

A Note about the Temporary Hand Stamps of Sheffield and the Local Offices

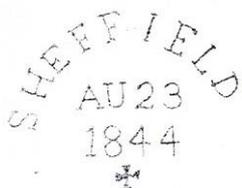
by Dennis Rolfe

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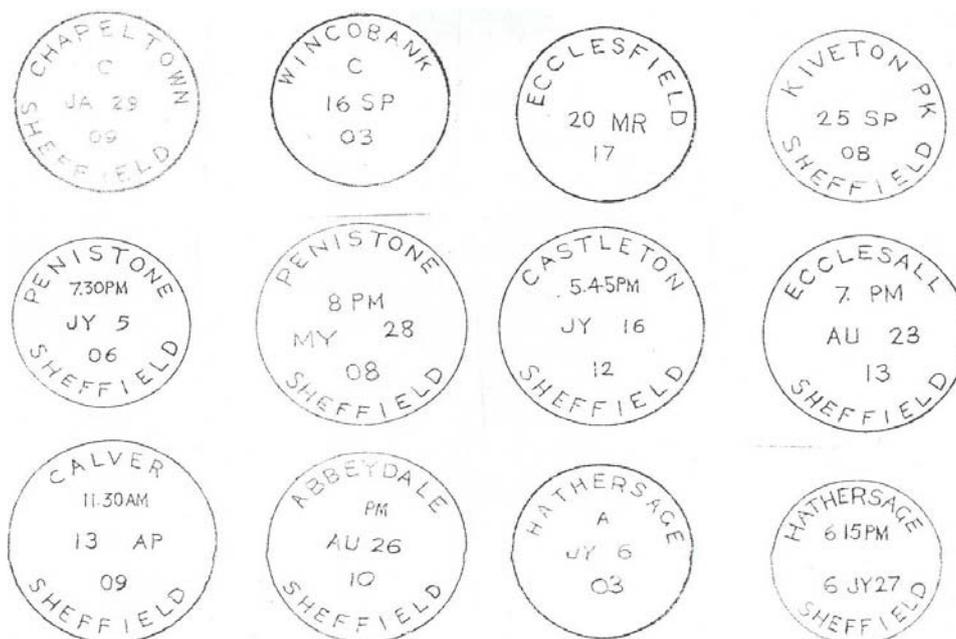
In addition to temporary, other names have been used for this type of hand stamp: skeleton, traveling and shifting. All have the facility for loose letter and number slugs to be inserted into a frame to form a hand stamp for any office when the normal hand stamp has been lost or damaged and until a replacement can be obtained. Over the years nearly 40 offices in Sheffield made use of a temporary hand stamp in varying sizes and types, some offices requiring a hand stamp on two or three separate occasions. In some cases only one known example exists for a particular office, most are not easy to find as the period of need was usually only for a few days.



The first temporary hand stamp to be used in Sheffield was from 20th to 24th August 1844 (left). The main period of need for temporary hand stamps was from about 1903 to 1949 but an example is known in use at Silverhill from 1974 to 1975 (right).



Some examples of other Sheffield offices are shown below (Figure 2). Other towns and cities throughout England and Wales have also made use of similar hand stamps to those shown for Sheffield.



This article by Dennis Rolfe has been extracted from the publication of 1988 by William A. Sedgewick.

You can find more articles on Sheffield's postal history at our web site.

The Sheffield Philatelic Society meets at 7.15 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month (except August) at the Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB.

For a programme of events please visit:

www.sheffieldps.org.uk