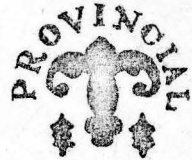


MIDLAND G.B. POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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BULLETIN NO 6 AUGUST 1977

Editorial

WELCOME TO A NEW SEASON 1977/1978

The last Bulletin was published in February of this year - so you have not missed one. Since then we have had our A.G.M. (Minutes of which will be published in the next issue) and our first Auction - which was a limited success. More members attending next year please.

At the A.G.M. subscriptions were determined at £1.50 per head some members already paid before the new subscription was finalized - so they will probably be getting a letter from the Treasurer.

We have arranged an interesting and varied programme for you this coming season (see below) and hope you will agree that members will be getting value for money. So please try and interest potential new members. You are at liberty to bring any potential new member along to any of our meetings as a guest.

If every present member could introduce a new member during the coming year we would achieve well over our target of fifty members - so who do you know who will be interested?

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1977/1978 (make a note in your Diary NOW) *****

Next meeting : SATURDAY 10th September
Location : St. John Ambulance Hall HINCKLEY
Time : 2-30 until 4.30 (Brunel Road)

WHY HINCKLEY ?

Teas and Snacks
available if you
come early to visit
Stamp Fair

There is a STAMP FAIR & EXHIBITION from 10 until 5.30 at the same place at which 12 dealers will be present many with postal history material. Hinckley can be easily reached by Motorway - the M6 and the new M69

Judging Postal History and

Preparing Exhibitions
Special Meeting

To be held at 'THE BASS MUSEUM'
Burton on Trent (see enclosure)
Saturday, 3rd December at 2 pm.

Members who wish to tour the Museum with a guide and take lunch in the well appointed snack bar before the afternoon meeting will be welcomed by our Chairman (who will act a guide) at 11 am. Well worth a visit - really good sample room at the end.

Nice surroundings for our afternoon meeting

Unlike all other meetings planned for this year there is no need to bring any postal history material with you to Burton on Trent

PROGRAMME CONTINUED

(not in data! order)

COVENTRY MEETING

Stamp Dealers and
Exhibition
Snacks and Teas
available.

Saturday 19th November at Sibree Hall
Coventry.

As last year, Coventry Philatelic
Society Annual Exhibition all day -
with our meeting starting at 2 pm.
Nine sheets please.

1978

Saturday February 4th
and
Saturday April 8th

Both meetings will take place at
Midland Institute, Margaret St
Birmingham commencing at 2 p.m.

Last meeting of the season ; details to be determined

ANNUAL COMPETITION

to be judged at
our February
meeting

It is planned that we hold an Annual Competition
with a Society Shield to be awarded for the
winning entry - to be displayed at the following
Midland Philatelic Federation Annual Display.
Further details will be issued in the next
Bulletin. So start thinking about your entry now.

Answer to February Quiz

CHRISTMAS DAY - a special postmark to ensure delivery on 25th December
Should be posted anytime from 12th December and held
back for delivery on Christmas Day. Some ten different
types were used between 1902 and 1909 mainly in the
Counties of Lancashire, Sheshire and Yorkshire. Also
used in a few main towns in England as well as Douglas
in the Isle of Man and Glasgow.
All marks are very scarce - but be careful when buying
as some are of 'doubtful origin'.

August Quiz

What does this strike
denote



A 'small prize' will be sent to first member
sending answer to Bulletin Editor
13 Station Road, Hinckley, Leics.

BULLETIN ARTICLES required for next issues of our Bulletin - one
illustration and about 500 words ideal - so how about
YOU.

Congratulations to our member, John Calladine whose
article published in the February Bulletin was printed
in a recent issue of 'Stamp Collecting Weekly'.
There is a further article by John on following page.
It is not difficult - you must have something which can
be illustrated and written about - try your hand.

Wants, For Sale, Exchange let me have any requirements you may wish
to publicize under these headings for our next issue
please. There is no charge to members and you may well
be surprised at the result.

Bulletin Editor, Jon Baker, 13 Station Road
Hinckley, Leics.

THE
NEW
JERUSALEM

by
John
Calladine

For
Mr. Foley 135
at the Rev. Mr. Bruce's,
Inglesham,
near Lechlade,
Gloucestershire.

One of the many attractions of postal history is the occasional opportunity to divert from its highway into a by-lane often quite irrelevant. We should find such distractions no surprise since the letters we handle contain history at a personal level inappropriate to the volumes studied at school and frequently more interesting. Such is the excuse for sketching out the story behind one unexceptional cover - no, it must be correctly described as an 'entire' since, without the contents of the letter, the clues in the address would have been missed.

