

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.midlandphs.org.uk



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1841 1d Mulready uprated with 1d red for 1oz rate from Newport to Manchester. This item was shown at the meeting at the September Shrewsbury as part of Dave Tarry's collection of Newport (Shropshire).

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14th APRIL 2018 SOCIETY AUCTION – location as yet not known: Please place any of your unwanted items into our annual auction, we badly need more vendors. Items can be handed in at the 11th November, 2nd December or 13th January meetings, or sent to Eric Lewis, NO LATER THAN THE 13th JANUARY at 27 Rathbone Road, Smethwick, B67 5JG. **Please do not resubmit lots with an estimate of less than £3 or any unsold lots from the 2016 or 2017 auctions; however they can be entered in the 2019 auction, preferably at a lower reserve price.**

Chris Jackson has written a reply to my comment in MM195 about the auction as follows: I see the auction as a service to members providing a medium for the disposal of surplus material and the acquisition of new items. It also provides funds for the society from commission on sales and donations. The work falls disproportionately on a few members and so long as they are willing (and able) to describe the material, produce a catalogue, display and auction the items and deal with the financial aspects, I see no reason to discontinue it. The auction is a regular feature of our calendar and as one who spends many hours converting Eric's descriptions into a catalogue and auctioning the material I would like it to continue. The key to continuation of the auction is the supply of material from members; we need a better mix of items for sale. In the last few years a small number of members have provided the bulk of the auction items; we need to double the number of members as vendors. Material is needed in December or at the latest January so there is plenty of time to look out those unwanted (or unloved) items ready for next year's auction.

11th November meeting at Warwick – *Bristol Postal History* with Nick Bridgwater (see review below).

2nd December meeting at Burton-on-Trent – *Queen Victoria's Correspondence to and from Osbourne House* with Robert Danzig, a flyer will be distributed by e-mail or surface mail before the day, please reply if you will attend.

Chris Jackson has also written a **review** of **The Postal History of Bristol**. Noticeable about this publication are the size of the volumes, the detailed observations, the enormous number of illustrations and the massive amount of research. The project ranges from the earliest marks to current postcode areas and the BS 6-FAD codes currently in use. All 4 volumes are plastic ring-bound with a readable font and every mark is illustrated in black & white.

Volume 1 *Introduction & Narrative* has 25 topics related to the Bristol posts with 62 pages on the Penny Post.

Volume 2 *The Main Marks of Bristol* is a 223 page catalogue with every Bristol mark illustrated, dates of use and early marks rated for rarity. There is a 29 page chapter on Railway cancellations as well as 21st century marks.

Volume 3 *The Slogan & Event Marks of Bristol & the Sub-Office marks of Bristol by type* is in two parts, 85 pages of slogans from 1917 to 2017 and 55 pages on the sub-office marks. UDCs are alphabetical, followed by a chronological table by issue date.

Volume 4 *The Offices under Bristol* is an alphabetical list of the 354 sub-offices, town and country from Abbots Leigh to Zetland Road and covers all the marks from the 1792 walk number hand stamps to the latest SIDs. The authors are to be congratulated on the detailed research and in finally publishing what has been a 20-year project.

Retail price £75 plus £13 p&p (overseas extra). Cheques payable to BRISTOL POSTAL HISTORY GROUP. Orders to Roger Martin, 1, Church Road, Easton in Gordano, Bristol, BS20 0PQ.

THE FIRST POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTOR? **John Calladine** writes that on a recent visit to PO Archives he found the following in P.O. Circular 302, Tuesday 6th January 1882: *It has come to the knowledge of the Department that a man has endeavoured to obtain impressions of the datestamps at certain offices. All officers are warned that they are on no account to allow the datestamps out of their possession or to give impressions to the public.*

THE PARCEL POST LABELS OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES: The publication resulting from the Society's latest joint project is an advanced state of preparation. At MIDPEX we advertised it as likely to be published in December, in time for your Christmas stockings. Unfortunately, the extended illness of the Coordinating Editor has made that target impossible to achieve, since the book would need to have been at the printer before the end of October. Publication will now be in the new year; there may be commercial advantages in postponing its release until WORPEX. The detail will be discussed at the Committee meeting this month.

The book is to be in full colour, with printing and binding to the highest standard of our recent publications. Under each county, the recorded parcel post labels will be listed in alphabetic order with several colour illustrations of some of the most interesting on each page. Due to a comprehensive response from many of our members, the listing for each county will be of several hundred labels, many more than thought likely. The Introduction will include a summary of the history of the Parcel Post and a more detailed explanation of the development and printing of the labels from their introduction in 1883 to the demise of the individually printed label during World War I. Probably for the first time, Post Office forms relevant to the labels, such as Counter Lists K and X, will receive attention.

It is anticipated that the book will contain approximately 250 pages. Its preparation has been an immense task for the Coordinating Editor (and for many County Editors) and we wish Martin a most speedy recovery after what has been a most unpleasant infection. (Submitted by **John Calladine**)

THE 16th SEPTEMBER JOINT MEETING with the SHROPSHIRE PHS at SHREWSBURY

17 members and guests of both societies attended. In the morning, with **Dave Tarry** being absent, **Jim Ball** presented his display of Newport (Shropshire) but due to a misunderstanding there are no notes available. Two frames of Dave's collection were seen at the 2016 Christmas meeting at Burton (see MM 193 /6).

Editor – In my absence I am indebted to **Guy Bridges** for providing the notes on the afternoon session on *Cross-Border Penny Posts*, though it doesn't appear that the title was always keenly followed!

Malcolm Allinson showed 1d blacks and reds on cover, all with letters MA or other letters from the M row.

Bob Viney presented penny posts, most of which crossed borders, including Alnwick, Ashford P.P., Askrigg, Bawtry, Boston and Waltham Cross. A cover from Admiral Charles John Napier had a Portsmouth Penny Post mark.

Alan Godfrey showed Stratford on Avon, which had seven different penny post stamps, plus receiving houses. There was a Kenilworth Penny Post with No1 and Atherstone, Shipston on Stour, Coventry, Warwick and Barford.

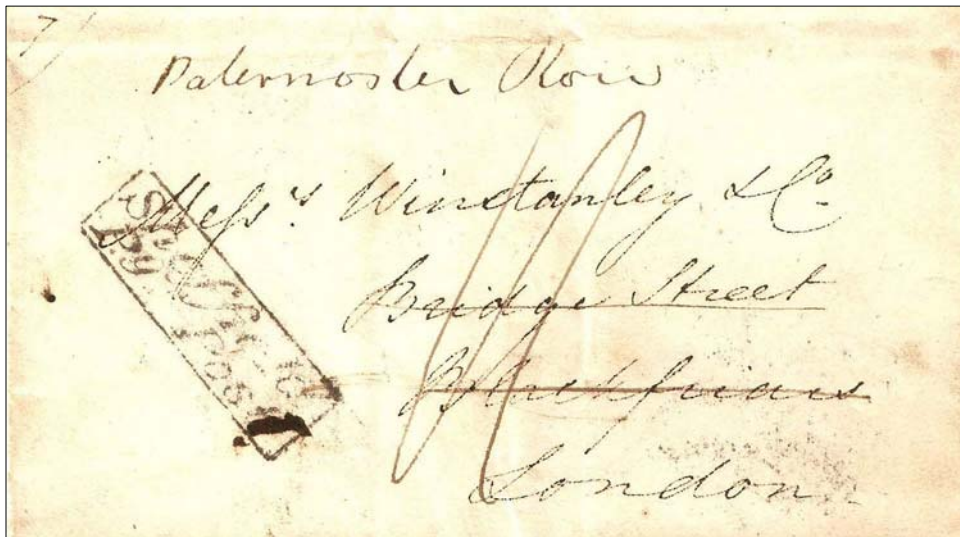
Jim Ball displayed Cleobury Mortimer Penny Post to Bewdley, the Shiffnal Penny Post with receiving houses at Madeley (No1), Broseley (No2) and Wenlock (No3), followed by examples of the Ironbridge Penny Post.

Mick Gill showed examples of all three penny posts from Nottinghamshire. The penny post between Newark and Newton on Trent (Lincolnshire) commenced in 1817 with receiving houses at Winthorpe (Christmas Day 1821 with NEWARK / Penny Post), Collingham, Besthorpe and Newton. 1825 era covers to Brigg, Louth and Grantham had the NEWARK / Penny Post mark. The later *Newark / Penny Post* stamp was on letters to Newark (1837) and London (1839). The Worksop penny post to Tickhill (Yorkshire) operated from 1811 to 1822 and 1837 to 1838, when a Great North Road mailcoach was routed via Worksop. Two examples of two different WORKSOP / Penny Post marks from the first period had a ms 1^d marked at Tickhill, another had 1^d0 (10d) added at Worksop and another 1^d1 (11d) for the combined penny and general post charges. The Sutton in Ashfield penny post is an example of two penny posts sharing a common receiving house, operating from 1836 to 1840 between Nottingham and Sutton and Mansfield and Sutton. Mick showed Sutton IN Ashfield / Penny Post to Nottingham (1838) and another from Alfreton to Nottingham via Sutton (1841) with a 1d black cancelled by a maltese cross and the penny post stamp.

Richard Farman showed Leicestershire items of Appleby, Leics / Penny Post plus udc, Twycross / Penny Post plus udc, Overseal / Penny Post plus straight-line and udc as well as the scarce Sheepy / Penny Post in blue.

