

The Fire Mark Circle

Founded 1934



CATALOGUE
OF
FIRE MARKS
AND
FIRE MEMORABILIA

ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY OF
FIRE INSURANCE AND FIRE
BRIGADES



TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
AT THE
FIRE MARK CIRCLE
SPRING MEETING



TO BE HELD AT
THE CHARTERED INSURANCE
INSTITUTE
20 ALDERMANBURY
LONDON EC2V 7HY

ON
WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 2011
2.00PM

AUCTION NOTES

Auction Co-ordinator: Russell Maclean
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Condition and Description

The condition of the marks is given in accordance of the FMC standard guide.

Guide Price

The guide price reflects the value of the items expressed by the vendors commensurate with the rarity and condition of the individual lot.

Reserves

Some lots have a reserve set by the vendor.

Commission Bids

If you are unable to attend in person commission bids will be accepted. Photographs can be sent by email, if required. Bids should be confirmed by email or in writing in advance of the auction date to the Auction Co-ordinator, contact details above.

Commission bidders are requested to reimburse the postal costs.

Payment for Lots

Payment for Lots purchased will be at the Auction, unless alternative arrangements have been made previous to the Auction. Successful commission bidders will receive an invoice with the amount due. On payment, their Lots will be dispatched. Members who are both buying and selling at the auction must pay for the Lots bought and not expect them to be offset against those sold.

Disputes

In the event of any dispute the Auctioneer's decision is final.

Prices achieved at the Fire Mark Circle Auction, October 2010, Cambridge

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£		
1	40	11	440	21	150	31	260	41	70	51	30	61	50
2	160	12	550	22	750	32	260	42	300	52	25	62	25
3	50	13	150	23	220	33	160	43	110	53	30	63	70
4	45	14	50	24	1000	34	360	44	240	54	95	64	25
5	55	15	100	25	100	35	40	45	20	55	95	65	25
6	40	16	30	26	60	36	80	46	80	56	35	66	20
7	380	17	380	27	70	37	60	47	400	57	40	67	20
8	130	18	240	28	110	38	w/d	48	50	58	20		
9	40	19	70	29	55	39	30	49	30	59	30		
10	15	20	50	30	55	40	60	50	30	60	30		

w/d – withdrawn

Fire Mark Circle Auction – 13th April 2011

Marks are classified by their appropriate Wright (W), Addis (A) or Bulau (B) numbers.

1. **Union Fire Office.** Copper, W4E/A4D-TI, a good example of this copper variant still retaining most of the gilding, however no other colour remains, no flattening to the hands but some tearing to the panel nail hole, issued c1835-1865. (£50-£70)



Lot 1

2. **Sun Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 411099, W3C/A3B-L, an early example of this lead mark dating from 1779 and issued to a Samuel Davis of Wolverhampton, the mark has no colour and is in excellent condition with the nail holes placed within the sun's rays. (£70-£80)

3. **Globe Ins Co.** Tin, Policy No. 4784, W38A/A38B-TC, this is the first variant of five marks issued by the company all in tinned iron and the only one to have a policy number on the panel which can be clearly read, no original paint. (£150-£180)



Lot 5

4. **Northern Ass Co.** Copper, W88A/A90A-C, a very good example of the first mark from this Scottish company issued in 1836, some original gilding is evident but no background colour, no flattening, fraying or tearing to the nail holes, the mark was taken off a cottage in Stonehaven. (£70-£80)

5. **Patriotic Ass Co of Ireland.** Tin, W73B/A73A-TI, a very good example of this difficult to come by tinned iron mark, no original colour remains, some surface pitting and slight fraying at the edges. (£500-£550)



Lot 6

6. **Salop Fire Office.** Copper, W20B/A20B-C, a very good example of this copper variant that followed the lead mark in 1826 and was in use until the company was taken over by the Alliance in 1890, some gilding remains on the panel, no flattening or stress fractures to the leopards' heads. (£100-£120)

7. **Salop Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 973, W20A/A20A-L, an excellent example of this early mark issued by the company in 1783, no original colour remains and it is unusual to find a three figure number at auctions. (£450-£500)

