



MIDLAND (G.B.)  
POSTAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY 1975



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NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Will be held this coming Saturday 17th January but NOT in Wolverhampton as previously published. Due to poor attendance of our first few meetings of the 1981/2 Season it has been decided to change the venue of the January meeting to:

DR. JOHNSON HOUSE, BULL STREET, BIRMINGHAM  
Larger Room on 3rd Floor No. 46 commencing at 2 pm

It is hoped that this change of venue will enable more members to be in attendance. It will be a normal Society meeting with displays of up to nine sheets by members. So bring along your 'goodies' together with any guest or potential new member you wish to invite.

FUTURE MEETINGS (all will be held in Birmingham at our normal meeting place)  
AS ABOVE

|                     |                                                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 14th Feb.  | SOCIETY COMPETITION for the P.H. SHIELD<br>Nine sheets |
| Saturday 14th March | Special BIRMINGHAM Display by<br>Eric Lewis            |
| Saturday 11th April | A.G.M. and Auction                                     |

SOCIETY AUCTION

Editor will be pleased to receive LISTS ONLY of material for Auction as soon as possible - and in any event before 'st March to enable an Auction List to be circulated before the event. All members are expected to submit a few items at least for this annual event - so do your best please.  
Send to : Jon Baker, 13 Station Road, Hinckley, Leics.

SPECIAL DISPLAY AND INVITATION

Our 'chairman' and husband are giving a very interesting display to the Birmingham Philatelic Society entitled 'HALF A MILLENNIUM MISCELLANY' at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret St. on Wednesday, 28th January commencing at 6.30 pm. All members can attend and an invitation to do so is now issued.

RUBY AND CHES

Our previous Secretary and founder member of the Society W.S. Chester and his wife will shortly be departing from their well known address at 17 Rock Close to take up happy retirement to a new address which will no doubt become equally well known :.e.

So stand by for an upsurge in information  
on Welsh Postal History

Y. WERN  
PEN. Y. GELLIMILL  
KEPRY  
Nr. NEWTOWN POWYS

Members of the Committee wish to take this opportunity of thanking Ches for all he has done in the promotion of interest in Postal History generally and in particular the establishment of our Society. We know he will continue to take an interest in the activities of the Society and look forward to his continued support.

NOVEMBER MEETING

On Saturday 8th November several of our members met in a room kindly provided by the Coventry Philatelic Society, the members present having visited the Coventry Societies' Annual Fair earlier in the day. Apologies were received from several other members unable to attend, at least three of which were giving displays elsewhere. We were joined at our meeting by some members of the Coventry Society including their Chairman, Dr. D. Greenhalgh. Our members had been requested in the bulletin to bring along unusual items of Postal History and the five displays which we were shown were based upon this theme.

First to show was Mr. W. Chester with a further selection from his extensive collection of WARWICKSHIRE, including items from Pugby, Dunchurch, Kineton with a straight line handstamp clearly spelt KEINON and a 'dead letter' from Shipstone-on-Stour.

Mr. J. Calladine followed with items under the collective title of "IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED", among the items shown that shouldn't have happened were :- A cover to Whitchurch without the county name, the cover having been sent to three different Whitchurch's and eventually marked 'not found'. A circular Missent mark containing the letters M,N,W,A, which is a missent mark of the London N.W. district. Incorrect charge marks corrected by Inspectors and authorised with their own crown handstamps. A single Pontypool c.d.s. cancelling two adhesives on cover.

A Dieppe postcard having a M.B. Box cancellation but evidently posted in the English box, with a French stamp in lieu of the French box. The cover therefore attracted a postage due surcharge when sorted in this country.

Before the introduction of the perforating of firm's initials as a security measure to prevent stolen stamps being cashed at a post office, a few firms overprinted their names on stamps for this same purpose. We were privileged to see such a stamp overprinted by William Dawbarne & Co. of Liverpool nicely used on an 1875 cover. It being illegal to use such stamps at that time. Mr. Calladine concluded his display with two duplex errors, namely a Chelmsford 169, an error for 176, used in July 1871, and a recent discovery of a Stourbridge duplex with the town name spelt S<sup>T</sup>OURBRIDGE. This item is obviously a nice find for Mr. Calladine who specialises in the Postal History of Stourbridge. So far he only knows of two other examples.

