

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.midlandphs.org.uk



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Christmas Day 1857, entire letter from Shrewsbury to Philadelphia, see page 11 for Christmas-related items

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ANNOUNCEMENTS etc

ZOOM MEETINGS, A COMMENT – The Zoom meetings, which have taken place due to the Covid invasion, have been successful on two points. The individual display meetings up to December each attracted over 20 members, with a few attendees not seen at face-to-face meetings. It was encouraging to see such numbers, which dropped off slightly for members' displays. I have no doubt that travelling distance / time prevents some members from attending our regular meetings. When normality returns, and we all hope that is sooner rather than later, is it worth having an occasional zoom meeting as well as a regular face-to-face meeting? Something to think about! The other success has been the nature of the displays. Thanks to the use of the technology, we have been able to see the covers at the same time they were described and discussed. Technology is not for everyone but it does have its uses. Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank Gordon Hardy and Marc Oxley for all their efforts organising the Zoom meetings.

JON BAKER TROPHY 2020 – Here we are again folks! Please let me have your vote for what you consider to be the best article appearing in Midland Mail in 2020. Remember there were 5 editions last year. May I suggest you choose from one of the following, but you need not restrict yourself to these articles, vote for any one that has caught your eye and which you enjoyed!

1902 New Zealand to Swithland (under Loughborough), Leicestershire	Marion Turner	MM205 15 / 18
The Wotton-under-Edge 'Asterix Date Stamps' 1805 – 1806	John Hine	MM206 8 / 11
Registration Labels with Designation Numbers	Ian May	MM206 12 / 16
The Postal History of Oundle (abridged)	Richard Capon	MM207 6 / 7
An Inverted Date Puzzle	John Calladine	MM207 8 / 9
Anyone for Tennis	Jim Hammond	MM207 10 / 12
Retford or Redford – What's in a Name?	Mick Gill	MM207 18 / 19
British Isles Registered Mail – 1870 to 1907	Ian May	MM208 3 / 7
Oval Telegraph Handstamps	John Soer	MM208 8 / 11
Birmingham – The Experimental Receiving Handstamps 1857 – 1866	Ian Baker	MM208 12 / 14
Early Warwickshire Skeleton Handstamps	Ian May	MM209 5 / 9
Wildings of Shrewsbury - Postal related items	Brian Atkins	MM209 16 / 19

MM207 was an Extra Edition, so lots to choose from, even something not listed above!

FEEDBACK on the IRON LAST RATE (MM209 / 14): Ian Baker contacted Maurice Buxton, who replied as follows: I don't think this refers to a Post Office rate, the label looks a general one, and was probably primarily intended for use when sending lasts by rail. Railway and shipping companies did have all sorts of specially agreed rates for different types of goods. The 'Per' section was probably normally filled in with the details, '11.10 train' or 'SS Shipname' or whatever, but in this case it happened to be sent by PO parcel post, presumably because that was the cheapest / quickest way to do it. Parcel rates varied quite often. There are 1896 and 1902 PO Guides on the GBPS website which give some information. There are no 1/6 rates to Germany in the 1896 Guide, but in 1902 there is a 1/6 rate for 3-7lb. So it looks as if sometime between those dates the rates changed and sometime after that the parcel was sent. Would 7lb cover the weight of a last including packaging? (*Editor's note: The dates fit with Derek Smeathers' suggested date of 1897 but as for the last weighing 7lb, I have no idea, I just recall one as 'very heavy'!*)

AN APOLOGY – At the end of Jim Hammond's article on page 13 of MM 208, it reads '...the SM at the end means 'end of message'! It should have been SN, not SM. Jim's original piece had SN but your editor changed it without checking. If you look at the illustration on the page you will see why it was changed but, Jim tells me, SN is correct.

LATE FEES IN ENGLAND AND WALES OUTSIDE LONDON

Julian Tweed's Account of his Power Point Display by Zoom

On the 21 October **Julian Tweed** gave a display covering the payment of late fees from a range of offices in England and Wales with examples drawn where possible from the Midlands.



3 August 1860 Malvern to USA, 1/- Treaty postage rate plus 1d Late Fee

Prior to 1840 provincial late fees were set locally and were not part of Post Office revenue. Consequently, it was not usual, or indeed useful, for payment to be evidenced on the letter itself. This changed with the 1840 reforms, but it was not until March 1849 that it became compulsory for late fees to be paid using stamps, enabling easier recognition of the payment of a late fee. Identification thereafter usually

still relies on there being an excess paid over the appropriate postage charge as few offices at any stage used distinguishing postmarks or cachets for late fee mail, illustrated by an 1860 cover to the USA posted at Malvern. Single rate postage to the US at the time was 1/-, so the 1d stamp pays 1d late fee, the usual fee at most provincial offices before 1880 (the usual fee after 1880 was ½d).



1849 Birmingham to Norway, 1/10d postage, plus 3d Late Fee

Some larger offices were given permission to offer higher rate late fees for posting immediately before the dispatch of a relevant mail. The cover to Norway posted at Birmingham on 6 November 1849 paid 1/10d postage and a 3d late fee, which in this case was for posting between 11.30 and 11.40am after the 1d late fee period had closed. Late fees

were available for most dispatches throughout and not just at the end of the day; a large office might have twenty or thirty dispatches daily, each with an associated period in which a late fee was payable. If you are lucky, details of what was available at a particular place might be found in local directories or similar publications.

Sometimes, though, it is not possible to identify payment of a late fee just by looking for a potential excess. The ordinary looking cover sent from Pershore to Bawtry on 7 March 1855 could just have paid double rate postage of 2d. However, the first lines of the letter inside show otherwise, '*My Dear Charlotte, although I am too late for the post, I think they will take my letter for an extra stamp, so I will scribble a few lines.....*'.



1855 Pershore to Bawtry, 1d postage plus 1d Late Fee, not 2d postage

So, there are probably rather more late fee covers out there than it might be thought – it is just not possible to identify them unless as fortunate as this!

In 1862, it became possible to post a registered letter late for a fee. To reflect the inconvenience this caused to the dispatching office, the fee was set at 4d and remained until after the Great War. Examples from offices outside London are scarce; the 1863 cover to Liverpool from Bristol paid 1d postage, 4d registration and 4d late fee.



August 1863 Registered Bristol to Liverpool, 1d postage, 4d registration, 4d Late Fee

By the early twentieth century, post offices at most places of any size offered at least one late fee but, other than those associated with posting on TPOs (not covered in the display), most ceased during or shortly after WW2.

Editor's Note: One of the great benefits to a society such as ours is that we have members who, collectively, have a wide range of postal history collecting interests. We can learn so much from an individual display such as the one given by Julian. Therefore I considered that his summary of the display should be provided in full.

At the ZOOM meeting 'Mail to or from Unusual Destinations' on October 28th 18 members were in attendance.



Brian Atkins began proceedings by showing mail to and from unusual destinations at the time, rather than unusual destinations per se. The first slide showed an 1845 entire from Shrewsbury to Penang, Straits of Malacca via Bombay and Calcutta (see left). His second cover, dated Dec 1858 from Shrewsbury to St. Petersburg, was forwarded to Wasa (now Vaasa), Finland - see page 21 for a more detailed account of the postal history of this cover. He continued with an 1880 'Sandbach' cover from Whitchurch to Afghanistan during the 2nd Afghan war, an 1898 cover from Oswestry to the Nile Field Force, Egypt and

finally a 1922 cover from St. Helena to Wellington, Salop sent by the wife of the Governor, Col Sir Robert Peel, great-nephew of the Prime Minister of that name.

Displays were also given by **Chris Jackson**, who began by showing a 17 April 1915 registered cover from Barnard's Green, Malvern to the Caroline Islands but the Japanese got there first and the cover was returned via Nagasaki, Brisbane & Liverpool, arriving on 19 June 1916. Two covers from Redditch to a yacht in the Mediterranean followed, the first dated 22 March 1888 to Gibraltar and the second 21 April 1888 to Constantinople, both franked at 2½d.



Two envelopes from Tristan da Cunha were sent to Worcestershire without stamps and were charged postage due, one with the Inland Section tax stamp (left) and the other with the Foreign Branch tax stamp. Chris asked why the difference? A James Smith & Son, needle manufacturers, 17 February 1932 cover from Redditch to Casablanca had both British and Moroccan stamps, the latter for local delivery.

