

MIDLAND MAIL

THE BULLETIN OF THE MIDLAND (G.B.) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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Number 36, September 1984

All Change

It seems no time at all since the BPF's own newspaper, then recently re-launched as 'Stamp & Postal History News', was inviting societies such as ours to submit articles without payment in return for a little free publicity. The sudden demise of the well known weekly magazine 'Stamp Collecting' and the old established 'Philatelic Magazine' and their subsequent incorporation into the born-again 'Stamp News' (incorporating 'Stamp & Postal History News') has catapulted the BPF's magazine into the forefront of the commercial publications. Notwithstanding its erratic publication dates and limited availability on the bookstands, 'Stamp News' has entered the philatelic limelight in the company of another excellent newcomer, the monthly magazine 'Stamps'. Between them, they must expect a large share of the available market.

One of the very best features of 'Stamp News' is a regular contribution by our member James Grimwood-Taylor. 'Stamps' boasts a first class column by another of our members, Andrew Watton, but that is about 'Machins' which you may be forgiven for thinking were friendly little folk in 'The Wizard of Oz'. What is perhaps surprising about both magazines, and particularly 'Stamp News', is their failure to acknowledge in their titles that postal history and not the postage stamp is the driving force in the hobby of 1984. One suspects that the very term 'postal history' is too cumbersome to be included in a snappy commercial title and that what we need is a contrived term to match 'philately'. Any votes for 'Phistory News'?

The New Season

The new season opens with a rare disregard for the calendar as the 'September' meeting is at the beginning of October. The reason is simply that all the likely Saturday dates in September clash with other important events. We therefore kick off at 2pm on Saturday 6th October at Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham (next door to Lewis' bakery shop) with a meeting to which members are invited to bring a maximum of nine sheets on the popular subject of 'Penny Posts'. We only had one '9 sheeter' last year so it is hoped that this meeting will attract a good attendance. Committee members are asked to assemble promptly for a Committee Meeting at 1 o'clock.

The second meeting will be just three weeks later on Saturday 27th October. This time the venue will be the Birmingham & Midland Institute, St Margaret Street, to coincide with the Exhibition and Fair. As usual, the meeting begins at 2 o'clock and one of our best-known members, Denis Salt, will regale us with 'The Royal Mail at Shrewsbury, 1660-1840'. No one doubts that Denis knows this subject inside out and a most informative and enjoyable afternoon is assured.

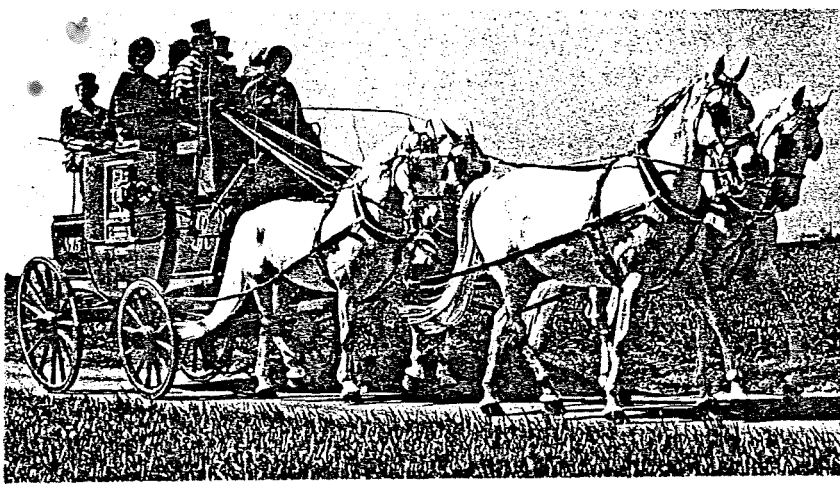
The programme for the remainder of the season includes two more very distinguished speakers but there will be more to say of these gentlemen in later issues of 'Midland Mail'. The important dates are:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 15th December | (at the Bass Museum, Burton on Trent). A display by Mr W.A.Sedgewick. |
| 19th January | Nine sheets of Instructional Marks (including manuscript marks). |
| 23rd February | The Annual Society Competition (pre-1840 and post-1840 classes). |
| 23rd March | A display by Mr M.V.D.Champness, President of The Postal History Society. |
| 27th April | The AGM and Society Auction. |

Issues of 'Midland Mail' are planned for 20 November, 11 January 1985, 12 March and 14 May.

Those Undated Circular Marks

At the time of going to press, a dozen members had forwarded their lists of Undated Circular Marks of the Midlands - some of them very extensive indeed. If you haven't replied yet, please hurry. This is the final call.

THE200th ANNIVERSARYMAILCOACH RUN1st/2nd August 1984

The idea of celebrating the first mailcoach run in 1784 by driving a restored mailcoach over the same route from Bristol to London was one of the Post Office's brightest notions of 1984. The introduction of the mailcoach was a significant, if controversial, event in postal history and it would be unthinkable for 'Midland Mail' to allow the commemorative run to take place without becoming involved. Sadly, our publication packs too little punch for us to be offered a blunderbuss and the guard's seat on the coach so your intrepid reporter had to be content with observing the run's progress across the county of Wiltshire. It turned out to be a hugely enjoyable experience and public reaction to the event must surely have exceeded the organizers' wildest hopes.

