

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Number 172 November 2011

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to Maurice Palmer of Northampton whose collecting interests are U.S.A. Boer War, Great War, WWII, Telegrams and Newspaper wrappers.

Neville Watterson of Northampton who lists his postal history interests as "various".

Eric Winter of Birmingham whose collecting interests include India, Reigate and Redhill Surrey,

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On 12th November the venue was Carrs Lane Church, Birmingham when Guy Bridges displayed Shrewsbury Postal History. A report of this meeting will be in the next Midland Mail.

December 3rd is a return to the National Brewing Centre at Burton –on-Trent a full day meeting starting at 10.30 a.m. For details of lunch and booking please contact Richard Farman, 01283 566515. Lunch. Coffee and tea are expected to cost about £16 in total. The morning will be taken up with Members Displays of Mail to and from Foreign Destinations followed in the afternoon by Max Smith with Mail to and from India.

St. Germain's Church Hall is the venue for January when the subject will be one board displays of Postal History of your Local Village(s).

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL AUCTION

This will take place on Saturday 5th May at the usual venue – St. Germain's Church Hall to enable the catalogue to be distributed in good time, it is essential to let Eric Lewis have your lots preferably by the date of the January meeting, 7th January, but at the very latest by the date of the February meeting, 11th February. Alternatively, lots may be sent by post to Mr E.Lewis, 27 Rathbone Rd. Smethwick B67 5JG to arrive by 11th February. Please give full descriptions together with estimated market value and your reserve price for each item.

Please note that the minimum reserve for lots remains at £3 with increments of £1 up to £20; £2 above £20 up to £50; then £5 up to £100; and £10 above £100.

As usual, a gift of any surplus material you may care to donate to sell in aid of Society funds will be much appreciated. These lots, usually totalling a significant sum of money, enable subscriptions to be kept down. So please sort those surplus items as soon as possible.

An important notice to all members

Please note change of meeting times to those listed in the programme.

January, February, March and May 2012 start at 1.30 p.m. not 1 p.m. as stated in the programme.

Another change to details printed on the programme is that John Calladine is now acting as Co-ordinating Editor in place of John Soer as printed.

A note from Eric Lewis

"May I be the first to congratulate Sadie on excellent wording and layout in her first issue (Aug. 2011) as Editor of the Society's journal. When I received her typescript sheets to take to the printers, any doubts which I may have had were cast to one side prior to reading through them as she had placed a print of Aston Commercial School on the last page with the caption "Where I learned to type", this being the college where Elizabeth had completed her full time education. So well done Sadie, subsequent issues are eagerly awaited."

Thank you Eric and also the members who sent equally encouraging emails.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

This was held at the Abbey Centre, Northampton, where 28 members, guests and friends assembled for coffee at 10.15 a.m. Several had travelled a long distance to attend. Organiser Derek Smeathers particularly welcomed the President and members of the Northants Philatelic Society. Paul Bradshaw provided a standing exhibit of Northants covers. Apologies were received from Roger Broomfield, Sadie Cole, Chris Jackson and Roy Summers. Chairman Mel Matthews introduced the morning's programme.

The first display was on The Anglo-Boer War, by local historian and collector Maurice Palmer who began by explaining that this subject was a comparatively new venture, for six months ago he had a just a few items! He then proceeded to fill eight boards with mouth-watering items on this period in British history, using postcards, letters, covers, photographs and cigarette cards, as well as ephemera such as tickets for soup and Christmas beer from the Siege of Mafeking. This famous event was also represented by stamps and postal history, always considered very rare. Other items noticed by our scribe were British F.P.O.s and one or two railway T.P.O.s. He also showed items from the prison camps at Capetown, Ceylon and St.Helena, and a person history, with photographs of a Sergeant-Major in the Northamptonshire Regiment with his South African campaign medals. Maurice included British, German, Dutch and French postcards in his display, with many military and patriotic ones, some with a comic bias. He also displayed many books, including the Guide to Postal History by the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society of which Maurice is a member. He concluded his presentation with some military postal history of events after 1902, with wrappers to the Fleet, British Army manoeuvres of 1911-1913 and many picture postcards from World War I. Altogether this was a splendid presentation of a difficult period in British postal history.