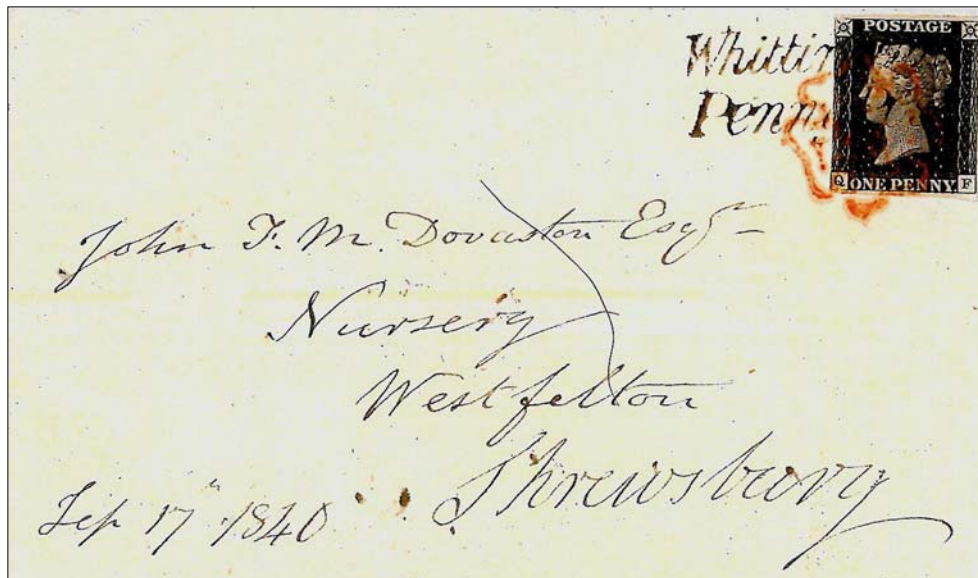
Stuart Geddes exhibited Gloucestershire penny posts that crossed the border including Crickhowell and straight-line, Gloucester and its receiving house numbers, Coleford, Chepstow, St.Gravels and Monmouth / Penny Post.

Clive Jones showed a range of material from the periphery of Yorkshire, including Sheffield, Bawtry, Delph, Sedburgh, Dent, Skipton & Middlesbro' Penny Posts. Of note were a Harrogate Two Penny Post mark and a 5th clause two penny post items running between Thorne & Epworth in 1821. A cover was also shown from Clapham, which uniquely had a penny post running into 3 different counties.



Written at Cockglode, Ollerton, Notts, on 26th December 1825 but probably posted at **Norton**. Two strikes, one on the reverse, of the scarce **Sheffield Py. Post** mark, (not recorded by Oxley in *English Provincial Local Posts* but known used between 1825 and 1827), suggest that the item was held over to 27th December, arriving in London two days later.

Guy Bridges showed Oswestry penny post receiving houses beginning with Chirk and an 1815 letter from the Chirk postmaster (Thos. Johnson) with boxed No1. After a reorganisation in 1829 Chirk used a boxed No4 (only known example?), seen on a cover with boxed Chirk / P.Post. An 1813 cover to Llanfyllin had the extra 1d for the 5th Clause Post, which was converted to a penny post in 1814 (RH No2) but Llanfyllin also used No3 from 1829 though No2 was occasionally used later as on a cover of 1832. Two covers from receiving house No1 (Llanymynech) were shown, 1830 (No1 in red) and 1839 (black). Llansaintffraid became RH No2 seen in magenta (1838) and in 1841 on a cover with a 1d black. In 1830 receiving houses were established at Meifod (No5, 1837 cover) and Llanrhaiadr (No 6, 1839 entire) and in 1833 Llanyblodwell became RH No4, the only known example seen on an entire dated 1838. Meiford was also a receiving house in the Welshpool penny post. In November 1839 the village of Whittington (the only English village in the Oswestry penny post) became a receiving house. The *Whittington / Penny Post* hand stamp was seen used on a Uniform Fourpenny post letter dated 23rd December 1839 and cancelling a 1d black on a September 1840 cover, the 1d black also cancelled with a red Oswestry maltese cross. He finished with a *Whittington / Penny Post* cancelling a penny Mulready (undated?) and one struck in blue on the reverse of an 1848 envelope.



17 Sept 1840 cover showing the *Whittington / Penny Post* cancelling a 1d black with a red Oswestry maltese cross

Chris Jackson showed the Penny Posts of Worcestershire with emphasis on the cross county border posts. The first item was a letter from Feckenham in Worcestershire to Bewdley which was stamped with a first type STRATFORD / Penny Post. Feckenham was the No 1 receiving house in the Stratford Penny Post. The second cross border item was the Bewdley penny post to Cleobury Mortimer in Shropshire showing a cover with the framed *Bewdley/Penny Post* hand stamp and an entire with the last Penny Post hand stamp, the unframed *Bewdley/Penny Post* together with an entire going in the opposite direction to Bewdley with the unframed *Cleobury/Penny Post* hand stamp.

Richard Farman presented a second display of Staffordshire penny posts including Burton and its receiving houses of Tutbury and Overseal (No5). He also showed penny post stamps of Feckenham, Atherstone, Shipston on Stour, Dudley and Ashby-de-la-Zouch along with the only recorded example of the red manuscript Stone P. Post.

For his second display, **Guy Bridges** showed items related to the Lion Inn / Hotel, Shrewsbury. It included a large wall poster listing the two Royal Mail coaches to London, the Holyhead Mail and the Bristol Mail, with all the towns en route. This was followed by letters that mentioned the guard on the London to Holyhead Mail, as well as letters that mentioned items that were lost or went missing that were carried by their stage coaches. Way bills of the Hironnelle coach from Shrewsbury to Worcester in 1842, listed the passengers name, where they were booked to and the cost. An 1843 way bill related to the return journey from the Crown Hotel, Worcester to the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury. An 1862 hotel bill for a funeral listed '*Hearse and Pair, plumed; 2 mourning coaches and pairs; 1 chariot and pair; and 4 drivers*' etc. An 1865 receipt for an outside passenger on a coach to Church Stretton showed the charge as 3/6. He finished his display with photographs of the Lion Hotel and milestones on the London to Holyhead road.

Jan Young showed photographs of the 1993 launch of the penny post book at Birmingham. The photographs showed many of the Midland Postal History Society members, past and present.

THE 28th OCTOBER MEETING AT BANBURY FESTIVAL of STAMPS:

Our chairman, **Malcolm Allinson**, brought the 14 members and one guest to order at 1.30pm for what turned out to be a fascinating day when those present were able to 'Choose your own subject'.

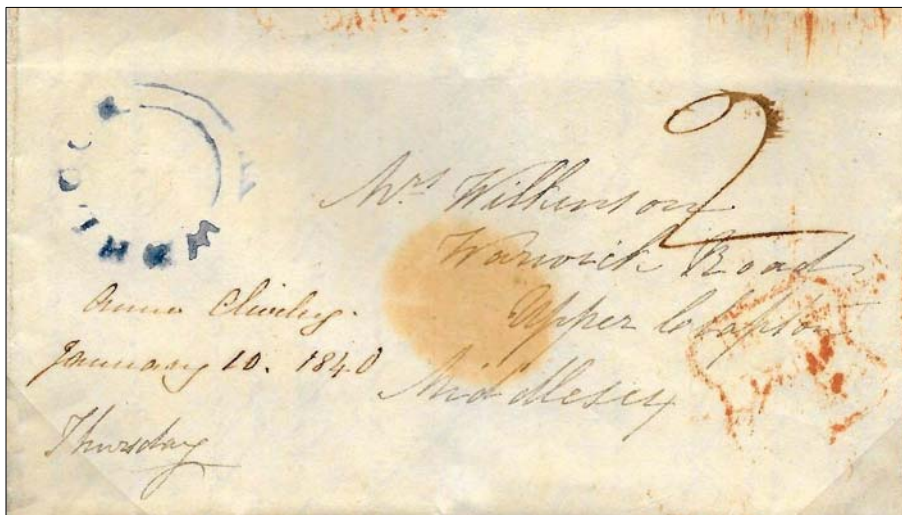
Mick Gill began proceedings by showing early marks from Mansfield, Retford and Worksop. He began with a two-line MANS / FIELD mark of 1749 to Edmonton, Middlesex, endorsed *By London bag*, followed by an August 1764 straight-line to Wakefield, not the earliest as this is in Richard Farman's collection! A two-line RET / FORD of June 1744 with the rate changed from 4d to 1/- was the earliest known after the 1711 example kept at Nottingham University. The earliest recorded straight-line dated December 1764 was on a letter to Southwell endorsed *Turn at Newark* and one dated July 1766 to London with the rate altered from 4d to 1/4 for one ounce with a fancy red Inspector's crown introduced that year. The last mark was another Straight-line c1770 on an undated wrapper. Three WORKSOP marks included a small two-line of June 1732, the only known example, a large one of March 1741/42, the latest recorded example, and the earliest straight-line on a June 1762 letter to Edinburgh.

Alan Marshall delighted us with certificates of posting from 1877 and 1880 and Bickerdyke machine VR cancels of 1897 & 1900. An 1865 re-stamped entire reposted / redirected travelled one section of its journey 3 times between Wallingford and Abingdon. There was a remarkable 1871 Not Known and redirected entire with 8 different date stamps and resealed with margin strips from a QV 1d red sheet and an even more remarkable 1840 OHMS preprinted War Office document about a Gratuity Award under the 72nd section of the Mutiny Act. 1722 and 1723 entires from the Plumbe correspondence, one with a 15mm x 4mm BATH mark about the arrest of the Duke of Norfolk from his bed! A 1693 entire from Norwich to London was from Peter Le Neve, the first President of the Society of Antiquarians about the reversion of the brilliantly named Captain Rant of the Militia, it also refers to the French losing the Toulon squadron of ships and the King's arrival in Holland. He ended with 1835 Nottingham & Newark Borough boundary maps and a 1743 print of the south view of Nottingham from the Rye Hills.

Gwyn Hughes' first covers included two redirected letters from the Sandbach family near Abergele. Next were duplexes used as receiving marks of Ludlow (1861), a Newton Abbott sideways duplex (1859) and a 4VOS of Shipston-on-Stour (1872). A final cover had two different cancels from the same office as the original was poor.

