

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



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Number 29, March 1983

## The Magic Box

Our Treasurer, Peter Baxter, has a problem. Each year he receives a number of Society subscriptions by post, some accompanied by a letter. As a matter of courtesy he would like to reply to each member individually but he knows better than anyone that the Society's slender finances would be stretched by the extra cost. He has therefore asked the Bulletin to thank, on his behalf, everyone who has paid a subscription this season and to express the Society's appreciation of the continued support it receives from its stalwart members. There remains only the problem of those who cannot remember whether they have yet parted with £2-50. This is where the magic box comes in. If it is a white box, you have paid: if it is a black box, you haven't. Being a magic box, it should do the trick.



## The Society Auction

Details of the April meeting are given later in the Bulletin but now is the time to sort out any items you wish to include in the Society Auction. Please send details of each item, including an accurate description and a Reserve price, to Elizabeth and Eric Lewis (whose address appears at the top of the page) to arrive not later than 14th March. However, please do not send the actual material. Elizabeth and Eric have kindly offered to prepare the auction list and will send a copy to all members. Last year there were some excellent bargains and, sadly, some very nice items were unsold. This year, please spread the word - we have a tip-top auction at the Midland PHS.

## The January Meeting

Twenty five members and guests packed the modest meeting room at Dr Johnson House on 22nd January to enjoy a quite remarkable display by the Society's guest of honour, eminent postal historian Mr Martin Willcocks. Any one of the five parts of his presentation would, in itself, have provided an afternoon's entertainment and a special edition of the Bulletin would be needed merely to catalogue everything we were shown. Even an extended report can do no more than hint at the scope and flavour of the display.

Mr Willcocks described the first part of the display as "a personal collection of historical letters". As a lesson in English history, it would not have been out of place. We saw a document of 1440 from the Siege of Honfleur, a list of those detained after the Gunpowder Plot and sent within five days of the event as a warning to others, a letter signed by Charles I after his momentous and abortive visit to parliament to arrest five members and a dramatic Plague letter describing horrific conditions in a London house where children lay dead on the floor and staff had nailed up the doors of their rooms. A captain of a ship still 12 miles from London described the closure of the river by one of the Great Frosts, another letter told of stock prices at the time of the South Sea Bubble and a letter giving news of Bonnie Prince Charlie's withdrawal from Derby provoked a quite unexpected discussion among erudite members who laid claim to considerable knowledge of troop dispositions during the '45 Rising. There was a letter from Lord Nelson to Lady Hamilton acknowledging his child, a letter from Napoleon on St Helena and one from General Gordon at Khartoum, probably smuggled out of the siege in the hair of a native. There was an Army telegram announcing the 1918 Armistice and a report from the 1933 Everest expedition after the failed attempt on the summit. By now we were all obsessed with the contents of letters, forgetting for the moment that we normally concern ourselves with the outside markings almost to the exclusion of the writing within.

The second part of the display opened with the rhetorical question "What is a letter?". If we thought we knew, we had our horizons stretched by Babylonian clay tablets which were inscribed, half baked and then baked again after a clay 'envelope' had been put around them. We saw a lovely example of the ubiquitous papyrus, a rare letter of 1436 written in English (rather than the customary Latin or French) and a Venetian merchant's letter of 1483 from London. The puzzle of the 'Haste Post Haste' letters was laid before us; one signed at every stage and another only at the bottom. Another mystery was a Private Express of 1833 which might or might not have been operated by the powerful Rothschilds or even by the Post Office itself. Now we moved to more familiar postal markings but early and rare examples:

1701 marks of Coventry and Bolton, early Knots/ford and Knuts/ford town stamps, a monogrammed W<sup>T</sup>N of Warrington, a first-type mileage mark of Warwick used as late as 1811 and - highlight of highlights - the Midland PHS' favourite mark, a 1772 Birmingham 'chandelier'; arguably the finest known strike. We were shown the recently publicised Jamaican 'Bishop' marks and a soldier's letter from Hindustan to North America via London, all for 2d unpaid. A fine and ominous 'gallows letter' completed an outstanding display of early postal history.

In the post-1840 material, the philatelists were promised some adhesive stamps and they were not to be disappointed. There were some of the original entries for the Treasury Competition, 'blacks' by the strip, 'blues' by the block, 'Mulready' proofs, early roulettes and perforations, and the top two rows of a mint sheet of the perforated 2d plate 9. We learned much about the use of cloth-covered handstamps (a trick of the trade that probably started in that mecca of innovation, Birmingham) and admired some rare and unusual House of Commons items. There was a wrapper from the well-intentioned 'Posted in Advance for Delivery on Xmas Day' experiment and pages of early duplex and machine cancels. Your reporter liked the Melton, Suffolk handstamp, made in 1788 and still used in 1840. To match the paper, there was hardware - Wyon medals in three sizes, coaching tokens and a variety of stamp boxes; some of humble brass manufacture, some of silver.

Cinderella enthusiasts revelled in the fourth part of Mr Willcocks' display. There were the College Stamps including those of the three Cambridge colleges that used them, Railway Stamps, Circular Delivery items, the Court Bureau (of brief existence) and, for airmail fans, an example of the rarest of the advertising cards used in the 1911 Windsor flights.

When he came to the final part of his display, Registered Mail, Mr Willcocks confided that it was his current favourite. His examples came from all over the world and, though he pointed out that overseas registration from England was available by 1782, the first cover he showed was a French one of 1792. The English examples were impressive: an 'F.O.' in a circle of dots (a mark that is still something of a mystery), inland registered letters with 1d blacks and 2d blues, a registered 2d 'Mulready' and nice examples of each of the embossed stamps on registered letters. We saw the special Norwich hand stamp and learned something of the 3d rate for appeals against inclusion on the voting register. Not only was there a green wrapper (which played such an important part in the early registration procedure) but an example of a provisional white wrapper. A lovely range of 'Crown Registered' items included Jersey, Liverpool, Ireland and, unusually, the Coln-Verriera

TPO which was British administered. As a spectacular finale we were shown registered items from the hyper-inflation days of Germany and Russia which were 'wallpapered' with high value stamps. One even had a banknote attached when stamps ran out !