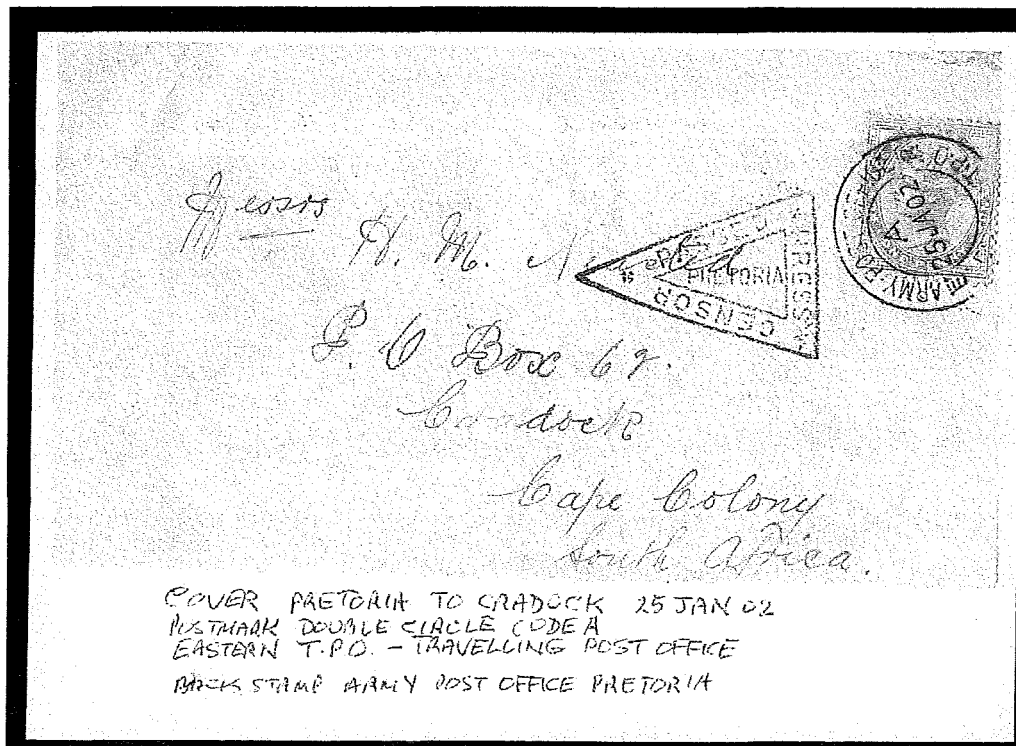
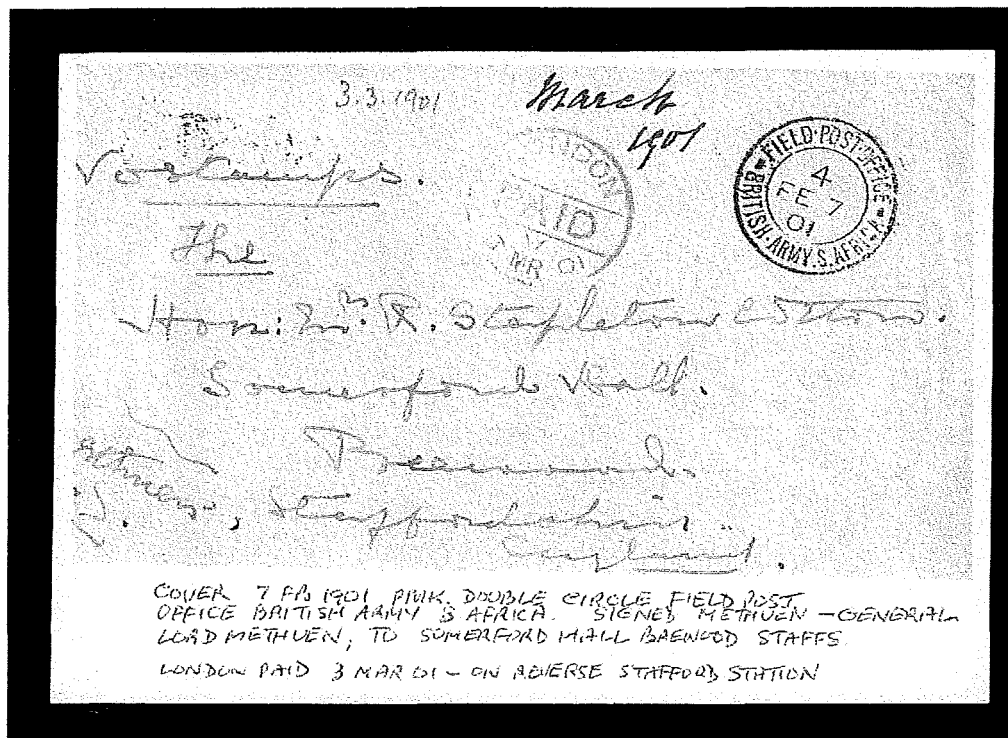
An excellent lunch was served in the hall, albeit a little later than planned so the afternoon session began 20 minutes late. Bob Ricketts showed "POW camps in Bedfordshire"; John Soer "non occupied Belgium"; Philip Lindley "World War I at Windsor and Eton"; Ray Lindley offered "From the other side- Diamond Jubilee of Kaiser Franz Joseph I"; Maurice Brown displayed "date corrected meter marks"; Richard Farman "Zulu War and the Boer War with the Staffordshire Regiment"; Alan Marshall "Boer War and W.W.I"; Mick Gill "W.W.I and W.W.2" both with a Notts flavour; Brian Purcell "Cannock, Walsall and Stafford District"; Gwyn Hughes "W.W.2 from Northants, Oxon and Warwickshire; Neville Watterson "Pattershall Camp" and Colin Fountain with UDCs & covers of Stow-on-the-Wold and Gloucestershire". All combined to bring us a varied and very entertaining afternoon of postal history.

The Editor would like to thank Derek Smeathers for this full account of the Northampton meeting together with the accompanying copies of covers displayed.

The two covers from the Boer display given by Maurice Palmer are reproduced with his own explanatory notes.

These covers and those from Derek Smeathers display have been produced on the following two pages. My thanks are due again to Derek for obtaining and forwarding these.

Two covers from the Boer War display given by Maurice Palmer with his own handwritten description.



Two covers from members contributions at the Northampton meeting.



PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

166

RANK & NAME: TROOPER LESLIE J. WHITE
(SURNAME IN BLOCK LETTERS) British Prisoner of War

PRISONER OF WAR No.: 139219
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME & No.: STALAG XI B
(INCLUDING SUBSIDIARY
NUMBERING OR LETTERING
IF ANY—E.G. WORKING CAMP)

COUNTRY: GERMANY

WARWICK MEETING

On 15th October 19 members met at the premises of Warwick & Warwick the programme read "Members: One Board Displays - From the County Catalogue." A more correct title would have been "From the County Catalogue or Shortly to be included in the County Catalogue". Several members gave displays of material not yet in the Catalogue but which will appear in the revised edition.

