



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



Chairman:

Elizabeth Lewis
27 Rathbone Road
Smethwick. Warley
West Midlands B67 5JG
Phone 021-429-1222

Treasurer:

Peter Baxter
72 Midhurst Road
Kings Norton
Birmingham B30 3RA

Secretary:

Richard Farman
124 Henhurst Hill
Burton on Trent
Staffs DE13 9SY
Phone 0283-66515

Number 30, May 1983

End of Term Report

Those of us who have the sometimes doubtful pleasure of reading school reports often wish that we could award our own marks for their aptness, wit and technical content. A term's struggle with a modern language was summarised in just five words - "Very weak and rather idle". Score 10, nil, nil plus a bonus point for brevity and five bonus points for honesty.

Happily we can frame the Society's end of term report in more optimistic terms if not in fewer words. The membership stands at 42, the best we have ever had, and perhaps more significantly, the seven meetings this season have been attended by an average of 15 members. The standard of the annual competition was remarkably high and, as a later report reveals, the auction was an outstanding success. Of course, there is no little room for improvement. The Society needs more publicity and a larger subscribing membership. The use of the County Editors has been very limited to date. The editor would like more contributions to the Bulletin. Happily these are all matters that can be tackled in the new season and we can look forward to September, if not with complacency at least with real confidence.

Subscriptions

The annual subscription has stood at £2-50 for some time. Compared with other societies, it is quite modest but, by scrupulous attention to costs, the Treasurer has managed to work within that figure. Several increases in the cost of room hire have been absorbed. However costs have finally outstripped income and £3-50 will be asked of each member for the new season to keep the Society on an even keel. The Treasurer would welcome payment of

the new sub at your earliest convenience as our financial year runs from 1st April and the kitty is depleted. If you are one of those half dozen good souls who has contrived to pay a year in advance, a further £1 would be greatly appreciated without being actively pursued. The Committee obviously hopes that members feel they are getting reasonable value for money and they can be assured that most of the Society's business is being conducted without thought of a claim for expenses. Those of the members who unanimously agreed the subscription increase at the AGM appeared well convinced.

County Editors

There may be some confusion over the role of the Society's 'County Editors'. These are the erudite individuals to whom members are asked to pass any new information about the postmarks and postal history of their nominated county, pre- or post- 1840. It so happens that several of our County Editors are also the specialist editors of the British County Catalogue of Postal History so there is double benefit to be gained. At present, the County Editors would particularly like to hear about Undated Marks. If you have made any listing of these for your area of interest, drop a line to one of the following:

Mr Peter Baxter	Birmingham
Mr W.S.Chester	Warwickshire
Mr Richard Farman	Staffordshire
Mr Steph Stobbs	Shropshire
Mr John Soer	Leicestershire
Mr Michael Young	Worcestershire

If you do not have the required address at hand, the Editor will forward your letter without delay.

The March Meeting

There was another very satisfactory attendance at the meeting on 12th March. A dozen nine sheet displays, many using the suggested theme of 'Transport, provided a thoroughly entertaining afternoon. Steph Stobbs, not surprisingly, was able to talk about all aspects of railways without straying beyond the bounds of Shropshire. John Soer concentrated on Appleby in Leicestershire and particularly its penny post. Don Keen showed Hull items, many having connections with shipping, of course. Two displays complemented each other particularly well. Harold Wilson had some fascinating railway material including newspaper parcel labels and railway letters. Peter Baxter

chose railway station postmarks including Wellington College Station - not in Shropshire, by the way! Trevor Clewley's selection had some clever transport links such as German slogan postmarks that included aircraft. Peter Sharp dealt with Kenilworth and members had a chance to see the problematic 'Lower Kenilworth R.O.' single circle. John Calladine included paquebot marks of the SS Rawalpindi's voyage to Japan in 1934 and told of the ship's fate at the hands of a German battleship in 1939. Chris Beaver managed to cover every conceivable form of transport including the trans-Siberian railway, trans-Atlantic seaplane and British Road Services. Gay Parker showed us items connected with the Leicester to Coventry mailcoach and, believe it or not, Coventry trams with a postbox. Eric Lewis's surprising miscellany ranged from a post office warrant for fees due to the London and Birmingham railway to a series of postcards concerned with transmission of mail - including transmission by teddy bear. It was left to our Chairman, Elizabeth, to round off the entertainment with a selection, mainly of picture postcards, each and everyone connected with a form of transport; even Sharon's cats got into the act. The use of a theme to link the displays worked well on this occasion and members are to be congratulated on their ingenuity and choice of items.

