



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
AFTER THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT THE
FIRE MARK CIRCLE
SPRING MEETING

TO BE HELD AT
THE CHARTERED INSURANCE
INSTITUTE
20 ALDERMANBURY
LONDON EC2V 7HY
ON
WEDNESDAY 4TH APRIL 2012

AUCTION NOTES

Auction Co-ordinator: Russell Maclean Email: rmaclean999@aol.com
Auctioneer: Nick Drewe Email: nick.drewe@btinternet.com

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. 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.

Overseas Bidders

Successful Overseas Bidders should send their payment by bank transfer, and will be sent the necessary account information with their invoice. Payment should be specified to be in British Pounds and Fees paid, with the bidder's name and "Auction" as the reference/additional comment. Auction Lots will not be released until full payment is received. Overseas bidders unable to pay by bank transfer should contact the Auction Co-ordinator before bidding. Payments in foreign currency or by foreign cheque will be subject to a surcharge for exchange fees and administration costs, which may be substantial.

Disputes

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

Prices achieved at the Fire Mark Circle Auction, October 2011, Grantham															
Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£		
1	25	11	120	21	n/s	31	n/s	41	170	51	30	61	20	71	10
2	30	12	700	22	700	32	55	42	35	52	10	62	45	72	15
3	55	13	60	23	70	33	n/s	43	90	53	15	63	20	73	n/s
4	90	14	40	24	95	34	55	44	85	54	30	64	20	74	15
5	30	15	170	25	40	35	n/s	45	35	55	5	65	n/s	75	10
6	20	16	70	26	50	36	2600	46	170	56	w/d	66	30	76	35
7	55	17	25	27	300	37	700	47	35	57	20	67	20	77	15
8	35	18	30	28	20	38	110	48	65	58	200	68	15	78	15
9	25	19	30	29	380	39	75	49	45	59	15	69	20	79	25
10	80	20	35	30	80	40	700	50	n/s	60	25	70	25	80	15

n/s – not sold w/d – withdrawn

Fire Mark Circle Auction – 4th April 2012

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

1. **Sun Fire Office.** Tin, W3F/A3E-TI, a fair example of this tin variant issued in 1816, no original colour remains, some surface rusting and minor fraying at the edges, **Phoenix Ass Co.** Copper, W23G/A23A-C, oval phoenix only, no panel or spear. (£20-£30)

2. **Phoenix Ass Co.** Copper, W23G/A23A-C, a good example from this multi variant company, no original colour or painted number remains, no flattening to the phoenix, part of spear tip remains. (£30-£40)



Lot 5

3. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95E/A97D-C, a very good example of this mark, still retaining its original colour and gilding, slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£35-£45)

4. **Imperial Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W40F/A40C-C, a good example of this copper variant, no original colour, no flattening to the crown but some tearing at a nail hole. (£40-£50)

5. **London Assurance.** Lead, Policy No 44536, W9F/A9E(iii)-L, an excellent example of this lead mark dating from 1785, no original colour remains below a coat of black house paint, minor stress fracture to the panel, a choice mark for the serious collector. (£450-£550)



Lot 6

6. **Sun Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 74575, W3A/A3A(iii)-L, an excellent example of this early mark issued in 1737 to an Evan Thomas, Vine St, Bath. (£100-£150)

7. **Globe Ins Co.** Tin, W38E/A38D(ii)-TI, a very good example of this tin variant, all original colour, some slight pitting showing through on the edges, otherwise perfect. (£160-£180)



Lot 8

8. **Hand in Hand Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No101502, W2C(i)/A2D(i)-L, an excellent example of this company's mark issued in 1818, no original colour although some background gilding is

evident, no stress fractures or flattening to the raised parts, although the cross on the top of the orb is compressed. (£400 -£450)

9. **Bristol Union Fire & Life Ins Co.** Tin, W54A/A54A-T, a fair to good example of this single issue mark from a company that lasted only 26 years, some surface rusting and slight fraying at the edges. (£40-£50)

10. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, Policy No 111771, issued 1789, W10E/A10B(vii)-L, an excellent example of this lead variant, no original colour or gilding remains, no flattening to the RE oval or any stress fractures, a lovely 18th cent mark. (£150-£200)

11. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Copper, W29F(i)/A29D-C, a very good example of this copper variant, no original colour, no tearing or stress fractures, some verdigris on the surface. (£120-£140)

12. **District Fire Office.** Copper, W83E/A84D-C, an excellent example of the last variant to be issued by the company in the 1860s before being taken over by the Alliance, all original colour remains, some slight scuffing to the raised parts, a nice example in this rarely found condition. (£70-£80)