The first half of our afternoon's entertainment was concluded by Mr. Chris Beaver with his display entitled "UNUSUAL ITEMS WITH OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS" Amongst the interesting items that he had brought along were:- An 1898 Cover from Belgium with a Registration label. A postcard sent to New Zealand from this country, the words 'Post Card' having been changed to 'Book Post'. The card was accepted by the post office and transmitted through the post at the book post rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. An envelope posted in Walsall to H.M.S. Hercules C/O G.P.O. London. The envelope was re-sorted in Birmingham where a F.S. B.M. mark was applied, 'London' deleted and 'Portsmouth' written in. The Birmingham office evidently knew whose the ship was and directed the letter straight there. A discussion took place whilst viewing this item as to whether H.M.S. Hercules was an actual ship or a shore establishment.

Mr. Beaver concluded his display with two postcards used on the same day in 1914 with different Drayton Bassett rubber c.d.s. Both cards were posted without adhesive stamps, one being surcharged 1d, the other without any surcharge.

Having all viewed and discussed one with another these most interesting items we came to the second half of the afternoons meeting.

This was a joint display given by Eric and myself comprising a number of sheets that we have prepared ready for a display to another Society next year. The display will cover some 500 years of postal history and stamps and the selection brought along included such items as examples of the first Bishop marks, letters posted before that time back to the Venetian Merchants Posts of the early 1400's and a 1722 letter addressed to a Chocolate House rather than the more usual Coffee Houses. Amongst the more modern items were Post Office permit handstamps to authorise the export of stamps in the first World War.

Mr. Peter Baxter concluded the days displays with a poster dropped over Italy in 1943 showing what destruction had taken place in Coventry in Nov 1940

DECEMBER MEETING

6th December 1980 Meeting held at the Bass Museum of Brewing in the "Baltic Trader".

Seven members present and supplies of special Bass beer for 15 members, our thanks go to those who did not attend.

Our first display was by Harold Wilson of Derby with the Air Letter Service development from the original Railway Letter Service. Early railway letter stamps from many defunct railway companies developing into the G.W.R. Air Service of 1933 flown under the railway agreement. Later sheets showed the final development into British European Airways Letter Service.

The second part of the display was a continuation from last year of the TPO service and concluded with Irish TPO's from 1854 through to present day services.

Our Second display was by Ted Coles of Birmingham who showed us The Classic French Stamps 1849-1876 all on cover. This was to illustrate how the various values came about to cater for the various services at home and abroad. These being all on cover and included correct combinations of values together with multiples.

Our thanks go to the Bass Museum of Brewing for the accommodation and the refreshments. The afternoon was concluded with a visit to the new exhibition on the top floor. This shows the development of Transport related to the brewing industry and its effect on the growth of the Town of Burton upon Trent. A very visual exhibition with a wide range of exhibits to interest everyone from young to old.

RICHARD FARMAN.

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BIRMINGHAM FOREIGN SECTION MARKS by Eric and Elizabeth Lewis

We mentioned to Mr. Beaver at the November meeting that we had an example of a similar handstamp to the rectangular boxed F.S. B.M. hand stamp that he showed on his postcard which was redirected from Birmingham to Portsmouth. Ours was also originally addressed to HMS Hercules c/o GPO London which had been struck out in a similar way to Mr. Beavers example and Bantry (a Port in Ireland) written in. The Birmingham Post Office must have kept careful track of the movements of this particular ship!

The only other Birmingham Foreign Section mark that we have come across is a circular date stamp of 1919 reading 'Birmingham F.S.' Although this cancels the adhesive on a post card to Denmark it was applied by an inspector as the original Birmingham machine cancellation was too lightly applied to cancel the adhesive sufficiently.

Has any other member any Birmingham (or any other Midland Town) Foreign Section marks? if so please let the Editor have DETAILS to publish in the Bulletin.

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REGRETFULLY my Xerox machine is 'out of order' during the week-end that I am preparing this Bulletin - and although I have enough articles to reproduce to compile a larger Bulletin - the means of reproducing the necessary illustrations are not available at the moment. So apologies to the contributors - all will be 'made good in our next issue'.

We look forward to a good turn out of members at next Saturdays' meeting in Birmingham.

Jon Baker  
Bulletin Editor