MIDLAND (G.B.) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY 1975

Chairman
Richard Farman
124 Henhurst Hill
Burton on Trent
Tel No 66515

Treasurer
Peter Baxter
72 Midhurst Road
Kings Norton
Birmingham

Secretary
W.J.Chester
17 Rock Close
Coventry
Tel No 81902

B U L L E T I N NO. 1 3 A P R I L 79.

****

Editorial

ON STRIKE ?

Please accept apologies for the delay in issueing this Bulletin No. 13 - slow in formation but quick in its birth. The last issue of a Bulletin was in November 78 some five months ago. I am afraid 'black ice' and poor road conditions kept your Editor in hospital and 'under the weather' for some time.

There has been three succesful Society Meetings since last November - and members have had notice of all of them.

This Bulletin will be short - not through lack of material - but in order to give you sufficient notice to prepare for the AGM and get some items out for our Postal History Auction. (see next item).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — NOTICE & AGENDA

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Our FOURTH AGM will be held on Saturday 21st APRIL 79 at the Birmingham & Midland Institute commencing at 2.00 pm and will be followed by our Annual Postal History Auction at approx. 3.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Last AGM (available in Room)
3. Any matters arising
4. Officers Reports : Chairman
   Secretary
   Treasurer
5. Election of Officers (as above)
   Plus Bulletin Editor
6. 1979/1980 Society Meetings and Venues
7. Any other business.

AUCTION DETAILS

It is hoped that an auction catalggue will be issued with this Bulletin. Material will be accepted on the day as we are a little short in items at the moment.

Will all members who have sent list of items to Editor remember to bring the items with them on the day. Guests and friends will be welcomed at Auction - so bring someone along with you and help support your Society in our last event of the 1978/79 season.

Thank you.

CONTENTS

Page Two : ODDS and ENDS from Post Box

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CONTENTS

Page Two : ODDS and ENDS from Post Box
Page Three New Members, Report on last Meeting and 'The Missent Handstamps from Birmingham' by Eric Lewis
Page Four Illustrations
Page Five Article
Page Six Postal History Crossword

ODDS AND ENDS from Editor's Post Bag

ONE Alan Spencer has informed us that the BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY will he holding their Auction on Wednesday 25th April (preview on 18th April). Items included will cover the following postal history (including some EL's from 1731, WW1 covers, postal stationery etc. A free catalogue can be obtained from Alan by writing to him at 24a Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands. Suggest you send a stamp.

TWO Sequel to BIRMINGHAM RUBBER DATE STAMPS in Bulletin No. 10 by Ted Coles.
Our Treasurer, Peter Baxter, tells us that he has the following items in addition to those that Ted has listed:

			Colour
Curdworth	Birmingham	12 AP 12	Purple
Fen End	Birmingham	undated	Purple
Great Barr	Birmingham	12 JU 17	Black
Hall Green	Birmingham	2 MA 15	Black
Romsley	Birmingham	10 OC 14	Black
Tyburn	Birmingham	1 SE 14	Black

No doubt Ted will note these additonal 'rubbers' - have you any that have not yet been listed ? Look up Bulletin No 10 and check. Let me know so they can be published.
(Editor, 13 Station Road, Hinckley, Leics.)

THREE LEAMINGTON SPA - remember the interesting article by Peter Sharp on the Leamington Post Office (see Bulletin No 12 November last). Peter Baxter queries the date of 1887 for the alteration of the squared circle Leamington Spa - he has one is his possesion dated 26 March 1886 - a year earlier than previously published.
Our Treasurer also raises the interesting query as to why the town name took so long in 'changing'. Queen Victoria acceded to the requests of inhabitants in 1838 that they might henceforth style their town 'Royal Leamington Spa'. He asks whether the Post Office Authorities resisted the change in the postal markings as resistence to an 'early slogan postmark' ?

NEW MEMBERS (and unpaid members) This Bulletin will be sent out to all members as listed last year - if you have not paid your annual subscription of £1.50 to our Treasurer - please do so immediately - otherwise this is the last Bulletin you will receive. B.H.Atkins & R.R.Trevor
We welcome our new members - Peter Baxter and I will get together and issue details of new members in our next

REPORT ON MARCH MEETING (held in Leamington Spa on 17th)

Members may recall that on the 17th the Midlands was once again covered in SNOW. Nevertheless six members braved the snow and arrived at 'Oddfellows Hall'. The small attendance did not deter members from having a very informative meeting. Gay Parker gave a short display on local history of Bedworth, Elizabeth and Eric Lewis joined forces a gave a good display of Birmingham Duplex Marks. Richard Farman, our Chairman, illustrated a World wide display of postmarks. Peter Sharp, batting on his own ground, showed Warwick and Leamington Duplex Marks. Secretary showing a wide range of Machine Cancellations of Coventry from 1926 to the present day.

