

**THE OFFICIAL POSTCARDS  
of the  
MIDLAND RAILWAY**



By  
**ROY BURROWS and DAVID GELDARD**  
in conjunction with  
**JOHN ALSOP**



**Midland Railway Society**

[www.midlandrailwaysociety.org.uk](http://www.midlandrailwaysociety.org.uk)

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## PREFACE

This publication and its associated archive are the result of co-operation between the Midland Railway Society and John Alsop, the accepted national authority on railway postcards, to bring together virtually all known information about the official pictorial postcards of the Midland Railway. It includes published and previously unpublished information compiled over many years by John Alsop and makes this freely available to the public. Also freely available is the archive of cards and images associated with this publication, which can be accessed both digitally and in person via the Midland Railway Study Centre housed in the Silk Mill Museum of Making in Derby.



Front cover:

Alsop Number MR-052. A postcard from Set 9 – Poster Reproductions showing the Midland Railway’s well-known logo  
“The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery”.

Back cover:

Railway Postcard Checklists published by *John Alsop*

Any correspondence in relation to the content of this publication should be emailed to [enquiries@midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk) or addressed to The Midland Railway Study Centre c/o Derby Museum & Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby, DE1 1BS. General queries in relation to railway postcards should be addressed to John Alsop at the address on the back cover.

Typesetting by MERVYN BRYCE

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# THE OFFICIAL POSTCARDS of the MIDLAND RAILWAY

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# PART 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

The use of postcards as a means of written communication commenced in Britain in 1870, when the Post Office started to issue cards without any images and printed, as part of the design, with a halfpenny stamp which was included in the price of purchase. In 1894 the Post Office decided that from 1<sup>st</sup> September it would accept for transmission postcards with halfpenny adhesive stamps affixed, half the cost of a sealed letter. This popular move sparked the very rapid development of the postcard.

On all these early cards the address and nothing else had to be written on the side carrying the printed or adhesive stamp, and the message had to appear on the other side. Several manufacturers then commenced to produce cards and in 1895 a standard size of 4.75 by 3.5 inches (121 by 89 mm) was adopted. These were known as “Court Cards”, the reverse being adorned with a small picture that left sufficient space for the message to be written.

In 1899 larger cards measuring 5.5 by 3.5 inches (140 by 89 mm) were introduced as standard, with the illustrations on the reverse gradually becoming larger until little room was left for the message. In 1902 the Post Office changed its regulations to allow a picture to appear on the front of a postcard, with a message written on the left hand side of the back and the address on the right hand side, to which the stamp had to be affixed. By the end of the year it was common practice to print a vertical line down the middle of the back and the familiar “Divided Back” postcard that has survived to this day became the norm.

It is recorded that in 1910 some 871 million cards passed through the Post Office, mailed both by individuals and by businesses, and many publishers, both national and local, were in the business of producing a wide variety of pictorial postcards for commercial sale to the public. Many from the Victorian and Edwardian eras are recognised as very collectable items, and not least of these are those featuring Britain’s railways.

The railways of the UK and Ireland were at their peak in the years leading up to the first world war and were popular subjects for pictorial postcards, not only in the pre-grouping era up to 1923, but also up to nationalisation in 1948. Indeed the railway companies were themselves significant users of the humble postcard, both for communication and as a means of publicity.

The study of pictorial railway postcards has been led by the pioneering work of John Alsop, who has long held a deep interest in the subject and has spent a lifetime researching, recording and codifying all available information on postcards featuring the railway companies of Great Britain and Ireland from circa 1896 to 1947. The Society’s collection could not have been compiled, nor could this publication have been written, without John’s willing assistance and we are deeply grateful to him.

### 1.2 THE SOCIETY’S RAILWAY POSTCARDS

The Society’s collection of postcards all relate to the Midland Railway and are broadly divided into four groups:

- (i) pictorial cards used, sold or given away by the railway company;
- (ii) non-pictorial plain postcards issued officially by the railway company for its own business purposes, most of these are printed with standard messages or part-messages having blanks for the manual entering of specific data;

## Part 1 - Introduction

- (iii) pictorial cards retailed commercially to the general public by major publishers of the day;  
and
- (iv) general railway postcards of Midland interest not covered by any of the above categories.

Using John Alsop's terminology, cards in group (i) are generally known as the "officials" and those in group (iii) can be referred to as the "commercials".

This publication is specifically directed to the official cards issued by the Midland Railway, including its lines in Ireland operated as the Northern Counties Committee and a (so far) solitary card from the Belfast & Northern Counties Railway which owned those lines until it was acquired by the Midland Railway on 1 July 1903. The other company acquired by the Midland in its later years - the London Tilbury & Southend Railway - happened to be one of the pre-grouping companies that did not produce pictorial railway postcards. Post-1922 (transitional) official postcards issued by the London, Midland & Scottish Railway and showing former Midland subjects do not form part of the Society's collection.

The Society takes the view that whilst Midland Railway officials are collectable items in the context of Victorian and Edwardian postcards generally and of railways in particular, they are also an integral part of the company's publicity material along with posters, handbills, guide books, brochures, etc. They should therefore be identified as such and recognised as being part of the archive records of the company.

This publication goes on to describe the items forming this niche collection of postcards, a collection which is unique in being comprehensive, based on a single railway company and publicly available for research and viewing.

It also, for the first time, presents an analysis of the overprints used by the Midland on their official cards. This is a complex subject and is therefore dealt with separately in Part 7.

The collection is based on a Checklist of Midland Railway Officials that has been prepared by John Alsop. This is only a small section of the series of Checklists prepared by him to record all cards, both official and commercial, from circa 1896 to 1947 for railways of 15 inch gauge upwards located in Great Britain and Ireland. The Checklists include details of reprints, print variations and any other recordable differences and are recognised as the authoritative national catalogue of their subject postcards. A series of eleven Checklists cover the Official Postcards and a further series of six Checklists deal with Commercial Postcards and some others of railway interest. They are listed on the back cover of this publication and full details are available from John Alsop at the address on the back cover.

With John's kind permission, Part 5 includes the extract from Checklist No. 3 that covers Midland Railway Officials. Checklist page numbers e.g. ① given in this document refer to the numbering shown in Part 5. Each Midland card carries a reference - the "Alsop Number" - comprising the initials MR followed by a three-digit number in the format "MR-xxx". There are some cases where the number is followed by a suffix in order to cover detailed variations but this is mostly ignored for the purposes of this publication. The "Alsop Number" for cards of the Northern Counties Committee is in the format "NCC-xxx".

The Alsop Number enables details of each card (and copy) in the Society's collection to be found on the website of the Midland Railway Study Centre in Derby by following these instructions:

1. **GO TO [www.midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk](http://www.midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk);**
2. **CLICK The Study Centre Catalogue;**

## Part 1 - Introduction

3. Decide on which card you wish to view and note its Alsop Number, ignoring any characters that may follow the three-digit number;
4. *ENTER* this number in the format MR-xxx in the “Your search term” box in the “First Step:” panel;
5. In the “Next:” panel *click the drop-down menu arrow* in the “All Categories” box and select and *click* “Postcard ‘C’ (Official - Alsop)”;
6. In the “Then:” panel *CLICK* the SEARCH button.

For each card two images will normally be displayed – front and back. For various reasons there may be two (or more) cards with the same Alsop Number. In these cases the fronts and backs of all cards bearing that number will be displayed and can be scrolled through. Text in the Description fields will give an explanation as to why more than one example of the card are in the collection.

The collection is enhanced by the use of copies of cards when originals are not owned by the Society, and once again John must be thanked for his assistance in providing most of these copies. In a few cases only the front of the card will be displayed and an appropriate note given in the Description field.

Despite this assistance it is regretted that not every card on the Checklist is represented in the collection. If a website search by Alsop Number produces a nil return then unfortunately no example of that card can be shown.

The collection is housed in archival pocket sheets in a series of box files and can be viewed by appointment in the Midland Railway Study Centre, the website given above includes instructions for arranging a visit.



## PART 2

### THE EVOLUTION OF MIDLAND OFFICIAL POSTCARDS

#### 2.1 THE EARLY CARDS - Checklist pages ⑨, ⑪, ⑫

The earliest recorded use of a Midland official card (and indeed the second earliest from any British railway) is by the Midland Grand Hotel in December 1896. This is an example of the Court Card with, somewhat incongruously, a vignette of Derwentwater (MR-228) (see Fig.1). Later versions of this card, including some at the larger standard size, were used from circa 1899 to 1903. They were the forerunners of a series of hotel cards described separately in Part 3.

By June 1900 the Picture Postcard Company had produced a series of sepia vignettes of various London views (26 out of a set of 30 are known: MR-850 to MR-879). A second series followed by July, showing general views in black and white covering many parts of the country served by the Midland (60 views are known: MR-300 to MR-361, MR-308 and MR-350 are missing). Both series bear the Midland Railway title and the second series also carries the slogan “The Most Picturesque Route Through England. The Most Interesting Route to Scotland” (see Figs. 2 and 3). It is thought these cards were sold from slot machines.



Fig. 1

**MR-228** This court card featuring the Midland Grand Hotel is the earliest recorded Midland Official and was posted on 6 December 1896.

Two further companies followed suit by printing views identical to some of those in the second series, Automatic General Stores by October 1902 (from whom 31 cards are known) and British and Colonial Automatic Trading Company by September 1903 (from whom 21 cards have been identified).

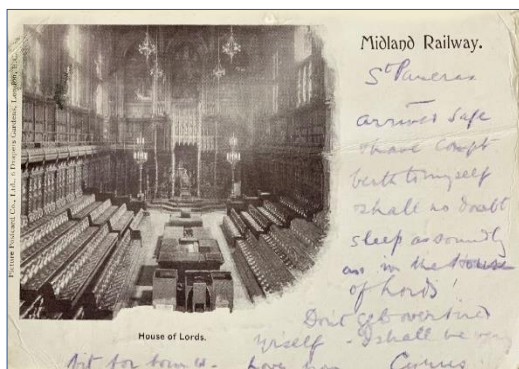


Fig. 2

**MR-858** One of the early sepia London Views series of cards dating from June 1900.

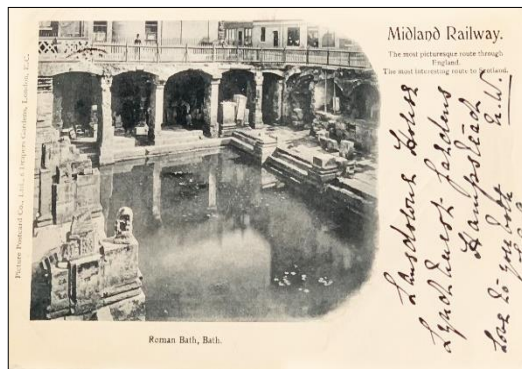


Fig. 3

**MR-340-1** One of the series of black and white general early views dating from July 1900.

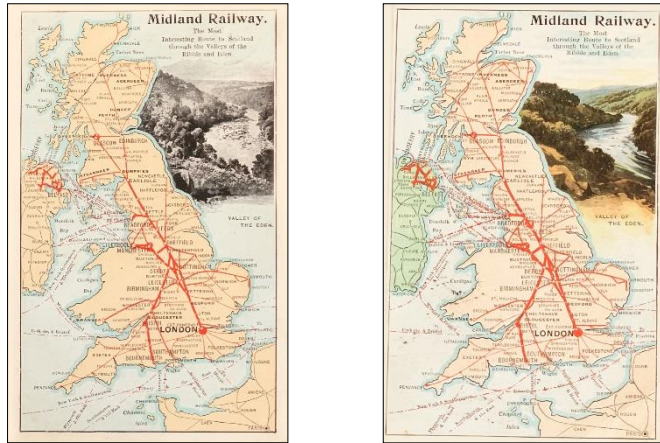
#### 2.2 THE MAP CARDS SETS 1 TO 4 - Checklist pages ①, ②

The year 1904 marked the beginning of the main stream of Midland official cards, taking advantage of the relaxed regulation that allowed a picture to be printed on the front of the card. A number of attractive coloured map cards were produced, all intended for use by the company for its own correspondence and categorised by Alsop as Type 1. Ten different cards (one shown in Fig. 4) have been identified (there may have been others), of which six feature a national map with Ireland the same colour as the mainland and four a regional map. Any picture is in

## Part 2 - The Evolution of Midland Official Postcards

black and white and either there is no delineated stamp space on the back, or a space indicated by a dotted line rectangle. If the card has been used and a postage stamp obscures the space then identification can only be by one of the other features.

