

**FIRE
MARK
CIRCLE**
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 6 APRIL 2016

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. Marks will be sent tracked and signed for which will incur an additional postage cost and the maximum allowed sum insured may not reflect the value of the mark.

Disputes

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

Prices achieved at Fire Mark Circle Auction, October 2015, Windsor

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£		
1	20	11	30	21	230*	31	80	41	140	51	50	61	10
2	80	12	45	22	190	32	100	42	80	52	95	62	10*
3	90	13	95	23	260	33	170	43	65	53	70	63	10
4	50	14	55	24	40	34	50	44	65	54	30	64	100
5	30	15	170	25	60	35	n/s	45	30	55	45	65	30
6	30	16	55	26	160	36	200	46	45	56	30	66	210
7	120	17	95	27	40*	37	180	47	80*	57	30	67	40
8	20*	18	25	28	240	38	300	48	140	58	120	68	45
9	50	19	20	29	400	39	420	49	100*	59	45	69	20
10	40	20	60	30	85	40	100	50	40	60	40	70	20

*n/s – not sold

Fire Mark Circle Auction - Wednesday 6th April 2106

Marks are classified by their appropriate Wright (W), Addis (a) or Bulau (B) number

- 1. Shropshire & North Wales Assurance Co.** Brass. W89B. An excellent example of this second variant from a company based in Shrewsbury, all original colour remaining and no damage to the surface of the mark. (£70-£90)
- 2. Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead. W10K. A good example of the last variant in lead to be issued by the company in 1810, no original colour. (£25-£35)
- 3. County Fire Office.** Copper. W45B. A good example of this mark, no original colour, some slight surface damage, no fraying at the edges. (£20-£30)
- 4. Bath Sun Fire Office.** Copper. W16B. A near mint example of this highly sought after mark, all original colour and gilding remaining and no surface damage. (£70-£90)
- 5. Salop Fire Office.** Lead. W20A. Policy No. 10169, issued in 1810. A very good example of this lead mark with some original colour remaining, no damage to the nail holes or surface of the mark. (£80-£100)
- 6. Westminster Insurance Office.** Lead. W5B. Policy No. 20118. A good example of this early second variant issued in 1730, no original colour or damage to the surface of the mark, hanging rings missing. (£140-£160)
- 7. Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead. W10J Policy No. 195108. A good example of the last numbered variant in lead to be issued by the company in 1800, no original colour, some gilding. (£25-£35)
- 8. Salop Fire Office.** Copper. W20B, issued after 1826. A very good example of this second and last variant with all original colour and gilding remaining, no damage to the surface of the mark. (£50-£70)
- 9. Union Fire Office.** Copper. W4F. A good example of this mark issued in 1835, no original colour, no damage to the nail holes or fraying at the edges. (£50-£70)
- 10. Protector Fire Insurance Co.** Copper. W80A. A good example of this mark still retaining some original colour, only one of two marks that show a fireman fighting a fire on their mark, the design being produced by *R Smirke R.A.* (£50-£70)
- 11. Reading Insurance Co.** Copper. W60A. A very good example of this single issue sought after mark from a company that was in business for only 19 years before being taken over by the Phoenix, some original colour and gilding, a must for the serious collector, the mark was illustrated on the front of the *Linaker* catalogue for the 1969 Reading Exhibition (£170-£200)
- 12. Norwich General Assurance Co.** Lead. W28A. Policy No. 3976. A very good example of this mark from a company that was in business for only 29 years before being merged into the Norwich Union, no original colour or surface damage. (£160-£180)
- 13. Birmingham Fire Office.** Copper. W42C. A good example of this third variant, no damage or flattening to the surface, some house paint and some small stress fractures. (£30-£40)
- 14. Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead. W10J Policy No. 2*7756. A good example of the last numbered variant in lead to be issued by the company in 1800, no original colour or surface damage, a unique mark as the second policy number has not been stamped. (£50-£60)
- 15. Sun Fire Office.** Lead. W3B. Policy No. 352338. A very good example of this second variant issued in 1774, no original colour or gilding or other damage to the surface of the mark. (£60-£80)