The April Meeting

That sixteen members attended the Annual General Meeting on 16th April is indicative of the good health of the Society. Of course it may have been that the attraction of the Society Auction added a little spice to the diet of Minutes, Matters Arising and Officers' Reports but the AGM is always

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RECENT PURCHASES include an Isle of Wight collection (very comprehensive), letters from India and a range of Scottish material.

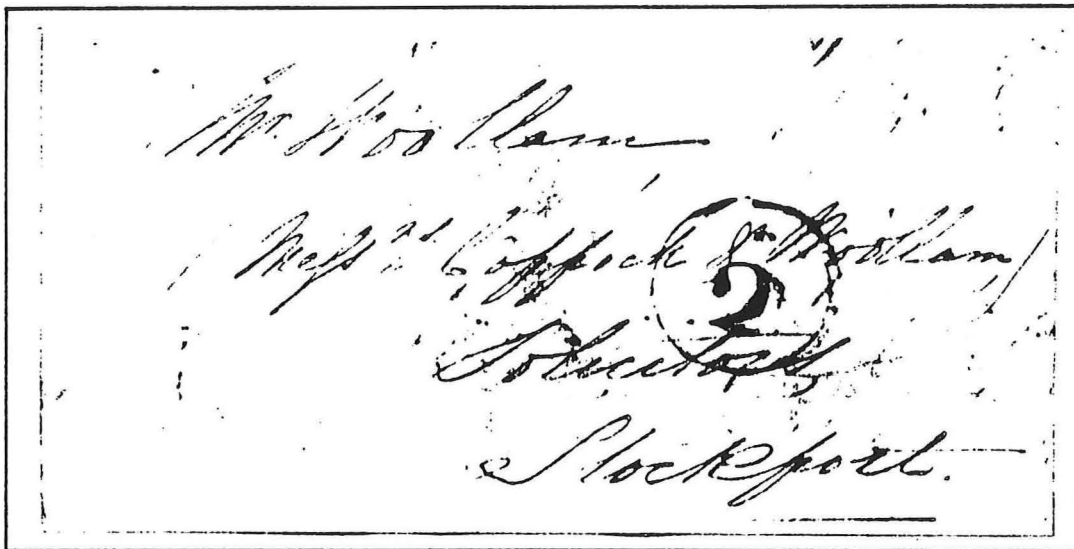
conducted with exemplary speed and no one lingers unnecessarily over their contribution. In the Chairman's Report, Elizabeth made special mention of the improved attendances, the popularity of the longer displays and the strength of the Society Competition. The Secretary confirmed that everything was on the rails and the Treasurer pointed out that our expenses had increased substantially and that, after several years, a subscription increase was necessary. Perhaps surprisingly, this proposal was well supported by the members who, having made a few swift mental calculations, probably appreciated that even the increased sub could not pay for the Bulletin at commercial rates let alone room hire, speakers' expenses, affiliation fees and suchlike.

The Society Auction was a resounding success. Ably conducted by the Secretary and very well organized by Eric and Elizabeth, bids flew thick and fast with a substantial 'book' participation. A total of over £480 was realized with 70% of lots sold. Members are thanked for their support and the Society owes a special debt to Mr & Mrs Lewis for all the hard work they put into this auction. Detailed realizations were:

Lot 1	£27-00	Lot 27	£ 7-50	Lot 62	£ 6-50
2	1-20	28	9-00	64	15-00
3	1-00	29	1-25	65	14-00
4	3-25	31	3-50	66	6-50
5	50p	33	1-00	67	4-50
6	12-00	35	1-75	69	3-50
8	1-50	37	8-00	71	5-00
9	2-50	38	11-50	74	4-00
10	8-50	39	2-00	80	5-00
11	4-00	40	4-25	82	5-00
12	22-50	41	5-50	84	8-00
13	8-50	42	4-75	85	6-50
14	1-25	44	4-00	86	1-75
15	4-25	45	3-50	89	3-25
16	7-00	47	1-75	90	1-50
17	7-00	48	9-50	91	2-00
18	2-25	49	3-00	93	7-00
19	5-50	50	40p	94	2-50
20	8-50	52	20-00	97	4-50
21	4-00	53	5-50	101	2-25
22	11-50	54	5-00	102	3-00
23	3-75	55	25-00	103	6-00
24	8-50	56	40-00	104	2-50
25	6-75	57	10-00	106	1-00
26	4-50	61	4-75		

A PATHETIC STORY OF MISFORTUNEfrom Derby in 1847by F.G.Peach

The contents of this letter, written on Sunday October 31st 1847, from Court 6, Willow Row, Derby (a poorer quarter of the town at that time) reveal in the final sentence, why it is not bearing a stamp. As a result, it bears the second UPP handstamp used at Derby.



Backstamped DERBY OC 31 1847 and STOCKPORT NO 1 1847, both in blue

Derby, Oct. 31st -/47

"Sir,

Your answer was forwarded to me here, and I certainly feel surprised at the manner in which you treat me, neither giving me one kind of explanation or another, as to the reason why the payment should be so long delayed, or when you think it likely it will be in your power to settle it. My circumstances for the last 12 months have been unparalleled. If I could obtain employment I should not have occasion to trouble you, but I cannot do so. With much difficulty I have reached here and still am in the same position. My wife is seriously ill and unable to get out of bed, and I am obliged to call in the aid of the Parish Doctor, and unless I can obtain some assistance from the Parish to procure necessities and lodgings, she will be compelled to enter the Union Workhouse - a place neither her or myself ever yet troubled, and this, I suppose, she will have to do unless I can obtain aid at your hands

Of course you can form a pretty near calculation of what the value of

30/6

my share will be, and I am in such a painful extremity that I shall feel obliged if you will say what you will give me for it, and I will sign all right and title, as far as I am concerned, to you. If you will not do this, will you oblige me with a loan of £5, and I will give you a receipt for £10, which will make in all £20 to be re-paid when the settlement takes place.

Excuse me being so troublesome, but to leave my wife here, sick and amongst entire strangers, is indeed distressing. This is Sunday, and I assure you we have not the means of procuring a mouthful of food - our shoes and clothing of every kind are entirely worn out, and I am almost distracted. Had you not a certainty in your own possession of obtaining re-payment, of course I should not think of trespassing upon you, but if you oblige me in either way that I have asked, you cannot sustain any loss.

If you will do neither, I shall feel extremely grateful if you will advance me £1, as my wife is so very ill, and we are, in fact, almost starvin and I shall feel obliged if you will send me an answer to this by the next post - if not, I will endeavour to get to Stockport by the end of this week, and see you personally.

Regretting that I should have to write in such a humble style, and soliciting your sympathy,

I am, Sir,
Yours most respectfully,
J.H.Clarkson

Mr Woolam,
Solicitor,
Stockport.

I assure you, Sir, I have not a penny to pay for a stamp, so will you please excuse me."

Address-

Mr Thomas Collis,
Court No.6,
Willow Row,
Derby.