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P.S. We still propose to hold a special meeting regarding the 'care and protection' of postal history material whilst in storage. Watch this space ***
If you, as a member, would like your Committee to organize a meeting of special interest to you - do not hesitate to let the Secretary know.
(W.S.Chester, 17 Rock Close, Coventry, Warwicks.)

NEW MEMBERS

The following are welcomed as new members of the Society :

B.A.Brookes, 129 Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, Halesowen.

John C.W.Field, Francis Field Ltd. Sutton Coldfield

J.G.Tarleton, 499 Burton Road, Midway, Nr. Burton on Trent

Mrs. M.A.Hurst, 14 Shawfield Road, Hadfield, Hyde, Cheshire

J.A.Taylor, c/o 124 Henhurst Hill, Burton on Trent.

REPORT ON BURTON ON TRENT MEETING

Members will recall that we held a meeting on 10th February at The Bass Museum Burton on Trent - thirteen members braved the cold weather and visited the Museum to attend a small but informative meeting.
Our Chairman issued the illustrated Duplex Cancellation and Recording sheet for same. A lively discussion followed resulting in a change in the outlay of the Recording Shhets. The amended sheets will be issued to members at next meeting (and at the AGM).
John Calladine showed an excellent selection of County Maps suitable to enhance any P/H collection.
The high light of the afternoon being our Annual Competition in which five members displayed five excellent nine sheet entries. Two members who judged the displays were pushed hard to find a winner - eventually they were unanimous in selecting Eric Lewis's display of 'BIRMINGHAM UNDATED CIRCLES' as the winner. The Chairman presented Eric with the Society Shield to keep for the forthcoming 12 months.

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THE MISSENT HANDSTAMPS OF BIRMINGHAM
by Eric Lewis

Up until 1793 letters sent to the wrong post towns were returned to London for re-sorting at the Dead Letter Office, but in this year (1793) it was decided by the Post Office that such letters should be forwarded direct to their correct Towns with the normal mails with an endorsement to indicate the reason for the delay. This endorsement was at first in manuscript but within a few years many Towns began to use suitable handstamps.

One of the first Towns to use such a handstamp was Birmingham where a staight line type was introduced in the early years of the 19th century. Fig. 1 illustrates the use of this mark on an 1805 cover addressed to Higham, but it will be seen from the illustration that the writer finished the Esq. in such a way that the postal clerk read the post town as Birmingham. This mark continued in use until it was replaced by a single line oval : see Figure 2.

The second example of the two that I have of this type is on a letter sheet dated 1825 and shows wear to the oval frame and lettering. This no doubt led to the introduction of a new handstamp of similar type but with a double lined oval (Figure 3) which continued in use until the early 1840's when a circular type (Figure 4) was brought into use.

The last type used at Birmingham in the 1850's before missent handstamps went out of use, was astraight line similar to the first type, but in two lines instead of three (see Figure 5). This is probably the scarcest of the FIVE types and I have not seen it illustrated in any published literature.
(see page 4 for illustrations of five types).

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Next Issue : Will be published sometime in August giving details of next Season's meetings and programme. In the meantime see what YOU can do about improving our membership. Just send name and address of potential new member to Peter Baxter, 72 Midhurst Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham.