The stylish vote of thanks from Mike Young on behalf of the members paid tribute to Martin Willcocks' remarkable span of knowledge and to his flair for attracting individual and unusual material. However he suggested that the natives' skill in smuggling letters from Khartoum in their hair might be matched by our lady chairman and that a check at the door for the Birmingham 'chandelier' would be in order. The prolonged applause for Mr Willcocks told its own story.

### The February Meeting

The meeting on 19th February in Birmingham attracted a dozen members but, more significantly, nine very fine entries to our Annual Competition.

1. The Foreign Branch of the British Post Office. A Bishop mark of 1702 was followed by the datestamps that replaced it at the turn of the 19thc, a packet rate stamp of 1820, British Foreign handstamps first used in 1836, an 'inspector's crown', a 'Returned for Postage' handstamp and stamps used in the Birmingham Foreign Branch.

2. The Early TPOs and their Missent Handstamps. A collection of rarely seen marks including 'Missent to Railway Post Office', 'Missent to Rugby & Newcastle RWPO', 'Missent to Gt Western RWPO', 'Missent to GN Railway Post Office/Day', 'MSt Caledonian RPO/Day' and 'MSt Caledonian RPO/Night'.

3. Bow Street, Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury had a vast number of sub-offices (151 of them), some of them a very long way from the town (70 miles !). This entry told the story of one of them, Bow Street.

4. A Short Study of the Oswestry Posts 1700-1840. A narrative account of the Oswestry post including letters from 1716 to 1839 illustrating, inter alia, the route to and from London, the route from Oswestry to Harlech, unofficial local delivery (a letter with a 1/2d charge mark) and the penny post

5. Stone Posts. Not pre-clay tablet letters but the post of Stone (Staffs) which was a provincial office of considerable importance on the Chester Road with major by-posts. It was one of the first provincial towns to have a namestamp and, among the highlights, was a handstamp of 1740 with the 'N' and 'E' of 'STONE' joined.

6. London Postmarks on Foreign Mail. Examples of duplex, single ring, Krag, Alma, Hooded circle, squared circle, double ring, Hoster and Hey Dolphin

marks on correspondence between London and such places as Germany, France, Switzerland, Mexico, India, Malaya, Malta and Australia.

7. Coventry Parcel Post Labels 1801-1920. Some twenty parcel post labels illustrating different Coats of Arms, accounting procedures, the X-list, charges, registration, office description and parcel post handstamps.

8. Worcestershire Postal History of the 18th Century. Early handstamps of nine towns: Tenbury 1789, Worcester 1735, Bewdley 1764, Bromsgrove 1785, Droitwich 1785, Evesham 1713, Kidderminster 1773, Pershore 1791 and, most important of course, Stourbridge 1785.

9. Straight Line Handstamps of Derby to 1811. (This entry was withdrawn when, late in the judging, it became clear that the competitor had two entries. It included very fine examples of Derby handstamps used in the periods 1705-11, 1720-40, 1742-57, 1758-66, 1763-65, 1767-69, 1780-84, 1790-98 and 1797-1801.

The judges found that the unusually high standard of the competition this year made their task unenviable but, after long deliberation, decided that Dennis Salt's study of the Oswestry posts had won the day as an entry that told, and illustrated, its story best in the allotted nine pages notwithstanding the formidable quality of some of the rare material in other entries. The Missent marks of the early TPOs provided a splendid runner-up.

#### Forthcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 12th March at Dr Johnson House, Bull St, Birmingham, and will begin at 2 o'clock as usual. This is the only occasion this season when members will have the chance to bring along up to nine sheets to display informally. If you can find material connected, in any way, with the theme 'Transport' so much the better but any other topic will also be welcome.

The final meeting of the 1982/83 season will also be at Dr Johnson House on Saturday 16th April at 2 o'clock. (Please make a note of the date as there will not be another Bulletin before it.) This meeting will include what promises to be a very good Society Auction indeed. The auction will be preceded by a short Annual General Meeting. Committee members are requested to attend a Committee Meeting at 1 o'clock.

As postal bids for the auction will be accepted, please ensure that your description of lots entered includes a realistic assessment of quality, whether it be 'fair', 'fine' or 'superb'. Lots should be brought to the meeting but, exceptionally, Elizabeth & Eric will accept them by post in the week before the auction.

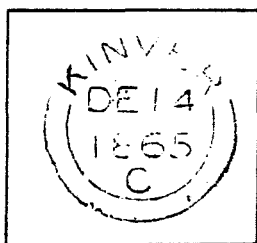
A STAFFORDSHIRE CDS CONUNDRUM

The first recorded issue of a circular date stamp to the village of Kinver in Staffordshire was on 21st May 1851. Not surprisingly, the stamp was of the large double arc type (25-26mm dia) and the lettering was sans-serif. That the village name was rendered as "KINVAR" is also no surprise as that had been the spelling used on the preceding penny post stamp.



Large diameter double arc stamps fell out of favour in about 1857 and thereafter circular date stamps tended to be smaller single rings, usually 19 or 20mm in diameter. Kinver's new-style stamp was issued in December 1858. The spelling was of the modern form and, because it was a short name, "KINVER" appeared across the ring rather than in an arc at the top.

In January 1860, the Steel Impression Books record the issue of a handful of circular date stamps of the old double arc type. They were probably recuts of existing stamps and among them is a Kinver stamp. In all respects, it appears identical to the stamp issued in 1851 but the village name has been recut to change "KINVAR" to "KINVER".



None of these Kinver date stamps are common but examples seen from the mid-1860s are all of the old type (recut). In fact this stamp may well have continued in use until 1870 when a second single ring was issued, very like the stamp of 1858 but with larger lettering.

Was the 1858 single ring stamp lost or damaged soon after issue?

Collectors of Staffordshire postal history may be able to throw some light on this apparent preference for an obsolete CDS and collectors of other Midland towns might like to let us know just who can claim the latest date of use of a double arc stamp. Please make your claims to the Editor .....



**ROGER HUDSON**

36 WEST STREET

WARWICK CV34 6AN

Telephone: Warwick (0926) 492326

Send for a copy of my latest list of G.B. cover material from 1840 onwards. It contains a wide selection of interesting and unusual items. All 'Wants Lists' receive my personal attention.

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We have an excellent range of Postal History including Transatlantic and Irish material, covering all price ranges. Please let us have your 'wants' lists. We also have a certain amount of non - British material on cover.

