

The Life and Philatelic Covers of Arnold Wilson

The address of "A. Wilson" on a cover is quite familiar to collectors of Great Britain railway letter mail of the early 1900s. As collectors delve into that corner of philately, they encounter a significant figure in the making of souvenir covers with railway letter stamps - Arnold Wilson. While Capt. H.T. Jackson and others have chronicled the sometimes sketchy circumstances behind a few of the surcharges adorning some of these artifacts, little has been documented about the man behind them.

The non-philatelic cover below, ex Capt. H.T. Jackson and addressed to the "Executor of Mrs. Julia Wilson" in Manchester, proved to be a catalyst for my curiosity. Through research on online genealogy and newspaper sites, I uncovered that the addressee was the mother of our Mr. "A. Wilson." Surprisingly, his full name, Arnold Wilson, appears to have eluded previous publications.

Arnold Wilson, born in 1868 to Thomas Wilson (1830-1875) and Julia Barker (1831-1922) in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, played a pivotal role in the world of early railway letter mail. Growing up with siblings Herbert Wilson (1862-1939), Ada Wilson (1864), and Frank Wilson (1866), Arnold's family was documented in the 1871 England Census, where his father was listed as a sewing machine agent, and his mother-in-law, Judith Barker, earned income from railway shares.

In the 1881 census list, Arnold Wilson appeared as a scholar at a boarding school in Skircoat, Yorkshire, while his mother, Julia Wilson, assumed the role of head of the household, engaged in the furniture trade. Subsequent census records in 1891 and 1901 indicated Arnold's transition to a cabinet maker, residing at 50 Percival St., Chorlton on Medloc, in South Manchester, Lancashire.

By 1911, Arnold continued to share a residence with his mother, this time at the well-known "15 Beresford Rd, Longsight, Manchester" address. His life journey concluded in 1931 at the age of 63. To Arnold Wilson, we extend our gratitude for the invaluable legacy left behind.



25 March 1922 Marple to the mails at Manchester, 2d postage
Great Central & Midland Joint Committee 2d stamp, a non philatelic "Wilson" cover

(Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



17 August 1919 Ballymoney to the mails at Ballycastle, 1½d postage
Ballycastle Railway 2d light blue with "Ballymoney" straight line cancel

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)
3d railway fee



24 August 1920 Hamilton Central datestamp, to the mails at Manchester
Caledonian Railways 3d stamp and 1½d postage

(Great Western Railway)

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)

4d railway fee

Grt Western



28 April 1926 Bangor-On-Dee G.W.R. datestamp, to the mails at Wrexham
Cambrian Railways 4d stamp with black "Grt. Western" name change at top and 1½d postage
use after the 1 January 1923 amalgamation with Great Western Railway

(Ireland)

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)

4d railway fee



5 May 1926 Castlederg origin datestamp, to the mails at Victoria Bridge
Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Co. manuscript "4" on 3d stamp and 1½d postage

(Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



13 November 1919 Ballinamore, to the mails at Belturbet, 1½d postage
Cavan Leitrim Railway 2d stamp with company Ballinamore datestamp



16 November 1919 Ballinamore, to the mails at Belturbet, 1½d postage
Cavan Leitrim Railway 2d stamp with company Ballinamore datestamp

Fourth Period (Jan 1, 1928 to Apr 30, 1940)

3d railway fee



20 March 1928 Chorlton-Cum-Hardy datestamp, to the mails at Manchester
Cheshire Lines Committee manuscript "-/3" on 4d stamp and 1½d postage



20 March 1928 Chorlton-Cum-Hardy datestamp, to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
Cheshire Lines Committee 4d stamp with purple "3" handstamp over manuscript "-/3"

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)

3d railway fee



31 August 1920 Workington, entered mails at Cleator Moor, 2d postage
Cleator & Workington Junction Railway 3d stamp
last day of second period 3d railway fee

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)

4d railway fee



20 November 1920 Workington, entered mails at Cleator Moor, 2d postage
Cleator & Workington Junction Railway purple "4" handstamp on 3d stamp