A timetable of the run had been issued with the prophetic warning that the programme was 'subject to slight alteration'. It showed that in Wiltshire the coach was due to make brief stops at 'The Hare and Hounds' at Pickwick, 'The Angel' at Chippenham and 'The Lansdowne' at Calne with a longer break at 'The Castle and Ball', Marlborough. All are picturesque locations with, perhaps, Calne providing the most photogenic inn by a whisker but the clear space in front of 'The Angel' at Chippenham had much to commend it as a vantage point. It soon became clear that Chippenham was not content to allow the commemorative run to pass unnoticed when ladies and gentlemen in the most elegant period costumes appeared at the door of the inn in some profusion and local dignitaries, arriving by Rover rather than governess cart, were similarly immaculately attired. Serving wenches in mob-caps carrying baskets of orange quarters passed among the, by now, substantial crowd offering free refreshment but glasses of ale, although available, were not to be had on the same terms. At six o'clock, the entertainment began. Dancing maidens, a fire eater and Morris men filled the square in turn and, what was probably planned as a fifteen minute programme, had to be stretched and stretched when it became clear that we should heed the warning in the timetable and not take the arrival time of 6.13pm too literally. No matter, a little over twenty minutes late, a cheering crowd and leaping Morris men greeted the arrival of the mailcoach,

gleaming from spoke to shaft and pulled by four magnificent greys. There was not, surprisingly, a change of horse at Chippenham but frantic activity none the less. A pint for the driver, mailbags off-loaded and loaded, autographs fervently sought and a pressing crowd of such enthusiasm that photography became almost impossible. All too soon, with a cry of "Mind the wheels" and glorious notes on the post horn, the coach pulled away for Calne.

Action at Calne, including a change of horses, had to be observed at some thirty car lengths behind the mailcoach but soon we were able to follow the coach quite closely on its run towards Marlborough. Crowds thronged every possible vantage point and cameras clicked in such numbers that Kodak ought to have a bumper year. Eventually the coach was overtaken, with considerable reluctance, so that its arrival in Marlborough's impressive High Street, the widest in all England, could be observed first hand. Marlborough, too, had gone to town with bunting, yet more period costumes, madrigal singing and a silver band. The crowds pressed forward impatiently but eventually, still some twenty minutes late, the coach arrived in splendour greeted by more cheers and a fanfare from the band. The greys were changed again in what seemed like split seconds and it became clear that John Parker, the coachman, was not to take his planned break but to leave immediately for Hungerford thus catching up almost all the lost time. More shouts, more blasts on the posthorn and away he went.

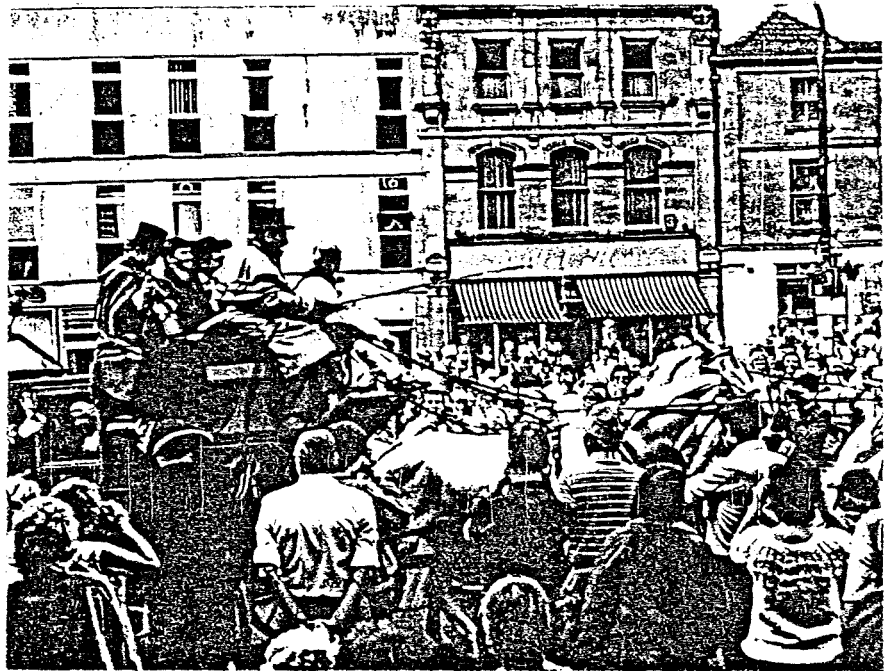
At each town, a figure resplendent in a tricorne hat and often accompanied by a beautifully dressed Regency lady had been seen dashing between the coach and a post van and it seemed a good moment to blow his cover because Raife Wellsted is rather too well known in the postal history world for his anonymity to be preserved. Hilary was lucky enough to be riding in the coach over some stages and she described it as a 'lovely ride' and not a bit like the uncomfortable experience one had been led to expect. Raife provided a ready explanation for the delay in the schedule - "Just people, people, people". In fact it had been Hilary's fear that the apparent ignorance of any possible danger might well lead to some foolhardy soul in the crowd being run over. It was Raife's job to make sure that all those special covers we ordered actually travelled on the coach for part of the journey and he therefore needed to keep well ahead of it. We let him go, about three miles behind it !

The light was failing, clear blue skies had clouded over and the first drops of rain were falling. Through the night and the expected rain, the coach would press on to London. The crowds slowly drifted away but doubtless 'The Bear' at Hungerford would be jammed with well-wishers eager

to take our places in the front line. It had been an evening to linger in the memory: oh, to have been at 'The Swan with Two Necks' in its heyday.



5.45pm Serving wenchies
at the ready ...



6.45pm The mailcoach pulls away
from Chippenham.

SELECTED ITEMS FROM STOCK.

POSTAL HISTORY

WE OFFER A 'WANTS/FINDERS' SERVICE & RECORD YOUR INTERESTS IN OUR SPECIALIST REGISTER. ANY ITEMS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ARE SENT TO YOU BY WAY OF PHOTOCOPY OR LIST.

