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BULLETIN NO. 8 DECEMBER 1977

Editorial

The reason this Bulletin follows on so close to the issue of Bulletin No.7 is to enable it to be 'handed out' at the special Society meeting held in Burton on Trent on Saturday 3rd December. It will be posted to members who cannot get to Burton. There will be some copies available for guests and visitors also.

New Members

The following new members are made welcome to the Society and we look forward to meeting them and invite them to make a contribution to the Bulletin :

Mrs. J.A.Hurst
14 Sheffield Road
Hadfield, Hyde,
CHESHIRE
(Mrs. Hurst is our
third lady member)

Rev'd.C.M.Deaver
St.Chad's Vicarage
Pheasey
BIRMINGHAM

James Bell
24 Riddon Drive
Hollycroft
Hinckley
LEICESTERSHIRE

John Catlin
331 Stanton Road
Burton on Trent
STAFFORDSHIRE

Anthony Hudson
24 Lydale Road
Halesowen
W. MIDLANDS

B. Leigh
Keys Lane
Priors Marston
Nr. Rugby
WARWICKSHIRE

Alan Woodward
5 Highfield Close
Burton on Trent
STAFFORDSHIRE

Would all members attending a meeting for the first time please let the Chairman know to enable us to welcome you.

Subscriptions

This Bulletin will be sent to all known members past and present.

If there is a cross here the Treasurer would like to hear from you (£1.50 per annum)

Coventry Meeting Report

A succesful meeting was held on Saturday, 19th November at Coventry on the occasion of the Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition at Sibree Hall. Some 24 members attended and some very interesting displays were presented by 11 members.

The Chairman took the opportunity of handing out to the members present two key guide diagrams relating to our research into Midland Duplex Cancellations and the Double Circle Cancellation. (see pages 3 & 5 of this Bulletin).

NEXT MEETING OF SOCIETY : Saturday, 4th February, 2 pm at the Midland Institute, BIRMINGHAM

The question was 'when was the first true public post introduced in England and what part of the Country did it cover'.

First correct answer received was from our Founder/Chairman, Steve Stobbs who writes :

'There is reason to believe that the first Public Post was run by a Mr. Samuel Jude on the West Road to Plymouth in the 1620's (probably 1626). Another prominent figure in the West Country connected with the early public posts was Thomas Hutchins, the postmaster of Crewkerne, a stage on the West Road'.

There is a lot still to be 'discovered' about the 1st Public Post. Steve Stobbs receives this month's small prize.

SAMUEL JUDE

In the early 1620's Samuel Jude was a 'perous' merchant in London and had much postal business with the West Country. There was no organized postal system for letters from merchants and they were dependent upon the goodwill of the official posts or upon the slow Carriers who would charge a small fee to carry merchants letters.

About 1625 Jude decided that it would be possible, even profitable - to send his own messengers down the West road with his own letters and those of his business colleagues and contacts.

He established such a service and it appeared to have done well being used for his own business as well as H.M. Customs, the Commissioners of the Navy, the East India Company and 'other persons of wealth and quality'.

Naturally the loss of this business upset the Posts. Jude set up his own Stages to Plymouth, provided his own horses and messengers and made his own contacts with Inn-keepers. All this was completely illegal as the monopoly rested with the Master of the Posts and their Stages. Matters came to a head when Jude's servants employed as agents in Plymouth tore down bills of the official post.

All parties in the subsequent dispute were called before Sir John Coke on February 19th 1629/30 to state their cases. Surprisingly enough Jude was only admonished but licensed to continue his service.

This decision must have been unpopular with the Posts, who had expected a clear cut decision in their favour. Sensibly enough they decided, that having failed to force Jude out of business by their appeal, they could only compete with him by providing a better service. This they did and the Mayors of Salisbury, Exeter and Plymouth and 'all other of his Majesties loving subjects' were instructed to assist the Posts in their endeavours.

This was a major event in the growth of 'public posts' as for the first time authority had been given for the carriage of private mail within the State Postal System.

Jude seems to have been a fore runner of William Dockwra who started his own London post in 1680 and of whom much more is known.

