

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Number 142, November 2005

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to: Michael Mapleton of Cockermouth whose main interest is the postal history of Cumbria; to Eric Goffe of Petersfield whose interests include "The Worcester Road" and the Free Franking System; and to Phil Carlington of King's Heath whose varied interests include Birmingham, Mulreadies, and GB Line Engraved. We also welcome Bill Pipe who has taken over Hilary Shaw's Buntingford Auctions, combining that business with his own. He will be pleased to send a sample catalogue to any member.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On 10th December we hold our whole-day Christmas meeting in Burton-on-Trent at the Coors Visitor Centre, formerly the Bass Museum. From 10.30 a.m. there will be standing displays by members on "*Mail from Overseas*". Lunch, which this year celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Society, will be at 12.30 p.m. Then, at 2 p.m., Brian Brookes will give a display on "*The Postal History of the West Indies*". If you intend to join us for lunch could you please let Richard Farman (tel. 01283 566515) by 3rd December.

Our first meeting of 2006 will be held on 14th January at St Germain's Church Hall, Portland Road, Birmingham. The meeting which begins at 1.30 pm will be devoted to member's displays of "*Railway Covers*". However, it is hoped to precede the meeting proper with a viewing of the video made at the launch of our new book. The video includes a detailed examination of the mail coach that was on view at the event as well as scenes within the hall. As the video lasts about thirty-five minutes the welcoming tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from 12.30 to 1.00 p.m., and you are asked to arrive at least half-an-hour earlier than usual.

JOHN BRADNOCK

It is with great sadness that we report the death of John Bradnock. John had been a member of the Society for many years and was active in its affairs, attending meetings whenever possible and displaying if he had suitable material. He listed his interests as "1841 penny reds on cover", "General Pre-stamp", "Duplex Marks and Squared Circles", "Machine Cancellations" and "TPOs and FPOs".

As well as being a member of this Society, John was also a member and ex-president of The Birmingham Philatelic Society, a founder member of The South Birmingham Philatelic Society and a member of The Indian Study Circle. His philatelic interests were very wide ranging, and his general philatelic knowledge was unsurpassed. In 1973, John won Stamp Collecting Weekly's Diamond Jubilee competition which consisted of thirty extremely difficult questions. No entrant scored full marks, but John got twenty-nine correct. No other entrant got more than twenty-seven correct.

John was a quiet and unassuming gentleman who was always willing to help anyone and share his knowledge. John will be greatly missed and our meetings will be the poorer for his passing.

THE ANNUAL AUCTION

This will be held on 29th April 2006, starting at 1.45 p.m. In order to distribute the catalogues in good time, particularly to our overseas members, it is necessary that lots are handed to Eric at either the meeting on 14th January or that on 11th February. Alternatively, they may be sent to Mrs E Lewis at 27 Rathbone Road, Smethwick B67 5JG by 11th February. Please include full descriptions together with estimated market values and your reserve price, or state that there is no reserve.

A gift of surplus material that you may care give to sell for Society funds would be much appreciated. The money raised by the auction not only gives us an opportunity to dispose of surplus material or to acquire items for our collections, but also raises a valuable amount of money, so keeping subscriptions down. So please sort out those surplus items over the Christmas holiday, if not before then.

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

The BPMA has launched a new audio CD featuring personal accounts of life in the Post Office between 1930 and 1990. **Speeding the Mail** brings together the voices of current and former Royal Mail staff, from messenger boys to managing directors.

The collection of stories on **Speeding the Mail** highlights the extremes of Post Office working life. The CD is presented in eight sections: the GPO, sorting the mail, moving the mail, delivering the mail, speeding the mail, counter stories, stamps and the changing postal service. It costs £11.99 (plus £2 post and packing). To order a copy, call the BPMA on 0207239 2570, or send a cheque payable to 'Postal Heritage Services Ltd.' to The BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

Victorian Innovation is the latest exhibition on display until April 2006 in The Royal Mail Archive Search Room. It features examples of original stamps and postal history from the R M Phillips collection, and explores three themes: the postage stamp, postal innovations and revolutions in postal transport. Some of the highlights can be viewed online at:

www.postalheritage.org.uk/history.

The Royal Mail Archive Search Room will be closed for three weeks from Monday 12th December 2005 to Monday 2nd January 2006 inclusive.

NEW BOOKS

I assume that members have by now ordered their copy of our mileage marks book. There are two other publications that have come to my notice that may interest members.

ENGLAND'S MAIL Two Millennia of Letter Writing by Philip Beale. This should not be confused with the author's earlier book - "*A History of the Post in England from the Romans to the Stuarts*". It is in fact a revised edition of the former publication but with much new material, more illustrations and colour plates. I find it a book that is much easier to read than "*A History of the Post*" and is highly recommended to anyone interested in the early history of the post in this country. ISBN 0 7524 3491 8, paperback, 320 pages, published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, £19.99

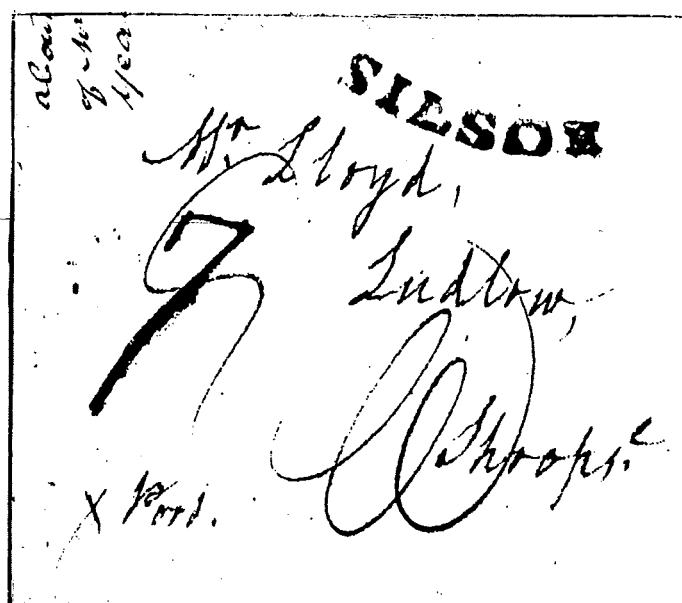
SKELETON POSTMARKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES compiled by Patrick Awcock and John Frost. This is the third edition of this publication, the last being issued in 1996, and is published by the British Postmark Society. It is expected that the book will be available before Christmas. Anyone compiling such a book faces the fact that no sooner is the book published more unrecorded examples "creep out of the woodwork". Only yesterday, at a postcard fair, I turned over a card to see what price the dealer wanted and found a skeleton postmark which was new to me. Later, I found that it is not recorded in the 1996 edition, and now wait to see if anyone has reported its existence. The fact that one never knows what might turn up is why I find these marks so fascinating. Circa 250 A4 pages, comb bound, £18.50 plus £3.50 p & p. Available from British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1NH.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting was a whole day affair at The Abbey Centre, Northampton. One of our members, Bob Ricketts, began the proceedings with a display of early material from Bedfordshire. Bob began by describing some of the economic history of the county and then went on to outline some of the early postal routes. In 1678, the only postal stage serving the county was Dunstable. In 1682, a post from London through St Albans, Luton, Bedford and on to Northampton was set up. Three years later came the introduction of a post through Barnet, Hatfield, Stevenage and Biggleswade.

The first item shown by Bob was a warrant for "John Tailor, one of the Queen Majties Ordinary Messengers" signed by the Marquess of Winchester, and mentioning a delivery at Henlow. Bob then took us along the post roads that served the county, starting at Market Street (Markyate). A letter of 1732 was from the postmaster of St Albans concerning a complaint about the receiver. We saw two Pickford letters, one of which had been sent through the postal service, while the other had been carried by Pickford's own network. From Dunstable we saw a letter about the Great Fire of London sent in 1666 from Great Dalby as well as a letter of c1680 sent "care of the postmaster of Dunstable". A letter sent in 1674 from Fenny Stratford to London was put into the post at Brickhill and endorsed "Post payd att Brickhill 3^d". We saw a number of handstamps from Leighton Buzzard of which the 1780 'LEIGH/TON-BUZ' was particularly notable.

Bob then turned to the post road running through St Albans and Luton. From the latter place we saw a privately carried letter of 1680 and handstamps of 1744 and 1793. Next came examples of the marks applied in 1802 and 1807 at the receiving house in Silsoe. Ampthill was represented by the 'AMPT/HILL' of 1749 and an unrecorded 'AMPT/HILL' used in 1786 on a letter sent from London to Lutterworth which had been missent to Ampthill. Another unrecorded mark was the '43 WOO/BURN' used in 1786 on a letter to Tuxford. This was followed by the first type mileage mark of Bedford - '52 Bedford'.



A letter sent from Silsoe to Ludlow in December 1810.

Although the letter is marked "X Post", it was in fact sent through London.

The charge of 7d for 40 miles to London would appear to be incorrect, but the overall charge of 10d for the 182 miles to Ludlow appears to be correct.

The final part of the display consisted of material from the branch from Barnet. We saw a 1754 'BIGGLES/WADE' and the first type mileage mark - '46 BIGGLES/WADE' used in 1788 on a letter to Loughborough which was endorsed "To be left at the George in Loughborough". Next came Kimbolton. A letter of 1639 had been carried privately to Viscount Mandeville at Kimbolton Castle, while one of 1643 had been sent by the agent of the Earl of Kimbolton to the earl in London.

We had been treated to a fascinating display of postal history from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is to be hoped that we can persuade Bob to show us his later material in the future.

The second part of the morning's entertainment was provided by Dr Simon Kelly who showed us the collection of Cambridge postal history put together by the members of the Cambridge Philatelic Society. Although there was a mention of Cambridge as a post stage on the road to Newmarket in 1618, when Witherings organised the postal service in 1635, Cambridge was on a bye-road, receiving its mail through Caxton and, later, Royston. A copy of the London Gazette dated 23rd December 1697 contained a notice that from the 28th a post would go, on the usual post days, to Cambridge "by way of Epping, Bishop-Stortford and Saffron Walden"

A letter sent from London in 1701 was rated at twopence and endorsed "Cambridge bagg". After Dr Kelly had shown us the 'CAM/BRIDGE' mark used in 1747 he produced a range of straight line marks. We saw an example of the first type mileage mark - '54 CAM/BRIDGE' used in 1787. When the boxed mileage mark was issued in 1801, the distance changed to 52 miles. The same distance was shown on the circular mileage mark in 1826. Dr Kelly then went on to show material from the local posts, in particular the Cambridge Penny Post.