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



1 September 1920 Keswick Station, posted at Penrith with 2d postage
Cockermouth, Keswick & Penrith Railway manuscript "4" surcharge on 3d railway stamp
the railway letter fee was increased on September 1, 1920 from 3d to 4d

<u>Date</u>	<u>Railway Fee</u>	<u>Postage Rate</u>
Feb. 1, 1891	2d	1d
Jun. 3, 1918	2d	1½d
Jan. 15, 1920	3d	1½d
Jun. 1, 1920	3d	2d
Sep. 1, 1920	4d	2d
May 29, 1922	4d	1½d
Jan. 1, 1928	3d	1½d

chart of railway fees and single letter postal rates during 1891
to 1933 period (changed rate for given date shown in red)

(Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee



12 November 1919 Dooniske datestamp, to the mails at Cork
Cork & Macrom Railway 1898 issue 2d stamp (500 issued) and 1½d postage

(Ireland)

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)

3d railway fee



2 April 1920 entered mails at Dublin, 1½d postage

Dublin & South Eastern Railway handstamped "3" surcharge on 2d stamp, manuscript cancel

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)

4d railway fee



4 September 1924 entered mails at Dun Laoghaire, 2d Ireland postage stamp

Dublin & South Eastern Railway 4d stamp, manuscript cancel

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



30 March 1905 Garstang Station, entered mails at Garstang
Garstang & Knott End Railway 1891 issue 2d railway stamp used on 1/2d postal card

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)
3d railway fee



20 June 1920 Pilling Station to Knott End Station
manuscript surcharge 3d on 2d railway stamp and 2d postage
entered the mails with Knott End, Fleetwood office datestamp

the railway stamp, control number 347, is one of four reported (control #345-348)

On January 15, 1920 the railway letter fee was increased to 3d per letter by the Post Master General. The railway fee was increased again to 4d on September 1, 1920. During that interval, on June 1, 1920, the postage rate was increased from 1½d to 2d.

This cover was used during the three month period between June and September when the guiding rule that the railway fee should be double the postage was contravened.

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)
3d railway fee



26 August 1920 Cumnock Station to the mails at Carlisle
Glasgow & South Western Railway 3d stamp, 2d postage

On January 15, 1920 the railway letter fee was increased to 3d per letter by the Post Master General. The railway fee was increased again to 4d on September 1, 1920. During that interval, on June 1, 1920, the postage rate was increased from 1½d to 2d.

This cover was used during the three month period between June and September when the guiding rule that the railway fee should be double the postage was contravened.

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



13 November 1922 Ashton (Park Parade) to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
Great Central Railway Company 4d stamp with oval datestamp



15 November 1922 Ashton (Park Parade) to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
Great Central Railway Company 4d stamp with straight line cancel

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



3 December 1920 Fallowfield to the mails at Manchester, 2d postage
red indelible pencil "4" on 3d Great Central Railway Company 3d stamp with Fallowfield cancel



30 December 1922 Ashton (Park Parade) to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
black "4" handstamped surcharge on Great Central Railway Company 3d stamp, oval datestamp

After January 1, 1923 consolidation into London and North Eastern Railway

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee



2 October 1925 Lowton St. Marys to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage manuscript "4" on 3d Great Central Railway Company 3d stamp with Lowton St. Marys cancel



15 October 1925 Lowton St. Marys to the mails, "Torchlight Tattoo / Stadium Wembley" slogan orange "4" surcharge on 3d Great Central Railway Company 3d stamp, Lowton St. Marys cancel "L.N.E.R. Lowton St. Marys" boxed handstamp in purple at top of cover

After January 1, 1923 consolidation into London and North Eastern Railway

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee



15 September 1925 Glossop (Central) to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
"4" surcharged 3d Great Central Railway 3d stamp with two "L. N. E. R." purple overprints (14mm)
three line "L.N.E.R. / Glossop Central / London & North Eastern" handstamp tying the postage