Clearly these were well-received and they prompted a public demand that they should be placed on general sale. The approach taken was to sell sets made up of six different cards enclosed in an appropriate wrapper (see Part 6). Four sets were decided upon, additional designs were therefore required and new images, a mixture of map and non-map, were duly created. Alsop categorises these as Type 2 and refers to them as the “Normal issue”. They can be identified by a stamp space delineated by solid lines in which is printed the slogan “MIDLAND RAILWAY The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery”. Additional features are that on the national map cards Ireland is coloured green, and that any picture on a card is coloured or, if a statue is featured, given a yellow background (again see *Fig. 4*).



MR-011-1C

Fig. 4

MR-011-2

These cards show the differences between the fronts of Type 1 (first 1904 “in house” correspondence issues) and those of Type 2 (normal issue for public sale), typical of Sets 1 to 4. On Type 1 the vignette picture is black and white and on the map Ireland is shown in the same colour as the mainland; on Type 2 the vignette is coloured and Ireland is shown green. Less obviously, there are also some minor changes to the mainland part of the map in the areas of Fort Augustus and Tilbury. (The Type 3 cards have the same fronts as Type 2, differences between the two affect only the backs.)

Set 1 (MR-001 to MR-006) can be said to focus on the Peak District, Set 2 (MR-007 to MR-012) on Scotland and Set 4 (MR-020 to MR-025) on the Home Counties and Yorkshire. Set 3 (MR-013 to MR-019) was clearly designed to publicise the new harbour at Heysham and the company’s steamer services to Ireland and the Isle of Man. Four cards in this set feature respectively the Midland Railway’s new steamers, the *Antrim*, *Londonderry*, *Manxman* and *Donegal*. Three were ready for the start of the Heysham - Belfast service on 1 September 1904, the exception being *Manxman* which joined them as a relief vessel in November. She was specifically destined for the seasonal traffic to the Isle of Man, first sailing on the Heysham - Douglas route on 1 June 1905 and superseding the service from Barrow which had ceased the previous year.

Obviously departmental use of cards for correspondence purposes was not going to cease with the advent of the Type 2 cards, as their publicity value was well recognised. It made sense for the Type 2 card fronts to meet this demand by printing the required correspondence back at the initial production stage rather than subsequently as overprints. Alsop categorises these cards as Type 3 and presents on page ② of the Checklist a detailed matrix recording variations of card backs within both Types 1 and 3.

### 2.3 ADDITIONAL MAP CARDS - Checklist page ⑫

Several cards that are not strictly postcards have been identified featuring coloured maps in the style of those appearing on Sets 1 to 4. Three that have a front similar to that of MR-017 feature on the reverse a printed timetable for the Heysham boat train showing respectively connections for York, Leeds and Derby; for Sheffield, Leeds and Derby; and for London - Nottingham (MR-901, MR-901A and MR-902).



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Two cards, both with plain backs, feature a map of the Midland's South Wales lines and connections (MR-900 and MR-900A). The former has a blank panel occupying part of the upper

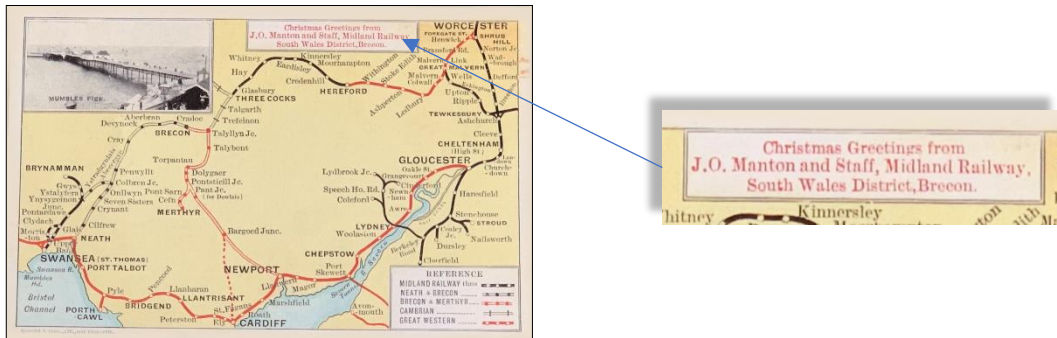


Fig. 5

**MR-900A** The South Wales map card personalised to serve as a Christmas card for the South Wales District Superintendent.

edge of the front; the latter has printed in a similar panel the message “Christmas Greetings from J.O. Manton and staff Midland Railway South Wales District Brecon” (see Fig.5).

### 2.4 THE MAIN SERIES OF SET CARDS SETS 5 TO 21 - Checklist pages ③ to ⑤

After firmly establishing public sales of the four sets of Type 2 cards in 1905, there followed from 1906 a steady stream of new sets of cards for sale. By the end of 1909 there was a total of 21 sets, no fewer than eight of which are recorded as having appeared for the first time in that year. Fig. 6a is an enlargement of the official catalogue listing of the numbered sets 1 to 21; it is printed as the inside pages of a small folded leaflet, the outside of which is shown on the following page as Fig. 6b

<p><b>SET No. 1.</b> A Midland Express, with View of Matlock. Map of Great Britain, with View of Buxton. " " " " with View of Chatsworth. " " " " with View of Eyam. Circular Tours in the Peak, with View of Haddon Hall.</p> <p><b>SET No. 2.</b> First Class Dining Car. Third Class Dining Car. Family Sleeping Carriage. Map of Great Britain, with Picture of Robert Burns. Map of Great Britain, with Picture of Sir Walter Scott. Map of Great Britain, with View of Valley of the Eden.</p> <p><b>SET No. 3.</b> Heysham Route to Ireland. View of Giant's Causeway. Heysham Route to Isle of Man. View of Douglas. Turbine Steamer "Londonderry." " " " " "Manxman." " " " " "Antrim."</p> <p><b>SET No. 4.</b> St. Pancras, Exterior. Interior. Map of Great Britain. " " " " with View of Harrogate, with Picture of John Bunyan's Statue. Circular Tours in Wharfedale, with View of Grassington.</p> <p><b>SET No. 5.</b> (Haddon Hall) Haddon Hall, Anteroom, with Dorothy Vernon's Doorway. " " " " - Exterior. " " " " - Banqueting Hall. " " " " - The Terrace. " " " " - Dorothy Vernon's Staircase " " " " - Queen Elizabeth's Bedchamber.</p>	<p><b>SET No. 6.</b> (Haddon Hall) Haddon Hall - and the Banks of the Wye. " " " " - From the Terrace. " " " " - Corner of Banqueting Hall. " " " " - Chapel, Interior. " " " " - Entrance to Chapel. " " " " - The Courtyard.</p> <p><b>SET No. 7.</b> (Palace of the Peak) Chatsworth House and Bridge. " " " " - Porch. " " " " - Gardens. " " " " - Throne Room. " " " " - Grand Library. " " " " - Sculpture Gallery. " " " " - Corner of Tapestry Room.</p> <p><b>SET No. 8.</b> (Switzerland of England) Bakewell. Buxton. Matlock - High Tor. Mossal Dale. Peveril Castle. Eyam.</p> <p><b>SET No. 9.</b> (Poster Reproductions) The Best Route for Comfortable Travel. North of Ireland. Isle of Man. Eden Valley. Peak of Derbyshire. Yorkshire Holiday Resorts.</p> <p><b>SET No. 10.</b> Past and Present Locomotives.</p> <p><b>SET No. 11.</b> (The Peak District) Haddon Hall, Peveril Tower. " " " " - Pleasure Gardens, Bellefleur. " " " " - Matlock Bath. " " " " - The Wye, Mossal Dale. " " " " - The Derwent at Cromford. " " " " - Haddon Hall, Dorothy Vernon's Portal.</p>	<p><b>SET No. 12.</b> (Ancestral Halls of Derbyshire) Haddon Hall, North Tower, from Wye. Halswade Castle. Ruins of Wingfield Manor. Lea Hurst. Newstead Abbey. Hardwick Hall.</p> <p><b>SET No. 13.</b> (Valley of the Eden.) Nunery Walks, near Lazonby. Appley Castle, on the Eden. The Eden Valley at Arncliffe. Old Mill on the Eden at Armthwaite. Long Meg and Her Daughters. Little Salkeld. The Settle Valley.</p> <p><b>SET No. 14.</b> (Land of Waterfalls) Settle, Catterick Force Waterfall. " " " " - Hawes, Hardrow Scar. Settle, Scaleber Waterfall. Ingletton, Beesley Falls. " " " " - Thornton Force. " " " " - Baxenghly Foss.</p> <p><b>SET No. 15.</b> (Buxton and Environs) Buxton, General View. " " " " - Clage Tor. " " " " - Ashwood Dale. " " " " - Goyts Bridge Stepping Stones. " " " " - Serpentine Walks. " " " " - Millers Dale Junction.</p> <p><b>SET No. 16.</b> (England's Holy Land.) Beauford, Bunyan's Statue. " " " " - Old Newnham Bridge. " " " " - The Cross at Beauford. " " " " - John Bunyan's Cottage, Elstow. " " " " - Elstow Church and Detached Tower. " " " " - Moot Hall, Elstow.</p>	<p><b>SET No. 17.</b> (Antrim Coast) Dunluce Castle. Carrick-a-Ree. Garron Point. Ballycastle Golf Links. " " " " - "Where Sea and River Meet." Glenties. Larne Harbour.</p> <p><b>SET No. 18.</b> (Giant's Causeway) The Giant's Honeycomb. Portmone and Stacks. Cathedral Cave. The Fan. The Giant's Organ. The Giant's Head.</p> <p><b>SET No. 19.</b> (Glenside) Pakenore Fall. Ess-na Larach. (The Fall of the Battlefield.) The Tea House. The Ravine. Rumbling Hole. Ess-na-Krub. (The Fall of the Hoof.)</p> <p><b>SET No. 20.</b> (Donegal) Donegal Castle. Barnesmore Gap. Killybegs. Rosapenna, Bathing Pool. The Lackagh Salmon River near Rosapenna. Lough Swilly, en route to Port-salen.</p> <p><b>SET No. 21.</b> (Byron's Country) Newstead Abbey, from the East. " " " " - South Front. " " " " - West Front. " " " " - East Front. " " " " - The Cloisters. " " " " - The monument to "the Poet's Dog."</p>
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Fig. 6a

The open leaflet showing the list of card sets 1 to 21.

All are coloured and publicise tourist attractions (including Irish) on the Midland system, except for Set 10 which is a black and white set of posed illustrations of past and present locomotives. Two versions are identified by Alsop: one sepia and one having a purplish tone. The Society's collection does not distinguish between the two. Sets 5 to 8 came in two distinct issues: with undivided backs in 1906 (printed in either orange or brown on cards of Sets 5 and 6) and with divided backs in 1907. Full details are given in Part 5, but again the Society's collection does not differentiate between the two print colours.

