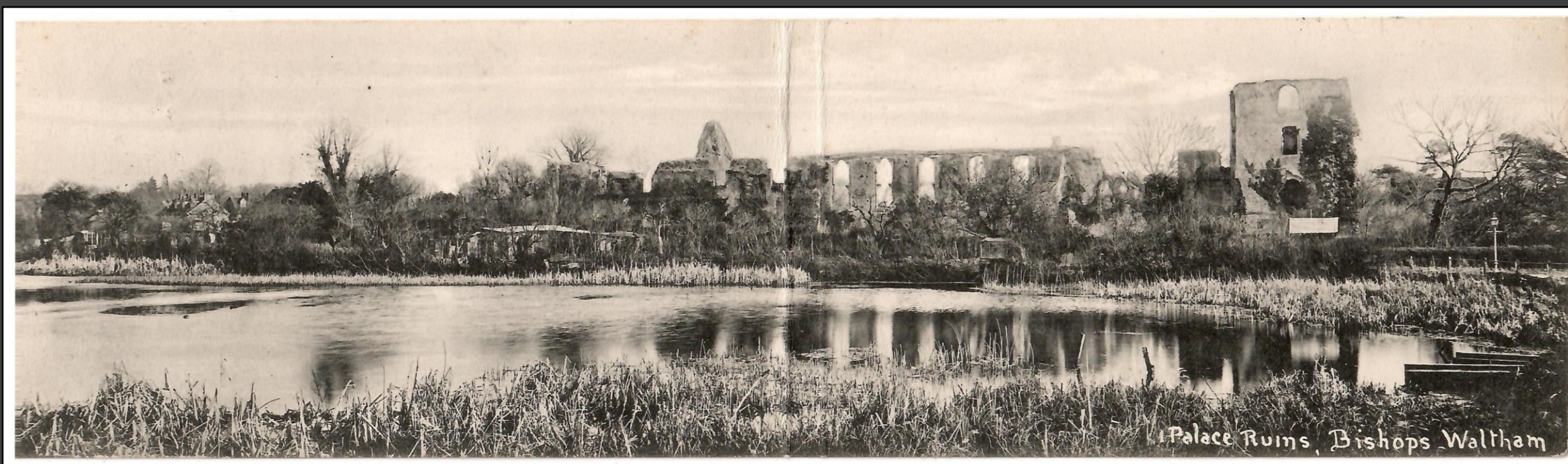


# Introduction

Bishop's Waltham has every quality of a charming postcard-esque town; be it the old, characterful buildings on the High Street, the quiet solemnity of St Peter's Church, the mighty, formidable Palace ruins or the quintessentially English countryside. They are the very makings of a beautiful postcard photo. This presentation exhibits some of the postcards made in and sent from Bishop's Waltham.



*'With best wishes for the season.'*



*'Do you remember this particular spot?'*





# The Importance of Postcards

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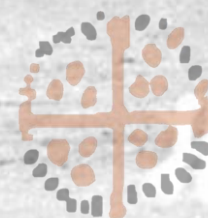
The postcard is a unique source of historical importance. Its everydayness, its commonplace role in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century life reveal much about communication in the past. Some contain tiny writing, fitted and contorted into every conceivable place on the small card; others simply say things like 'arrived here at 4 o'clock', much as we might send by text message or social media today. Bishop's Waltham Museum is full of daily-life objects used by its past inhabitants, and their many postcards form a fascinating part of the collection.

As historical photographs, postcards also reveal the celebrated aspects of life in Bishop's Waltham. The postcard on the right, for example, demonstrates men harvesting watercress. They capture fashion, transport, and the everyday life of the people appearing in them, examples of which are shown on the next page.



I. PEAPLER'S WATER CRESS BEDS  
SUETS SPRING'S BISHOPS WALTHAM.





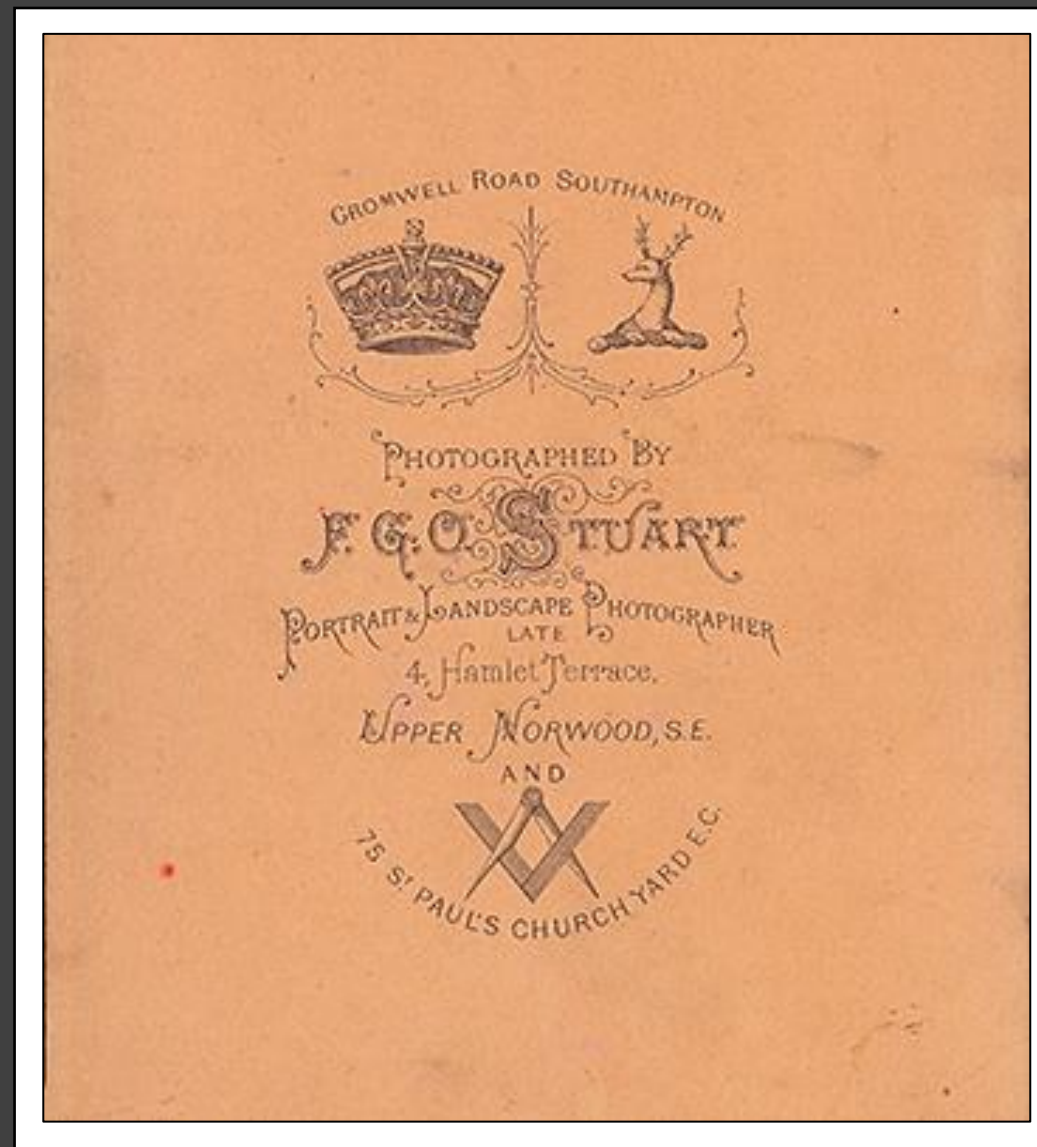


# The Photographers – F. G. O. Stuart

Francis Godolphin Osbourne Stuart (1843-1923).

F. G. O. Stuart was a Scottish photographer, who created a collection of about 2500 idyllic postcards. He spent much of his life in Aberdeen, London and Southampton.

Three of his postcards (numbers 966, 967 and 984) are set in Bishop's Waltham.



Southern Daily Echo, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1923





Stuart's coloured, lithographic postcards were initially printed in Leipzig, Germany, by a firm called C. G. Roder. But this changed in the wake of the First World War, when Stuart switched to a British source.