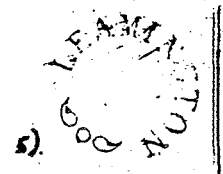
COUNTY _____ TOWN _____ SCOTLAND _____
 IRELAND _____ WALES _____ CHANNEL ISLANDS _____
 PRE-STAMP _____ 1840-1901 _____ 1901-1952 _____
 REGISTERED MAIL _____ INSTRUCTIONAL etc _____
 RAILWAY _____ MARITIME/TRANSATLANTIC MAIL _____
 LINE ENGRAVED/SURFACE PRINTED OR COVER _____
 OTHER REGIONS _____ COMMONWEALTH _____ FOREIGN _____
 MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTING INTERESTS _____

NAME ADDRESS

1. Scotland 1857 Cover going to Portobello, Dublin bearing 1d star tied by a fine strike of the "STOCK-BRIDGE" town mark. Manuscript 'not for Portobello, Scotland'. "Posted since 7 last night..." & "Portobello" d/s on reverse. Attractive. £25
2. NORTHANTS 1785. E.L. to London showing a superb strike of the extremely scarce "76 KETTER/ING" mileage mark. London bishop mark. £88
3. NORTHANTS 1786(c) Entire to Daventry with a superb example of the very scarce "67 NORTH/AMPTON" mileage mark. £69.
4. STAFFORDSHIRE 1796. E.L. to London showing a very fine strike of the "LICHFIELD" straight line. London receiving mark dated 'April 16/96'. £25.
5. WARWICKSHIRE 1826 Entire letter dated 20 Jan from Warwick to Stow-on-Wold, Glos showing a superb strike of the very scarce "LEAMINGTON" FLEURON. £65.
6. EGYPT 1929 An interesting cover carried on the first flight between London and Karachi, on which the sender drew a map of the route of the aircraft engaged, with the overland section indicated with dots. The Italian Government would not permit foreign aircraft to overfly any part of Italy, hence the necessity for passengers and mail going by air to entrain at Basel, Switzerland. An Imperial Airways flying boat was stationed at Genoa to fly the to Alexandria. A most interesting and attractive cover. £25.



MICHAEL A. HARRIS
 LONDON INTERNATIONAL STAMP CENTRE
 27 KING STREET, LONDON WC2E 8JD
 Telephone: 01-836 9291



MORE OF WOORE

Every Midland babe in its Midland cradle knows that Steph Stobbs has forgotten more about the postal history of Shropshire than he or she is likely to learn in a lifetime. When Chris Beaver wrote of Woore in his article 'Whatever became of Bilston?' (Midland Mail No.35), he probably wished he could avoid mentioning it because Woore is - wouldn't you guess it - in Shropshire. The inevitable letter from Halesowen was soon on the Gloucestershire doormat. Its opening evoked deep feelings of foreboding in the faint editorial heart. "I have acquired", wrote Steph, "one or two copies of the 'fleurion' used at Woore" and immediately one knew that he probably had a dozen. "... dates range from 31 May 1839 to 17 October 1848." By now, it had to be accepted that what was to follow was likely to be laced with incontrovertible substance.

"Mr Christopher M. Beaver states", continued Steph, "'Woore in Shropshire, a sub-post town of Stafford" but I wonder if this statement is correct?"

(One suspected immediately that Steph is darned sure it isn't.)
 "In every example that I have, the backstamp thereon is 'Market Drayton' and, where a cover carries a stamp, this is cancelled with a '500' numerical 'killer' even though I have one addressed to Lichfield ..."

(This looks suspiciously like game, set and match.)

"While on the subject of Woore, some more modern examples (of postmarks) may be of interest to our members viz

29 September 1909	"Woore, Newcastle, Staffs"
12 September 1923	"Woore, Crewe"
22 August 1973	"Crewe" on a card I had sent from the village."

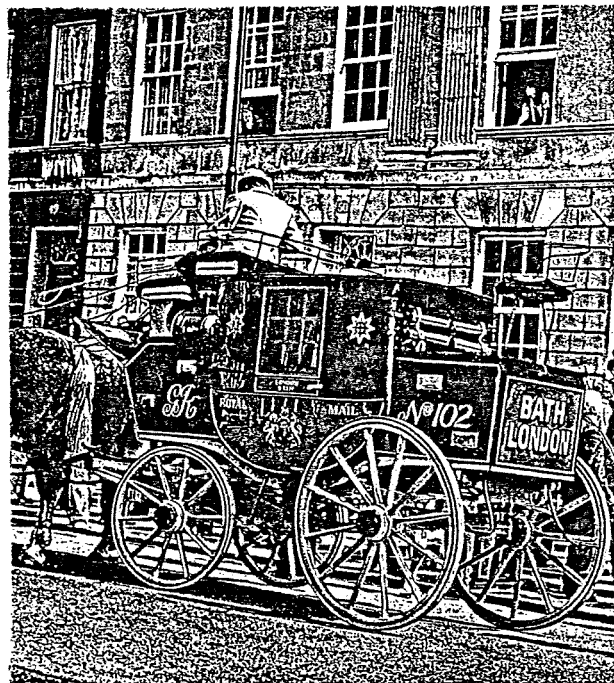
It is not the Editor's task to offer advice but, if I were Chris, I would immediately acknowledge Woore as a sub-office of Market Drayton under Stafford but receiving its mail via the Down Crewe-Newcastle TPO. It may ease the pain to know that Steph really opened his letter by saying how much he had enjoyed Chris' article and mentioning only one "small point" that did not conform to the evidence of his material.

Enough of the banter - Chris has not yet been given a chance to respond. Was Woore under Stafford in the 1830s/1840s or was it under Market Drayton? Look out for more and more of Woore in 'Midland Mail'.

