



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
AUTUMN MEETING

TO BE HELD
AT THE
ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL
MARINA, HASTINGS
TN38 0BD
ON
SATURDAY
13TH OCTOBER 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. Marks will be sent 'Signed For' and will require a signature on delivery.

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, April 2012 AGM, London													
Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	10	11	120	21	90	31	70	41	60*	51	60	61	100
2	20	12	90	22	40	32	60	42	70*	52	55	62	120
3	30	13	50	23	40	33	30	43	80	53	500	63	55
4	30	14	30*	24	30*	34	25	44	75	54	35	64	30
5	400	15	30	25	450*	35	500	45	40	55	30	65	35
6	230	16	600	26	100*	36	80	46	25*	56	30	66	20
7	140	17	600	27	600	37	400	47	300	57	30*	67	30
8	300	18	100	28	10	38	55	48	n/s	58	70	68	25*
9	80	19	520	29	350	39	500	49	30	59	60	69	700
10	110	20	100	30	1550	40	1650	50	30	60	75	70	320

n/s – not sold * – sold after auction

Fire Mark Circle Auction – 13th October 2012

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

1. **County Fire Office.** Copper, W45B/A45B-C. Three examples of this second variant in fair to good condition, some original colour and gilding showing. (£40-£50)
2. **Central Ins Co.** Tin, B1002/A157A-TI, a fair example of this early 20th cent mark, no original colour and some surface rusting. (£40-£50)

3. **Westminster Ins Office.** Copper, W5D/A5C-C, a very good example of this variant issued in 1830, some original gilding, no flattening or tearing at the nail holes. (£120-£150)

4. **Royal Exchange Ass.** Lead, Policy No 232669, W10J/A10C(ii)-L, a very good example of this last numbered variant issued in 1807, no original colour but the mark still retains its original integrity. (£70-£100)

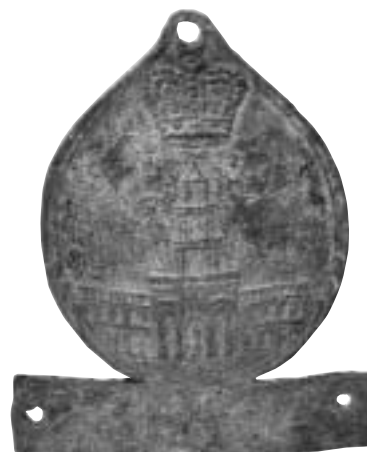
5. **Notts & Derby Fire & Life Ass.** Zinc, W87E/A88E(i)-Z, a good example of this short lived company's mark in zinc, no original colour or fraying to the edges, the tip of the garter has been reattached at the nail hole. (£50-£60)



Lot 3

6. **Manchester Fire & Life Ass Co.** Tin, W71E/A71B(ii)-TI, a good example of this later variant issued in 1880, some original colour, no surface rust. (£70-£80)

7. **Car & General Ins Corp.** Tin, B1003/A162A-TI, a near mint example of this early 20th cent lithographed mark, showing some slight scuffing to the raised edges, a mark for the discerning collector. (£150-£200) (*Front cover – top picture*)



Lot 4

8. **Birmingham Fire Office.** Copper, W42B/A42B(i)-C, a fair example of this second variant having been repainted in the original colours, some stress fractures to the figure and pump. (£40-£50)

9. **Salop Fire Office.** Copper, W20B/A20B-C, a good example of the only copper mark issued by the company dating from 1826, no flattening to the leopards' heads but some tearing at the top nail hole. (£50-£60)

10. **Patriotic Ins Co of Ireland.** Tin, B847/A73G-TI, a very good example of this later variant showing all original colour with some slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£40-£50)

11. **West of England Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W48B/A48B-C, a very good example of this second variant where the die has been modified from the painted number to Exeter, it has been repainted in the original colours and has no physical defects. (£120-£140)

12. **London & Lancs Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W101B/A106E*RW-C, an excellent example of this early variant in full original colour with some minor paint loss to the raised lettering, a difficult mark to come by in white lettering. (£80-£100)