The only personal note that has come to life so far regarding Samuel Jude was that he had a wife and ten children 'and they feared the utter ruin of him'.

Possibly more will be known about this fascinating character in due course.

Editor.

PROVINCIAL TOWN STAMPS

One of the 'strikes' which appear on our Societies headed notepaper is the so called hot cross bun used in Chester from 1681 to 1686. Below are drawn three other early provincial town stamps in outline. A 'small prize' will be sent to the first member who sends to the Editor the name of the Towns in which they were used :-



Fig. A Fig. B. Fig. C
Circa 1696 Circa 1696/7 (centre letters
Come on - have a go omitted)

BIRMINGHAM AIR ITEMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

No. Two by Eric Lewis

Birmingham Roller Cancellations

Roller cancellations have not been used on many occasions in England but Birmingham has twice (see contemporary mark making it thrice-Editor) used this means of cancelling adhesives. In the late 1850's when book post and newspaper wrappers were often damaged by normal metal handstamps due to the soft nature of the contents, a roller cancellation was introduced incorporating Birmingham's numeral 75 (see Fig One). Figure Two shows this roller used on a wrapper which was found 'to contain writing'. In view of this, the wrapper was hand-stamped 'More to Pay' and surcharged as a letter. The Post Office had special departments to examine such mail as depicted in the print drawn by Harry Furness (who also amusingly caricatured the envelope to celebrate the Post Office Jubilee in 1890) See Fig. Three. The other occasion when Birmingham used this type of canceller was in the 1880's when parcel post was first introduced. A suitable means was found to cancel soft parcels with a roller having 'Birmingham' between straight bars as shown in Fig Four.

THE DUPLEX CANCELLATION AND THE DOUBLE RING CANCELLATION

Our Chairman, Richard Farman, has prepared two excellent key guide diagrams indicating the basic parts which form the two cancellations referred to above. These key guide diagrams are available to every member of the Society to enable you to assist the Society in compiling and recording a list of such cancellations as were used 'in the Midlands'.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO ASSIST

- A) To determine the various TYPES used.
Go through your collection and record the various styles you have referring to the key diagram guide. Either sketch out or photostat (if possible) the various alternative types that you have and forward list direct to Richard Farman at 124 Henhurst Hill, Burton on Trent, Staffs (or let him have them at a Society meeting)
- B) To determine the period of use of such cancels.
Same exercise as above, noting town name/official office number and date or dates used - if you have more than one of the same strike. Please do all you can to assist with this project. We hope to publish the results.