## Information Requested

A particularly interesting request for information has been received from Mr Peter Sharp, 6 Burns Road, Leamington Spa, Warwicks CV32 7EL. Mr Sharp has a cover of 1859 struck on the back with a dated Kenilworth mark but also the unusual 'Lower Kenilworth R.O.' mark illustrated. The strike of this mark is in deep blue ink. It is, of course, unusual because of the inclusion of 'R.O.' (presumed to be 'receiving office' but could it be, uniquely, 'railway office'?) in a stamp of this period. The Steel Impression Books in Post Office Archives show it to have been issued to Kenilworth on 14th November 1857.



Mr Sharp can find no mention of a Lower Kenilworth sub-office in any Kenilworth directory nor has he been any luckier with his enquiries at Warwick Records Office. No mention is made of the office in British Postal Guides of the period and there is no reference to it in the PMG's Minutes for Kenilworth.

Any information regarding this strike or the location of the sub-office would be appreciated.

Information Offered

A generous offer has been made by Mr John Soer to any of our members who, because of age, infirmity, poverty or even sloth, are unable to travel to Post Office Archives in London. During the summer months, he is prepared to examine the Steel Impression Books on their behalf to record undated marks issued to the sub-offices of their favourite Midland post town. A glance at the Leicestershire and Rutland list later in this Bulletin will indicate what John is capable of but it must be appreciated that it may take a little time to complete a requested assignment. Mr Soer's address is:

51D Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 2RG.

Registered Mail

Mr James A. Mackay's new book 'Registered Mail of the British Isles', mentioned in the last Bulletin, is now available. It runs to 395 pages (A4) and has 1,858 figures not including the illustrations which are interspersed in the text. The new book is available from the author at 11 Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LN and costs £12-00 post paid.

The Postal History Society at Stroud

Members who are also members of the Postal History Society may already be aware that a meeting is being held at Stroud, Gloucestershire, on Saturday 30th April to coincide with the Three Counties Federation Convention. Among the dealers with a stand at the convention is our advertiser Michael Jackson.

If any member would like to attend the meeting and would find it helpful to be driven to and from Cheltenham railway station (the first stop from Birmingham on Bristol or South Wales trains), please contact the Editor on 045-282-2218. A special feature of the Convention is an exhibit of Stroud Postal History by one of our youngest members, 16 year old Jonathan Calladine.

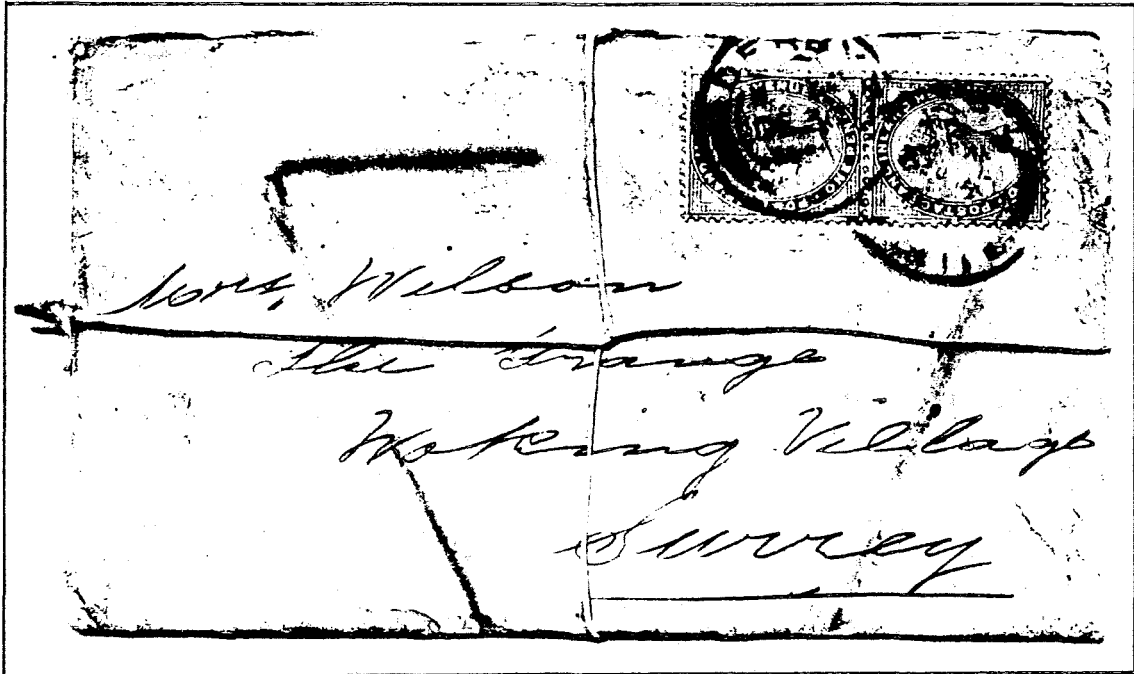
The Barred Numeral Cancellations of England and Wales

Mr John Parmenter of London has asked for help with a project he is working on. The aim is to produce a catalogue of all the single and duplex numeral cancellations of England and Wales. It will be organized on a county basis and will illustrate all the main types for each post office, with their period of use, rarity and price. In order to make it a useful catalogue, he needs as much information as possible and a questionnaire has been drawn up for each county - it does not involve measurement of the cancellations.



If you are willing to complete one or more of the county questionnaires, please contact the Bulletin Editor and let him know which questionnaire you require. If you prefer, write to Mr J. Parmenter at 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU and mention the Midland (GB) Postal History Society.

+ + +



LETTERS CONVEYED BY TRAIN before 1891

Elizabeth and Eric Lewis have found the cover illustrated above. It turned up in a mixed lot of material contributed to the BBC's 'Blue Peter' 1981 appeal and the auctioneers did not recognize its possible significance. The cover, tied up in string as a parcel and sealed on the back with wax, was posted at 11pm at Derby Station. The 'parcel' was fortunately opened by cutting the string at the knot and only partly removing it to slit the envelope.

The opening paragraph of the late Mr George Brumell's introduction to railway letters in Volume One of Robson Lowe's encyclopaedia says:

"Before 1891 it was illegal for railway companies to carry letters for the public except in the Mails. This prohibition was evaded by persons wanting to send urgent letters when no post was quickly available: the writer well remembers in his youth a newspaper correspondent who used to send his bulletin every night from a country town to the city in which his paper was published; he often called at the house of the writer's father for information he wanted, usually after the post had closed, and would then solemnly tie up his letter with string and take it to the railway station to catch the 10.30 train; the letter was accepted as a 'parcel' and taken by the train. It would be interesting to know if any such 'parcels' are now in existence, but it is very improbable."

BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

by John Parmenter

in conjunction with Michael Goodman and Michael Scott Archer



We are preparing a catalogue of all the single and duplex numeral cancellations of England and Wales.

The catalogue which will be organized on a county basis will illustrate all the main types for each Post Office, with their period of use, rarity and price.

In order to make it a useful catalogue we need as much information as possible on these cancellations, so a questionnaire has been drawn up for each county.

If you are willing to fill in one or more of these county questionnaires please indicate below which counties you collect and return this page to:

J Parmenter  
23 Jeffreys Road  
London  
SW4 6QU

|                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Anglesey        | Flintshire       | Northumberland  |
| Bedfordshire    | Glamorgan        | Nottinghamshire |
| Berkshire       | Gloucestershire  | Oxfordshire     |
| Breconshire     | Hampshire        | Pembrokeshire   |
| Buckinghamshire | Herefordshire    | Radnorshire     |
| Cambridgeshire  | Hertfordshire    | Rutland         |
| Cardiganshire   | Huntingdonshire  | Shropshire      |
| Carmarthenshire | Kent             | Somerset        |
| Carnarvonshire  | Lancashire       | Staffordshire   |
| Cheshire        | Leicestershire   | Suffolk         |
| Cornwall        | Lincolnshire     | Surrey          |
| Cumberland      | Merionethshire   | Sussex          |
| Denbighshire    | Middlesex        | Warwickshire    |
| Derbyshire      | Monmouthshire    | Westmorland     |
| Devon           | Montgomeryshire  | Wiltshire       |
| Dorset          | Norfolk          | Worcestershire  |
| Durham          | Northamptonshire | Yorkshire       |
| Essex           |                  |                 |
| Channel Islands | Isle of Man      | Isle of Wight   |







THE UNDATED CIRCULAR HANDSTAMPS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLANDby John Soer

For my own use, I have compiled from the Steel Impression Books of the Post Office Archives a list of the undated circular stamps of Leicestershire and Rutland from 1840 onwards. This listing is probably far from complete but I offer it in the hope that it may form the basis of a future, more detailed, catalogue incorporating such points as Colour of Ink and Period of Use. To this end, I should be pleased to hear from collectors who have copies of these marks or any not listed here.

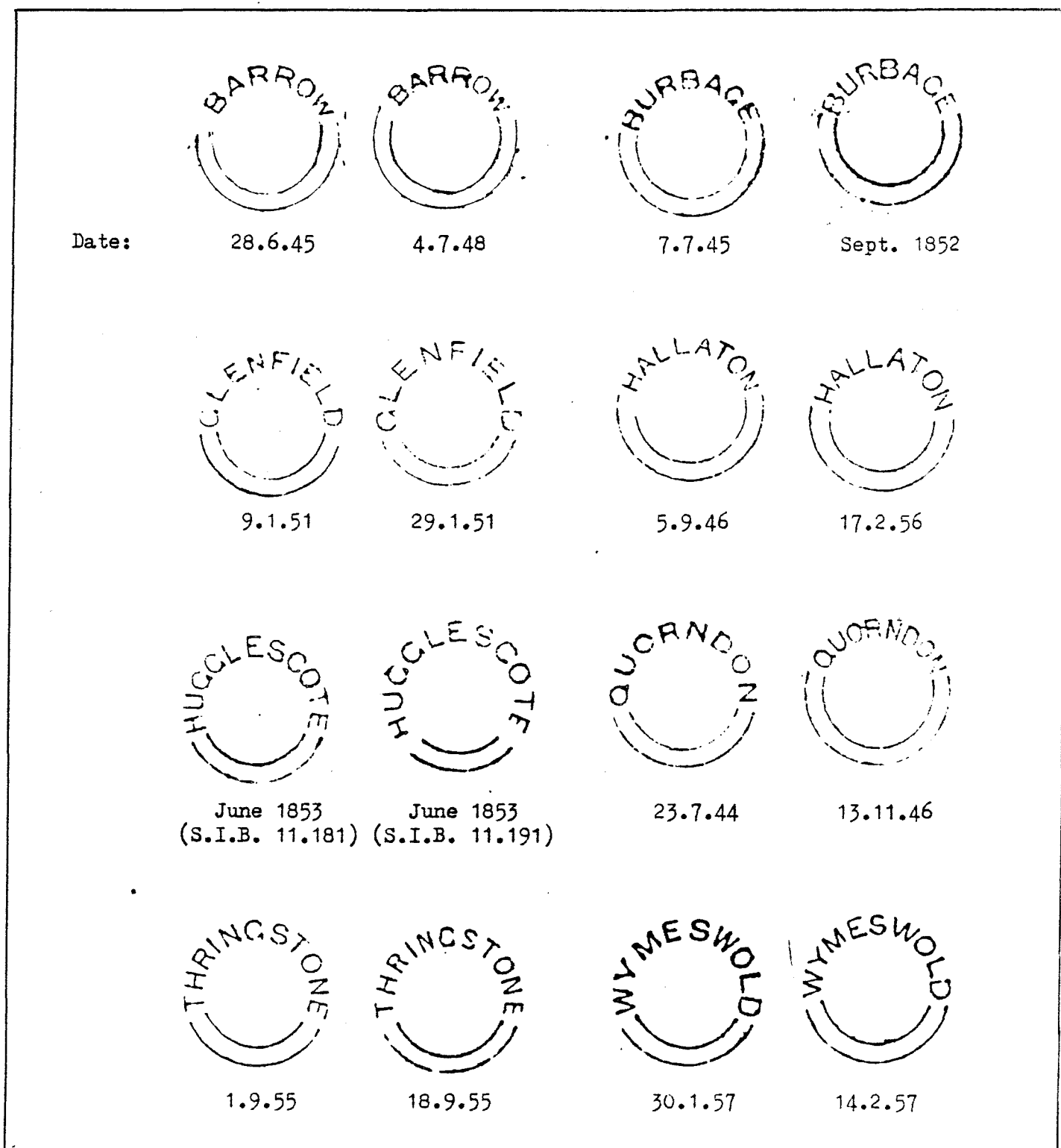
I have included the postmarks of villages in other counties when the post town to which they were issued was in Leicestershire or Rutland. The four columns of the list denote the Name on the Postmark, the Date of Issue, the Post Town to which it was sent, and the Volume and Page Number of the Steel Impression Book in which it is to be found. The Post Towns have been coded as follows:

|                      |                      |                   |              |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| AT Atherstone        | HK Hinckley          | MM Melton Mowbray |              |
| AZ Ashby-de-la-Zouch | LE Leicester         | NO Nottingham     | RG Rugby     |
| BT Burton-on-Trent   | LO Loughborough      | NU Nuneaton       | ST Stamford  |
| DE Derby             | LU Lutterworth       | OA Oakham         | UP Uppingham |
| GR Grantham          | MH Market Harborough | RO Rockingham     | WE Welford   |