13. **Sun Fire Office.** Copper, W3H/A3F(i)-C, a very good example of this variant issued in 1839, struck from a modified die of the Bath Sun Fire Office, no blue background but gilding on the sun and rays remain, as does the two fixing lugs. (£30-£40)

14. **Phoenix Fire Office** Copper, W23K/A23E(ii)*LBL-C, a good example of this late variant still retaining most of its original colour, no flattening or tearing although one lug is missing. (£40-£50)

15. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, W10K/A10E-L, a very good example of this variant, no original colour, crown secure, has been varnished. (£30-£40)

16. **Worcester Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 2396, W27B/A27B(i)-L, a very good example of this painted number variant although the number has been repainted, no original colour or gilding, the top portion of the tab is unfortunately missing. (£600-£700)



Lot 10



Lot 16

17. **Bristol Crown Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No possibly 15773. W6A(ii)/A6A(ii)-L, an excellent example of the early painted policy number variant issued around 1805, some original background and crown colour remains, no stress fractures and clean nail holes, a better example would be hard to find. (£700-£800)



Lot 17

18. **Westminster Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 51452, W5C(iii)/A5B(iii)-L, a good example of this lead variant issued between 1810 and 1830, no original colour, stress fracture along the bottom of the feathers, mounted on a panel. ((£100-£120)

19. **Westminster Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 17864, W5B/A6-5A(ii)-L, issued about 1750 and one of the earliest marks in the auction, the mark is in pristine condition with no faults or stress fractures, another for the discerning collector, as rarely seen in this condition. (£700-£800) (*Front cover - middle picture*)

20. **Norwich General Ass Co.** Copper, W28D/A28B-C, a good example of this copper variant from a short lived company, no original colour or evidence of the policy number remains, panel has been professionally reattached. (£70-£80)

21. **Royal Exchange Ass.** Lead, Policy No 161795, W10E/A10B(vii)-L, a very good example of this variant, no original colour remaining, no flattening, some minor damage to top nail hole, issued in 1798 to the George Hotel in Ramsey, Huntingdon. (£90-£110)



Lot 21

22. **Legal Ins Co.** Tin, B1013/A172(ii)-TI, a mint example of this late 19th cent company's mark, full lithographed colours with no scuffing to the raised parts. (£40-£50)

23. **County Fire Office.** Copper, W45F/A45E-C, a very good example of the company's last variant issued in 1875, original gilding, the red background has been repainted in red. (£40-£50)

24. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95D/A97B(ii)-C, a good example of this variant with the original colour showing through the ageing patina. **Guardian Fire Ins Co.** Tin, B797/A57D-TI, a fair example of this tin variant, no original colour, slight surface rust, tearing at one nail hole where it was taken off a wall in the Algarve. (£40-£50)

25. **Patriotic Ass Co of Ireland.** Lead, W73A/A73A-L, an excellent example of this Irish mark issued in the early part of the company's history, no original colour remains, no tearing at the nail holes and rated as 8B in the rarity guide, not often seen in this condition. (£700-£800)



Lot 25

26. **Union Fire Office.** Copper, W4E/A4D(ii)*R-C, an excellent example of this 1835 variant still retaining its original colour and gilding, some slight scuffing to the raised parts, not often seen in this condition. (£120-£150)

27. **Edinburgh Friendly Ins Co.** Lead, Policy No 7901, issued in 1767. W7C/A7B(i)-L, an excellent example of this rarely seen mark especially in this condition, no colour or gilding remains, but the mark is pristine in all other aspects, a must for Circle members. (£700-£800)(*Front cover - top picture*)

28. **Atlas Ins Co.** A reproduction of W50A mounted on a display board. (£10-£15)

29. **Bristol Crown Fire Office.** Lead, W6C/A6B(ii)-L, an excellent example of this variant issued towards the end of the 1700s, no original colour or gilding, no flattening to the crown, two clean nail holes, stress fracture along the bottom of the crown where it meets the background. (£400-£500)



Lot 29

30. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Lead, W29A/A29A-L, a very good example of this rare early mark dating from the 1700s, seldom seen at auctions, no original colour or gilding or evidence of the painted policy number, some strengthening solder on the rear above the name panel, this is one of the heaviest lead marks issued by any company and is a must for the serious collector. (£1000-£1200)

31. **Yorkshire Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W77B/A77B-C, a very good example of this second variant issued in 1850, all original colour and gilding to the Minster remains with some paint bubbling in parts, no other damage. (£70-£90)