Gordon Hardy's contribution was three large sheets, the first being a 1596 Elizabethan Exchequer Warrant, the second had two items associated with the Postal & Telegraph Congress in Derby (1899), the third was a large photograph of members of an unknown sorting office.

Brian Atkins displayed the postal history of Much Wenlock starting with a 1653 request to attend the town to vote for a new 'bayliffe' for the 'Corporation of Wenlock'. Wenlock receiving house was issued with a mileage hand stamp when the Shifnal penny post opened in October 1806. A boxed No3 was used in the Shifnal penny post after open letter boxes were introduced in 1811. In 1834 a mail coach first ran from Birmingham through Ironbridge to Shrewsbury and an 1836 entire with the boxed No3 was seen with a boxed Ironbridge / Penny Post. Manuscripts *Mifs sent to Wenlock* (1834) and *Too Late* (1847); WENLOCK udc used in blue on a first day cover of Uniform Penny Post showing 2d postage due (see illustration below), also used in blue on an 1840 Mulready, and in black on an 1841 1d black cover. The MUCH-WENLOCK udc followed together with three covers as Much Wenlock (as it was now known) changed head-office from Ironbridge to Shifnal (May 1849) to Wellington (June 1852).



10 JAN 1840 entire from (Much) Wenlock to London via Ironbridge charged 2d postage due – the first day of Uniform Penny Post.

Robin Jarman showed air mails to and from Chile including to and from the UK at vast rates; there were also German and French services. A cover from Punta Arenas in southern Chile had internal air rates added. Air mail via New York was also exhibited.

Alan Godfrey brought items from Atherstone beginning with a straight-line of 1784, the earliest date recorded and charged 2d for a single letter sent a distance not exceeding one post stage. Two straight-line marks of 1796 and 1800 were probably the same mark but a later straight-line of 1833 was shorter. Covers of c1809 and 1817 had different mileage marks. An 1835 cover had an Atherstone Penny Post mark with dotted frame No3. Dated double-arc marks were shown in red (1840) and black (1841). These were followed by the 3HOS (1860), 4VOD (1867), 3VOD (1879 postcard), a different 3VOD (1883), a 1904 recut 3VOD and a 1905 3VOD with thicker bars in the oval

Richard Farman brought military parcel posts. He began with an April 1915 label on a tag sending a pair of breeches to London, presumably for repair, at a cost of 9d. There were labels sent by Army Post with items too heavy for the regular parcel mail. A postcard sent free had a London censor and infringed regulations. Lily Thomas, A Burton-on-Trent lady had sent 5,000 parcels in WW1 and added another 20,000 after joining the Red Cross scheme. An unusual Red Cross parcel from Munich had been attached to a box and the holes where it had been nailed were clearly visible. He ended with the Red Cross card, which had been returned to say a parcel had been received.

John Calladine displayed material from Kinver, a picturesque village and ancient place in the extreme southwest of Staffordshire, adjoining Worcestershire and Shropshire but with a modern postal history. Apart from scarcely relevant ramblings about the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould, "Fiddler" Foley and the 1899 Kinver Light Railway, we saw the scarce type 5 PP hand stamp of Stourbridge on a letter to Kinver, the type 5 Kinver mark and unusual late use in 1865 of a twin arc CDS at Kinver when a more modern stamp had been issued to the office but apparently never used.

Paul Bradshaw displayed marks of Towcester from 1722 to 1783 as he and Derek Smeathers had been consulted by John Hine for John's article on Towcester marks on **page 7 of this issue**. The marks included 22 July 1722 TOCE / STER, 4 June & 16 July 1744 TOWCESTER, the 4 June is the earliest in private hands, a 1729 example is in an archive. 1748 TOW / CESTER to London, 1777 TOWCESTER to Nottinghamshire, 1788 61 TOW / CESTER first-type mileage to Daventry, 1792 & 1799 curved TOW / CESTER, 1800 smaller straight-line TOWCESTER, 1803 TOWCESTER 60 boxed mileage to Aylesbury, 1829 smaller straight-line TOWCESTER mileage removed to Saxmundham and 1832 free front with mileage removed to Leamington and, finally, an 1833 smaller straight-line TOWCESTER to Buckingham.

Chris Jackson brought postcards showing the *Worcester Yeomanry - the Redditch Connection* between 1900 and 1927; the 16 sheets had been awarded a gold with 89 marks and Best in Show at the MPF Autumn 2017 show at Banbury, the meeting location. He 'borrowed' his exhibit for our meeting! The 8th Battalion of the Worcester Yeomanry became the Redditch Battalion. Postcards of June 1906 showed early camps, those of August 1906 showed a camp on Salisbury Plain and another of 1906 showed soldiers returning from Salisbury camp. Other cards showed training, gun parades – 126 horses, 6 guns and 6 wagons went to WW1! The Church Institute had turned a top room into a hospital ward and a full Red Cross VAD hospital was set up in the village hall at Tardebigge just outside the town which treated over 1,200 soldiers and there were a variety of cards from there. There were also cards of recruitment, sentimental cards from home and the Vicar of St. George's Church, cards showing fund raising tank week and the opening of the Garden of Remembrance.

For his second showing **Richard Farman** continued with his theme of Military Parcel Posts to include a tag with a label to Middle Eastern Forces, the Royal Malta Artillery, a 1918 item with compensation for an undelivered parcel and Burton-on-Trent Daily Mail food parcels.

For his second display **Mick Gill** showed letters to Beckingham, Lincolnshire, some five miles east of Newark from where the village was served. We saw letters from Sleaford correctly addressed Beckingham, Newark, an 183 letter from London addressed to Beckingham, Lincoln and annotated *Missent to Lincoln* and two 1833 letters from London addressed Beckingham, near Newark, Lincolnshire and Beckingham, Lincolnshire, near Newark. A prepaid Uniform penny Post letter of April 1840 was correctly addressed. Two January 1845 examples of the type C2 BECKINGHAM udc in blue were followed by an example of the Post Office hedging its bet with an example of a BECKINGHAM LINS / NEWARK single circle date stamp on a local 1912 postcard. Control of Beckingham and some adjacent Lincolnshire offices passed from Newark to Lincoln in the 1920s. Finally, Mick produced a 1912 postcard from Rotherham to Morton, Gainsborough which had been *Missent to Beckingham. Nottinghamshire!*

If your editor had not had to creep out to catch a train he would have continued with Much Wenlock covers including 1857 from Malta, 1857 and three of 1872 to New Zealand and 28 Dec 1898 to India (5th day of Imperial Penny Post).

TOWCESTER POSTMARKS TO 1849

by John Hine

Introduction

Although my interest in postal history matters as county editor for Gloucestershire is mainly occupied with that county I have always maintained a close interest in the postal history of my birthplace Towcester in Northants. The following notes have been assembled alongside the current BCC listing for Towcester to show in more detail all postmarks recorded up to 1849 with the exception of Maltese Cross and barred numeral cancellations. The period covered by this article is aligned with that of the BCC series stopping with the issue of the first sans serif datestamp to Towcester in February 1849. The list follows the basic format and layout in the current BCCM with the following exceptions: all postmarks are illustrated, the rarity factor column is omitted and additional notes are used to give more complete information.

The data used in this article has been drawn from the following written sources:

BCC1	BCC Northamptonshire 1st edition County Editor Geoff Oxley
BCC2	BCC Northamptonshire 2nd edition (1996) County Editor Derek Smeathers
BCCM	BCC Midlands edition (2013) County Editor Derek Smeathers
GFO	Correspondence with Geoff Oxley and his articles in PHS Bulletins
MM	Articles in Midland Mail
NRO	Northamptonshire Records Office, Delapre Park, Northampton (now at Wootton Hall Park)
PIB	Proof Impression Books
Stone	The Inland Posts (1392-1672) 1987 by J.W.M.Stone
	Auction and dealer lists

Identification numbers in this list are as used in the BCC series with NN for Northamptonshire.

The source of all earliest and latest dates of entries is known to the author but omitted here for privacy reasons.

The illustrations shown are the best that I have available and although in some cases they are incomplete or less clear they represent the actual postmark without enhancement. From 1835 onwards proof impressions are shown from photocopies taken from the Proof Impression Books.

Contemporary dates prior to 1752 from 1st January to 24th March were sometimes shown according to the Julian calendar viz 14 February 1740/41 but all dates in this list are expressed according to the Gregorian Calendar as in the BCCM.

Towcester is on the Watling Street some 60 miles north of London on what was known in postal terms as the Chester Road leading towards Ireland. In 1595 'Tosseter' was listed as a stage on the postroad to Ireland between Stony Stratford and 'Dentrye' (Daventry). The earliest reference to a postmaster at Towcester dates back to 1598 with Thomas Bowyer (Stone). Although the earliest recorded Towcester stamp is dated 1720 it seems highly likely that an earlier stamp was in use during the first decade of the 18th Century. Most post towns along the Chester Road were issued with this first generation of townstamps before 1710 including St Albans, Fenny Stratford, Stony Stratford, Daventry, Coventry, Lichfield, Stone, Nantwich and Chester. Only those for Dunstable, Towcester, and Coleshill have yet to be recorded.

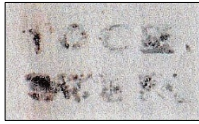
There are some changes to the current BCCM listing suggested and these are explained in detail in the list at the appropriate places. As is to be expected there are also a few updates to the recorded periods of use and these too are noted in the list

The BCCM listing for Northamptonshire does not differentiate between the initial use of double arc datestamps and their later issue with collection code letters added. In 1842 the NN244 Towcester datestamp without code was re-issued with code letters A and B. Both code letters are recorded in use. BCC number NN245 has been allocated provisionally to distinguish this stamp from NN244.