18 November 1925 Lowton St. Marys to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
Great Central Railway Company 4d stamp with black "L. N. E. R." overprint (14mm)
"L.N.E.R. Lowton St. Marys" boxed and straight line handstamps

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee

12 October 1922
2d postage
violet cross cancels

blue indelible pencil
"4d" on 3d



30 March 1925
Bredbury Station
1½d postage

pale blue "4" on 3d
handstamp



14 April 1925
Tan House Lane
1½d postage

violet "4" on 3d
handstamp

Great Central & North Staffordshire Railway Committee

Wilson Covers

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)

3d railway fee



30 January 1920 Marple, Rose Hill Station entered mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
black manuscript "3D" surcharge on Great Central & North Staffordshire Ry. Com. 2d stamp



30 January 1920 Poynton to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
violet manuscript "3" surcharge on Great Central & North Staffordshire Ry. Com. 2d stamp
the only reported example on cover

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



31 December 1925 Marple, Rose Hill Station to the mails at Manchester
Great Central & North Staffordshire Railway Committee 4d stamp, 1½d postage
"Marple, Rose Hill " datestamps and "Rose Hill, (Marple) G.C. & N.S. Rly. Ctee." handstamp

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



30 September 1922, while North Eastern Railway (from April 1922), via Barnsley to Manchester
Hull & Barnsley Company 4d railway stamp and 1½d postage
oval North Eastern Parcels datestamp



23 September 1924, while London and North Eastern Railway
Kirks Meaton Station, via Hull, to Manchester
Hull & Barnsley Company railway blue manuscript 4^d on 2d railway stamp and 1½d postage
"H&B Section Parcels" triple oval datestamp, entered the mails at Hull with postmark

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



14 July 1905 Ollerton Station to the mails at Manchester, 1d postage
unique design Lancashire, Derbyshire & East Coast Railway 2d stamp

(London & North Western Railway)

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



21 April 1922 Pendlebury Station to Manchester where it entered the mails
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway 1920 issue 3d surcharged "Fourpence" plus 2d postage
red "L&NW" name change
manuscript correction includes crossing out the railway name on top and bottom of the stamp
use after the 1 January 1923 amalgamation with London and North Western Railway



26 April 1922 Miles Platting Railway Station to Manchester where it entered the mails
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway 1920 issue 3d surcharged "Fourpence" plus 2d postage
black "L&NW" name change
manuscript correction includes crossing out railway name on bottom of the stamp
use after the 1 January 1923 amalgamation with London and North Western Railway

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



21 September 1920 Horley to the mails at London S.W., 2d postage
London, Brighton & South Coast Railway purple "4^d" surcharge on 3d railway stamp

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee



29 September 1917 Lynton to Barnstaple where it entered mails with 1d postage with unique design 1911 first issue 2d stamp of the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway boxed "Lynton & Lynmouth / L. & B.R. Cancelled" datestamp

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



24 April 1905 Poynton to Manchester,
unsealed cover ½d postage paid by legal envelope cut-out
boxed "Macclesfield Committee / Poynton" handstamp
Macclesfield Committee 2d 1899 issue stamp, position 1, type 1, an early Wilson cover

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



7 September 1920 Timperley Station to Oxford Road Station, Manchester
manuscript "4" surcharge over manuscript "3" surcharge on 2d railway stamp, 2d postage

thirteen examples known of this double surcharge

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)

3d railway fee

12 February 1920
manuscript "3" on 2d stamp
to be posted at Oxford Road



17 February 1920
black over red ink manuscript
surcharge "-/3" on 2d

"Altrincham & Bowden Parcels
Department" cancel

29 January 1920
black ink stencil
surcharge "||3d" on 2d

"Oxford Road" cancel



First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee (the 1½d postage rate went into effect on June 3, 1918)



11 November 1919 Knott Mill & Deansgate Station (Manchester) to Altrincham Station
 2d railway stamp, date and manuscript station cancel, 1½d postage, posted at Altrincham
 Deansgate had earlier hosted Pablo Fanque's Fair (Circus Royal) regularly