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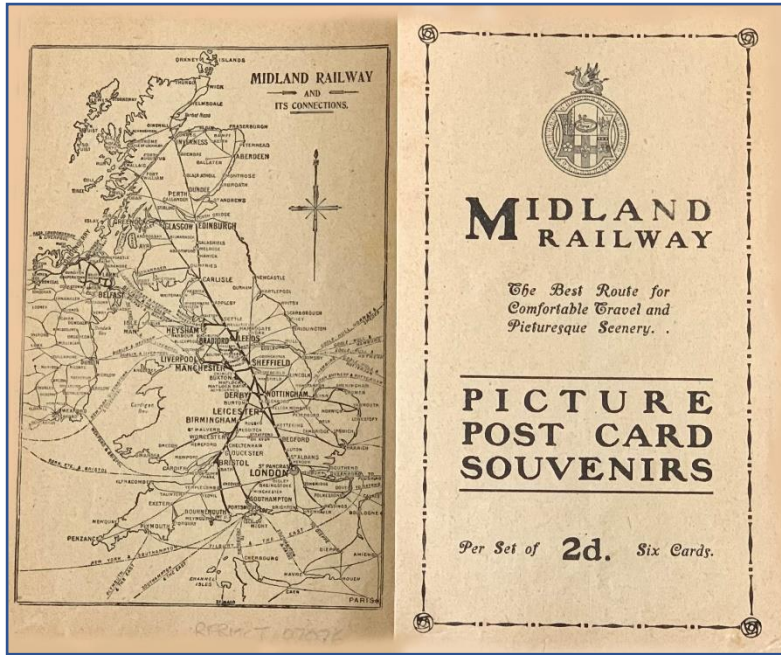


Fig. 6b

The opened-out leaflet showing back and front panels.

P. S. F. 698.  
1-6-7/18

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

MIDLAND RAILWAY,  
A. D. 8/ DERBY, 11 7 1918  
PICTORIAL POSTCARDS.

I send herewith for sale pictorial postcards as follows:—

FOR SALE.		No.	£	s.	d.
No. 1 Set of 6 cards	...	...	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 2 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 3 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 4 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 5 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 6 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 7 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 8 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 9 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 10 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 11 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 12 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 13 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 14 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 15 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 16 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 17 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 18 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 19 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 20 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
No. 21 Set	"	"	@ 2d.	...	...
Heysham and District Set	...	...	@ 2d.	...	...
<i>For machines</i> TOTAL		240	-	10	-

*These must be taken to debit on "Parcel Extras" whatever sold or not.*

The above amounts must be taken to debit once on your "Parcel Extras" return in the column headed "Lodging House Books, &c." The value of those remaining unsold must be entered at the commencement of each month on your "Coaching balance sheet" as outstanding.

A statement must also be sent to me at the end of each quarter (April 1st, July 1st, October 1st, and January 1st), showing the actual number of sets of postcards sold during the preceding three months, and the number on hand.

Please acknowledge receipt.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Mr. *Griffin*  
*Rowsley*

Fig. 7

The internal document from the General Superintendent dated 1918 which reveals the existence of a "Heysham Set" of cards of which none have yet been identified.

An illustration (see Fig. 7) of a document sent from the General Superintendent at Derby to the Station Master at Rowsley in 1918 lists the 21 sets and shows how supply of, and accountancy for, the cards were managed. It incidentally confirms that packets of some cards were sold by machines.

This document also reveals the existence of an un-numbered set which is a mystery as no identifiable cards have yet been found from it. Some postcards of general views of Heysham (see Fig. 8a and Fig. 8b) have been suggested as possibly from this set - MR-912, MR-915 and MR-917 on Checklist page (12) - but this is still speculation.

It is clear that the internal demand for pictorial postcards for correspondence use by the various departments of the company continued beyond 1905. This demand was met by utilising whatever cards of Sets 5 to 21 were going through the printing process at the time, and the back of each was printed with the required correspondence text. Such cards are known as "original" correspondence prints and can be considered as the equivalents of Type 3 cards of Sets 1 to 4. They are not to be confused with the overprinted cards dealt with in Part 7.



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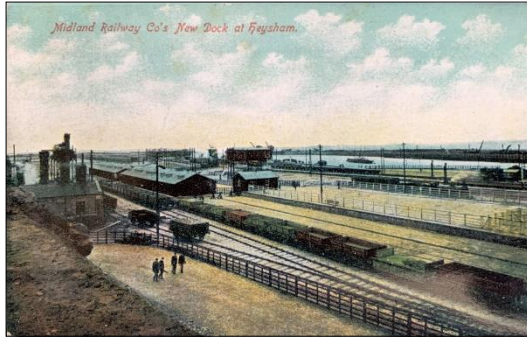


Fig. 8a  
MR-912



Fig. 8b  
MR-917

Two examples of the three cards suggested by Alsop as possibly from the mystery "Heysham Set".

### 2.5 UN-NUMBERED "SETS"

Prior to 1905 three further groups of cards were published which can conveniently be regarded as forming "sets", although there is no evidence they were officially recognised as such.

#### 2.5.1 "Nearest Station" Set - Checklist page ⑥

This group of six coloured cards (probably by Photochrom) dates from 1904 and features four views of Bakewell and one each of Monsal Dale and Hardwick New Hall. Each card quotes the nearest Midland station after the title (MR-140 to MR-145) (see Fig. 9). These are assumed to be official although confirmatory evidence is still required.

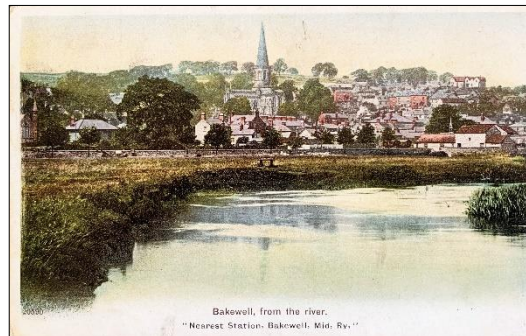


Fig. 9

MR-142 An example card from the "Nearest Station" set showing Bakewell from the river.

#### 2.5.2 Andrew Reid Vignettes - Checklist page ⑦

These cards (MR-190 to MR-193) feature a coloured vignette of an engine and train across the top of the card (see Fig. 10). There are two versions of the vignette: one with

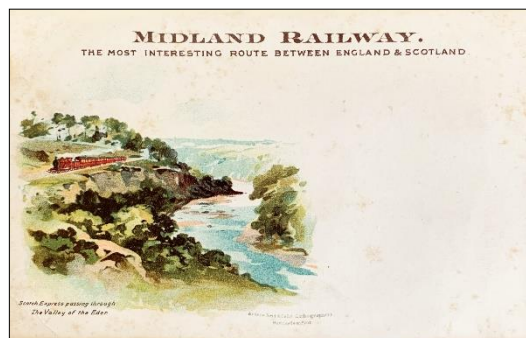


Fig. 10

MR-190 The Andrew Reid vignette of an express passing through the Valley of the Eden.

## Part 2 - The Evolution of Midland Official Postcards

a landscape setting and one with the Company's coat of arms. There are also variations in the wording of the descriptive title and publisher's imprint. The original issue is thought to have been circa 1904 and used in dining cars. Some of these cards were also issued with overprints (see Part 7) on the front giving timetable information for the principal routes (see Fig. 11). The original cards had undivided backs, but the timetable cards also appeared with divided back overprints for company correspondence use (again, see Part 7).

**MIDLAND RAILWAY.**  
THE MOST INTERESTING ROUTE TO SCOTLAND.

**EXPRESS TRAIN SERVICE**  
BRADFORD, LEEDS, AND LONDON (ST. PANCRAS).

WEEKDAYS.												SUNDAYS.																							
BRADFORD dep.						LEEDS						LONDON (ST. PANCRAS) arr.						BRADFORD dep.						LEEDS						LONDON (ST. PANCRAS) arr.					
8.45	9.25	10.25	11.25	12.25	1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25	5.25	6.25	7.25	8.45	9.25	10.25	11.25	12.25	1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25	5.25	6.25	7.25	8.45	9.25	10.25	11.25	12.25	1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25	5.25	6.25	7.25
ST. PANCRAS dep.												BRADFORD												LEEDS											
7.30	8.30	9.30	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30	2.30	3.30	4.30	5.30	6.30	7.30	8.30	9.30	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30	2.30	3.30	4.30	5.30	6.30	7.30	8.30	9.30	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30	2.30	3.30	4.30	5.30	6.30

A. Later on Mondays. B. Sunday excepted. C. Saturday excepted. D. On Mondays leave Leeds at 9.45 a.m. and arrive St. Pancras 5.6. 7.45 a.m. E. Mondays only. F. Sundays excepted. G. 6.25 on Tuesdays and Saturdays. H. Leaves at 6.15 a.m. on Mondays.

**Fig. 11**  
**MR-191C** A version of the Andrew Reid vignette with timetable overprint on the front for July 1905.

### 2.5.3 The “Sheffield” Set - Checklist page ⑥

Again not officially recognised as a set, there were five cards in use by August 1905 which can be conveniently grouped as such because they are titled Midland Railway and have correspondence backs specifically for the District Superintendent's Office, Sheffield. One has been noted with an abbreviated timetable overprint along the bottom of the illustration for trains to Yarmouth from Sheffield and Chesterfield. The commencement date for these is given as 10<sup>th</sup> July and the postmark indicates the year would be 1905 (see Fig. 12). The images used for these five cards also appear in a series that was used by the Great Northern and the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railways and, for this reason, they are unique among Midland officials (MR-131 to MR-134 and MR-136).

**WEEKDAYS - 10th JULY 1905.**

	A	B	C	D	E
Express Service SHEFFIELD dep.	8.45	9.30	10.15	11.00	11.45
via Midland Railway CHESTERFIELD	9.45	10.30	11.15	12.00	12.45
via Midland Railway YARMOUTH	1.30	2.15	3.00	3.45	4.30

**Fig. 12**  
**MR-133** The card from the “Sheffield Set” referred to in 2.5.3.

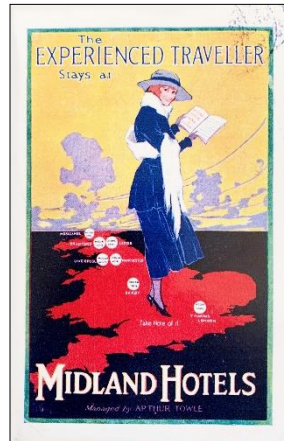
### 2.6 MISCELLANEOUS CARDS - Checklist pages ⑥, ⑦

During the years from 1904 onwards various single official cards (i.e. not part of, or derived from, one of the recognised sets) were issued, including some with correspondence backs for departmental use. A summary of these is given below and detailed information on each (and variants where identified) is given in Part 5.

- Two black and white cards issued in 1908 showing the Midland's display stands at the Scottish National Exhibition in Edinburgh and at the Franco – British Exhibition in London, both held that year (MR-128 and MR-129).
- A card issued in 1904 to publicise through express trains between St Pancras and Harrogate with luncheon and dining cars (MR-135).
- A number of cards featuring the Midland's turbine steamer *S.S. Manxman* (MR-170, MR-171 and MR-180 to MR-184) and one card which features the *S.S. Londonderry* (MR-172). All differ from those covered in Set 3.
- Two coloured postcards featuring Midland posters, one in use by 1910 showing the well-known “Going North From St Pancras” by Fred Taylor (MR-201) and the other

## Part 2 - The Evolution of Midland Official Postcards

in use by 1921 with the slogan “The Experienced Traveller Stays at Midland Hotels” and featuring a lady standing on a map (MR-185, see *Fig. 13*). The artist’s signature is not legible.



**Fig. 13**

**MR-185** The poster reproduction card with a striking image signed by the artist. The name is unfortunately indecipherable.

- (e) A coloured card (MR-202) of the interior of Heysham station featuring a pre-electrification motor train at the platform.
- (f) A coloured card featuring a train on the single phase electrified line between Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham (MR-200). The service was inaugurated on 1 July 1908.
- (g) A sepia postcard that is thought to be official, featuring a Midland Railway six-coupled Goods Engine (MR-201).