For convenience, I have divided the marks into six types :-

|                       |   |  |   |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| Double-arc :-         | Type A  | Type B   | Type C  |
|                       |  |  |  |
| Lettering:            | Serif   | Sanserif   | Sanserif  |
| Approximate diameter: | 29 mm   | 25 mm  | 22 mm   |
|                       | Type D  | Type E   | Type F  |
|                       |  |  |  |
|                       | Single-arc.   | Single circle.<br>Eight or more<br>letters.  | Single circle.<br>Seven or less<br>letters.   |

Where more than one stamp of a particular type was issued to a village, both stamps are illustrated below. Although some distortion does take place in photocopying and printing, these should enable collectors to distinguish between the different issues. In some instances, the dates are close together. It seems unlikely that the amount of mail at these offices would have warranted the use of two stamps. In my book "The Postal History of Ashby-de-la-Zouch", I suggested that, possibly, the first one issued to Hugglescote was broken thus necessitating the issue of a second. However, I recently came across a copy of the first postmark used well after the date of issue of the second.



| TYPE A                   |               |         |        |                        |               |         |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------|--------|------------------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| STAMP                    | DATE OF ISSUE | SENT TO | S.I.B. | STAMP                  | DATE OF ISSUE | SENT TO | S.I.B. |
| ALLEXTON                 | 30.8.43       | LE      | 5.179  | BELGRAVE-ST. LEICESTER | 23.2.41       | LE      | 4.63   |
| BILLESDON                | 30.8.43       | LE      | 5.179  | CASTLE-DONNINGTON      | 30.12.43      | DE      | 7.11   |
| CAVENDISH-BRIDGE         | 30.12.43      | DE      | 7.11   | CLIPSTONE (Nhants)     | 30.12.43      | MH      | 7.10   |
| COLD-OVERTON             | 24.2.44       | OA      | 7.31   | GREAT-GLENN            | 19.3.41       | LE      | 4.63   |
| HIGH-CROSS-ST. LEICESTER | 23.2.41       | LE      | 4.63   | IBSTOCK                | 27.7.43       | AZ      | 5.172  |
| KEGWORTH                 | 30.12.43      | DE      | 7.11   | LANGHAM                | 24.2.44       | OA      | 7.31   |
| LUBBENHAM                | 18.3.44       | MH      | 7.39   | MARKET-BOSWORTH        | 20.8.42       | HK      | 5.113  |
| NARBOROUGH               | 6.3.44        | LE      | 7.36   | OXFORD ST. LEICESTER   | 23.2.41       | LE      | 4.63   |
| OXENDON (Nhants)         | 30.12.43      | MH      | 7.10   | RAVENSTONE             | 16.11.43      | AZ      | 5.197  |
| SHEEPSHEAD               | 16.11.42      | LO      | 5.196  | SOMERBY                | 24.2.44       | OA      | 7.31   |
| THEDDINGWORTH            | 18.3.44       | MH      | 7.39   | TUGBY                  | 30.8.43       | LE      | 5.179  |
| WALTHAM                  | 5.7.43        | GR      | 5.168  | WIGSTONE               | 19.3.41       | LE      | 4.63   |
| WHITWICK                 | 16.11.43      | AZ      | 5.197  | WILBARSTON (Nhants)    | 24.12.42      | MH      | 5.132  |

| TYPE B             |               |         |        |                    |               |         |        |
|--------------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| STAMP              | DATE OF ISSUE | SENT TO | S.I.B. | STAMP              | DATE OF ISSUE | SENT TO | S.I.B. |
| ANSTEY             | 17.5.55       | LE      | 12.200 | APPLEBY            | 7.2.49        | AT      | 9.210  |
| ASFORDBY           | 24.7.47       | MM      | 9.64   | BARROW             | 4.7.48        | LO      | 9.166  |
| BARROW             | 28.6.45       | LO      | 7.159  | BELTON             | 4.7.48        | UP      | 9.166  |
| BELGRAVE           | 28.6.45       | LE      | 7.159  | BOTTFESFORD        | 8.5.45        | NO      | 7.144  |
| BLABY              | 24.5.48       | LE      | 9.151  | BREEDON            | 24.7.47       | AZ      | 9.63   |
| BRANSTON           | 2.10.48       | OA      | 9.184  | BRUNTINGTHORPE     | 28.6.44       | LU      | 7.75   |
| BRIDGE-CASTERTON   | 8.2.45        | ST      | 7.126  | BURBAGE            | 9.52          | HK      | 11.101 |
| BURBAGE            | 7.7.45        | HK      | 7.161  | BURTON OVERY       | 3.10.49       | LE      | 10.35  |
| BURROW-ON-THE-HILL | 19.10.47      | MM      | 9.93   | CLAYBROOK          | 15.10.45      | LU      | 12.244 |
| CATTHORPE          | 10.4.57       | RG      | 13.208 | COLEORTON          | 12.2.51       | AZ      | 10.153 |
| COALVILLE          | 8.52          | AZ      | 11.105 | COSSINGTON         | 23.7.44       | LO      | 7.82   |
| COSBY              | 12.55         | LU      | 12.10  | COTESBACH          | 5.1.56        | RG      | 12.292 |
| COSTON             | 28.3.51       | MM      | 10.184 | COUNTRESTHORPE     | 13.10.47      | LU      | 9.80   |
| COTTESMORE         | 20.7.44       | OA      | 7.81   | DISEWORTH          | 22.11.47      | LO      | 9.101  |
| DESFORD            | 3.3.47        | LE      | 9.19   | EAST-LEAKE (Notts) | 24.4.46       | LO      | 7.233  |
| EARL-SHILTON       | 27.11.56      | HK      | 13.102 | EMMINGHAM*         | 4.4.45        | ST      | 7.126  |
| EASTWELL           | 22.11.47      | MM      | 9.101  | EXTON              | 29.9.51       | OA      | 10.254 |
| ENDERBY            | 17.5.55       | LE      | 12.200 | GADDESBY           | 14.11.48      | MH      | 9.190  |
| FROWLESWORTH       | 27.6.46       | LU      | 7.246  | GLENFIELD          | 29.1.51       | LE      | 10.146 |