I was seeking mileage marks of Stourbridge (Worcestershire). The letter illustrated above provided a very fair example of the 1801 standard mark with 'Stourbridge' in a straight line and the boxed mileage, 135 beneath. The route from Stourbridge to London clearly went 'round the Wrekin' (not literally) in the 1800's; to-day's mileage would be quoted as near 120. The letter is addressed to Mrs. Foley at the Rev'd Bruce's, Inglesham, Nr. Lechlade, Gloucestershire and is dated September 4th 1806. (By that date some towns were using mileage marks with the sides of the mileage box removed but marks issued before 1803 sometimes continued in use for another thirty years.)

"My dearest Wife" the letter began and it was signed "Your ever faithful and affectionate Husband" - Thos. P. Foley" - how splendidly formal. It was a long letter but, after wishing his wife a pleasant journey to Painswick and Inglesham, the writer quickly came to matters of some importance. "On the part of my Adversaries" he wrote, "all was quiet till last night when I received... a letter from the Bishop of Worcester desiring me to attend his Lodship... at Hartlebury Castle... about the business of Sunday last - I rejoice exceedingly that I am going before his Lordship (fully relying on the Captain of my Salvation). I do not fear of shaming and confounding all my Adversaries; and blessed by God! I feel as bold as a lion..."

The writer then described the preparations for the meeting and continued "To-night I fully expect a letter from our dear friend, Joanna, and most probably I shall have some fresh directions from that quarter. I think the tempest is gathering and.. will burst upon the guilty and the wicked - my next letter to you will probably decide whether you are to proceed to Exeter... I have written an entire and full account of these strange eventful matters for a certain quarter which you know of should I find it necessary to forward the account there".

Any postal historian would have to be of an unusually unquestioning disposition if his Curiosity were not aroused. There were plenty of clues to the writer's identity and it was soon resolved that the Patron of St. Mary's Church, Old Swinford, Stourbridge at the time was the Fourth Lord Foley and the Rector none other than Thomas Philip Foley M.A. (1797-1835). Whatever the trouble, the Reverend Foley apparently retained his liking!

But what were the "strange eventful matters" referred to in the letter ? The clue was nearly missed - the reference to 'Joanna' once it's significance was spotted, the story unfolded. Around the year 1800, a group of churchmen became convinced that a lady by the name of Joanna Southcott could perform miracles and make prophecies. The sect was centred in the South-West (hence the visit of Mrs Foley to Exeter calling on other believers during her journey) but Thomas Foley was one of the prophetess's most faithful disciples and for a time she made her home at Old Swinford Rectory with the Foleys. Foley believed that the Day of Judgement would be signalled by the birth of a new Messiah to Joanna Southcott. In preparation for the fateful day, he had a white horse ready - saddled in his stables, prepared to carry him in triumph to the New Jerusalem. What Foley had preached in his sermons can only be conjective but it is not surprising that word of it reached the Bishop of Worcester !

Joanna Southcott was buried in a London cemetery and her followers awaited her resurrection which she had prophesied. Some years later the tomb was found broken open...

I thought that would be the end of the story until I came across a boxed advert in a national newspaper last year telling all that Joanna Southcott could still save us. I was tempted to allow distraction to become addiction but resisted the urge. After all, it started from a simple mileage mark and the rest is far divorced from postal history. But could I be forgiven if I included just a tiny picture of Joanna on the album page ?

Post-script from our new Chairman

It is with great pleasure that I take over the chair and on your behalf I would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Steve Stobbs who has firmly established us as The Midland Postal History Society.

I would like to explain some of the projects we would like to achieve with your help during the coming session. As you know, we initiated the cataloguing of the Duplex, Squared circles, spoons single and double ring cancellations marks continuing where the County Editors finished recording for Mr. M. Willcock. It would be appropriate to point out that we have the service of two County Editors as members of the Society. The idea is to pass information on to our collators of each of the different cancellations and in future Bulletins we will publish a guide to each type. This is so members who have material in their collections, but do not study that particular aspect can easily identify the information required by the collators.

We are also making provision for an extra meeting to try and set out some guide lines on judging postal history. It is also hoped there will be sufficient time to cover "preparing a competition entry".

We hope that with your continued support in attending meetings and contributions to the Bulletin the Society will flourish and make a valuable contribution to British Postal History.

Richard. Farman

Note From Treasurer ; if there is a black cross here
I have not yet received your
subscription - thank you