The collection contains two Mulreadies - one, a two penny, was cancelled with a black Maltese Cross, while the other was cancelled in red ink. Next came a batch of duplex marks, followed by the UDC 'HILLS-RD'. Of particular note was the boxed handstamp of the Cambridge District Sorting Carriage - 'CAMBRIDGE/DIS: SOR: CAR:'. Dr Kelly then showed us a range of miscellaneous marks followed by a number of letter box plates.

Particularly fascinating was a range of material, including posters, that Dr Kelly had managed to rescue, with the help of the postmistress, when the post office at Fen Ditton closed.

Henry Fawcett, the blind Postmaster General, lived in Trumpington Road, Cambridge. Among his achievements were the introduction of the Parcel Post and postal orders, and in a display commemorating the life of Fawcett items such as postal orders and parcel post labels featured prominently.

The Cambridge Society are to be congratulated on forming such a marvellous collection and Dr Kelly is to be thanked for allowing us the privilege of seeing it.

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The afternoon was taken up by members' displays on a theme of their own choice. Brian Atkins, a welcome visitor from Canada, started the proceedings with Shropshire related mail going abroad. A letter of 1827 sent to Madras from Shrewsbury was charged 11d to London and then the 2d rate to India. The first day of the Imperial Penny Post was marked by a letter sent from Ellesmere to the Deputy Director General of the Post Office, India. Another item sent to India on 1st May 1857 was the second known use of the Shrewsbury spoon along with the only known use of the West Felton UDC.

Gerald Marriner showed us material from Tenby in Pembrokeshire. He started with mail sent abroad - to Australia, India, Switzerland and the USA. This was followed by an example of the 784 numeral obliterator struck in blue, and then the 1 charge mark struck on redirected letters in 1866 and 1875. Gerald finished with a number of parcel post labels. Of particular note was the use of the label of the Warren Street S.O. at the main post office.

John Soer followed the Bedfordshire theme from earlier in the day with several sheets of Luton material, starting with the mileage marks and ending with the experimental phosphor dots used, in this case, on mail coming into Luton in 1966. He then came a little nearer to Northampton with a few modern items from Market Harborough, including a cover from the last day of the cancelling of outward mail, and one marking the opening of a new delivery office.

Material relating to Henry Fawcett was shown by Norman Higson who began with a postcard issued to celebrate the centenary of the introduction of the Parcel Post with the special handstamp used on 3rd August 1983. Norman then produced a range of parcel post labels from the Salisbury area. He ended by looking at the postal history of the future - a section devoted to the development of PPIs.

Holkham Hall was the topic chosen by John Calladine. Holkham Hall had the distinction of having the only post office in a private residence until the time of queen Victoria. This arose because Thomas Coke became a P.M.G. in 1733. John explained that a Holkham mark of 1743 is known. He then went on to show us examples of the boxed Holkham mark used at various dates between 1814 and 1826, followed by examples of the script type mark from 1839 and 1846.

Chris Jackson then took us to Worcestershire, and in particular the town of Bewdley. He showed us the earliest recorded mark of the town 'BEWDLY' used in 1725. This was followed by an example of the mark with the town name between two bars used in 1740, and a boxed 'Bewdly' from 1767. Chris then took us through the various mileage marks, pointing out that the 155 shown in one of the circular mileage marks was a mistake. Of particular note was the double oval missent mark used in 1826. Chris rounded off his display with the 1844 numeral struck in black and blue, and a variety of duplex marks.

Unusual UDCs was the topic chosen by Richard Farman. He began with UDCs on letters going overseas - Cobridge to Paris, Hathersage to Lille, and Shelton to Canada. Richard also showed used the error 'WE TLEY ROCKS' of the Wetley Rocks office used in 1850. The mark of Abbots Bromley was seen on a Mulready, and that of Great Heywood appeared on a letter with a penny red cancelled in 1842 by a Maltese Cross struck in red ink.

The theme of Maltese Cross obliterations was taken up by Eric Grimshaw with a fascinating display. We saw black and red impressions on both Mulreadies and penny black covers. Eric explained that initially red ink had been used but was replaced by black ink in late 1840, early 1841. Eric then showed us a range of the marks, with the numbers in the centre of the cross, used in the General Post Office in London.

David Scott showed us "Perfins" which, he told us, stands for "perforated initials". This perforation of the initials of a company in stamps was introduced as a protection against theft. Sloper was given permission in 1868 to perforate stamps. David showed us an early example on a cover from July 1869 with the initials of the Great Western Railway. He also showed us several sheets either perforated by Joseph Sloper in his works or by machines supplied by him.

The afternoon's displays were rounded off by Alan Marshall with material from the Nottingham local posts. Alan began with a map of the various routes which were supposed to be within twelve miles of the town centre. A letter of 1796 was sent to Musselburgh in Scotland. One from 1797 was sent from Alfreton to Nottingham. A letter of 1801 was carried along two of the routes being sent from Annesley to Nottingham and then on to Holme Pierrepont. A two penny charge was shown on a letter sent in 1835 from Hasford to Upper Broughton.

Throughout the day, members were able to view a display, put together by Derek Smeathers, of material relating to the boot and shoe industry of Northamptonshire. It showed items to or from members of that industry such as Barratt & Co who inaugurated the first commercial aerial parcel service in October 1911.

We owe a considerable debt of gratitude to Derek for arranging such an enjoyable day with a variety of superb postal history.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

Our October meeting, which was held at the premises of Warwick & Warwick in Warwick, was very well attended. The afternoon was devoted to members' displays on "*Rubber Cancellations*". John Calladine showed us rubber cancellations from the village of Cranham in Gloucestershire and nearby villages. John told us a little of the history of the village and explained why postcards from Cranham, along with the rubber cancellation, are relatively common. A postcard sent from "all at Sheepscombe P.O." to someone in the village carried an almost perfect strike of the rubber.

Roger Broomfield started with a registered letter of December 1899 which showed a strike of the LLANGARRON/ROSS mark. He then showed how the changing status of the post office at King's Pyon was reflected in the wording on its rubber handstamps. Roger showed us three skeleton rubbers from Herefordshire - only five have been recorded for the whole county.

Among the items produced by John Soer were a very badly distorted impression produced by the rubber of Thringstone, three different rubbers from the village of Ashby Parva, and a range of cancellations used in the parcel post, including a modern rectangular mark from Market Harborough in which the date had been impressed in red ink.

Eric Lewis began with a picture of the post office at Hollywood (the one in Birmingham) before going on to show rubbers which illustrated how the post office in Birmingham coped with the bombing in WWII. From a later period came an explanatory handstamp - a boxed "DAMAGED BY/WATER".

Chris Jackson showed used a number of delightful postcards featuring Worcestershire along with contemporaneous postmarks among which were rubber skeletons from Dodford and Stockton. Also of note was a lovely strike in purple ink of "TREDINGTON/SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR/WORCESTERSHIRE".

The first item shown by Derek Smeathers was a postcard sent from Grafton Underwood, a sub-office of Kettering, to Cranford, also under Kettering, and which showed a strike of the rubber from both of the villages. Derek then produced no fewer than seven rubber skeletons from Northamptonshire - Boughton, Great Billing, Hellidon, Irchester, Oxendon, Peakirk and Wymington. A registered cover from West Haddon carried an "anonymous" registered label struck with a straight line "WEST HADDON".

Alan Godfrey produced a range of material from Warwickshire, including a number of R.S.O. marks and material from the village of Hasloe. Of particular note was a truly magnificent strike of the rubber skeleton of Shrewley, Warwick.

Colin Fountain showed us a range of marks from Gloucestershire delivery offices along with photographs of the offices. A Certificate of Posting carried six strikes of the "CIRENCESTER/GLOS" rubber. Cinderford used an oval registered handstamp, while from Gloucester came a large triangular mark "ROYAL MAIL/QUALITY CONTROL/GLOUCESTER".

Marks from a number of Shropshire villages were shown by Guy Bridges. These included "BADGER/WOLVERHAMPTON" on an "anonymous" registered label, "BATTLEFIELD/SHREWSBURY" and a skeleton "BILTON HTH/SHREWSBURY" used in November 1913.

Similarly, Richard Farman concentrated on Staffordshire. He commented that a number of offices in the area of Stafford had used rubber handstamps. He showed us three different handstamps from Pickerscote and a skeleton "CHURCH EATON/STAFFORD" used in August 1910.

The afternoon was rounded off by Alan Marshall with a range of Nottinghamshire material. Alan showed two cards sent from Bunny on the same day, one to Loughborough, the other to Oxford. Bunny used a number of clearly different handstamps. Alan finished with a number of oval registered marks from Nottingham.

Our meetings which consist of displays by members always bring out a fascinating range of material, and this meeting had not been an exception, despite what the title for the afternoon might have led one to believe. It was also very encouraging to see a very good attendance.

Our thanks are due to Messrs Warwick & Warwick for allowing us the use of their premises for the day.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

On 12th November we met at a totally new venue - Trinity High School, Redditch on the occasion of the stamp fair organised by the Redditch Philatelic Society to mark their 35th Anniversary and incorporating the Autumn Conventions of the Midland Philatelic Federation and the Three Counties Federation. The Redditch Society is to be congratulated on organising such a superb event.

We were to be entertained by four members of the Redditch Society who are also members of our Society. Chris Jackson began the proceedings, appropriately enough, with a display of the postal history of Redditch. The first item was the earliest recorded letter from the town which was sent in 1788 and carried an 'AULCES/TER' mark. Then came the earliest town handstamp of Redditch on a letter sent to Worcester in August 1975. Chris then briefly touched on the mileage marks of the town, all showing a distance of 111 miles. We saw penny blacks with red and black cancellations. Of particular note was the 140 numeral handstamp used on 3rd May 1844 - a very early usage. A letter sent by a firm of needlemakers in 1845 to Bilboa in Spain carried a variety of marks, while a letter sent in 1853 to Philadelphia, USA was paid by means of a 1/- green embossed stamp cut to shape. The 3HOS handstamp of Redditch is hard to find but Chris managed to show us an example. Chris produced a number of parcel post labels - both of the Head Office and the TSOs, Beoley Road, Evesham Street and Mount Pleasant. An item that aroused the interest of our librarian was an Express item sent to the Midland Institute, Paradise Street, Birmingham in 1949 and was endorsed "Special Sunday Delivery". The last two items in Chris' display were an A4 size envelope covered with adhesives cancelled with the handstamp of Crabb's Cross, and a postage due item of 1956 showing the 3VOS 140 of Redditch.