Postcard 966 – High Street

Postcard 967 – Waltham Palace

Postcard 984 – St Peter's Church





# The Photographers – Thomas Duffett



Duffett's shop (right)

# Thomas Duffett (1844-?)

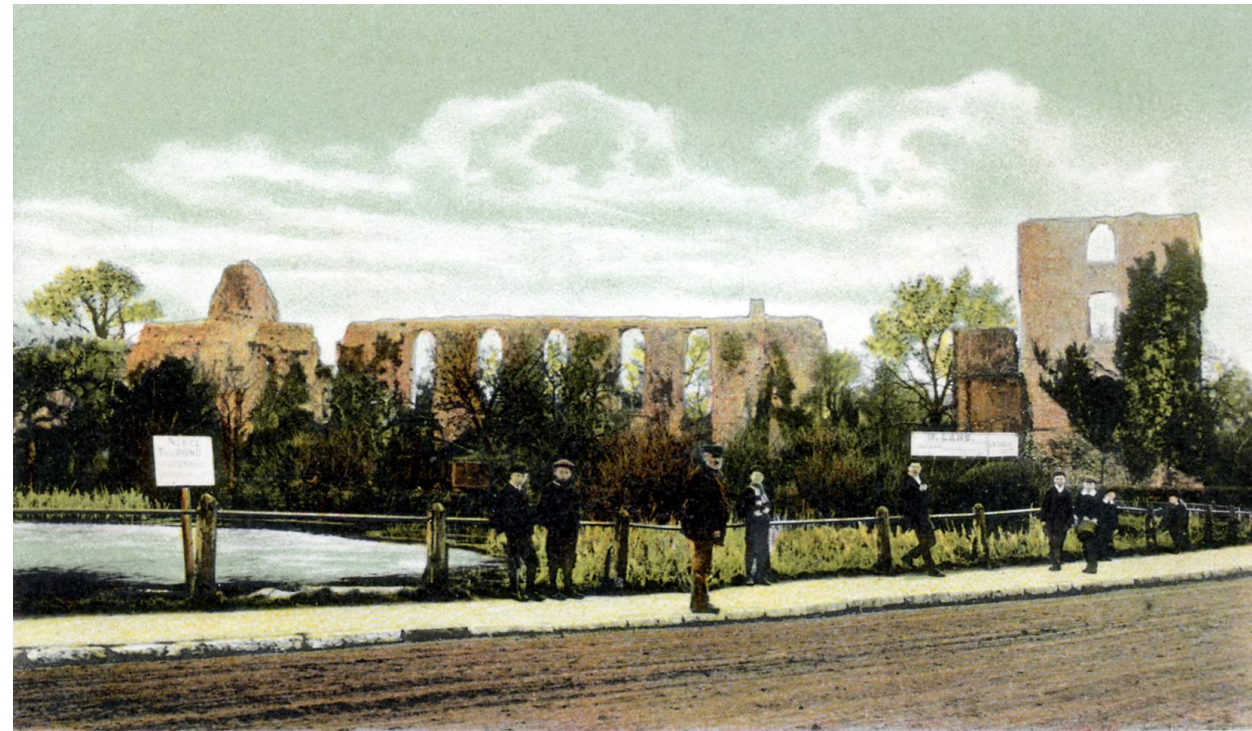
Thomas Duffett was a resident of Bishop's Waltham, and was a stationer and newsagent, working from his shop on the High Street (pictured left). Many of the postcards from Bishop's Waltham were produced by Duffett.

## Census, 1911

[illegible]



# Thomas Duffett's Postcards



T. Duffett, Stationer, Bishop's Waltham, Hants. Palace Ruins, Bishop's Waltham

a 704 | 548



T. Duffett, Stationer, Bishop's Waltham, Hants. Northbrook, Bishop's Waltham

a 704 | 548



T. Duffett, Stationer, Bishop's Waltham, Hants. Free Street, Bishop's Waltham

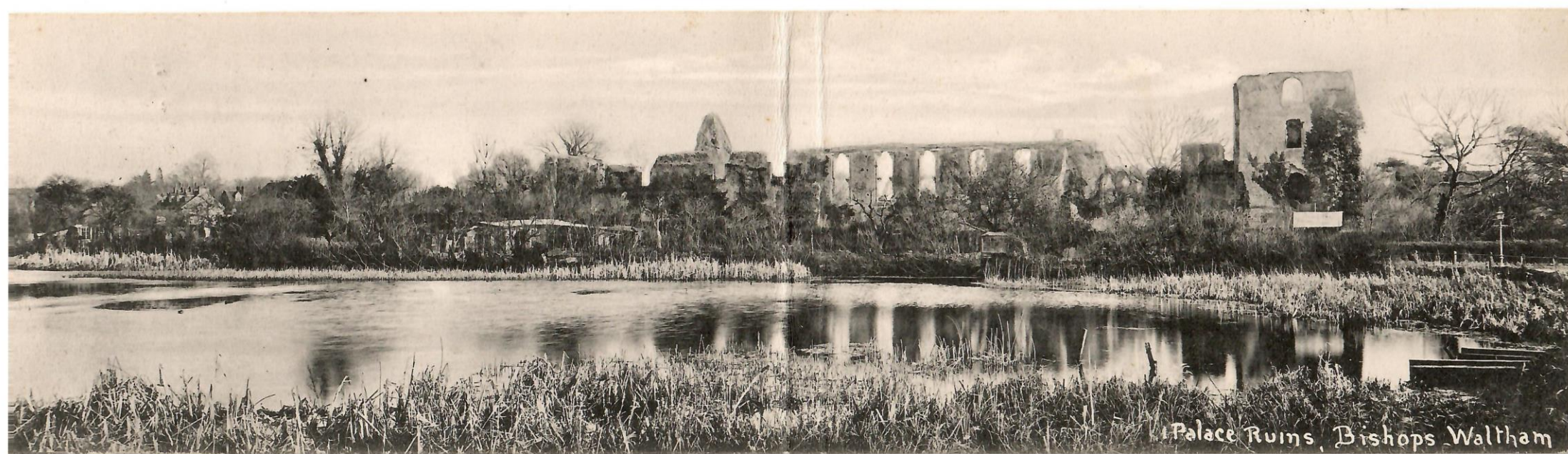
a 704 | 548



T. Duffett, Stationer, Bishop's Waltham. a 705 | 547 Hoe Road, Bishop's Waltham



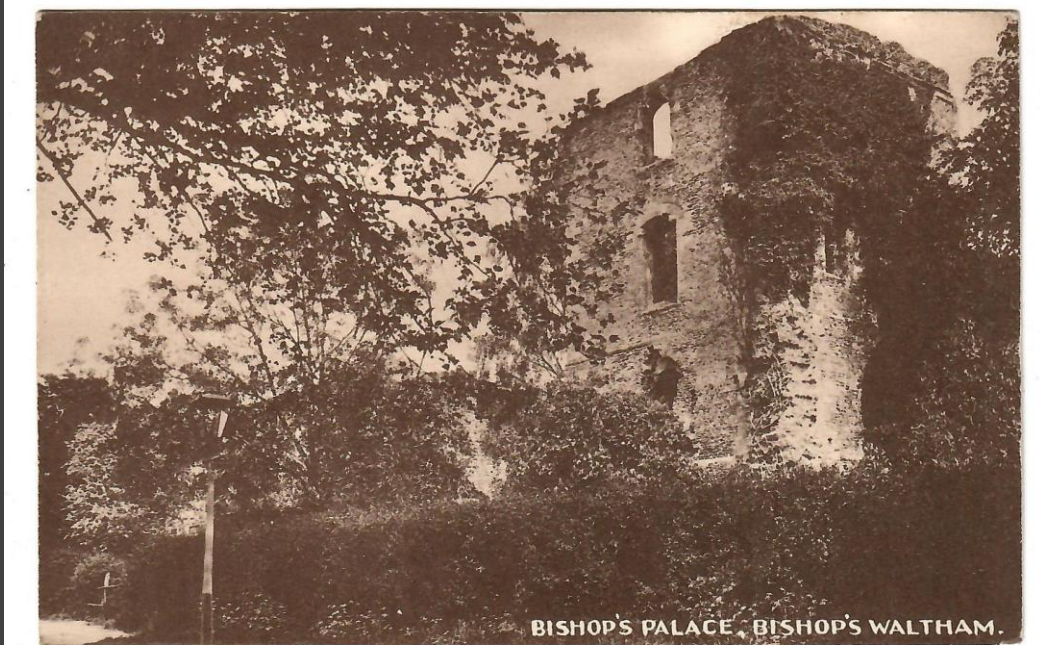




# The Palace Ruins

Perhaps Bishop's Waltham's most unique and endearing feature, these ruins are captured countless times on postcards.

This was one of the residences of the Bishop of Winchester, the oldest parts of which were built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, under Henry de Blois, King Stephen's brother and William the Conqueror's grandson. It was consistently embellished to create the palace of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.





# High Street and The Square

The old buildings on Bishop's Waltham's High Street are much the same today; some of them serve the same purpose (such as the Crown Inn) and others are very different (such as the saddler C. Eddolls' shop – pictured top left – which now forms part of a bank).







# Bishop's Waltham's Churches

Two of the churches of Bishop's Waltham appear on historic postcards; St Paul's Methodist Church (1910) (left) and St Peter's Church (above), which has been a site of worship since c. AD 700. The current building has been frequently rebuilt and redeveloped, especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century).