Lot 30

32. **Birmingham Fire Office.** Copper, W42C/A42B-C, a very good example of this mark illustrating a fireman

and manual pump, only one of two companies to do so, the mark has been repainted, not in its original colours, minor tearing at top nail hole. (£70-£80)

33. **Sun Fire Office.** Copper, W3H/A3F(i)-C, two good examples of this copper variant, both with substantial gilding on the sun and rays, some stress fractures to one, no flattening to either, one lug remaining. (£30-£40)

34. **County Fire Office.** Copper, W 45D/A45C-C, a mark in fair condition, original colour and gilding, some fraying at the edges and stress marks. (£15-£20)

35. **British Fire Office.** Lead, W30B/A30B-L, an excellent example of this second variant issued in 1800 after design flaws in the first mark caused it to be discontinued soon after production, no colour or deterioration to the mark, a suitable mark for the discerning collector. (£700-£800)



Lot 35

36. **Legal & General Ass Soc Ltd.** Tin, A89A*S-TI/B872, a very good example of this rarely seen 1836 company's mark that was primarily used for overseas business, a striking lithographed image in silver and blue of the Temple Bar, the company also produced a similar ceramic variant that can be seen along the Algarve coast, one not to be missed. (£70-£90)



Lot 37

37. **Kent Ins Co.** Lead, W36A(ii)/A36B-L, a very good example of this early mark issued in 1803 after it was resolved to no longer issue stamped policy numbers but to paint the number on the mark, unfortunately this is not present, a sound mark with no physical flaws, that has not been seen for some time at auction. (£500-£600)

38. **Yorkshire Fire Ins Co.** Tin, B858/A77D(i)-T, a very good example of this tin variant issued in 1902 for foreign and colonial use, all original colour and gilding remains with some slight scuffing in parts, no other damage, a difficult to come by mark (£70-£90)

39. **London Assurance.** Lead, Policy No 20526, W9E/A9E(i)-L, an excellent example of this lead mark dating from 1740, no original colour remains, no stress fractures or other damage, a choice mark for the serious collector. (£550-£650)



Lot 39

40. **New Bristol Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 832, W12A(i)/A12A(i)-L, an excellent example of the first variant issued by the company in 1880, later marks had the policy number painted as opposed to stamped on the panel, a lovely example still retaining its integrity with no damage whatsoever. (£1200-£1400)(*Front cover - bottom picture*)
41. **British Fire Office.** Copper, W30E/A30E-C, a very good example of this mark in copper, which has been repainted in original colours, no flattening to the lion or fraying or tearing at the edges, the brigade formed part of Braidwood's London Fire Engine Establishment in 1832. (£70-£90)
42. **West of England Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W48C/A48C-C, a very good example of this third variant still showing some gilding but no colour, no flattening to Arthur or any other damage. (£80-90)
43. **Shropshire & North Wales Ass Co.** Brass, W89B/A91A(ii)-B, a good example of this brass mark, no colour or gilding, some minor stress fractures on the feathers. (£60-£80)
44. **Salop Fire Office.** Copper, W20B/A20B-C, a good example of this copper variant that followed the lead mark in 1826 and was in continuous use until the company was taken over by the Alliance in 1890, no colour or gilding, some slight damage to one leopard's head. (£40-£60)
45. **Worcester Fire Office.** Tin, W27D/A27B(ii)-TI, only the oval remains of this variant mounted on an oval board, a nice example repainted in original colours. (£40-£50)
46. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95D/A95B-C, a good clean example of this variant with the original colour showing through the aging patina, no tearing or stress fractures. (£30-40)
47. **Hand in Hand Fire Office.** Lead Policy No74588, W2A/A2A-L, an excellent early example of this company's mark issued in 1750, no original colour although some background gilding is evident, no stress fractures or flattening to the raised parts, although the cross on the top of the orb is missing. (£400 -£450)
48. **Globe Ins Co.** Tin, W38E/A38D(iii)-TI, a good example of this tin variant, little original colour, some slight surface rust showing through on the edges, otherwise a nice example of a difficult to come by mark. (£100-£120)