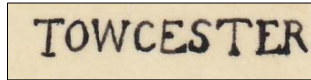
I especially wish to thank Derek Smeathers, the Northamptonshire county editor, and Paul Bradshaw for their support and advice in preparing this article.

The author welcomes corrections and additions to this list and scans of items not illustrated or of better examples of other stamps would be appreciated.

List:



NN228 02.09.1720



NN229 tracing 02.12.1729



NN229 04.06.1744

NN

228 5 TOCE / STER

20x10 B 02.09.1720 22.07.1722

Two recorded examples.

This was first listed by Geoff Oxley in BCC1 but without a date. The source may have been references to a TOCE/STER letter to London with a Bishop Mark dated 1717-22 that was offered for sale at 5/- by R. C. Alcock in the 'Philatelic Adviser' of September 1936. This followed the sale of the Daniels collection, the pioneer postal historian and author, when 'about 330 town marks on entires (1704-1799)' were sold for £16.

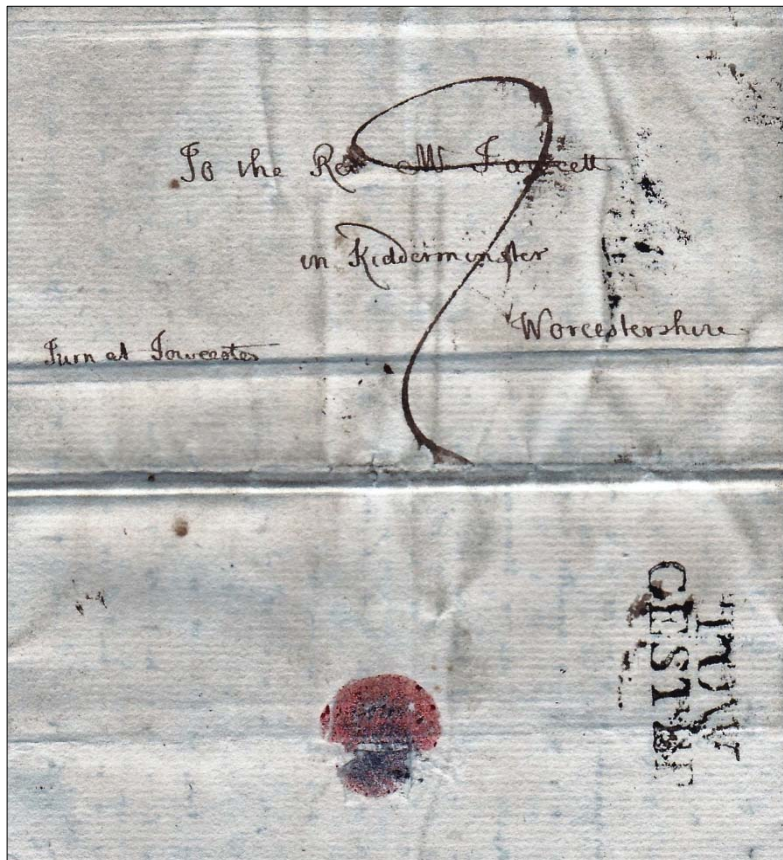
229 1 TOWCESTER

35x4 B 02.12.1729 16.07.1744

Three recorded examples.

The 1729 example was recorded by me in the 1960's in the Isham Correspondence (reference 1952) held at the Northants Record Office then at Delapre – a tracing made at that time is illustrated.

This same item was also seen by Geoff Oxley and recorded and illustrated by him in the PHS Bulletin 154 page 45. It is listed from the 1st edition BCC through to the current Midlands edition as the only recorded example and has a 'Z' rating (archives only). Since the BCCM was published in 2013 two more examples have been found both dated in 1744.



23 January 1750 from Doddridge in Northampton endorsed by him 'Turn at Towcester' for Kidderminster. NN231 TOW / CESTER struck on the reverse of a letter written in shorthand



NN231 23.01.1749/50

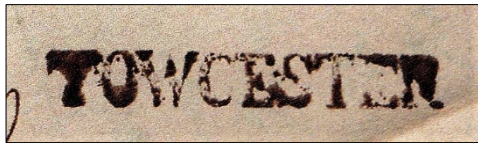
231 5 TOW / CESTER

31x11 B 01.01.1746 02.02.1760

9 recorded examples including two with dates earlier than the BCCM listing

More examples of this two line stamp are known to exist, most of them from the Doddridge correspondence (see the letter illustrated and the article in MM 100 by Derek Smeathers). Some of these were written by Doddridge in Northampton to Kidderminster and Ludlow and were postmarked at Towcester with NN231. Amongst these are letters endorsed by him with 'Turn at Towcester'.

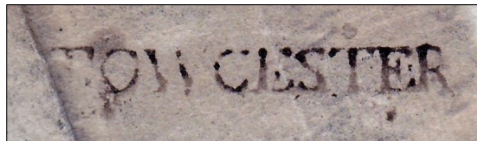
231b In the 2nd edition of the BCC (BCC2) in 1996 an additional single line stamp was added and listed as NN231b. This entry also appears in the BCCM with one recorded example for 1761. Further study of this stamp has shown it to be so similar to NN232 that the two have been combined under NN232 in this list.



NN232 01.03.1761



NN232 26.12.1767



NN234 19.04.1777

232 4 TOWCESTER

51x7 B 01.03.1761 02.03.1773

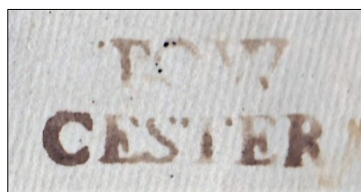
7 examples of NN232 are recorded

During the 18th century Towcester namestamps were struck in a weak watery ink making exact measurement of size difficult. NN232 and NN234 are single line stamps and are not easy to separate. For NN232 the size is nearer 51x7mm than the 50x6 listed in the BCCM.

234 4 TOWCESTER

53x6 B 28.06.1776 04.11.1778

5 examples of NN234 are recorded. NN234 is slightly longer and the letters are less high than in NN232



NN235 03.10.1784

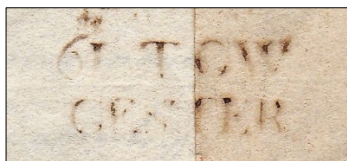
235 5 TOW / CESTER

37x17 B 18.01.1784 03.10.1784

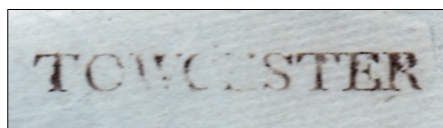
2 only recorded in use.

This two line stamp is much larger than NN231 used until 1760.

236 236, a single line TOWCESTER stamp appearing in all BCC editions to date has been deleted from this list as an error. We cannot confirm its existence and the size of 37x11 mm is impossible for a stamp of nine letters.



NN237 04.01.1785



NN238 04.02.1791

237 27 **61 TOW / CESTER**

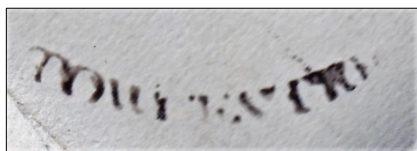
27x13 B 04.01.1785 18.01.1790

The latest confirmed use of the two line stamp NN235 dated 03.10.1784 is very clear. The earliest recorded use of 17.06.1784 for NN237, the first mileage mark, in the BCCM is unconfirmed although it does appear in Geoff Oxley's card index system. Overlapping use of these two stamps in 1784 seems improbable therefore the earliest use for NN237 is now amended to the first confirmed recorded use of 04.01.1785

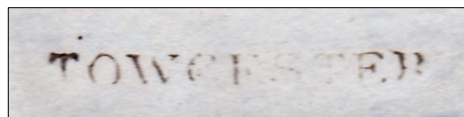
238 4 **TOWCESTER**

50x5 B 04.02.1791 06.05.1792

Only 2 examples recorded in use, seems to be very scarce perhaps underrated in the current BCCM rating of 'E'.



NN239 07.03.1798



NN240 18.01.1801

239 9 **TOWCESTER**

48x12 B 21.07.1792 04.05.1799

More than 10 recorded examples

240 12 **TOWCESTER**

50x4 B 20.07.1799 30.05.1801

6 examples recorded in use but those seen are nearer to 4mm than to 5mm as listed in the BCCM. Note that BCCM page 7 lists type 12 as a standard type having 4mm high letters.



NN241 24.03.1802



NN242 09.06.1833

241 29 **TOWCESTER / 60**

44x12 B 30.01.1802 23.12.1828

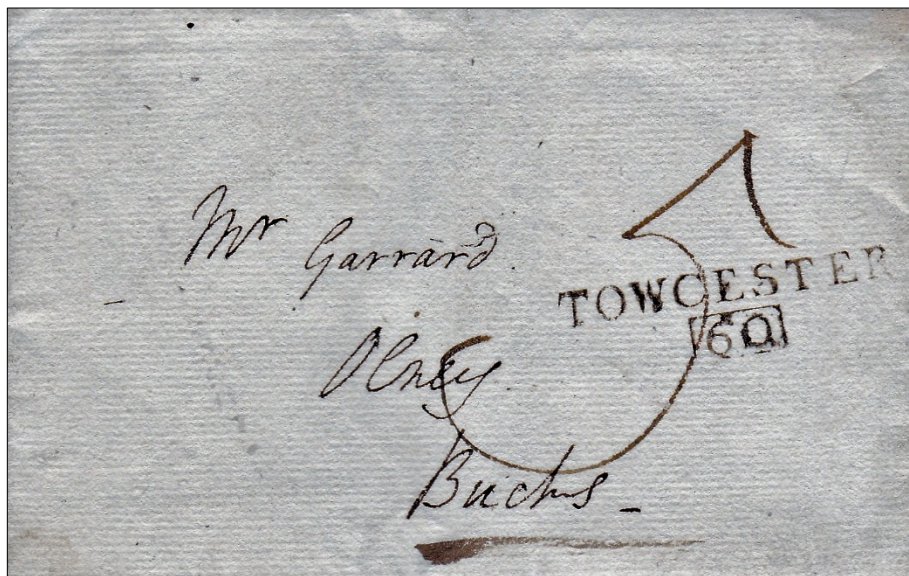
More than 20 examples recorded in use. Second type mileage stamp with a long use through until 1828/29.