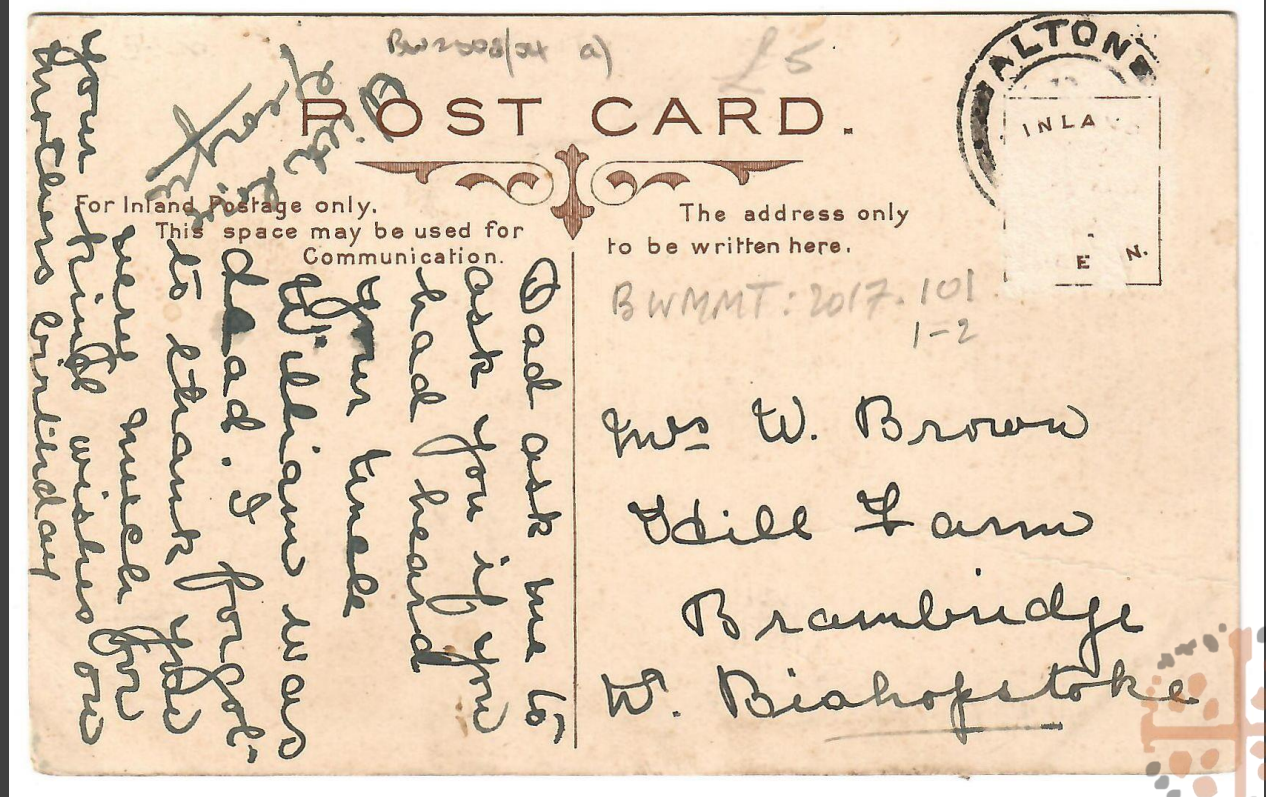
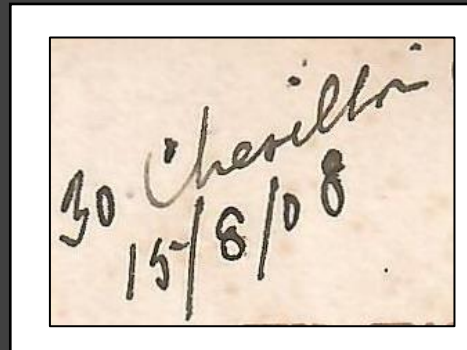


# Writing from Bishop's Waltham

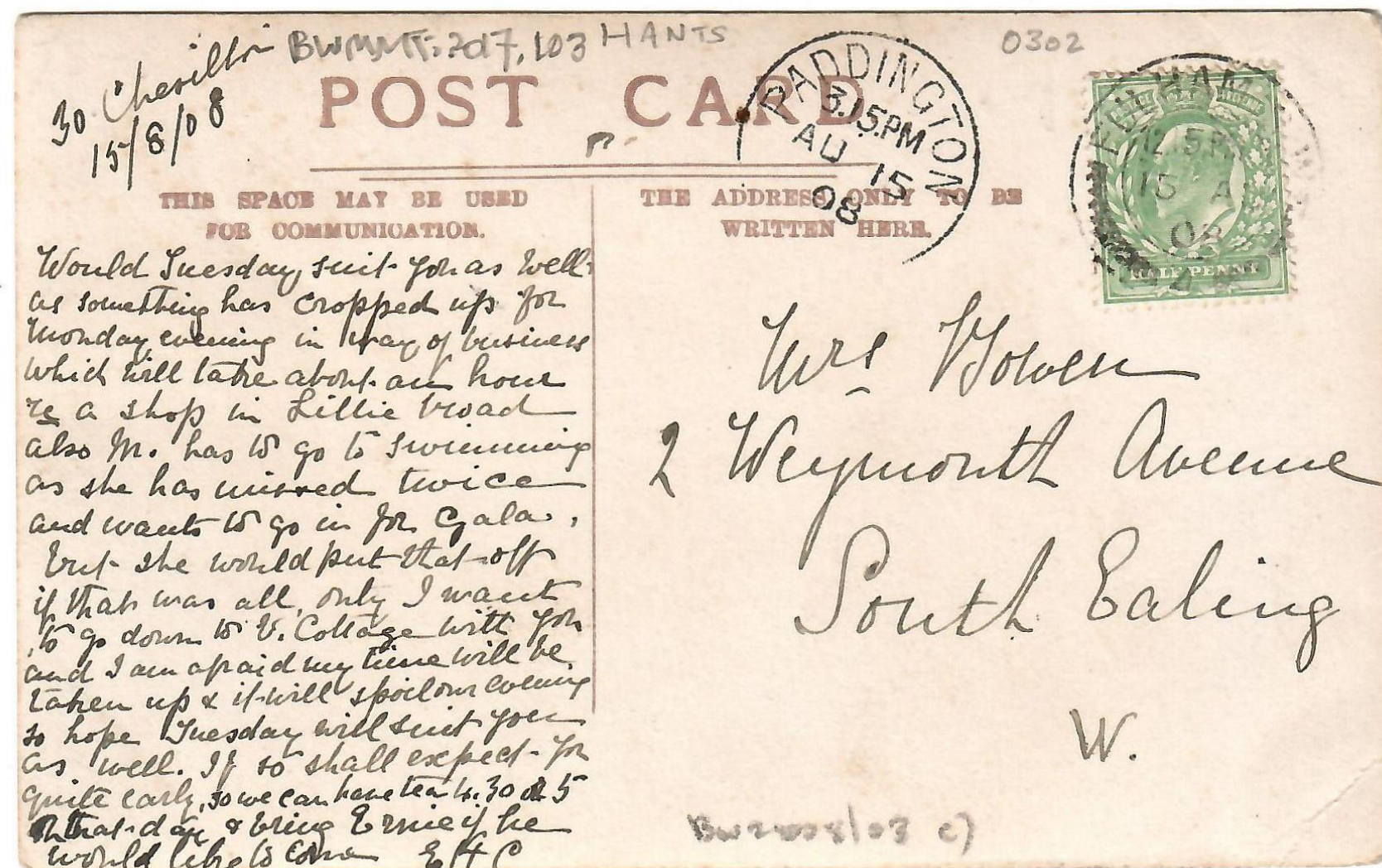
Many of the postcards in the Bishop's Waltham Museum collection are dated from 1906-10 (as suggested by the King Edward VII stamp, as well as the circular ink stamp on top).

As the postcards from Bishop's Waltham were sent away from the town, it is fortunate that several of them have made their way back to the Museum.

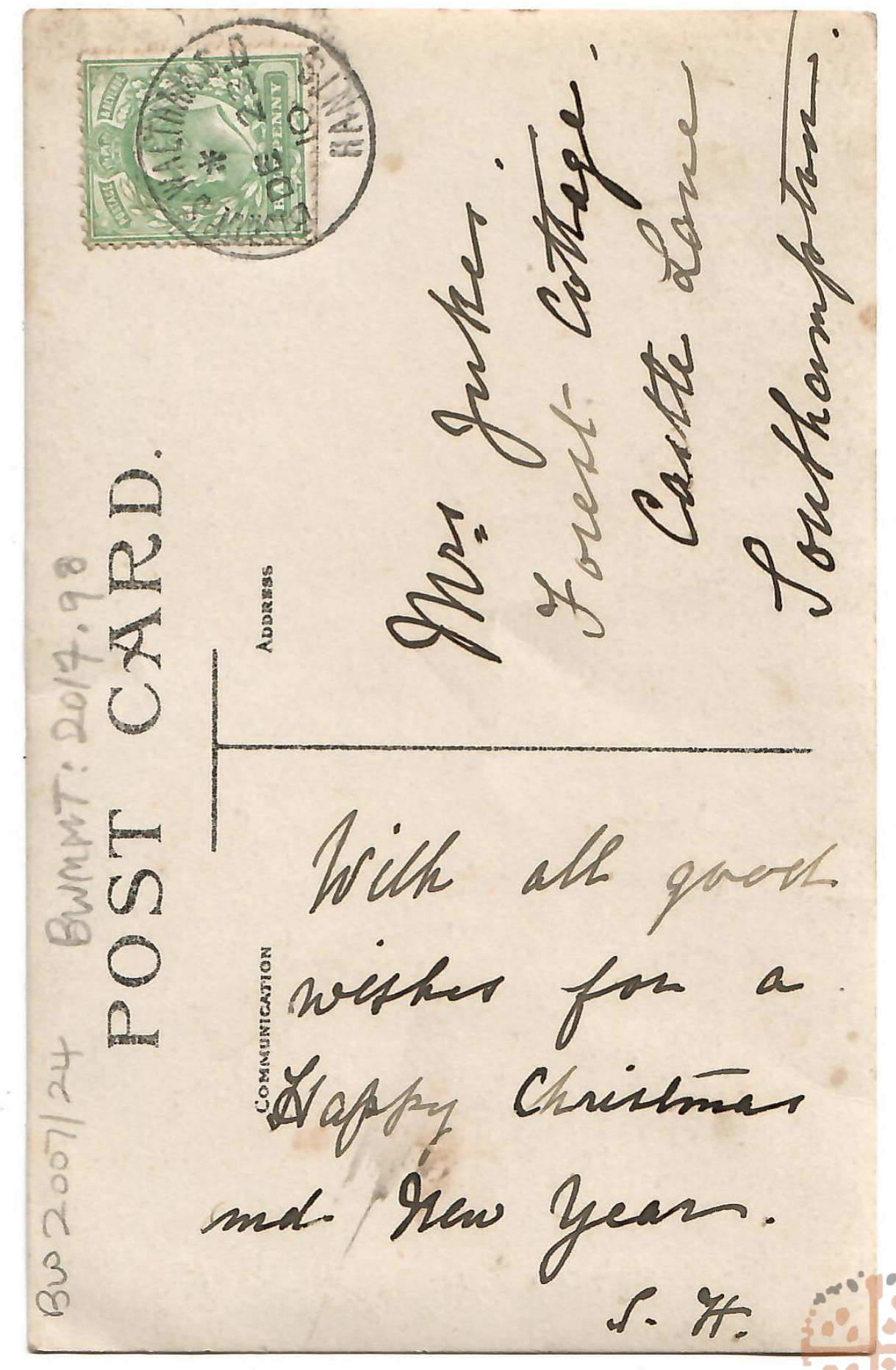
The following pages show the types of messages people conveyed by postcard from Bishop's Waltham in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.