8. **Imperial Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W40C/A40A-C, an excellent example of this mark, still retaining all the original colour, some scuffing to the raised parts, rarely seen in this condition. (£100-£150)

9. **Union Fire Office.** An excellent example of this reproduction Porters arm badge in brass, B572, made by Vaughton Bros Birmingham in the 20s. (£40-£50)

10. **Suffolk Fire Office.** Copper, W37E/A37D(i)-C, a very good example of this scarce mark showing the word County and not Country as in variant 37F, no flattening to the fleece or tearing at the nail holes, repainted in gold. (£500-£550)

11. **Wiltshire & Western Ass Co.** Copper, W26B/A26A-C, a very good example of this copper variant, no damage or flattening to any parts of the mark, no original colour or lettering remains. (£320-£350)

12. **Phoenix Ass Co.** Copper, W23J(i)/A23D-C, a good example of this copper mark still retaining its spear, which has been reattached, no flattening to the Phoenix, no original colour and over painted in brown house paint. (£40-£50)

13. **Bristol Crown Fire Office.** Lead, W6C/A6B(iii)-L, a mark in excellent condition with no damage to the surface or the edges, however no original paint remains. (£600-£650)

14. **Westminster Ins Office.** Copper, W5D/A5C-C, the last of the company's marks to be issued and dates from the 1830s, a subsequent tin lithographed variant was used for overseas business; the mark is in good condition and has been professionally repainted in original colours. (£120-£140)



Lot 7

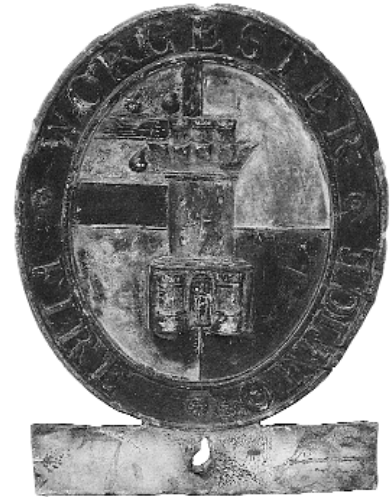


Lot 10



Lot 11

15. **Protector Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W80A/A81A-C, a very good example of this variant from a short lived company 1825-35, some original colour and gilding, no flattening to the figure or tearing at the nail holes. (£90-£100)



Lot 16

16. **Worcester Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 725, W27B/A27B(i)-1, a very good example of this second lead variant with the 13mm lettering, no original colour but evidence of the painted numbers, the top hanging tab is missing. (£500-£550)

17. **Guardian Fire & Life Ass Co.** Copper, W57B/A57A-C, a mark in excellent condition, still retaining all the original colour, some scuffing to the raised parts, rarely seen in this condition. (£100-£150)



Lot 18

18. **London Assurance.** Copper, W9H(i)/A9G-C, a good example of this mark issued between 1808-1824 still retaining most of the gilding although it has been over varnished, no flattening to Britannia but some tearing to the panel nail holes, otherwise no flaws, mounted on a mahogany panel. (£100-£120)

19. **British & Irish United Fire Office.** Copper, W30D/A30D-TC, a mark in very good condition issued in 1805 by the British Fire Office in Ireland from 1804 when it began trading, a rare mark very occasionally seen at auctions in this condition. (£400-£450)

20. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, Policy No. 81595, W10D/A10B(vi)-L, an excellent example of this early variant still retaining its original gilding and colour, this mark was modified from the previous variant to accommodate the five numbers and was issued in 1782. (£200-£300)



Lot 20

21. **Bristol Crown Fire Office.** Lead, W6A(ii)/A6A(ii)-L, one of the oldest marks in the auction and still in perfect condition dating from the mid 1700s, no colour remains and the painted policy number is not visible a mark to be cherished. (£500-£600)



Lot 21

22. **Westminster Ins Office.** Lead, Policy No. 51779, W5C(iii)/A5B-L, a very good example of the last lead mark issued by the company issued around 1800, no colour remains and a stress fracture between the feathers and portcullis has been reinforced at the back. (£200-£220)

