

DESCRIPTION OF THE LETTER BOXES

Number 1 - Edward VII (Type A)

Located at Casemates by the north entrance to Main Street. Edward VII, known as the "Peacemaker", was Queen Victoria's son and great-grandfather to Queen Elizabeth II.

Number 2 - Elizabeth II (Type C, Double-Aperture)

Located by the entrance to the Main Post office at 104 Main Street. Queen Elizabeth II succeeded her father, George VI, on 6 February 1952. This box is engraved "Royal Mail" instead of "Post Office". This changed in 1986, when the Post Office was split up to form four separate businesses: Letters; Parcels; Counters; Girobank.

Number 3 - Edward VIII (Type B)

Edward VIII was King of the United Kingdom, the Dominions of the British Empire and Emperor of India, from 20 January 1936 until his abdication on 11 December 1936. He was Queen Elizabeth II's uncle. "Teddy", as the box is now known, is the only such box ever deployed outside the UK and was acquired from Hassan Shaida, the philatelist, through Arthur Reeder, who owns the letter box museum on the Isle of Wight. It was then refurbished locally and became operational on 9 October 2015, World Post Day.

Number 4 - George V (Type A)

Originally at the site of the Police Station in the South District, this pillar box was moved to the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned in Main Street on 13 September 2013. George V was Queen Elizabeth II's grandfather. The "V", for fifth, is not shown on the box.

Number 5 - Victorian (Type A)

Gibraltar's second-oldest surviving letter box is a Victorian pillar box; it is known as "The Vic". Queen Victoria was great-great-grandmother to Queen Elizabeth II. The box had been originally sited opposite the residence of HE the Governor at The Convent, in Main Street. It was moved to its current location by the Court House on 10 October 2014, following extension works to No 6 Convent Place.

Number 6 - George VI (Type A)

Originally located by the Trafalgar Cemetery, this box was re-sited to its current location by the John Mackintosh Cultural Centre at Main Street on 15 May 2015. George VI was Queen Elizabeth II's father and ascended to the throne, on 11 December 1936, after the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII.

ORIGINS OF THE LETTER BOX

The letter box was brought into service in the United Kingdom by the novelist Anthony Trollope, when he was employed as a Royal Mail Post Office Surveyor. Sir Rowland Hill, Post Master General, sent Trollope to survey the Channel Islands in order to try and solve the problem of irregular mail services as a result of the varying packet boat sailing times, caused by unpredictable winds and tides. Trollope remembered something that he had seen in Paris and proposed a secure box capable of retaining the mail. Vaudin & Son, a foundry in Jersey, were commissioned to undertake the work. The first pillar box went into service at Saint Helier, Jersey, on 23 November 1852.

THE ROYAL GIBRALTAR POST OFFICE

The first organised postal service in Gibraltar dates from 1749, when Governor of Gibraltar Sir Humphrey Bland appointed a Civil Secretary and entrusted him with responsibility for the posts. There was then no regular mail service by sea between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom. Letters were carried by ships whenever possible because the overland route was more precarious, as the roads were unsafe.

In 1806, the British Post Office appointed a Packet Agent for Gibraltar and commenced a regular monthly Packet Service to Gibraltar from Falmouth on contract mail boats, which were known as Packets. Prior to 1830, they were sailing vessels. Steam then supplanted sail. The Civil Secretary continued to run the Overland Post Office.

This led to confusion as there were two post offices in Gibraltar, in separate places, one handling only maritime mail, mainly carried by the official mail packets; the other handling overland mail.

On 1 January 1857 the Packet Agency and the Overland Post Office were amalgamated to form the Gibraltar Post Office. The entire postal service in Gibraltar then came under the control of the Postmaster General in London. A new Post Office was then built. It is still in use today as the General Post Office. The last Gibraltar Packet Agent, Edmund Creswell, was eventually appointed a Deputy Postmaster-General and Surveyor of the Mediterranean. He was based in Gibraltar.

It was in Creswell's time that the first postage stamps were introduced in Gibraltar. Overprinted British stamps were first sold in Gibraltar on 3 September 1857. They prepaid letters to all countries except Spain, for which letters had to be prepaid in Spanish stamps in order to benefit from lower postal rates, a matter of importance to the poorer classes at the time.

The local delivery of mail was then introduced on 1 October 1858. Prior to this, all mail had to be collected from the Post Office. It was then decided to introduce pillar boxes. Three were originally ordered. One was positioned in Governor's Parade (where there is still an Edward VII pillar box today). The other two were intended primarily for the military garrison and located near the Guard House on New Mole Parade and on Europa Road close to the junction with Windmill Hill. The pillar boxes came into use on 22 December 1858 but none of the original three survive.

In 2005 the Gibraltar Post Office was granted the title of "Royal" by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Gibraltar is the only Commonwealth or British Overseas Territory Post Office outside the United Kingdom to be honoured with this title.

Set & Printed by Terry's of 96 Irish Town

A Right Royal Street



Gibraltar boasts the only known street that has an example of a letter box from each British Monarch since they were first introduced in 1852 during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Enjoy a walk down Gibraltar's Main Street and see these historic letter boxes.