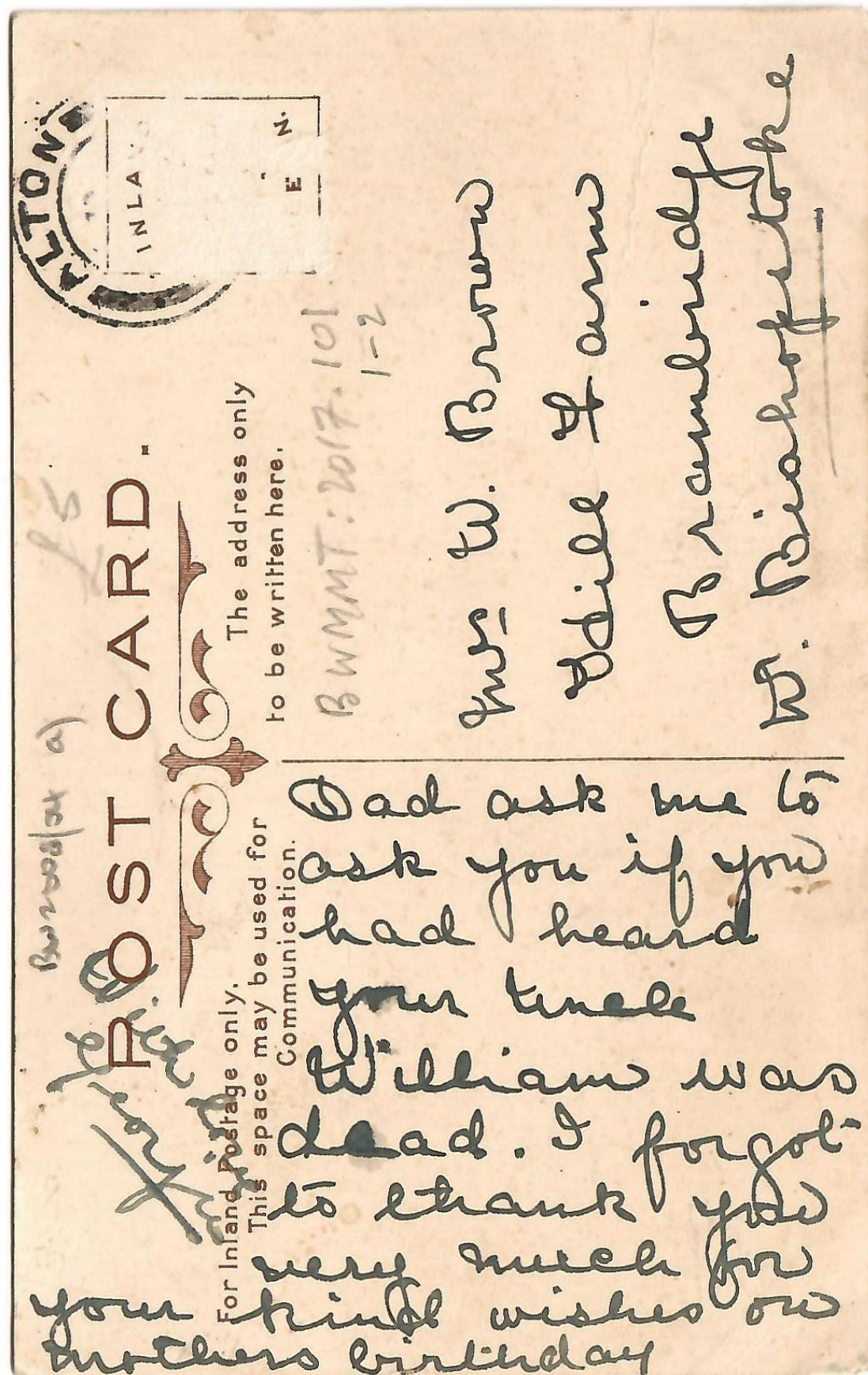


'With all good wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.'



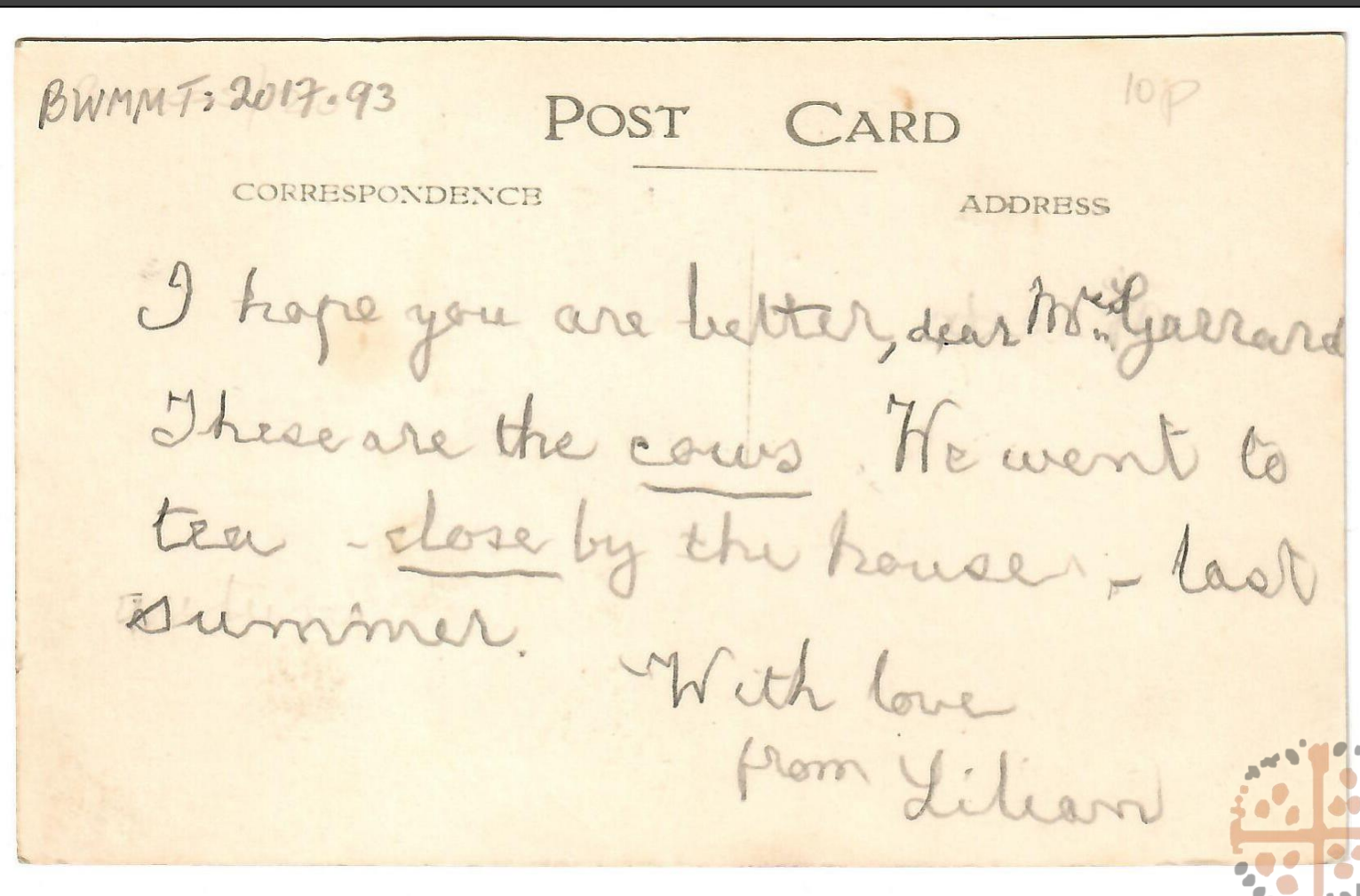
'Would Tuesday suit you as well as something has cropped up for Monday evening in way of business which will take about an hour re. a shop in Lillie Road. Also M has to go swimming as she has missed twice and wants to go in for Gala, but she would put that off if that was all, only I want to go down to the Cottage with you and I am afraid my time will be taken up & it will spoil our evening so hope Tuesday will suit you as well. If so shall expect you quite early so we can have tea 4.30 or 5 on that day & bring Ernie if he would like to come.'