+ + + + +

Awayday—

The Bath Postal Museum



It is not difficult to guess what a postal historian might hope to find in a postal museum - postal history ! It is inevitable, given its inherited riches, that the National Postal Museum in London is principally a museum of postage stamps. Something different and closer to the heart of a postal historian awaits him in Bath. It may even be no more than fair to say that the Bath Postal Museum is the true postal museum of England and it has the added delight of being in a city worth a visit for any one of half a dozen other reasons.

Bath can make a just claim to being a cradle of the postal service. Ralph Allen, organizer of the cross posts, and John Palmer, champion of the mailcoach, are two of the city's famous sons and it was the wife of a Bath postmaster who, on 2nd May 1840, inadvertently used the new penny black stamps four days before they were due to be released. (Another possible 'first' has just come to light but that exclusive story will be told in a later 'Midland Mail'.) The exhibits at the Bath Postal Museum concentrate on the period from 1700 to the 1840s and, while Bath features large in the displays, anyone with a liking for postal history will find plenty of fascinating material of the widest possible interest.

It should come as no surprise that the present museum is intimate. Most of the exhibits are in one room but the ephemera ranged around the walls of the Museum's own 'bijou' theatre would be worth a visit on its own account. Since the museum makes use of both permanent and temporary exhibitions, the contents described here are just as they were one day this summer and only represent what may be found there. But, firstly, how difficult is it to reach the Museum ? The answer is that it is very easy if you start at the famous Pulteney Bridge in Bath where you might just have found an excuse to pop into the 'stamp' shop to pick up something

worthwhile for your own collection. Cross Pulteney Bridge and continue straight ahead for, perhaps, 300 yards. The Museum is on the right at 51 Great Pulteney Street and the entrance is at what estate agents like to call "garden level" i.e. semi-basement. Perhaps the most important thing to remember is not to arrive too early as the doors don't open until eleven o'clock.

You will enter the museum through the museum shop which carries a large stock of postcards and a number of painted lead models which might yet become collectors' treasures. Turning right under the arch, there are two very small vaulted galleries, one containing a Rowland Hill display and the other an example of an early foot-operated perforating machine that you are allowed to play with. Returning through the shop, the principal gallery houses a number of exhibits worth extensive study. Quite recently, the Museum obtained a large collection of Bath postal history formed by Mr Vincent Nevard. About 200 items are on display and the quality of the material is very high. The contrast between the tiny straight line 'BATH' of 1721 and the equally large mark of 1761 may not be unique but is remarkable none the less. As might be expected, there are displays for Ralph Allen and John Palmer, the former including the unique 1727 cross post contract. A particular delight is a replica of a 19th century village sorting office although it may be doubtful that such an office would have boasted the Pearson Hill 'Parallel' cancelling machine of 1864 shown here. The office has many nice touches and some fine examples of postal scales and balances.

Other displays at the time of the visit included a splendid collection of stamp boxes and a part of the late Major Adrian Hopkins' collection of 'Wreck Covers'. There were also Post Office uniforms, one of the ubiquitous 'stamp snakes' (which provided a ready means of ruining many thousands of stamps in Victorian times) and an assembly of despatch articles used in old time post offices. A remarkable selection of sheet music relating to postmen and matters postal is displayed on the walls of the cinema together with some of the best prints and paintings of mailcoaches. Also in the cinema is a new acquisition - a beautiful scale model of the original Bath mailcoach. Incidentally, this coach is always depicted as having a yellow painted body but the evidence for this is apparently inconclusive as contemporary engravings were shaded but uncoloured.

The Secretary of the Bath Postal Museum Trust, Mrs Audrey Swindells, hails from Birmingham and her enthusiasm for the Museum project has made an enormous contribution to its success. To date, the best recorded attendance has been 160 individual visitors in a day but school parties of up to 90 children at a time can boost figures substantially. Although

the present location of the museum can be said to be 'adjacent' to the city centre, a truly central site would probably lead to a large increase in visitors. It now seems that there is an opportunity to take over larger premises in Broad Street, Bath, which, apart from their excellent central position, happen to be the site of the old post office. If developments proceed along the hoped-for lines, the future of Bath Postal Museum can only go from strength to strength. Admission to the museum includes an audio-tour or a printed guide to the exhibits prepared by Sally Davis, the archivist, who has built up a substantial portfolio of information for school projects and individual researchers. It costs 75 pence for adults or 50 pence for pensioners, students and children. Bath Postal Museum is open from 11am to 5pm on Mondays through Saturdays and from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays. Have a nice day



Broad Street, Bath.

G.B. COVERS

Send for a copy of my latest list of G.B. cover material from 1840 onwards. It contains a wide selection of interesting and unusual items — county material, difficult values and rates, from 1840 to date. All 'Wants Lists' for specific items or county material receive my personal attention.