- 16. Athenaeum Fire Office.** Ceramic. A101A*LBI-CE. An excellent example of this ceramic mark from a company that was in business for only 4 years in the 1850s. Wright's theory was that the company produced this more for promotional purpose during its short life; however it is still a very rare and desirable example. (£150-£180)
- 17. The Mutual Insurance Co of Philadelphia.** Cast Iron. A reproduction of the original lead mark from the second insurance company in the USA, 1784 mounted on an oak shield, a nice example. (£30-£40)
- 18. Phoenix Assurance Co.** Copper. W23G. A good example of this mark issued in 1800, some original colour, no flattening to the Phoenix or damage to the nail holes, spear tip intact. (£40-£50).
- 19. Phoenix Assurance Co.** Copper. W23G. Policy No. 414656. A very good example of this mark issued in 1800, all original colour and gilding, no flattening to the Phoenix or damage to the nail holes. (£60-£70).
- 20. Sun Fire Office.** Copper. W3J. A good example of this later copper variant all original colour and gilding remaining and no surface damage. (£30-£40)
- 21. Norwich Union Fire Insurance Co.** Copper. W29L. A good example of this *Gaudiano* variant issued in 1860. Some background colour, top finial missing. (£40-£50)
- 22. Alliance Fire & Life Insurance Co.** Copper. B818. An excellent example of this variant produced solely for the Middle East, all original paint. (£50-£60)
- 23. Alliance Fire & Life Insurance Co.** Copper. W63A. An excellent example of this first issue variant all original paint remaining, not often seen in this condition. (£60-£70)
- 24. Commercial Union Assurance.** Tin. W100A. An excellent example of this single issue mark still retaining its original colour. (£40-£50)
- 25. West of England Fire Insurance Co.** Copper. W48C. A good example of this third variant, some original colour and gilding remaining. (£50-£60)
- 26. Globe Insurance Co.** Tin. W38E. A very good example of this later variant still retaining its entire original colour, no surface rust. (£50-£60)
- 27. Employers Liability Assurance Corporation Ltd.** Tin. B965. A good example of this late 19th century mark still retaining all of its original colours, some slight surface rust. (£40-£50)
- 28. State Assurance Co.** Tin. B983. A good example of this short lived Liverpool company's mark, later to be acquired by the Royal Exchange, all original colour remaining. (£40-£50)
- 29. Royal Exchange Assurance.** Lead. W10D. Policy No. 15125. An excellent example of this early mark issued in 1740, no original colour or damage to the surface of the mark, mounted on a Mahogany oval board with gilded date below. (£160-£180)
- 30. Hertfordshire & Cambridge Fire Office.** Copper. W68A. An excellent example of this single issue mark from a company that seems not to have its business recorded, but long enough to issue a mark before being taken over by the Phoenix in 1831, all original colour and no damage to the surface of the mark. (£160-£180)
- 31. Manchester Fire & Life Assurance Co.** Copper. W71C. A very good example of this variant still retaining all original colour, no flattening to the shield or damage at the nail holes. (£50-£60)
- 32. Yorkshire Fire & Life Insurance Co.** Copper. W77B. A very good example of this mark still retaining its original colour and gilding to the Minster. (£50-£60)
- 33. District Fire Office.** Copper. W83A. A good example of this Birmingham company's mark, all original colour and no surface damage. (£40-£50)
- 34. London Assurance.** Lead. W9F. Policy No. 50543. A resin copy of this early lead mark issued in 1795. (£5-£10)
- 35. Sun Fire Office.** Copper. W3J. A good example of this later copper variant all original colour and gilding remaining and no surface damage. (£30-£40)