| TYPE B (continued)  |               |         |        |                       |               |         |        |
|---------------------|---------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| STAMP               | DATE OF ISSUE | SENT TO | S.I.B. | STAMP                 | DATE OF ISSUE | SENT TO | S.I.B. |
| GREAT-EASTON        | 3.3.47        | RO      | 9.18   | GREETHAM              | 20.7.44       | OA      | 7.81   |
| GROBY               | 24.12.44      | LE      | 7.118  | HAMBLETON             | 14.4.49       | OA      | 9.243  |
| HALLATON            | 5.9.46        | UP      | 7.265  | HALLATON              | 17.2.56       | UP      | 12.313 |
| HARBY               | 2.7.46        | GR      | 7.251  | HATHLERN              | 13.8.45       | LO      | 7.170  |
| HICKLING (Notts)    | 29.7.56       | MM      | 13.47  | HIGHAM                | 24.7.47       | HK      | 9.63   |
| HOBY                | 24.7.47       | MM      | 9.64   | HOTON*                | 18.4.45       | LO      | 7.139  |
| HUGGLESCOTE         | 6.53          | AZ      | 11.181 | HUGGLESCOTE           | 6.53          | AZ      | 11.191 |
| HUMBERSTON          | 3.4.47        | LE      | 9.26   | HUMBERSTONE-GATE      | 5.54          | LE      | 12.62  |
| HUNGARTON           | 3.4.47        | LE      | 9.26   | HUSBANDS-BOSWORTH     | 28.6.44       | LU      | 7.75   |
| KETPLEBY            | 26.3.48       | MM      | 9.136  | KETTON                | 22.8.44       | ST      | 7.89   |
| KIBWORTH            | 25.8.45       | LE      | 7.171  | LEIRE                 | 13.9.47       | LU      | 9.80   |
| LOCKINGTON          | 24.5.48       | DE      | 9.152  | LYDDINGTON            | 22.11.47      | UP      | 9.101  |
| LYNDON              | 3.3.47        | UP      | 9.18   | MANTON                | 3.3.47        | UP      | 9.18   |
| MARKFIELD           | 24.12.44      | LE      | 7.118  | MARKET-OVERTON        | 22.1.45       | OA      | 7.121  |
| MEASHAM             | 7.2.49        | AT      | 9.210  | MEDBOURNE             | 5.9.46        | UP      | 7.265  |
| MORCOTT             | 3.3.47        | UP      | 9.18   | MOUNT-SORREL          | 13.2.56       | LO      | 12.312 |
| MOUSLEY             | 13.9.47       | MH      | 9.80   | NETHER-BROUGHTON      | 26.3.48       | MM      | 9.136  |
| NETHERSEAL (Derbys) | 8.52          | AZ      | 11.105 | NEWBOLD-VERDON        | 5.11.55       | HK      | 12.261 |
| NORMANTON (Notts)   | 12.9.56       | LO      | 13.69  | NORTH-KILWORTH        | 20.4.46       | WE      | 7.230  |
| OVERSEAL (Derbys)   | 12.52         | AZ      | 11.124 | PACKINGTON            | 4.53          | AZ      | 11.161 |
| QUORNDON            | 23.7.44       | LO      | 7.82   | QUORNDON              | 13.11.46      | DE      | 7.278  |
| RATCLIFFE           | 30.9.47       | LO      | 9.82   | REARSBY               | 6.2.52        | LE      | 11.19  |
| REMPSTONE (Notts)   | 24.4.46       | LO      | 7.233  | ROPHLEY               | 28.0.45       | LO      | 7.159  |
| SADDINGTON          | 20.5.55       | MH      | 12.172 | SEAGRAVE              | 30.9.47       | LO      | 9.82   |
| SHEARESLEY          | 19.11.48      | MH      | 9.193  | SHEEPLY               | 7.2.49        | AT      | 9.210  |
| SHEMTON             | 11.6.56       | MU      | 13.20  | SIBSON                | 11.6.47       | AT      | 9.51   |
| SILEBY              | 2.10.48       | LO      | 9.184  | SLAWSTON              | 29.1.51       | MH      | 10.145 |
| SNARSTON            | 8.52          | AZ      | 11.105 | SOUTH-CROXTON         | 20.10.47      | LE      | 9.93   |
| SOUTH-KILWORTH      | 15.6.55       | RG      | 12.210 | SOUTH-LUFFENHAM       | 22.10.44      | ST      | 7.102  |
| STANFORD (Notts)    | 12.9.56       | LO      | 13.69  | STOCKINGFORD          | 12.11.47      | HK      | 9.96   |
| STONY-STAMTON       | 7.7.45        | HK      | 7.161  | STRETTON-EN-LE-FIELDS | 8.52          | AZ      | 11.105 |
| SUTTON (Notts)      | 13.8.45       | LO      | 7.170  | SWEPSTON              | 5.11.45       | AT      | 7.190  |
| SWINFORD            | 20.4.46       | LU      | 7.229  | SWITHLAND             | 12.9.56       | LO      | 13.70  |
| SYSTON              | 10.4.45       | LE      | 7.136  | TARLANGTON            | 27.11.46      | MH      | 7.282  |
| THORNTON            | 12.11.47      | HK      | 9.97   | THORPE-LANGTON        | 17.5.55       | MH      | 12.199 |
| THRINGSTONE         | 1.9.55        | AZ      | 12.235 | THRINGSTONE           | 18.9.55       | AZ      | 12.244 |
| THURLASTON          | 20.3.55       | HK      | 12.171 | TWYCROSS              | 7.2.49        | AT      | 9.210  |

\* This was first issued as HOOTON on 22 August 1844 and sent by mistake to Chesterfield.

It was sent to Loughborough on 10 September 1844.