Alan Godfrey showed us Registered Mail from Warwickshire, beginning with a receipt for registered letter of 1853 from Warwick. Among the early items that Alan showed were: a two penny registered envelope with further adhesives, all of which were cancelled with three very good strikes of the Learnington Squared Circle in 1881; a letter sent in 1884 from Warwick showing the oval 'REGISTERED/WARWICK'; the registered handstamp of Coventry being used to cancel the adhesives on a letter of 1896; and the R in an oval on a letter sent from Rugby in 1897. In 1910, the post office at Southam used an 'anonymous' registered label on a 3d registered envelope which had been uprated to 4½d for transmission to Germany. An unusual item was a registered letter which had been subject to three attempts at delivery before it was finally returned to the sender in Stratford. An Express Delivery letter of 1906 has the four one penny adhesives cancelled by a skeleton postmark of Alcester. Then, coming to the modern era, Alan showed items from the Guaranteed Delivery and the Signed For services before ending with examples of the pre-printed plastic registered envelopes from a number of different companies.

After an interval for viewing and refreshments Peter Elms presented a most unusual display on 'Errors on GB stamps'. Peter began with the 1957 experiment with graphite lines and showed a number of errors of positioning of the lines. We saw stamps of the 1966 Birds issue where a missing emerald green altered the colour on all four of the stamps. The same issue was subject to quite marked shifts of the red colour. If there were numerous errors in that issue of stamps, then the Battle of Hastings stamps produced even more mistakes. In addition to various colour shifts we were shown strips where different colours (magenta, grey, blue and green) were missing. Stamps where the perforations have been grossly misplaced also have avoided detection by the printers as shown by the £1 stamp of 1970-72. The Christmas stamps seemed to turn up with every possible error - colour shifts, perforation shifts and missing phosphor bands. One might have expected high value stamps to have been checked carefully, but we saw examples of the £10 stamp of 1993 with very marked shifts of the silver. The result of the blue colour being missing on the 1973 Christmas stamps was to remove the left leg from the boy on those stamps. Even the FRAMA labels were subject to errors. Some examples appeared on white paper; others had the bottom line missing. Finally, on the sheet issued to commemorate the anniversary of the penny black, a shift of the cream colour gave one of the penny blacks three margins instead of four.

Malcolm Allison's display traced the development of the Bishopmark. The Bishopmark was first used on 9th April 1661, but Malcolm was able to show us an example on a letter of 24th January 1661! However, as the new year began on 25th March this was really 1662 in our terms. We saw a number of examples from the early years: Yarmouth to London in 1663, Dublin to London in 1664, and Bristol to London in 1667. A letter sent from Carlisle to London in 1682 was charged 9d (a treble rate) and was endorsed "9 2 n". Presumably this meant 9d as there were two enclosures. A letter of 1730 not only had a 'AVER/SHAM' mark but was also endorsed "by St Albans bagg". Malcolm showed how the size of the marks gradually changed. He also explained that from 1713 the London Inland Branch reversed the day and the month but the Foreign Branch kept the month at the top. We saw a letter from Brussels with an example of both of these. In January 1787 an experimental design was tried; we saw an example from 18th January. Malcolm finished his display by showing examples of the Bishopmarks used in Dublin and Edinburgh. The latter were struck in red ink.

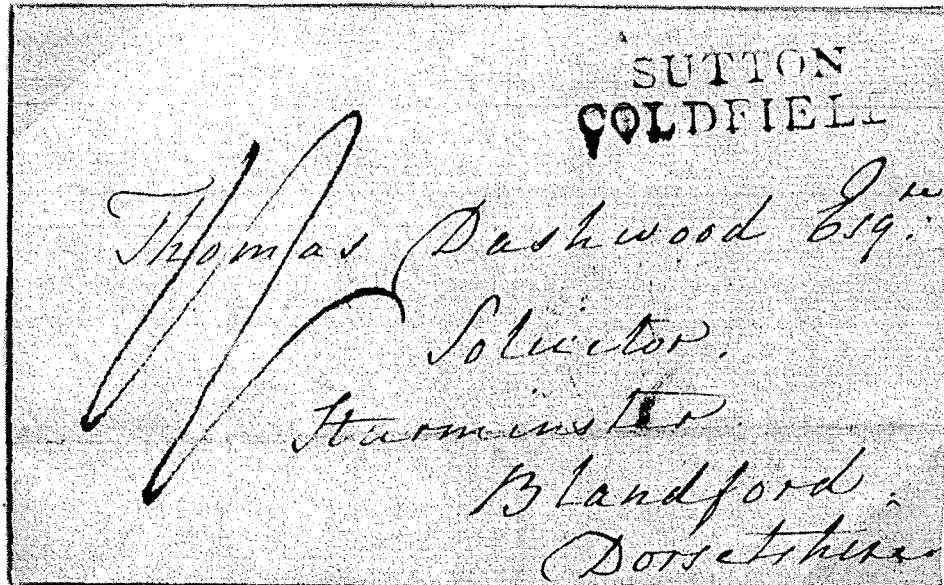
We had been very well entertained by the Redditch Society and we offer them our thanks for a superb afternoon. If any society in the Midlands ever needs a speaker, they can do no better than ask Redditch to pay them a visit.

SUTTON COLDFIELD'S POST TOWN

I am indebted to Richard Farman for the item illustrated below. It was sent from Sutton Coldfield to Blandford in December 1837. The letter end with the postscript:

"Pray do not let my Letters be directed near Birmingham, Lichfield being the Post Town."

I wonder what our Birmingham County Editors make of this as Sutton Coldfield had come under Birmingham since 1829.



*in the payment. — I am Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
W. Woolley.*

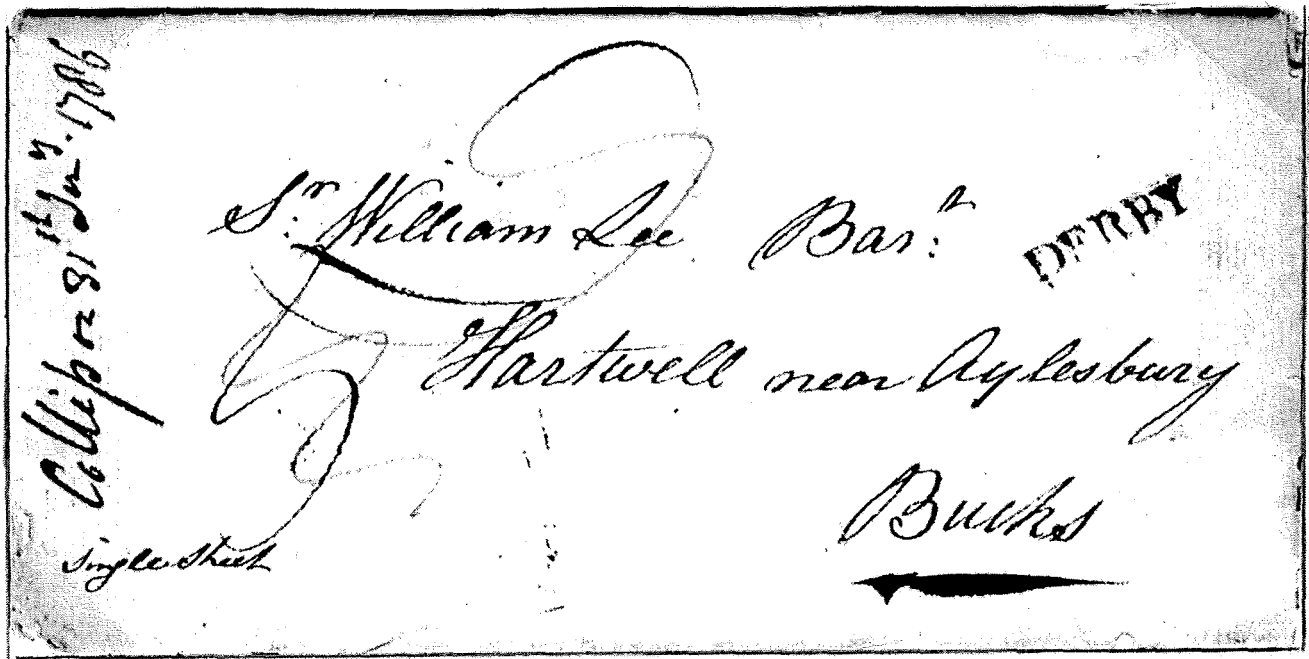
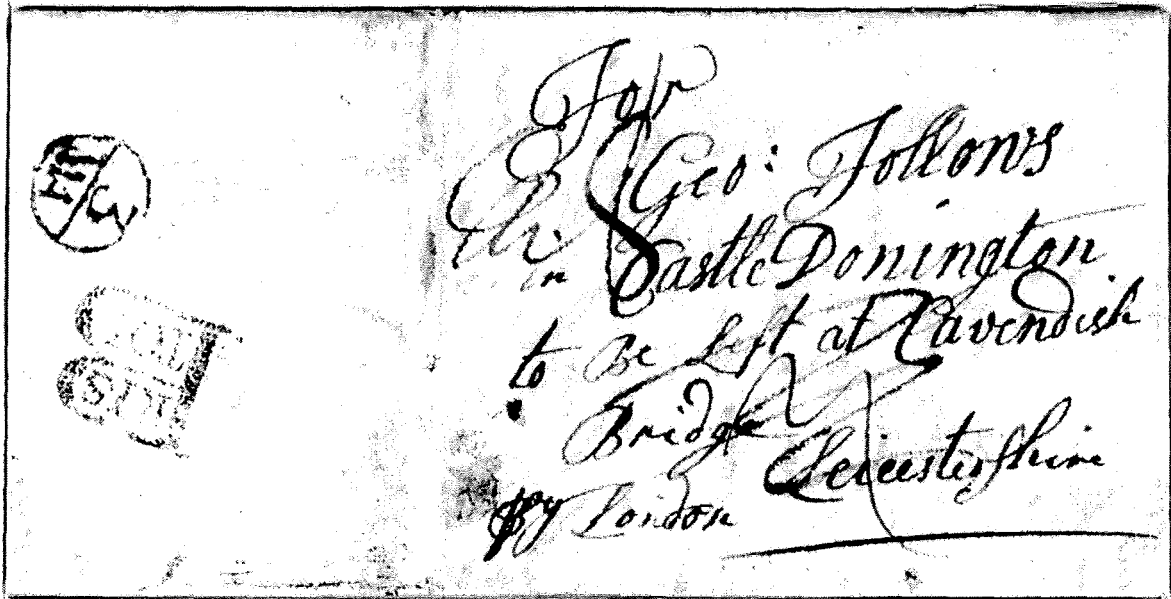
*Pray do not let my Letters be directed near
Birmingham Lichfield being the Post Town.*

SHARDLOW AND CAVENDISH BRIDGE

Again, I am indebted to Richard Farman for the two items shown below. The first is really self-explanatory. The cover was sent from Bristol in April 1765 to Castle Donington and is endorsed "to be left at Cavendish Bridge". A private post operated between the two places.

