

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Number 138, January 2005

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On 15th January 2005, we meet at St Germain's Church Hall, Portland Road, Birmingham when the meeting, beginning at 1.30 p.m., will consist of members' one board displays on "*Wartime Mail*".

We pay another visit to the Collingwood Centre, Great Barr on 12th February when, beginning at 1.30 p.m., Ian May will display "*Warwickshire*". This meeting is held in conjunction with the annual fair organised by the Streetly Society which opens at 10 a.m.

On 12th March we go to a new venue - The Black Country Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley. The meeting which begins at 1.30 p.m. will consist of members' one board displays of '*Early Covers and Dates*'.

THE ANNUAL AUCTION

This will be held on 16th April 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 15th January or that on 12th February. Alternatively, they may be sent to Mrs E Lewis at 27 Rathbone Road, Smethwick B67 5JG by 12th 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.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 16th April at St Germain's Church Hall, Portland Road, Birmingham beginning at 12.45 p.m. It will be preceded at 10.30 a.m. by a committee meeting. The Annual Auction will start promptly at 1.45 p.m.

COMPETITION ENTRIES REQUIRED

Our Secretary would welcome offers from any members willing to provide a nine-sheet entry, to represent the Society at the MPF meeting at Worcester on 14th May 2005. This is the same day and venue as our May 2005 meeting. Could anyone who is interested please contact Mel on 0121-6898147.

THE JON BAKER TROPHY

Nominations are now required for the best article which appeared in Midland Mail during 2004. Please look back through last year's issues and submit your nomination to the editor by the end of March. Also, why not put pen to paper in the next few months and write an article which will win the trophy next year.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Our speaker on 13th November was Alan Marshall who displayed "*Nottinghamshire*". Alan began with various prints and maps of that county including a Roque of 1766. A copy of the London Gazette of 1690 described the route of the mails to Nottingham

A letter sent in 1672 from Nottingham to London via Newark was endorsed "*Post Paid 3*". We saw a "NOTTING/HAM" mark used in 1713 on a letter to Suffolk as well as the "NOTING/HAM" used in 1721. Alan also showed various straight-line marks used in the period 1741 to 1750. Among the mileage marks were examples of the first type and the "horseshoe" mark used in 1790 on a letter to Southwell on which a charge of 2d was levied. These were followed by a series of letters from the Tempest/Plumbe family correspondence which have been described in previous issues of Midland Mail.

Alan then turned his attention to missent marks of which the earliest was from 1781 and consisted of a manuscript "Missent to" in conjunction with a "NOTTING/HAM" mark (NG140). A missent handstamp came into use in about 1837 and we saw it used on a letter sent from Manchester to Buxton. A letter of 1841 sent from London to Wokingham also went via Nottingham. Next, came a whole batch of Nottingham travellers, including that with seriffed letters and an ident '5' used in 1845, and that with sans-serif letters and a '2' used in 1847.

Next, came a section devoted to local posts. We saw a letter sent from Annesley to Holme Pierrepont in 1801 as well as one sent from Upper Broughton to Nottingham - a distance of twelve miles. The official posts were represented by items from the Sutton-in-Ashfield Penny Post. A section of military mail included items from the Crimean War, the Boer War and WWII.

Alan ended the first half of his display with a miscellany of covers which included a penny black on a letter concerning the castle ruins, a letter of 1835 marked with an inspector's crown as it had been uprated from 10d to 1/8 as the letter contained a £50 note, and a number of 'squared circles' from the period 1891 to 1905.

The second half began with a study of the postmarks of the village of Bunny; these included the UDC and different rubbers on postcards. This was followed by a number of UDCs including those of Plumtree, East Bridgford and Bottesford, the last two being struck in green. The postmarks of Bingham were covered in some detail, beginning with the straight-line marks of 1795 and 1801, including a letter from York to John Strong, the postmaster at Bingham, and ending with examples of the two types of unusual datestamp used at Bingham between 1835 and 1840.

A number of registered covers, from the period 1876 to 1906, illustrated the oval registered marks used at Nottingham as well as the vertical numeral cancel 583 used in 1879 and 1881. These were followed by a study of the handstruck charge marks used at Nottingham. First of all came the '4' used in December 1839, followed by the P^d1^d used in February 1840, and ending with examples of the main types of '2' used on unpaid mail from 1840 onwards.

Next came some later marks of Bingham such as the 584 numeral (later changed to 656) and a skeleton postmark.

A section of machine cancellations contained an example of a Hey-Dolphin Paid 1½d from 1927 and a Nottingham/Great Britain in black used as a cancellation. These dies were usually struck in red on bulk prepaid mail. Alan then went on to show a wide range of instructional marks including "Not to be Found" and "Found Open" handstamps of Nottingham. These were followed by a number of covers carrying postage due handstamps and adhesives.

Alan ended with a number of lovely illustrated covers showing commercial advertising. Among these were items from Boots, Players and Pickfords.

We had been treated to a fascinating range of postal history which was interesting not only for the postmarks shown but also the social history aspects of many of the letters.

THE DECEMBER MEETING

Your editor wondered if he had arrived in the wrong town on 11th December for, on his walk from the station, all the buildings which in the past had carried the well-known Bass trademark now carried a Corrs sign. However, there was an excellent attendance at the usual venue. The meeting can be summed up as superb food and drink, excellent company and outstanding postal history. What follows is merely a very superficial account of a magnificent display of postal history. Each frame, on its own, would merit a whole issue being devoted to it.

Although the title of Michael Scott Archer's display was '*The Post in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth the First*', he began by tracing the development of communication from Roman times up to the sixteenth century. Surviving examples of communication in Roman Britain have come from Caerlon in South Wales in the form of thin slivers of wood with ink messages or incised in wax on wooden tablets. Michael showed examples of these from the Museum of Wales.

The next frame dealt with the writing materials used in medieval times. It consisted of a study of quill pens, inks, methods of drying the ink, and the materials on which the message was written e.g. vellum.

In the section dealing with Early European Posts we saw a letter sent from London to Venice in 1472, one sent by Margaret of Austria from Brussels to Rome in 1472 when she was Governor General of the Netherlands, and a letter of 1544 which took 2½ hours to travel the 17 miles from Vigevano to Milan.

Among the items illustrating the fact that much of the mail was concerned with trade were a bill sent from Lyon to London in 1581, a covering letter on goods sent from Lisbon to Lyon, and a consignee's letter sent from Middleburg to London.

A copy of a painting of Gracious Street as it would have been in the 1580s introduced a section on the Corsini correspondence. Michael made the point that the Corsini Archive contained about 3500 letters of which about 80% were carried in the Merchant Stranger's posts, and these surviving letters may be only a fraction received by Corsini between 1570 and 1601. We saw a letter written by one of the Corsinis as well as one sent to Corsini from Florence in 1587 was written in code.

The couriers of the Merchant Strangers came into London from before 1500. Raphael Vanden Putte succeeded Christian Suffling as their postmaster in their office in Gracechurch Street in 1568. Although letters carried by the Merchant Strangers within Europe seem to carry no charges, those that arrived in London for Corsini were placed into a bundle, charged half a groat (2d) each, and the total written on the top letter. Among the examples we saw were G½ on a 1573 letter from Calais, G2½ on one of 1590 from Calais, and G21½ from Rouen in 1583. These charges would have covered carriage from the Channel ports to London.

The charges shown by the Merchant Adventurers, who had an office in York by the 1560s, applied to that specific letter. Each of the letters was numbered and we were shown one with '15' written on the back. A letter from Calais to London was charged 4d while one sent from Hamburg via the Thurn and Tassis post to Amsterdam was charged 6d for carriage by the Merchant Adventurers from the latter place.

The next frame was devoted to mail carried by the City Posts. An instruction of 15th July by the Middleberg authorities outlined the rules for the postmaster as well as the charges for letters to places in Germany, France and England. A letter sent in 1584 from Middleburg to London had been refolded and wrapped around other letters. The figures 3, 8 and 4½ possibly represented the charges on those other letters.