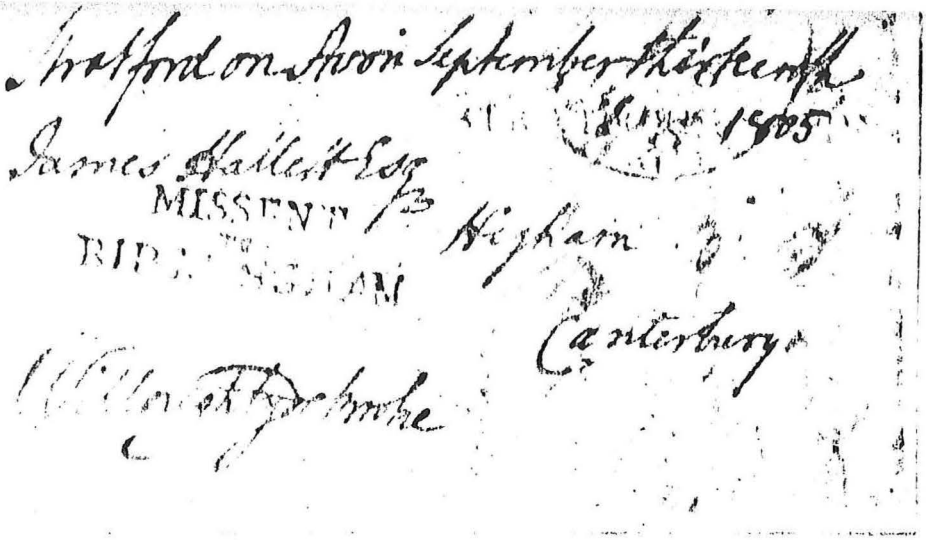


Figure One

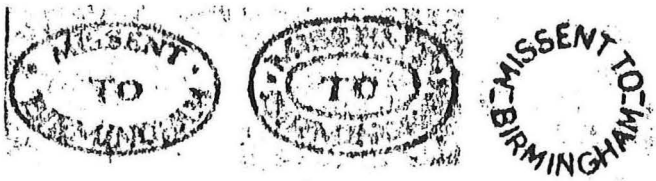


FIG 2 FIG 3 FIG 4

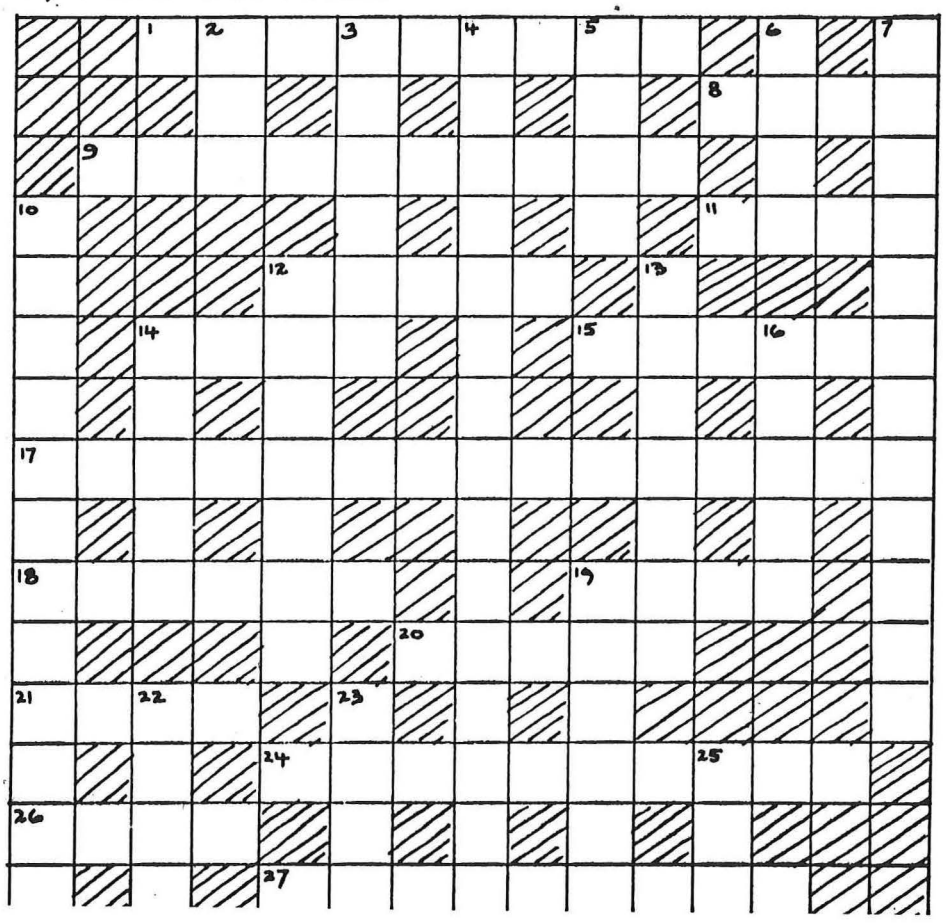
MISSENT.TO
BIRMINGHAM FIG 5

Figures 2 : 3 : 4 and 5.

THE MISSENT HANDSTAMPS OF BIRMINGHAM by Eric Lewis

A POSTAL HISTORY CROSSWORD (See Page 6)

by John Calladine



LIVE and LEARN

by

Robert A. Hunt.

Do you ever wish you pursued a nice easy pastime like stamp collecting, rather than postal history ? I know I do ! I even gave up some years ago and sold my collection - a move I have regretted ever since.