Guy Bridges displayed Shifnal with a variety of spellings, included in the display was a letter to Darby's of Coalbrookdale with no charge mark as it would have been included in a private bag. Derek Smeathers showed items from Cumberland including a cover from the Isle of Man to Dublin which had a Whitehaven mark: having come by Packet from the Isle of Man and continued by Packet to Dublin. Alan Marshall showed letters into Nottinghamshire. Mick Gill announced that his items with Retford marks were in the "Draft Catalogue". John Soer's display of Leicestershire included a first type Lutterworth mileage mark in red which would eventually be in the Catalogue. Eric Lewis showed a number of Birmingham Sub-offices including Camp Hill, Ashted Row and Bristol St all listing their locations. Gordon Hardy took us to Wirksworth for his display with examples of marks from the town itself. He included a 1 oz. cover charged 2/4d. Chris Jackson showed items not yet in the Catalogue including a Bewdley cover of 1725 which is the earliest date yet found. Richard Farman brought along a selection of Hand Struck Charge Marks including a Newcastle with very fancy script. The end of the first half was a selection of Presteigne marks (all in the Catalogue) by your editor.

The second half was equally varied Alan Godfrey displayed some interesting items from Warwickshire of Leamington Town Offices including a Hand Struck 2 of Leamington and a Missent. John Calladine showed a selection of Cheltenham Town Offices showing Boxed Numbers in use until 1864. It was back to Whitehaven with Derek Smeathers this time it was Whitehaven Penny Post showing 4 sub-offices also shown was a Mulready to York possibly from the Isle of Man. Derek did not have an example of a Ship Letter from Whitehaven but he did show a London Ship Letter to Whitehaven! Chris Jackson showed us more Worcestershire including the first U.D.C. of Gornal and a previously unrecorded Bewdley Mileage Mark. John Soer's second display included Ashby. Eric Lewis showed a variety of Birmingham Receiving Houses. Richard Farman's second showing of Staffordshire included a Gornal mark before its transfer to Worcestershire, and a Wolverhampton to New York cover. The final showing was by Gordon Hardy with a continuation of Wirksworth covers one with a 1d Black with A.A. corner letters dated May which rounded off a magnificent variety of material seen during a most enjoyable afternoon. (Your editor apologises in advance for errors and omissions in this report - when I came to write it up the rather scratchy pen I had used at the time was in places unreadable. Will try harder next time!)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to four M.P.H. members.

Chris Jackson was awarded a Gold Medal and won the Open Competition at the ABPS National Competition Open at Sheffield in May with his 64 sheet entry "Needlemakers" his first attempt with this particular entry.

At the Autumn Convention competitions of the Midland Philatelic Federation held in Nottingham -

Clive Jones won Gold in the Postal History Section with a display of "Early Mails by Anglo-Scottish Rails".

Alan Godfrey was the winner in the Open Class with "Midland Red Bus Parcel Service" being awarded Silver-Gilt.

Paul Bradshaw came second in the same class with a display "Southwold Railway" being awarded Silver.

Alan Godfrey's entry showed how the Midland Red parcel delivery service developed with Bus operations starting in 1905 and the parcel delivery service in 1915. The latter in conjunction with the Tramways Parcel Express Service. The company issued their own stamps in the 1920's and examples of these were shown. The service carried on until the 1980's.

Clive Jones shared Best in Show with one other competitor who each achieved 85 points..

Although members of the MPH Alan Godfrey, Paul Bradshaw and Clive Jones were representing their local Philatelic Society..

SOCIETY LIBRARY

The following have recently been added to the Society's Library:

BRITISH POST OFFICE NOTICES ; 1666-1899 BY M.M.RAGUIN

A monumental reference work on British Post Office Notices assembled by M.M.Raguin, being exact copies of the original wording concerning the running of the Royal Mail where original documents survive in the P.O. Archives etc., or failing that, as printed in various newspapers published at the time. It is divided chronologically into several volumes as follows:-

Volume 1 (1666-1799), 687 Notices, 260pp - Publ. 1991

Volume 2 (1800-1829), 362 Notices, 230pp - 3rd edition - Publ. 1993

Volume 3 (1830-1839), 302 Notices, 225pp - 2nd edition - Publ. 1991

Volume 4 (1840-1849), 581 Notices, 300pp - Publ. 1992

Volume 5 (1850-1859), 852 Notices, 460pp - Publ. 1991

Volume 6 (1860-1869), 1350 Notices, 500pp - Publ. 1993

Notes - Each volume is bound separately (Volumes 5 and 6 each in two binders).

Volumes 7 to 9 to complete the series have not as yet been published.

Each volume contains a comprehensive index of the subject of each notice, a general subject index and of particular use to our members, a town and village alphabetical index. (Your Librarian notes no fewer than 28 notices concerning Birmingham in volume 1 alone.)

Discover for yourselves notices relating to your chosen postal history study or general notices such as the exact day, month and year when prepayment in money as opposed to the use of an adhesive or postal stationery item ceased. A subject discussed amongst members on several occasions in the past without anyone being able to state a definite year, let alone which day and month it took effect from, and if it immediately covered the whole of the United Kingdom or initially just London!

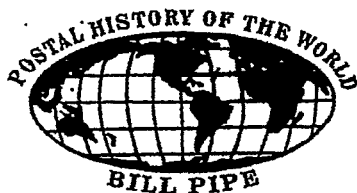
LETTER BAG LABELLING DIRECTORY

A detailed listing of G.B. Bag Labels, each being illustrated with details of label colours, stripe colours, and department codings, etc. An approx. 100 page undated, circa 1990's

Comb bound publication explaining in detail the various formats of mail bag labels and their usages.

This publication had been kindly donated to the Society's Library by one of our members and our thanks are extended to him.

(i.e. Once a mail bag is tied up and a label affixed the label is the only means of identification as to its class of mail and destination.

**THE MAGPIE**

POSTAL AUCTIONS & LISTS
POSTCARDS & EPHEMERA
PAPER COLLECTABLES
POSTAL HISTORY

W.T. PIPE
7 Richard Close
Upton, Poole
Dorset
BH16 5PY

Tel: 01202 623300

Fax: 01202 631149

Web: www.magpiebillpipe.com

Email: magpiebillpipe@free.uk.com

172/7
THE RIDE LETTER
By Alan Marshall

It is not only very difficult to obtain an example of a Ride Letter but also to locate any information regarding same. For example in almost 20 years I have only succeeded in obtaining 3 items. Furthermore I have not seen another one in all the displays, collections and auction lists in that time.