Lot 11

13. **Globe Ins Co.** Tin, W38D/A38D(ii)-TI, a good example of this tin variant, little original colour, some slight surface rust showing on the edges, otherwise a nice example of a difficult to come by mark. (£70-£80)

14. **Sun Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 559869, W3C/A3B(ii)-L, a good example of this lead mark together with a copy of the policy issued in 1790 to an Isaac Parsons of Hampstead Norris in Berkshire, no original colour. (£80-£100)



Lot 14



Lot 15



Lot 16

15. **Farmers & General Fire & Life Ins Inst.** Copper, W92B/A94B-C, a good example of this mark having been repainted in the original colours, no stress fractures or tearing at the nail holes, not seen at auction for a few years. (£40-£50)

16. **Hope Fire & Life Ass.** Tin, W47E/A47D-TI, a fair example of this mark from this short lived company, no colour, some fraying and holes to the body of the mark, a very rare variant in any condition. (£120-£150)

17. **Licenses & General Ins Co.** Tin, B978/A145A*R-TI, a mint example of this late 19th cent mark in its original lithographed colours, a difficult to come by mark in this condition. (£120-£150) (*Front cover – bottom picture*)

18. **Guardian Fire & Life Ass Co.** Copper, W57B/A57A-C, a good example of this early variant repainted in its original colours, no flattening to Athene or tearing at the nail holes. (£40-£50)

19. **State Ass Co.** Tin, B983/A147C-TI, a mint example of this late 19th cent mark in full lithographed colours, no damage whatsoever. (£60-£80)



Lot 19

20. **British Fire Office.** Copper, W30C/A30C-C, an excellent example of this transitional lead/copper variant issued in the early part of the 19th cent, no original colour but a mark for the serious collector. (£120-£140)

21. **Notts & Derby Fire & Life Ass.** Copper, W87E/A88E(i)-C, a fair example of this short lived company's mark in copper, no original colour or fraying to the edges, the carter tab is missing from the belt. (£30-£50)



Lot 20

22. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95A/A97A-C, a fair example of this first and rarest variant, still retaining the original colours, no damage other than the top roundel missing. (£80-£100)

23. **Liverpool & London Fire & Life Ass Co.** Copper, W96A/A98A-C, a very good example of the only mark issued by this company that was only in business for 17 years, all original colour with some loss, no flattening to the raised parts or tearing at the nail holes, slight stress cracks at the edges, a must for the discerning collector. (£70-£100)



Lot 23

24. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Copper, W29P/A29N-C, a good example of this later variant still retaining some original colour and gilding, no flattening to Justice or fraying or tearing. (£40-£50)

25. **Alliance Fire & Life Ass Co.** Copper,



Lot 25



Lot 26

W63B/A63A-C, a very good example of this variant, with some of the gilding still remaining, no flattening to the raised parts or background colour, a desirable mark to have. (£70-£100)

26. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, Policy No 78352, W10D/A10B(vi)-L, a very good example of his early variant issued in 1780, no physical damage and clean nail holes, no original colour, a desirable early mark. (£110-£130)
27. **West Of England Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W48G/A48G-C, a good example of this variant with Alfred in profile, no flattening to the figure or fraying or tearing to the nail holes, the head has been strengthened to the body. (£100-£120)
28. **District Fire Office.** Copper, W83C/A84C-C, a good example of this variant with some background colour, slight fraying at the edges, otherwise a nice example. (£40-£60)
29. **Yorkshire Fire & Life Ins Co.** Copper, W77B/A77B(i)-C, a good example of this mark with some original colour, no fraying or tearing at the nail holes or flatter to the minster. (£70-£80)
30. **Sun Fire Office.** Copper, B551/A3I-C, a good example of this later variant still retaining the original colour, a nice mark. (£30-£40)
31. **Manchester Fire & Life Ass Co.** Copper, W71C/A71A-C, a very good example of this variant still retaining most of the original colour in a nice patina, no flattening to the shield or tearing at the nail holes. (£80-£100)
32. **Westminster Ins Office.** Copper, W5D/A5C-C, a very good example of this last copper variant issued in 1830, some original colour and gilding, no flattening or tearing at the nail holes. (£120-£150)