11 November 1919 Oxford Road Station, Manchester to Altrincham
 2d railway stamp with handstamped cancel, 1½d postage, entered mails at Altrincham

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)

3d railway fee



21 February 1920 to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
purple "3" pence surcharge on 2d railway stamp, pencil cross cancels

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)

4d railway fee



15 September 1920 to the mails at Manchester, 2d postage
purple "4" pence surcharge on 3d railway stamp, purple cross cancel

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)
3d railway fee



28 February 1920 to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage
red "3" handstamp surcharge on 2d railway stamp, manuscript cross cancels

The 1½d postal rate was in effect from January 15, 1920 until June 1, 1920 when the rate was increased to 2d. The railway fee remained at 3d for three more months before being raised to 4d.



16 August 1920 Rye Green to the mails at Manchester, 2d postage
red "3" handstamp surcharge on 2d railway stamp, "Eye Green Cancelled" datestamp

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



6 September 1921 Swindon Town to the mails at Cheltenham, 2d postage
Midland & South Western Junction Railway 4d stamp, two line origin datestamp

(Ireland)

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



11 December 1924 entered the mails with "Larne Harbour S.O." postmark, 1½d postage
Midland Railway, Northern Counties Committee 4d railway stamp, ticket dater datestamps

North Staffordshire Railway

Wilson Covers

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920), 3d railway fee

5 February 1920
Stoke-On-Trent to the mails
1½d postage
blue crayon "3^D" pence
surcharge on 2d railway
stamp



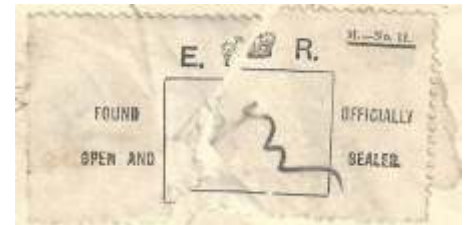
7 May 1920 North Rode
Station to the mails
2d postage
3d railway stamp

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee

6 Sep 1920 Bosley
Station to the mails
2d postage
red "4" on 3d railway
stamp



First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920), 2d railway fee
legal use of postal stationery cut-outs to pay postage



18 March 1905 Ashton (Oldham Road) to the mails at Manchester, 1d postage
2d railway stamp, officially seal label across flap



22 April 1905 Ashton (Oldham Road) to the mails at Manchester, unsealed, 1/2d postage

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920), 3d railway fee



27 February 1920 Oldham (Clegg St.) to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage black "3" handstamp surcharge on 2d railway stamp, cancels handstamped in cross



13 May 1920 Ashton (Oldham Rd.) to the mails at Manchester, 1½d postage purple "3" handstamp surcharge on 2d railway stamp

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920), 3d railway fee



13 March 1920 Oldham (Clegg St.) to the mails at Ashton, 1½d postage
red "3" manuscript surcharge on 2d railway stamp

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee



9 October 1920 Ashton to the mails at Oldham, 2d postage
red "4" manuscript surcharge on 2d railway stamp

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



6 October 1922 Port Patrick to the mails at Stanraer, 1½d postage
Port Patrick & Wigtonshire Railway 4d stamp (with dot), boxed Port Patrick datestamp

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee (the 1½d postage rate went into effect on June 3, 1918)

PORT TALBOT RLY.

& DOCKS Co.

Only 240 Great Western 2d stamps were overprinted for Port Talbot Railway, controls #167461 to 167700. Of these four sheets of 60, the first sheet still exists as two unused blocks of thirty. Most of the remaining overprinted stamps were surcharged for the 3d rate that went into effect on January 15, 1920.