There is reference and illustrations shown in James Mackay's *Postmarks of England & Scotland* on pages 283 & 5. He however only records that Alcock & Holland (1940) and subsequent authorities identify the circled RL as denoting Ride Letter. This refers to illustration No. 5398 which is shown with serified letters. He does not list No. 5397 which is a small sans serif example but his notes go on to say that "later stamps with sans serif letters were the successor to the little crowned RL stamps (illustrations 5295/6) applied to redirected letters" but there is no indication of years of use. The crowned RL stamps for redirection were in use in 1870.

An illustration of the small circled sans serif RL does appear however on Page 49 in Hendy's book of 1909 on 'Postmarks 1840-76' under which it states 'Used on letters handed to Suburban Mail cart Drivers' in the chapter under London District.

The three examples to hand are all different. In reverse order, an 11mm circle encloses 4mm serified R.L. letters on an envelope from London to Bath dated 28th April 1864. Secondly 6mm serified RL letters with a dot centrally between, but no encircling, appear on a local London Penny Black entire date 16th Jan. 1841. Strangely on this item the stamp was applied upside down in the bottom L.H. corner of the entire and partly over a manuscript Paid.

Finally, the third item displays large 10mm serified RL letters, again with a dot between, dated 18th September 1819 addressed to Nottingham. To satisfy Hendy's statement one assumes that a long distance driver also qualified in passing through the suburbs to Bath and Nottingham. Is this the earliest known example of a Ride Letter?

This latter item is a very interesting entire in its own right. It carries the correct procedure for a 'Free Frank' letter with London and the date in manuscript across the top and 'Free' with a John Smith signature in the bottom L.H. corner. The somewhat common John Smith signature presumably a recognized and well known one from Lord Bathurst's office.

Free Frank letters were not exempt from local Penny and Twopenny charges. It therefore collected an octagonal boxed 'To Pay 2d Only' a Handstruck 2, an octagonal boxed 7 'clock and a London Chief Office CDS with double ring for evening duty.

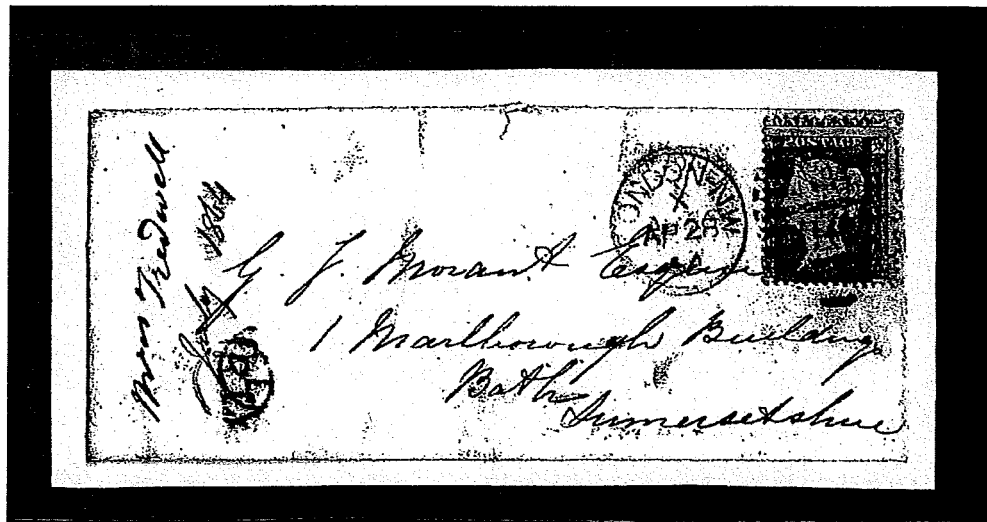
There is it appears some validity in the use of the R.L. stamp on this letter. It is addressed to Thos Simpson, , Chapel Court, Byard Lane. A John Simpson of Wilton St is recorded as one of three mail carriers of Nottingham in 1815 and again in 1832, but by this time of Byard Lane. In 1832 one of two principal coaching contractors is listed as Messrs Thos and John Simpson & Coy operating from the Lion Hotel. The mail coach to London 'The Hope' left from the Lion at 5.30 A.M. daily. It is believed that the letter's recipient Thos Simpson was the Thos Simpson of the coaching contractors and fitting that the family coach carried their own mail, through the suburbs and on to Nottingham.

The letter content is of equal interest it being a reply to a follow up letter of one he sent some years previously to Lord Bathurst's office enquiring as to whether his convict brother, Charles Simpson, was dead or still alive. Mr Barnard, principal clerk in Lord Bathurst's office had ascertained that he was dead, although he had not been able to find any return of his name or confirmation of his death.

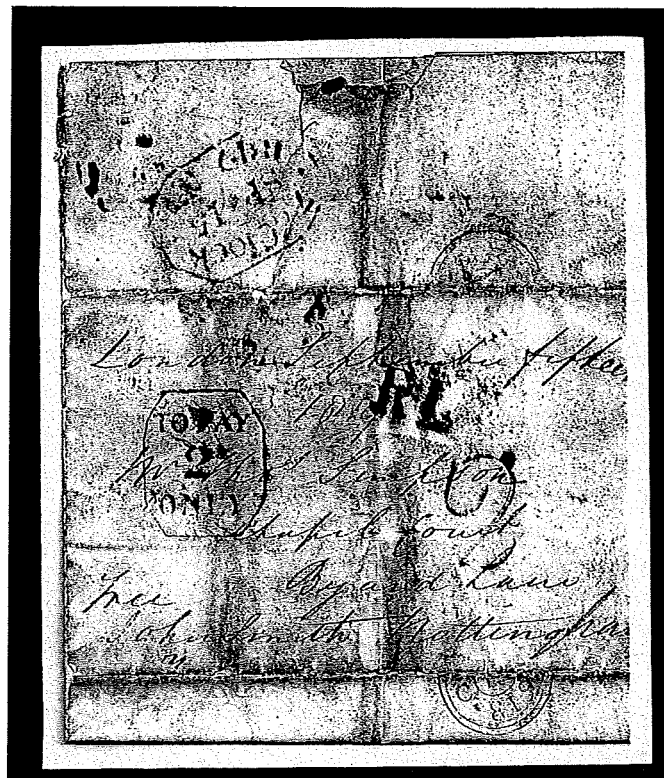
As a consequence of the initial application the Government directed that accurate returns of the names of all convicts to be sent home be provided. However, when the information arrived no such person as Charles Simpson could be found on the list. (A reference presumably to convicts sent out to Australia.) The letter accepts and agrees to the right to have made such an enquiry and records that the same principal clerk will be approached in order to obtain the precise relative facts. Unfortunately the final outcome is not known.