The final frame which was devoted to the posts in England started with a map of London showing the location of the various posts. We saw letters sent to London from Rye (charged 6d), Exeter (in 1590 and charged 6d) and Ipswich (1592 and endorsed 'pay the post four pence').

Over the years we have been privileged to see a number of truly outstanding displays of postal history at our annual meeting in Burton. The material shown by Michael Scott Archer must now be added to that distinguished list.

ROYAL MAIL ARCHIVE

Royal Mail Archive will be open on the following Saturdays from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm during 2005:

8 th January	26 th February	9 th April	11 th June
13 th August	17 th September	8 th October	10 th December

Until 26th August an exhibition "*The Victorian Era of British Stamps*" is available in the search room during normal opening times: Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, and until 7.00 pm on Thursdays as well as selected Saturdays.

The following events will also take place during the first half of 2005:

20 th January	1.00 pm General Introduction to the Royal Mail Archive
	2.00 pm Archive Tour 'Behind the Scenes'
17 th February	1.00 pm Researching Family History at the Royal Mail Archives
	2.00 pm Archive Tour 'Behind the Scenes'
10 th March	4.30 pm Archive Tour 'Behind the Scenes'
	5.30 pm General Introduction to the Royal Mail Archive
21 st April	4.30 pm Archive Tour 'Behind the Scenes'
	5.30 pm Researching Family History at the Royal Mail Archive
19 th May	1.00 pm Introduction to the Archive
	2.00 pm Archive Tour 'Behind the Scenes'.

To reserve a place at any of these events please phone 020 72392570 or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com

Museum Store Open Days - 7th May, 11th June, 16th July and 17th September. The Museum Store is based in Loughton close to Debden tube station (on the Central Line) and is where the large objects are kept. These include vehicles from push bikes to post buses as well as a large number of pillar boxes. The Open Days are free to both groups and individuals but please book in advance by phoning 020 72392570.

There are two items from the Postal Heritage Lecture Series that may be of interest to members:

27 th September	Philip Beale: The Royal Mail 1100 to 1635 AD
18 th October	F Wilkinson: The Mail Coach Era

POSTINGS offering



**POSTAL HISTORY of MIDLANDS
& other Counties**

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WANSFORD

by Derek Smeathers

In 1911, the Peterborough Advertiser (a broadsheet newspaper) ran an article headlined "*How Wansford Lost Its Three Industries*" based on the reminiscences of the two oldest inhabitants at that time. What follows here is an edited version of the story told by the oldest, Thomas Hazeldine.

"I was born in Wansford on 21st August 1827, so that I am now in my 85th year. My father had lived in Wansford for many years. I left school when I was twelve years of age and my first occupation was to assist my uncle at the Elton toll-bar. He came to my father and said 'I want Tom to come over to Elton toll-bar and help me.' That was at the height of the coaching days, so at Michaelmas 1839, I went to Elton [*about four miles south of Wansford*]. But my uncle died about twelve months after that and I returned home. Then the Wansford postmaster came to my father one day and wanted to know if I should be man enough to take the letters out. I was very glad to accept the post.

"I took the delivery of letters then, though I was only about thirteen years of age. I went over the bridge in the morning, and then went up to Water Newton, Sutton, Upton, Southorpe and Wittering. Of course there were not so many letters in those days, and I did not have to go to each of these villages every day, but they were in my daily round, and I regularly walked the whole distance. {Editor's Note: A look at a map will show that this involved a semi-circular route from the southeast to the northwest of Wansford in an anticlockwise direction.} I was paid for delivering them, not by the postmaster, but by the people to whom I took the letters, and I was free to fix my own charge. I consulted with the boy who had the duties before me as to what charges he made, and I fixed my scale practically the same as his. It was so much a letter, according to the distance, but if I had several letters for the same house I did not make a separate charge for each letter, but one charge - the same as if I had had only one letter - covered the cost of delivery for all the letters for that particular house. My responsibility to the postmaster was that each letter should be faithfully delivered.

"When I grew older I went into my father's business of a shoemaker, and I learned the trade in my father's own workshop. After his death I carried on the business right away until 1872 when I returned to the post office and became postmaster of Wansford, which position I held for 30 years, and during the whole of that time I never had a days holiday.

"The coaching days were one of Wansford's three great industries, the other two being the Paper Mills (which closed about 1870) and the Great Langton timber mills which had disappeared long before the Paper Mills. Coaching was centred on the Haycock Inn and, in the 1830s, some twenty-four mail and stage coaches passed over Wansford Bridge every twenty-four hours, let alone the stream of chaises and stage wagons with their eight-horse teams, and a mass of other traffic. Why, the Haycock has had as many as thirty pairs of horses out on the road at a time, independently of the horses required for changing the mail and stage coaches which would require as many more. This gives some idea of what the coaching industry was to Wansford and the Haycock. The mail coach that carried the mail bags from Wansford to Stamford every night [*the Edinburgh Mail*] passed through the village every night, and I often handed the bags to the guard. The coach as it approached the post office would go slowly, but did not actually stop. The guard would jump off his seat, exchange bags, and running behind the coach would climb into his place again, the coach never having come to a standstill. When old Mr Dexter was the postmaster here he always had a clothes prop handy. As the coach approached he would hang out the mail bag at the end of it and the guard would snatch it off as the coach went dashing along without any diminution of speed, he having previously thrown the Wansford bag of letters from the coach. The mail coach did not change horses at the Haycock for many years, but in the latter part of the time it did. It had formerly changed horses at the Wheatsheaf at Sibson which catered specially for stage wagons.

"The coming of the railways, however, sounded the death knell for the coaching industry of Wansford. Very few of us had ever seen a train or an engine, for the Northampton and Peterborough Railway was the first line to be made in this part of England. We watched the making of it by a great number of men who made their rough homes in the old quarry we called the Hills and Holes, and several men employed lost their lives in the construction of Wansford tunnel. I was at that time delivering the letters and I had to go to the colony of navvies engaged in the work of tunnelling and making the railway. They lived in wooden huts in the 'holes' where stone had been excavated many years before, and there were so many of the huts that they had divided them into streets, each street being named. I cannot remember all the names, but one was called Bedford Street and in that there was a large hut, number 22, where I often had to leave letters. It was occupied by a very nice family - many navvies had their wife and children with them."

MIDLAND POST OFFICES OPENED OR CLOSED DURING 2004

by Ken Smith

The year 2004 saw the continuation of the programme of closing up to three thousand Town Sub Offices (TSOs) nationwide. Closure dates should be treated with caution; many offices closed earlier than the official dates, although the closure leaflets available at the closing offices show, in most cases, the actual closure date. The urban offices that have been closed over the past two years under the 'urban renewal scheme' had (yellow) closure leaflets giving the office name and, in most cases, the exact closure date. Inside the leaflet were maps showing the location of the nearest alternative offices. Confusingly, these leaflets were entitled "Getting the most from The Post Office". I have spare leaflets for Many Midlands offices. For a complete list of the available leaflets, please contact me at 3, St Agatha's Close, Pershore WR10 1 DQ or tel. 01386 555705 or e-mail ken.smith@st-agatha.fsnet.co.uk.

Within each county, the rural offices in alphabetical order are placed first, followed by the TSOs with the post towns arranged in alphabetical order.