The second item was sent from Weston-upon-Trent in January 1786. It contains the postscript:

"A Line directed to me at Weston upon Trent near Derby. To be left at Shardlow will find me while I remain at this place."



THE ORIGIN OF THE DOUBLE ARC UNDATED CIRCULAR MARK

by John Calladine

It is now many years since the Introduction to the Society's book, 'The Undated Circular Marks of the Midland Counties', was drafted and it has not been amended in subsequent editions. The Introduction refers to the origin of the undated circular mark (UDC) as follows:

The origin of the undated circular mark is to be found in the mileage marks of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These were originally in straight line form but, from 1803, began to appear with the office name and the mileage from (sic!) London around the circumference. In the 1820s, postmasters were advised to excise the mileage figures from their handstamps. New handstamps were similar to the circular mileage marks but the gap created by the omission of the mileage figures was neatly filled with two arcs or, in a very few circumstances, by a single arc or a fleuron device.

The inclusion of the wording "in the 1820s" was vague and deliberately so. We were aware that the instruction to postmasters to remove the mileage figures from their stamps was issued in 1829, yet double arc UDCs first appeared at an earlier date. One felt there might be some anomaly here and it would not have been surprising if, in the intervening years, someone had queried the precision of the statement or possibly its veracity! Only now has time been found to look into the subject more closely to try to establish just why double arc stamps appeared when they did. It was apparent that any investigation should not be limited to the marks of the Midlands but embrace all England.

The key to the enquiry is to be found in what are usually known as the 'Steel Impression Books'. It might be better to refer to these simply as the 'proof books' because the majority of the strikes in Volume One, the volume of particular interest, were almost certainly not made by steel handstamps. The handstamps were of what we would describe as "brass", essentially an alloy of copper and zinc. (When the sole surviving mileage stamp was analysed, it was described, less precisely, as being manufactured from "a copper alloy".) The inference that the handstamps were of brass is drawn, not solely from the appearance of the strikes, but from the occasional annotation, "steel", alongside a handful of marks.



No surviving record of handstamps appears before these books. Volume One commenced its record at the beginning of 1825. Circular mileage marks had become increasingly popular since 1803 and it is not surprising that only two strikes of the many straight line mileage marks appear. They may be re-cuts of older stamps. The first undated circular marks to make an appearance are the so-called 'fleurons'. In these, a fleuron device (see the illustration) takes the place of mileage figures. A dozen appear in the proof book, five of them (one dated) intended for overseas packet stations. However, some fourteen English fleurons have been recorded in all and a further one from Wales. None is known before 1823; those in the proof book were issued between 29th December 1825 and 30th June 1826. (Two stamps issued to Carthage - "to be sent to Jamaica" - and to Upton, Liverpool, are not like the others in that the device is not strictly a fleuron.) Most fleurons are scarce or rare. The topic of fleurons was covered by the late Chris Beaver in a 'Midland Mail' article of May 1984 called "Whatever became of Bilston?". (Bilston was one of three Midland towns to be issued with a fleuron handstamp.) Since many members will not have seen the original article, it is worth mentioning one or two of the points raised. Contrary to a statement in 'England's Postal History' that these stamps were sent to "Penny Post sub-offices", Chris showed that, while some were in penny posts, others were certainly not and that one, Sleaford in Lincolnshire, was apparently a post town. That Sleaford was sent, c1823, a stamp without mileage is probably a gross error but the others have little in common other than that they were minor offices that might have expected a straight line namestamp. The choice of the fleuron style therefore remains a mystery and there is no archive reference to explain it. Chris makes the point that a fleuron is not a universally suitable device for improving the balance of a circular mark, without mileage figures, when the name of the office may be either long or short. There is a better solution.

A device often employed to fill the space between the office name and the mileage figures of early circular mileage stamp was the 'plug', 'pearl' or 'o'. These can be found on circular mileage stamps of such cities as Birmingham, Leicester and Northampton from the time such marks were first issued. They were less commonly used in later years but about a dozen can be found in Volume One of the proof books. The Ledbury stamp illustrated, issued on 3rd January 1825, is typical.



No marks with 'o's either side of the mileage figures were issued after September 1825. Another device was a 'dash' on either side of the mileage figures. Under closer inspection, this is usually seen to be a curved arc aligned with the middle of the letters and figures. A good example in the Society's new book can be found on page 53, MMM 2034 of



Cheltenham.

In the same county, it can be compared with the mark of Uley, MMM 2213 on page 62. This is a short office name and the stamp needs some device, which it does not have, to balance the stamp and even the wear. A shorter name is that of Wern in Shropshire. The Wern stamp, MMM 9063 on page 122, attempts to solve the problem by spreading the three letters of the office name around the stamp, perhaps not altogether successfully. Stamps with short arcs, aligned with the centre of the letters and figures, somewhat lost favour after June 1826. The Bewdley stamp illustrated, issued on 10th June 1826, is a late example of this type of mark.



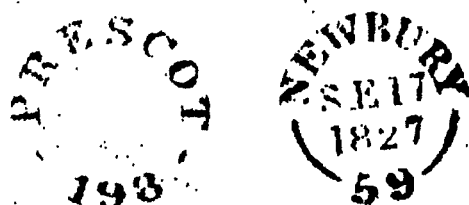
However, just a week after the issue of the Bewdley stamp, a stamp was issued to Shrewsbury that is significantly different. This time the arcs were not aligned with the centre of the figures but followed the outer circumference of the circle. The single outer arc was favoured throughout the remaining life of mileage marks, whenever arcs were used, but stamps without arcs and even with mid-letter arcs were issued to the end. Many of the stamps in the proof book with single outer arcs are dated stamps. Probably the first undated stamp with these arcs was issued to Wooler on 28th September 1826. The strike in the proof book looks



noticeably different and is annotated "steel". In particular, the arcs are thicker. The stamp issued to Dudley on 1st December is not annotated but there can be little doubt this is also a steel stamp. A month before the issue of the stamp to Wooler, there appeared another very interesting stamp. Also annotated "steel", this was a dated stamp issued to Leeds, without mileage but with the same single outer arc as the mileage stamps. Nothing similar then appeared until July 1827. A South Shields stamp has a much smaller arc because of the greater length of the office name. The arc is somewhat longer on the stamp sent to Gravesend on 23rd October. Both are illustrated below.

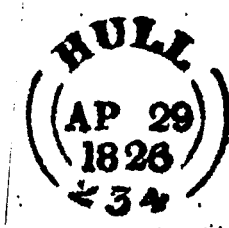


It is generally accepted that no new mileage stamps were issued after August 1827. The Prescott stamp, with mid-letter arcs rather than outer arcs, was sent out on 29th August 1827 and is probably the last undated mileage stamp. However, a dated Newbury stamp was not sent out until 19th September. The style suggests it is a re-cut stamp. In fact, it was the only circular mileage stamp issued to Newbury and usage data in the British County Catalogue makes clear it was a new stamp. This was the very last mileage stamp.



The instruction to excise figures from mileage stamps was not approved until 6th February 1829 so why were mileage stamps withdrawn in 1827? The answer is probably to be found in the minute sent by Francis Freeling (Secretary to the Post Office) to Daniel Stow (Superintendent President of the Inland Office) in August 1827 suggesting, as routes were constantly changing, that future stamps should omit mileage figures. Daniel Stow replied to the effect that they still served a useful purpose and the saving in the expense of new stamps might be offset by the delays and charging errors that would result. Stow may have temporarily won the battle but probably lost the war. The undoubted expense of repeatedly issuing new stamps was easier to quantify than any potential loss due to delays and errors. It seems that, within a year, it had been agreed that no more mileage stamps would be issued.

If stamps (both dated and undated) were no longer to include mileage figures, it was necessary to decide how to fill the remaining circumference of the stamps so that they struck evenly. There had been a unique issue of a stamp with double arcs to Hull on 26th April 1826. This was a dated mileage stamp but, because the date slugs were positioned low in the centre of the stamp, it looked crowded and the style was not attempted again with mileage stamps. However, with the slugs of dated stamps positioned higher in a stamp without mileage figures, either one or two arcs could be used to complete the stamp. The undoubted advantage of using arcs was that they could be of any necessary length and therefore gave complete flexibility. Double arcs may have given better stability. Undated stamps (UDCs) and circular date stamps (CDSs) appeared with double arcs simultaneously. Double arc undated stamps were issued to Charmouth and Cross (illustrated) on 26th April 1827 and a double arc circular date stamp to Chatham on the same date. Some single arc CDSs were still issued (for example, to Nottingham on 22nd May 1828) but it was to be another thirty years before single arc UDCs, of the type we know as C4, returned to favour and these were on smaller stamps.

