

# Sheffield Parcel Post

by Dennis Rolfe

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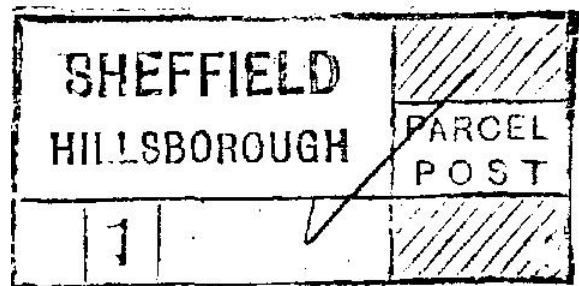
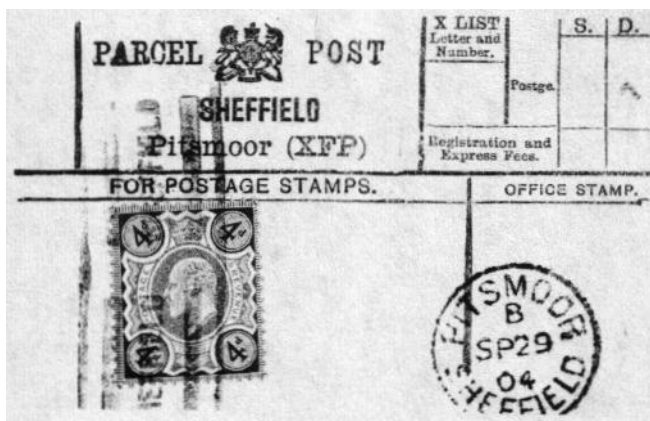
At a conference held in Paris in 1880 nineteen countries belonging to the Postal Union signed an agreement establishing an international system of Parcel Posts. Unfortunately, the British Post Office was unable to become part of this as there was no official internal parcel post system in this country. In Britain, parcels had, for centuries, been sent by independent carriers, and then in the 19th century by rail.

After the conference, the British Post Office began negotiations with the many railway companies for the conveyance of parcels. It was agreed that eleven-twentieths of the postage paid on parcels

carried by rail should be given to the rail companies, and the remainder retained by the Post Office. The scheme was introduced in August 1883.

Special labels were produced for the system, initially to the main offices, then later to all offices. These labels were mainly used from 1883 to about 1927. A few were still in use up to 1946.

The issue of parcel post labels was later followed by rubber hand stamps of a similar format. In the 1950's the Post Office purchased machines which, by dialing the appropriate price, printed a gummed label for the amount required.



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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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sheffieldps.org.uk)