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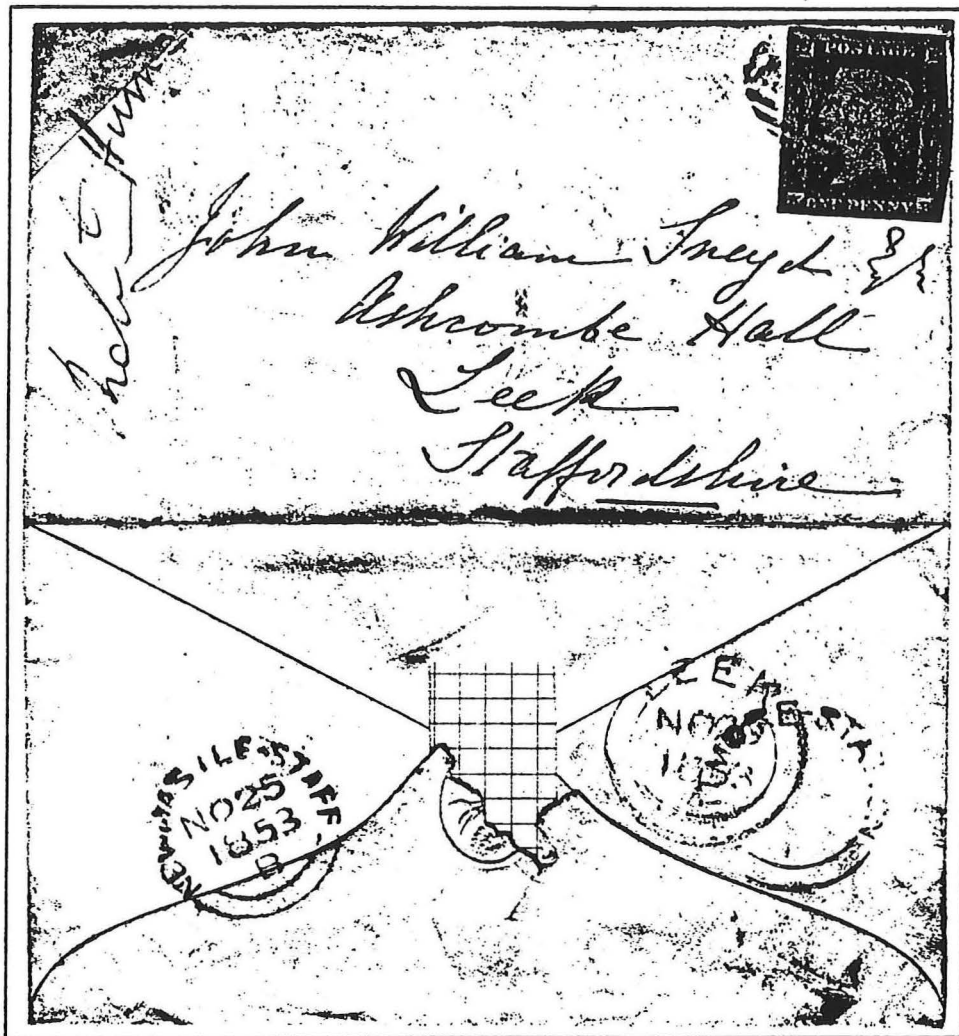
Footnote

The UPP handstamp (the '2' actually has a small 'D' above it) is listed in the RL Encyclopaedia 2nd edition but is not listed in The British County Catalogue of Postal History. The reason for its omission was that Mr Willcoc was not absolutely sure of its existence when the Catalogue was published in 1978.

30/7

A THIRD UNDATED STATION MARK

by The Reverend Christopher M. Beaver



'Railway Station Postmarks' by the late D.P.Gowen was published in 1978 by the Railway Philatelic Group. It lists just two undated marks, each known by a single example. I understand the Steel Impression Books in P.O. Archives are incomplete, so who knows what more may be found ?

There is 'Castle-Eden-Station' used on June 6th 1856 (illustration 6, page 10 of the booklet). That is in County Durham: it later had a dated circle, was numbered D70, and used a Station mark until 1879.

The other is 'Flaxton Station' - listed as "about 1855" but not illustrated. That was not far from York on the line to Scarborough. No other mark of that station is recorded and I hazard a guess that it was the temporary end of an uncompleted line. (That should provoke the railway and Yorkshire experts)

So the 'Whitmore Station' undated circle, illustrated above and shown

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Telephone: Warwick (0926) 492326

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TWO EARLY REGISTERED ITEMSby Steph Stobbs