I first discovered postal history in the shape of a few tatty penny red covers which a friend gave to me. I was so green that I thought they were marvellous !

Gradually I began to learn a lot more about postal history and decided to form a collection of Warwickshire material. Alas I soon found myself spending more and more money only to find that I had to let a lot of materials slip through my fingers because I could not afford it. It was then, in sheer frustration, that I sold the lot.

Some time later I found that selling my collection had done nothing to appease my desire to collect postal history. In fact I found my G.B. stamp cpllection, which I had not sold, no longer interested me. Rows of unmounted mint commems left me cold.

After a lot of hard thinking I decided to start all over again, but this time to restrict myself to my own area: Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington. Shortly afterwards a well known postal historian asked me what area I was interested in. When I told him he chuckled and said "Well, there's nothing worth collecting from that area so it won't take you long !"

He made that comment three years ago. Ever since that time I have been proving him wrong !

True, early material is virtually non-existent - for instance I still need an example of the Bedworth undated circular village type mark as listed in the County Catalogue (any offer anyone ?) but I have amassed a sizeable collection of material from the turn of the century onwards.

This includes such items as a scarce Bedworth skeleton used on a parcel post label; early use of the Nuneaton double ring cds - 1896; and late use of the Nuneaton duplex - 1911. More modern material includes postage due items, mis-send and re-directed mail, slogans and special handstamps.

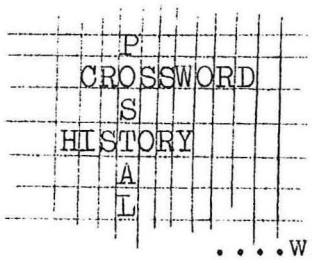
With the impending changes in the handling of Warwickshire mail with Coventry taking over most of the work I decided to expand my collection to include the whole of the present Nuneaton postal district and at the same time to photograph every office in the area and to get examples of the postmarks used. I did not realise that this would mean visiting nearly three dozen offices!

Alas I live at the Coventry end of the Nuneaton postal district. Thus offices a mile away come under Coventry waile many Nuneaton offices are over the border in Leicestershire. I found myself travelling miles into Leicestershire villages I had never even heard of to track down the offices in such places as Barton in the Beans and Sutton Cheney. What at first appeared to be something of a chore turned out, however, to be most pleasant because I discovered many charming villages on my travels.

I also cheated slightly by including other nearby villages in my collection of pictures and postmarks which fell outside the Nuneaton postal district but which were near to me. This added another dozen villages in the Hinckley, Coventry and Rugby districts to my list of places to visit. I have, however, stopped myself from getting involved with the postal history of these fringe areas - so far.

Scouring the files of Nuneaton library has also produced a lot of information, as of course have the standard works on postal history. But far from being a simple straightforward area to study I am finding it more and more complicated. For instance at different times different parts of the present postal district have been served by three different post towns.

Some three years after embarking on this serious study I now realise just how little I know about the postal history of my own area. One day no doubt all the pieces of the puzzle will fall into place. But why oh ! why did I not stick to those nice rows of unmounted mint G.B. ? It was all so easy then.



....with apologies to the Daily Telegraph.

(See Page 4.)

ACROSS

1. Let Spenser go ! (4,5)
8. The quintessence of any case (4)
9. A painter indeed but was Hill his father ? (10)
11. Sometimes hired but free in the Midland G.P.O. P.H.S. (4)
12. The State of the pony express ? (5)
14. Has carried mail in the Sudan (4)
15. Present parlance, if not value, for what two sheets needed in 1840 (3,1,2)
17 &21. It followed Dockwra (10,5,4)
18. Contents not examined ? (6)
19. A fee paid for this delay (4)
20. Played in good faith, we hope (5)
24. Your collection may be of neat prim co mixed up.... (10)
26. .... but in the same place (4)
27. Annual payment in the Emerald Isle ? (5,4)

DOWN

2. Twelve penny blacks in one (3)
3. Overjoyed little Edward is overdue inside (6)
4. Revolutionary islander annoyed (3,7,5)
5. Between morning and evening duty (4)
6 & 16. Payment for 2½ ozs 138 years ago (4,5)
7. Rowland's achievement (3,5,4)
10. Postage due (5,6)
12. Tap door differently for high route (3,4)
13. Helps get rid of duplicates (5,2)
14,22 & 19. Afloat near the white cliffs (5,4,6)
23. Alternative Eros (4)
25. Snare at cost (3)

Answer will be published in next Bulletin