Gordon Hardy showed a cover with a hand stamp of the BRITISH MILITARY MISSION IN ROUMANIA sent by the WAR OFFICE from London to Edinburgh.

Richard Farman began with a 26 July 1897 newspaper wrapper from London to Yokohama, Japan and forwarded to Tokyo post office, then redirected again to Negishi post office. Two items to Shanghai followed, a 29 Nov 1893 UPU postcard from Stratford, east London and a 19 September 1899 ½d newspaper wrapper from Jersey uprated with a ½d vermilion. Most unusual destinations were illustrated by an 1895 cover from Wolverhampton to St Thomas, Dutch West Indies and an 1896 newspaper wrapper to Guatemala. Richard finished with a 1¼d UPU postcard from Suez to Newcastle, Staffs dated 10 July 1875, one week after issue.

Finally **Tom George** showed a remarkable 20 February 1948 cover from Ruislip via Madagascar to Le Resident, Kerguelen Islands, Indian Ocean, where there is a small French military and science presence. The cover was an unsuccessful attempt to gain a postmark from the islands but it ended up in Madagascar on 15 May, Mombasa, Kenya on 10 August 1948 and in the Return Letter office in Nairobi the following day.

On 18th November, **Chris Jackson** gave a talk entitled 'Upton-on-Severn' – see next page.

Our Zoom meeting on 18th November, for which 22 members signed in, was a presentation of *The Postal History of Upton-on-Severn* by **Chris Jackson**, this is his account beginning with an introduction to the history of the town.

It was originally the Roman station of *Upoessa* according to Doctor Stukeley. In the 9th century it was referred to as *Uptune* and in the 11th century *Uptun*. It was a main port on the river Severn navigable to large vessels, particularly the Severn Trows which carried goods from Gloucester up to Bewdley.

James 1st built the first bridge over the river. It was partly dismantled in the civil war to stop Cromwell crossing the river but unfortunately enough planking was left on the opposite bank for the Roundheads to be able to make a walkway over the bridge. It was taken down in 1852 and rebuilt in 1853. The modern bridge was built in 1938.

Upton on Severn was never very postally significant, it did not have a 1st Type mileage mark and Mr Woodcock's map of 1789 shows a foot post connecting with the route of the Bristol, Worcester, Birmingham mail coach. From 26th July 1794 the town was served by the 'Little Wonder' mail coach from Worcester which originally ran from the Star Hotel and later the Hop Pole. In 1829 the town moved into the Tewkesbury Penny Post area.



There is a note in the Inland Office Order Book on 14th April 1801 which states, 'Letters for Upton should be charged 8d. It stands in the list at 7d'. The implication is that letters had been undercharged in the past and were to be charged the correct over 120 mile rate in future.

The display covered all the known hand stamps used at Upton on Severn shown in chronological order. Of particular note were the 126 boxed mileage mark (left)

which was only in use for 9 weeks, a 2d Mulready, a large part parcel wrapper with stamped Parcel Post label and both the original account of the Little Wonder coach and the original letter from the General Post Office refusing to set aside the contract to run it.

A 15 Dec 1840 entire showing a penny black cancelled by an oily red maltese cross. The cover also has an undated UPTON (WO799) recorded 13 JAN 1830 to 20 MAY 1845.

A penny black cover and a Mulready must be quite a find from a small office - Ed.

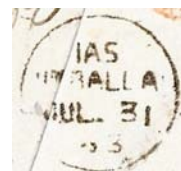


At the ZOOM meeting 'Recent Acquisitions' on November 25th, at which there were 18 members signed in, **Jim Hammond** began by showing items related to Post Office Telegraphs with the first telegraph stating that someone 'had left the canary outside'. A charming photo of a family with a Telegraph boy in full uniform was followed by a Dec 1872 Despatch of the Intelligence Co Ltd who undercut telegraph companies to India in particular. A 1 July 1872 ½d postcard cancelled by a Sloper Arrow had a receipt from Stuarts American Telegraph & Express Agency.

Jim was followed by **Julian Tweed**, who displayed a 1677 express letter to Newmarket meant for Samuel Pepys but which had garnered a response from James, Duke of York, later King James II and VII. A May 1899 express letter from London to Berlin (see below) also had a 2d Late Fee as it was put in between 5.30 and 6pm. An interesting 6d Late Fee with 3 reigns franking was mailed at Waterloo Station to catch the Queen Mary at Southampton with an appropriate SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS cancel. The first of two items from Ireland was an 'Abuse of Soldier's Rate' from Westport, written by the daughter of the Colonel of the Regiment – full postage should have been 2/-; the other item was an 1874 special envelope from Dublin for sending seeds or fragile contents through the mail.



Brian Atkins showed 1728 and 1732 from Ludlow and 1708 from Shifnal (earliest known mark) all to London, 1842 Ludlow to Calcutta, initially charged 1/- via Falmouth, changed to 3/6 via Marseilles with mail from both ports put onto the same mail steamer at Suez! An 1863 cover had two 3d rose stamps, one cancelled with the BRIDGENORTH spoon and the other with the 122 1844-type cancel to Umballa, forwarded to Simla (see below). He finished with a January 1858 double rate cover from Shrewsbury to Boston, USA



Ian May showed air mails from Portugal to Brazil from 1935 to 1945. Mail was charged the international surface rate plus an air surcharge with either Deutsche Lufthansa or Air France to be flown across the Atlantic Ocean. Two covers, from 1935 and 1936, were shown each charged 1\$75, international surface rate for up to 20gms and 12\$50 air mail surcharge for up to 5gms. The airmail surcharge depended upon the country to which mail was being sent and, where alternate air mail routes were available, the route used for the mail. Deutsche Lufthansa ceased flying to South America when the war started, and Air France when Germany occupied France. Pan American Airways flew from Lisbon to New York commencing in May 1939 with connections from New York to Brazil. A registered cover flown by Pan American in April 1945, and censored in the United States of America, was charged, not at the international surface rate, but at the 50c inland surface rate for up to 20gms, 9\$50 air mail surcharge for up to 5gms, and 50c inland registration. At some time during the war agreement had been reached to charge mail to Brazil at the inland rates. The air mail surcharge had also been reduced. The final two covers from later in 1945 were also charged at the same inland rates but the air mail surcharge had been reduced, on the 1st May 1945, to 6\$00 for up to 5gms.

Chris Jackson began with two entires related to James Smith & Son, one a 1d black cover and the other a 1d red cover containing orders for needles. Another 1d black, plate 6 contained a needle order from Richard Hemming & Son. A billhead with an invoice from Inglebach, Paris showed Arthur James as a supplier of needles. Chris said that he found it amazing that a store in Paris should go to the trouble of including on their headed stationery a note that the needles they supply come from one of the Redditch needle makers. They must have considered it was a big plus and that buyers would appreciate it to have used what is a limited space for this purpose. Finally a Uniform Fourpenny Post dated 27 Dec 1839 from Worcester to Hereford was, unusually, prepaid 4d in red.

Gerald Griffin displayed two covers, a Croydon registered cover with 4 reigns franked 11½d and a 22 April 1947 cover from London to Buenos Aires was undelivered and returned to sender, Negretti & Zambra, London.

Marc Oxley showed a 27 March 1829 entire from Ross to Bourton-on-the-Water endorsed 'Turn at Oxford' but he wondered why it was so endorsed and a cover from Warwickshire to Henley, which ended in Hanley, Staffs.

Marion Turner also showed two covers, the first a December 1849 turned letter with MISSENT TO LEICESTER (*Ed – I don't see a 97 here, should there be one?*) & boxed MISSENT TO LOUGHBOROUGH (see below) and, secondly, an October 1846 cover from London to Daventry with MISSENT TO + Lutterworth date stamp.



1846 cover from Moorgate St., London to Cotesback with two Missent stamps

Richard Farman began with overcharged items, the first of 30 June 1821 from Northampton to Brompton, endorsed 'overcharged 8d only Single W. Beeton', the second slide had two receipts issued by postmasters for repaying overcharged free mail and the third from Nubia to London, received 22 April 1833, charged 9/6 (treble letter rate), overcharged 3/2, finally delivered free from the GPO to the Foreign Office! The free theme continued with a letter of 1 January 1840 sent free in the Uniform Fourpenny Post. A letter to an MP with a boxed ABOVE WEIGHT, which was 1¾ozs, was suitably charged as MPs were only allowed free mail up to 1oz. A 9 Feb 1749 Certificate of Marriage was an Abuse of Privilege and a Jan 1831 entire showed an Abuse of Soldier's Concession rate.

