

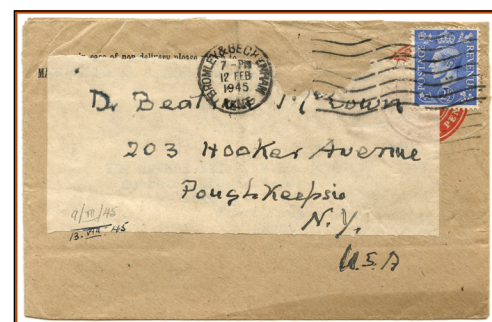
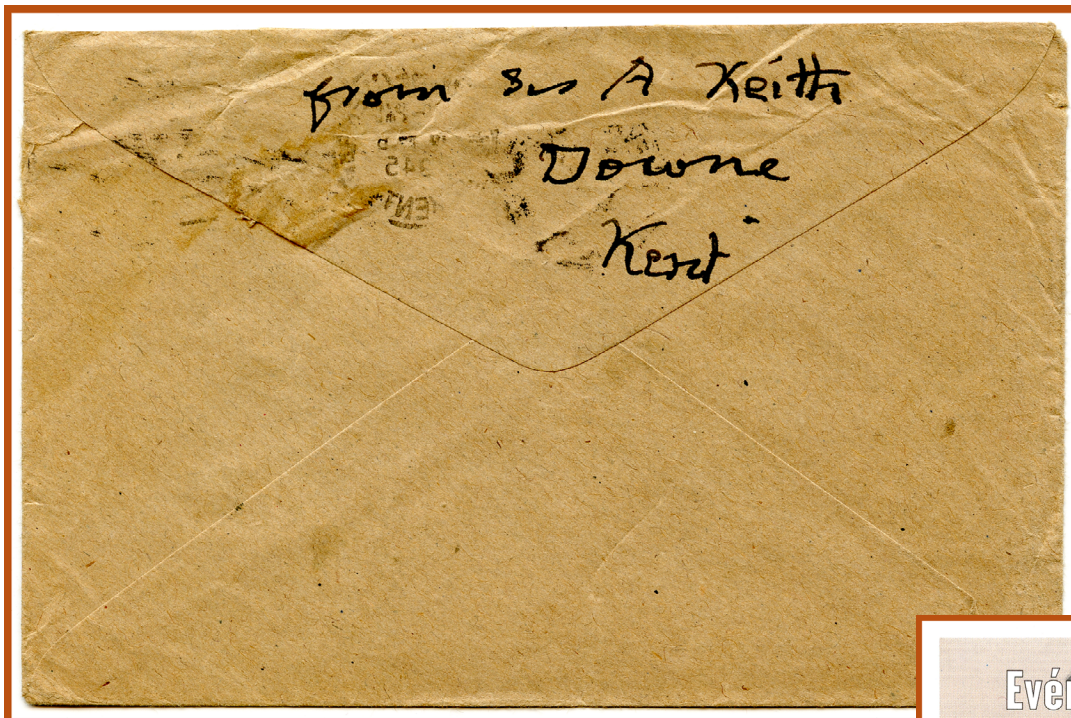
Sir Arthur Keith Perpetrator or Victim?

Sir Arthur Keith (Scottish anatomist 1866-1955) was a member of the [Geological Society of London](#). In 1912 they were presented unusual remains found by [Charles Dawson](#) (1864-1916) in a roadside gravel pit at [Barkham Manor](#) near [Piltdown](#), [East Sussex](#).



Sir Arthur Keith (white coat) examining Piltdown skull

Sir Arthur Keith (address in his hand)
Bromley and Beckenham, (Downe) Kent
to [Poughkeepsie](#), [New York](#)
12 February 1945



Scan of cover front

Reconstruction of Piltdown Man



Piltdown Skull
Fancy Cancel

Keith was a proponent of [Piltdown man](#) and his revered placement in the human family tree. He reconstructed fragments into a full skull. The skull's features reflected both archaic and modern traits and was believed to be the 'Missing Link', older and more prestigious than the [Neandertal](#).

Forty years later the 'remains' were exposed as a hoax! They were artificially stained pieces from a human skull, an [orangutan](#) jaw and a [chimpanzee](#) tooth. Keith is often named as the person most capable of preparing fakes. Far from proven, he may have been duped by Dawson or his own lab technician. The mystery remains as to "Who really done it?"



Can you find the philatelic problem in this exhibit?

Evénements de 20ème siècle

1910 - 1919 +500GNF

Submitted by Fran Adams

The Piltdown Man was found long after fancy cancels were discontinued!