

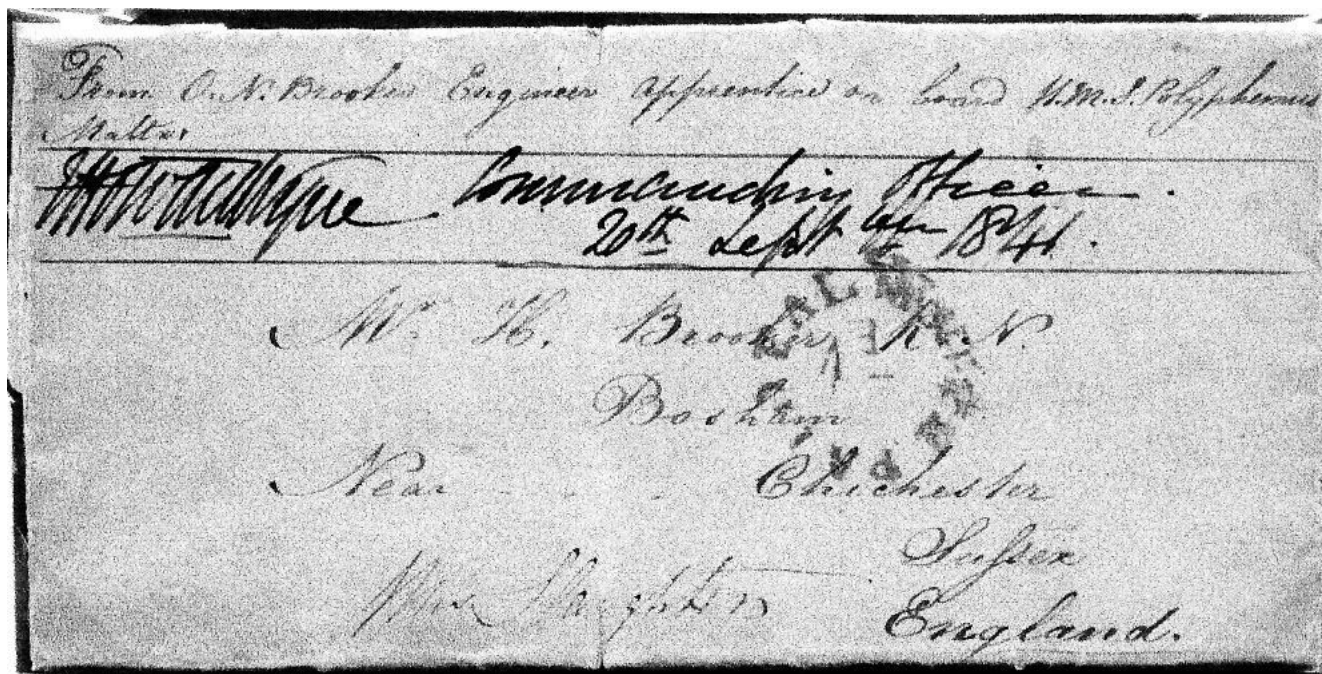
## AN INTERESTING ITEM FROM MY COLLECTION

### 1841 Letter from Constantinople via Malta to UK

**John Birkett Allan**

On 20th September 1841 this letter was sent by Engineer Apprentice O.N. Brooker. Written on a voyage from Constantinople to Malta on H.M.S. Polyphemus to his parents in Chichester, England.

It bears a Red handstruck FALMOUTH 1d PAID indicating payment of 1d. Concessionary rate for soldiers & sailors. The cover is countersigned by his Commanding Officer and has a CHICHESTER arrival datestamp on the reverse.



The Letter refers to Turkish ladies and a Sultan's son, raising of the Yellow Flag to the Foremast and 23 day's Quarantine at Malta.

Extracts from the letter:- "the Turkish Ladies, who always have their faces covered with a white veil so that's hard to get a kiss or even to see if they are handsome or not. As for the Sultan's son who is 19 years of age, he has I believe 18 wives and 7 children. We ought to have the same thing done in England."

"the ship being in quarantine coming from an unhealthy place, as it will be with us when we get back to Malta—a Yellow Flag hoisted to the Foremast is the signal and 18 days I expect we have of it"

"Malta did not see us until Sunday at 2 o'clock in the morning, the Yellow Flag was hoisted and then I heard 23 days was the allotted time which I did not relish much, however I have seen something for it. Last Sunday the Yellow Flag was pulled down and I immediately went ashore, it being such a time since I had put my foot in Malta"

*This was one of the covers that John showed at Solihull Philatelic Society earlier this year—Editor*