

Book Review

Early Forces Mail by Barrie Jay published 1997 by the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund

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This 70 page booklet covers both the 17th and 18th Century, Forces Mail, together with a detailed section on Prisoner of War Mail.

Anyone interested in this period will find details of the Thirty Years' War, War of the Grand Alliance, War of the Spanish Succession, War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War. Transcripts from the letters are also included together with details of the various markings and rates.

Barrie Jay, Past President RPSL has provided the reader with an insight to both the Postal History and History of this period where British and Scottish Forces were involved. I was particularly interested to learn that the Seven Years' War 1756-1763 was seen to be the "turning point" in British history!

I am sure that **John Campbell the previous Editor of The Mail Coach** will be interested in the letter addressed to John Campbell, the fourth Earl of Loudon (1705-1782) Governor of Stirling Castle, and who in 1756 had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army in America.

Apparently there are 12 surviving letters addressed to the Earl, most of which have the "AB" stamp "Armee Britannique".

There is a good Bibliography for each of the sections covered, an easy to follow index and as usual with the Stuart Rossiter Trust publications it is printed on high glazed quality paper, my only disappointment was the quality of the halftone? Illustrations, but then maybe I need to get new glasses!

Gerald J Elliott
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