BIRMINGHAM (all of these are TSOs)

Anderton Road	closed 13/10/2003	
Bacchus Road	closed 21/9/2004	
Brighton Road (577, Moseley Road)	reopened 28/5/2004	temporary closure 27/3/2004
Bosworth Road	closed 10/8/2004	
Bournville	closed 12/10/2004	
Castle Bromwich	closed 7/1/2004	
Cheapside	closed 1/9/2004	
Farren Road	closed 10/8/2004	
Greet	closed 2/8/2004	
Harborne Lane	closed 18/11/2004	
Hay Mills	closed 4/9/2004	
Highfield Road	closed 9/8/2004	
Ladypool Road	closed 4/8/2004	
Lower Stechford	closed 24/11/2004	
Moor Pool	closed 9/8/2004	
Old Yardley	closed 13/10/2004	
Reddings Lane	closed 20/10/2004	
Redditch Road	closed 5/8/2004	
Shenley Lane	closed 23/11/2004	
Stetchford	closed 2/9/2004	
Stirchley	closed 30/11/2004	
Templefield	closed 31/8/2004	
Tyseley	closed 19/10/2004	
Weoley Avenue	closed 23/11/2004	
Wychall Road	closed 5/8/2004	
Wyrley Birch	closed 26/5/2004	
Yardley Green Road	closed October 2004	
Yarningale Road	closed 4/8/2004	

DERBYSHIRE

Barlow, Sheffield	closed 19/11/2004	(to reopen 17/1/2005 in Hare & Hounds)
Breadsall, Derby	reopened 8/6/2004	temporary closure 8/1/2003
Denby Village, Ripley	closed 18/3/2004	
Duckmanton, Chesterfield	closed 25/8/2004	
Earl Sterndale, Buxton	reopened 9/7/2004	(in The Quiet Woman P.H.)
Eggington, Derby	reopened 30/11/2004	temporary closure 11/10/2004
Hartshorne, Swadlincote	reopened 20/4/2004	(a relocation to Detick Hall, Manchester Lane)
Hulland Ward, Ashbourne	reopened 14/12/2004	t.c. 30/9/2004; datestamp - "DERBY"
Midway, Swadlincote	closed 4/12/2004	
Milford, Belper	closed 3/11/2004	
Ridgeway, Sheffield	closed 5/6/2004	
Ticknall, Derby	closed 28/4/2004	

Bridge Street (TSO), Belper	closed 13/3/2004
Nottingham Road (TSO), Belper	closed 10/3/2004
Park Road (TSO), Belper	closed 13/3/2004
Windmill Lane (TSO), Belper	closed 9/3/2004
Boythorpe (TSO), Chesterfield	closed 10/11/2004
Higbfields (TSO), Chesterfield	closed 26/1/2004
Spital (TSO), Chesterfield	closed 15/11/2004
Williamthorpe Road (TSO), Chesterfield	closed 1/4/2004
Browning Circle (TSO), Derby	closed 1/12/2004
Burton Road (TSO), Derby	closed 1/12/2004
Nottingham Road, Spondon (TSO), Derby	closed 2/12/2004
St Barnabas (TSO), Derby	closed 30/11/2004
Scarborough Rise (TSO), Derby	closed 2/12/2004
Ravensdale Avenue (TSO), Long Eaton	closed 12/2/2004
Matlock Green (TSO), Matlock	closed 12/2/2004
Marehay (TSO), Ripley	closed 10/2/2004

(a sub-office of Nottingham)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Apperley, Gloucester	closed 21/12/2004
Bisley, Stroud	reopened by 10/ 2004
Kempsford, Fairford	closed 30/6/2004
Nymphsfield, Stonehouse	reopened 2/8/2004
Oddington, Moreton-in-Marsh	reopened 3/2/2004
Simmonds View, Bristol	opened 30/7/04
Westbury-on-Severn	closed 17/7/2004
Cirencester Road (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 14/2/2004
East End (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 16/2/2004
Hales Road (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 17/11/2004
Leckhampton (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 17/11/2004
Pittville (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 29/11/2004
Watermoor (TSO), Cirencester	closed 20/11/2004
Highfields (TSO), Dursley	closed 9/11/2004
Lower Barton Street (TSO), Gloucester	closed 20/11/2004
Oxstalls (TSO), Gloucester	closed 22/1/2004
Bath Road (TSO), Stroud	closed 20/11/2004

(temporary closure 16/10/2003)

(closed 26/2/2003)

(using Adlestrop datestamp)

reopened 23/9/2004 (Dive-in-Bookshop)

(after an arson attack; expected to reopen)

HEREFORDSHIRE

Bosbury, Ledbury	closed 31/3/2004
Glasbury, Hereford	closed 21/5/2004
Hoarwithy, Hereford	closed by 1/6/2004
Risbury, Leominster	closed by 1/6/2004

(in Radnorshire)

(listed on PO website on 29/12/2003)

(listed on PO website on 29/12/2003)

LEICESTERSHIRE

Bagworth, Coalville	reopened 1/11/2004
Buckminster, Grantham	reopened 9/2/2004
Ellistown, Coalville	reopened 25/11/2004
Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Melton Mowbray	reopened 6/12/2004
Kirby Bellars, Melton Mowbray	closed 15/7/2004
South Croxton, Leicester	closed 26/4/2004
Westfields (TSO), Ashby-de-la-Zouch	closed 20/3/2004
Ashby Road (TSO), Hinckley	closed 8/9/2004
Atkins Way (TSO), Burbage, Hinckley	closed 4/9/2004
Tudor Road (TSO), Hinckley	closed 8/9/2004

(Bagworth Community Centre, Station Road)

temporary closure 8/12/2003

temporary closure 24/12/2003

temporary closure 30/3/2004

Abbey Park (TSO), Leicester	closed 15/7/2004
Belgrave (TSO), Leicester	closed 9/8/2004
Bonney Road (TSO), Leicester	closed 15/9/2004
Boundary Road (TSO), Leicester	closed 18/8/2004
Braunstone (TSO), Leicester	closed 12/1/2004
Crown Hills (TSO), Leicester	closed 8/9/2004
East Park Road (TSO), Leicester	closed 15/9/2004
Fairfield (TSO), South Wigston, Leicester	closed 18/8/2004
Green Lane Road (TSO), Leicester	closed 16/9/2004
Gwencole Crescent (TSO), Leicester	closed 2/2/2004
Milligan Road (TSO), Leicester	closed 3/1/2004
Newfoundpool (TSO), Leicester	closed 17/8/2004
Pembroke Street (TSO), Leicester	closed c. 9/2004
Severn Road (TSO), Oadby, Leicester	closed 15/7/2004
South Knighton (TSO), Leicester	closed 18/9/2004
Thurmaston (TSO), Leicester	closed 17/7/2004
Tudor Road (TSO), Leicester	closed 17/7/2004
Went Road (TSO), Birstall, Leicester	closed 17/8/2004
West Knighton (TSO), Leicester	closed 17/7/2004
Knighthorpe Road (TSO), Loughborough	closed 21/1/2004
New Harborough(TSO), Market Harborough	closed 15/7/2004
Craven Street (TSO), Melton Mowbray	closed 15/7/2004
Thorpe Road (TSO), Melton Mowbray	closed 7/1/2004

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Aston-le-Walls, Daventry	closed 9/8/2004	
Braybrooke, Market Harborough	closed by 1/6/2004	
Chacombe, Banbury	closed 14/1/2004	
Evenley, Brackley	closed 25/8/2004	
Wadenhoe, Peterborough	closed 30/3/2004	
Great Doddington, Wellingborough	reopened 11/10/2004	(closed 26/5/2004)
Ashby Fields (TSO), Daventry	closed 23/7/2004	(opened 6/11/2000)
Neale Avenue (TSO), Kettering	closed 11/3/2004	
Kings Heath (TSO), Northampton	closed 1/3/2004	
Leyland Drive (TSO), Northampton	closed 28/1/2004	
St David's (TSO), Northampton	closed 4/3/2004	
Wootton (TSO), Northampton	closed 31/1/2004	
Bedford Road (TSO), Rushden	closed 31/1/2004	
Court Estate (TSO), Rushden	closed 28/7/2004	
Addington Road (TSO), Irthlingborough,	closed 4/3/2004	(a sub-office of Wellingborough)
Berrymoor Road (TSO), Wellingborough	closed 14/2/2004	
High Street (TSO), Wellingborough	closed 27/1/2004	
Oxford Street (TSO), Wellingborough	closed 29/1/2004	
Vicarage Farm (TSO), Wellingborough	closed 29/1/2004	