ROGER HUDSON

36 WEST STREET
WARWICK CV34 6AN

Telephone: Warwick (0926) 492326

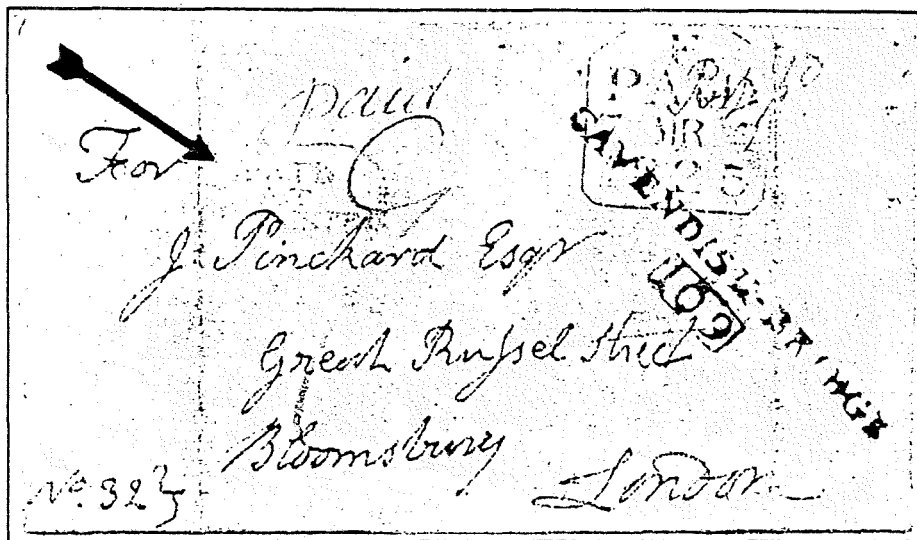
James L. Grimwood-Taylor asks

HELP PLEASE !

I have an 1825 entire letter from a Reverend G.J.Foster at "Breedon (-on-the-Hill)" addressed to London and endorsed "Paid 9". The writer includes the postscript:-

"P.S. Please to direct your answer to be left at the Moira's Arms, Castle Donington, Leicestershire."

This, in itself, gives an interesting insight into the postal service for one north Leicestershire village at this date but it is the conflicting postal marks that have led to my appeal for help.



As can easily be seen, the sender endorsed the letter "Post pd" at top right, it was endorsed "Paid/9" by the Post Office in red, a fine "CAVENDISH-BRIDGE/109" was applied and then a red "PAID" tombstone at London. What is not so obvious is a very faint but readily recognisable red impression of the chamfered corner boxed mark "PAID/AT/LEICESTER" just below and slightly to the right of the word "Paid". There are no backstamps.

I am still a little confused by the fact that Kegworth, Cavendish-Bridge and Loughborough all used "109" mileage marks but that Leicester used "97" in its second type mileage marks. The questions for which I am seeking help are:-

Where was this letter prepaid ?

Was Cavendish-Bridge a sub-office of Loughborough or Leicester or both?

Has anyone else a prepaid letter pre-1840 from Cavendish-Bridge ?

Of Flagging Interest ?

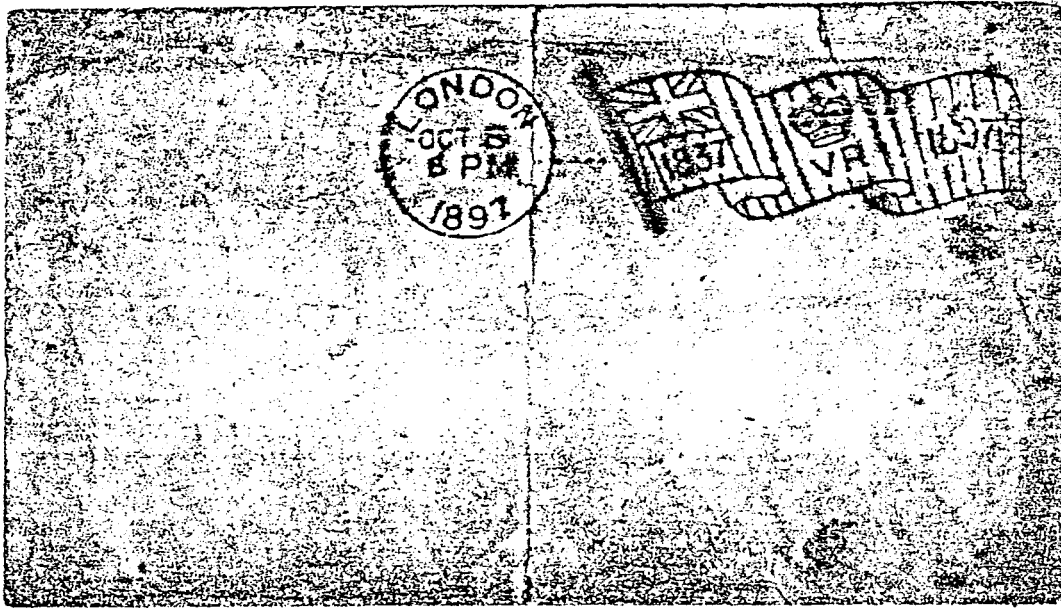


Figure 1.

A provincial meeting of the Postal History Society in May was attended by several members of our own society and the item illustrated above (Figure 1) was shown by a visitor asking for information about it. As a result of correspondence that followed, 'Midland Mail' has been given permission by the respective owners to illustrate together for the first time several remarkable examples of the very scarce flag cancels that have come to light.

If English flag cancels are unknown to some readers, they may be interested in a short item that appeared in Bulletin No.7 of 1977 under the title 'England's Flag Cancel'. Briefly, the story is that, in 1896, the Imperial Mail Marking Machine Company of Canada asked the Post Office to test a cancelling machine that produced attractive impressions in the form of a waving flag similar to those used in major Canadian and American cities. Various brief trial runs were made in 1897 and 1898 using different dies but few items passed through the post and only a handful of these have survived. The machines were not adopted and examples of the impressions produced are claimed to be the rarest British cancellations.

Figure 1 is remarkable in that Stitt-Dibden, in his book 'Early Stamp Machines', claimed that his was the only example of a trial of a 'VR' flag die run on 25 November 1897. As will be evident, the Figure 1 impression is apparently from an unrecorded trial some seven weeks earlier but it is virtually identical to Figure 2 which is the actual item once owned by Stitt-Dibden.