Our Zoom meeting on 16th December, at which 23 members signed in, was a presentation on *Mail between Great Britain and Belgium, 1574 to 1875* by **John Soer**, this is his account. The area now known as Belgium has a long and varied postal history as it had a number of different occupying administrations – Spanish, Austrian, French and Dutch, before becoming an independent kingdom in 1830. The first sheet contained the obligatory maps, one of which showed Belgium surrounded by the Netherlands, France and Germany. The other illustrated the linguistic division of the country with the Flemish speaking north and the French speaking south.

In 1501 Francois de Tassis was appointed as ‘Captain and Master of the Posts in the Low Countries’ by Maximilian I, Emperor of Austria. When Maximilian’s son, Philippe I, married Jeanne de Castille, heiress to the Spanish throne, it was necessary to establish regular postal communications with France and Spain. Thus, the family of Tour & Tassis came to control a postal system throughout a large part of Europe. The first Tour & Tassis office opened in Malines in 1507, followed in 1516 by others in Brussels, Bruges and Ghent.

However, there were a number of other postal systems operating and this was shown in first few sheets which consisted of items from the Corsini correspondence sent from Antwerp to London between 1574 and 1595 which carried charge marks of the Merchant Venturers Post (Fig 1). These charges were applied to the top letter of a bundle for a particular merchant. Since the highest common factor of these charges was ‘½’ it is reasonable to conclude that the charge on each letter was half a groat.

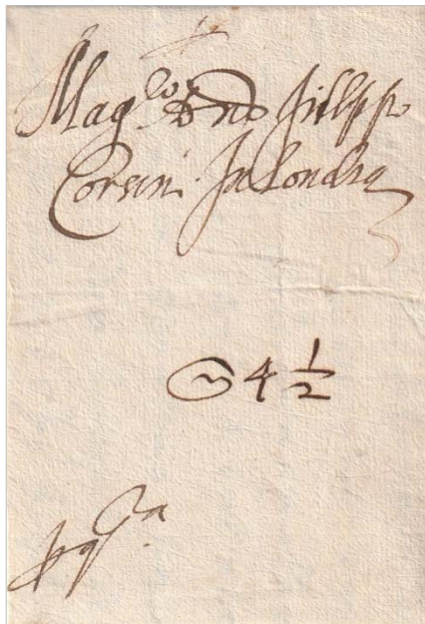


Fig 1, Antwerp to London, November 1574 (80%)

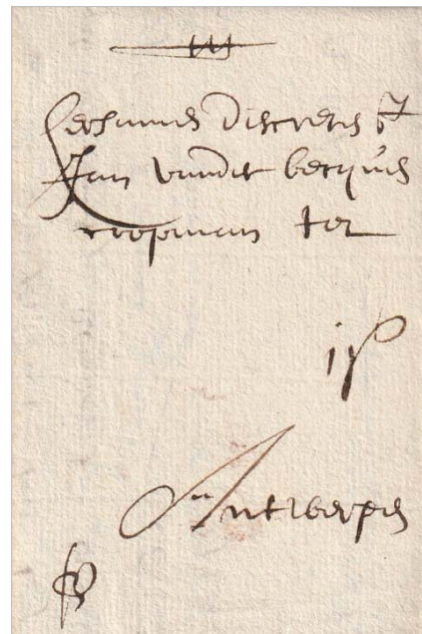


Fig 2, London to Antwerp, January 1643/44 (83%)

In 1622 a Pierre Ranson was appointed as the Tour & Tassis (or Thurn & Taxis) ‘Ordinari Courier’ between Antwerp and London. In 1633 an agreement between the British Post Office and Tour & Tassis came into effect. The rate for a single letter from London to Calais was fourpence payable to the Royal Mail, and from Calais or Dunkirk one schelling to be paid to Tour & Tassis. We saw covers showing charges of 1 schelling or 2 schellings, including one sent from London during the English Civil War in January 1643/3. The British Post Office charge was not usually shown.

From 1714 to 1794, that area which became Belgium formed part of the Austrian Empire. The changes in the circulation of mail between Great Britain and the Austrian Netherlands caused by the various wars that occurred in those 80 years was traced by a number of covers supported by extracts from the London Gazette. Of particular note was a letter from Lord Cowdray in which he wrote ‘I am buying up all ye votes I can lay hold off, in my Borough of Midhurst.’ A letter sent from London to Ghent in 1745 was sent under a separate cover to Holland from where it was forwarded to Antwerp where it was it was struck in the French frontier office with the straight-line ‘HOLLANDE’ hand stamp.

After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815 the southern Netherlands joined with the former Republic of the Netherlands to form the Kingdom of the Netherlands. At first many of the offices had to use handstamps from the French occupation with the department number removed. A rare mark from this period was the ‘ATPB’ (Angleterre Transit Pay Bas)

struck by the French frontier office on a letter, addressed to Sir Roger Gresley, which was redirected from Brussels to Paris.

In 1830, after a period of social unrest, what is now Belgium broke away from the rest of the Netherlands and formed an independent kingdom. However, it was to be another nine years before a peace treaty, the Treaty of London, was to be signed by the two states.

The remaining sheets were devoted to a study of the letter rates drawn up in each of the postal conventions between Great Britain and Belgium – 1834, 1844, 1850, 1857 and 1865. In particular the difference in the rates charged for letters sent via Ostend compared with those sent via Calais.

In addition to the establishment of steam packets four times a week between Dover and Ostend, the convention of 1834 authorised the carriage of mail between London and Antwerp by private ships. A number of slides showed Ship Letters carried by that route.

A letter sent in 1852 from Cambridge to Brussels at the 8d rate for an item weighing between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce was addressed to a 'Chicken Merchant / Tripe Market / Brussels' (fig. 3). Not a place for the squeamish?



Fig 3, 1852 Cambridge to Brussels (85%)

The TPO system in Belgium differed from that in this country in that each station had a letter box which had to be opened by a member of the station staff shortly before the arrival of the train and the letters handed to the mail guard. On the train, the adhesives were cancelled and a mark identifying the station of origin applied. Fig. 4 below shows the N1 cancellation of the Nord 1 TPO and the boxed 'ANVERS' of Antwerp



Fig 4, 1864 Antwerp to Belfast (85%)

The 23rd December Zoom meeting was entitled 'Mail with a Christmas Theme', 20 members logged in. **Julian Tweed** began proceedings with a Christmas day 1856 solicitor's letter from Markinch to Edinburgh. Eye-catching was a 1913 Christmas Eve card from Hilbre Island, off West Kirkby, where there are 4 or 5 cottages, accessible at low tide. A 1931 Christmas flight cover to Cape Town had a 'private' 1/- 'Scottish Air Mail' stamp.

Alan Spencer showed postcards with mis-spellings, eg: 'Briug you joy', 'To seek the Crist', or 'Our Dailey Bread'! Three cards of exactly the same scene had different captions – Maple Grove, Maple Avenue and Princess Avenue.

Frank Walton showed an entire from Sheffield to Wellow, Tuxford, Notts, which was date lined Maker's Day 1779 (Christmas Day) with the line 'Stubble goose is gently turning before the fire' – very Dickensian.

Brian Atkins displayed a Christmas Day Uniform Fourpenny Post cover from Shrewsbury but TOO LATE, arriving in London on 27th Dec. He wondered if it had gone by mail coach to Birmingham and on to London by the new RPO. First Day Ocean Penny Post from Ellesmere to India and a 25th Dec 1856 cover also from Ellesmere to USA.

Alan Godfrey showed 'Christmas Angels' of 2nd November 1998, which were designed by Irene von Tresckow (father involved in the attempted assassination of Hitler). He had A4 posters advertising postage times for abroad, various FDCs including Angel Bank, Ludlow and a generic FDC cancel for Coventry, the last time they were used.

Jim Hammond had a 25 Dec 1904 postcard with a 1d stamp as it was large, a 1906 card with a LIVERPOOL / XMAS cancel and a 1938 shore to ship Telegram via the Marconi system costing 11/- at 1/- per word.