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Lound, Retford	closed 10/9/2004	
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, Loughborough	closed 26/5/2004	(but I have "closed 20/6/2000")
Barn Lane (TSO), Mansfield	closed 17/4/2004	
Bellamy Road Estate (TSO), Mansfield	closed 6/9/2004	
Eakring Road (TSO), Mansfield	closed 21/4/2004	
Littleworth (TSO), Mansfield	closed 24/4/2004	
Ravensdale Road (TSO), Mansfield	closed 21/4/2004	
Sherwood Hall (TSO), Mansfield	closed 20/4/2004	
Sutton Road (TSO), Mansfield	closed 20/4/2004	
Westfield Lane (TSO), Mansfield	closed 21/4/2004	
Wood Street (TSO), Mansfield	closed 20/4/2004	

Attenborough (TSO), Nottingham	closed 12/2/2004	
Butlers Hill (TSO), Hucknall, Nottingham	closed 20/3/2004	
Carlton Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 21/6/2004	
Castle Boulevard (TSO), Nottingham	closed 21/6/2004	
Cavendish Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 27/3/2004	
Chilwell (TSO), Beeston, Nottingham	closed 11/3/2004	
Cinderhill (TSO), Nottingham	closed 20/5/2004	(at 4, Broxtowe Lane)
Colwick (TSO), Nottingham	closed 20/3/2004	
Firbeck (TSO), Nottingham	closed 23/6/2004	
Grange Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 22/3/2004	
Knights Close (TSO), Nottingham	closed 22/6/2004	
Laurie Avenue (TSO), Nottingham	closed 8/9/2004	
Mapperley Plains (TSO), Nottingham	closed 23/6/2004	(at 568, Woodborough Road)
Monksway (TSO), Nottingham	closed 7/7/2004	
New Basford (TSO), Nottingham	closed 8/9/2004	
New Eastwood (TSO), Nottingham	closed 20/3/2004	
Somersby Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 22/3/2004	
Thorneywood Rise (TSO), Nottingham	closed 8/7/2004	
Woodside Rd (TSO), Beeston, Nottingham	closed 22/6/2004	
Ordsall Park Road (TSO), Retford	closed 28/3/2004	
New Cross (TSO), Sutton-in-Ashfield	closed 23/3/2004	
Abbey Road (TSO), West Bridgford	closed 4/2/2004	
Radcliffe Road (TSO), West Bridgford	closed 14/1/2004	
Cheapside (TSO), Worksop	closed 28/3/2004	
Sandy Lane (TSO), Worksop	closed 7/1/2004	

OXFORDSHIRE

Bodicote, Banbury	reopened 11/10/2004	(43, Molyneux Road)
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford	reopened 26/1/2004	(in the Red Lion)
Hailey, Witney	closed 26/2/2004	
Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford	closed 2/10/2004	
Leafield, Witney	closed 23/9/2004	
Milton, Abingdon	reopened 26/7/2004	temporary closure 30/7/2003
Sydenham, Thame	closed 8/10/2004	
Tackley, Oxford	reopened 20/1/2004	(in the village hall)
West End (TSO), Abingdon	closed 26/8/2004	
Newtown (TSO), Henley-on-Thames	closed 28/8/2004	
Northfield End (TSO), Henley-on-Thames	closed 28/8/2004	
Mill Street (TSO), Kidlington	closed 24/8/2004	
Glanville Road (TSO), Oxford	closed 26/8/2004	
Hayfield Road (TSO), Oxford	closed 24/8/2004	
Marston (TSO), Oxford	closed 30/9/2004	
New Marston (TSO), Oxford	closed 4/9/2004	
St Clement's (TSO), Oxford	closed 25/8/2004	
The Slade (TSO), Oxford	closed 30/9/2004	
Wilkins Road (TSO), Oxford	closed 24/8/2004	
Fettisplace Road (TSO), Witney	closed 23/8/2004	
Newland (TSO), Witney	closed 11/8/2004	

RUTLAND

Whissendine, Oakham	reopened 15/3/2004	temporary closure 25/4/2001
Wing, Oakham	closed 27/5/2004	(at 6, Top Street)

SHROPSHIRE

Tilstock, Whitchurch	closed 20/5/2004
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal	closed 3/2/2004

STAFFORDSHIRE

Calf Heath, Wolverhampton	closed 14/5/2004	
Chase Terrace, Burntwood	closed 13/3/2004	
Gillow Heath, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Keele, Newcastle-under-Lyme	reopened 6/4/04	(Univ. Students Union; closed 6/8/2003)
Marchington, Uttoxeter	reopened 4/10/2004	(The Old Yard, Coach Lane)
Rocester, Uttoxeter	closed 24/8/2004	
Sandon, Stafford	closed 30/12/2004	
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal	closed 3/2/2004	
Little Haywood, Stafford	closed 27/7/2004	
Bridgtown (TSO), Cannock	closed 12/2/2004	
Station Road (TSO), Hednesford, Cannock	closed 10/3/2004	
West Hill (TSO), Hednesford, Cannock	closed 10/3/2004	
Southbank Street (TSO), Leek	closed 27/3/2004	
Walbridge (TSO), Leek	closed 27/3/2004	
Clayton (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyme	closed 27/3/2004	
Cross Heath (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyme	closed 27/3/2004	
Knutton (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyme	closed 13/10/2004	
Paris Avenue (TSO), Newcastle-u-Lyme	closed 27/3/2004	
Porthill (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyme	closed 27/3/2004	
Red Street (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyme	closed 27/3/2004	
Common Road (TSO), Stafford	closed 11/3/2004	
Doxey (TSO), Stafford	closed 4/5/2004	
Bradeley (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 7/4/2004	
Bucknall Rd, Hanley (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 4/5/2004	
Chell Heath (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 5/5/2004	
Eastwood (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Fegg Hayes (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	reopened 3/9/2004	(Same address - 182, Biddulph Road)
Hartshill (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed c. 9/2004	
Heron Cross (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
High Lane (TSO), Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
London Road (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 3/6/2004	
Mount Pleasant, Fenton (TSO)	closed 5/5/2004	(a sub-office of Stoke-on-Trent)
Oak Hill (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 3/6/2004	
Park Estate (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Penkhull (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 7/6/2004	
Rookery (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Sandon Road, Meir (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Stanfields (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Waterloo Road (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Whitehill (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 5/4/2004	
Willfield (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 27/3/2004	
Kerria Road (TSO), Tamworth	closed 11/5/2004	
Kettle brook (TSO), Tamworth	closed 5/5/2004	
Tame Valley (TSO), Tamworth	opening 15/11/2004	(Co-op, High Street, Dosthill; replaced "Dosthill")
Weaver Lodge (TSO), Uttoxeter	relocated 14/10/2004	(from "One-Stop" to "Londis")

WARWICKSHIRE

Bedworth	reopened 15/12/2004	temporary closure 12/2/2003
Ratley, Banbury	closed 19/5/2004	(in the village hall since November 2003)
Bearley, Stratford-on-Avon	closed 14/4/2004	
Bubbenhall, Coventry	closed 14/6/2004	(to reopen 12/1/2005)
Princethorpe, Rugby	reopened 12/11/2004	temporary closure 24/8/2004
Wolston, Coventry	closed 17/5/2004	
Water Orton, Birmingham	closed 18/10/2004	reopened 20/12/2004 at Spar Store, Edward Rd.
Lister Road (TSO), Atherstone	closed 18/6/2004	
Brunswick Street (TSO), Leamington Spa	closed 25/2/2004	
Kelvin Road (TSO), Leamington Spa	closed 9/1/2004	
Lister Street (TSO), Nuneaton	closed 25/10/2004	