Examples of the various marks referred to are illustrated here including the crowned R for redirection, the writer comments that he has never seen a crowned RL as referred to.

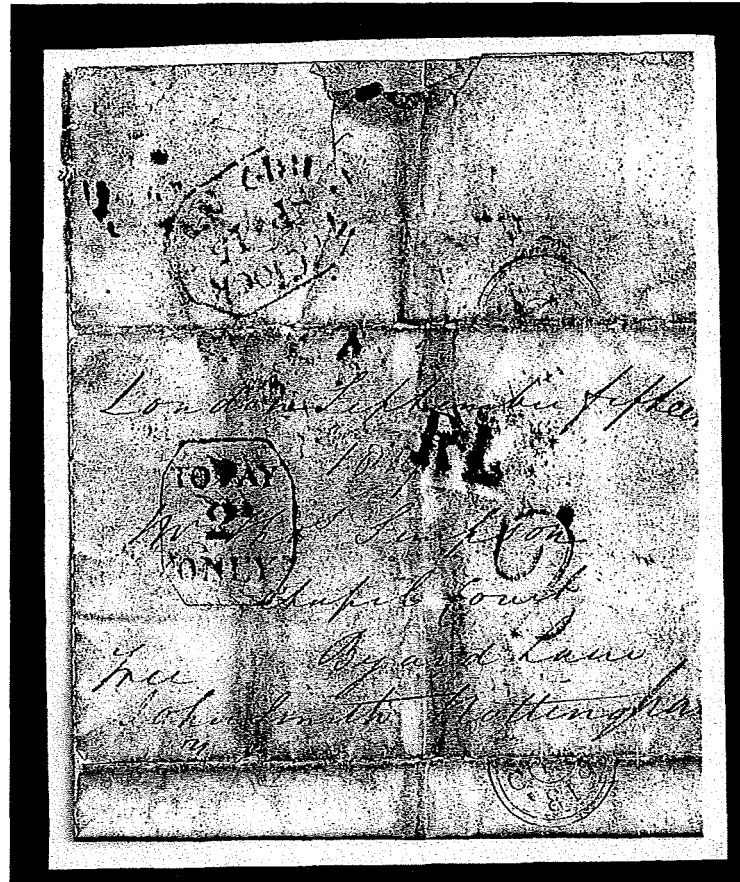
Reproductions of the items referred to are on the next two pages in the order referred to in the article.



Enclosed 4mm serifed R.L. on letter from London to Bath - 28th April 1864



6mm serifed R.L. with dot centrally - London to Nottingham.



10mm serifed RL with dot between - dated 18th September 1819 addressed to Nottingham



Example of crowned R for redirection but unseen by the writer

TOWCESTER CHARGE & INSTRUCTION STAMPS OF THE 1960'S

by John Hime

In the mid 1960's by youngest brother Bill, who was still at school, assisted during the Xmas period at Towcester Post Office. Although I cannot remember the exact circumstances, perhaps as a result of my influence, he managed to make impressions of all the chrg and instruction stamps present in the office. These were struck on three pieces of inferior quality paper and in green ink with plenty of smudges. Nevertheless the reproductions shown below give a good record of the old stamps still present at that time in the Towcester Post Office.



Fig. 1

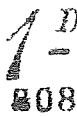


Fig. 2

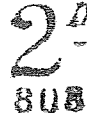


Fig. 3

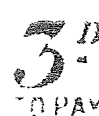


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

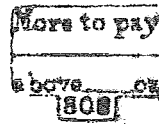


Fig. 6

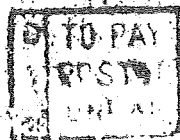


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

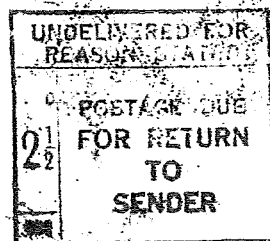


Fig. 9

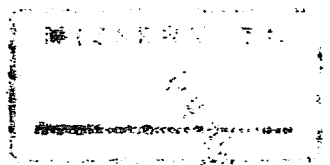


Fig. 10

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--|
| Fig. 1 | TC triangle | Fig. 2 | 1D/808 charge mark |
| Fig. 3 | 2D/808 charge mark | Fig. 4 | 3D/TO PAY (808) charge mark (808 not struck) |
| Fig. 5 | Liable to Letter Rate/808 | Fig. 6 | More to pay/above-----oz/808 |
| Fig. 7 | D/ / 808 /TO PAY/POSTED /UNPAID | | |

(Towester charge marks continued)

Fig. 8. D/ 5 /808/ TO PAY/POSTED/UNPAID

Fig 9 UNDELIVERED FOR / REASON STATED / 2/1/2D / POSTAGE DUE / FOR RETURN / TO /
SENDER / 808

Fig.10 MISSENT TO/-----

Actual use:

I do not pretend to have an extensive collection of these stamps but can show examples of 5 of the 10 stamps including Fig. 4 showing the 808 at the base.