Marc Oxley displayed a 1789 entire from Bishops Stortford written on Christmas Day but with a 28 / DE London Bishop mark.

John Soer showed two different Leicester Christmas cancels on postcards, a 1904 oval 'POSTED IN ADVANCE etc' and a circular LEICESTER / 19 XMAS 08 (see below). A delightful postcard from postal staff at Leicester to fellow staff at Ashby-de-la-Zouch followed as did two Christmas slogan cancels both dated December 1958.



Richard Farman had a 25 DEC 1871 cover from Derby to Southport which had an early Christmas card in it, a c.1880 French mechanical card, a 1 JAN 1908 card from Tokyo to Ashford, near Bakewell and a Christmas 1983 letter from Fushun, northern China to Burton-on-Trent, which also had a Christmas card enclosed.

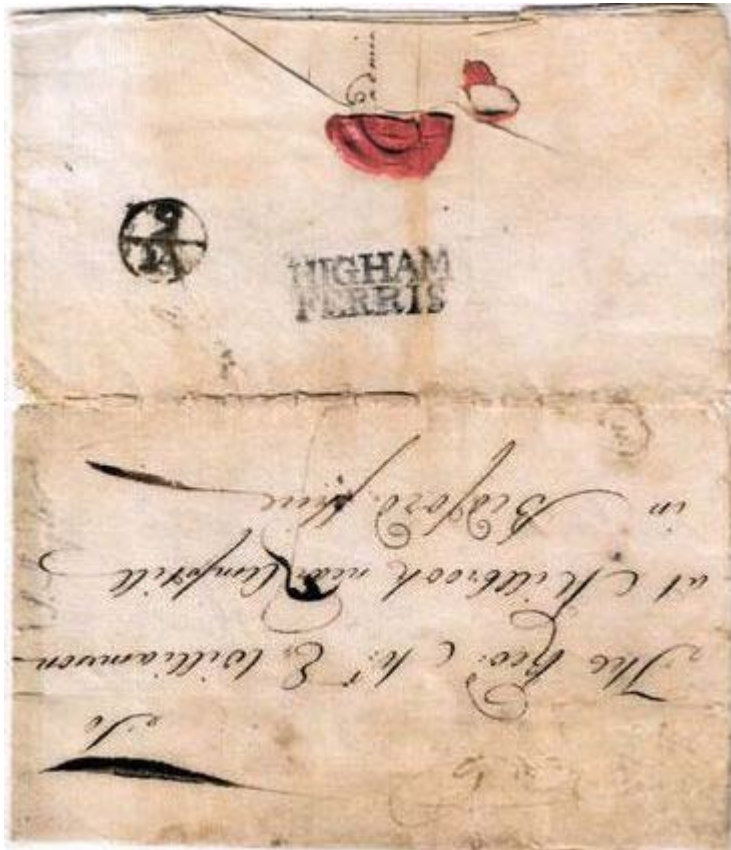
Gordon Hardy had a very interesting display of Christmas cards from various post offices and institutions to the staff at Chester post office from other offices at Limerick, (1893/94), Chichester (1894/95), Manchester (1894/95), Normanton (1894 but which one?), the Fawcett Association (1894/95, a trade union representing postal clerks in London, founded in 1890 and named after Henry Fawcett, Postmaster General) and the London Savings Bank (1861)

HIGHAM FERRERS - A POSTAL HISTORY OF THE PRE-STAMP ERA.

by Richard Capon

Higham Ferrers is a small town that is now part of East Northants District. It is joined to its neighbour, Rushden and both towns thrived when the Boot and Shoe industry still sustained them. Originally Higham was the larger. It had the origins of an early College and a substantial church and Bede House, where the lawyers and other professionals of the area lived. It was, however, constrained by the surrounding land that is still owned by the Duchy of Lancaster. Whilst Rushden grew, Higham Ferrers remained much the same.

Higham Ferrers was the Head Post Office initially, but it subsequently moved to Rushden; later both became sub-offices of Wellingborough.



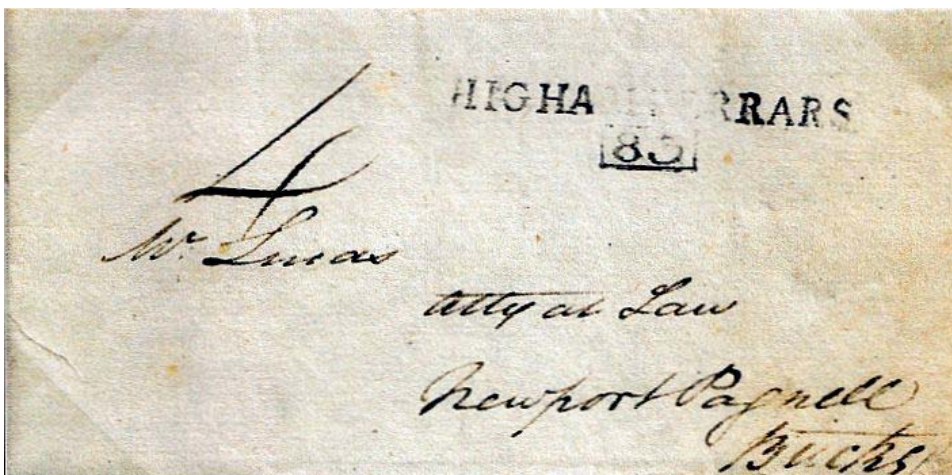
Until the age of the postcard at the turn of the nineteenth into the twentieth century, there is very little Postal History to collect. I have tried to form a collection on several occasions but found nothing to buy. After five years of trying, I own four items from the whole Head Office period, discounting squared circle postmarks which are relatively common. I haven't found any from the small number of sub-offices that were attached to Higham Ferrers.

This article would not exist had it depended on my collection alone, but I have had the assistance of Derek Smeathers who has provided me with scans of his collection for the town, but even he has significant gaps.

The 1743 example (left) is the earliest from Derek's collection. It shows a clear HIGHAM FERRIS mark on two lines (NN61).

The 3d charge changed to 6d is not clear from this image, but the letter had to travel via London even though the distance as the crow flies is less than 30 miles.

The cut-out (right) from about 1789 shows the first mileage mark (MMM5018 and NN63), 67 HIGHAM / FERRARS, a change of spelling.



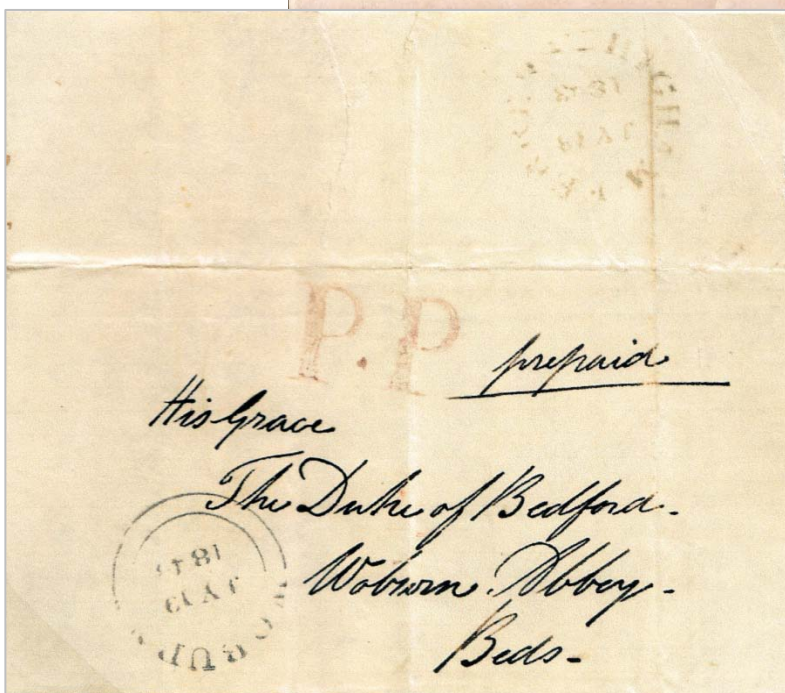
The image at left from 1803 has a much greater mileage shown because of a route change, and the name is now on a single line (MMM5019 and NN65).

NN64, a single line HIGHAM FERRERS without mileage and only 4mm high, has not been seen by me. It was only used for a year from Dec 1799 to Dec 1800.