Whittleford (TSO), Nuneaton	closed 1/3/2004
Buchanan Road (TSO), Rugby	closed 24/7/2004
The Paddox (TSO), Rugby	closed 28/8/2004
Wood Street (TSO), Rugby	closed 26/7/2004
Emscote Road (TSO), Warwick	closed 7/1/2004
Smith Street (TSO), Warwick	closed 2/2/2004
The Cape (TSO), Warwick	closed 2/2/2004

WEST MIDLANDS

Chadwick End, Solihull	closed 21/12/2004	
Tanworth-in-Arden, Solihull	reopened 23/2/2004	temporary closure 22/1/2003
Minworth, Sutton Coldfield	closed 31/8/2004	
Cheslyn Hay, Walsall	closed 27/11/2004	
Great Wyrley, Walsall	closed 8/12/2004	(relocated?)
Caledonia (TSO), Brierley Hill	closed 9/11/2004	(datestamp 'Caledonia, Dudley' is incorrect.)
Dawlish Drive (TSO), Coventry	closed 22/7/2004	
Ernesford Grange (TSO), Coventry	closed 6/12/2004	
Grayswood Avenue (TSO), Coventry	closed 31/8/2004	
King Edward Road (TSO), Coventry	closed 30/11/2004	
Roland Avenue (TSO), Coventry	closed 23/8/2004	
Stoke Heath (TSO), Coventry	closed 19/1/2004	
Sutton Avenue (TSO), Coventry	closed 26/7/2004	
Winsford Avenue (TSO), Coventry	closed 2/9/2004	
Alderwood Precinct (TSO), Dudley	closed 8/11/2004	
Darby End (TSO), Dudley	closed 14/1/2004	
Kates Hill (TSO), Dudley	closed 6/11/2004	
The Priory (TSO), Dudley	closed 4/11/2004	
Upper Gornal (TSO), Dudley	closed 8/11/2004	
Wellington Road (TSO), Dudley	closed 3/11/2004	
Colley Lane (TSO), Halesowen	closed 27/11/2004	
Parade (TSO), Shirley, Solihull	closed 6/10/2004	
Dorridge (TSO), Solihull	closed 4/8/2004	
Olton (TSO), Solihull	closed 6/1/2004	
Wynall Lane (TSO), Stourbridge	closed 3/11/2004	
Palfrey (TSO), Walsall	closed 13/1/2004	
Haden Cross (TSO), Warley	closed 4/11/2004	
Valley Road (TSO), Cradley Heath, Warley	closed 27/11/2004	
Price Street (TSO), Smethwick, Warley	closed 21/1/2004	
Rowley Regis (TSO), Warley	closed on an unknown date c. September 2004	
Castlecroft (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 1/12/2004	
Ettingshall (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 30/11/2004	
Lower St, Tettenhall (TSO), W'hampton	closed 30/11/2004	
Monmore Green (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 29/11/2004	
Staveley Road (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 1/12/2004	

WORCESTERSHIRE

Malvern Wells, Malvern	reopened 5/8/2004	temporary closure 17/9/2003
Marlbrook, Bromsgrove	closed 2/8/2004	
Ombersley, Droitwich	closed 25/6/2004	
North Malvern (TSO), Malvern	closed 4/3/2004	
Astwood Road (TSO), Worcester	closed 4/2/2004	
Henwick (TSO), Worcester	closed 4/3/2004	
Lower Wick (TSO), Worcester	closed 4/3/2004	
Lowesmoor (TSO), Worcester	closed 6/3/2004	
Tything (TSO), Worcester	closed 6/3/2004	

STAFFORDSHIRE SUB-POST OFFICES IN THE 1890's : STOKE-ON-TRENT (Part 2)

by Bob Ricketts

MILTON :

William Clowes appointed 11/11/1883

- Sub-postmaster's salary £21/8/- p.a. plus 4/- p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d or 2d per message for delivery
- 1 Sub-office Postman on scale 16/- 1/- 20/-
- For Sunday relief of Postman fortnightly 1/6d a fortnight

MOW COP :

Edwin Hancock appointed 31/12/1891 (resigned)

Sarah Hancock appointed 1/04/1898

- Sub-postmaster's salary £7/10/- p.a.
- Delivery 6/- p.w.
- For station service & late W[all] B[ox] collections 4/- p.w.

NEWCHAPEL :

Mary Harding appointed 8/03/1890

- Sub-postmaster's salary £8/10/- p.a.
- Delivery 2/11d p.w.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS :

John Turner appointed 13/12/1881 (died 28/04/1900)

Sarah Ann Turner appointed 19/06/1900 (resigned 7/01/1901)

Henry Hawley appointed 8/01/1901

- Sub-postmaster's salary £9/7/- p.a.
- Delivery 6/- p.w.

OAKAMoor :

Eliza Tipper appointed 1/04/1867

- Sub-postmaster's salary £17/13/- p.a. plus 7/6d p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d a message for delivery
- Delivery 5/6d p.w.
- For station service 1/- p.w.
- Rural Auxiliary 7/- p.w.

RODE HEATH :

Henry Holland appointed 19/01/1889

- Sub-postmaster's salary £12/14/- p.a.
- Rural Auxiliary 7/- p.w.

SCHOLAR GREEN :

Edward Woolliscroft appointed 1/04/1879 (resigned 12/03/1899)

Samuel Thomas Arthur Robinson appointed 13/03/1899

- Sub-postmaster's salary £22/5/- p.a. plus 4/- p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d to 9d per message for delivery
- Delivery 3/- p.w. w.e.f. 1893 (converted to a Rural Auxiliary w.e.f. 8/07/1899)
- Day mail delivery & station service 7/- p.w. (as above w.e.f. October 1896)
- Collection from Thurlwood and Kent Green and Bank Village Wall Box w.e.f. 22/07/1896 2/- p.w. (converted to a Rural Auxiliary w.e.f. 8/07/1899)

SMALLTHORNE :

Thomas Fletcher appointed 7/04/1866 (died 16/03/1896)

Frederick F. [W]eaden appointed 26/05/1896

- Sub-postmaster's salary £27/18/- p.a. plus 4/- p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d to 9d per message for delivery
- Delivery 4/6d p.w.
- Delivery 4/6d p.w. and 3/- for Day Mail delivery (converted to a Rural Auxiliary w.e.f. 4/01/1896)
- Conveying Day Mail bag 3/6d p.w. (ceased 5/05/1900)
- Conveying Night Mail bag 3/- p.w. (ceased 5/05/1900)
- Collection from Bradley W[all] B[ox] w.e.f. 11/05/1898 1/6d p.w.

SMALLWOOD :

John Foden appointed 14/01/1862 (transferred to Sandbach 30/04/1899)

- Sub-postmaster's salary £8/1/- p.a.
- Delivery 5/6d and 4/- p.w.

STANLEY :

John Barber appointed 6/07/1874

- Sub-postmaster's salary £11/12/- p.a.
- Meeting mail cart w.e.f. 1894 6/- p.w. (ceased 5/06/1897)

STOCKTON BROOK :

Jane Stubbs appointed 7/06/1897

- Sub-postmaster's salary £9/8/- p.a.
- Delivery w.e.f. 7/06/1897 4/- p.w (5/- p.w. w.e.f. 31/12/1899)

TALKE ;

Joseph Jackson appointed 17/07/1884

- Sub-postmaster's salary £22/14/- p.a. plus 7/6d p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d or 2d a message for delivery
- Delivery 14/- p.w. (converted to an Unestablished Rural Postman w.e.f. 28/03/1896)
- Linley Wood delivery 7/- p.w. (allowance split w.e.f. 18/04/1896)
- Day Mail delivery w.e.f. 1887 4/- p.w.(converted into Unestablished Rural Postman w.e.f. 28/03/1896)
- Assistance conveying mails to Kidsgrove w.e.f. 1895 2/- p.w.
- Station service w.e.f. 29/03/1896 2/- p.w. (ceased 10/09/1899)
- Rural delivery to Butt Lane w.e.f. 19/04/1896 5/- p.w.
- Rural delivery to Fox Holes w.e.f. 19/04/1896 4/- p.w. (increased to 4/6d p.w. w.e.f. 21/02/1898)
- Collection & station service w.e.f. 11/09/1899 4/- p.w.