## PART 3 THE HOTEL CARDS

### 3.1 GENERAL HOTEL CARDS - Checklist pages ⑧, ⑨

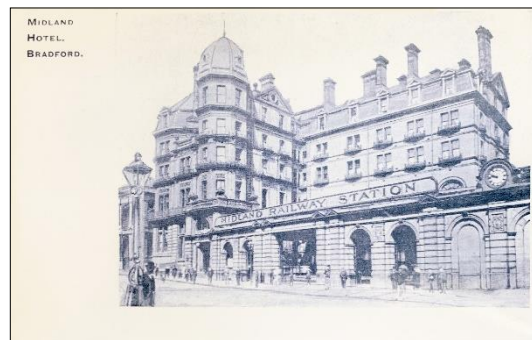
As mentioned in Section 2.1 the earliest Midland official cards were produced for the Midland Grand at St Pancras. They were convenient for hotel management use in acknowledging reservations and were probably made available to guests alongside conventional hotel letter-head stationery.

A very large number of cards were created to feature the Midland Hotel in Manchester - far more than for the other hotels - and these are dealt with in Section 3.3. In the years up to the First World War, and probably thereafter, it would appear that individual hotels were responsible for their own postcards, using either bespoke designs or cards by other publishers which featured their hotel pictorially either in colour or black and white. Details of known individual cards of this period which are clearly official (or highly likely to be so) are given in Part 5 and appear on Checklist pages ⑧ and ⑨ within the number range MR-204 to 229. The hotels featured are the Midland Grand, the Adelphi in Liverpool, the Midland in Bradford, and Heysham Tower; examples are shown in *Figs. 14 to 17*.



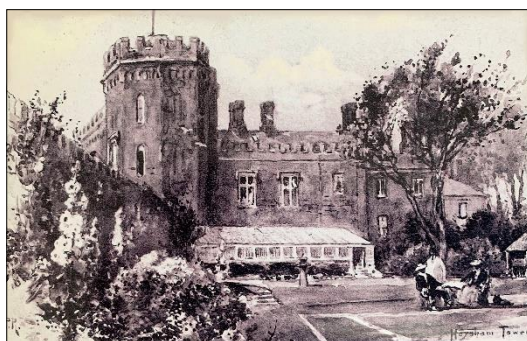
**Fig. 14**

**MR-211A** This card by Tuck shows an artist's impression of the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool as rebuilt by the Midland as "the most modern hotel in Europe" to attract the growing American tourist business using Liverpool, which was at that time the principal UK port for this traffic.



**Fig. 15**

**MR-204** This card shows a half tone view of the Midland Hotel in Bradford.



**Fig. 16**

**MR-216A** Heysham Tower was one of the smaller Midland hotels and this card has the following inscription on the back: "At Heysham Tower a few days rest and change is good for all. Write for Rooms, Heysham Tower, R.S.O., Lancaster". It was in Midland ownership for only 23 years from 1896 to 1919.



**Fig. 17**

**MR-209** A coloured postcard by the Midland Grand aimed at the business clientele of North London as the place to lunch for 2s-6d in the "magnificent dining room".

## Part 3 - The Hotel Cards

### 3.2 THE “SET” CARDS - Checklist pages ⑧, ⑨

There are two sets where some attempt was made by the Hotels Department to produce cards in a standard style applicable to all hotels. The first appeared in 1900, consisting of five cards all with vignettes in the “Travel and Entertainment” style that was used by the company across a range of publicity material of the period (see Fig. 18). Each card features one of the company’s hotels, leaving some space for correspondence, and the backs for the address are undivided, as would be expected prior to 1902. (MR-221 to MR-225).



**Fig. 18**

**MR-225** This card has a vignette of the first Midland Hotel in Morecambe (there was an LMS rebuild in 1933). It features the “Travel and Entertainment” motif used by the company across a range of publicity material.

The second “set” of nine cards appeared in 1905 and again featured vignettes, but this time coloured and effectively taking up the whole of the front of the card. Five show different aspects of the Midland Hotel Manchester with the remaining four featuring exteriors of each of the Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool and Midland Grand hotels (MR-230 to MR-238). Two examples of these attractive coloured cards are shown in Figs. 19 and 20.



**Fig. 19**

**MR-235** This card with its vignette of the Queen’s Hotel Leeds is one of the exterior hotel views in the set of nine coloured cards.



**Fig. 20**

**MR-234** By contrast with Fig 19 this is an interior view of the Garden and Terraces at the Midland Hotel in Manchester.

### 3.3 THE MIDLAND HOTEL MANCHESTER - Checklist pages ⑧ to ⑩

The Company’s hotel in Manchester was designed by the architect Charles Trubshaw and opened in 1903. It was clearly built to be one of the most prestigious in the country and was naturally heavily publicised by the railway company. As a result, postcards of the hotel and its features far outnumbered those of the other hotels (including the Midland Grand). Several publishers featured the hotel in sets of cards which are thought to be official, although firm evidence is yet to be discovered. Some Manchester cards are listed by Alsop under his “Miscellaneous Styles” heading (MR-210, 215, 217, 218 and 220) and others are mentioned in Section 3.2, but most appear in the sets listed on Checklist pages ⑨ and ⑩. These cover many internal features of the hotel which it would have been impossible to photograph without full co-operation by the management. Alsop has identified five sets which have been thought likely to be official:



## Part 3 - The Hotel Cards

- 3.3.1 Twelve coloured cards (MR-240 to MR-251) in the style of the “Nearest Station” series (see 2.5.1) featuring two exterior and ten interior views. An example is shown in *Fig. 21*.



**Fig. 21**

**MR-240** The exterior of the Midland Hotel Manchester.

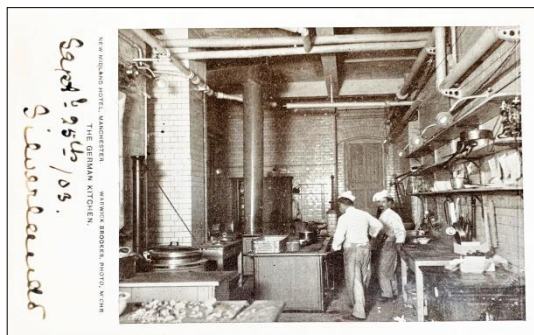
- 3.3.2 Eight cards (MR-252 to MR-257) in the W.H.Smith & Sons’ “Grosvenor Series”, a mixture of coloured and black and white views identified as published by 1904. See *Fig. 22* for an example.



**Fig. 22**

**MR-255-1** This is an interior view at the Midland Hotel in Manchester featuring the Octagon Court and is one of the coloured cards in the Grosvenor Series.

- 3.3.3 Twelve cards by Warwick Brookes Photo, Manchester (MR-258 to MR-269), most in a number of print variations. Only one card is an exterior view - the rest feature internal views, many of which are also covered in the other four sets here discussed. See *Fig. 23* for an example.



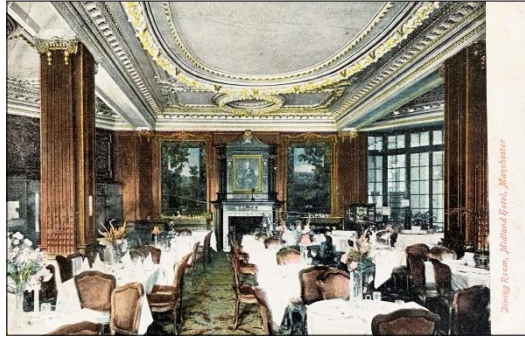
**Fig. 23**

**MR-259-4** An example of one of the Warwick Brookes cards of views of the interior of the Midland Hotel Manchester – this one is of the German Kitchen.

(Information that has become available since preparation of the Alsop Checklist casts doubt on these cards being official. See Part 6 for further information.)

## Part 3 - The Hotel Cards

- 3.3.4 Six coloured cards by Valentine which again feature just one exterior view with five of the interior (MR-279 to MR-284). See *Fig. 24* for an example.



**Fig. 24**

**MR-280** A card from the Valentine Series showing the Dining Room at the Midland Hotel Manchester.

- 3.3.5 Eleven cards (MR-287 to MR-297) by the publisher Evelyn Wrench which are all interior black and white views of the hotel. Each card bears the publisher's number, these being continuous in the range 20352 to 20362. See *Fig 25* for an example.



**Fig.25**

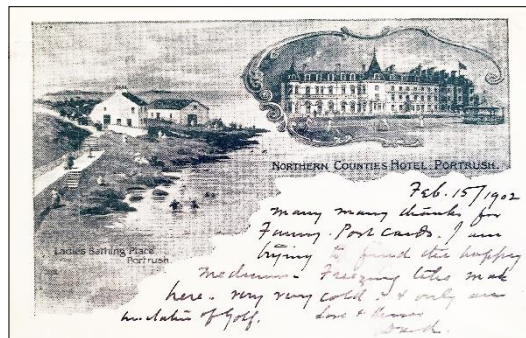
**MR-293** A card from the Wrench Series showing the American Bar at the Midland Hotel Manchester.

## PART 4 THE IRISH CARDS

### 4. THE IRISH CARDS - Checklist page ⑬

On 1 July 1903 the Midland Railway purchased the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway and thus established itself in Northern Ireland (not then a separate province). This was followed by the opening of the new port of Heysham on 1 September 1904, replacing Morecambe and Barrow as the mainland points of embarkation for the company's services to Ireland and, during summer seasons, to the Isle of Man. As described in Part 2, these events stimulated major publicity campaigns by the company on the British mainland, including the issue of official postcards.

This was not matched by the Northern Counties Committee (as the Midland lines were called after the amalgamation) and only twelve cards have been identified, together with just one earlier one from the B&NC itself (NCC-001). This features the Northern Counties Hotel at Portrush – specifically the “Ladies Bathing Place” (see Fig. 26). The Committee itself issued only one set of cards (NCC-010 to NCC-016), together with four non-set cards (NCC-020 to NCC-040) (see Fig. 27 for an example).



**Fig.26**

**NCC-001** The sole card so far seen from the B&NCR posted in 1902. It features a view of the “Ladies Bathing Place” at Portrush with a vignette of the company's hotel at the resort.



**Fig. 27**

**NCC-016** An example from the set of eight correspondence backed cards for use by the NCC Manager's Office in Belfast.



PART 5  
EXTRACT FROM ALSOP CHECKLIST NUMBER 3

The following facsimile pages ① to ⑬ are pages 19 to 31 (re-numbered) of *Checklist Number 3 LMS, Midland, Northern Counties Committee and North Stafford Railways (revised March 2017)* which cover the detailed listings of Midland Railway and NCC official postcards and are reproduced by kind permission of John Alsop. The listings identify each card and its known variants with an “Alsop Number” prefixed either “MR-” or “NCC-”.

The following conventions are used:

- a) Information in square brackets [ ] is descriptive to aid identification, and is not on the card;
- b) Titles are given in full except for a few very long ones, indicated by.....;
- c) Punctuation and errors are given exactly as on the card;
- d) Coloured cards are indicated at the start of the set or group of cards where they occur;
- e) / in the title means two (or more) pictures, // indicates there is also a picture on the address side;
- f) • is used in the checkboxes [ ] to indicate confirmed cards;
- g) Elsewhere the presence of a checkbox assumes the possible existence of the card;
- h) (V) indicates a vertical (portrait) format card;
- i) Where it can be identified the name of the artist is given, in *italics*;
- j) Dates given are either known publication dates or earliest noted postal use (indicated ‘by’);
- k) Names of locomotives and ships are in *italics*

Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

Facsimile of page 19 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY

**MIDLAND RAILWAY (MR)**

**SETS 1-4**

Many of these cards were in use for about a year for correspondence purposes before public demand prompted the company to produce sets for sale in the summer of 1905. The later cards were also used for correspondence - original prints, not overprints (there are no postage details above the correspondence space on original prints).

There are several ways to identify the 1904 cards:-

Stamp space dotted line rectangle or not present - later issues solid line with slogan.

Ireland is green on later issues.

There are changes to the maps (Tilbury, Fort Augustus, Heysham areas).

Inset pictures are plain, 1904 - coloured on the later issues (just a yellowish background to statues).

All the maps except MR-018/019 are known in the original issue, but only one other card has been recorded, suggesting the rest were not printed until the 1905 issue. Check boxes are included in case they do turn up. Separate entries are also given for the two issues of Set 3, type 2. See page 3 for full back details. Non-post card versions of maps in this style may be found on page 13.

Three main versions.