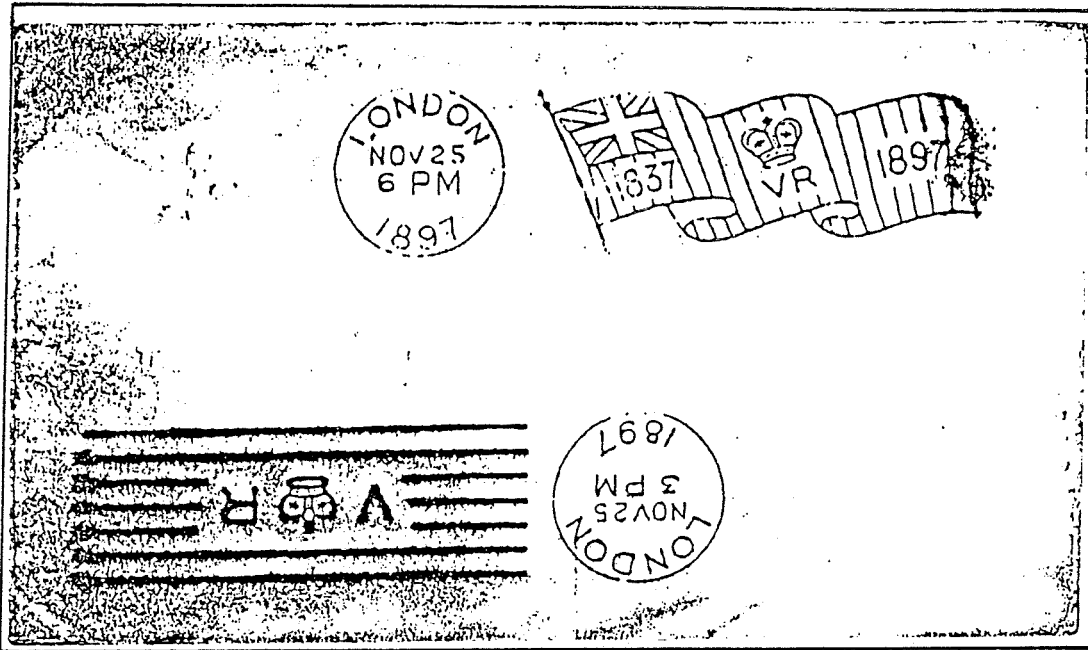


Figure 2.

Figure 3 below makes a very attractive companion to Figure 1. This is a trial impression of the 'England' die - the final flag die said to have been used on 15th, 17th, 18th and 21st March 1898. This flag is probably the only one to appear on items that passed through the post. An example was illustrated in the 1977 article and a second example is now shown at Figure 4.

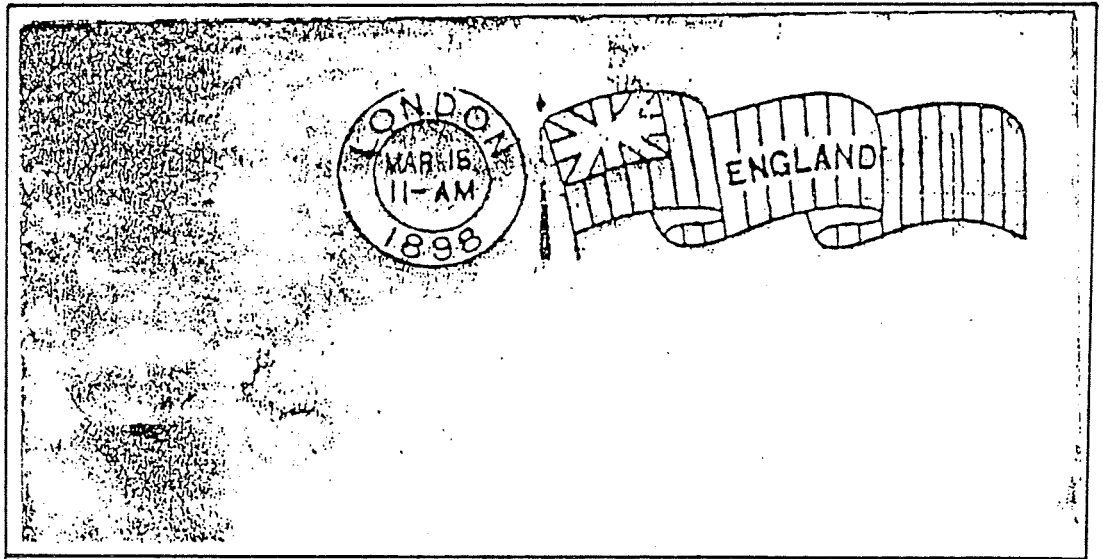


Figure 3.