\* This was first issued as EMMINGHAM on 9 February 1845.

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| <u>STAMP</u>              | <u>DATE OF ISSUE</u> | <u>SENT TO</u> | <u>S.I.B.</u> | <u>STAMP</u>    | <u>DATE OF ISSUE</u> | <u>SENT TO</u> | <u>S.I.B.</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <u>TYPE B (continued)</u> |                      |                |               |                 |                      |                |               |
| WALTON                    | 4.5.48               | LU             | 9.146         | WANLIP          | 28.6.45              | LE             | 7.158         |
| WATERLOO-ST               | 31.3.57              | LE             | 13.200        | WIGSTON         | 11.3.57              | LE             | 13.172        |
| WIMESWOULD*               | 10.9.44              | LO             | 7.94          | WISSENDINE      | 4.3.46               | OA             | 7.215         |
| WOLVEY (Warwick)          | 7.7.45               | HK             | 7.161         | WOODHOUSE-EAVES | 28.6.45              | LO             | 7.159         |
| WOODEN-BOX (Derby)        | 28.6.44              | BT             | 7.75          | WYMONDHAM       | 13.6.44              | OA             | 7.71          |
| WYMESWOLD                 | 30.1.57              | LO             | 13.127        | WYMESWOLD       | 14.2.57              | LO             | 13.145        |

\* This was sent by mistake to Chesterfield on 22 August 1844.

| <u>TYPE C</u> |        |    |        |               |      |    |        |
|---------------|--------|----|--------|---------------|------|----|--------|
| HIGH-CROSS-ST | 5.57   | LE | 13.230 | BELGRAVE-GATE | 5.57 | LE | 13.237 |
| LAXTON        | 3.6.57 | UP | 13.249 |               |      |    |        |

| <u>TYPE D</u>         |          |    |         |                            |          |    |         |
|-----------------------|----------|----|---------|----------------------------|----------|----|---------|
| BASTON                | 14.1.58  | OA | 14a.124 | BILLESDON                  | 18.1.58  | LE | 14a.126 |
| COSSINGTON            | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  | COSTON                     | 2.1.58   | MM | 14a.120 |
| COTTESMORE            | 7.1.58   | OA | 14a.121 | DISEWORTH                  | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  |
| GREAT-GLENN           | 18.1.58  | LE | 14a.126 | MARKFIELD                  | 18.1.58  | LE | 14a.126 |
| NARBOROUGH            | 18.1.58  | LE | 14a.126 | NEWBOLD-VERDON             | 6.10.57  | HK | 14a.43  |
| OXFORD. ST. LEICESTER | 18.1.58  | LE | 14a.126 | QUORNDON                   | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  |
| REMPSTONE (Notts)     | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  | ROTHLEY                    | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  |
| SHEEPSHED             | 30.10.57 | LO | 14a.65  | SILEBY                     | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  |
| SOMERBY               | 7.1.58   | OA | 14a.121 | SUTTONBONNINGTON (Notts) " |          | LO | 14a.61  |
| TILTON ON THE HILL    | 1.12.57  | LE | 14a.93  | TUGBY                      | 18.1.58  | LE | 14a.126 |
| WHISSENDINE           | 7.1.58   | OA | 14a.121 | WOODHOUSE-EAVES            | 22.10.57 | LO | 14a.61  |

| <u>TYPE E</u>      |         |    |         |                   |          |    |         |
|--------------------|---------|----|---------|-------------------|----------|----|---------|
| AB. KETTLEBY       | 10.9.58 | MM | 16.33   | ASHBY-PARVA       | 1.4.58   | LU | 14a.185 |
| BITTESWELL         | 26.6.58 | LU | 14a.234 | BRAUNSTONE        | 9.4.59   | LE | 18.24   |
| BRIDGE-CASTERTON   | 2.6.59  | ST | 18.52   | BURTON-OVERY      | 13.2.58  | LE | 14a.143 |
| GREAT-BOWDEN       | 21.1.59 | MH | 16.142  | GREAT-EASTON      | 4.6.58   | UP | 14a.248 |
| HOUGHTON LEICESTER | 14.1.59 | LE | 16.139  | HUSBANDS-BOSWORTH | 12.8.59  | RC | 18.88   |
| LUBBENHAM          | 22.4.58 | RG | 14a.207 | LUBENHAM          | 18.2.59  | RG | 16.161  |
| MEDBOURNE          | 17.8.59 | MH | 18.94   | NAILSTONE         | 22.10.57 | HK | 14a.63  |
| NTH-KILWORTH       | 13.4.58 | RG | 14a.197 | SHEARSBY          | 31.3.58  | MH | 14a.184 |
| SOUTH-LUFFENHAM    | 15.4.59 | LE | 18.28   | SWANNINGTON       | 27.1.59  | AZ | 16.148  |
| THEDDINGWORTH      | 13.4.58 | RG | 14a.197 | THORNTON          | 8.9.58   | HK | 16.32   |
| THURMASTON         | 14.1.59 | LE | 16.138  | THRUSSINGTON      | 4.5.59   | LE | 18.38   |
| TUR-LANGTON        | 31.3.58 | MH | 14a.184 | ULLESTHORPE       | 1.4.58   | LU | 14a.185 |

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| <u>TYPE F</u>   |                      |                |               |              |                      |                |               |
| BARWELL         | 22.10.57             | HK             | 14a.63        | CROFT        | 22.10.57             | HK             | 14a.63        |
| HARBY           | 10.9.58              | MM             | 16.33         | IBSTOCK      | 31.12.58             | AZ             | 16.127        |
| KETTON          | 3.6.59               | ST             | 18.52         | MANTON       | 4.6.58               | UP             | 14a.247       |
| MEASHAM         | 30.9.58              | AT             | 16.51         | MORCOTT      | 4.6.58               | UP             | 14a.247       |
| RYHALL          | 3.6.59               | ST             | 18.52         | WALCOTE      | 2.12.58              | LU             | 16.96         |
| WALTHAM         | 10.9.58              | MM             | 16.33         | WIBTOFT      | 31.3.58              | LU             | 14a.183       |
| WILLY (Wiley ?) | 21.1.59              | LU             | 16.143        |              |                      |                |               |

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SOME MIDLAND POST OFFICES BEFORE 1840

In 1890, as a part of the exhibition celebrating the Jubilee of the Penny Post, the Post Office authorities decided to re-construct a typical post office of 1790, or at least of pre-1840 vintage. To obtain the information they needed to design it, they wrote to District Surveyors and their staff asking them to write of their recollections of early post offices that they knew or worked in. These are some of the replies they received from employees in the Midlands, several of them retired surveyors:

"My earliest recollection of a post office is of a very primitive character - the post office in the little town of Shifnal in Shropshire where we now have a public lobby and open counter. I remember it between 50 and 60 years ago when it was kept by an old lady who performed all the duties herself with the aid of her servant girl who tied and sealed the bags. The business was carried on in a little room in which there was not space for two persons to work, according to modern ideas. The letters were received through a little wooden door let into one of the window frames and the public having letters to pay the postage of, stood in the open street."

