

The Stuart Rossiter Trust
announces the arrival of:

**SUFFOLK POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAL MARKINGS
TO 1844** By THOMAS SLEMONS, FRPSL

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF SUFFOLK, AND A REPLACEMENT OF THE SUFFOLK
CHAPTER OF THE BRITISH COUNTY CATALOGUE.

Long awaited, this massive book is result of decades of research.

590 pages, hardback, with maps and illustrations of postmarks in colour.

An **extract** from 'A DETAILED GUIDE TO WHAT IS PRESENTED' to give a taste of the contents.

Some comments concerning the description of some postal markings made in the British County Catalogue is necessary to understand changes in descriptions presented here. Mileage marks were produced in many formats. When the Post Office directed postmasters to remove the mileage from their handstamps, most complied. The key point here is for the markings to be closely examined to determine if the mark has actually had the mileage removed or has the handstamp been replaced with a new handstamp that looks as if it has had the mileage removed. There are two towns that illustrate this well. First, Bungay had BUNGAY 107 with lines above and below the 107. The Post Master's attempt to remove the mileage is unmistakable as he left part of the line above and a blur where the 107 had been. In the case of Beccles, the original catalogue lists a "mileage erased" mark used in 1830. Many of the BECCLES 112 with boxed mileage marks exist, the last being recorded September 19, 1827. A second BECCLES 112 with boxed mileage was brought into use shortly before the mileage was removed. No examples of a Beccles mark have been seen again until January 27, 1830. That mark is definitely from the second type BECCLES 112 with mileage removed. The original BECCLES 112 with mileage removed has not been seen. There is a gap of two years and four months where that mark with mileage removed mark could have been used or it may not exist. Some handstamps were used for a period of time and then put aside for years. Rather than show an extended number of years of use, it is now shown in separate listings for the same marking. This is based on seeing many covers with a particular mark, then years with no use of the mark and it reappearing after years of absence.

The next new area covered is the differing uses of the same mark. The small circular date stamp (CDS) of Newmarket is an excellent example. The Post Master used the CDS as a dispatch mark on all letters from 1832 until receiving the new standard CDS in 1841. He then used the small CDS in red for paid letters only and the new larger CDS in red on stamped letters, changing to black in 1843. The change of CDS colours, generally speaking, followed a logical date period and a pattern of efficiency in years after the introduction of stamps, stationery, and the Maltese cross. If, prior to May 6, 1840, the CDS was black, many changed the CDS to red. After mid February 1841, when the colour of the Maltese cross changed to black, they changed the CDS to black. These specific periods of colour use are listed separately, not just a broad period of years. Only rarely does it appear that a postmark was erroneously struck in a different colour.

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