1. Original 1904 cards:- Stamp space - dotted line rectangle or not present.

Ireland same colour as mainland. Inset pictures plain;

2. Normal issue:- Stamp space - solid lines with slogan inside.

Ireland coloured green. Inset pictures coloured or plain with yellowish background;

3. Correspondence cards:- Original overprints on back of cards.

(Later type) (See page 3 for full details).

**Set 1**

		1	2	3
MR-001	A Midland Express. The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery	[ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-002	Map/The Picturesque Route through England./High Tor, Matlock.	(V) [•]	[•]	[•]
MR-003	Map/The Best and Quickest Route to Buxton and the Peak of Derbyshire./Buxton.	(V) [ ]	[•]	[ ]
MR-004	Map/Only Route Giving Direct and Convenient Access to the Peak of Derbyshire./ Chatsworth House. "The Palace of the Peak."	(V) [ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-005	Map/Only Route Giving Direct and Convenient Access to the Peak of Derbyshire./ Eyam Village: Plague Cottages and Runic Cross.	(V) [ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-006	Map/Circular Tours in The Peak of Derbyshire/Haddon Hall. Rowsley Station.	(V) [•]	[•]	[•]

**Set 2**

The first three cards carry the slogan "The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery."

MR-007	Midland First-Class Dining Car./[Interior]	[ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-008	Midland Third-Class Dining Car./[Interior]	[ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-009	Midland Family Sleeping Carriage./[Interior]	[ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-010	Map/The Midland Scotch Expresses give Direct Access to the Homes and Haunts of Burns and Scott./Robert Burns. From Monument at Kilmarnock.	(V) [•]	[•]	[•]
MR-011	Map/The Most Interesting Route to Scotland through the Valleys of the Ribble and Eden./Valley of The Eden.	(V) [•]	[•]	[•]
MR-012	Map/The Midland Scotch Expresses give Direct Access to the Homes and Haunts of Burns and Scott./Statue of Sir Walter Scott, Princes St. Gardens, Edinburgh.	(V) [•]	[•]	[•]

**Set 3**

The first four cards carry a shield containing the slogan "The New Route between England and Ireland via Heysham." There are two issues of type 2.

2A. Stamp space 20x23mm. No breaks at corners; by 19/6/1905

2B. Stamp space 19.5x23mm with a break at bottom left hand corner  
about 1mm with smaller breaks at the other three corners.

		1	2A	2B	3
MR-013	Twin Screw Steamer "Antrim." 2,000 Tons. 21.9 Knots. 1,200 Passengers.	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-014	Turbine Steamer "Londonderry" 2,100 Tons. 22.3 Knots. 1,200 Passengers.	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-015	Turbine Steamer "Manxman" 2,100 Tons. 23.0 Knots. 1,600 Passengers.	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-016	Twin Screw Steamer "Donegal" 2,060 Tons. 21.4 Knots. 1,200 Passengers.	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-017	Map/Midland Railway. New Route to the North of Ireland via Heysham./ Giant's Causeway.	(V) [•]			
MR-017A	Map/Midland Railway. New Route to the North of Ireland via Heysham./ Giants Causeway, The Honeycomb	(V) [•]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-018	Map/New Rapid Route Heysham to Douglas/Douglas.		[•]		
MR-018A	Map/New Rapid Route Heysham by Turbine Steamer Heysham to Douglas.				[•]
MR-018B	Map/[shows Barrow-Douglas, and Heysham]	[•]			
MR-019	Map/New Route Heysham to Douglas by the Fast Turbine Steamer "Manxman"/Douglas.				[•]

Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

Facsimile of page 20 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY

Set 4.		1	2	3					
MR-020	St. Pancras Station and Midland Grand Hotel, London Terminus of the Midland Railway. The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery.	(V)	[ ]	[ • ] [ • ]					
MR-021	St. Pancras. The Largest Single Span Passenger Station Roof in the World.		[ ]	[ • ] [ • ]					
MR-022	Map Rumbles Moor The Picturesque Route through England. Circular Tours in the Wharfedale District./The Wharfe at Grassington.	(V)	[ • ]						
MR-022A	Map Rombalds Moor The Picturesque Route through England. Circular Tours in the Wharfedale District./The Wharfe at Grassington.	(V)		[ • ] [ • ]					
MR-023	Map/Direct Route to Yorkshire Watering Places./Harrogate.	(V)	[ • ]	[ • ] [ • ]					
MR-024	Map/Direct Route between Principal Towns of Great Britain and North of Ireland.	(V)	[ • ]	[ • ] [ • ]					
MR-025	Map/Direct Route between London and Bedford and the North./Statue of John Bunyan, Bedford.	(V)	[ ]	[ ] [ • ] [ • ]					
<b>MIDLAND RAILWAY SETS 1 to 4 - Correspondence Issues.</b>									
Recent study of these cards has shown that there are further variations that can be recorded. These mostly refer to the different correspondence printings, but a variation has been found with blank stamp space but with the picture side as type 2 and 3 cards, possibly an intermediate stage between the original part-coloured cards with the dotted rectangle stamp space and the later fully coloured issue with the slogan in the stamp space. Note that some type 3A cards have an overprint for the District Superintendent's Office. Type 1 (except type 1D) have blank dotted rectangle stamp space. Confirmed cards are noted but refer to the table below for full details of backs.									
Types 1 and 3 are sub-divided as follows:-									
<u>Type 1</u> - Original map and black & white picture									
1A General correspondence: Midland Railway. Date line .....190.;									
1B General correspondence: Midland Railway. Line for sending office. Date line .....190.;									
1C District Superintendent's Office: Midland Railway. Office name. Date line .....190.;									
1D As type 1C but no stamp rectangle;									
1E As type 1C with original Great Britain map but Ireland is coloured green.									
<u>Type 3</u> - Revised map with coloured inset picture									
3A General correspondence: Midland Railway. Line for sender. Date line ...190..									
Blank dotted line stamp space;									
3B As type 3A but stamp rectangle has solid lines with slogan;									
3C Pre-printed correspondence for Agent delivery was effected on . Stamp rectangle has solid lines with slogan. Reference box top left.									
		1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	3A	3B	3C
MR-001	Express	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-002	Map/High Tor	(V)	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-003	Map/Buxton	(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-004	Map/Chatsworth House	(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-005	Map/Eyam	(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-006	Map/Haddon Hall	(V)	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]
MR-007	First Class Dining Car	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-008	Third Class Dining Car	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-009	Family Sleeping Carriage	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-010	Map/Robert Burns	(V)	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]
MR-011	Map/Valley of the Eden	(V)	[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]
MR-012	Map/Sir Walter Scott	(V)	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-013	"Antrim"	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-014	"Londonderry"	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-015	"Manxman"	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-016	"Donegal"	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-017	Map/Giant's Causeway	(V)	[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ ]		
MR-017A	Map/Giants Causeway	(V)					[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-018	Map/Douglas	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-018A	Map/Douglas by Turbine	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-018B	Map/Douglas Barrow route	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]			
MR-019	Map/Douglas Fast "Manxman"						[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-020	St. Pancras and Hotel	(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-021	St. Pancras	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]
MR-022	Map of Rumbles Moor	(V)	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ ]			
MR-022A	Map of Rombald's Moor	(V)					[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]
MR-023	Map/Harrogate	(V)	[ • ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]
MR-024	Map of Great Britain	(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ • ]	[ • ]
MR-025	Map/John Bunyan	(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ • ]	[ ]

## Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

### Facsimile of page 21 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

#### MIDLAND RAILWAY

**Note:** Apart from the cards originally printed for correspondence, correspondence overprints may be found on any of the cards. The slogan "Midland Railway The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery" is in the stamp space of most set and some odd cards.

Sets 5 to 8 (type 2), 13 & 15 have no slogan, Sets 5 to 8 (type 1) refer to The Midland Railway of England. Except for Set 10, all cards in Sets 1 to 21 are coloured.

**SETS 5 - 8**

Two issues:

1. Undivided back. Photochrom Bear Trademark. Orange or brown backs. 1906;
2. Divided back. Anon. Description on back. By 7/1907.

Sets 5 and 6, type 1, were also issued as a single un-numbered 12 card set: Picture Postcard Souvenirs "12 Cards of Haddon Hall (Derbyshire Peak District)." Orange and Brown backs may be found (Sets 5 and 6 both colours, Sets 7 and 8 orange only). Sets in original packets have been found with a mixture, so it is probably not a significant variation. All titles are followed by "Midland Route Liverpool - Manchester & London."

**SET 5. HADDON HALL**

- 1o. Orange back;                                      1b. Brown back.

		1o	1b	2
MR-026	Haddon Hall, (Derbyshire) England's Best Type of Mediaeval Baronial Mansion...	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-027	Haddon Hall, (Banqueting Hall)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-028	Haddon Hall, (Dorothy Vernon Staircase)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-029	Haddon Hall, Ante-Room with Dorothy Vernon Doorway.)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-030	Haddon Hall, (Queen Elizabeth's Bedchamber)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-031	Haddon Hall. (The Terrace)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]

**SET 6. HADDON HALL**

		1o	1b	2
MR-032	Haddon Hall and the Banks of the Wye	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-033	Haddon Hall, (As Seen from the Terrace)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-034	Haddon Hall, (The Courtyard)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-035	Haddon Hall. (Corner of Banqueting Hall)	[• ]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-036	Haddon Hall. (Entrance to Chapel)	(V)	[• ]	[• ]
MR-037	Haddon Hall. (Chapel Interior)	(V)	[• ]	[• ]

**SET 7. PALACE OF THE PEAK**

		1	2
MR-038	Chatsworth House and Bridge	[• ]	[• ]
MR-039	Chatsworth House Corner of Tapestry Room.	[• ]	[• ]
MR-040	Chatsworth House Sculpture Gallery.	[• ]	[• ]
MR-041	Chatsworth House. Throne Room.	[• ]	[• ]
MR-042	Chatsworth House. The Grand Library.	[• ]	[• ]
MR-043	Chatsworth House. French Gardens.	[• ]	[• ]

**SET 8. SWITZERLAND OF ENGLAND**

		1	2
MR-044	Historic Eyam, Scene of the Great 17th Century Plague ./[Cross]/[Church]	[• ]	[• ]
MR-045	Buxton. (Capital of the Peak of Derbyshire)	[• ]	[• ]
MR-046	Bakewell.	[• ]	[• ]
MR-047	Monsal Dale (Peak District.)	[• ]	[• ]
MR-048	Matlock Bath, (The English Switzerland.)	(V)	[• ]
MR-049	Castle of "Peeveril of the Peak" Shewing Entrance to Cavern.	[• ]	[• ]

**SET 9. POSTER REPRODUCTIONS.**

Coloured. Anon. Green back with MR coat of arms.

MR-050	Turbine S.S. " <i>Manxman</i> ." Daily Sailings During the Season...	(V)	[• ]
MR-051	New Express Route to the North of Ireland via Heysham	(V)	[• ]
MR-052	The Eden Valley en Route to Scotland	(V)	[• ]
MR-053	The Best Route for Comfortable Travel and Picturesque Scenery.	(V)	[• ]
MR-054	Harrogate, Ilkley, Grassington, and Ben Rhydding.	(V)	[• ]
MR-055	Tourist Resorts in the Peak of Derbyshire.	(V)	[• ]

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Facsimile of page 22 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY

**SET 10. PAST AND PRESENT LOCOMOTIVES.**

Coat of arms on picture. No title. Description on back. Two printings identified, one has a distinct purplish toning.

1. Sepia. By 11/1908;
2. Purplish tone.

		1	2
MR-056	" <i>Jenny Lind</i> " built 1847.	[•]	[•]
MR-057	Carmichael Single built 1833.	[•]	[•]
MR-058	Wilson 0-4-2T built 1848.	[•]	[•]
	201A	[•]	[•]
MR-059	" <i>Princess of Wales</i> " built 1899.	[•]	[•]
	2601	[•]	[•]
MR-060	U.S.A. 2-6-0 built 1899.	[•]	[•]
	2516	[•]	[•]
MR-061	4-4-0 Compound.	[•]	[•]
	1000	[•]	[•]

**SET 11. THE PEAK DISTRICT.**

Coloured. Green back with coat of arms. By 27/1/1908.