"I have some recollections of the post office at Nottingham 53 years ago having been there in consequence of the death or removal of the postmaster at Christmas 1837. It consisted of one good sized room of from 20 to 22 feet square divided by a wooden partition about 5ft high. One portion was occupied as the post office proper where all the sorting and other general business was transacted, the remainder being used by the letter carriers for the sortation (sic) of letters and newspapers and by the postmaster himself for correspondence etc. The only accommodation for the public was a covered passage leading from the street to the postmaster's residence and the letters were delivered to callers, and other business transacted, at a wooden wicket or window not much above 2ft square."

"The only respectable looking offices in the Midlands at that time were Sheffield and Derby which were erected, if I mistake not, after negotiation between the respective town councils and the Postmaster General with the result of a grant being obtained from the Treasury towards the erection of the building in each case."

"At another village in Derbyshire, now become a busy town with a large iron works, I entered what was called the post office to find it occupied by a group of shoemakers or cobblers, the elder Crispin acknowledging

himself to be the postmaster. I observed a quantity of letters - about a year's supply for the place at that time - ranged upon a shelf and

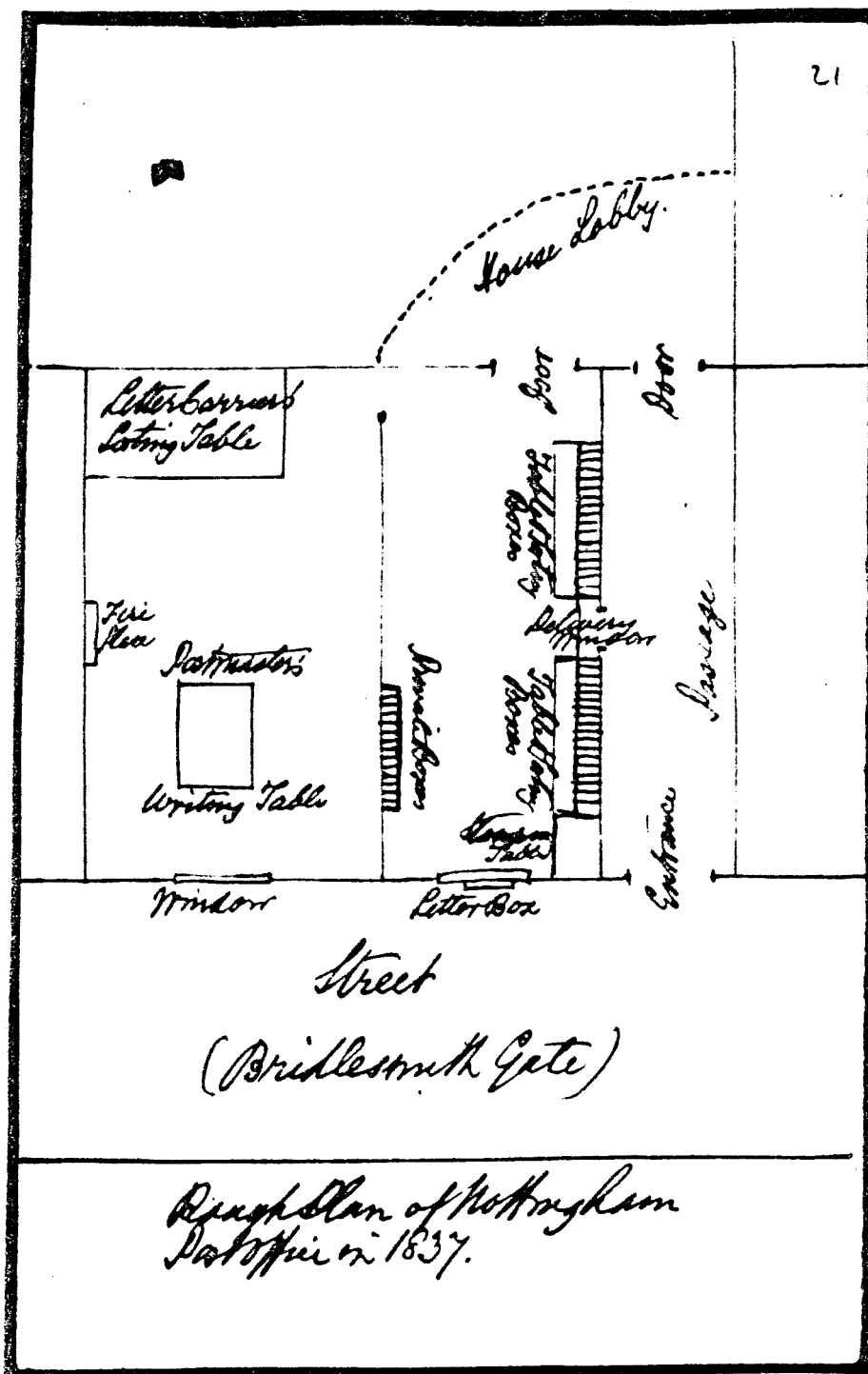
demanding to know what they were.

"Oh, they're only Wollentines"

"How do you know; have you opened them?"

"Oh yes ....."

There were hundreds of letters which the righteous old rascal had neglected to deliver for months and yet no one had liked to complain of him - what long suffering people the British public are !"



(Letters and illustration by courtesy of Post Office Archives.)

Plan of Nottingham Post Office in 1837

### The Next Bulletin

The final Bulletin of the season will appear in the week beginning 9th May. As a final surprise, it may contain an index. If you have a surprise for the editor, please write to:

John Calladine, Dunley House, Cranham. Gloucester GL4 8HQ