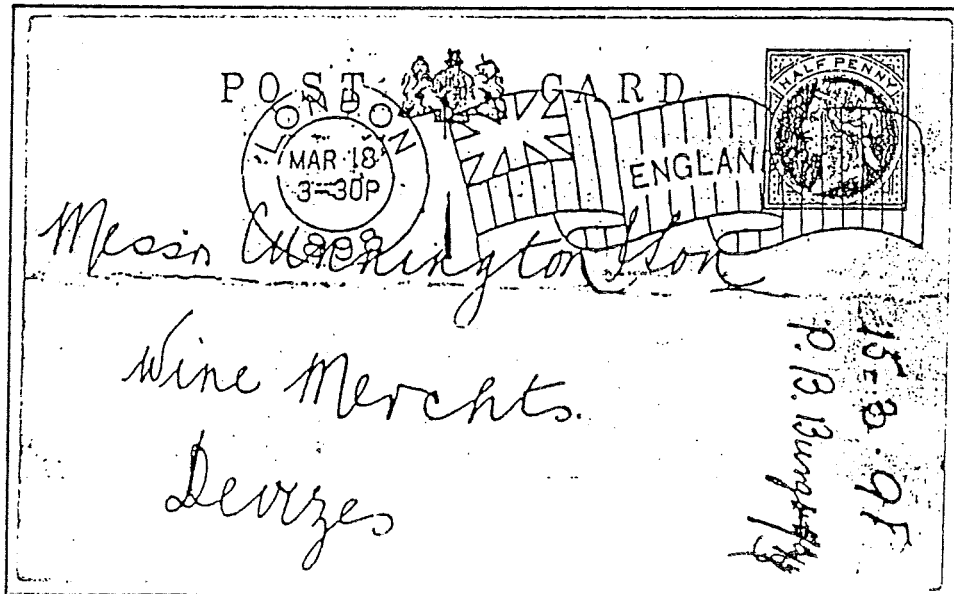


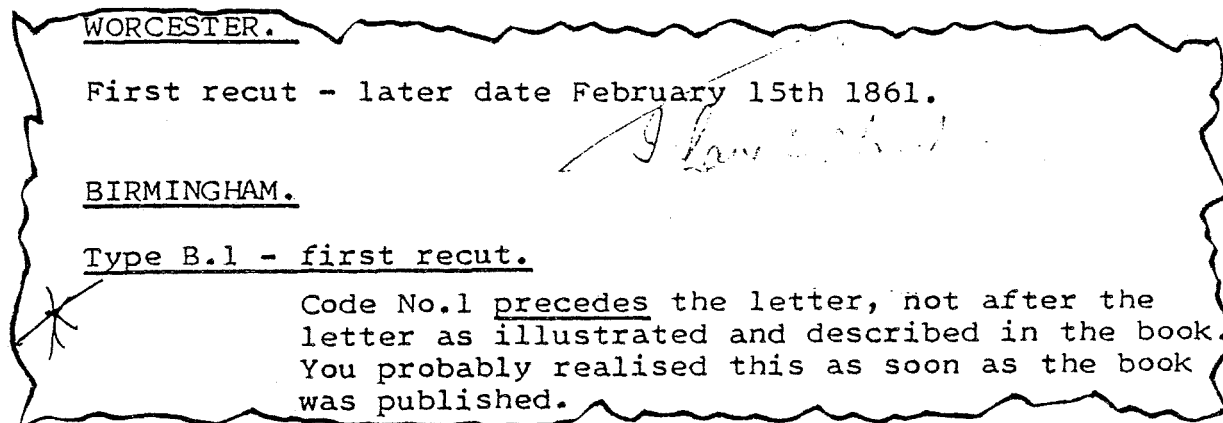
Figure 4.

As so often happens, the correspondence concerning these impressions of the flag cancellations raised as many queries as it resolved and the full story of the trials has yet to be told. The account given in 'Early Stamp Machines' is full of unsubstantiated assumptions and the subject cries out for some new and objective research.

+ + + + +

Do you recognise this ?

About eighteen months ago, Martin Willcocks was sent a list of date extensions for Worcester and Birmingham 'spoons'. The list (of which a fragment is illustrated) was passed to Bill Sedgewick who is recording any new information and he is particularly interested in the Birmingham Type B1 spoon, first recut, with the code preceding the letter.



Martin has lost his note of who sent him this list but he thinks it likely that it was one of our members. If the sender of the list - or anyone else - has examples of the B1 spoon first recut with the code preceding the letter, it would be appreciated if they would forward details of the date and code to:-

W.A.Sedgewick, 25 Hunters Lane, Sheffield S13 8LA

STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY of GREAT BRITAIN 1660-1982

We offer a wide range of GB Postal History and stamps on and off cover with emphasis on quality. We have a particular enthusiasm for anything which may be unusual with a personal bias which places equal emphasis on the historical development of the post and the post as a reflection of contemporary history with consequent interest in letter origins, destinations, authorship and content. If not already on our mailing list, send for post free list for our next fixed date (and price) sale.

BUYING: We are eager to buy anything relating to GB Postal History & philately provided the condition is good, currently with a particular interest in 17th & early 18th century material; Ship Letters; QV surface printed, Ed.VII & Geo.V stamps on cover; Documents relating to postal services.

NES

NEW ENTERPRISE STAMPS

P.O. Box 10, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire. CV37 6F1

NES

POST TOWN.	SUB-OFFICES.
BIRMINGHAM	†Bristol Street.
	*Halsowen.
	*†Deritend.
	Knowle.
	†Duddeston Row.
	*Solihull.
	†Lee Crescent.
	*†Edgbaston.
	†Handsworth.
	*Oldbury.
	†Hockley Hill.
	*Sutton Coldfield.
	*Smethwick.
	Kings Norton.
	Northfield.
	Erdington.
	Curdworth.
	Elmdon.
	Shirley Street.
	Great Barr.
	Castle Bromwich.
	Harborne.
	†Five Ways.
	Yardley.
	Moseley.
	†Hampstead Row.
	Nechell's Green.
	†Highgate.
	Spark Brook.
	†Goach Street.