BIRMINGHAM
ROLLER
CANCELLATIONS
by
Eric Lewis



Fig. 1. Incorporating numeral

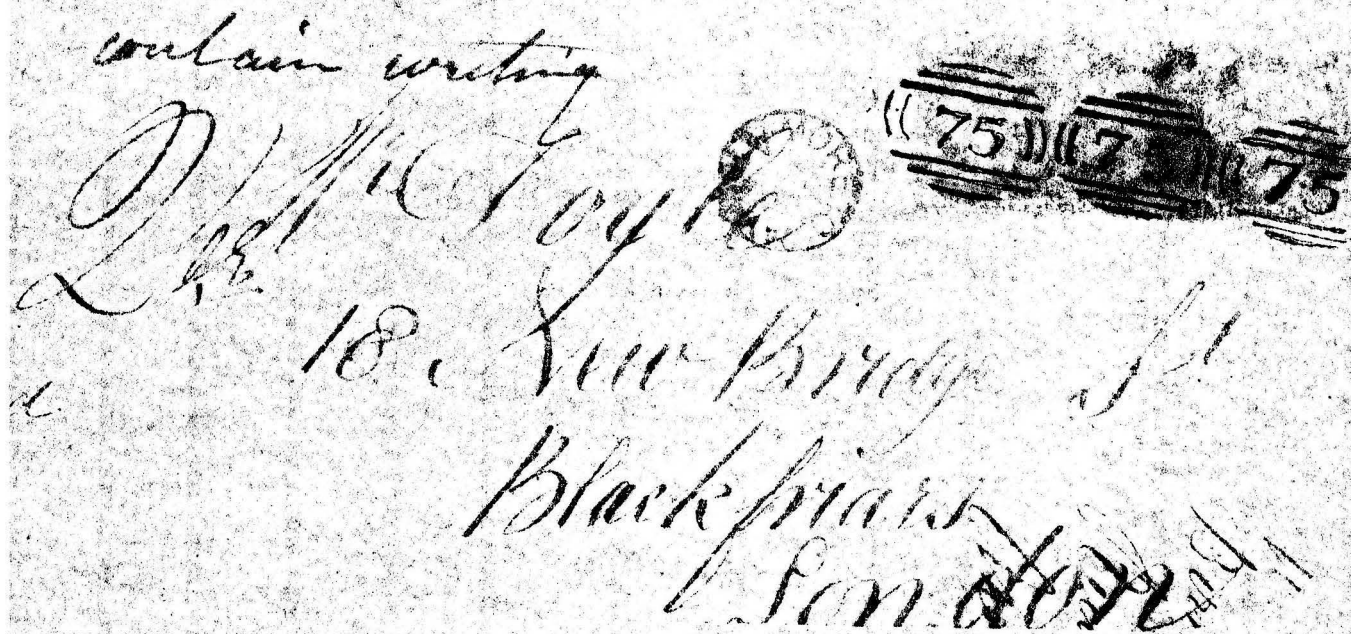
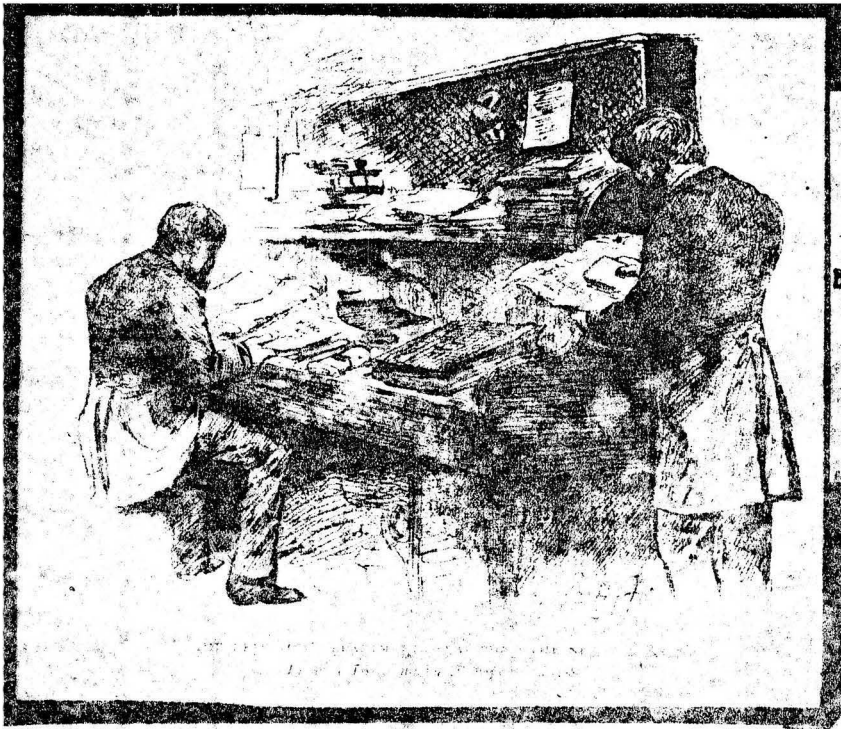


Fig. 2. As used on a parcel wrapper of books 1850



The Detective Department searching the Newspapers (for writing inside the wrapping)