This Royal Gibraltar Post Office publication is sponsored by



Nuñez & Co



BARRISTERS-AT-LAW



**Suite 10/4 ICC
2a Main Street
Gibraltar**



GEORGE VI

cast by

McDowall Steven & Co Ltd
(London & Falkirk)



VICTORIA

cast by

A Handyside & Co Ltd
(Derby & London)



EDWARD VII

cast by

Handyside
(Derby & London)



GEORGE V

cast by

McDowall Steven & Co Ltd
(London & Glasgow)



EDWARD VIII

cast by

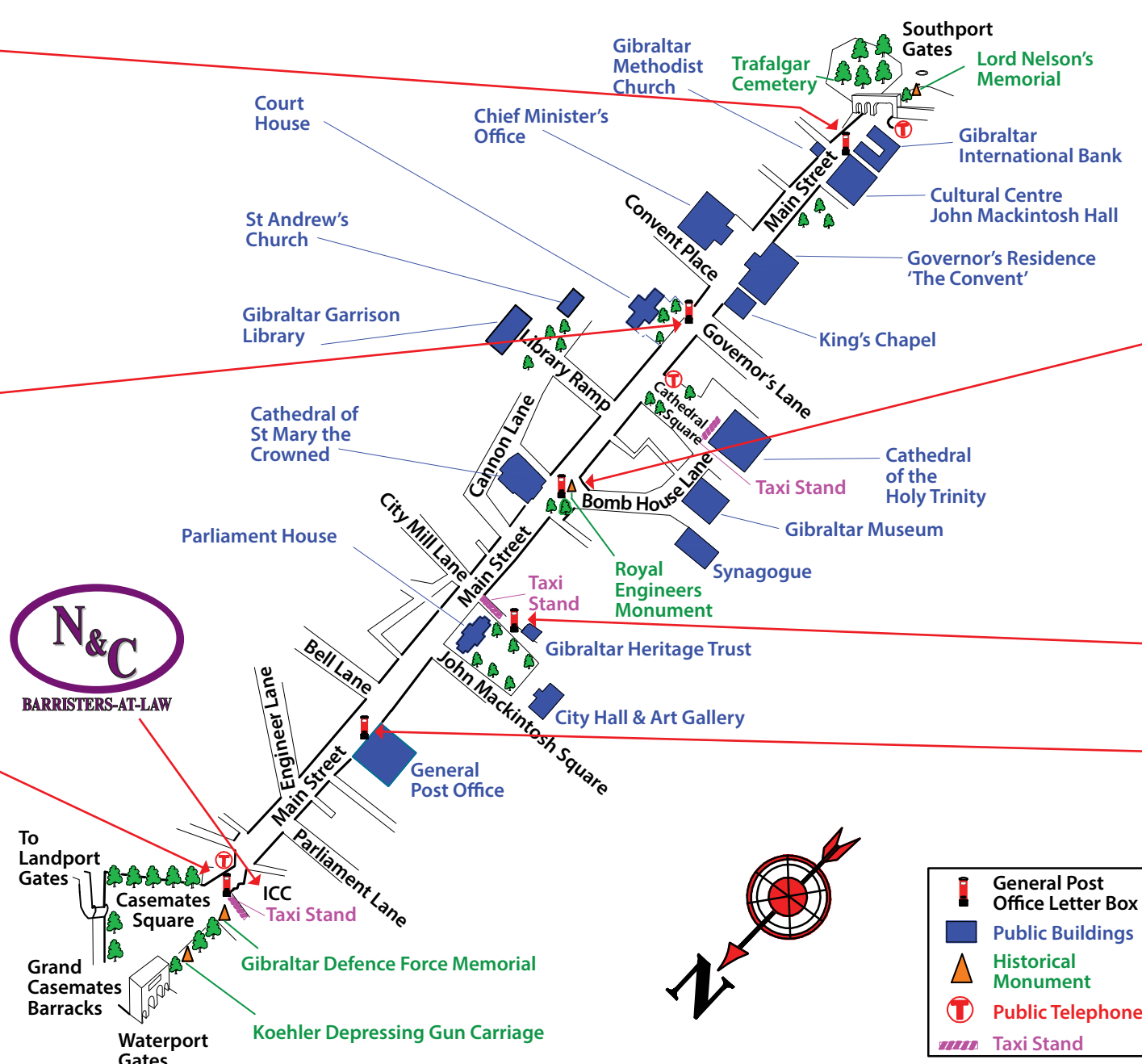
Carron Company
(Stirlingshire)



ELIZABETH II

cast by

Machan Engineering
(Scotland)



OTHER LETTER BOXES OF INTEREST

George V Type A letter box dedicated to the birth of Prince George of Cambridge on 22 July 2013 and located at the Evacuation Memorial Roundabout on North Mole Road.

Replica Queen Victoria Penfold letter box dedicated to Kaiane Aldorino, Winner Miss World in 2009, and located outside Gibraltar Airport by the border.

Elizabeth II Type B letter box commemorating Team 54, Gibraltar's joining UEFA on 24 May 2013, and located outside the NatWest bank at Line Wall Road.

Elizabeth II Type K letter box (with added cypher - only three such examples in existence) - located outside the Philatelic Bureau at Watergardens II, Waterport Wharf Road. It commemorates the Sapphire Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 6th February 2017.