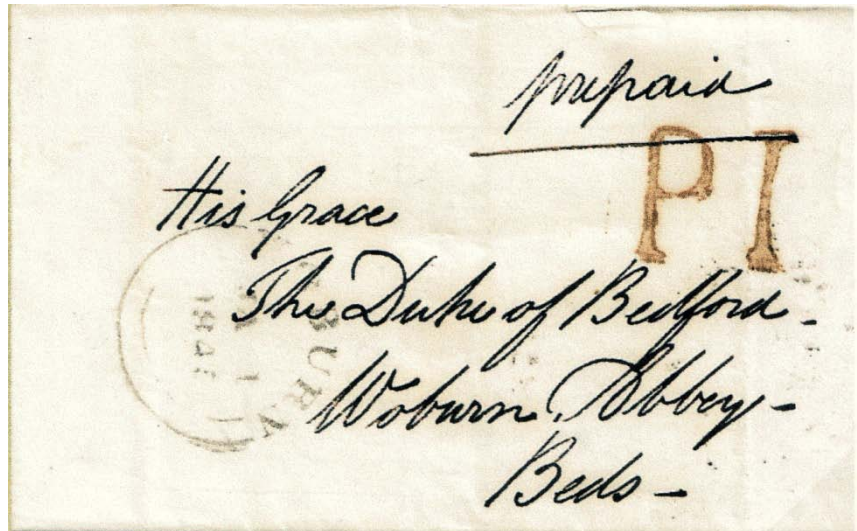
Quite early in the town's postal history they adopted red as the standard hand stamp colour and like many towns the number was boxed. This red cancelled item was posted in 1811 (also NN65). The black version was used from 1801 to 1804.

By 1832, when this letter was sent, the mileage mark had been erased (MMM5023 & NN69). Usage is only recorded from March 1831 to 1832, so this cover dated 7 December 1832 is quite late. The succeeding cancellation listed in the catalogue as NN68 would show the same form of words as NN69, but had the mileage (66) below. This indicated a change of route to London.

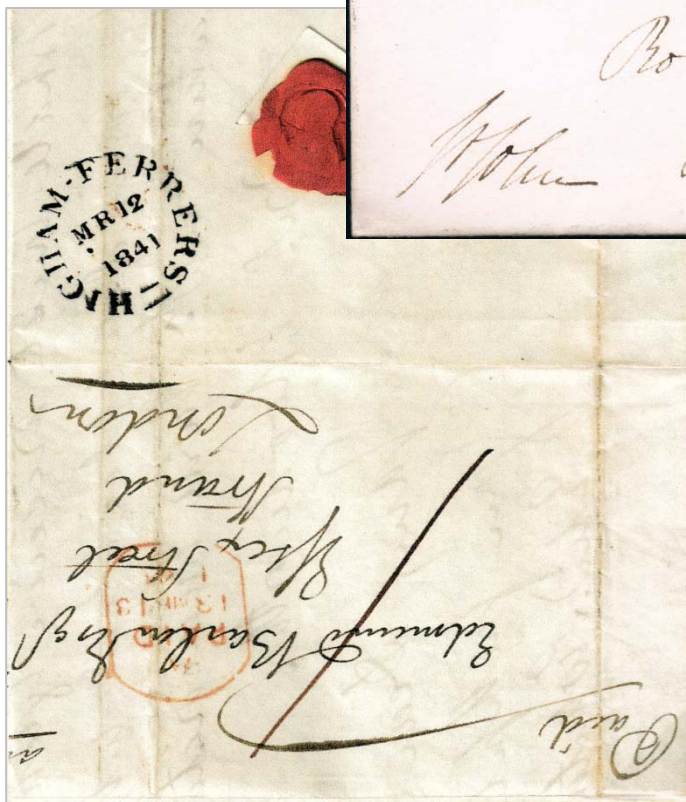


These two penny post hand stamps were used to send mail to the Duke of Bedford. The Duke had substantial holdings of land around Higham Ferrers (NN72 and NN73). Whilst these are included in the Higham Ferrers list of hand stamps, there is no indication that there was actually a penny post delivery in Higham itself.

By 1841 the straight line cancellation had been replaced, and the spelling of Ferrers corrected, although the 'Free' front from 1837 shown below still has the old spelling. By 1841 when this cover was posted Higham Ferrers was on to its second circular hand stamp. The first (NN70), used only in 1833, had no date in the centre. Since the central portion was removable to change the date it was possible that someone had forgotten to reinsert the date slugs. The normal (dated) cancellation (NN71) was a standard format as seen below.



This final cover was sent from Yelden, a small village several miles from Higham Ferrers on the route taken by runner or cart which serviced the sub-office at Riseley in Bedfordshire which was attached to Higham at this time.



My view is that a collection needs to be large enough to make a nine page display to be worth starting. There must be many places in the Midland counties that are very like Higham Ferrers with too little material available to make a nine-page display. With this article and a possible second one on Higham's postal history from 1841 until the town lost its Salaried Office status in 1921, I can make an eCollection of nine or ten pages. That may have to be enough, but if you have one or two covers for the town in your collections I would be most interested in seeing scans of what you have.

I am happy to be contacted at richard_1_1@btinternet.com (Note there are underscores in front of both number ones in my email address).

References consulted:

The Midland Counties Mileage Marks and Mail Routes to London, Midland (GB) PHS No5, 2005
The British County Catalogue of Postal History, Midland Edition, Midland (GB) PHS No6, 2013

VILLAGE POST OFFICES in WARWICKSHIRE – RECENT CHANGES

by Bryan Jones

I have been made aware of a number of recent changes relating to a number of village post offices in Warwickshire, some of which have postmark significance. Details of those known to me are as follows:-

Hockley Heath, The post office at Hockley Heath, between Shirley and Henley in Aden, closed with effect from 1st October 2020. According to information received from the local parish council the vacancy is to be advertised, but if, after twelve months there has been no interest and the vacancy remains unfilled, the closure will be deemed to be permanent. I have asked to be kept informed of any developments during this period. For the record the canceller in use at this office prior to its closure is shown.



Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby: The village post office closed around early 2012, and subsequently, after a considerable delay, a temporary post office was established in the village hall, operating for two days each week. This temporary facility commenced operation on 6th August 2013 and is still operating, using the canceller shown.

Salford Priors, between Bidford and Evesham: This office, located in a general store on the outskirts of what is a long straggly village either side of the Stratford-on-Avon to Evesham road, has for many years been something of an oddity. The village itself is located on the extreme edge of Warwickshire, but the post office and general store located on a side road is over the border in Worcestershire. Up to mid 2020 the canceller in use reflected this anomaly, see figures 1 & 2. However that anomaly was removed following the issuing of a new canceller in mid 2020, with the regional office name removed, leaving only the village name (Fig 3).



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

A STROUD A1e PARCEL POST LABEL

John Paulson writes: The more I dip into the Society's magnificent publication *'The Parcel Post Labels of the Midland Counties'*, the more I learn and pages 14, 247 and 248 are cases in point. At least at the time of publication in 2018, we were told that label type A1e had been 'Only recorded in Derby' whilst a combination of pages 247 and 248 describes this type as "RRR", i.e. extremely rare. I am able to report that another example of type A1e has surfaced and is illustrated below.



It is also worth noting that only two other Gloucestershire post offices are recorded as having used Type A labels of any description, namely Miserdine and Nailsworth (both on page 76). Until now the earliest type of label from Stroud had been B2 in 1893. Reference to label type B2 prompts a final observation. Given how many parcels must have been despatched from a place like Cheltenham, it strikes me as strange that the earliest type of label which we have recorded from that famous Regency town is also type B2 with an earliest date of 28 OCT 1892. As always with our fascinating hobby, there is much, much more to be discovered.