MR-062	Pleasure Gardens, Belper, Derbyshire. (On the Midland Main Line between London &...	[•]
MR-063	The Derwent at Cromford. Midland Route London, Manchester and Liverpool.	[•]
MR-064	Matlock Bath. From the "Lovers Walk". Midland Route London Manchester & Liverpool.	[•]
MR-065	The Wye, Monsal Dale. As Seen from the Midland Route. London Manchester & Liverpool.	[•]
MR-066	Haddon Hall. Dorothy Vernon's Portal. Midland Route London, Manchester and Liverpool.	[•]
MR-067	Haddon Hall, Peeveril Tower. Midland Route London, Manchester and Liverpool. (V)	[•]

**SET 12. ANCESTRAL HALLS OF DERBYSHIRE.**

Coloured. Green back with coat of arms. 1908.

MR-068	Haddon Hall. North Tower from the Wye. Midland Route London, Manchester and. (V)	[•]
MR-069	Lea Hurst. The Home of Florence Nightingale. Whatstandwell Station, Midland Route...	[•]
MR-070	Newstead Abbey. Newstead Station Midland Railway	[•]
MR-071	Hardwick Hall, "More Glass than Wall." Rowthorn & Hardwick Station, Midland Railway.	[•]
MR-072	Ruins of Wingfield Manor Derbyshire. 15th Century Foundation (Wingfield Station.)	[•]
MR-073	Bolsover Castle. Bolsover Station, Midland Railway.	[•]

**SET 13. VALLEY OF THE EDEN.**

Coloured. Photochrom, London and Detroit. By 4/1908.

All titles are followed by "Midland Route between England & Scotland".

MR-074	Appleby Castle on the Eden. Settle & Carlisle Line.	[•]
MR-075	The Eden Valley at Armathwaite Settle & Carlisle Line	[•]
MR-076	Old Mill on the Eden at Armathwaite Settle & Carlisle Line	[•]
MR-077	Long Meg & Her Daughters Druidical Remains near Little Salkeld Settle & Carlisle Line	[•]
MR-078	Nunnery Walks near Lazonby Settle & Carlisle Line	[•]
MR-079	The Settle Valley. Settle & Carlisle Line.	[•]

**SET 14. LAND OF WATERFALLS.**

Coloured. Photochrom, London. By 20/02/1909.

MR-080	Hawes: Hardrow Scar. Hawes Station. Midland Railway.	[•]
MR-081	Ingleton: Baxenghyll Foss. Ingleton Station via Midland Railway	[•]
MR-082	Ingleton: Beesley Falls. Ingleton Station via Midland Railway.	[•]
MR-083	Ingleton: Thornton Force. Ingleton Station via Midland Railway.	[•]
MR-084	Settle: Catterick Force Waterfall Settle Station, Midland Railway. (V)	[•]
MR-085	Settle: Scaleber Waterfall. Settle Station. Midland Railway. (V)	[•]

**SET 15. BUXTON AND ENVIRONS.**

Coloured. Photochrom, London & Detroit. By 14/05/1909. 3 lengths of Photochrom imprint:

1. 53mm
2. 51mm
3. 49mm

		1	2	3
MR-086	Buxton (Capital of the Peak of Derbyshire) Midland Route London, Manchester & Liverpool	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-087	Buxton. Ashwood Dale. Midland Route. London, Manchester & Liverpool	[ ]	[•]	[•]
MR-088	Buxton. Chee Tor. Midland Route London. Manchester & Liverpool	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-089	Buxton Goyt's Bridge Stepping Stones Midland Route London. Manchester & Liverpool	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-090	Buxton. Miller's Dale Junction Midland Route London, Manchester & Liverpool	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-091	Buxton Serpentine Walks Midland Route London, Manchester & Liverpool	[ ]	[•]	[ ]



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### MIDLAND RAILWAY

#### SET 16. ENGLAND'S HOLY LAND

Coloured. Photochrom, London. By 3/12/1909.

MR-092	The Ouse at Bedford. Midland Main Line, London & The North.	[• ]
MR-093	Old Newnham Bridge, Bedford. Midland Main Line, London & The North.	[• ]
MR-094	Bunyan's Statue, Bedford. Midland Main Line, London & The North.	[• ]
MR-095	John Bunyan's Cottage. Elstow. Midland Main Line, London & The North.	[• ]
MR-096	Moot Hall, Elstow. Midland Main Line, London & The North.	[• ]
MR-097	Elstow Church & Detached Tower. Midland Main Line, London & The North.	[• ]

#### SET 17. ANTRIM COAST

Coloured. Photochrom, London. By 29/07/1909.

MR-098	Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-099	Carrick-a-Rede, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-100	Garron Point, Antrim Coast Tour. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-101	Ballycastle Golf Links On Antrim Coast. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-102	Larne Harbour, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham or via Stranraer.	[• ]
MR-103	"Where Sea and River Meet," Glenariff, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]

#### SET 18. GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Coloured. Photochrom, London. By 2/1909.

MR-104	Giants' Causeway. The Giants' Head. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-105	The Giants' Causeway. The Giants' Honeycomb. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-106	The Giants' Causeway. Portmoon & Stacks. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-107	The Giants' Causeway. The Fan. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-108	The Giants' Causeway. Cathedral Cave. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-109	The Giants' Causeway. The Giants' Organ. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	(V) [• ]

#### SET 19. GLENARIFF

Photochrom, London. By 6/1909.

MR-110	Rumbling Hole, Glenariff, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-111	The Ravine, Glenariff Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast	[• ]
MR-112	Ess-Na-Crub (The Fall of the Hoof) Glenariff, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham... (V)	[• ]
MR-113	Ess-Na-Larach (The Fall of the Battle-Field) Glenariff, Co. Antrim Midland Route via...	[• ]
MR-114	Parkmore Fall, Glenariff, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-115	The Tea House, Glenariff, Glenariff, Co. Antrim. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast	[• ]

#### SET 20. DONEGAL

Coloured. Photochrom, London. By 10/1909.

MR-116	Lough Swilly. En route to Portsalon, Co. Donegal. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast	[• ]
MR-117	The Lackagh Salmon River, Rosapenna, Co. Donegal. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast	[• ]
MR-118	The Bay, Rosapenna, (An Ideal Bathing Place.) Co. Donegal. Midland Route via Heysham...	[• ]
MR-119	Donegal Castle. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-120	Barnesmore Gap, Co. Donegal. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]
MR-121	Killybegs, Co. Donegal. Midland Route via Heysham & Belfast.	[• ]

#### SET 21. BYRON'S COUNTRY (NEWSTEAD ABBEY).

Coloured. Photochrom, London. By 11/1909.

MR-122	Newstead Abbey, South Front. Near Newstead Station. Midland Railway.	[• ]
MR-123	Newstead Abbey, West Front. Near Newstead Station. Midland Railway.	[• ]
MR-124	Newstead Abbey, East Front. Near Newstead Station. Midland Railway.	[• ]
MR-125	Newstead Abbey from the East. Near Newstead Station. Midland Railway.	[• ]
MR-126	Newstead Abbey, The Cloisters. Near Newstead Station. Midland Railway.	[• ]
MR-127	Newstead Abbey (Monument to the Poet's Dog.) Near Newstead Station. Midland Railway.	[• ]

Sets 1-21 were 6 cards for 2d. The cost of the 12 card set is not known.

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MIDLAND RAILWAY

**EXHIBITIONS.**

Half-tone. Photochrom.  
Slogan in stamp space. Statistics in correspondence space.

- |        |  |      |
|--------|--|------|
| MR-128 | Souvenir of the Scottish National Exhibition Edinburgh 1908. | [• ] |
| MR-129 | Franco British Exhibition "London 1908."                     | [• ] |

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

Anon. Not coloured. MR-131-134/6 are from a series also used by the Great Northern and Midland and Great Northern Joint. These have correspondence back for District Superintendent's Office, Sheffield, by 8/1905.

- |        |   |      |
|--------|---|------|
| MR-131 | Free Library, Great Yarmouth. Through Carriages by the Midland Route. Correspondence]   | [• ] |
| MR-132 | Pleasure Steamers, Great Yarmouth. [timetable commencing July 10 <sup>th</sup> below picture]   | [• ] |
| MR-133 | Britannia Pier, Great Yarmouth. [timetable commencing July 10 <sup>th</sup> below picture] [correspondence]   | [• ] |
| MR-134 | Interior of Gorleston Church. Through Carriages by the Midland Route. [Correspondence]  | [• ] |
| MR-135 | Midland Railway. Express Trains, with Luncheon and Dining Cars, between London (St. Pancras) and Harrogate. The Stray/Old Sulphur Well/Central Hall Royal Baths [by 6/7/1904] | [• ] |
| MR-136 | Gorleston Harbour from Cliffs. Through Carriages by the Midland Route.  | [• ] |

**NEAREST STATION.** Coloured cards with white border, title below picture.

Anon, possibly Photochrom. 1904. Regarded as possible officials, still awaiting confirmation..

- |        |                                  |  |       |          |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|-------|----------|
| MR-140 | Monsal Dale.                     | "Nearest Station, Monsal Dale, Mid, Ry,"         | 20888 | [• ]     |
| MR-141 | Bakewell. The Bridge.            | "Nearest Station, Bakewell, Mid, Ry,"            | 20589 | [• ]     |
| MR-142 | Bakewell, from the River.        | "Nearest Station, Bakewell, Mid,Ry,"             | 20590 | [• ]     |
| MR-143 | Hardwick New Hall.               | "Nearest Station, Rowthorn & Hardwick, Mid, Ry," | 803   | [• ]     |
| MR-144 | Bakewell Church.                 | "Nearest Station, Bakewell, Mid, Ry,"            | 21766 | (V) [• ] |
| MR-145 | Bakewell Church, Rutland Chapel. | "Nearest Station, Bakewell, Mid, Ry,"            | 21767 | [• ]     |

**Note:** The Lilywhite "Nearest Station" cards previously listed have been deleted as there is no evidence to show any connection with the railway. Issue continued through to the 1930s.

**MAP.**

Similar in style to Set 1 to 4 map cards.

- |        |  |     |      |
|--------|--|-----|------|
| MR-150 | Map/Giant's Causeway [Similar to MR-017 with changes to shipping routes and rectangular information panel on picture. Correspondence for James Little] | (V) | [• ] |
|--------|--|-----|------|

**SHIPS.**

Coloured. Green back with MR coat of arms. Three versions of the same picture.

- |         |  |                            |
|---------|--|----------------------------|
| MR-170  | New Midland Turbine S.S. <i>Manxman</i> . Leaving Heysham Harbour. | [• ]                       |
| MR-170A | The Midland Turbine S.S. <i>Manxman</i> . Leaving Heysham Harbour. | ["New" still visible] [• ] |
| MR-170B | The Midland Turbine S.S. <i>Manxman</i> . Leaving Heysham Harbour. | ["New" not visible] [• ]   |

**Ships.** Red title on coloured card. W.H.S.& S. "Varsity Series".

Those without the correspondence overprint are seen as probable officials.