- 36. Sun Fire Office.** Lead. W3B. Policy No. 425573. A very good example of this second variant issued in 1778, no original colour or gilding or other damage to the surface of the mark. (£60-£80)
- 37. Warden Insurance Co. Ltd.** Tin. A125A-TI. A mint example of this lithographed mark from a Scottish company formed in the late 19th cent, later to be absorbed into the Aberdeenshire Farmers in 1922, a rare find in this condition. (£70-£80)
- 38. Sun Fire Office.** Copper. W3H. An excellent example of this copper variant still retaining its original colour, gilding and lugs, slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£30-£40)
- 39. Sun Fire Office.** Copper. B551. An excellent example of this copper variant still retaining its original colour, gilding, slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£30-£40)
- 40. British Fire Insurance Co Ltd.** Tin. B1018. A very good example of this rarer variant from a company in business for only 15 years, still retaining all of its original colour, a difficult to come by mark. (£120-£130)
- 41. Queen Insurance Co.** Tin. W99D. A very good example of this later variant still retaining its original colour, no scuffing to the raised parts. (£40-£50)
- 42. Royal Exchange Assurance.** Aluminium. B636. An excellent example of this later issue variant primarily for overseas use, due to the expansion of the business. The mark unlike its successor was never painted. (£40-£50)
- 43. District Fire Office.** Copper. W83E. A good example of this Birmingham company's mark, some original colour and no surface damage, the original nails are included with the mark. (£40-£50)
- 44. Bristol Crown Fire Office.** Lead. W6C. A fair example of this lead mark, some original colour, no flattening to the crown, the panel has been reattached. (£90-£100)
- 45. Farmers & General Fire & Life Insurance Inst.** Copper. W92B. A very good example of this second variant with some original colour and gilding. (£40-£50)
- 46. Atlas Assurance Co.** Copper. W50A. A good example of this copper mark, the only one issued for business in the UK although other tin oval marks were produced for use overseas. (£40-£50)
- 47. Beacon Fire Insurance Co.** Copper W56B. A very good example of this difficult to come by mark, all original colour remains and no surface damage, a must for the serious collector. (£100-£120)
- 48. Atlas Assurance Co.** Tin. B780. A good example of this later oval tin variant, primarily issued for business use overseas. (£30-£40)
- 49. Salop Fire Office.** Lead. W20A. Policy No. 798, issued in 1782. A very good example of this early lead mark, two years into the company's history, no original colour remaining, no damage to the nail holes or surface of the mark. (£120-£140)
- 50. Hand in Hand Fire Office.** Lead. W2A. Policy No 80585. An excellent example of this very early mark issued in 1760, no damage to the surface or nail holes. (£250-£300)
- 51. Royal Exchange Assurance.** Tin. A10I*BL-TI. An excellent example of this later issue variant primarily for overseas use, due to the expansion of the business, still retaining its original colour. (£40-£50)
- 52. Caledonian Insurance Co.** Enamel. A43A(vi)-E. A mint example of this last variant primarily used for overseas promotion, this mark is mentioned in Wright but not classified by him. (£40-£50)
- 53. Sun Fire Office.** Copper. W3H. An excellent example of this copper variant still retaining its original colour, gilding and lugs, slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£20-£30)
- 54. Kent Insurance Co.** Copper. W36C. A good example of this mark with all original colours, no damage to the nail holes or flattening to the raised parts. (£50-£60)
- 55. Imperial Fire Insurance Co.** Tin W40G. A good example of this variant with some original colour remaining, a sound mark. (£40-£50)

- 56. Union Fire Office.** Brass. Oval reproduction of porter's arm badge by Vaughton Bros Birmingham. These were produced by the CU (who took over the Union) for advertising purpose in both the 1920s and 60s. (£30-£40)
- 57. Kent Insurance Co.** Copper. W36B. A good example of this mark, no original colour or painted policy number, no damage to the nail holes or flattening to the raised parts. (£50-£60)
- 58. Alliance Fire & Life Insurance Co.** Copper. W63B. An excellent example of this second issue variant all original paint remaining, not often seen in this condition. (£60-£70)
- 59. Alliance Fire & Life Insurance Co.** Tin. A63F-TI An excellent example of this later tin lithographed variant used primarily for overseas business, all original paint remaining, not often seen in this condition. (£60-£70)
- 60. North British & Mercantile Insurance Co.** Copper. W102A. A very good example of this first variant repainted in original colours, no surface damage or stress fractures. (£50-£60).
- 61. Sun Fire Office.** Copper. W3I. An excellent example of this copper variant still retaining its original colour, gilding and lugs, slight scuffing to the raised parts. (£20-£30)
- 62. North British & Mercantile Insurance Co.** Tin. A108E(i)-TI. A good example of this later variant repainted in original colours, no surface damage or surface rust. (£40-£50).
- 63. Yorkshire Fire & Life Insurance Co.** Tin. B858. A very good example of this lithographed mark still retaining its original colour, and gilding, no surface rust. (£60-£70)
- 64. Guardian Fire & Life Assurance Co.** Tin. B800. A very good example of the last of the Guardian marks to be issued in 1900 for use in China, the red five point star and its Mandarin script is very unusual. (£60-£70)

End of Fire Marks

- 65. The British Fire Mark 1680-1879** by Brian Wright (£15-£20)
- 66. Foot prints of Assurance** by Alwin Bulau, a regulation copy (£10-£15)
- 67. West of England Fire Insurance Co.** An excellent example of the company's leather helmet dating from the mid-19th century, the helmet still retains its leather liner, distinctive red comb and WOE lettering on the front, some flaking paint. (£150-£170)