1816 – DERBY to DONNINGTON WOOD and BACK

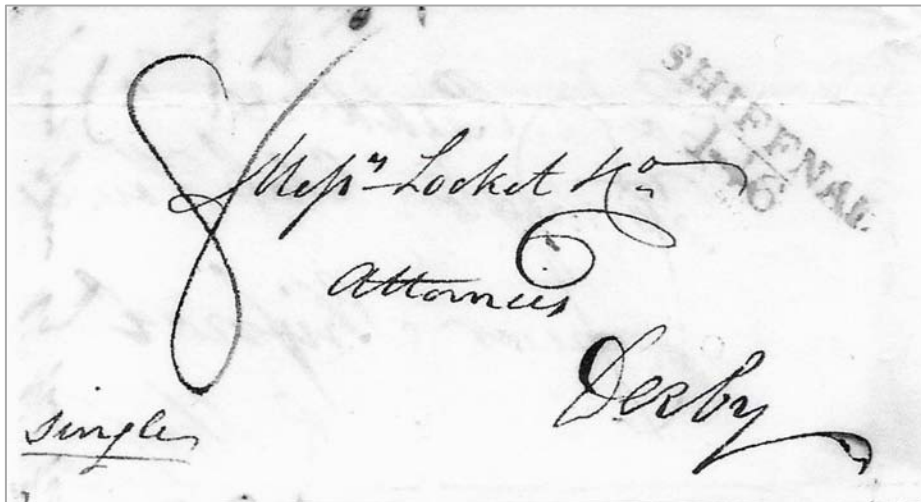
by Jim Ball

The first illustration shows an entire letter from Derby dated 12 June 1816, addressed to Cope Biddle & Co, Donnington (Wood) Glass House, near Shifnal, Salop. The letter is charged 8d for 50 to 80 miles under the Act of 1812. There is no DERBY mark!



The letter concerns the payment of a debt and is written by the debtor's wife as she says he is 'away selling and it has cost us a great amount of money for us to avoid arrest over the writs you have issued against us'. She proposes a £10 payment each month until the debt is cleared. The debtor is a Mr. Sheperdson.

The original letter was, then, used for the Glass Company's reply to the debtor's attorneys agreeing to the payment plan. In return, as might be expected, the letter is charged 8d and bears a strike of the SHIFFNAL / 146 (SH534) mileage between two lines mark in red and is endorsed 'Single'.



As this is the earliest letter I have seen addressed to this area near Shifnal, I can only suggest that it was dropped off at the Lion Inn at Priorslee on the Shifnal to Shrewsbury road and picked up by an employee sent for the mail.

Although known as the Donnington Wood Glass House, it was actually situated in Wrockwardine Wood on the north bank of the Wombridge canal. It was operational by 1792 but closed in 1841 as a consequence of the Glass Duties Tax of 1838. Only a handful of workers lived in Wrockwardine Wood at the time. The works produced wine bottles for the French, along with table wear and fancy goods such as rolling pins and walking sticks!

Reference used: The Victoria History of Shropshire, Volume XI, Telford



Bill Pipe

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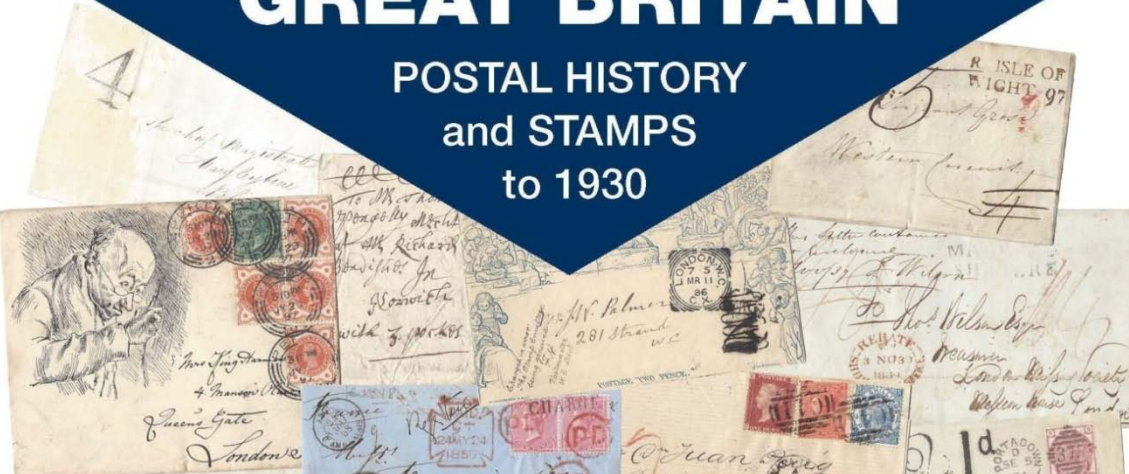
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REDUCED INLAND RATES FOR PACKET LETTERS 1814 – 1839

Ian M May

During his Zoom presentation on mail to and from Belgium, John Soer mentioned the reduced inland rates for Packet Mail from the Low Countries during the period 1814 – 1839; the Packet rate for Belgium was to or from London. In addition to the Packet rate, mail was charged at the inland rate to or from addresses beyond London. John mentioned that there was a reduction of 2d on the then current inland rate, whereas I had always considered the charge the 1801 inland rate, the definition given by Robinson^[1]. These two methods of charging produce the same rates!

However, I thought it would be an opportunity to look again at the relevant publications, Acts, etc. to attempt to determine the position from 1801 until the introduction of Uniform Fourpenny Postage in December 1839 as the rules were somewhat more complicated than those described above. In order to do this the books by Robinson^[1], Tabcart^[2] and Sandford and Salt^[3], together with the relevant Acts given on the websites of the Great Britain Philatelic Society^[4] and LetterStamper^[5] have been consulted. References 4 and 5 both have transcripts of a number of Acts, all of those referenced below have been consulted on either one or both of the two web-sites as it has not been possible to consult the originals due to the current Covid restrictions.

The inland rates relevant to the period that is the subject of this article are given in the Appendix. The Act 41 G3 C7 (*Ed: Also written as 41 GeorgeIII Cap7*) details each of the 1801 inland rates, whereas the Act 45 G3 C11 (1805 Act) gives the increase to the rates, i.e., an additional 1d for a single sheet, and the Act 52 G3 C88 (1812 Act) gives the increase to the rates and additionally a further rate for 20 to 30 miles.

Tabcart describes Packet rates as very complex! This article will only discuss the reduction of the inland rate that was added to the Packet rate. The earliest mention of the reduction of rates is given in GPO Notice No 1, July 1st 1812^[2]. From Tabcart, the Notice required that:

Postmasters should add the new inland charges from or to Falmouth less 1d to mail using the Falmouth Packet to or from Portugal, Madeira, Gibraltar, Malta, Sicily, The West Indies, America, Turkey and Brazil. No inland postage was to be added to mail using the Falmouth Packet to or from Spain.

Postmasters should add the new inland charges to or from London less 2d to mail using the Packet to or from Gothenberg, Heligoland and all places which are served by these routes.

A later GPO Notice^[2] states that on 19th April 1814 all communications with France will be re-opened with mail using the Dover to Calais Packet. There had been no communications via the English Channel and the North Sea ports since 1803 due to the Napoleonic campaigns^[3]. The notice stated that inland rates would be charged at the current level to and from London less 2d. Less than a year later a GPO Notice informed postmasters that mail to France was discontinued. There was no notice of the re-opening of mails to France but Salt^[3] assumes it was after the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815. Rates to France are given in a GPO Notice in January 1817, a copy of the original is shown on page 50 of Sandford and Salt. The notice also reiterates:

the reduction of 2d on the inland rate for Foreign Letters made up in London,
the reduction of 1d on the inland rate for Foreign Letters made up in Falmouth.

There now appears to be an inland charge on letters to Spain via London, but there is no mention of mail to Spain via Falmouth. It was possible for mail to some countries, for example Portugal, Spain, etc. to be sent by either London or Falmouth.

The Act 1 Vic C34 (1837 Act) again reiterated the reduction in inland charges with the addition that there should be a reduction of 1d on the inland rate for Foreign Letters made up in London if less than 20 miles. On the 5th December 1839 uniform 4d post was introduced and the reductions no longer applied.

Discussion

The reduction of the inland charge on any overseas mail forms only a small part in the determination of the rate charged. Of references 1, 2 and 3 Tabcart is the most comprehensive and much of the information in this article has been taken from Tabcart and where possible confirmed by Sandford and Salt. Robinson states that for mail made up in London for the Low Countries from 1805, a new packet rate plus the 1801 inland rates should be used, i.e, a reduction of 1d on the 1805 inland rates, which pre-dates GPO Notice No 1, referencing the Act 45 G3 C11 (1805 Act). I can find no reference to the reduction in the transcript of the Act in reference 5. However, Robinson does state that “*it is doubtful that this rate was ever implemented due to the closure of posts by war during 1803-1813.*”

In conclusion the reduction in inland rates on packet mail was applied from July 1814 to December 1839 and was generally a reduction of 2d on the inland rate for Foreign Letters made up in London and a reduction of 1d on the inland rate for Foreign Letters made up in Falmouth. What is somewhat surprising is that the rates were reduced as, until the introduction of Uniform Postage in December 1839, the charges for mail were considered as revenue for the Government and were to be maximised.