33. **Liverpool & London & Globe Ins Co.** Copper, W105B/A112B-C, the last of the copper marks issued by the company and in excellent condition, all original colour but some paint flaking at the border. (£70-£90)
34. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95B/A97B-C, a good example of this second variant, still retaining some of the original colours, no flattening but some spreading at the nail holes. (£40-£50)
35. **Farmers & General Fire & Life Ins Inst.** Copper, W92B/A94B-C, a good example of this mark without the original colour, no stress fractures or tearing at the nail holes. (£40-£50)
36. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, Policy No 18615, W10D/A10B(vi)-L, a very good example of his early variant issued about 1730, no physical damage and clean nail holes, no original colour, and a desirable early mark. (£250-£300) (*Front cover – centre picture*)

37. **Yorkshire Fire & Life Ins Co.** Copper, W77B/A77B-C, a good example of this mark that has been repainted in the original gold and red colours, no fraying or tearing at the nail holes or flattening to the minster. (£60-£80)



Lot 37

38. **Sun Fire Office.** Tin, Policy No 850741, W3E/A3D-TI, a good example of this tin variant bearing the last of the stamped policy numbers, some fraying at the edges due to the age and material, issued circa 1811. (£80-£100)
39. **District Fire Office.** Copper, W83E/A84D-C, a good example of this variant, no original colour and some slight fraying at the edges, otherwise a good example. (£60-£70)
40. **Queen Ins Co.** Tin, W99D/A103D(ii)-TI, an excellent example of this later variant in original colours primarily for promotional and overseas use. (£40-£60)
41. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Tin, W29Q/A20P-TI, a poor example of this last variant no original colour and some surface rusting, the litho print of Justice is still visible. (£30-£40)
42. **Westminster Fire Office.** Lead, Policy No 15617, W5B/A5A(ii)-L, an early mark in very good condition with traces of original gilding and paint, issued circa 1730 to a house in Hampton, Surrey that was demolished in the 70s. (£300-£350)

43. **North British & Mercantile Ins Co.** Tin, A108E-TI, a very good example of this early 20th cent variant still retaining its original colour some slight scuffing to the raised parts, a difficult to come by mark in this condition. (£40-£50)
44. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, W10K/A10E-L, a very good example of the last lead mark to be issued by the company, no original colour. (£40-£50)
45. **Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead, Policy No 222617, W10J/A10C(ii)-L, a very good example of this variant issued circa 1806, no original colour remains, and no flattening to the building. (£70-£80)
46. **Notts & Derby Fire & Life Ass.** Zinc, W87E/A88E(i)-Z, a fair example of this short lived company's mark in zinc, no original colour or fraying to the edges, the garter end is missing. (£40-£50)
47. **Bath Sun Fire Office.** Copper, W16B/A16B-C, a mark in good condition and is the only copper variant to be issued by this company, no original colour remains, no flattening to the face or body of the mark. (£50-£70)



Lot 45



Lot 49

48. **National Union Soc.** Tin, B989/A150B-TI, an excellent example of this late 19th cent mark, all original colour remaining, no scuffing to the raised parts or paint loss. (£40-£50)
49. **Protector Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W80A/A81A-C, a good example of this variant from a company that lasted only 10 years and taken over by the Phoenix, one of only three marks to show a fireman, this one designed by R Smirke, (RA), some slight tearing at the nail holes. (£70-£100)
50. **London Assurance.** Tin, W9I/A9H(i)-TI, an excellent example of this modern tin mark that was used for promotional and overseas use, all original colour remaining and no scuffing to the raised parts. (£40-£50)