Fig. 1 used in the 1950's

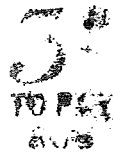


Fig. 4

1958

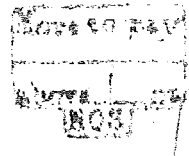


Fig. 6

1962



Fig. 7

1961

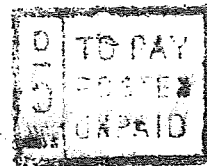


Fig. 8

1961

Fig. 1 Used on a QE 2 1/2d stamp of the 1950's

Fig. 2 Used - 07.1938 to 17.07.2964

Fig. 3 12.07.1962 to 17.07.1964

Fig. 4 02.06.1961

Fig. 5 29.11.1961

Some of these stamps were impressed in black ink but several were struck in green in similar to that used by brother Bill.

Editor's note - I remember my older brother working for the Post Office at Xmas when in the Sixth Form at the High School.. He delivered mail during the lead up to Xmas. That would have been in the late 1940's.

WOODHEAD TUNNEL - A NAVVY'S LETTER HOME

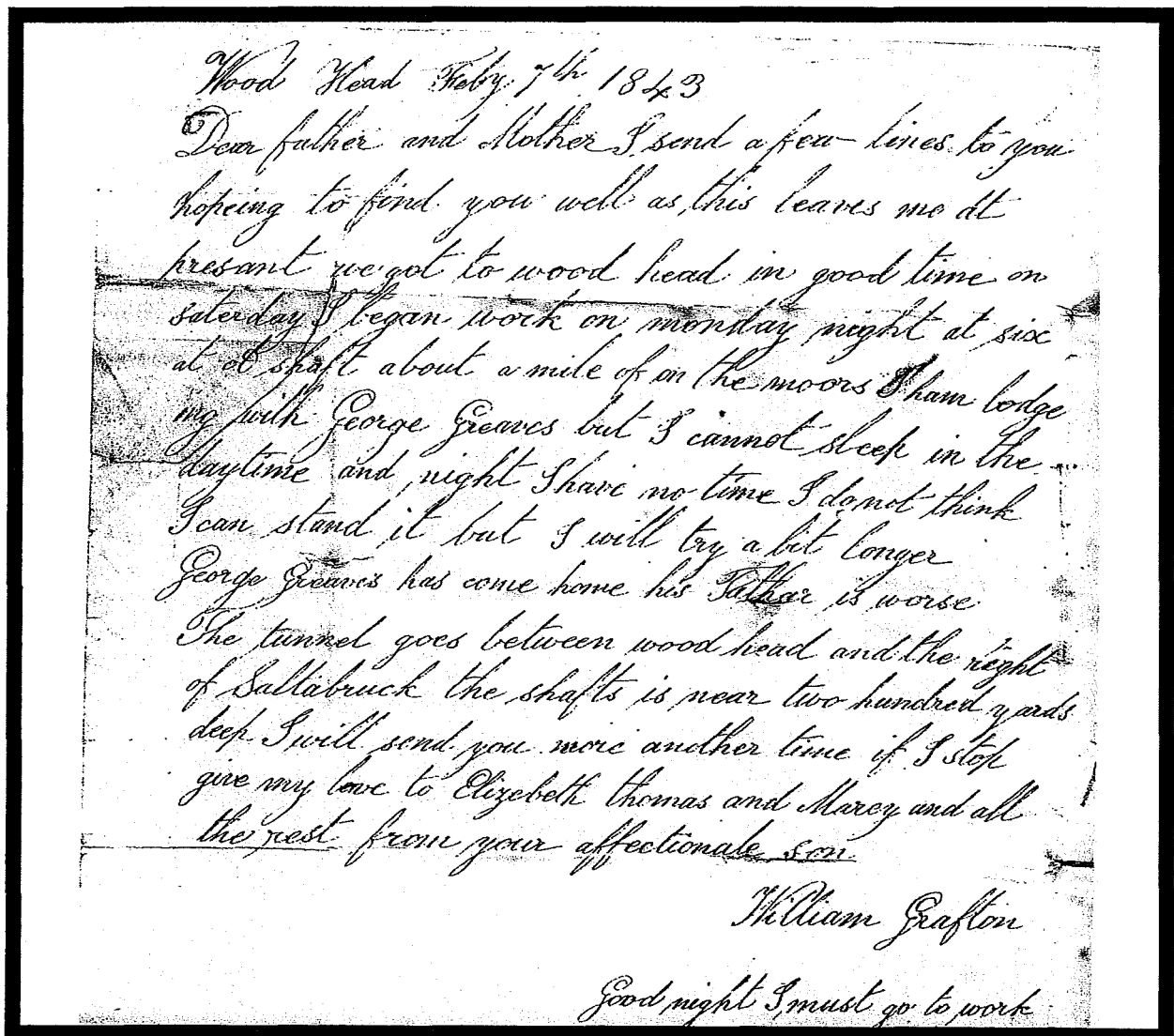
Clive Jones

I recently acquired an original railway navvy's letter sent from Woodhead in February 1843 during the construction of the first Woodhead Tunnel, which opened in 1845.

The letter was sent to the navvy's parents, at Whiston, Rotherham, Yorkshire. Apart from a Rotherham receiving mark, and a red '1' in manuscript there are no other postal markings. At this time the Woodhead came under Mottram, Cheshire, although it is now in Derbyshire and therefore qualified for Midland Mail!

This item is scruffy, but is nevertheless a rare survivor. We have to ask 'Why did it survive?' Perhaps young William Grafton was a casualty of the tunnel excavations. He was clearly not enjoying his new profession, and the lack of sleep in the bleak area in the depths of winter must have been no fun at all.