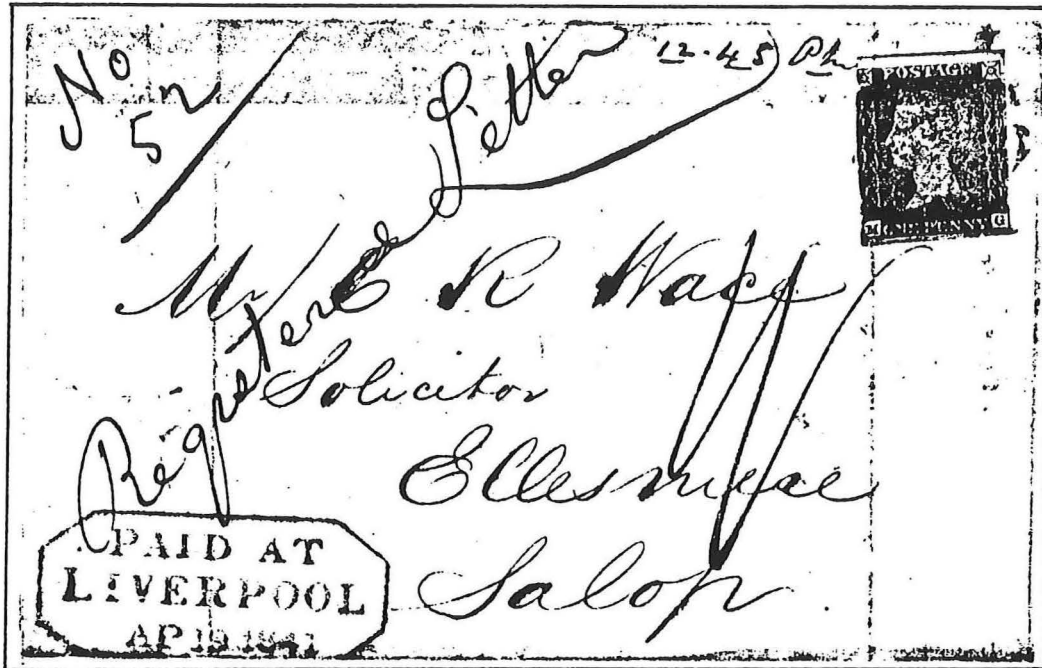
Registered Inland Mail, as we know it today, came into force on 6th January 1841, nearly one year after Uniform Penny Postage had been introduced. The registration fee, which had to be prepaid in money, was 1/- (a large sum in those days). This was reduced, first to 6d and then to 4d. Compensation at fixed rates was not introduced until 1st January 1878 when the use of blue lines on registered mail also started.

Illustrated are two early items connected therewith which I have found to be quite pleasing and which may be of interest to other members of our Society.

No. 3.		REGISTERED LETTER.	
RECEIVED this		1 st	day of February 1841
a Letter addressed		<i>Mr James Watson</i> <i>15 Blackburn Street</i> <i>Manchester</i> <i>England</i>	
Office Stamp.		{ Postmaster, or Letter Receiver's Signature. <i>James Watson</i>	

The Registered Letter Receipt issued in Ellesmere on 1st February 1841 is, you will note, No.3 and, in view of the high fee having to be paid, I like to think it was for the third registered letter sent from this place.

Illustrated over the page is a registered letter dated 19th April 1841. This cover is even more interesting as, while it is a very early registered item, it carries a 1d black (plate 11). Penny blacks on registered covers are quite difficult to find but, in addition, it also bears a boxed and dated "PAID AT LIVERPOOL" to show that the registration fee had been paid. Alcock and Holland, in their wonderful book "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland", state concerning this mark:



"Liverpool used an octagonal "Paid at" type which, unlike earlier stamps of that kind, included the date. We have seen specimens of this dated type only on letters prepaid in money at Liverpool for places abroad. The examples we have seen have been in red with dates of 1841 to 1849."

It would seem that the mark had other uses than on mail "for places abroad" unless, of course, Ellesmere was regarded as "abroad" in Liverpool !!

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Flashback

It was in Bulletin No.13, way back in April 1979, that Peter Baxter first queried the date of 1887 for the alteration of the Leamington Spa squared circle. He said he had one dated 26th March 1886 which seemed to suggest that the quoted date was wrong. He went on to ask why it had taken so long for the Post Office to recognise the title 'Royal Leamington Spa' when Queen Victoria had acceded to the request of the inhabitants for the 'Royal' title as early as 1838.