23. **British Commercial Life & Fire Ins Co.** Lead, W55A/A55A-L, an excellent example of this rarely seen lead mark from a company that only traded for forty years, the mark speaks for itself and a must for any serious collector, no original colour, but remains of gilding on the lettering, a perfect mark. (£1200-£1500)(*Front cover - top picture*)

24. **Sun Fire Office.** Tin, Policy No. 802905, W3E/A3D-TI, a good example of this last numbered variant in tinned iron dating from 1807-1816 when it was replaced by the familiar small round variants, the number is clearly stamped and the remains of the sun's rays gilding are evident. (£60-£70)

25. **Sun Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 296939, W3B/A3B-L, a good example of the second variant dating from 1771 being issued to a John Float of Fulham no original colour remains and the five nail holes are cleanly punched. (£70-£80)

26. **Newcastle Upon Tyne Fire Office.** Copper, W24C/A24B-C, a mark not seen for many years if at all, in near perfect condition, none of the original blue colour or gilding remaining, this is a must have for the price. (£500-£700)



Lot 26

27. **Phoenix Ass Co.** Tin, Policy No. 448837, W23H/A23B-TI, a rare mark in very good condition issued in 1818, this was the last variant where the policy number was recorded on the mark and the numbers are clearly stamped on the panel, due to the material used and its condition this is one of the most difficult to come by marks, a must for any serious collector. (£150-£180)

28. **Royal Exchange Ass.** Lead, Policy No. 79044, W10D/A10B-L, a good example of this early lead variant issued about 1780, no original colour and the top of the orb is damaged otherwise a fine specimen. (£120-£150)

29. **Manchester Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 3426, W14A/A14A-L, the only mark ever to be issued from this short lived company, 1771-1788, and a must for any serious collector, no original colour or nail holes, the mark was fixed to the wall with fixing lugs the imprints of which remain, this is the mark of the auction. (£1200-£1500) (*Front cover - middle picture*)

30. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Copper, W29C/A29C-C, a very good example of the third variant from a company that issued no less than twenty variants, no flattening to the hands or tearing to the nail holes, no remaining colour. (£70-£90)

31. **Norwich General Ass Co.** Lead, Policy No. 3936, W28A/A28A-L, an excellent example of the first variant from this short lived Norfolk company, the mark was issued in the late 1700s and has no damage to the surface of the mark, all nail holes are clean, no original colour remains, a must have in this condition. (£350-£400)

32. **Church of England Life & Fire Ass Trust.** Copper, W91A/A93A-C, a very good example of this rarely seen variant, no flattening to the interior, some minor damage at one nail hole, no original colour. (£500-£550)



Lot 32

33. **County Fire Office.** Copper, W45E/A45D-C, a good example of this rarely seen unusual round variant still retaining all its original colour and gilding, no flattening to the centre and still retaining its garter tab, issued c1850. (£70-£80)

34. **Bath Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 3305, W11A/A11A(i)-L, a pristine example of this West Country mark still retaining its original colour and gilding although somewhat dulled, all nail holes are clean, an early example probably dating from the 1770s. (£1000-£1500)



Lot 34

35. **Palatine Ins Co.** Tin, B971/A140C-TI, a good example of this late 19th cent tin mark, no original colour remains, no surface rust, mark was taken off a building in Cyprus. (£40-£50)

36. **Liverpool Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 1105, W17A(ii)/A17A(ii)-L, an excellent example of the second variant with the taller numbers issued by this company, that only traded for 18 years another must have for the serious collector and like the Manchester a rare mark from the north west of England. (£1200-£1500) (*Front cover - bottom picture*)