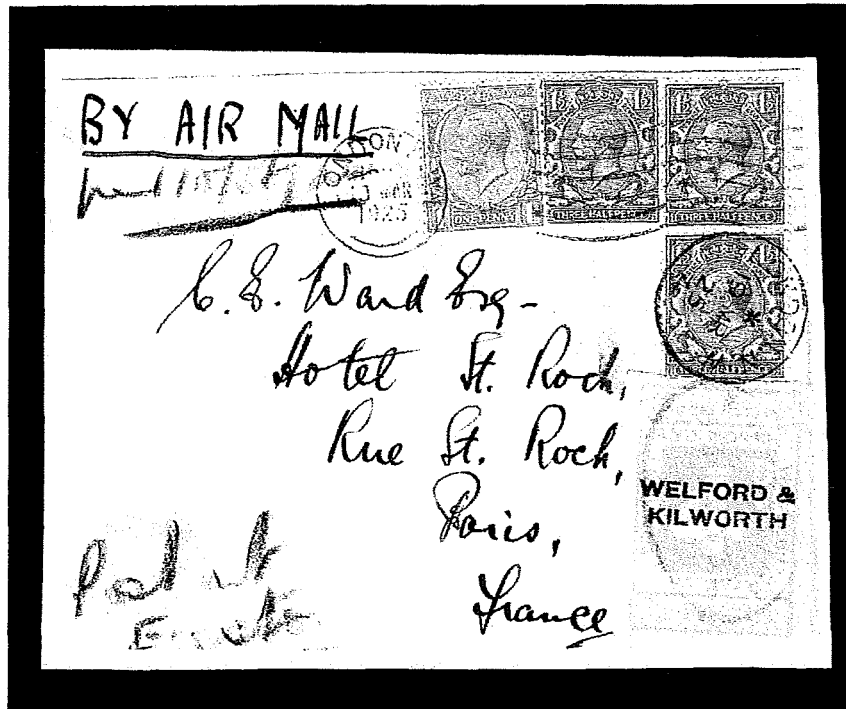
The letter is written in a clear hand and reads well as you can see.



Editor's note. It was John Soer's article on the Woodhead tunnel which prompted Clive Jones to send this article, proving yet again the interest and importance of the contents as well as the postal markings of an item.

SNAIL MAIL, RAIL MAIL & AIR MAIL
by Derek Smeathers

The front of the cover illustrated below shows a number of interesting items, it was handed in at the railway station known as Welford and Kilworth on 19th March 1925 and a railway letter fee of 4d was paid, acknowledged by the Parcel stamp attached to the bottom right corner. This was one of the dull pink adhesive stamps issued by the London & North Western Railway; but at this date that Company had been "grouped" in to the London, Midland & Scottish Railway and they were clearly using up the available supplies of such adhesives. This one had been overprinted with the station name, and was now cancelled with the oval station datestamp in violet.