References

- 1 Robinson, D., For the Port and Carriage of Letters, A practical guide to the inland and Foreign Postage rates of the British isles 1570 -1840. Published by Author, 1990.
- 2 Tabcart, C. United Kingdom Letter Rates 1697-1900 Inland and Overseas, Published by Author, 1989.
- 3 Sanford, O. R. and Salt, D., British Postal Rates, 1635 to 1839, The Postal History Society, 1990.
- 4 <https://www.gbpa.org.uk/information/sources/acts>
- 5 <https://www.letterstamper.wordpress.com>

I have not been able to see the originals of the GPO Notices, only the transcripts in references 4 and 5. Much of the information above has been taken from references 2 and 3.

Appendix

	5 th April 1801	March 1805	July 1812	November 1837
Act	41 G3 C7	45 G3 C11	52 G3 C88	
to 8 miles				2d
to 15 miles	3d	4d	4d	4d
to 20 miles			5d	5d
to 30 miles	4d	5d	6d	6d
to 50 miles	5d	6d	7d	7d
to 80 miles	6d	7d	8d	8d
to 120 miles	7d	8d	9d	9d
to 170 miles	8d	9d	10d	10d
to 230 miles	9d	10d	11d	11d
to 300 miles	10d	11d	1/-	1/-
Add. 100 miles	1d	1d	1d	1d