37. **London & Lancs Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W101B/A106E-C, a good example of this variant, no original colour although some gilding remains on the shields, a nice clean mark. (£40-£50)
38. **Royal Exchange Ass.** Lead, Policy No. 196435, W10J/A10B-L, a good example of this variant issued in 1802, some original paint, the mark relates to a Jonathan Burgess of Helsby in Chester where the policy was taken out on his house, barn and stables. (£70-£80)
39. **Imperial Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W40C/A40A-C, a good example of this mark, no original colour, no flattening, tearing or stress cracks. (£40-£50)
40. **Palladium Life & Fire Ass Soc.** Copper, W72A/A72A-C, a very good example of the only mark issued by this short lived company, no flattening to the figure with some traces of colour still remaining. (£120-£140)
41. **Dundee Ass Co.** Lead, Policy No. 4547, W22B(ii)/A22A(iv)-L, another fine example of a mark rarely seen at our or any other auctions, no original colour but the mark speaks for itself. (£1200-£1500)
42. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Tin, W29G(i)/A29F-TI, a good example of this tin variant, some original red background colour remains, small amounts of surface rust but little or no fraying at the edges, a nice mark considering its material. (£50-£60)
43. **Herts & Cambridge & Country Fire Office.** Copper, W67A/A67A-C, a good example of this single mark issued by a company lasting for only seven years, one of the most decorative marks to be produced by any company, no original colour or flattening to the oval, some minor stress fractures and tearing at the nail holes, a difficult to come by mark in any condition. (£60-£70)



Lot 41



Lot 43



Lot 44

44. **Sun Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No. 8303, W3A(i)/A3A(i)-L, the oldest mark in the auction dating from 1715 and still in perfect condition despite the loss of colour and gilding, this can only be beaten by the earliest of the Hand in Hands, few if any come on the market. (£450-£500)
45. **Atlas Ass Co.** Copper, W50A/A50A-C, a good example of this company's only mark although lithographed tin variants were subsequently produced for overseas use, no flattening to the globe or other raised parts, some original gilding remains and there is tearing at the corner nail holes. (£40-£50)
46. **Guardian Fire & Life Ass Co.** Copper, W57B/A57A-C, a mark in good condition, no original colour, some tearing at the nail holes. (£30-£40)
47. **Farmers & General Fire & Life Ins.** Copper, W92B/A94B-C, a mark in fair condition having been repainted in original colours, some stress fractures to the panel. (£30-£40)
48. **Royal Exchange Ass.** Lead, W10K/A10E-L, a nice example of a reproduction mark from this company. (£20-£30)

END OF FIREMARKS

49. **The British Firemark 1680-1879** by Brian Wright. (£30-£40)
50. **Footprints of Assurance** by Alwin Bulau, a regulation copy. (£25-£30)
51. **Fire Marks & Insurance Office Brigades** by Bertram Williams, together with several small books on Insurance companies. (£30-£40)
52. **Three Royal Exchange histories.** (£15-£20)
53. **Sun Fire Office Agency Poster** mounted and framed, 51cm x 39cm, a lovely colourful item showing a Sun fireman and Porter on either side of a firemark. (£70-£80)
54. **Royal Exchange menu/place name holder** in sterling silver (1919), and green enamel in the shape of the firemark, issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary in 1920. 4cm high. (£30-£40)
55. **Royal Exchange menu/place name holder** in sterling silver (1919), and green enamel in the shape of the firemark, issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary in 1920. 4cm high. (£30-£40)

NOTES

STANDARD GUIDE FOR FIRE MARKS

(This is a private document for use by Fire Mark Circle members only)

M = Mint	An unissued mark with full original colour and no nail holes unless provided in original manufacture.
Ex = Excellent	A mark that is Mint in all aspects other than some slight scuffing to raised parts or a lead mark with no physical damage or deterioration.
VG = Very Good	Marks with little or no physical damage, perhaps some minor corrosion around nail holes.
G = Good	Substantially intact but may have some physical damage such as small splits, tears, holes or bruising or minor corrosion.
F = Fair	Some physical damage (e.g. the garter end missing from Notts & Derby, or one or both spear ends missing from a Phoenix) but design essentially intact, and/or some splits, tears or small and may be some corrosion.
P = Poor	Design largely intact but may have a number of splits, tears and/or holes and may have some corrosion.

NOTES:

Colour to be dealt with by explanation, describing the amount of original colour and its intensity. Marks re-painted in original colours will be identified as such. Mint condition marks will have complete original colour.