242 29 **TOWCESTER /** mileage removed

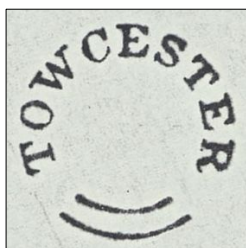
44x5 B 25.07.1829 13.10.1835

More than 20 examples recorded in use.

Mileage removed. As shown in the illustration the removal of the mileage box was less than perfect and part of the frame and number remains visible on heavily struck examples.



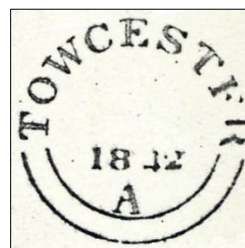
24 April 1802 second type mileage mark NN241 TOWCESTER / 60 on a letter to Olney



NN243 (proof) 19.10.1835



NN244 (proof) 22.01.1840



NN245 (proof) 04.03.1842



NN245 06.10.1843

243	15	TOWCESTER	Issued 19.10.1835	29	B	06.11.1835	07.12.1839
------------	-----------	------------------	-------------------	----	---	------------	------------

The UDC was the first Towcester stamp to be entered in the Proof Impression Books. It seems that this undated stamp was retained at the office as one late use is recorded on 13 June 1840 some months after the issue of date stamp NN244 in January 1840.

244	16	TOWCESTER	Issued 22.01.1840	29	B	20.05.1840	03.07.1841
------------	-----------	------------------	-------------------	----	---	------------	------------

The first Towcester date stamp, it was issued without a code letter at the base.

245	16	TOWCESTER	Issued 04.03.1842	30	B	14.06.1842	24.12.1847
			Code letters A and B added		BL	07.06.1848	

The BCCM does not differentiate between uncoded (NN244) and coded (NN245) stamps but it is assumed that the latest BCCM uses initially recorded by Oxley in both black and blue ink are letter coded stamps and thus NN245.



A 26mm sans serif date stamp was issued to Towcester on 20.02.1849 (above), recorded in use from 05.05.1850.

A GOTHAM CONTRIBUTION

by Alan Marshall

Early examples of mail from Gotham (the name derives from the Old English for *Goat Home*) are very rare; therefore the location of the only known undated GOTHAM to date is very important. Although in Nottinghamshire, its mail at the time of the undated mark was directed under Derby as was the mail for nearby Kingston-on-Soar. The undated example appears on the reverse of a cover addressed to Eastwood, Notts displaying a QV 1d red, SG40, cancelled with a 3CD DERBY / 242 dated 8 OCT 1859 (Fig 1). Of added interest /intrigue is that the reverse also carries an undated KINGSTONE, clearly a same day strike followed by a 9 OCT date stamp of NOTTINGHAM and a 9 OCT date stamp of EASTWOOD. Three of four undated Kingstone marks, from October 1853 to July 1856, also have an undated KEGWORTH, added en route to Derby. Gotham mail, likewise, would travel via Kegworth, so why did the letter at Fig 1 pick up an undated Kingstone but not one of Kegworth?

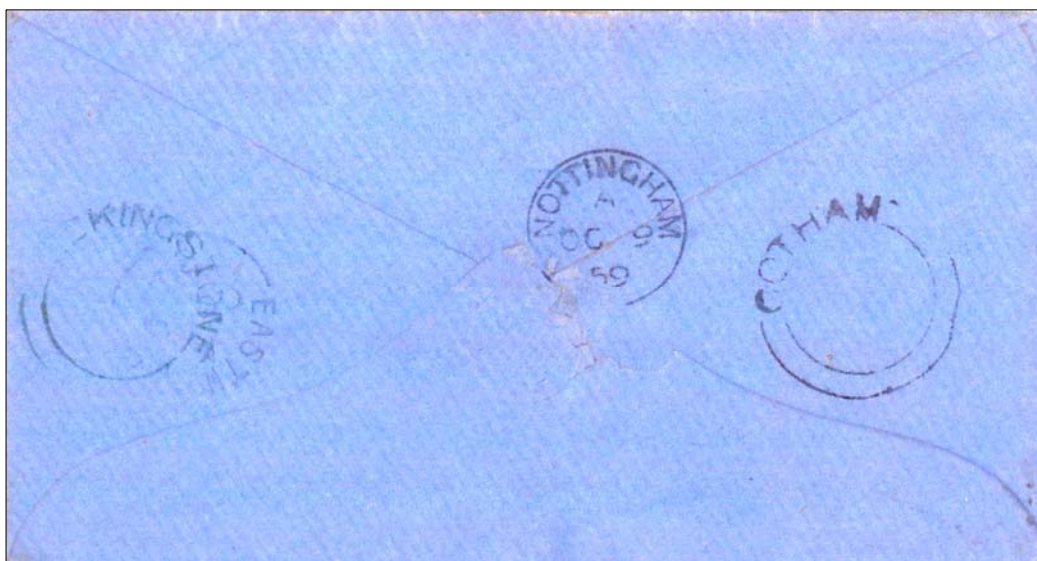


Fig 1, Reverse of 1859 cover from Gotham to Eastwood showing undated GOTHAM & KINGSTONE

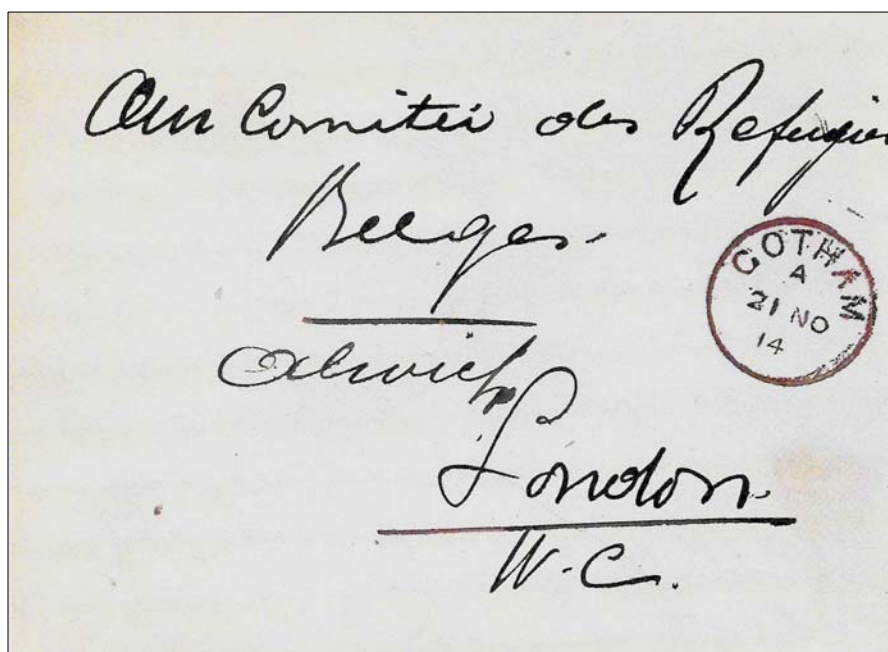


Fig 2, 1914 GOTHAM to Committee for Belgian Refugees, Aldwich, London

Apart from picture postcards of the village and a business postcard of the early 1900s the only other Gotham items found are a Midland Railway Derby employment application of Nov 1876, displaying a KEGWORTH G33 duplex barred numeral and a rare WW1 envelope from a Belgian refugee sent free to the Committee of Belgian Refugees in London with a GOTHAM cds of 21 NOV 1914 and a London machine receiving mark for the same day on the reverse (Fig 2). The cover is endorsed from Gotham / Derby in manuscript on the reverse.

Ignoring the colour picture postcards of the village, the following are also of interest. A 1924 postcard, postmarked DERBY showing the Gotham post office and next door police house. At this time the letter box was still wall-mounted VR box with a white enamelled front (Fig 3).



Fig 3, 1924 postcard showing Gotham post office

Fig 4 shows a 1908 postcard from the Gotham Company Ltd, posted at Nottingham, received the same day at Leeds.