51. **Royal Ins Co.** Copper, W95B/A97B-C, a good example of this second variant, still retaining some of the original colours, no flattening but some spreading at the nail holes. **Norwich Union Fire Ins Soc.** Copper, W29O/A29N-C, a good example of this later variant, no original colour and gilding, no flattening to Justice or fraying or tearing. (£60-£80)
52. **Seguros Aurora Bilbao.** Tin, B1670, a good example of the early 20th cent Spanish mark repainted in the original colours. **Landes Brandschaden.** A fair example of this colourful German enamelled mark, some chipping to the bottom. (£30-£40)
53. **Imperial Fire Ins Co.** Copper, W40C/A40A-C, a good example of this variant still retaining some of its colour and gilding, small repair to the top nail hole, no flattening. (£40-£50)
54. **Guardian Fire & Life Ass Co.** Tin, B797/A57D-TI, a repainted mark in good condition. **Liverpool & London & Globe.** Tin, B947/A112G(i)-TI, a mint example of this modern mark used for overseas promotion. (£30-£40)
55. **La Fondiaria.** Tin, B1523, a mint example of this modern mark. **Compagnia Mediterranea Di Assicurazioni.** A modern tin advertising plate. (£20-£30)

End of Firemarks

56. **Fire Grenades.** Harden Star clear glass fire grenade with original contents, part of bulbous top missing, a difficult to come by model. Imperial green glass fire grenade with part contents in excellent condition. (£70-£100)
57. **Fire Grenades.** Harden Star dark blue glass fire grenade with original contents, excellent condition, some chipping of glass on top rim. Harden Star light blue glass fire grenade with original contents, some chipping of glass on the top rim. (£80-£100)
58. **Norwich Union.** Fire Insurance Policy dated 1837, Policy No 194377 to an Edward Margetson, a Norfolk farmer. (£15-£20)
59. **Norwich Union.** A similar policy to the same farmer dated 1837 Policy No 194378. (£15-£20)
60. **Essex & Suffolk.** Fire Insurance Policy, dated 1810, Policy No 5205 to a Christopher Barker of Woodham Ferrers, Essex. (£15-£20)
61. **Royal Exchange.** Fire Insurance Policy, dated 1808, Policy No 241815 to a Charles Bradford of Wroughton, Wiltshire. (£15-£20)

62. **Bath Fire Office.** Fire Insurance Policy, dated 1791, Policy No 5223 to a John Meade of Bath. (£15-£20)
63. **Sun Fire Office.** Fire Insurance Policy, dated 1834, Policy No 1174208 to a Stephen Hunt of Warminster. (£15-£20)
64. **Three prints** of Fire Offices, Albion, County and British mounted in a frame dating from 1850. (£15-£20)
65. **Penny Magazine,** mounted print from 1837 extolling the virtues of fire insurance, showing a brigade of the day marching up Fish Street with the Monument in the background, 34x 24mm. (£20-£25)
66. **Phoenix Assurance,** mounted print of 1860 showing their “Engine House” in Cockspur St, 29x23mm. (£10-£15)
67. **Sun Fire Office,** coloured lithographed blotter dated 1888, 27x22. (£10-£15)

Books on Firemarks

68. **British Fire Marks** by George Fothergill, early 20th cent hand drawn illustrations on insurance company's and their marks, a must have for the serious collector. (£40-£50)
69. **Insurance Office Fire Brigades and Firemarks** by Bertram Williams 1927, an illustrated account of Fire brigades and firemarks. (£30-£40)
70. **Footprints of Assurance** by Alwin Bulau, a regulation copy. (£20-£30)
71. **The British Firemark 1680-1879** by Brian Wright. (£30-£40)
72. **Addendum to Footprints of Assurance,** updated in 1975. (£10-£12)
73. **The Historical Collection of the Insurance Co of North America 1792-1967. Signs of Insurance, 1991,** by Ed Tufts & Lynn Leopold Sharp. (£10-£20)
74. **Three books** by Brian Henham. 1 - Hand in Hand, 2 - Badges of Extinction, 3 - True Hero. (£10-£15)

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.