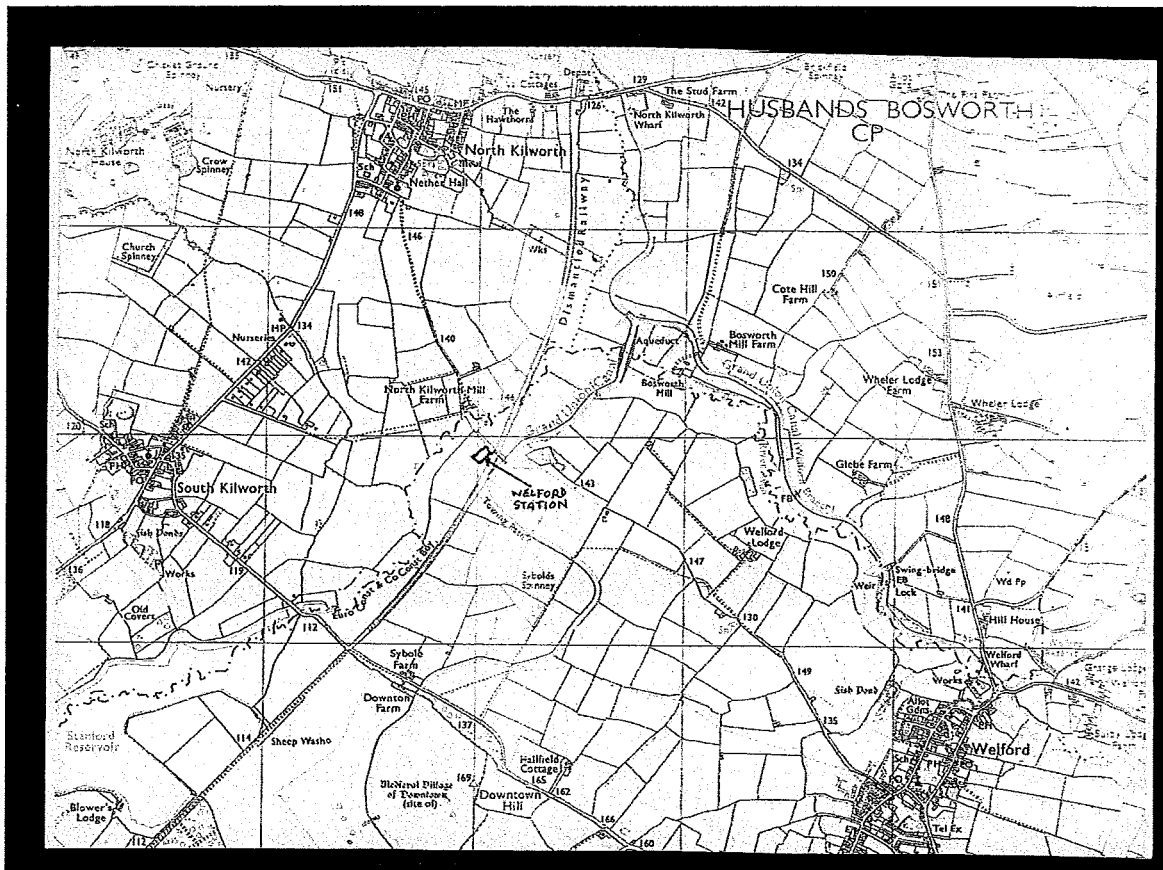
Cover Welford to Paris- March 1925

The name of the station had changed four times since it was opened in 1850 on the line from Rugby to Market Harborough. The construction of this line had been started by the London & Birmingham Railway, which had become part of the London & North Western by the time it was completed and opened in 1850 - including the station named WELFORD. It was in fact almost two miles from the village of that name (in Northamptonshire) and was actually nearer to two Leicestershire villages, North Kilworth and South Kilworth. The station was built on a site between the infant River Avon, which rises in the Northants Uplands near Naseby, and the Grand Union Canal a few yards further east, the County Boundary runs along the river so the station itself was within Northants. In 1853 the name changed to WELFORD, KILWORTH. In 1855 it was changed again to WELFORD & KILWORTH. In 1897 it became WELFORD & LUTTERWORTH, whilst in 1913 it was again officially WELFORD & KILWORTH and remained so until it and the whole line were closed in 1966. Today, there is nothing left to show there was ever a station here, nothing but the odd loose brick in the nettles along the canal bank.

To return to the cover, it is marked in black crayon "per 10/51 train" and "Post and Euston" so it would return to Rugby by local service, there to be passed on to the next Euston bound express. Three of the postage stamps were cancelled by London N.W.1 machine, the other was missed by the machine and was separately cancelled with a c.d.s. of London N.W.

Marked "BY AIR MAIL" and addressed to Paris, France the letter would now go to the newly-named Croydon Aerodrome (previous Waden Aerodrome) where there were no terminal buildings as yet (built between 1926 and 1928), for the flight to Paris. There were British, French and Belgian airlines operating the London-Paris route, but there being no reception marks or Paris handstamps it is not known exactly when the letter arrived.

The total cost has been 9 1/2d, made up of GPO postage to France 2 1/2d, Air Mail fee 3d and Railway Letter Fee 4d. Railway collectors may wonder why the Railway Fee is not double the GPO postage, as laid down in the 1890 Agreement. The answer is that the fee was to be double the Inland postage as confirmed by the Postmaster General. When the inland postage was reduced from 2d to 1 12/d on 25th May 1922, the Postmaster General did not confirm that the Railway Fee could be reduced from 4d. to 3d. until 1928.



Map showing relative position of Kilworth and Welford - the position of Welford Station is marked near the centre of the map



Auction
7th March 2012



The Thompson Original Dockwra of May 1682



Catalogues available on-line early February 2012 at

www.cavendish-auctions.com

Email: stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk

Cavendish House, 153-157 London Road,

ACRBB MC1 2SB UK

Phone: 01332 250970

Fax: 01332 294440

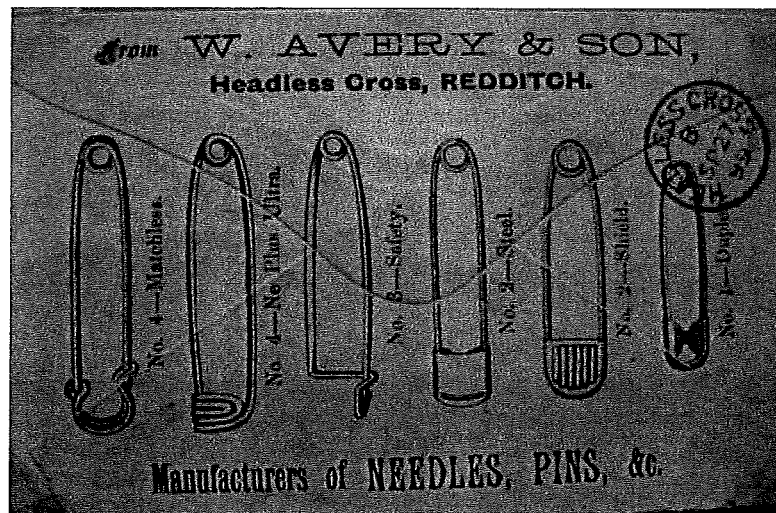
The following item appeared in the Post Office Magazine for November 1937

Bromsgrove, Birmingham

The new Post Office at Bromsgrove, that thriving little town which sits astride the main road from Birmingham to Worcester was opened on September 1st by Mr E.Guy Bigwood, Chairman of Bromsgrove U.D.C. Mr Bigwood, on being introduced by Mr J.Grindley, Assistant Postmaster, Birmingham, deputising for Mr T.B.Braund, Postmaster-Surveyor, who was absent on leave, proceeded to unlock the main entrance door with a silver gilt key presented to him by Mr Albert Brazier, head of the firm of contractors who erected the building. On entering the office, Mr Bigwood made the first purchase over the counter - a 5s. book of stamps - and also sent the first telegram. Later the large party of guests, which included many members of the U.D.C. and representatives of the professions and business life of the district, assembled in the Sorting Office. Where Mr Bigwood addressed them. He told them of the numerous difficulties which had to be overcome by the Post Office before the new building could be provided, and in very happy vein related many good stories concerning the Post Office services, which served in the main, to illustrate their efficiency. They would agree, he said, that the beautiful new building was a credit to all concerned.

Mr A.Rutter, representing the Office of Work, proposed a thanks to Mr Bigwood and paid tribute to the contractors, with whom, he stated, the happiest relations obtained Mr Grindley, in supporting the vote, expressed the hope that the staff at Bromsgrove would find satisfaction in the new office. The new Post Office was erected to the design of Mr C.J.Moles, of H.M.Office of Works. It occupies a site adjoining the old office, and in appearance and equipment attains the high standard which characterises modern Post Office building.

An item from Chris Jackson's Needlemakers Competition winning entry.



Tailpiece from the Editor- I would like to thank everyone for sending me articles together with illustrations. I am still on rather a learning curve but am I hope learning fast. Like an old dog learning new tricks!