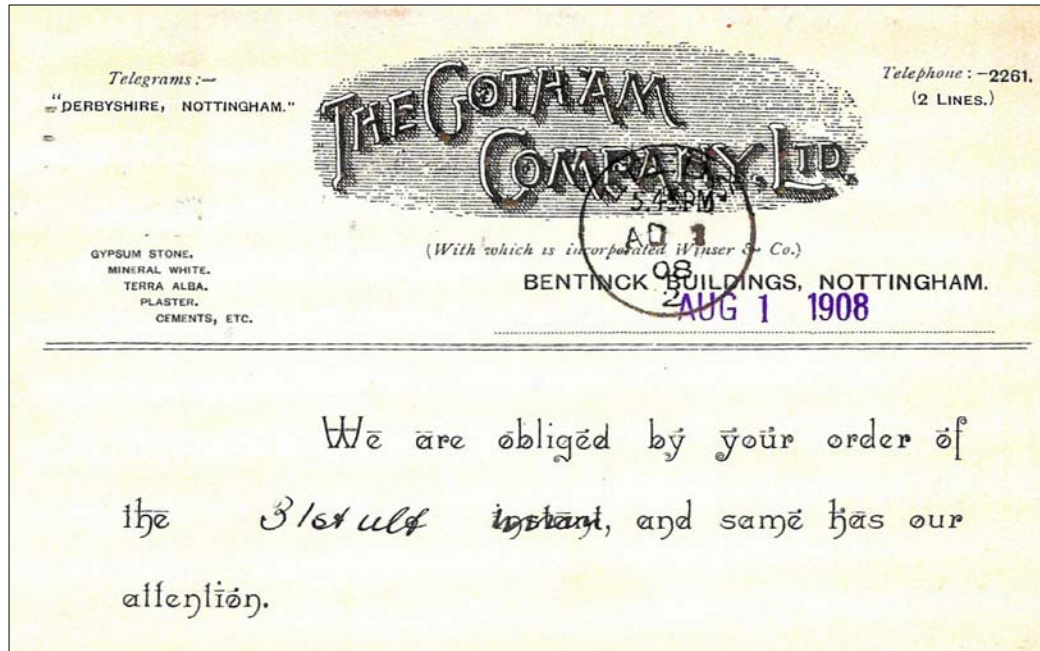


Fig 4, 1908 postcard from THE GOTHAM COMPANY, LTD., to Leeds

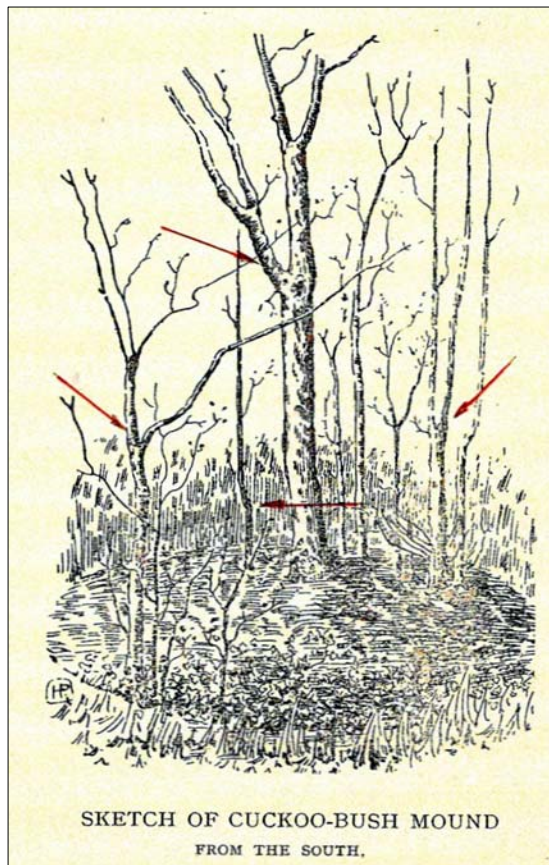
Until the mid to late 1900s the main village occupation was gypsum mining and plaster manufacture. At least five small mines / companies were all gradually encompassed in the national company British Gypsum. Today one of the largest mines, plaster and plasterboard manufacturing plants in the world is only two miles away. Gypsum is still mined from the same deposit once nibbled into by the above mentioned small operations. It is supplemented with gypsum obtained from the desulphurisation process at the coal fired power stations that remain.

Apart from its questionable connection to Gotham City in America, Gotham is known worldwide for other reasons including that two recent presidents of the USA have claimed ancestral connections to Gotham through the St Andrews family, formally Lords of Gotham (George Bush and Bill Clinton – Leicester Mercury and the Nottingham Evening Post, October 1992!). However the most important and interesting facet is due to the historical connection with the *Merry Tales of the Mad Men of Gotham and King John*. The Merry Tales of Gotham has been the subject of many writers over the centuries discussing the probabilities or otherwise of the tales being factual or mere jest!

What follows is a narrative to complement what is an example of a rare photographic postcard sent from Nottingham on 5 MAY 1909 (Fig 5).



Fig 5, 1909 postcard of The Cuckoo Bush, Gotham, Notts



The 1900s sees a book *The Merry Tales of Gotham* produced by Alfred Stapleton of Nottingham on the basis that he could not find that the tales had been edited or seriously looked into by anyone acquainted with the history of the neighbourhood to which they relate. He set out to explain all of the twenty known tales. In reality only the third tale provided any factual evidence, that of fencing in the cuckoo.

The Third Tale – Once upon a time the men of Gotham would have penned in the cuckoo, whereby she should sing all year, and in the midst of the town they made a hedge, round in compass, and they put a cuckoo into it and said ‘*Sing all the year and thou shalt lack neither meat nor drink*’. As soon as she perceived herself encompassed in the hedge the cuckoo flew away! ‘*Vengeance on her*’ said they, ‘*We made not our hedge high enough*’.

The postcard shows the bowler-hatted Alfred Stapleton standing on the site of the cuckoo bush (one mile south of the village). The site is now fenced and accessible to visitors by a short path from an age-old footpath from Gotham to West Leake. The book contains a number of artists sketches associated with this tale. One of the sketches is clearly based on the photograph used for the card (Fig 6). There are four distinctly recognisable features with many of the trees omitted in order to emphasis the central, all-important tree.

Fig 6, SKETCH OF CUCKOO-BUSH MOUND

Other sketches include the Cuckoo Bush hostelry (Fig 7), which remains as-is today, and the two sides of the Inn sign as it was at the time (Fig 8). It is interesting to read what is written earlier.

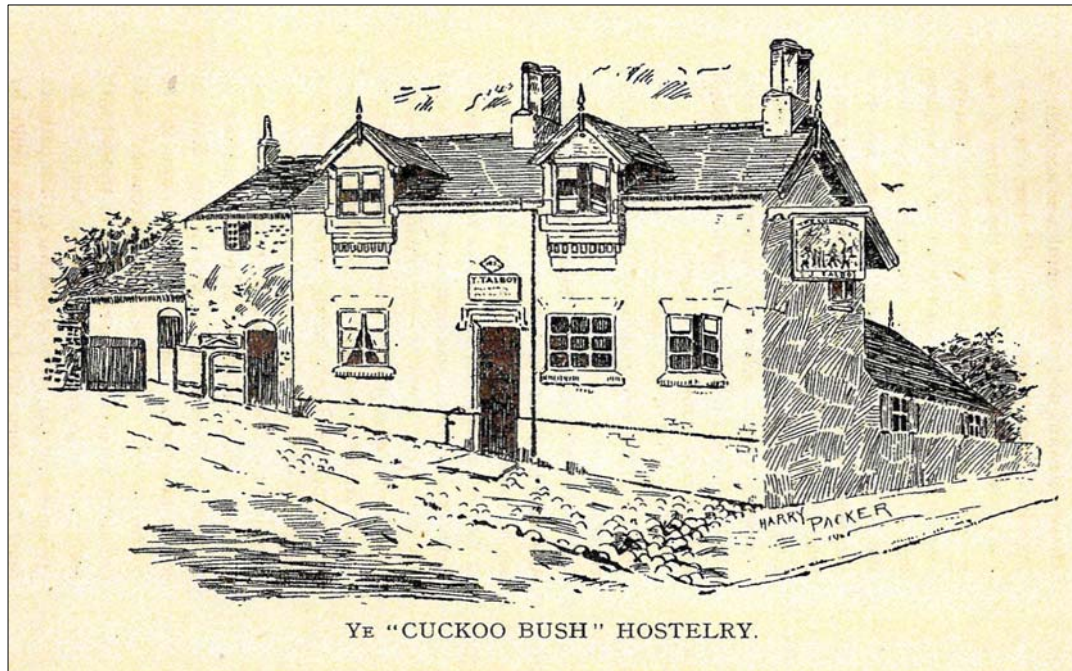


Fig 7, YE "CUCKOO BUSH HOSTELRY"

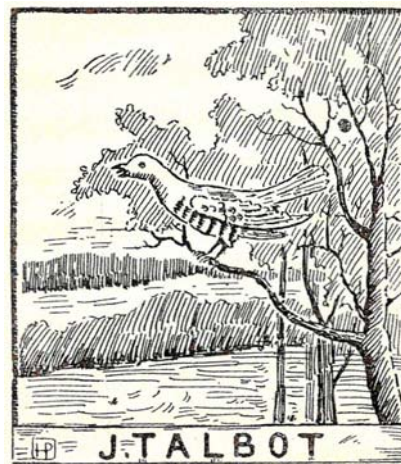
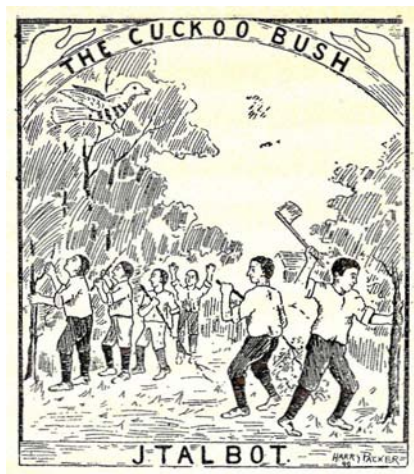


Fig 8, Sketches of SIGNBOARD of CUCKOO BUSH TAVERN, GOTHAM

In his *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* (1677), Thoroton writes, *On the north side of this Lordship (Rushcliffe Wapentake), on a knoll called Court Hill, near the bounds of Goteham, about a flight-shot from Cuckoo Bush, the Hundredth Court has been kept.* A reproduction of the Thoroton volume, *History of Notts* (1797), with much addition, Throsby quotes *Cuckoo Bush tradition* says it was planted or set to commemorate a trick, which the inhabitants of Gotham put upon King John. The tale is told thus: *King John passing this place towards Nottingham, intending to go over the meadows, was prevented by the villagers, they apprehending that the ground, over which a King passed, was for ever after to become a public road. The King, incensed at their proceedings sent from his court servants to inquire of them the reason for their incivility and ill treatment that he might punish them by way of fine, or some other way he might judge most proper. The villagers, hearing of the approach of the King's servants, thought of an expedient to turn away His Majesty's displeasure from them. When the messenger arrived at Gotham they found some of the inhabitants engaged in carrying out foolish antics convincing the King's servants that it was a village of fools.*

A popular saying within Gotham for years has been 'There are more fools pass through the village than live in it'!