Inland rates April 1801 to December 1839

~~~~~



A Parcel Post label from IRON BRIDGE (ID) dated 23 SEP 1902 with the KEdVII 5d purple and blue (SG 242) paying the rate for a 3lb parcel, from 1 June 1897. As on the other recorded labels, Ironbridge is clearly established as a sub-office of Wellington.

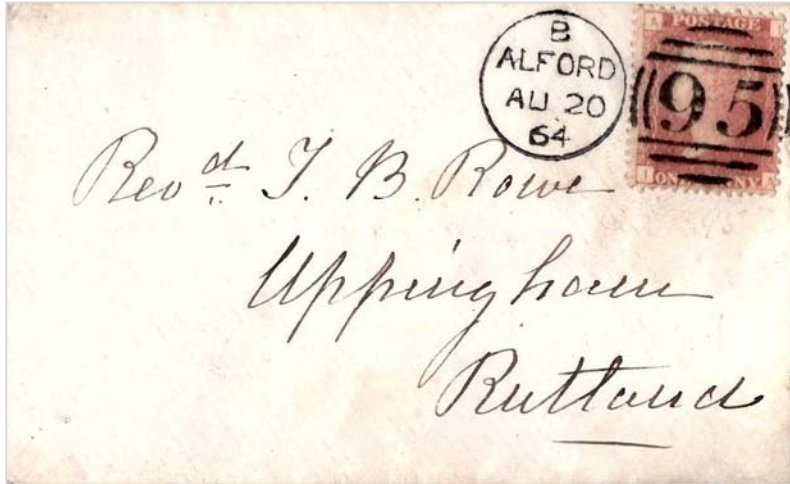
It appears to be a latest use of the type C2a (with IRON BRIDGE, not IRON-BRIDGE and large U beginning Under), earliest date 11 JUL 1901.

The IRON•BRIDGE date stamp (a counter stamp?) is recorded from 17 JUL 1896 to 13 MAY 1906, using time codes 5AM and 2.30PM.

# AN 1864 COVER FROM ALFORD TO REV'D T. B. ROWE AT UPPINGHAM, RUTLAND

by Gerald Griffin

Lock down has given me time to have a close look at the covers and postcards in my collection of *'English and Welsh Counties Post Office Numbers as cancellations'*. One has turned out to be particularly interesting.



Using resources such as Ancestry, local records, Uppingham School archives, Histories of Tonbridge School and Obituaries, I have been able to piece together a little of the life of the addressee, **Rev. Theophilus Barton Rowe**. My research would not have been so straightforward however without his unique Christian names!

When Theo received the letter (no contents) in August 1864, he was an assistant master at Uppingham School and lived in what was likely called 'Rowe House', 176 High Street, Uppingham. There has never been an 'Uppingham House' associated with the

school; the address on the envelope suggests the writer was not sure of Theo's exact abode. He was born in Croydon, Surrey on 25 January 1833, his father was a priest in the Methodist Church. In the 1841 census he was living with his mother, Mary, and four younger siblings in Dewsbury. His father was not there but he is acknowledged in the census as a 'Reverend'.

I cannot find a reference to him in the 1851 census; he was probably at school in Leeds or Durham. He entered St John's College, Cambridge in 1852 (BA 1856, MA 1859), where he was a Fellow from 1858-1861. Theo was ordained in 1859 and was curate of Bathampton, Somerset from 1859-1861. Thereafter he was vice-principal at Grosvenor College, Bath until 1861, when the census puts him in Uppingham as a visitor staying with the Headmaster, Rev. Edward Thring in School Lane. Later in 1861 he began as an assistant master at Uppingham School and perhaps was being interviewed or making preparations for his new job on 7 April the date the census was held. On 12 June 1861 he married Eliza Nichols Buckler (one account spells her name 'Buckle') in Bath. The census of 1871 puts Theo and his wife at 176 High Street, along with four servants and 31 male 'scholars'. Theo would have owned the house, having bought it from the previous House Master.

In 1875 Theo was appointed Headmaster at Tonbridge School, Kent. By all accounts he arrived at a difficult time as the school was facing management, financial and accommodation difficulties. Nevertheless he got on with a programme of modernisation. He was an innovator and argued that the education of the individual must be at the fore of the school's philosophy, so he expanded the traditional classics curriculum by introducing French, promoting mathematics and developing technical studies, music and gymnastics as well as building science facilities that were the envy of many public schools. He improved the working conditions of his assistant masters, opened a museum, inaugurated weekly lectures that were open to residents of the town and levelled the cricket ground (*vital – Ed*). In spite of all this it seems he never resolved the complex management issues to the satisfaction of the many different factions that had an interest in the school. When the numbers of scholars dropped in the late 1880s, he was blamed for the fall. He resigned in 1890.

In the 1881 census Theo was living with Liza and his brother Fred in High Street, Tonbridge. Sadly Liza died in 1886; there were no children. On 20 December, 1888 he married Frances Ellen Blanche Hanbury, a spinster, in St Mark's Church, Battersea. My search of the 1891 census did not reveal his whereabouts.

The census of 1901 finds Theo living in Bournemouth along with Frances, their four children and three servants. Records suggest that he also lived on the Isle of Wight during his retirement. Uppingham local research records and the school's archivist report that Theo maintained an interest in property in the town until at least 1899, when he owned stables in School Lane. He died at Christchurch, Hampshire in 1905 aged 71.

My thanks to Jerry Rudman, the archivist at Uppingham School for his help with the above article.

# TO RUSSIA or FINLAND and if FINLAND to WHERE?

From Gordon Hardy

At the zoom meeting on 29 October 2020 **Brian Atkins** showed a 27 December 1858 cover from Shrewsbury to St. Petersburg or was it (see below)? The purpose of this brief article is to show the cover was forwarded to Finland.



Fig 1, DE 27 1858 cover from Shrewsbury to St. Petersburg, forwarded to Wassa, Finland?

The cover went to St Petersburg via Ostende, thence to Aachen (red double circle AUS ENGLAND PER AACHEN – a railway cancel) and then by the Prussian post into Russia; in late December the Baltic Sea was likely to freeze and mail had to go overland. The cover was correctly charged 11½d, payable in cash as no ½d stamps were available. This odd rate (announced on 1 August 1852) was negotiated with the UK by Prussia, on behalf of the states in the German Postal Union, not only for letters to the states via Belgium but also for mail going further east. The basic rate was 8d to the German states, to which a transit rate of 3½d was added for ½oz mail to Russia, making 11½d. Of that 11½d the UK kept 4d (of which ½d was paid to Belgium for closed mail transit), 7½d was credited to Prussia (hence the accountancy in red pen). Prussia kept the equivalence of 4d with 3½d credited to Russia as indicated by the w/3 (weiter franco 3, denoting a credit of 3 silver groschen equal to 3½d).

There was some discussion as to the word above Finland. At first it appears as Hlasa, until someone suggested Wassa. Searching the Newspaper Archive for 'Finland 1852 – 58' revealed that Wassa, on Finland's west coast, was destroyed by fire on 11 July 1852 and that it is the old name for the modern city of Vaasa.

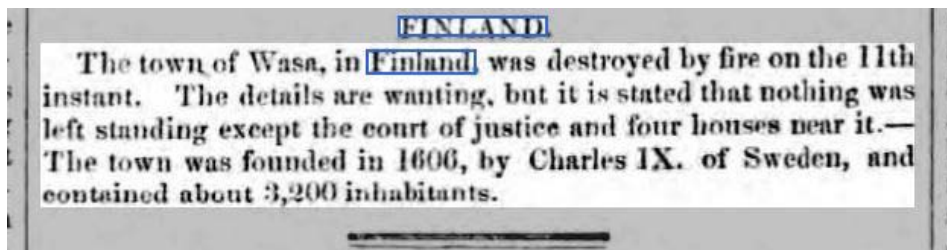


Fig 2, Report of fire in Wassa from the *Londonderry Standard* dated 11 August 1852

The town was known as Wassa from 1606 to 1855, when it became *Nicolainkaupunki* in honour of the late Tsar Nicholas 1, reflecting Russia's control. After the 1917 revolution in Russia it became Vaasa or Vasa.



About the ANK mark top centre of the cover, Michael Elliott, a collector of Finland, confirms that ANK stands for arrival, although he is not able to give an actual translation, and that 10/1 is January 10, the arrival date. He further suggests the cover may have travelled from Aachen via Hamburg, Königsburg (now Kaliningrad), Tilsit, the border with Russia and Riga to St Petersburg. Finally, a Mr F. A. Birling died in Vaasa on 16 February 1876; he was the addressee on the cover.

**Brian Purcell** has produced some more updates of Parcel Post Labels. All the labels have been slightly reduced by approximately 10% in order to get two side-by-side on the page.

|                                               |                                                  |                                                                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PARCEL POST.</b><br><b>Gloucester (GR)</b> | X LIST<br>Letter and<br>Number.                  | POSTAGE.<br>S. D.                                                                 |  |
|                                               | Insurance,<br>Registration<br>or Express<br>Fee. |                                                                                   |  |
| FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.                           |                                                  | DATE STAMP.                                                                       |  |
|                                               |                                                  |  |  |

GLOUCESTER (GR) C4– EKD by one year

|                                                |                                 |                                                                                     |  |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PARCEL POST.</b><br><b>GLOUCESTER (GBE)</b> | X LIST<br>Letter and<br>Number. | S. D.                                                                               |  |
|                                                | Postage                         |                                                                                     |  |
| Registration and<br>Express Fees.              |                                 |                                                                                     |  |
| FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.                            |                                 | OFFICE STAMP.                                                                       |  |
|                                                |                                 |  |  |

GLOUCESTER (GBE) C2b – LKD by 3 years

|                                                            |                                                  |                                                                                    |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PARCEL POST.</b><br><b>Birmingham QMH</b><br>(Deritend) | X LIST<br>Letter and<br>Number.                  | POSTAGE.<br>S. D.                                                                  |  |
|                                                            | Insurance,<br>Registration<br>or Express<br>Fee. |                                                                                    |  |
| FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.                                        |                                                  | DATE STAMP.                                                                        |  |
|                                                            |                                                  |  |  |

BIRMINGHAM QMH (Deritend) C4 – Unlisted

|                                                                    |                                 |                                                                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PARCEL POST.</b><br><b>CAVERSWALL</b><br>(Under Stoke-on-Trent) | X LIST<br>Letter and<br>Number. | S. D.                                                                                |  |
|                                                                    | Postage                         |                                                                                      |  |
| Registration and<br>Express Fees.                                  |                                 |                                                                                      |  |
| FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.                                                |                                 | OFFICE STAMP.                                                                        |  |
|                                                                    |                                 |  |  |

CAVERSWALL (Under Stoke-on-Trent) C2a  
Unlisted in Midland P H Soc PARCEL POST Book  
Violet CAVERSHALL / STOKE-ON-TRENT rubber

|                                                                                     |                                 |                                                                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PARCEL POST.</b><br><b>LEICESTER</b><br>High Street                              | X LIST<br>Letter and<br>Number. | S. D.                                                                               |  |
|                                                                                     | Postage                         |                                                                                     |  |
| Registration and<br>Express Fees.                                                   |                                 |                                                                                     |  |
| FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.                                                                 |                                 | OFFICE STAMP.                                                                       |  |
|  |                                 |  |  |

LEICESTER (High Street) C2b – Unlisted

|                                                        |                                 |                                                                                       |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PARCEL POST.</b><br><b>LEICESTER</b><br>High Street | X LIST<br>Letter and<br>Number. | S. D.                                                                                 |  |
|                                                        | Postage                         |                                                                                       |  |
| Registration and<br>Express Fees.                      |                                 |                                                                                       |  |
| FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.                                    |                                 | OFFICE STAMP.                                                                         |  |
|                                                        |                                 |  |  |

LEICESTER (High Street) C2b – Unlisted  
(Earliest & Latest dates above)

As Brian states some of the labels have small faults including creasing. I hope there will be more from Brian on parcel post labels in the next issue

**MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2020**

| INCOME          |                                                   |                   | EXPENDITURE     |                                               |                   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2019<br>£       |                                                   | 2020<br>£         | 2019<br>£       |                                               | 2020<br>£         |
| 930.36          | Subscriptions including those received in advance | 890.00            | 407.90          | Hire of Rooms & Refreshments                  | 516.45            |
| 532.50          | Adverts in 'Midland Mail'                         | 420.00            | 1,321.43        | Production and Distribution of 'Midland Mail' | 1,558.59          |
| 270.56          | Society's commission on Annual Auction            | 656.15            | 81.99           | Auction Expenses                              | 52.49             |
| 66.00           | Gifts to the Society, sold in Annual Auction      | 42.00             | -               | Speakers Expenses                             | -                 |
| -               | Sales of Various Publications                     | 174.50            | 235.54          | Printing, Stationery, Postage and Telephone   | 98.17             |
| 2,079.99        | Sales of Parcel Post Label Book                   | 183.18            | 2,808.00        | Publications Expenses                         | 77.50             |
| 850.00          | Advertising - PPL Book                            | -                 | 25.00           | MPF Affiliation Fee                           | 25.00             |
| 13.23           | Donations Received                                | 27.60             | 103.75          | ABPS Affiliation Fee                          | 126.00            |
| 9.00            | Sale of Pin Badges                                | -                 | 25.00           | MIDPEX 2019 Stand Cost                        | -                 |
|                 |                                                   |                   | -               | Website Expenses                              | 15.89             |
|                 |                                                   |                   | (256.97)        | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure | (76.66)           |
| <u>4,751.64</u> |                                                   | <u>£ 2,393.43</u> | <u>4,751.64</u> |                                               | <u>£ 2,393.43</u> |

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31st MARCH 2020**

|                                                 | £                 |                                       | £                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Accumulated Fund:                               |                   | Represented by:                       |                   |
| Balance brought forward 1st April 2019          | 4,714.99          | Co-op Bank Current Account            | 5,037.18          |
| Reverse Acc Income 2018/9 - Adverts & Subs      | 107.50            | <u>Less</u> Uncleared Cheque Payments | (291.35)          |
| Deficit of Expenditure over Income for the year | (76.66)           | Cash in Hand                          | 0.00              |
|                                                 | <u>£ 4,745.83</u> |                                       | <u>£ 4,745.83</u> |

I have examined the Account Books shown to me and received all information that I have requested from the Treasurer.  
I confirm that in my opinion these figures show the true financial position of the Society at 31st March 2020.

Signed:  Date: 27.10.20

Paul Veal  
Accounts Examiner

Attached are the examined accounts for the Society for the 12 months ending 31st March 2020. They are published in Midland Mail as we will not have an AGM this year. No doubt they will be put before the Society for approval at next year's AGM. They were examined by Paul Veal, a retired accountant who is a member of Redditch PS, and to whom we are grateful.