1. Correspondence. Anon; 1907-8
2. W.H.S.& S. Varsity Series;
3. Anon. [Minor back variations not recorded].

- |        |  |                      |
|--------|--|----------------------|
| MR-171 | Midland Railway Co's New Turbine Steamer " <i>Manxman</i> " Heysham & Douglas.       | 1 [• ] 2 [• ] 3 [• ] |
| MR-172 | Midland Railway Co's New Turbine Steamer " <i>Londonderry</i> ." Heysham and Belfast | [• ] [• ] [• ]       |

**Ships – Miscellaneous**

- |        |  |          |
|--------|--|----------|
| MR-180 | S.S. "Manxman," Heysham. [Valentine. Coloured. Correspondence overprint No mention of railway, code GF1118 identifies] 47585                                   | [• ]     |
| MR-181 | S.S. "Manxman" (Turbine). Midland Railway New Express Route. Heysham and Douglas. [Red half-tone vignette. Slogan in stamp space. Correspondence]              | (V) [• ] |
| MR-182 | Turbine Steamer, "Manxman" [Valentine, JV number blocked out. "Midland Railway Turbine Steamer Built by Vickers Sons & Maxim, Ltd" on back. Possible official] | [• ]     |
| MR-183 | Turbine S.S. "Manxman" steaming 23 knots. Midland Railways new Express route between Heysham and Douglas, I.o.M.   | [• ]     |
| MR-184 | Midland Railway Express Steamer, Heysham, Isle of Man, and Ireland. [Photo by C.W. Holder, red half-tone, small picture]                                       | (V) [• ] |

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MIDLAND RAILWAY

<b>POSTER</b>			
Coloured, artist signed, name not legible. By 3/1921.			
MR-185	The Experienced Traveller Stays at Midland Hotels	[Lady standing on map] (V)	[• ]
<b>TRAINS Etc.</b>			
<b>Andrew Reid</b> Coloured vignettes. Imprint below picture, variations of wording as shown.			
MR-190	Midland Railway. The Most Interesting Route Between England & Scotland. Scotch Express Passing through The Valley of Eden. [Andrew Reid & Co. Ld. Lithographers Newcastle-on-Tyne . on two lines]		[• ]
MR-191	Midland Railway. The Most Interesting Route to Scotland. [Vignette of train & Crest. Andrew Reid Lithographers. Newcastle-on-Tyne on two lines]		[• ]
MR-191A	[Timetable: Manchester (Central) and London (St. Pancras) Express Train Service 10/04]		[• ]
MR-191B	[Andrew Reid on one line. No Lithographers...]		[• ]
MR-191C	[Timetable London (St. Pancras) and Manchester (Central) July 1905. Imprint 2 lines]		[• ]
MR-191D	[With timetable: Express Train Service Bradford, Leeds, and London (St. Pancras).]		[• ]
MR-191E	[Timetable London (St. Pancras) and Manchester (Central) March 1905. Imprint 2 lines]		[• ]
MR-192	Midland Railway. The Picturesque Route of Great Britain. [Picture as MR-191] Andrew Reid & Co. Ld. Newcastle-on-Tyne . on one line		[• ]
MR-192A	[With timetable: Express Train Service Bradford, Leeds, and London (St. Pancras). No date]		[• ]
MR-192B	[With timetable: London (St. Pancras) and Manchester (Central) Express Train Service]		[• ]
MR-192C	[With Manchester timetable dated: July, August and September 1904]		[• ]
MR-193	Midland Railway The Most Interesting Route to (blank) [Picture as MR-191 but Andrew Reid... on one line only]		[• ]
<b>Note:-</b> The Andrew Reid cards listed above are undivided back, but those with timetables are also overprinted as divided back for correspondence use. It is understood that the original cards were available in the dining cars.			
<b>Anon. Coloured.</b> Green back with coat of arms. Slogan in stamp space. 1908.			
MR-200	Heysham, Morecambe & Lancaster Line First Single Phase Electric Railway in Great Britain.		[• ]
MR-200A	[Correspondence overprint G.F.1118.]		[• ]
<b>Photochrom</b> Coloured. From a poster by Fred Taylor. Title on back of cards. 1910.			
MR-201	Going North for the Holidays from St. Pancras Station, Midland Railway. [Black back. "Printed in England" on centre line]		[• ]
MR-201A	[With correspondence overprint] [by 15/10/1914]		[• ]
MR-201B	[Buff back. Plain centre line. Blank stamp space]		[• ]
<b>Valentine</b> Ordinary coloured Valentine card with title in white and green correspondence overprint.			
MR-202	Station and Motor Train, Heysham. [Valentine 47421. Railway name not on card. Identified from code G.F. 1118.]		[• ]
<b>Photographic</b> Sepia. Anon. White border. Title below picture. Thought to be official. 1906.			
MR-203	Midland Railway Six-coupled Goods Engine.	281	[• ]
(7)			

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MIDLAND RAILWAY

<b>HOTEL CARDS.</b>			
<b>Miscellaneous styles.</b> MR-208 to 215 are coloured.			
MR-204	Midland Hotel, Bradford	[Half tone, white border. Title top left]	[• ]
MR-205	New Midland Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. [Anon glossy sepia photo of artist drawing. MR Hotels van bottom centre. Picture appears to be based on same original as MR-219. Thought to be official]		[• ]
MR-206	Midland Grand Hotel, London	[Title left of half-tone picture. White border]	[• ]
MR-207	Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras. [Photochrom Sepiatone. Grey back. Title on 2 lines]	(V)	[• ]
MR-207A	[Brown back. Title on one line]	(V)	[• ]
MR-207B	[As MR-207A but Grano Series]	(V)	[• ]
MR-207C	[As MR-207A Subject to ½d. inland... in box]	(V)	[• ]
MR-208	Midland Grand Hotel, London N.W.	[Anon. Small size card. 130x84mm.]	[• ]
MR-208A	Midland Grand Hotel, London, N.W.	[Ack. for reservation fills correspondence space]	[• ]
MR-209	Have you ever lunched at the Midland Grand? the new 2/6 Luncheon... Exterior & interior of Midland Grand Hotel. Back style matches MR-230 to MR-238]	[Poster advert. (V)]	[• ]
MR-210	Midland Hotel, Manchester. [Tuck card. Painting by Charles Flower. Description on two lines. Managed by Arthur Towle]		[• ]
MR-210A	[Description on three lines. "TUCK'S POST CARD"]		[• ]
MR-210B	[As MR-210, Tuck easel lower left & in stamp space]		[• ]
MR-210C	[As MR-210A but dark brown back]		[• ]
MR-211	"Midland Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool" The most modern Hotel in Europe. [Tuck. Coloured. Managed by Arthur Towle. (For Address Only) starts under C of POST CARD]		[• ]
MR-211A	[Managed by Frank & Arthur Towle]		[• ]
MR-211B	["Frank" blocked out]		[• ]
MR-211C	[Arthur Towle. (For Address Only) starts under A of POSTALE]		[• ]
MR-211D	[Arthur Towle. (For Address Only) starts under E of POSTALE]		[• ]
MR-212	Midland Adelphi Hotel Liverpool The Garden.	[David Allen & Sons. By 4/1914]	(V) [• ]
MR-213	The Terrace Midland Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.		(V) [• ]
MR-214	The Lounge: Midland Hotel, Morecambe.	[Anon. Coloured. By 10/3/1912]	[• ]
MR-215	"The Garden" - Midland Hotel Manchester	[Anon. Coloured. Blue back]	[• ]
MR-216	Heysham Tower	[Heysham Tower, R.S.O. Lancaster on brown back. Anon collotype]	[• ]
MR-216A	[At Heysham Tower a few days rest... Anon. Green back. Faulkner style]		[• ]
MR-217	London and Manchester via the "Switzerland of England". [Poster style. Black white.& red] Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, London./Midland Hotel, Manchester./Timetable July, August and September, 1904.		[• ]
MR-217A	March, 1905. [Amended times and additional notes below table]		[• ]
MR-218	Midland Railway Hotels. Midland Hotel Manchester, The American Bar. Calendar for 1909 [Glossy sepia platemarked]		[• ]
MR-219	[Midland Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool] [black & white sketch] [Untitled reservation acknowledgement. Valentines Series. By 8/1914]		[• ]
MR-220	Midland Hotel - Manchester "Midland Railway Hotels"	[Red title. Hunt M/c. By 5/1904]	[• ]
MR-220A	Midland Hotel - Manchester Midland Railway Hotels.	[Hunt Series, Manchester By 1/1905]	[• ]
<b>Travel and Entertainment.</b> Brown undivided back vignettes. Anon. By 18/7/1900.			
MR-221	Midland Hotel, Derby.		[• ]
MR-222	Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, London N.W.		[• ]
MR-223	Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.		[• ]
MR-224	Midland Hotel, Bradford.		[• ]
MR-225	Midland Hotel, Morecambe.		[• ]

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MIDLAND RAILWAY

**Other Early Cards**

Undivided back. Half-tone.

MR-227	Midland Grand Hotel, London.	[Court card. Half picture. Possible official]	(V)	[• ]
MR-228	Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, London, N.W./Derwentwater.	Telegrams: "Midotel". Telephone No. 7502. [Court card. POST CARD 43mm. Vignette. By 6/12/1896. Second earliest recorded official]	(V)	[• ]
MR-228A	[Large P and C. 47mm. Vignette. By 7/1899]		(V)	[• ]
MR-228B	Telegrams: "Midotel". Telephone No. 702 King's Cross.	[189. dateline]]	(V)	[• ]
MR-229	Midland Grand Hotel London N.W. [pre-printed ½d brown stamp]	[by 19/08/1901]		[• ]
MR-229A	[As MR-229 but ½d green stamp]	[by 11/05/1903]		[• ]

**Coloured vignettes**

Wyvern crest on back. W. Towle, Manager. By 9/1905.

MR-230	Midland Hotel, Manchester.			[• ]
MR-231	Midland Hotel, Manchester. Roof Garden.			[• ]
MR-232	Midland Hotel Manchester. The "Beautiful" Hall.			[• ]
MR-233	Midland Hotel Manchester, Entrance.			[• ]
MR-234	Midland Hotel, Manchester. Garden & Terraces.			[• ]
MR-235	Queen's Hotel, Leeds City Square			[• ]
MR-236	Midland Hotel, Bradford. Forster Square			[• ]
MR-237	Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.			[• ]
MR-238	Midland Hotel St. Pancras London		(V)	[• ]

**Manchester. Midland Hotel**

Coloured. Style as MR-140 to 145. Probable officials. By 8/1906.

MR-240	Manchester. Midland Hotel.	[Exterior]	21816		[• ]
MR-241	Manchester. Midland Hotel.	[Exterior]	21817	(V)	[• ]
MR-242	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Entrance Hall.		21818	(V)	[• ]
MR-243	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Ladies' Tea Room.		21819		[• ]
MR-244	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Reading Room.		21820		[• ]
MR-245	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Coffee Room.		21821		[• ]
MR-246	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Octagon Lounge.		21822	(V)	[• ]
MR-247	Manchester. Midland Hotel. French Restaurant.		21823		[• ]
MR-248	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Winter Garden.		21824		[• ]
MR-249	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Grand Staircase to Theatre.		21825		[• ]
MR-250	Manchester. Midland Hotel. The Theatre.		21826		[• ]
MR-251	Manchester. Midland Hotel. Theatre Foyer.		21827		[• ]

**W.H.S. & S. "Grosvenor Series"**

Possible officials. On the coloured cards the width of margin varies resulting in changes to the picture detail (e.g. The "Head Waiter" standing at the top of the stairs to the left edge of MR-254 is not always present).

1. Coloured. By 10/1904;
2. Photo with white border. By 12/1904.

MR-252	Midland Hotel, Manchester	[Multiview on black, pictures mostly as rest of set]	(V)	1 [• ]	2 [• ]
MR-253	Midland Hotel, Manchester.	[Exterior. Different view to that on MR-252]		[• ]	[• ]
MR-254	Wintergarden, Midland Hotel, Manchester.	[Clock hanging right]		[• ]	
MR-254A	Winter Garden, Midland Hotel, Manchester.			[• ]	[• ]
MR-255	Octagon Court, Midland Hotel, Manchester.		(V)	[• ]	[• ]
MR-256	Wintergarden, Midland Hotel, Manchester.	[Man reading newspaper]		[• ]	
MR-256A	Winter Garden, Midland Hotel, Manchester.			[• ]	[• ]
MR-257	Roof Garden, Midland Hotel, Manchester.			[• ]	[• ]



Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

Facsimile of page 28 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY

**New Midland Hotel, Manchester.**

Half-tone with white border. These cards are regarded as probable officials. Title in wider side margin. Title position shown with "Post Card" uppermost. 6 types have been identified in what appears to be a set of 12. The printer is shown as "Warwick Brookes, Photo", or Warwick Brookes, Photo, M'chr". The colour of printing varies, basically black & white but depending on the light some cards have a sepia look; this is not regarded as a significant variation. The closeness of the posted dates suggests reprints in a very short period, and 13 entries for type 4 suggests at least two printings in that style. There are further minor print variations – presence or not of full stops, no comma after Hotel and Brookes may be followed by apostrophe rather than comma; these minor details are not recorded here.