VIEWING BACK COPIES OF MIDLAND MAIL

by Frank Walton RDP FRPSL

As has been previously been announced, back copies of the *Midland Mail* are now available from the society's website www.midlandphs.org.uk. This website does have a searchable index, and also a list of individual editions which can be clicked on and viewed or downloaded.

There is however a much more powerful way of searching and viewing the information as the index to *Midland Mail* has been incorporated into the very extensive database hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society London. This is accessible at www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue and can be used free of charge by anyone, not just members of the Royal.

The process is best explained by an example of trying to search for any information about Gloucester Station.



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 ☐ use synonyms

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On the blank search screen that is presented if you go to www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue enter “Gloucester Station” in Search Term 1 AND “Midland Mail” in Search Term 2. Then tick the box next to ‘Cumulative Indexes’ in the central part of the screen and press the ‘Search’ button. The results will appear as:



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Article Title/Subject	Author	Keywords	Number	Volume	Issue	Issue Date	Start Page	In Lib?	Link to Article
Gloucester Station Postmarks, 1842-1886	John Hine	Gloucestershire	185			Jan 2015	9	Yes	Link

Number of articles: 1

Click on 

This points to an article John Hine authored in Jan 2015 on page 9 of *Midland Mail*. And now the really powerful link that integrates the index on the Royal's database with the pdfs on the MPHS website. By clicking on the word 'Link', you will automatically be shown the pdf of the whole edition of *Midland Mail* in question. You can either view it online, print or download to be saved for later reference.

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB)
POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: John Calladine

Chairman: Chris Jackson (01527 544722) Treasurer: Alan Godfrey (01789 765385) Secretary: Mick Gill (01636 672868)

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Number 185, January 2015

There are two departures from our normal practice in this edition. A coloured picture on the front page refers to an article inside; as we pay for a coloured first page because of the heading in red it seemed worthwhile to produce an illustration referring to an internal article. Another 'first' is that there is an article of 12 pages presented here in its entirety. As soon as I received it I thought it deserved not to be split. Before you all start rushing to your references and laptops, this is an experiment not necessarily to be repeated *ad nauseam*! Please let me know what you think!

By using the controls in Adobe Acrobat, you can now move down to page 9 to view the article in question.

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GLOUCESTER STATION OFFICE 1842 to 1886

by John Hine

When the Birmingham & Gloucester Railway was opened in 1840 Gloucester Station was the terminus of the line and by 1842 a post office was opened at the station.

On 27 January 1842 Gloucester Station was the very first Railway Station to be issued with a date stamp.

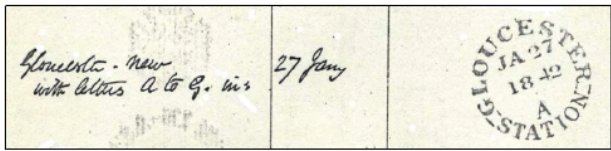


Fig.1 GLOUCESTER / STATION date stamp issued with code letters A to G (P.I.B. 5/71)

But the Royal website is much more powerful than just a way of searching the cumulative index to *Midland Mail*. If you repeat the process, but this time without "Midland Mail" in the second search term, then you will discover that there are two other articles indexed in different journals on the same subject.

Going to an even further level of detail, if you try searching for "Gloucester Station" in all databases rather than just in the Cumulative Indexes, then you will be able to see that Bill Pipe included examples from this post office in his display to the RPSL in March 2017. It is at this point that members of the Royal will be able to see more information than non-members; this feature is one of the privileges of membership of the RPSL.

Ed - Very many thanks to Frank for the above and all his work in copying back copies of *Midland Mail*

THE POSTAL MUSEUM

by John Soer

At last, the capital city of this country has a postal museum worthy of the name. Those who were expecting a museum along the lines of that which existed, what seems like millennia ago, in the King Edward Building will be disappointed, for this new museum is aimed at a much wider range of people than mainly committed philatelists. After all, it is a postal museum not a philatelic one. The R.M. Phillips Collection can be viewed on line but the resolution of the images is awful. It is much better to go to the search-room to view it on their computers.

For the purpose of this review, I tried to 'wear two hats', first of all looking at the exhibition as someone with very little knowledge, if any, of postal matters, and then as someone who has some knowledge of postal history. When one enters the exhibition from the foyer, which contains ticket desks, a shop and a cafe, immediately in front of you is a superbly restored example of the London Ornate Pillar Box.

The museum is then divided into five sections, the first of which deals with the early days of the post – the Royal Post of Henry VIII and then the extension of the post to the public by Charles I. The six main post roads of Witherings are mentioned but there is no map. There are two names that I would expect to find in a display of the posts prior to the mail coaches: Thomas Witherings and Ralph Allen. I did not see any mention of the latter; perhaps I missed it. In this section as elsewhere in the exhibition there are a number of recessed display cabinets. Surely a letter of 1636 and a Dockwra of 1681 will whet the most jaded of postal history appetites.

I must admit that this over-75 child thoroughly enjoyed using the various interactive displays. Though, afterwards I did feel that 'Mailcoach Challenge' on the work of a mailguard was somewhat superficial. Is a case of 'Do not let the facts get in the way of a good story' acceptable in a museum? I cannot remember reading about an armed attack on a mail coach, and Joyce records that in the first twelve years of the operation of the mail coaches there had not been one instance of an attack by a highwayman. Accounts of accidents and delays caused by snow or flood are to be found in the newspapers of the time, but I have never found mention of attack by a highwayman, though pilfering certainly took place. More could have been made of how physically arduous the job must have been.

In a section devoted to developments of the Victorian era, one cover in one of the glass fronted cabinets jumped straight out at me for it was struck with one of those very rare dated Bingham marks (1st January too). The fact that it was not mentioned as it was not relevant to the purpose for which the cover was shown, shows how esoteric collecting postal history can become. Nearby, the contents of a cabinet clearly aroused the interest of a group of tourists from the Far East as they queued to take photographs. Two of my favourites are shown below. There were a number of other appetising items that would also have been worthy of use as an illustration.



Fig 1, 1910 Valentine Card



Fig 2, Pop-up Valentine from a group dated 1870 - 1920

The carriage of mail and the part played by Post Office staff during the World Wars, along with the changes in society are covered in a very informative section.

Vehicles, ranging from a mail coach to a post bus are to be found throughout the exhibition, as are a number of pillar boxes. I particularly liked the one with a stamp machine attached. (However, see my comment below.)

The one area that seemed not to attract the attention of visitors was a display of posters and publications such as the Post Office Magazine. In an age when even 'A' level chemistry text books have coloured pictures in them, (even then, the books were probably never opened in the course of two years.), a pile of old magazines, some loose, some in bound volumes, is hardly an inspiring sight, although they do contain some interesting articles. The space could have been given over to such as a display of Victorian pillar boxes or a mock-up of a post office. Those of a mature vintage will possibly remember the pillar boxes, there must have been about a dozen of them, which stood in the corridor when Post Office Records, as it was then known, was in the basement of the building at St Martin's le-Grand. They later migrated to deepest Essex – seventeen stations from Oxford Circus on the Central Line. How much better it would be to have them all in WC1, forming an eye-catching exhibit.

While the films from the P.O. Film Unit attracted older people, it was clear that the youngsters much preferred to design their own postage stamp. One gentleman to whom I spoke in the cafe afterwards said that he would have liked to have seen more stamps. Others may agree, but those interested in the Machins can have no grounds for complaint, the designing of those adhesives being covered in some detail.

Although it seems to have taken a long time to arrive, the museum is well worth a visit being both informative and entertaining. When one considers that prices for the Hidden London programme of the London Transport Museum, in which it is possible to see parts of the underground not normally accessible to the public, range from £30 to £80 and that this autumn's visits sold out within three days of going on sale, then at £16 the tickets for Mail Rail are a real bargain. I wonder if there is scope for increasing the cost of Mail Rail and decreasing the price of a ticket for the museum (£11). I hope to report on Mail Rail at a later date.

If you have not been to the museum by the time you next visit Stampex, can I suggest you catch a bus (19, 38 or 341), alight at Mount Pleasant Post Office, walk down the left hand side of the P.O. and turn right into Phoenix Place. I doubt that you will be disappointed.



Fig 3, Museum Exhibit



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FURTHER THOUGHTS ON A 1796 BOSTON, MA TO LUDLOW COVER

by Ian Baker

At the March 2017 meeting at Loughborough, one of the items shown by Brian Atkins in his very interesting Transatlantic Mail display was a letter from Boston, USA, dated 24 February 1796 to Ludlow via Cowes and London (date stamp on the reverse for 25 April 1796). Lloyds List of 26 April records the arrival from Boston of the *Outram* at Cowes, presumably on the 24th or 25th of April, where the COWES / SHIP LRE^s handstamp (BCC IW151) was applied. See illustration below.



1796 cover from Boston to Ludlow

Discussion at the meeting focused on the rate(s) marked on the cover. Initially rated 6d at Cowes, for the 1d ship letter rate which was presumably known to have been paid and 5d for Cowes to London, where all overseas letters were sent for rates to be confirmed and the letter then forwarded to other parts of the country. However, the 6d was deleted at London and replaced by 10d.

First thoughts at the meeting in March were that the rate should have been 11d, compiled of 1d ship letter plus 5d Cowes to London (single letter rate 80-150 miles) and a further 5d for London to Ludlow (single letter rate 80-150 miles).