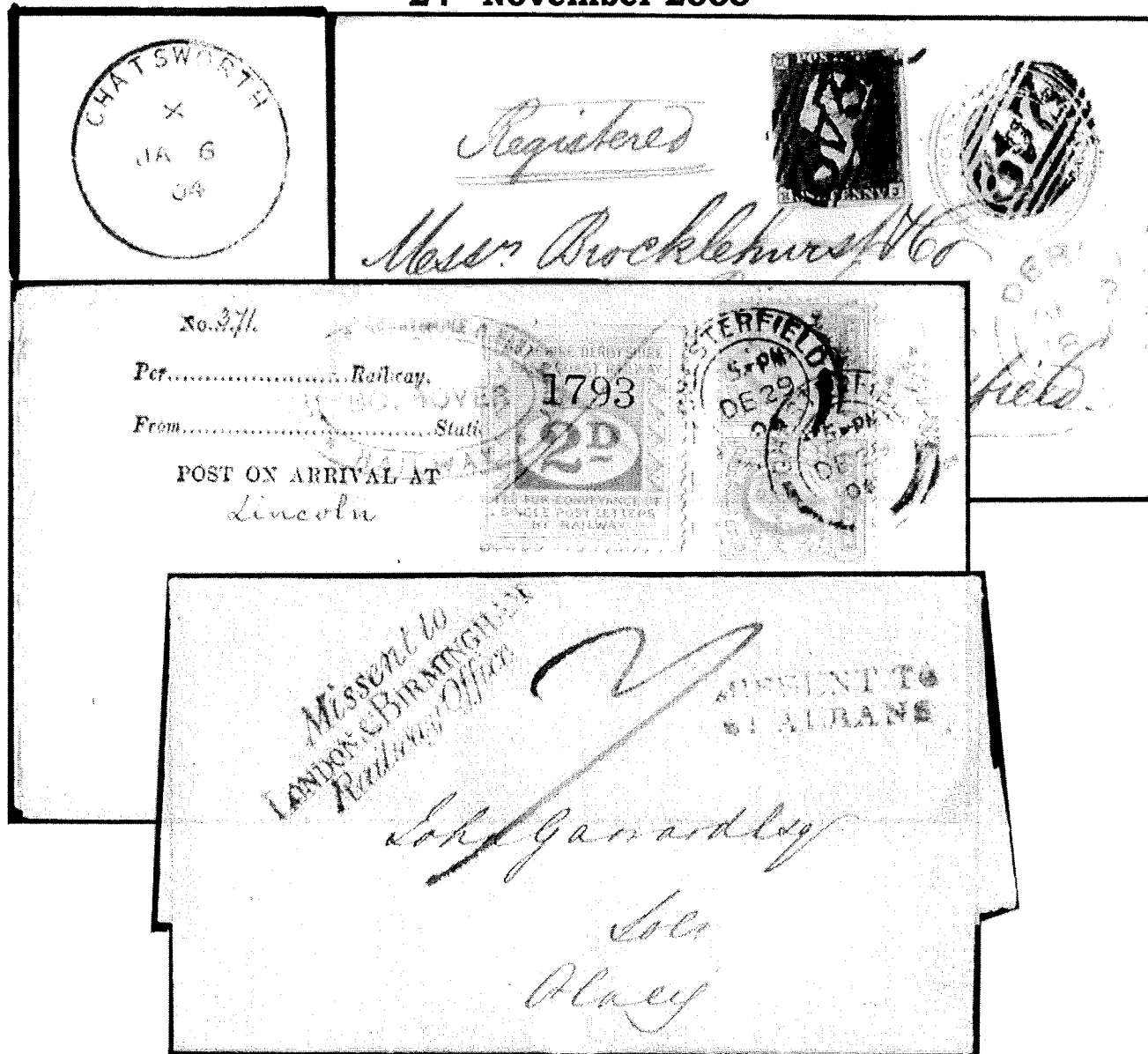


The conclusion one can safely draw is that the Introduction to the UDC book erred on the side of caution. Double arc undated circular stamps did, indeed, originate from the mileage stamps.

(All illustrations from the proof books are courtesy of BPMA Royal Mail Archive)

The Harold Wilson (FRPSL) Collections of Derbyshire Postal History, Railway Mail, Airmail etc.

24th November 2005



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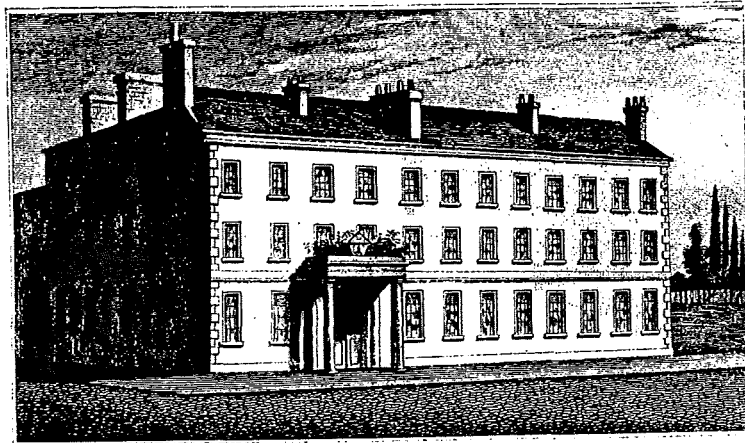
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DERBY DE1 2SY, ENGLAND
Tel: 01332 250970 (4 lines; 24hrs.)
Fax: 01332 294440 :Fax

E-mail: stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk
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THE THREE CROWNS, LEICESTER

One could almost have guaranteed that as soon as our latest book was published material that one would have liked to use as an illustration would turn up. An acquisition at the recent Philatex is shown below. It shows the Three Crowns Hotel which was the stopping place in Leicester of the London - Manchester mail coach.

An intriguing point is the charge of 7½d for a letter. The Three Crowns was within the boundary of the free delivery so no extra charge should have been levied by the letter carrier. Did the hotel make an extra charge for taking in the letter?



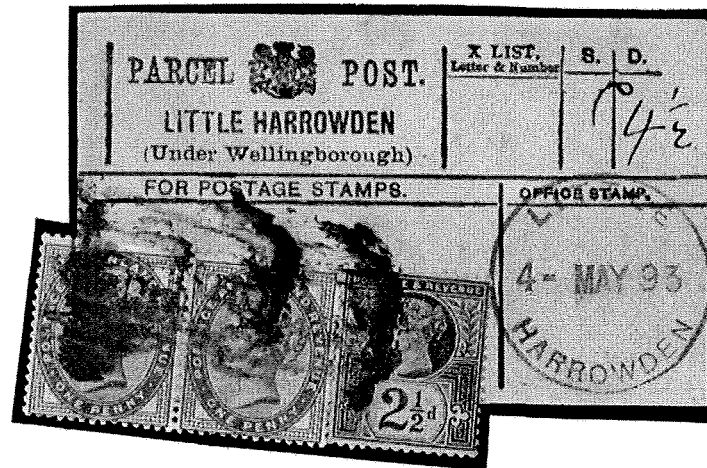
W. J. BISHOP.
THREE CROWNS HOTEL,
LEICESTER.

1836
Jan. 11

Teas	—	4.	
Letter	—		7½
Fine & lights	—	1. 6	
Teas	—	4.	
Bedroom, fire	—	1	
Breakfast	—	4	
Fine	—		1
		15.	7½
W	2	6	
t	2	0	
		1. 0	1½

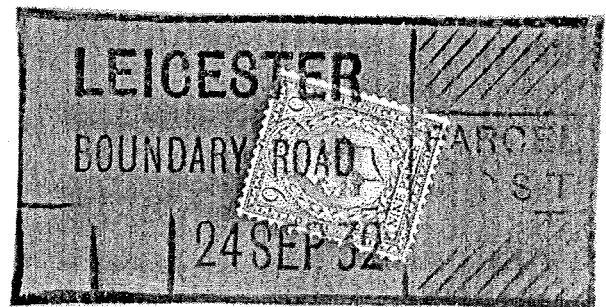
AN EARLY RUBBER HANDSTAMP

I am indebted to Derek Smeathers for sending the copy of a parcel post label which shows an example of the early type of rubber handstamp in which a long village name is split - half at the top and half at the bottom. Derek comments that they seem to be difficult types to find. Certainly I have never seen one of those issued to some Leicestershire villages.



A PARCEL POST CANCELLATION

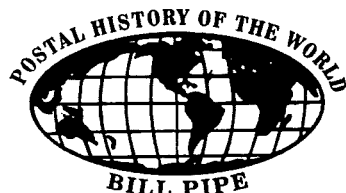
While parcel post labels do, from time to time, turn up, good strikes of the cancellations used in the parcel post seem to be more difficult to find. Rarely are they as clear as those shown below which are two of a few examples I displayed at the October meeting.



THE NEXT MIDLAND MAIL

I hope that this will appear by the middle of January. It will contain a list of the post offices in the Midlands that have closed in 2005. There should be a further update to the UDC book. As for the rest, it depends on what is sent to:

John Soer, 51d Barkham Road, Wokingham RG41 2RG



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STAFFORDSHIRE

WOLSELEY BRIDGE	C3D	by 23		B	5AUG23- 9APR40
BILSTON	C3C	pre-25		B	17FEB25-17MAR27
WALSALL	C2*	13FEB28	Walsall	R	7APR28-29MAR38
				OR/BR	13APR31
LEEK	C2*	(Locally altered - see Note 1.)		B	31- 35
LAWTON	C2*	14JUN28	Lawton	B	32- 38
ABBOTS BROMLEY -	C3	26MAR29	Abbots Bromley	R	5JUL29-19OCT40
				OR/BR	15AUG38
				B	24JAN43- 9JUL56
				GR	4JAN56-15JAN57
GREAT HEYWOOD	C3	26MAR29	Great Heywood	B	29DEC37-28OCT56.
WOLSELEY BRIDGE -	C3	26MAR29	Wolseley Bridge	B	17SEP29-15APR34
BILSTONE	C2*	31AUG29	Bilston	B	8SEP31- 4AUG37
PENKRIDGE	C2*	20DEC29	Penkridge	B	?
				CrimR	21DEC32- 1MAY35
				BR	8DEC35
FAZELEY	C2*	9AUG31	Fazeley	R	35-22JAN41.
				Alb'o	21JAN36
				B	1APR41
RUGELEY	C2*	15AUG31	Rugeley	B	2JAN32-15AUG38
STAFFORD	C2*	12SEP31	Stafford	B	29DEC31- 7FEB34
TAMWORTH	C2	28APR35	Tamworth	R/OR	30JUL36- 1FEB39.
GORNAL	C2	12OCT37	Wolverhampton	B	10MAY40 Note 2.
FORSBROOK	C2	21MAR38	Forsbrook	B	11MAY38-25MAR50
ALBRIGHTON	C2	30MAR39	Wolverhampton	B	20SEP39- 2SEP48
				R	22APR41
TETTENHALL	C2	30MAR39	Wolverhampton	B	29SEP39-16MAR48
TIPTON	C2	19JUN39	Birmingham		Note 3.
BURSLEM	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	7JUL40-14JUN44.
				R	11NOV40
COBRIDGE-STAFFS.	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	26APR44- 50
				dkBL	30APR47
ETRURIA	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	19APR41- 44
HANLEY-STAFFS.	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	13MAY40-15OCT44
LANE-DELPH	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	21AUG41-23MAR52.
				GR	2FEB55
LANE-END	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	8FEB40-14AUG44
LONGPORT-STAFFS.	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	24FEB41- 7FEB50
				GR	5APR56
SHELTON-STAFFS.	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	25DEC44- NOV49
				GR	24FEB51-27JUL58.
				BL	20JUN52- 59
				GR/Gy	22AUG57-23NOV58
				BL/GR	29OCT58
STOKE-UPON-TRENT	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	40-13JUL43.
TUNSTALL	C2	23JAN40	Newcastle-u-L	B	21DEC40- 1NOV45
WOLSELEY-BRIDGE	C2	4FEB41	Wolseley Bridge	B	5MAY42- 2MAY46
GORNAL	C2	18OCT41	Dudley	B	26MAY42-19OCT45
WARFIELD	C2	23APR42	Wolverhampton		Note 4.
WORFIELD	C2	26JUL42	Bracknell		Note 5.
WORFIELD	C2	3SEP42	Wolverhampton	B	10SEP42- 3OCT49.
DARLASTON	C2	24OCT42	Darlaston	R	9JUN43- 3APR47
				BL/GR	4MAY49-26APR52
				BL	5MAR49-14APR51

Notes:

1. 21mm dia, arcs 2mm apart in place of mileage. Known without mileage or arcs in 1829.
2. See also 5/38.
3. A straight line stamp continued in use.
4. Spelling error - see below.
5. Missent - returned for re-issue.