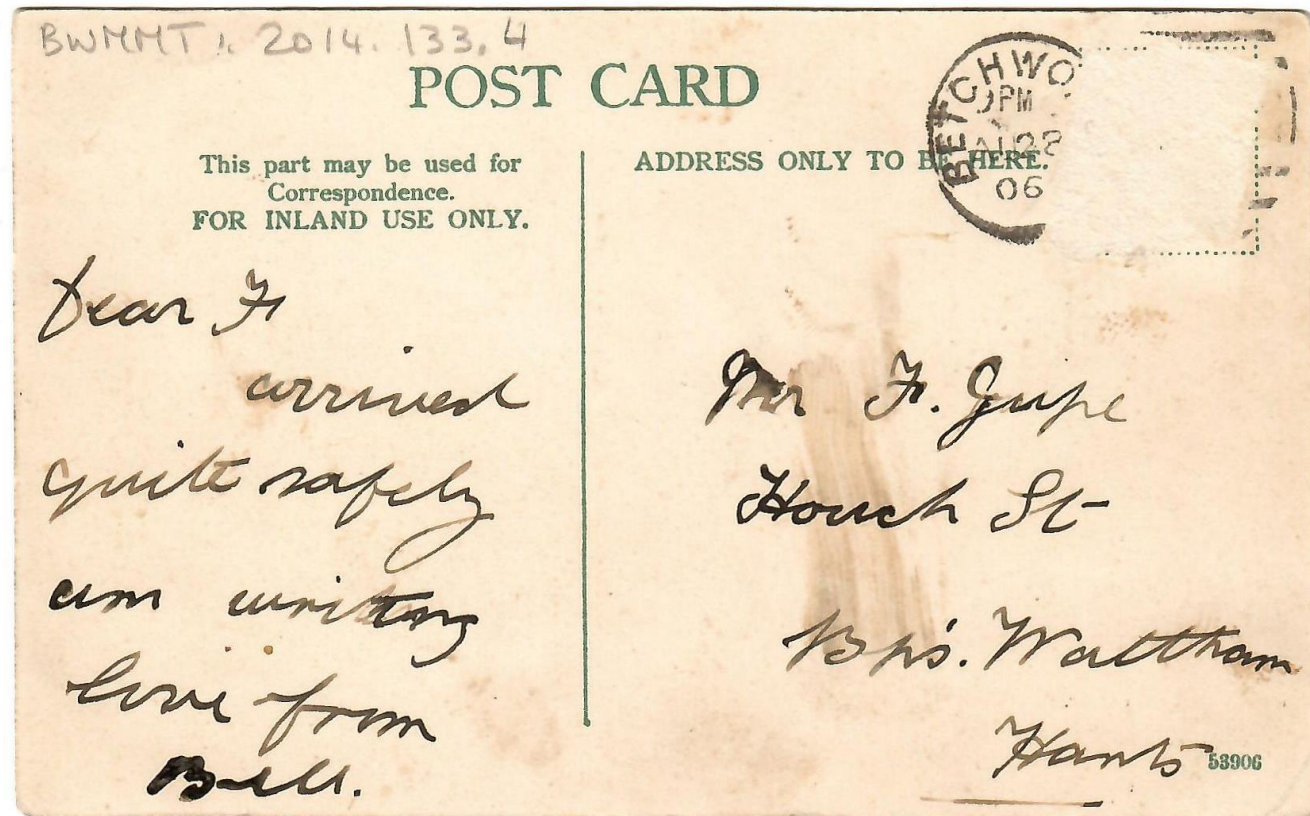


'Dad ask me to ask you if you had heard your uncle William was dead. I forgot to thank you very much for your kind wishes on mother's birthday.'

'I hope you are better, dear Mrs Garrard. These are the cows. We went to tea – close by the house – last summer. With love from Lilian.'

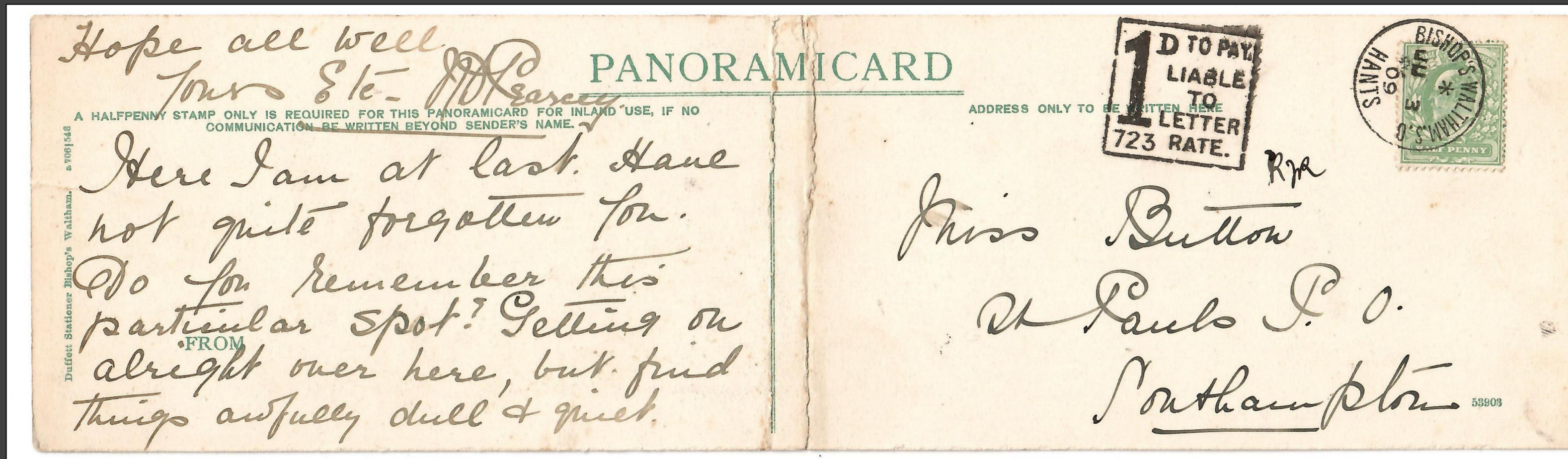




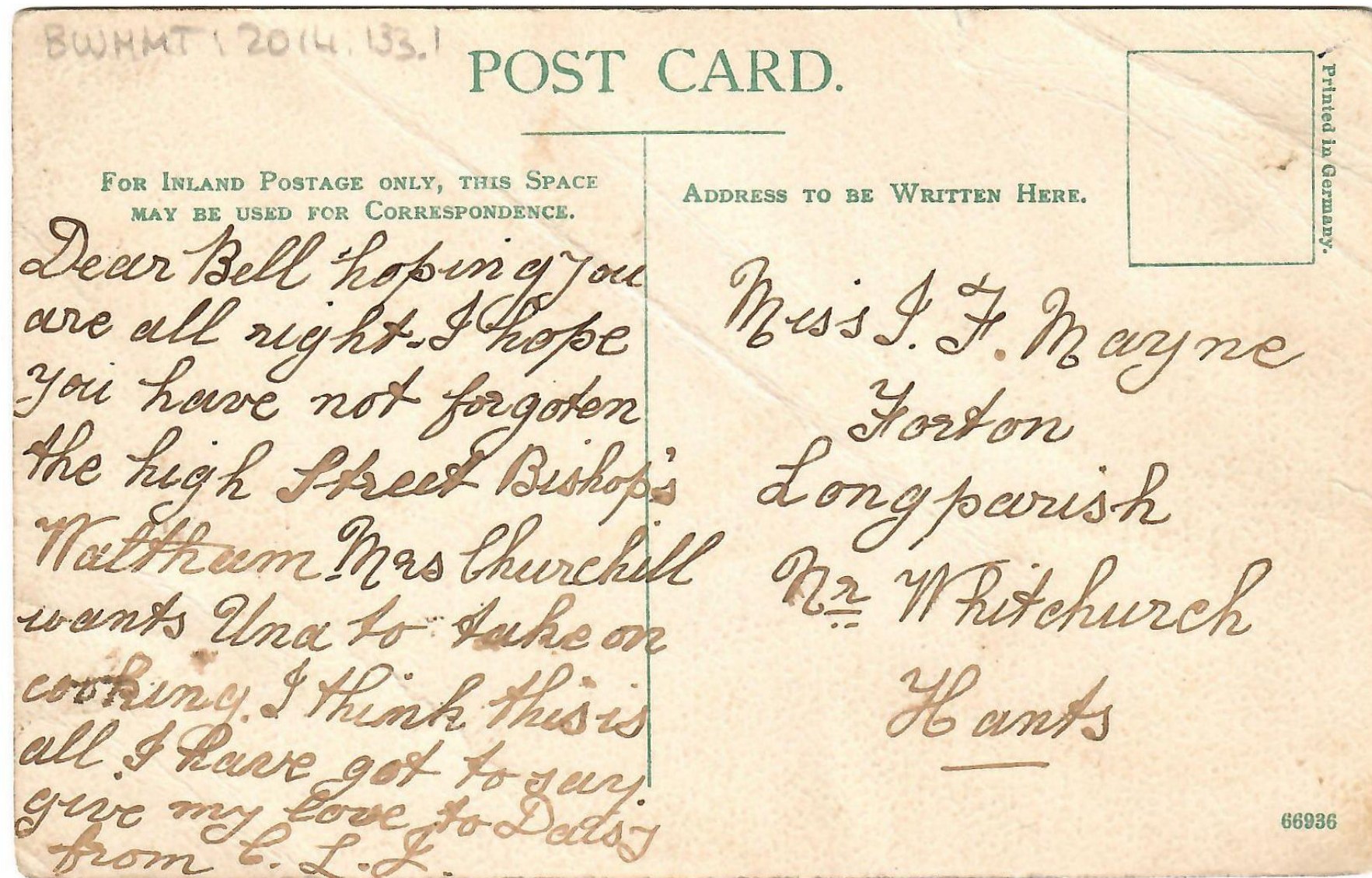


'Dear F. Arrived quite safely am writing love from Bill.'