TITTENSOR :

Robert Wright appointed 30/10/1860 (died 13/12/1898)

Edith Wright appointed 31/12/1899

- Sub-postmaster's salary £10/16/- p.a. plus w.e.f. 1889 4/- p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d or 2d a message for delivery
- Delivery 6/- p.w.

TRENTHAM :

James Calvert appointed 19/03/1885

- Sub-postmaster's salary £17/16/- p.a. plus w.e.f. 1883 4/- p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d or 2d a message for delivery
- Delivery w.e.f. 16/12/1900 2/- p.w.
- Collection from Hem Heath W[all] B[ox] w.e.f. 29/06/1896 (converted to S.O. Postman w.e.f. 16/12/1899)
- Collection on Sundays w.e.f. 17/12/1899 6d p.w.
- Alternate Sunday relief w.e.f. 24/12/1899 2/- a fortnight

TRENT VALE :

Richard William Harrison appointed 30/01/1890

- Sub-postmaster's salary £13/11/- p.a. plus w.e.f. 1883 4/- p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d or 2d a message for delivery
- Delivery 4/8d p.w.

TUNSTALL :

Jessie Dearn appointed 16/06/1892 (resigned 31/08/1898)

Alice Jarvis appointed 16/06/1899

- Sub-postmaster's salary £150 p.a.
- Allowance for supervision w.e.f. 24/03/1895 3/- p.w.
- Office rent £38 p.a. & office expenses £25 p.a. Rent of premises increased to £70 p.a. w.e.f. 30/09/1899 and Postmistress' residence £13 . Office cleaning 7/- p.w.

- Sunday sub. Mow Cop Rural Postman 3/- a fortnight
- Sunday relief to Postman w.e.f. 1890 2/6d p.w.
- Sunday collection w.e.f. 1889 1/- p.w.
- Sunday relief to Town Postman w.e.f. 1890 2/6d per fortnight (added to Auxiliary pay in 1895)
- Station service w.e.f. 1892 3/-p.w.
- Clearing Clay Hills W[all] B[ox] w.e.f. 1892 3/- p.w.
- Station service w.e.f. 17/05/1896 1/6d p.w.
- Assistance by foot messenger as far as Harriseahead S.O. w.e.f. 3/10/1899 4/6d p.w.

TEAN :

Sara L. Emma Steele appointed 16/04/1875

- Sub-postmaster's salary £37/19/- p.a. plus w.e.f. 1895 7/6d p.w. for indoor telegraph work and 1d or 2d a message for delivery
- Village delivery w.e.f. 1891 3/6d p.w.
- Alternate Sunday sub. 2/- per fortnight
- Station service w.e.f. 13/09/1896 2/- p.w. (ceased 10/03/1900)

WERRINGTON :

Elizabeth Cooke appointed 22/02/1889

- Sub-postmaster's salary £6/10/- p.a.

WETLEY ROCKS :

Samuel Naylor appointed 8/07/1888

- Sub-postmaster's salary £8/2/- p.a.
- Delivery w.e.f. 1/06/1896 4/6d & 3/6d p.w. (increased to 6/- and 5/- p.w. w.e.f. 21/03/1898)

BRINDLEY FORD :

Sarah E. C. Lear appointed 4/09/1895 (resigned 10/05/1896)

Amos Ratcliffe appointed 11/05/1896

- Sub-postmaster's salary £10/16/- p.a.
- Delivery 4/6d p.w. (reduced to 3/6d p.w. w.e.f. 24/12/1899)
- Delivery 2/- p.w. w.e.f. 17/01/1898 (increased to 4/- p.w. w.e.f. 24/12/1899)

Similarly detailed information is provided for Town Sub-Offices, but that will have to await a future article.

SHAW'S BUNTINGFORD AUCTION

G.B. & WORLD POSTAL HISTORY

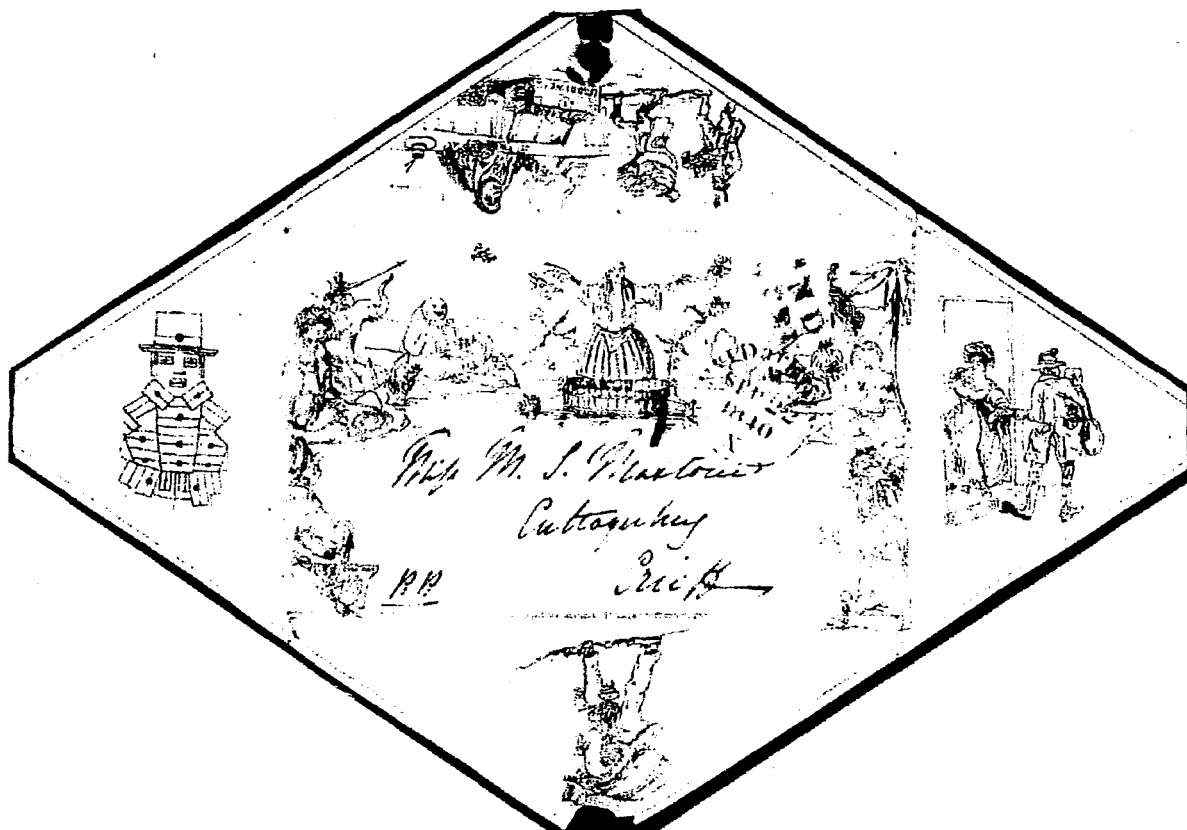
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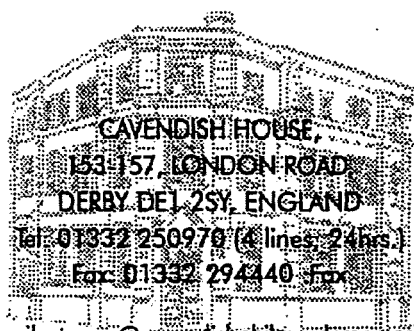
Our 20th & 21st January Sales will include notable collections of the postal history of Scotland with an emphasis on Edinburgh and seldom-offered, scarce material from the long & varied history of Crete – as well as much other fine postal history.