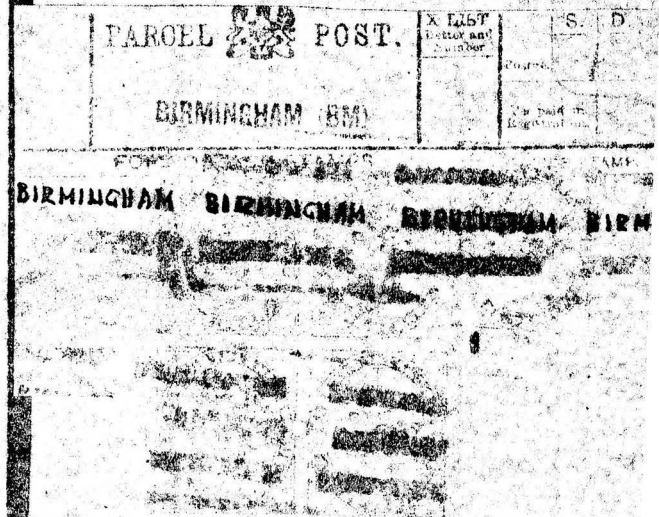
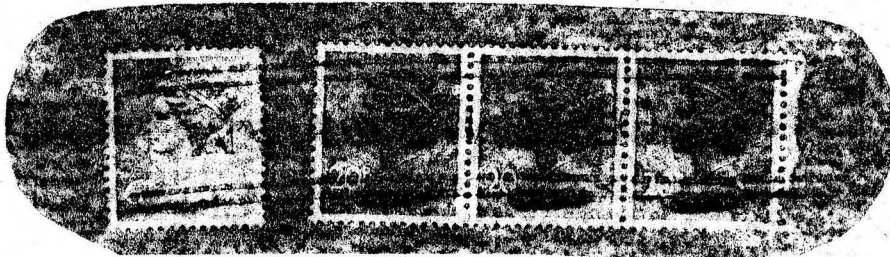


Fig. 4. Different type used on parcel wrapping 1880



Is this a contemporary roller cancellation ?
As used on a parcel 24th November 1977

Editor

THE COVENTRY DOUBLE RING CANCELLATION (or Double Circle)

Trying to devise the best method of recording these marks, I have come across problems, but first let me give some facts.

It would seem the Duplex and Double Ring marks were used together because I have examples of the Duplex being used up to 1905 and my earliest Double Ring is Feb. 1899 and ended in general use at the end of 1912 when the Kragg Machine cancellation took over, although you can find examples of the Double Ring being used as late as 1921, but only as a stand-by cancellation.

The code number runs from 1 to 7 also the wide and narrow cross. The O.D. ring sizes range from 24, 25, 25.5, 26, 26.5, 27, 27.5 mm.

The letter heights are 2, 2.5 and 3 mm.

The method I have used to record the Double Ring is to put the years 1895 to 1925 down the left hand side of the sheet and the OD sizes along the top of the paper 24 to 27.5 mm. The three letter heights I have called a, b and c.
a = 2 mm, b = 2.5 mm and c = 3 mm.

Example Double Ring cancellation year 1904, code 6 and letter size 2.5mm
Look down the L/H column and find the year 1904 then go straight across the page under the 26 mm column and mark down 6b (6 for the code and b for the letter height).

Problems

The problems seem to be in the measuring. I doubt whether the half mm sizes are correct, most likely due to the way that the cancellor was applied, because there are relatively few half sizes in relation to the full mm sizes. The same problem applies to the height of the letters, here you can measure in one quarter mm sizes.

To enable me to manage the recordings I have ignored the ID ring sizes because in the majority of cases this is determined by the OD and the height of the letters.

However I have less than 150 examples to get my data from, so we would like to hear from any other member who has any measurement or recording, even if they are from another Town. It might mean that we could establish a pattern as these cancellors were all made by the GPO.

It would be ideal if we could follow up this article with some findings in the next Bulletin. So please give us as much information as soon as possible. Forward to me or the Chairman.

W.S. Chester, 17 Rock Close, COVENTRY

FUTURE BULLETINS

The contents of future Bulletins depend on YOU. Let me have the material and it will be published.

Have not had any Wants, Exchange and For Sale items, am running short of articles, how about your latest acquisition - how much it cost you, what it was and where you got it.

Your experiences and thoughts on visiting one of the many Stamp Fairs/Auctions would be of interest to other members.

So come on - do something for the Society - we are very nearly 50 strong now and an interesting Bulletin will retain the members who cannot attend our meetings.

Anything worth printing to Jon Baker, 13 Station Road,
Hinckley, Leics.

Thank you - Merry Christmas - next Bulletin early 78