Lot 47

49. **Phoenix Ass Co.** Copper, W23G/A23A-C, a good example from this multi variant company, no original colour or painted number remains, no flattening to the phoenix, part of spear tip remains. (£30-£40)
50. **Caledonian Ins Co.** Tin, W43A/A43A-TI, a good example of the later variant similar in design to 43A but in a thinner gauge, used for overseas and promotional use, all colour remains although some minor surface rust on the raised parts. (£40-£50)
51. **Protector Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W80A/A81A-C, a good example of this variant from a short lived company 1825-35, no original colour or gilding, no flattening to the figure or tearing at the nail holes. (£80-£90)
52. **Northern Ass Co.** Tin, W88A/A90A-TI, a good example of this Scottish tin mark that has been repainted in its original colours, some slight surface rusting on the back edges where it has been on a building. (£30-£40)
53. **Newcastle upon Tyne Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 3332, W24B/A24A(iii)-L, an excellent example from this NE company, no original colour remains, clean nail holes, still retaining its convex shape, an unblemished mark from the late 1700s. (£600-£700)
54. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Tin, W29G(i)/A29F(i)-TI, a fair example of this variant, no original colour, surface rusting and the bottom of the shield missing. (£30-£40)
55. **National Union Soc Ltd.** Tin, B989/A150B-TI, a very good example of this variant still retaining all its original colour, slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£40-£50)
56. **Liverpool & London & Globe Ins Co.** Copper, W105B/A112B-C, a good example of this mark repainted in original colours, some fraying at the edges otherwise a sound example. (£40-£50)
57. **Phoenix Ass Co.** Copper, W23K/A23E(ii)*GN-C, a good example of this 12th and last variant, some original colour and gilding, no tearing or fraying at the edges, no fixing lugs. (£40-£50)
58. **Patriotic Ass Co of Ireland.** Tin, B847/A71G(i)*R, two very good examples of this tin lithographed mark, some slight scuffing to the raised parts, one has a red background, the other green, A73J-TI. (£60-£80)



Lot 53

59. **Yorkshire Fire Ins Co.** Tin, B856/A77C-TI, a very good example of this tin variant issued in 1902 for foreign and colonial use, all original colour and gilding remains with some slight scuffing in parts, no other damage, a difficult to come by mark showing the lithographed Minster. (£70-£90)

60. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95D/A95B-C, a mint example of this variant with all the original colour remaining, the mark was discovered stuck behind one removed from a house in East London. (£50-60)

61. **Pearl Ass Co.** Tin, B1023/A113A-TI, a mint example of the early 20th century company's mark, primarily used for overseas and promotional use, not often seen at auctions. (£50-£60)

62. **Sydney Fire Ins Co.** Tin, similar to B1571 copper, a good repainted example of this Australian tin mark issued in 1855 together with policy documents and a photograph of the property insured, a difficult to come by mark in this condition. (£40-£50)

63. **Victoria Ins Co Melbourne.** Copper, B1753, another good example of a mid 19th century Australian mark taken from a building in Melbourne, some original colour but showing signs of weathering. (£40-£50)

64. **Union Fire Office.** An excellent example of this reproduction Porter's arm badge, B572, made by Vaughton Bros, Birmingham in the 1920s. (£30-£40)

65. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Tin, W29Q/B719/A29P-TI, a mint example of this last variant issued for overseas use. (£30-£40)

66. **Three reproduction marks** Sun Fire Office (glass fibre), Birmingham (lead), Hand in Hand (lead). (£25)

67. **Selection of marks in poor condition** to include elements of Queen W99B, Farmers W92B, Leeds and Yorks W70A, British 40E, Birmingham x 2 W83A. (£20)

68. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95D/A97B-C, a fair example of this variant, no original colour, top circle missing. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95E/A97D-C, a fair example of this variant with some original colour, top of crown missing. **Liverpool & London & Globe.** Tin, B947/A112G(ii)-TI, the last of the variant to be issued by the company for promotional use, in excellent condition. (£30-£40)

End of Firemarks

69. A George V Silver **Sun Fire Office Messenger's Badge** No 13, maker's mark TER, (Thomas Edward Rawlins) hallmarked London 1920. The badge is 7cm in diameter and weighs 52gms with 4 suspension loops on the back. The rim is engraved, "Sun Fire Office Messenger No 13", and is featured in *Badges of Extinction*. (£400-£500)
70. Solid silver **arm badge of the Royal Exchange Assurance**. A Messenger's arm badge weighing 80 gms and measuring 8x11cm, and is hallmarked for Sheffield 1902, with a makers name TC. Only one suspension loop remaining. (£200-£250)
71. Solid silver **arm badge of the Royal Exchange Assurance**. A Messenger's arm badge weighing 102 gms and measuring 8x11cm, and is hallmarked for Birmingham 1910 with a makers name of M Bros. The badge has two drilled fixing holes visible from the front with no suspension loops remaining. (£200-£250)



Lot 69



Lot 70



Lot 71

72. **The British Firemark 1680-1879** by Brian Wright. (£30-£40)
73. **Footprints of Assurance** by Alwin Bulau, a regulation copy. (£20-£25)

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.