1840 use of rare Mulready caricature by Menzies, Edinburgh.



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A RECENT FIND

by Ian M May

It is unusual nowadays, but not unknown, to have an original find, especially one that dates back to the 1740s. But, I have been fortunate to be able to purchase the items illustrated from such a find, these being the only items in the find that had any postal markings or address panels. The seven entires are all from 1744 and all originate from Coleshill which is situated in Warwickshire and was, and still is, a relatively small town. They are addressed to Robert Sparrow at Wardington, near Banbury.

All the entires were routed via London and, if not sent free, were rated at 4d to London, Coleshill being just over 80 computed miles from London, and then 3d for carriage to Banbury, giving a total charge of 7d. The actual distances shown on the first type mileage marks of Coleshill and Banbury were respectively 104 and 78 miles. A direct route from Coleshill to Banbury is about 40 miles!

All of the items have something of interest so they will be described individually.

Fig. 1. This entire is dated 5th March 1743. As this is prior to 1752, it is likely that the writer used a calendar where the new year begins on 25th March. Thus, on the Gregorian calendar this would have been 1744. The cover is endorsed 'Free' by ????, and has been inscribed with a 'P' used on free letters and thought to stand for 'privilege'.

Fig. 2. This is dated 19th May 1744 and is endorsed 'Frank E Digby'. On the reverse is the Bishop Mark for 22nd May.

Fig. 1

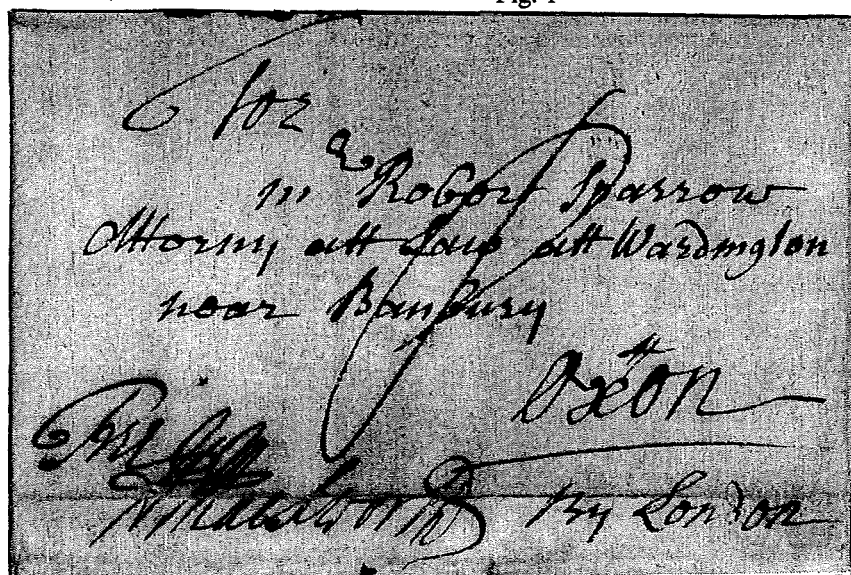


Fig. 2

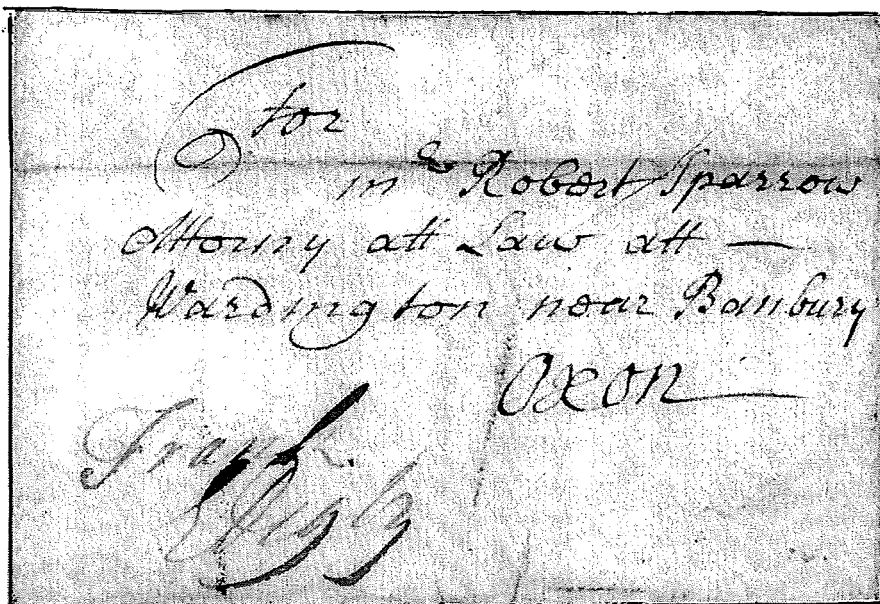


Fig. 3. This cover is dated 9th June 1744 and is addressed to 'Robert Sparrow Attorney att law att Wardington'. It carries no postal markings and was therefore most likely carried privately.

Fig. 4. This item is dated 23rd June 1744 and was sent initially to chambers in Lyons Inn, London but a further direction was added; 'If not to be found ??? Wardington near Banbury Oxon'. 'Shire' has then been added in another hand. The rate mark of '4' was cancelled and replaced by a '7'. On the reverse are two Bishop marks - for 25th and 26th June. It also has a COLES/HILL mark previously recorded only in 1750. Since the two earlier covers carried in the post have no handstamp, it is possible that the handstamp did not arrive until after 19th May 1744.