Staffs		130. 2005		142/17		
BREEWOOD	C2	12APR43	Wolverhampton	5/152	B	21JUN43-29NOV48
TUTBURY	C2	11JUL43	Burton on Trent	5/169	B	5APR45-31AUG46.
ALDRIDGE	C2	11JUL43	Walsall	5/169	B	3FEB44-29SEP49
COSELEY	C2	4AUG43	Bilstone	5/174	B	44
CANNOCK	C2	30AUG43	Walsall	5/178	B	16JUN47
KINGSWINFORD	C2	19SEP43	Dudley	5/182	R	20SEP44-17OCT45
					B	20FEB47-20OCT50.
KINGS-BROMLEY	C2	19SEP43	Lichfield	5/182	GR/B	17SEP45
					BL	26MAR53
YOXALL	C2	19SEP43	Lichfield	5/182	B	12APR45- 4SEP48
					BL	21JUN59
BLOXWICH	C2	16NOV43	Walsall	5/197	B	45- 5JUN48
WILLENHALL	C2	16NOV43	Wolverhampton	5/198	R	22JAN44- 9JUN53
ALTON	C2	6DEC43	Cheadle	7/3	B	26NOV45-27FEB48
					BL	1DEC49- 7FEB51
					GR	11MAY56
					BL/GR	57
NEWTON	C2	19DEC43	Burton on Trent	7/6	B	19DEC44- 45
REPTON	C2	19DEC43	Burton on Trent	7/6	B	22FEB44-10FEB53
ETWALL	C2	13JAN44	Uttoxeter	7/16	B	27FEB44-29MAR47
					BL/GR	2DEC44
					GR	4APR53- 7FEB56.
TEAN	C2	13JAN44	Cheadle	7/17	B	5MAY45-19JUN55
					BL	14MAY49- 4NOV52
					GR	12NOV55
HARBORNE	C2	13JAN44	Birmingham	7/17	BL	4MAY46- 3FEB53
					B	15MAY46- 6JUN49
ALSTONEFIELD	C2	21FEB44	Ashbourne	7/28	R	22JAN46- 9FEB53.
					B	5OCT47
					GR	8NOV48
ILAM	C2	21FEB44	Ashbourne	7/28	R	11NOV45-12JUL55
BURNTWOOD	C2				B	47
PATTINGHAM	C1	31MAY44	Wolverhampton	7/66	OR	3NOV48-12JUN50
WOMBORNE (23mm dia)	C1	6JUN44	Wolverhampton	7/68	B	50
					GR	13MAR56
NEWALL	C1	28JUN44	Burton on Trent	7/75	B	21JUN45-25AUG47
LULLINGTON	C1	28JUN44	Burton on Trent	7/75	B	18SEP45-23MAY49
STAPENHILL	C1	28JUN44	Burton on Trent	7/75	B	4DEC50
WOODEN-BOX	C1	28JUN44	Burton on Trent	7/75	B	30AUG47 Note 6.
CHURCH-EATON	C1	28JUN44	Stafford	7/76	B	16AUG45-29APR47
TRYSULL	C1	4SEP44	Wolverhampton	7/93	OR	31JUL49
					BL/GR	4JAN55
HANLEY-STAF	C1M	14OCT44	Newcastle-u-L	7/100	B	49
SHENSTONE	C1	18APR45	Lichfield	7/140	B	46?
					GR	13FEB46-13FEB56
					BL	5JAN49-22MAY53
					GR/BL	6SEP52
HILL-REDWARE	C1	8MAY45	Rugeley	7/142	B	17MAY47 Note 7.
ROWLEY-REGIS	C1	8MAY45	Dudley	7/142	B	7MAR46- 8JUL59.
					OR	7AUG48-16DEC49
PENSNETT	C1	7JUL45	Dudley	7/161	B	29SEP47-18SEP48
					GR	13JUN55-14DEC57
OLD-HILL	C1	25AUG45	Dudley	7/171	R	6MAY46
					BR	4NOV52
					R/BR	19MAY54
					B	18SEP58
CLAVERLEY	C1	25AUG45	Wolverhampton	7/171	B	45-19APR53
					R	10AUG46-28JUL47
					OR	25AUG45-10SEP48
WHITLEY-ROCKS	C1	29AUG45	Leek	7/172		Note 8.

Notes:

6. Re-named "Woodville" - see 9/117.
7. Incorrect spelling? - see also 11/19.
8. Spelling error - re-issued at 7/192.

COLTON	C1	9SEP45	Rugeley	7/174	BL	<u>30JUL48-31AUG48</u>
ELFORD	C1	26SEP45	Lichfield	7/179	BL	<u>20SEP48-18JUN52</u>
WEDNESFIELD	C1	10OCT45	Wolverhampton	7/182		
MATHFIELD	C1	25OCT45	Ashbourne	7/184	B	18AUG54 Note 9.
					BL	26JUN56
ELLASTONE	C1	25OCT45	Ashbourne	7/184	B	<u>25SEP48-10JUN53.</u>
					BL	18DEC5?
					BR	53
ROCESTER	C1	25OCT45	Ashbourne	7/184	B	15APR50-14OCT51
WE TLEY-ROCKS	C1	17NOV45	Leek	7/192	B	30JAN48- 3FEB50
					BL	27APR50- 56
ENVILLE	C1	5JAN46	Stourbridge	7/204	B	25FEB46-27JUL49.
CRADLEY	C1	10JAN46	Stourbridge	7/205	B	<u>5MAY47-18NOV50</u>
					BR	18SEP53
LONGNOR	C1	8APR46	Buxton	7/227	BR/R	28JUN48
					R/OR	10JUL52
					BL/GR	<u>2JUN58</u>
WOLSTANTON	C1	27JUN46	Newcastle Staff	7/247	B	<u>24MAY47- 6JUL52</u>
KEELE	C1	27JUN46	Newcastle Staff	7/247	GR	16DEC57
WHITTINGTON	C1	25JUL46	Lichfield	7/257	BL/GR	15AUG46
					OR/Y	13OCT47
					B	16JUN48-14FEB50
TIPTON-GREEN	C1	25AUG46	Tipton	7/261	OR/R	<u>17APR47-26MAY49.</u>
					GR	4FEB56
COSELEY	C1	29SEP46	Bilston	7/270	B	21AUG48
PRINCES-END	C1	1JAN47	Bilston	9/1		
TUNSTALL	C1M	28JAN47	Newcastle Staff	9/6	BL	60
ALREWAS	C1	22FEB47	Lichfield	9/14		
BARTON	C1	22FEB47	Lichfield	9/14	B	28FEB47-26JAN50
WHITMORE-STATION	C1	24MAY47	Newcastle Staff	9/43	GR	23SEP47
					GR/Gy	23JUN52
					BL	53
					BL/B	25NOV53
BIRCHFIELDS	C1	24MAY47	Birmingham	9/44	B	10SEP52- 56.
					BL	23MAY53-21JAN60
BRERETON	C1	24MAY47	Rugeley	9/44		
TUTBURY	C1	15JUN47	Burton on Trent	9/54	B	26APR50-16NOV50.
CODSALL	C1	2JUL47	Wolverhampton	9/59		Note 10.
SEDGELEY	C1	24JUL47	Dudley	9/64		Note 11.
CODSALL	C1	24JUL47	Wolverhampton	9/64	B	6SEP49
HORNINGLOW	C1	17AUG47	Burton on Trent	9/71	B	<u>17AUG47-30JUL48</u>
ASHLEY	C1	11SEP47	Market Drayton	9/78	OR/BR	30MAR51
					BR	12JAN52
					R	16JUL55
					GR	10SEP59
SEDG LEY	C1	19OCT47	Dudley	9/92	B	<u>21SEP48-14MAR54</u>
					GR	12JAN56 Note 12.
SWYNNERTON	C1	16DEC47	Stone	9/107	B	21DEC53
WOODVILLE	C1	27JAN48	Burton on Trent	9/117		
NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS	C1	12FEB48	Newcastle Staff	9/126		Note 13.
BURNWOOD	C1	3MAR48	Lichfield	9/128	B	29AUG53-30AUG53
PENN	C1	3MAR48	Wolverhampton	9/129	Grey/B	6OCT59
HILL-TOP	C1	3MAR48	West Bromwich	9/129	BL/GR	14JAN57-17JAN57
HORSELEY-FIELD	C1	9MAR48	Wolverhampton	9/131	B	3APR51-12AUG52

Notes:

9. Normally spelt "Mayfield".
10. 9/59 and 9/64 are similar but different stamps: all use shown against the latter.
11. Spelling error - re-issued at 9/92.
12. Re-issued stamp with letter filed out.
13. Appears identical to 9/132.