David Robinson's book '*for the PORT & CARRIAGE of LETTERS*' pages 28-29, refers to the one charge for the total distance a letter travelled, being effective from 5 January 1797. However, David says there was confusion in England and Wales concerning the *previous* rate change Act, effective from 31 August 1784, namely that "*Taken literally, the Act said just one extra charge of 1d (if the mileage to London was 80-150 miles) or 2d (if the mileage to London was over 150 miles) should have been added.*"

Consequently, for Brian's cover the rate of 6d was marked at Cowes, that is, 1d ship letter plus the pre 1784 rate of 4d + 1d added. Then in London the 6d was deleted and replaced by 10d ie 1d (ship letter) + 4d (Cowes to London 1765 Act, over 80 miles rate) + 1d (1784 Act, 80-150 miles increase) + 4d (London to Ludlow 1765 Act, over 80 miles rate) with no 1d increase as one extra 1d had already been added. The cover would appear to be a scarce record of showing how the 1784 rate increases could be applied, as David continues in his book '*But letters in practice usually showed the combined new charges, with 1d or 2d added to each rate*'.

There is confusion in our own Midland Mileage Marks book page 7, where mention is made that '*The critical change brought about by the 1784 Act was that letters through London were no longer to be charged as if for two separate journeys, one into London and one out again. In future, the charge was to be raised on the total distance a letter was carried*'. Does any member have knowledge of the 1784 Act (24 George III c 37) and / or the 1797 Act (37 George III c 18) to confirm which of the two books mentioned above has the correct source?

Has anyone an alternative explanation to this excellent piece of reasoning by Ian – Ed?

FACKLEY – A SHORT-LIVED POST OFFICE

by Mick Gill

Fackley is one of a small number of places in Nottinghamshire which had its own post office for a short period in the mid 1800s. Recorded as Fackley Lane, one of four hamlets in the parish of Teversal¹, some four miles west by north of Mansfield, the hamlet grew around a toll bar on the Little Robins to Kelstedge, Derbyshire turnpike, authorised by Act of Parliament in 1765². Little Robins is the point where today's B6014 leaves the A38 south of Mansfield, whilst Kelstedge is on the Matlock to Chesterfield road.

By 1858 the Fackley Lane community was large enough to warrant its own post office and a FACKLEY type D4 undated circle was issued to Mansfield on 18 October 1858 in readiness for the opening³. Charles Ashmore was appointed sub-postmaster, his appointment letter being dated 4 December 1858. His remuneration was £6 a year which included delivery of the mail on three days a week⁴. Charles is recorded as shoemaker in 1851⁵ so, no doubt, he combined his new appointment with his work.

The post office does not appear in the PO Guide for 1859, but does, as Fackley Bar, in that of January 1860⁶. Whether business was not sufficient or for some other reason, the post office closed on 20 March 1860 after a period of only some 15 months⁷. Fortunately one example of the undated circle has survived on the reverse of an envelope posted on 28 October 1859 to Eastwood, Notts (Fig 1).

A post office named Fackley Hill opened in 1935 but this too closed in or around 1945/6⁸.



Fig 1, The only recorded example of the undated FACKLEY on the reverse of an envelope dated 28 October 1859

References:

- 1) White's Directory of Nottinghamshire, 1851
- 2) Coaching Days – The Turnpike Roads of Nottinghamshire, A. Cossens, Notts CC, 1994
- 3) The Undated Circular Marks of the Midland Counties – Nottinghamshire, MPHS
- 4) Nottinghamshire Postal History – Nottinghamshire Post Offices, D. Humphreys
- 5) White's Directory of Nottinghamshire, 1851
- 6) Nottinghamshire Post Offices, Ken Smith
- 7) ibid
- 8) Nottinghamshire Postal History – Nottinghamshire Post Offices, D. Humphreys

A 1783 PETERBOROUGH DISCOVERY

Derek Smeathers reports that he has purchased an entire letter which bears a previously unreported PETER / BOROUGH mark (see Fig 1 below). The correspondence is well known to those of us who collect postal history. Looking at page 89 of the Midlands Edition of the British County Catalogue of Postal History (No 6 in the list of society publications) the mark fits exactly into the sequence of marks for Peterborough as listed below.

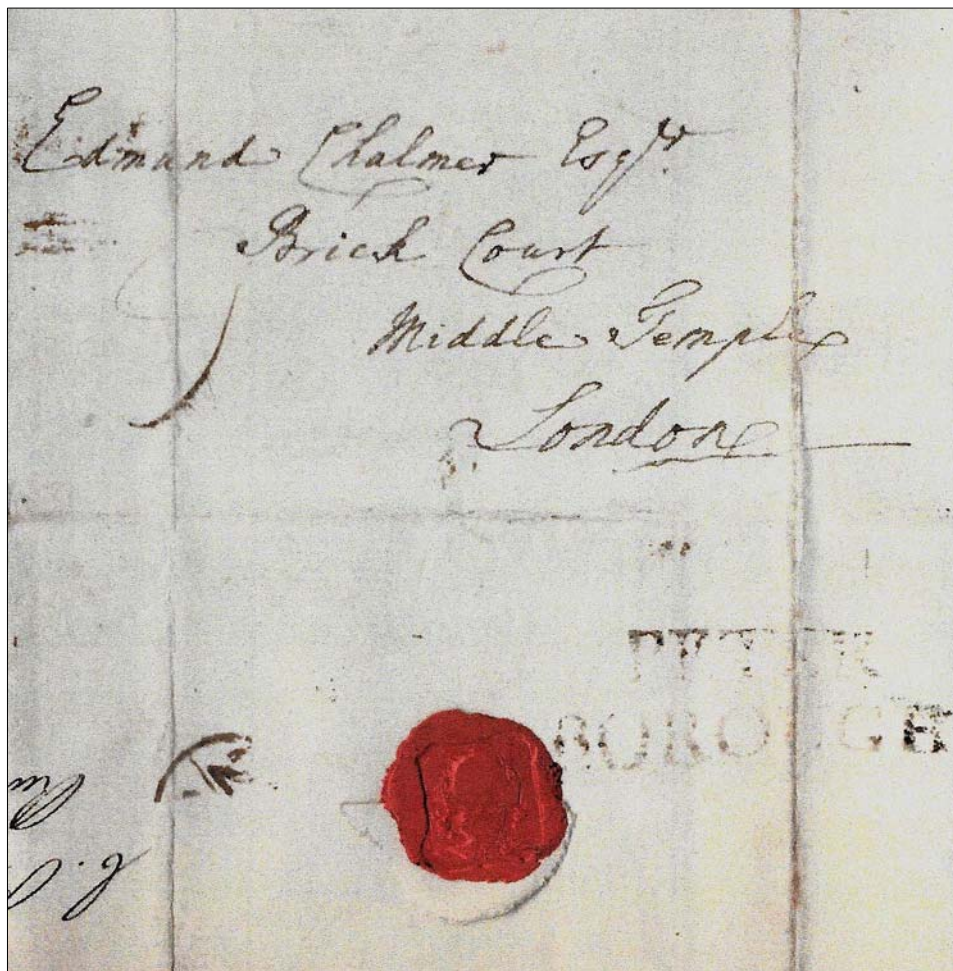


Fig 1, October 1783 entire from Peterborough to London

The entire is dated 25 Oct 1783 and has a Bishop mark for 27 / OC across the join on the reverse; it also has an endorsement *C. Plaxtol / Rev^d D^r Tarrant*. The full entry into the catalogue should read:

NN 180 5 PETER/BOROUGH 50 x 16 B 25OCT1783 E


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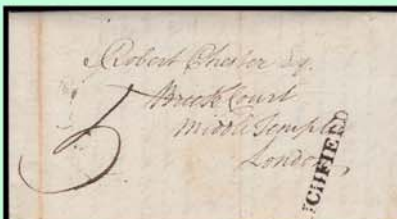
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Queens Anne's Bounty

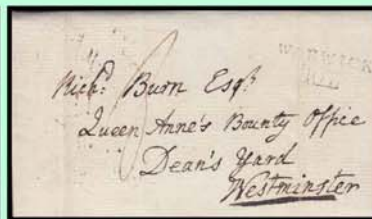
We have recently acquired a large correspondence relating to the Queen Anne's Bounty, an ecclesiastical charity set up to redistribute wealth within the Church of England. Enquires welcome. We offer subject unsold a sample selection from Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire.



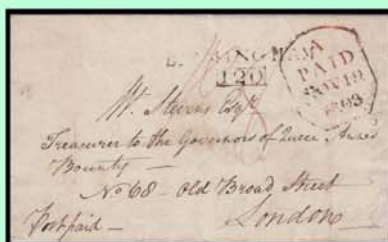
1810 QAB mail from Warwick,
reference the Curacy of Milverton.
£30.00



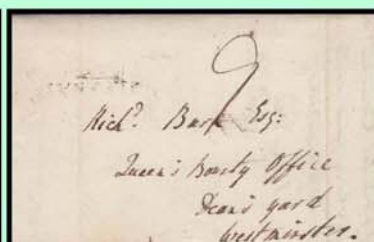
1788 QAB mail from Litchfield,
reference the Curacy of the Chapel of
Chorlton. £45.00



1810 QAB mail from Warwick,
reference the Curacy of Milverton.
£30.00



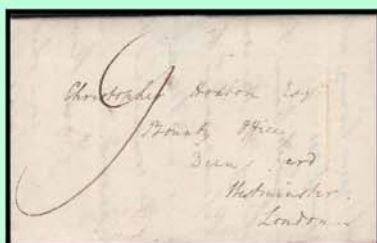
1803 QAB mail from Birmingham,
reference the Curacy of Pattenshull.
£20.00



1807 QAB mail from Shiffnal,
reference the Chapel of Donington
Wood in Salop. £22.50



1807 QAB from Litchfield,
reference Curacy of Lea Marston.
£25.00



1824 QAB mail from Edingale,
reference Curacy of Edingale and
construction of a parsonage. £25.00



1823 QAB mail from
Birmingham, reference the Curacy
of Moseley. £20.00



1825 QAB mail from Bishop Castle,
reference the Curacy of Edgeton.
£25.00

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