An Extract from the 1855 List of
Post Towns. (Kindly supplied by
Michael Champness)

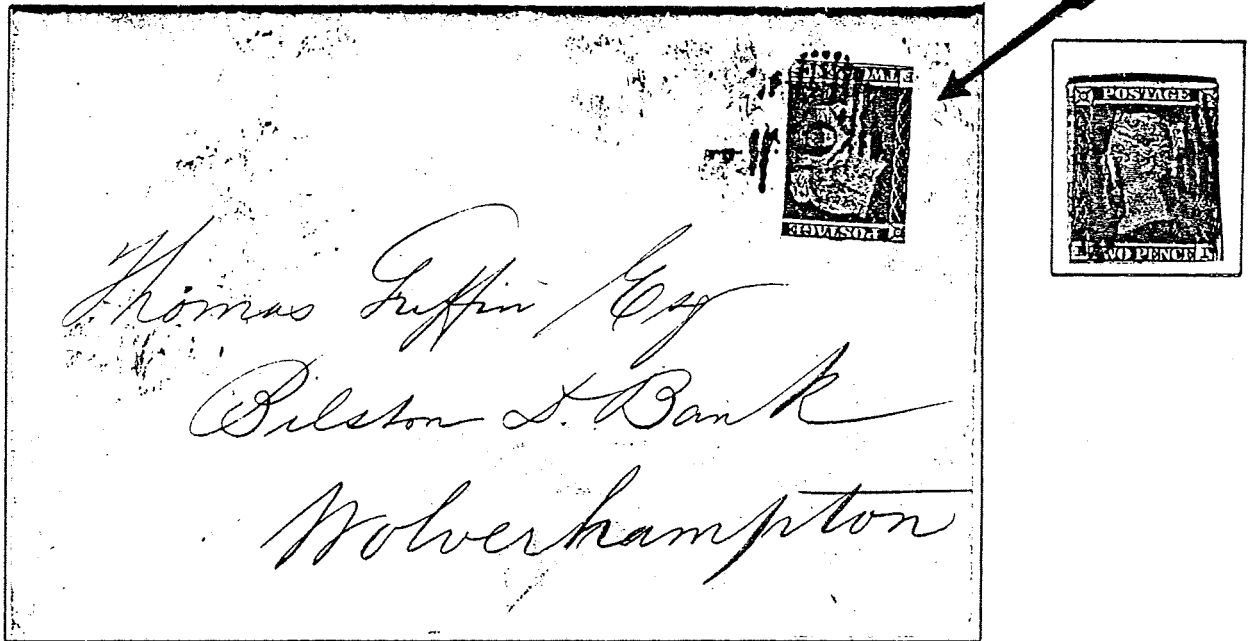
* Money Order Office

† Town Receiving Office

POST TOWN.	SUB-OFFICES.
BIRMINGHAM—cont.	Penns.
	Small Heath.
	*†Great Hampton Street.
	Aston.
	Birchfield.
	Lozells.
	†Icknield Street.
	Hall Green.
	*Henley-in-Arden.
	Balsall Heath.
	†Lancaster Street.
	Saltley.
	†Sand Pits.
	Langley.
	†Ladywood.
	Quinton.
	†Summer Lane.
	Harborne Heath.
	†Wellington Road.
	Beech Lane.
	*†Ashted Row.
	Winson Green.
	†Aston Road.
	Cape of Good Hope.
	†Aston Newtown.

1½d Post ?

One sometimes wonders just how much or how little of an adhesive postage stamp would pass muster during the days of imperforate stamps ? The item illustrated below (from a dealer's 'junk' box, of course) appears to have some 23% of the adhesive missing. A complete stamp is shown for comparison.

Books that may interest you - 11.

Yet again, Ted Heath has provided all the information for this feature.

LEE O.R.J. 'British Forces Air Mail Letter Cards and Air Letters, 1941 - 1977' (Excludes India and SE Asia which will be the subject of a later monograph). Forces Postal History Society, 25a Mill Rd, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8PZ. 20 plates. £8-75 post free.

MACKAY J.A. 'Scottish Twin-Arc Postmarks with Stampers Numbers, 1894 - 1963' March 1983, 559 pages, illustrated. From the author £3-95.

LPHG 'Map of the London Postal District with its Subdivisions'. Facsimile of the 1856 edition in a plastic folder, September 1983. From the London Postal History Group, 24 Dovercourt Rd, Dulwich, London SE22 8ST £1-00.

LLOYD K.L. 'Highgate Brewery, Walsall'. Useful background material in this paperback with 20 pages and 10 illustrations. Black Country Society, 49 Victoria Rd, Tipton, West Midlands. August 1982. £0-85p.

Olympic Tailpiece

From a petition of one, Bartholomew Moore, of cl654:

" ... your petitioner hath for the space of 5 yeares last past performed the hard and toylsome service of footpost from Leicester to London, and from thence to Leicester againe every week, being more than was ever yet done by any other man in England, and dureing all the said 5 yeares your petitioner never miscarried in his journeys and returnes above 3 or 4 tymes for the last whereof your worships have conceived such displeasure against your poore petitioner as that you have with holden from him that weekly exhibicion which you were pleased formerly to allowe him for his incouragement and better support in his hard and laborious course of life"

The Postal History of Leicestershire

The above item was extracted from the records of the Borough of Leicester and serves as an excellent reminder that John Soer hopes to have a Postal History of Leicestershire in print before the end of the millenium. John would be grateful for any information that members may have concerning sub-office postmarks from 1910 onwards and particularly the 'double circles'. The editor will always forward letters.

The Next Issue

The next number of 'Midland Mail' will drop through your letter box on or about 20th November. Among the attractions will be the first part of an illustrated article by Denis Salt on the Shiffnal and Ironbridge Penny Posts, the content of which can be read across to other English penny posts. There will be some useful information for those faced with the problem of cleaning up grubby covers and another feature in the occasional series about postmark dealers. Much more has been promised so don't miss 'Midland Mail' for more and more 'phistorical phacts'.

Hon. Editor: John Calladine, Dunley House, Cranham. Glos GL4 8HQ

..... Stop Press

Members are warmly invited to the Three Counties Federation Autumn Rally at St Martin's Parish Centre, Hereford on Saturday 13th October. The Federation competition entries will be on display and 11 dealers will attend the stamp fair.