STAFFORD-ST	C1	9MAR48	Wolverhampton	9/131	R Y/BR Grey	20NOV48-15APR52 19MAR53 12APR59.
DUDLEY ROAD	C1	9MAR48	Wolverhampton	9/131	BL	51
NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS	C1	9MAR48	Newcastle Staff	9/132	OR R	1JAN49-16JUL52 13JUN52
CHAPEL-ASH	C1	12MAR48	Wolverhampton	9/134	OR/BR OR R	2AUG48-30OCT49 19APR50-11MAY50 12APR51
CHESTERTON	C1	4MAY48	Newcastle Staff	9/146		
NEW-INN	C1	3JUN48	Lichfield	9/155	B GR	4OCT55 29APR57-19AUG57
WALTON	C1	3JUN48	Stafford	9/156	GR	3APR49
HANBURY	C1	3JUN48	Lichfield	9/156	B GR	6AUG51 6DEC55
ADMASTON	C1	3JUN48	Rugeley	9/156		
SHARESHILL	C1	24AUG48	Wolverhampton	9/176		
WILMCOTT	C1	28AUG48	Fazeley	9/177	B	20MAR50 Note 14.
STOUALL	C1	28AUG48	Walsall	9/178		Note 15.
KINGSBURY	C1	28AUG48	Fazeley	9/178	R	49
MADELEY	C1	4OCT48	Newcastle Staff	9/183	B dkBL GR GR/B	52 27OCT54 22JAN55-13MAY57 4JAN58
AUDLEY	C1	4OCT48	Newcastle Staff	9/183	BR/OR	1DEC51
BETLEY	C1	4OCT48	Newcastle Staff	9/183	B/R	6APR50- 6SEP58
SANDON	C1	28MAR49	Stone	9/235	BL B GR	31MAY54 4SEP55 26MAY50-21APR57
MILLWICK	C1	28MAR49	Stone	9/235		Note 16.
HILDERSTONE	C1	28MAR49	Stone	9/235	BL	10JAN53
GREAT-BRIDGE	C1	28MAR49	Tipton	9/236		Note 17.
GREAT-BRIDGE	C1	5APR49	Tipton	9/242	R/BR R GR	20APR54 54 14SEP54- 3NOV55
MILLWICH	C1	5APR49	Stone	9/243		
POLESWORTH	C1	31MAY49	Tamworth	10/3	BL B R BL B	20NOV49 NOV50-22JUN58. 20MAR55 59 4JUL49
WILLINGTON	C1	4JUN49	Burton on Trent	10/7	B	
EGGINTON	C1	4JUN49	Burton on Trent	10/7		
WORFIELD	C1	13JUN49	Wolverhampton	10/14	B	30OCT49-15JAN51.
ROLLESTON	C1	23AUG49	Burton on Trent	10/34	B	9SEP51- 1FEB53
UPPER-ARLEY	C1	1NOV49	Bewdley	10/47		
WHEATON-ASTON	C1	13DEC49	Penkridge	10/55	BL	22JUN53-26NOV55
IPSTONES	C1	14JUN50	Stone	10/94		
LEIGH	C1	18NOV50	Cheadle	10/122	GR	8FEB57- 7JAN58.
GOLDEN-HILL	C1	18NOV50	Newcastle Staff	10/122	BL	1MAR52
WILNECOTE	C1	9JAN51	Tamworth	10/139	B OR R/BR	10MAR54 14OCT54 5JUN55
HIMLEY	C1	12FEB51	Dudley	10/153	GR	8JAN56
TRENTAM	C1	1MAR51	Newcastle Staff	10/162	BL GR	52-15DEC55 2JUN56

Notes:

14. Obsolete spelling - see 10/139.
15. Incorrect spelling of 'Stonall'.
16. Spelling error - re-issued at 9/243.
17. 9/236 and 9/242 are similar but different stamps: all use shown against the latter.

WORDSLEY	C1	1MAR51	Stourbridge	10/176	BL B	<u>12DEC54</u> <u>6MAY55</u>
SWADLINGCOTE	C1	24APR51	Burton on Trent	10/192	GR	11OCT51
STANDON	C1	24APR51	Eccleshall	10/193		
HAMPSTEAD-ROAD	C1	24APR51	Birmingham	10/193	B GR BL/GR	5JUL52-30DEC59 6MAY56-11MAY58 20SEP56- 9SEP59 Note 18.
CLIFTON	C1	6OCT51	Tamworth	10/274	Gy/BL <u>BL</u> B	25NOV51 <u>27MAR54</u> <u>29MAR56</u>
WALTON-ON-TRENT	C1	6OCT51	Burton on Trent	10/274	B	20DEC51- <u>2DEC54</u>
KIDSGROVE	C1	6OCT51	Newcastle Staff	10/275		
BARTHOMLEY	C1	6OCT51	Newcastle Staff	10/275		
COMPTON	C1	9JAN52	Wolverhampton	11/3		
HILL-RIDWARE	C1	6FEB52	Rugeley	11/19	B	2SEP54
PENKHULL	C1	JUL52	Newcastle Staff	11/82	BL	24APR53
WESTON	C1	SEP52	Stafford	11/103		
GNOSALL	C1	SEP52	Stafford	11/103	OR GR	23MAY53 10JAN56
STRETTON	C1	SEP52	Stafford	11/103		Note 19.
TIXALL	C1	SEP52	Stafford	11/103	B	<u>23JAN58</u>
BARLASTON	C1	SEP52	Stone	11/105	B	<u>21DEC59</u>
DRAYCOT	C1	SEP52	Stone	11/105		
MIDWAY	C1	SEP52	Burton on Trent	11/105		
BRADLEY	C1	SEP52	Bilston	11/106		
KNYPERSELEY	C1	30OCT52	Congleton	11/105		
CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE	C1	JAN53	Birmingham	11/129	B BL	19AUG53- 57. 23SEP57- <u>30MAR58</u>
HANFORD	C1	JAN53	Newcastle Staff	11/132		
COVEN	C1	APR53	Wolverhampton	11/156		
STRETTON	C1	APR53	Wolverhampton	11/156	R	?
MOXLEY	C1	APR53	Wednesbury	11/157	B	9JUN53
NEWBOROUGH	C1	JUN53	Uttoxeter	11/181	BL	16MAY59
TRENT-VALE	C1	JUN53	Newcastle Staff	11/181	BL B	9OCT57 14JUL58-28OCT58.
HARLESTON	C1	JUN53	Lichfield	11/189		
HARTSHORNE	C1	JUL53	Burton on Trent	11/197		
DOVERIDGE	C1	AUG53	Uttoxeter	11/224	GR	25OCT59
STOURTON	C1	OCT53	Stourbridge	11/229	BL/GR	59
QUARRY-BANK	C1	OCT53	Stourbridge	11/229		
CLAVERLEY	C1	OCT53	Bridgnorth	11/244		
ENDON	C1	OCT53	Newcastle Staff	11/248	B GR	5APR54- <u>9SEP55</u> . 55
HARTSHILL	C1	OCT53	Newcastle Staff	11/248	BL&GR	17JUN55
KNUTTON-HEATH	C1	NOV53	Newcastle Staff	11/260		
BRANSTON	C1	DEC53	Burton on Trent	12/3	B	30DEC55- 8APR59
TATTENHILL	C1	DEC53	Burton on Trent	12/3	B BL	3DEC58- <u>5DEC59</u> 16OCT59
HANDSWORTH	C1	DEC53	Birmingham	12/7	B	19FEB54- 55
TATTENHALL	C1	JAN54	Wolverhampton	12/20		Note 20.
TETTENHALL	C1	FEB54	Wolverhampton	12/34	GR	7MAR55
HAMSTALL-RIDWARE	C1	MAR54	Rugeley	12/34	B	20DEC55
ARMITAGE	C1	MAR54	Rugeley	12/34	B	<u>30JUL59</u> <u>21OCT57</u>

Notes:

18. Commonly spelt as "Hamstead".
 19. 11/103 and 11/156 appear to be identical.
 20. Spelling error - re-issued below.

BRETTEL-LANE	C1	MAR54	Stourbridge	12/37	OR B BL/B	26DEC56 19NOV57- 8SEP58 15FEB58- 4OCT58. 4JUN54
SHERIFF-HALES	C1	APR54	Newport	12/48	B	
SWINDON	C1	APR54	Dudley	12/50		
NEWTON	C1	APR54	Tamworth	12/51		
WORCESTER-ST.	C1	MAY54	Stoke on Trent	12/62	B	17MAY58-18DEC58 Note 21.
MAER	C1	JUN54	Newcastle Staff	12/74	BL B	57 9MAY59
KINGS-HILL	C1	JUN54	Wednesbury	12/74		
MARCHINGTON	C1	JUN54	Uttoxeter	12/77	BL	14FEB59
NORTHWOOD	C1	cJUN54		12/81	B	14JUN58-15JUN58 Note 22.
WESTON	C1	cJUN54		12/82		Note 23.
WALL-HEATH	C1	cJUN54		12/83	BL	23FEB56 Note 24.
HIXON	C1	cJUN54		12/83		Note 25.
HARBORNE-HEATH	C1	20JUL54		12/93	BL B	13OCT54 Note 26. 5DEC55-14FEB60.
RODE-HEATH	C1	cAUG54		12/96		Note 27.
NEWCHAPEL	C1	cAUG54		12/96		Note 27.
SMALLWOOD	C1	cAUG54		12/96		Note 27.
MILTON	C1	cAUG54		12/97	BL	28JUL56 Note 27.
WESTON	C1	12AUG54		12/98		Note 23.
PORTOBELLO	C1	22AUG54		12/104	B	4OCT58 Note 28.
SHORT-HEATH	C1	22AUG54		12/104	B	5AUG58 Note 28.
PENNFIELDS	C1	16SEP54		12/114	GR BL	11MAY57-24APR58 JUN58 Note 28.
WEDNESFIELD-HEATH	C1	16SEP54		12/114		Note 28.
SILVERDALE	C1	27OCT54	Mr Beaufort	12/129	B	19FEB57
GREAT-BARR	C1	7DEC54	Birmingham	12/137	OR GR B	27JUL55 21OCT56 14DEC57- 58
BLACKHEATH	C1	1FEB55	Dudley	12/155		
CHURCH-BRIDOE	C1	27FEB55	Walsall	12/166		Note 29.
HEDNESFORD	C1	27FEB55	Rugeley	12/166		
DUNSTALL	C1	25MAR55	Burton on Trent	12/176		
COVEN	C1	2MAY55	Wolverhampton	12/192		
CALDWELL	C1	17MAY55	Burton on Trent	12/198		
COLWICH	C1	17MAY55	Rugeley	12/199		
THE-WERGS	C1	17MAY55	Wolverhampton	12/199	B	11MAY59
VICTORIA-CRESCENT	C1	21JUL55	Burton on Trent	12/222	GR	1APR57
WYRLEY-BANK	C1	8SEP55	Walsall	12/241		
PELSALL	C1	8SEP55	Walsall	12/241		
BROWNHILLS	C1	8SEP55	Walsall	12/241		
OAKEN	C1	19SEP55	Wolverhampton	12/244		
LOWER-GORNAL	C1	5OCT55	Dudley	12/252		
TEAN	C1	5NOV55	Stone	12/260		
LOWER-GORNAL	C1	5NOV55	Dudley	12/261		
DEEPFIELD	C1	5NOV55	Bilston	12/262	dkBL	23SEP59

Notes:

21. Missent - intended for Wolverhampton.
22. Probably issued to Stoke on Trent.
23. 12/82 possibly issued to Stafford.
12/98 probably issued to Shifnal.
24. Probably sent to Dudley.
25. Probably sent to Rugeley.
26. Probably sent to Birmingham.
27. Probably sent to Stoke on Trent.
28. Probably sent to Wolverhampton.
29. Spelling error - "Bridoe" for "Bridge".