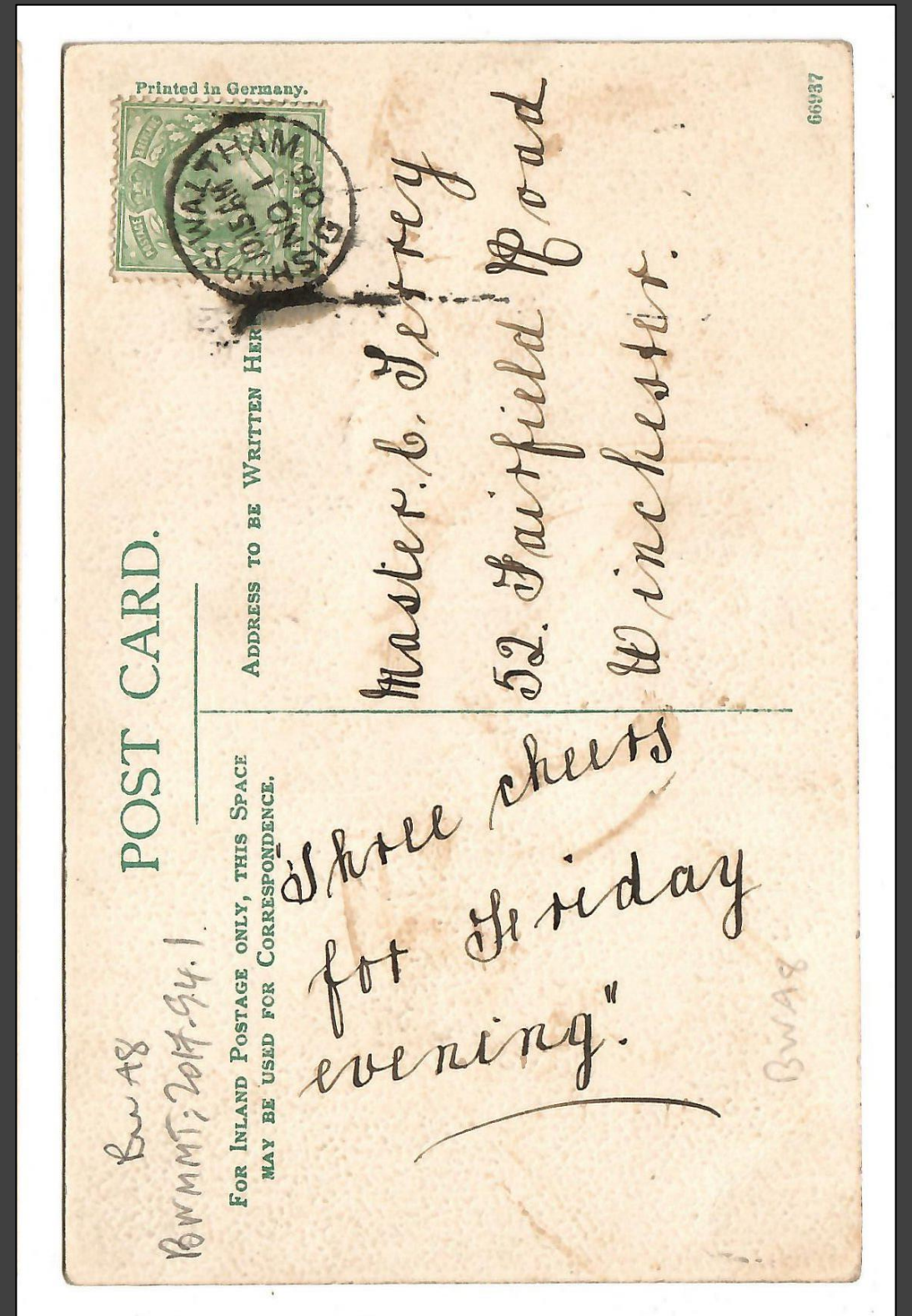
'Here I am at last. Have not quite forgotten you. Do you remember this particular spot? Getting on alright over here, but find things awfully dull & quiet.'







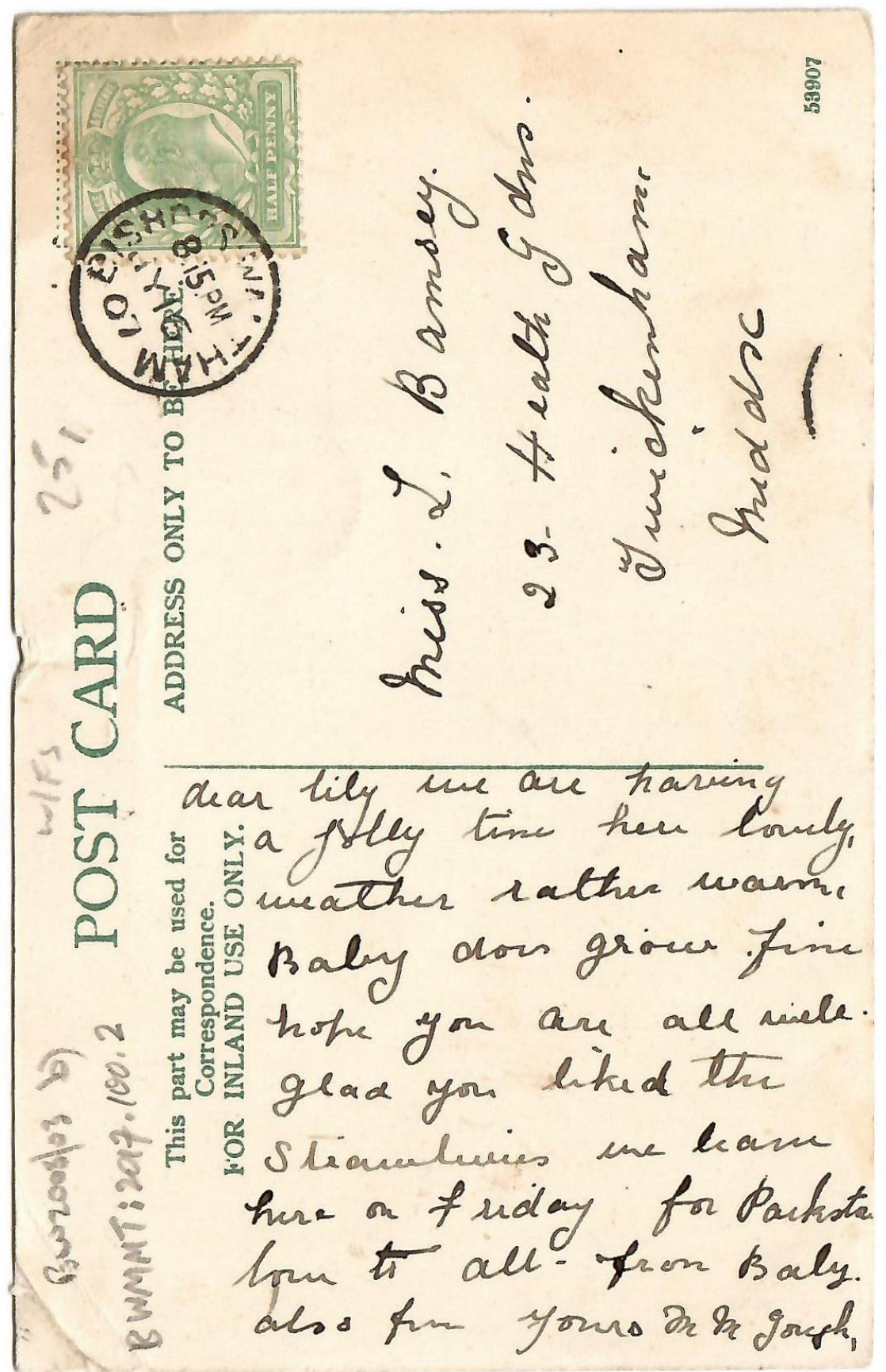
'Dear Bell hoping you are all right. I hope you have not forgotten the high Street Bishop's Waltham. Mrs Churchill wants Una to take on cooking. I think this is all I have got to say. Give my love to Daisy from C. L. J.'