7 November 1919 Maesteg Station, posted on arrival at Port Talbot, 1½d postage
Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co overprinted 2d Great Western Railway stamp, #167685

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)

3d railway fee



30 January 1920 Maesteg Station, posted on arrival at Port Talbot

Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co provisional "3" surcharge on 2d railway stamp, 1½d postage

bottom left corner copy with control #16700, cover below has the position above



20 March 1920 Maesteg Station, posted on arrival at Port Talbot

Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co provisional "3" surcharge on 2d railway stamp, 1½d postage

this stamp is position #16794 (the stamp directly above position #16700 on sheet)

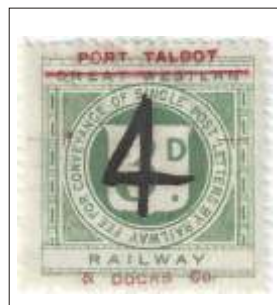
Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee



PT
RD
perforated
initials

(with enhanced
contrast)

6 October 1920 company envelope, 1½d postage "PT & RD" perfin stamp, posted at Port Talbot
Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co provisional "4" surcharge in blue on 3d railway stamp
surcharge in blue ink not reported by de Lacy-Spencer



4d black
surcharge



23 September 1921

Maesteg Station to the mails at Port Talbot, 1½d postage
Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co provisional "4" surcharge in red on 3d railway stamp

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



24 August 1917 Berkeley to the mails at Berkeley South
Severn And Wye Joint Railway Committee 2d stamp, 1d postage

In 1895 the name of the company on the stamps was changed from "Severn and Wye and
Severn Bridge Railway" to "Severn and Wye Joint Railway."

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee



ca. 1905, Great Central And Midland Joint Committee cancel on undated cover to Manchester
Sheffield & Midland Railways Committee 2d stamp and uncanceled 1d postage

In 1897 the name of the "Sheffield & Midland Railway Committee" was changed to "Great Central And Midland Joint Committee" but stamps with new name were not printed until December 1905.

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920), 2d railway fee



28 April 1914 Shrewsbury to the mails at Llanymynech, 1d postage
Shropshire & Montgomeryshire Railway 2d stamp, control #1, crossed handstamped cancels

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927), 4d railway fee



21 September 1920 Abbey Station Shrewsbury, posted on arrival at Llanymynech, 2d postage
provisional "4" surcharge on 2d railway stamp, 1914 issue with control number altered

Shropshire & Montgomeryshire Railway

Wilson Covers

Fourth Period (Jan 15, 1928 to Apr 30, 1940), 3d railway fee, 1½d postage

The black "3" on 4d surcharges are control #1 to 56. The violet bear #57 to 73.

3 May 1928 Kinnerly Junction, posted at Shrewsbury, #21



27 January 1928
Abbey Station
Shrewsbury, posted
on arrival at
Llanymynech, #57
(17 known)

30 March 1928
Abbey Station
Shrewsbury, posted
on arrival at
Llanymynech, #66
(17 known)



Fourth Period (Jan 1, 1928 to Apr 30, 1940)
3d railway fee



6 March 1928 Kinnerly Junction, posted at Shrewsbury, 1½d postage
provisional "3" double surcharge in blue, one inverted, on 4d railway stamp

Fourth Period (Jan 1, 1928 to Apr 30, 1940)

3d railway fee



16 June 1928 to the mails at London Victoria Station, 1½d postage
purple "3" pence surcharge on 4d railway stamp, pencil cross cancels

15 September 1920 to the mails at Manchester, 2d postage
purple "4" pence surcharge on 3d railway stamp, purple cross cancel

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



4 September 1917 Southwold to the mails at Blythburgh, 1d postage
2d Southwold Railway stamp (control #4) , "SOUTHWOLD" cancel

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



15 November 1920 Towcester to the mails at Stratford-Upon-Avon, 2d postage manuscript "4^D" surcharge on 3d Stratford-Upon-Avon & Midland Junction Railway stamp (#19)

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



2 September 1921 to the mails at Cardiff, 2d postage
handstamped "4" surcharge over handstamped "3" surcharge on 2d railway stamp
"T.V.R. Cancelled" double oval cancel

fourteen examples known of this double surcharge (control #s 6311 to 6324)

(Ireland)

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)