COPPICE	C1	5NOV55	Bilston	12/262	B	<u>4SEP58- 8SEP58</u>
ROSLINGTON	C1	30NOV55	Burton on Trent	12/272		Note 30.
HILTON	C1	4DEC55	Burton on Trent	12/275		
ROSLISTON	C1	28DEC55	Burton on Trent	12/288		
COSELEY	C1	21JAN56	Bilston	12/299	GR	31MAR56
KINGSLEY	C1	22MAR56	Stone	12/324		
LITTLE-ASTON	C1	25MAR56	Birmingham	12/331		
OSCOTT	C1	25MAR56	Birmingham	12/331		
PERRY	C1	25MAR56	Birmingham	12/331	GR BL/GR	19OCT56 14DEC58.
BLURTON	C1	3APR56	Stoke on Trent	12/336		
CHESTERTON	C1	3APR56	Newcastle Staff	12/336		Note 31.
WOODSETTON	C1	3APR56	Dudley	12/336		
GORNAL	C1	3APR56	Dudley	12/337		
NORTON-BRIDGE	C1	3APR56	Stone	12/337		
SHIRLEYWICH	C1	3APR56	Stafford	12/337		
CHESTERTON	C1	16APR56	Newcastle Staff	12/341		
MOW-COP	C1	3JUN56	Stoke on Trent	13/14	BL	7MAY57-29JUN57.
ALTON	C1	3JUN56	Stone	13/15		
BLACKWATER	C1	21JUN56	Eccleshall	13/23		
CUBLEY	C1	11JUL56	Utttoxeter	13/38		
TRENTAM	C1	14JUL56	Newcastle Staff	13/40	GR	21JUL56-16AUG56.
ASTON	C1	15JUL56	Stafford	13/43	<u>B</u>	<u>4MAR59</u>
FENTON	C1	29JUL56	Stoke on Trent	13/47	BL/B	APR59
QUEESLET	C1	29JUL56	Birmingham	13/48		
WETWOOD	C1	5AUG56	Eccleshall	13/51		Note 32.
HAMPSTEAD	C1	5AUG56	Birmingham	13/51	BL/GR	6MAY58
SMALLTHORN	C1	14OCT56	Newcastle Staff	13/83		
WINSHILL	C1	2DEC56	Burton on Trent	13/103		
MILTON	C1	2DEC56	Burton on Trent	13/103		
WORFIELD	C1	9DEC56	Bridgnorth	13/106	B	57-23MAR58.
UPPER-STONNALL	C1	30JAN57	Walsall	13/129		
WEDNESFIELD	C1	30JAN57	Wolverhampton	13/129	B	1FEB59
LONGDON	C1	14FEB57	Rugeley	13/149		
COLTON	C1	18FEB57	Rugeley	13/151		
WOLSELEY-BRIDGE	C1	23FEB57	Rugeley	13/154		
CAVERSWALL	C1	4MAR57	Stafford	13/161		
BLYTHE-MARSH	C1	4MAR57	Stone	13/161	BL	7MAY57
MODDERSHALL	C1	4MAR57	Stone	13/161		
HILL-TOP	C1	17MAR57	West Bromwich	13/171		
HOPTON	C1	23MAR57	Stafford	13/191	<u>B</u>	<u>20MAR60.</u>
BISHOPSWOOD	C1	27MAR57	Stafford	13/197	GR	28MAY58
WOODGREEN	C1	27MAR57	Wednesbury	13/197		
CHARLEYMOUNT	C1	27MAR57	Wednesbury	13/197		
SUDBURY	C1	1APR57	Derby	13/201	GR	12DEC58
					B	9JAN59-16MAY59
LONGPORT	C1*	9MAY57	Stoke on Trent	13/230	B	18APR59
MIDDLETON	C1*	16MAY57	Tamworth	13/237	B	18APR59
ETWALL	C1*	15JUL57	Derby	13/278	GR	1JUN58
COMPTON	D3	cJUL57			B	28DEC59
HAMPSTEAD	D3	cJUL57			GR	4DEC59
HARBORNE	D3	cJUL57			B	?
TITTENSOR	C4	7AUG57	Stone	14/8		

Notes:

30. Spelling error - re-issued at 12/288.
31. Spelling error - re-issued at 12/341.
32. Previously Blackwater - see 13/23.

Staffs

136. 2005 142/23

ILAM	C4	OCT57	Ashbourne	14/43		
ALSTONEFIELD	C4	OCT57	Ashbourne	14/43	BL	30NOV57
ELLASTONE	C4	OCT57	Ashbourne	14/43	B	3NOV57-12JAN59
MAYFIELD	C4	12NOV57	Ashbourne	14/77		
GENTLESHAW	C4	14NOV57	Rugeley	14/79	BL	19DEC59
OSCOTT	D4	10DEC57	Birmingham	14/105		
ELFORD	D4	23DEC57	Lichfield	14/111	BR/B	16SEP58
					GR	4DEC58
					BL	59
ETRURIA	C4	2JAN58	Stoke on Trent	14/120		
KIDSGROVE	C4	2JAN58	Stoke on Trent	14/120		
WORDESLEY	D1	18FEB58	Stourbridge	14/149		
TIPTON-GREEN R.O.	D2	20FEB58	Tipton	14/150		
STOURTON	D4	20FEB58	Stourbridge	14/151	BL	5MAR60
PRINCES-END	D1	1APR58	Tipton	14/185		
CAPE-OF-GOOD-HOPE	D1	6APR58	Birmingham	14/192	GR	20JAN59-19JAN60.
					B	59
GAYTON	D4	28APR58	Stafford	14/215		
GALEY	D4	28APR58	Stafford	14/215		
BEDNAL	D4	10MAY58	Stafford	14/220	<u>B</u>	<u>27AUG59</u>
RICKERSCOTE	D1	10MAY58	Stafford	14/220		
DUNSTONE	D1	10MAY58	Stafford	14/220		
OCKER-HILL R.O.	D2	15MAY58	Tipton	14/231		
GREAT-BRIDGE R.O.	D2	15MAY58	Tipton	14/231		
TIVIDALE R.O.	D2	15MAY58	Tipton	14/231		
SMALLTHORN	D1	22MAY58	Stoke on Trent	14/242		
OCKER-HILL R.O.	D2	31MAY58	Tipton	14/243		
PRINCES-END R.O.	D2	31MAY58	Tipton	14/243	BL	<u>13NOV58</u>
WESTON	D4	4JUN58	Stafford	14/252		
HILL-TOP	D4	15JUN58	West Bromwich	14/256		
SPON-LANE R.O.	D2	15JUN58	West Bromwich	14/256		
HIGH-STREET R.O.	D2	15JUN58	West Bromwich	14/256		
CHURCHFIELD R.O.	D2	15JUN58	West Bromwich	14/256		
BRADLEY	D4	15JUN58	Bilston	14/256		
BROOM	D4	15JUN58	Kidderminster	14/258		Note 34.
FORSBROOK	D1	16JUN58	Stafford	14/258		
ETTINGSHALL	D1	29JUN58	Wolverhampton	14/269		
PATTINGHAM	D1	29JUN58	Wolverhampton	14/269		
BILSTON ROAD R.O.	D2	29JUN58	Wolverhampton	14/269		
CHAPEL-ASH R.O.	D2	29JUN58	Wolverhampton	14/269	B	1JAN59-21DEC59
WOMBORNE	D1	29JUN58	Wolverhampton	14/269		Note 35.
TRYSULL	D4	29JUN58	Wolverhampton	14/269	B	4MAR60
WALSALL-RD R.O.	D2	22JUL58	Wolverhampton	16/3		
WHITMORE-REAMS R.O.	D2	22JUL58	Wolverhampton	16/3		
WALTON	D4	21OCT58	Stafford	16/62		
GOLDEN-HILL	D1	21OCT58	Stoke on Trent	16/64		
NEEDWOOD	D1	23OCT58	Burton on Trent	16/67	B	3DEC58- <u>5DEC59</u> .
WILLINGTON	D1	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86		
NEWTON-SOLNEY	D1	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86		
STAPENHILL	D1	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86	B	23JUN59
HORNINGLOW-ST R.O.	D2	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86	<u>B</u>	17JUN59- <u>1FEB60</u>
LULLINGTON	D1	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86		
HARTSHORNE	D1	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86		
CALDWELL	D1	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/86		
NEWHALL	D4	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/87		

Notes:

34. Returned by the postmaster (on the surveyor's instruction) on 31AUG58.
35. Annotated 'x': may not have been sent.

REPTON	D4	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/87	GR	20JAN59
					B	2AUG59
HILTON	D4	8NOV58	Burton on Trent	16/87		
FORD-HOUSES	D1	7DEC58	Wolverhampton	16/106		
SHORT-HEATH	D1	7DEC58	Wolverhampton	16/106		
SHENSTONE	D1	7DEC58	Lichfield	16/106	B	<u>21JAN59-21MAR59.</u>
ALDRIDGE	D1	7DEC58	Walsall	16/106		
CLIFTON-CAMPVILLE	D1	7DEC58	Tamworth	16/106	<u>B</u>	<u>17NOV59</u>
BURNTWOOD	D1	14DEC58	Lichfield	16/113		
WHITTINGTON	D1	14DEC58	Lichfield	16/113		
QUEESLET	D1	14DEC58	Birmingham	16/113		
KINGSBURY	D1	14DEC58	Tamworth	16/113		
WILNECOTE	D1	14DEC58	Tamworth	16/113		
CRADLEY	D4	18DEC58	Brierley Hill	16/118		
HART-STREET R.O	D2	20DEC58	Brierley Hill	16/119		
BROCKMOOR R.O	D2	20DEC58	Brierley Hill	16/119		
OAKAMoor	D1	24DEC58	Stafford	16/121		
LONGDON STAFF.	D1	31DEC58	Rugeley	16/126		
CHURCH-EATON	D1	31DEC58	Stafford	16/126	B	18JAN59- <u>18OCT59</u>
HIMLEY	D4	21JAN59	Dudley	16/141		
OLD-HILL	D1	21JAN59	Dudley	16/142		
COALBURN-BROOK	D1	21JAN59	Stourbridge	16/144		Note 36.
COALBOURN-BROOK	D1	12FEB59	Stourbridge	16/158	BL	15SEP59
TRENTAM	D1	17MAR59	Newcastle Staff	18/3	B	6JUN59-13MAR60
WALTON-ON-TRENT	D1	20APR59	Burton on Trent	18/30	B	3MAY59
ENVILLE	D4	14MAY59	Stourbridge	18/43		
CODSALL-WOOD	D1	8JUN59	Wolverhampton	18/57		
ESSINGTON	D1	12JUL59	Wolverhampton	18/72		
MADELEY STAFF.	D2	19AUG59	Newcastle Staff	18/96		
NORTHWOOD	D1	19AUG59	Stoke on Trent	18/96		

Notes: 36. Spelling error - re-issued below.