Now we know that things move at a leisurely pace in the postal history world but four years have passed and he is none the wiser as you, dear readers, have maintained a stunning silence. In the light of recently acquired knowledge, can anyone comment please ?

Kinver Conundrum

The item on the late use of a double arc CDS at Kinver (Staffs) has, thank goodness, elicited a response. Chris Beaver reports that he, too, has a Kinver CDS of the mid-1860s (12 December 1865) and that it is also of the old double arc type. Otherwise the best he can offer is an Albrighton double arc of 26 Dec 59 and a Tamworth of 5 Sep 58. His latest undated double arc is Harborne-Heath passing through Birmingham on 12 September 1859. Can anyone go one better ?

Your Address

For the new season, the Society will be eliminating the chore of hand-addressing the Bulletin envelopes by using photocopied self-adhesive labels. To enable the Editor to prepare the master copies, it would be greatly appreciated if members would complete the form attached to the back of the Bulletin and return it as requested.

Those Parcel Post Labels

Mr Archie Donald reports that demand for his parcel post labels has been remarkable in that about 40% of the membership has bought at least one lot. However the demand has been for offices outside Birmingham and a revised list of available labels for the Birmingham town offices is enclosed with this Bulletin. Many of these offices have now closed and the postmarks are good. Please write direct to Mr Donald.

Books that may interest you - 5

CLAYTON Brian. Wakefield's Postal History. Publisher unknown, 1981. 28 pages, illustrated, £2-00.

HOMER-WOOF GHR. The Postal History of Bracknell. Publisher unknown, 1981. 24 pages, £1-50. Companion to The Postal History of Wokingham.

1981 REGUS Collectors' Guide to British PO issued regional and PHQ postcards. 1981, £1-45 from the publishers Regus Publications, 99 Churchgate, Southport PR9 7FF. 36 pages, illustrated, retail values quoted.

Ted Heath has supplied a new listing of recent books on postal history and postcards. This will be included in the Bulletin in successive parts throughout next season but anyone who is impatient for knowledge and would like an advance copy of the entire list (2 pages) should send a stamped and addressed envelope to the Editor.

BROOKS JW. To and Fro - A History of the Postal Services around Maidenhead. 48 pages, £1-25 pp from Serawood House Ltd, 21 High Town Road, Maidenhead, Berks.

The New Season

The first meeting of the new season will be on 10th September but the next Bulletin will contain details of the complete programme for 1983/84. If you wish to make a note of the provisional dates of the meetings, they are 10th September, 18th October, 16th December, 25th January 1984, 12th February, 14th March and 16th April.

Tailpiece

The Editor is always pleased to hear from the members (nay, overjoyed) but a recent letter from one who should know better did have him a little worried ...

NOTICE TO INFORMANT The medical practitioner will also have given you a separate notice, which must be handed to the registrar. You must be prepared to state accurately to the registrar the following particulars:— (1) The date and place of death, and the deceased's usual address, (2) the full names and surname, (and the maiden surname if the deceased was a woman who had married), (3) the date and place of birth (town and county; or country if born abroad), (4) the occupation (and the name and occupation of her husband if the deceased was a married woman or a widow), (5) whether deceased was in receipt of a pension or allowance from public funds and (6) if deceased was married, the age of the surviving widow or widower. DECEASED'S MEDICAL CARD SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE REGISTRAR General Register Office, London. W.C.2 Form 109A	BY HAND MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH Registrar of Births & Deaths for Subdistrict BIRMINGHAM 9:30 AM 22 MCH 1983 at English Embroidery c.1272 6 1/2 p J. Calladine Esq., Dunley House, Cranham, Gloucester GL4 8HQ
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The Next Bulletin

The next Bulletin will appear on 1st September. It will include the programme for the new season and also the first of an important two-part feature article on The Railway Postmarks of Rugby and its Stations by David Hardwick, our Saudi Arabian correspondent. If you know nothing of the eccentric Sir Thomas Phillipps, a further revelation awaits you. Its all in the Bulletin - but don't forget to pay your sub !

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

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