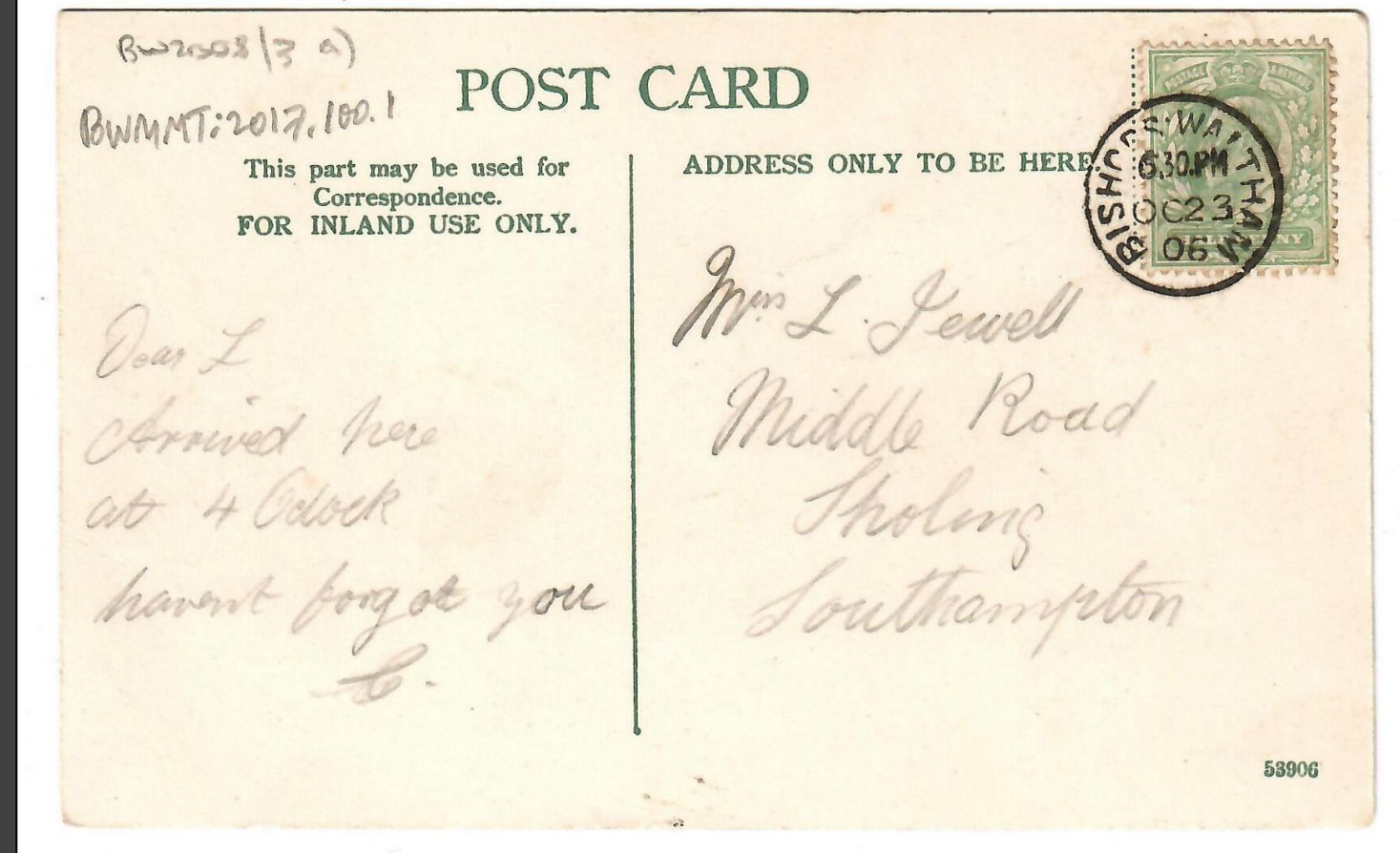
'Three cheers for Friday evening.'







'Dear Lily we are having a jolly time here, lovely weather rather warm, Baby does grow fine hope you are all well. Glad you liked the strawberries. We leave here on Friday for (?). Love to all. From baby. Also from yours M M Gough.



'Dear L. Arrived here at 4 O'clock. Haven't forgot you.'

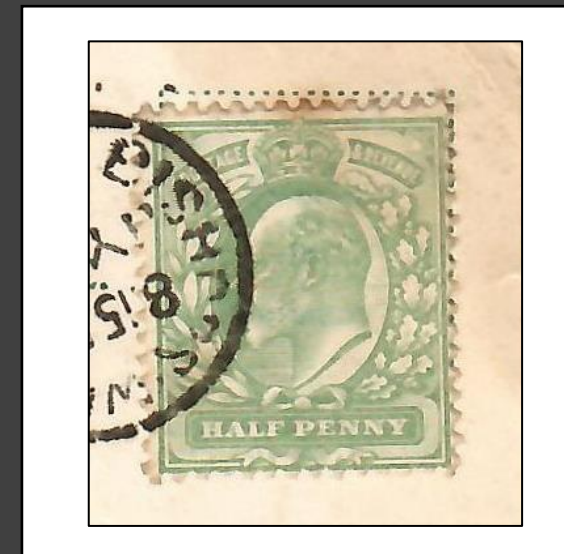
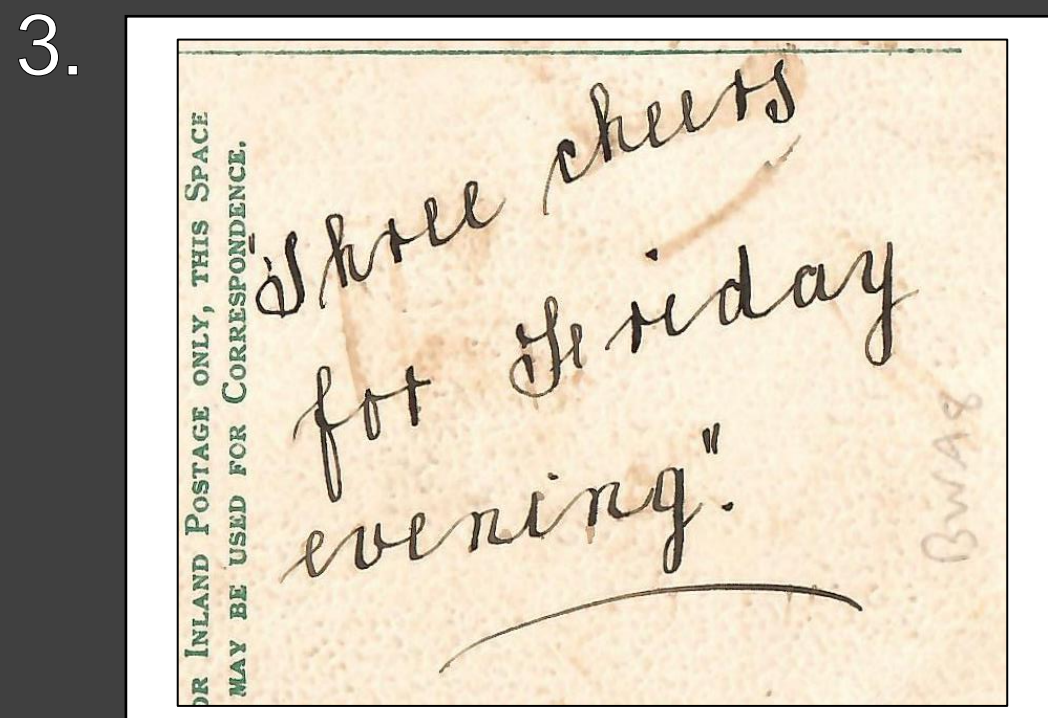
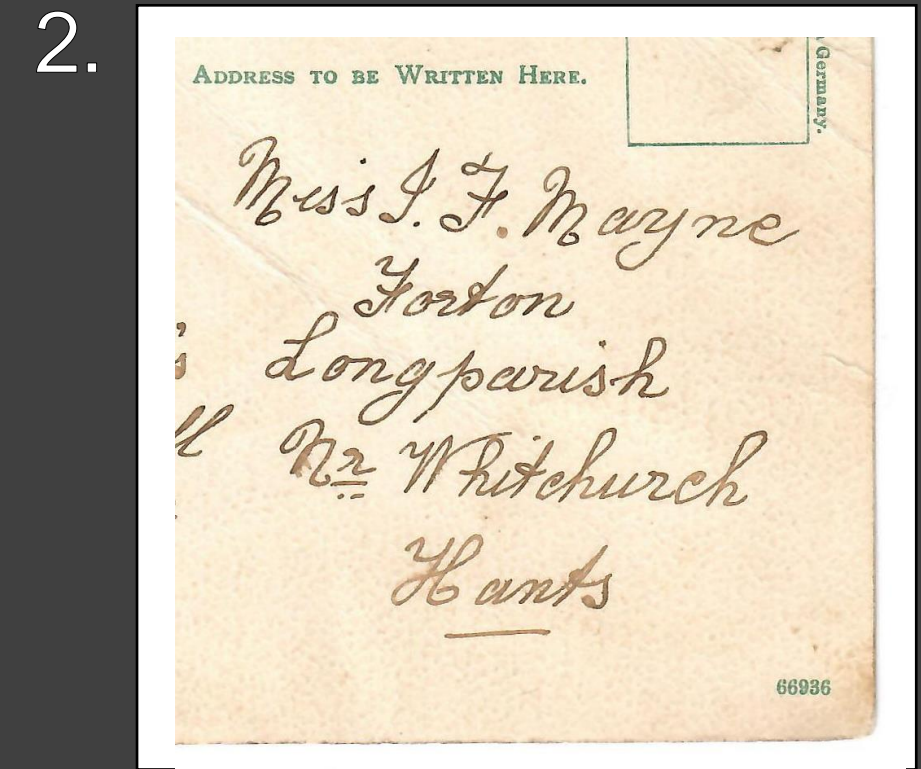