Fig. 3

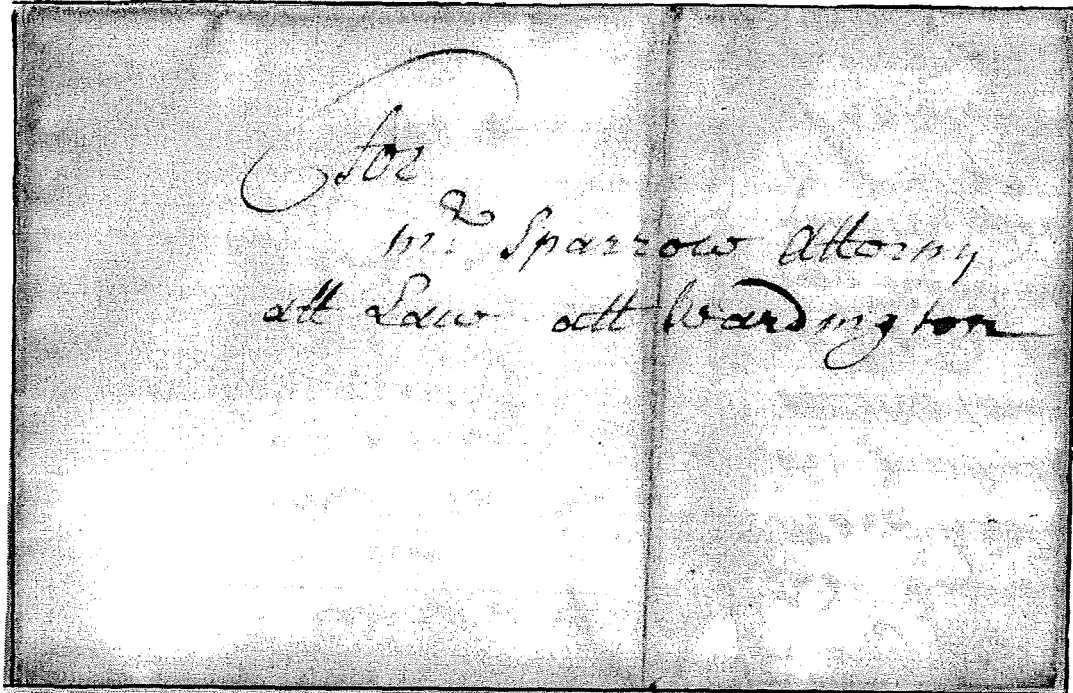


Fig. 4

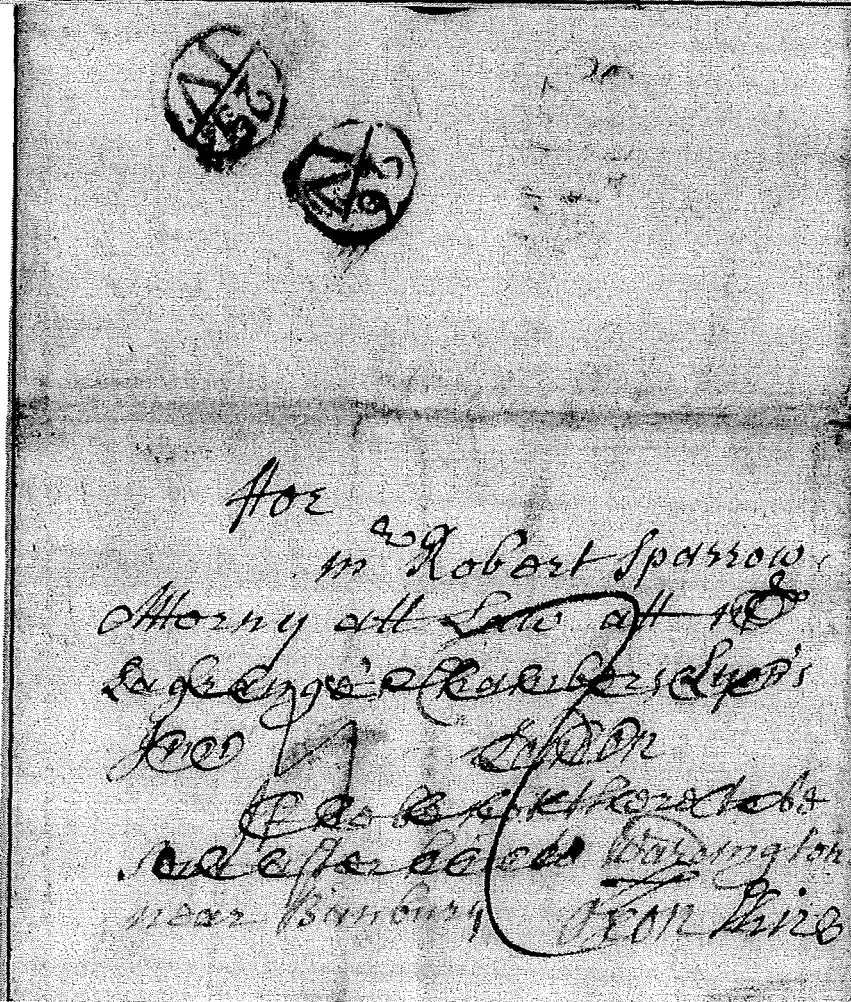


Fig. 5. 7th July 1744 is the date on this letter which was sent unpaid. It has two rate marks as on the previous item. On the reverse is the Bishopmark for 9th July as well as two strikes of the COLES/HILL mark.

Fig. 5

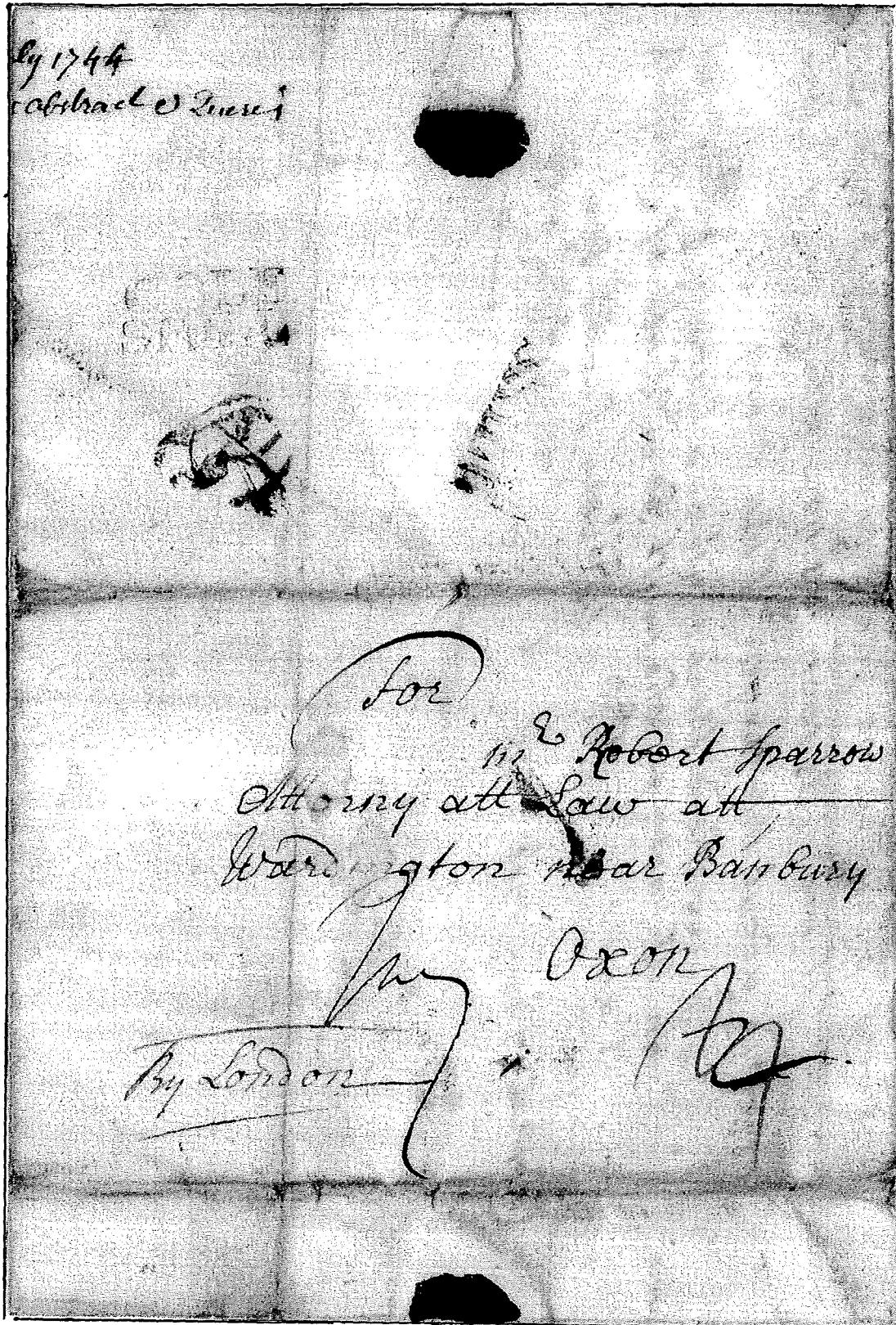


Fig. 6. This letter is dated 16th September 1744. It carries no postal markings and was probably carried privately.

Fig. 7 The last entire is dated 13th October and is endorsed 'Free E Digby' and also inscribed with a 'P' like the first item. On the reverse is the Bishopmark for 15th October as well as a strike of the COLES/HILL mark.

for
 Mr. William Taylor
 att Wiffote
 or Mr. Robert Sparrow
 Attorney att Law att
 Waddington

Fig. 6

for
 Mr. Sparrow Attorney
 att Law att Waddington
 near Banbury

Free
 Digby

15
 10

Fig. 7

ONE HUNDRED YEARS APART

The enlarged postcard below shows the post office (arrowed) at Belgrave, Leicester in the early years of the last century. Walter Clayton was the postmaster until his death, at the age of 89, in 1949. It remained in the same position until its closure in August 2004. The photograph at the bottom was taken shortly before the office closed.