4d railway fee



16 October 1920 Tralee Station datestamp, to the mails at Dingle, 2d postage
Tralee & Dingle Railway "4" surcharge on 2d stamp

the only example of any stamp used as 4d by this railway, unknown to de Lacy-Spencer

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



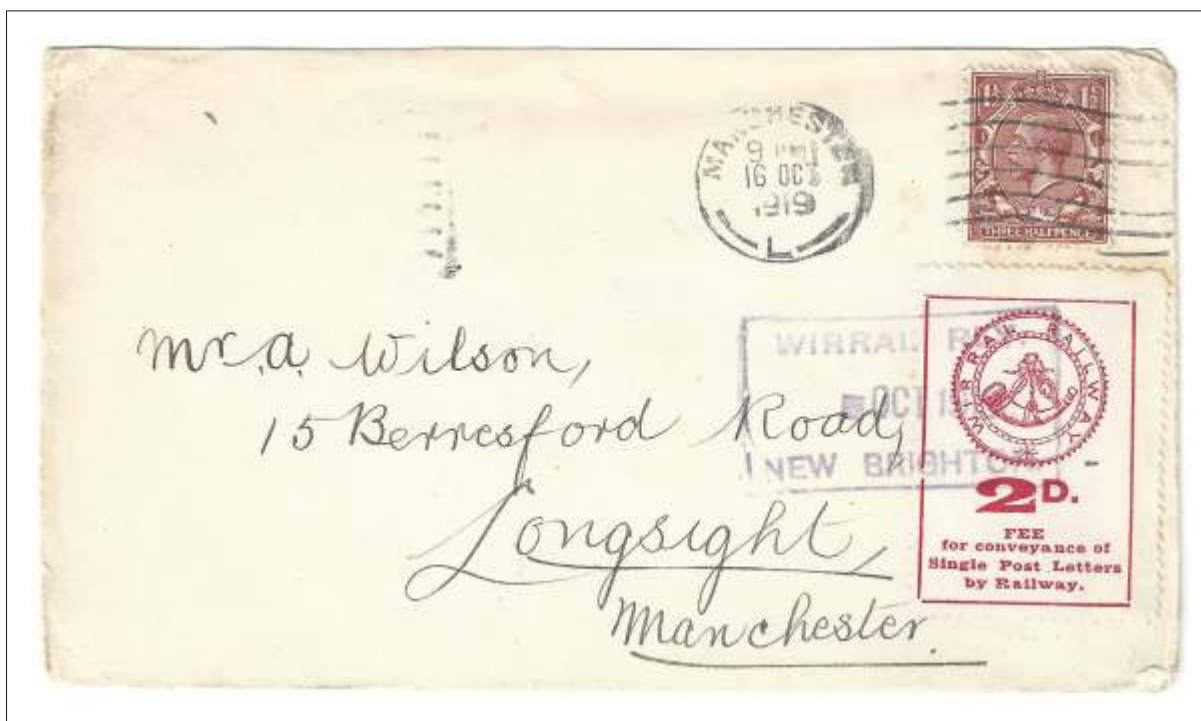
21 March 1905 Lower Ince Station to Wigan unsealed cover prepaid ½d postage
Wigan Junction Railway 2d stamp



21 March 1905 unsealed cover, Hindley & Platt Bridge Station, ½d postage, posted at Wigan
Wigan Junction Railway 2d stamp with Great Central Railway cancel anticipating 1906 takeover

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee



16 October 1919 New Brighton to Birkenhead Park interchange by Wirral Railway
conjunctive use with London & North Western Railway to the mails at Manchester,
2d large format Wirral Railroad stamp, 1½d postage



12 January 1920 New Brighton to the mails at Birkenhead as per instructions
2d small format Wirral Railroad stamp, 1½d postage
used three days before railway fee raised to 3d

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)
3d railway fee



18 February 1920, to the mails use to Birkenhead, 1½d postage paid
Wirral Railway manuscript "3d" surcharge on large format 2d stamp
oval "Wirral Railway Audit Office" oval datestamp