# The Postal Museum's Step by Step Guide to Writing a Postcard!

<https://www.postalmuseum.org/blog/how-to-write-a-postcard/>

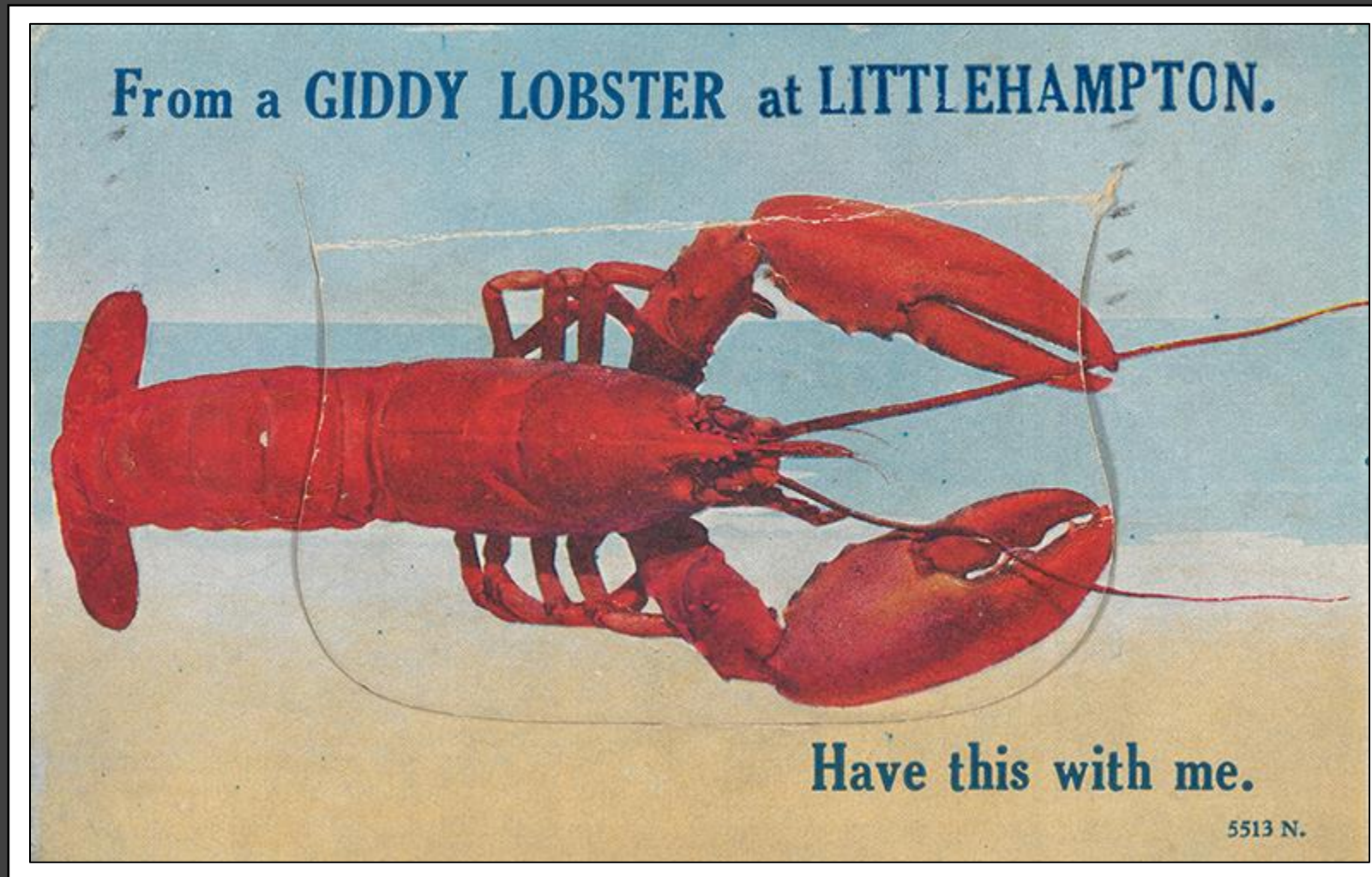
1. Select your postcard
2. Write the recipient's address
3. Write your message
4. Affix stamp
5. Post your postcard!





# More Information

Bamford & Co LTD

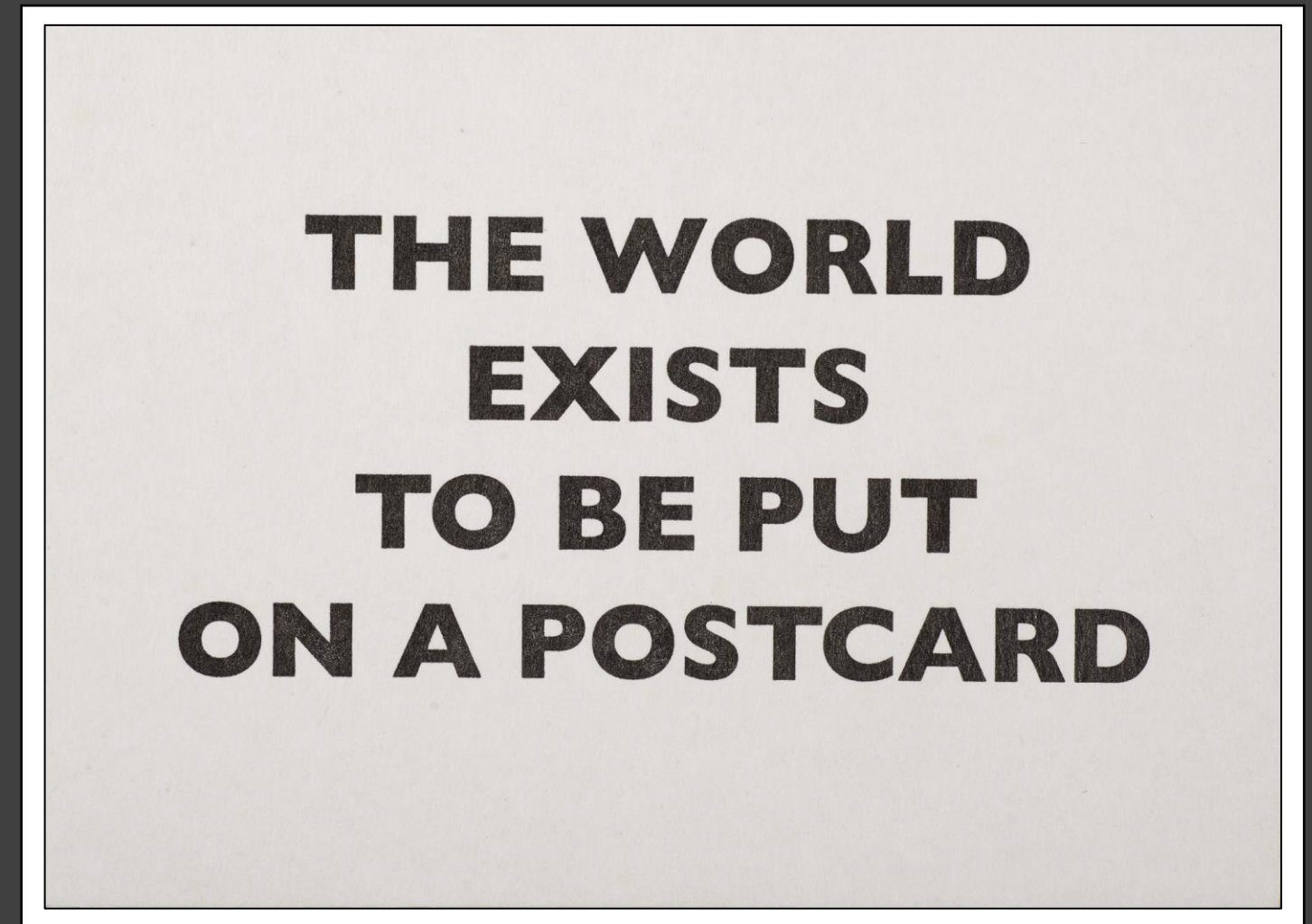


The Postal Museum's new temporary exhibit:  
*'Wish You Were Here: 151 Years of British Postcards'*

20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 -2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

<https://www.postalmuseum.org/wish-you-were-here/>

Simon Cutts, 2013



The British Museum's old exhibit: *'The World Exists to be put on a Postcard'*.

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/the-world-exists-to-be-put-on-a-postcard/>

<https://www.britishmuseumshonline.org/the-world-exists-to-be-put-on-a-postcard-book-cmc9780500480434.html>