Printer	Title	Back colour	Back details	Date
1. Photo	right	black	UPPER CASE	By 13/9/1903
2. Photo	right	black	Lower case	By 4/10/1903
3. Photo, M'chr.	right	black	Lower case	By 28/9/1903
4. Photo, M'chr.	left	black	Lower case	By 20/10/1903
5. Photo, M'chr.	left	brown	Lower case	By 11/1/1904
6. Photo, M'chr.	left	black	UPPER CASE	

				1	2	3	4	5	6
MR-258	New Midland Hotel, Manchester.	[Exterior]	(V)	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-259	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. The German Kitchen.			[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[ ]	[•]
MR-260	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Grill Room.			[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-261	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Octagon Court .		(V)	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-261A	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Octagon Hall.		(V)	[•]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-262	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Roof Garden.			[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-263	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Reading Room.			[•]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-264	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Coffee Room.			[ ]	[•]	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-264A	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Coffeee Room.[sic]			[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-265	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Entrance Hall.		(V)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-266	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Dining Room, Royal Suite.			[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-267	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. The Garden.			[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-267A	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Gardens.			[•]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-268	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Ladies' Tea Room.			[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-268A	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Ladies' Room.			[•]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-269	New Midland Hotel, Manchester. Restaurant.			[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]

**Note:** There are several other series of cards of the Midland Hotel, Manchester, of which the two series listed here seem the most likely to be official, although there must be considerable doubt. They are interesting views of the interior, so it is felt that they are worth listing. Perhaps an original packet will turn up which will give an answer.

**Valentines.**

Coloured. Not numbered. By 8/1906. Red title in right margin.

MR-279	Midland Hotel, Manchester	[Exterior]		[•]	[ ]
MR-280	Dining Room, Midland Hotel, Manchester			[•]	[ ]
MR-281	French Terrace, Midland Hotel, Manchester			[•]	[ ]
MR-282	The Octagon Room, Midland Hotel, Manchester			[•]	[ ]
MR-283	Winter Garden, Midland Hotel, Manchester	[Clock right]		[•]	[ ]
MR-284	The Winter Garden, Midland Hotel, Manchester	[Clock left]		[•]	[ ]

**Wrench Series.**

Sepia collotype numbered cards.

MR-287	Manchester, Midland Hotel, The Garden	20352	[•]	[ ]
MR-288	Manchester. Midland Hotel, Octagonal Court	20353	[•]	[ ]
MR-289	Manchester. Midland Hotel, Grill Room	20354	[•]	[ ]
MR-290	Manchester. Midland Hotel, "Dining Room."	20355	[•]	[ ]
MR-291	Manchester. Midland Hotel, The Banqueting Room.	20356	[•]	[ ]
MR-292	Manchester. Midland Hotel, Restaurant	20357	[•]	[ ]
MR-293	Manchester. Midland Hotel, American Bar	20358	[•]	[ ]
MR-294	Manchester. Midland Hotel, a Corner of the Concert Hall Staircase	20359	[•]	[ ]
MR-295	Manchester. Midland Hotel, Corridor leading to Banqueting Room	20360	[•]	[ ]
MR-296	Manchester, Midland Hotel, The Office.	20361	[•]	[ ]
MR-297	Manchester, Midland Hotel, The Foyer.	20362	[•]	[ ]

Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

Facsimile of page 29 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY

EARLY VIGNETTES, GENERAL VIEWS Probably sold from slot machines. All cards carry the slogan, on two or three lines:- "The Most Picturesque Route Through England. The Most Interesting Route to Scotland."		1	2	3
	1. Picture Postcard Company.			
	2. Automatic General Stores.			
	3. British and Colonial Automatic Trading Company.			
MR-300	A bit of Old Derby.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-301	Ashby Castle.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-302	Bakewell Bridge.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-303	Bath Abbey.	[•]	[ ]	[•]
MR-304	Bolsover Castle.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-305	Bolton Abbey.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-306	Bunyan's Statue, Bedford.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-307	Burghley Lodge, Stamford.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-309	Castellated Tunnels, Trent.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-310	Charnwood Forest.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-311	Chatsworth House.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-312	Chatsworth House. [Bridge]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-313	Clifton Downs, Bristol.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-314	Clifton Grove, Nottingham.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-315	Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-316	Edale Valley and Mam Tor.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-317	Gloucester Cathedral.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-318	Grand Pump Room, Bath.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-319	Haddon Hall. [Exterior]	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-320	Haddon Hall. [Stairs]	[•]	[ ]	[•]
MR-321	Hardwick Hall.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-322	Hardwick (old) Hall.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-323	High Tor, Matlock.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-324	In Castleton Woods.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-325	Kirkstall Abbey.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-326	Lancaster Castle.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-327	Lincoln Cathedral.	[•]	[ ]	[•]
MR-328	Lovers' Leap, Buxton.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-329	Matlock Bath.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-330	Miller's Dale.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-331	Municipal Square, Leicester.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-332	Nottingham Castle.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-333	Old Aqueduct in Lathkill Dale.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-334	Old Priory, Southwell Minster.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-335	Parade and North Pier, Morecambe.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-336	Pitville Gardens, Cheltenham.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-337	Recreation Grounds, Bedford.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-338	River Noe.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-339	Roche Abbey.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-340	Roman Bath, Bath.	[•]	[ ]	[•]
MR-341	St. Augustine's Bridge, Bristol.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-342	Skipton Castle.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-343	Snow Falls, Ingleton.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-344	Stepping Stones, Monsal Dale.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-345	The Beach, Morecambe.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-346	The Cathedral, St. Albans.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-347	The Crescent, Buxton.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-348	The Derwent at Rowsley.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-349	The Nave, Gloucester Cathedral.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-351	The Pavilion, Buxton.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-352	The Promenade, Cheltenham.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-353	The Strid, Bolton.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-354	The Winnatts, Castleton.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-355	The Wye at Miller's Dale.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-356	The Wye near Haddon Hall.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-357	Toadmouth Rock, Peak District.	[•]	[•]	[ ]
MR-358	Town Hall, Birmingham.	[•]	[ ]	[ ]
MR-359	Welbeck Abbey.	[•]	[•]	[•]
MR-360	West End and Pier, Morecambe.	[•]	[ ]	[•]
MR-361	The Wye near Haddon Hall. [Cows]	[•]	[ ]	[ ]

Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

Facsimile of page 30 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY

**THEATRE CARDS** Perhaps not strictly Midland Railway official cards but included as they advertise activities at the Midland Hotel Theatre in Manchester.

- MR-400 The Follies. Midland Hotel Theatre, Manchester. May 14, for 3 weeks. Matinees: Saturdays at 3 p.m.  
[Half-tone picture in frame, 6 pierrots in basket, probably general advert for the Follies  
overprinted in red for this theatre. "Looker-on" Printing Works Cheltenham. [by 15/05/1907] [• ]
- MR-401 Miss MARGARET COOPER [In correspondence space: Midland Hotel Theatre,  
Manchester. Sole Owners The Midland Railway Co. Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> 1908  
details of H.Bernhardt's Party. [Large card approx 100 x 155 mm] (V) [• ]

**EARLY LONDON VIEWS.**

Sepia vignettes by Picture Postcard Co. Ltd., 6 Drapers Gardens, London, E.C. No slogan. By 6/1900.

- MR-850 Albert Memorial, Kensington Gardens. [• ]
- MR-851 Bank of England. [• ]
- MR-852 British Museum. [• ]
- MR-853 British Museum (Natural History). [• ]
- MR-854 Charing Cross and Strand. [• ]
- MR-855 Cheapside. [ ]
- MR-856 Foreign Office, St. James's Park. [• ]
- MR-857 Horse Guards, Whitehall. [ ]
- MR-858 House of Lords. [Interior] [• ]
- MR-859 Houses of Parliament. [• ]
- MR-860 Hyde Park Corner. [• ]
- MR-861 Lambeth Palace. [• ]
- MR-862 Law Courts. [• ]
- MR-863 London Bridge and Monument. [• ]
- MR-864 National Gallery and St. Martins-in-the-Fields. [• ]
- MR-865 Parliament Square, Westminster. [ ]
- MR-866 Piccadilly Circus. [• ]
- MR-867 Regent Street. [• ]
- MR-868 Rotten Row, Hyde Park. [• ]
- MR-869 Royal Albert Hall. [• ]
- MR-870 St. James's Palace. [ ]
- MR-871 St. Martin's-le-Grand, G.P.O. [• ]
- MR-872 St. Paul's Cathedral. [Exterior] [• ]
- MR-873 St. Paul's Cathedral. [Interior] [• ]
- MR-874 Thames Embankment. [• ]
- MR-875 Tower Bridge. [• ]
- MR-876 Tower of London and Tower Bridge. [• ]
- MR-877 Trafalgar Square. [• ]
- MR-878 Westminster Abbey. [Exterior] [• ]
- MR-879 Westminster Abbey. [Interior] [• ]

**Additional Map Cards**

Not strictly post cards but these are postcard size and one uses the same pictures. These maps may have been printed as post cards but no copies have been found. MR-900 undated, MR-901 October 1904.

- MR-900 Map of South Wales with inset black & white picture of Mumbles Pier. Blank panel at top of  
Picture and plain back presumably prepared for use by various offices. [• ]
- MR-900A Panel printed for "Christmas Greetings" from J.O.Manton and Staff, Midland Railway,  
South Wales District, Brecon. [• ]
- MR-901 Map/Midland Railway. New Route to the North of Ireland via Heysham./  
Giants Causeway. [As MR-017 but coloured inset]  
Reverse printed timetable for boat train & connections York, Leeds & Derby. (V) [• ]
- MR-901A Reverse printed timetable for boat train & connections London-Nottingham. (V) [• ]
- MR-902 As MR-017, black & white inset, back advert North of Ireland, dated Derby, 1904. [• ]

**Note:** An internal printed document used from Derby July 1918 lists sets 1 to 21 and "Heysham and District Set" also at 2d. This set is a mystery. There are three coloured cards by E.S. of London that might be part of the set.

- MR-912 Midland Railway Co's New Dock at Heysham [Wagons] 462 [• ]
- MR-914 The Tower Midland Hotel. Heysham 464 [• ]
- MR-915 Midland Railway Co's New Dock at Heysham [Wagons & carriages] 465 [• ]
- MR-916 Midland Hotel. Heysham 466 [• ]
- MR-917 One of the Midland Railway Co's Turbine Steamers at Heysham 467 [• ]

Part 5 - Extract from Alsop Checklist Number 3

Facsimile of page 31 (re-numbered) Alsop Checklist Number 3

MIDLAND RAILWAY (NORTHERN COUNTIES COMMITTEE)

**NORTHERN COUNTIES COMMITTEE (NCC)**

**BELFAST AND NORTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY**

**VIEWS** Undivided back court size vignette. By 15/2/1902.

NCC-001 Northern Counties Hotel, Portrush/Ladies Bathing Place, Portrush. [• ]

**MIDLAND RAILWAY** (From 1/7/1903)

**IRELAND & ENGLAND VIA BELFAST AND HEYSHAM** Half tone views, Welch, Belfast  
Description on picture side. Used for correspondence.

NCC-010	Dunluce Castle, Portrush.			[• ]
NCC-011	Ladies Bathing Place, Portrush.		RW889	[• ]
NCC-012	Tea House, Glenariff, Antrim Coast.	[Crest by picture]		[• ]
NCC-013	Whitehead, Belfast Lough.			[• ]
NCC-014	Wishing Chair, Giants Causeway.	[Crest by picture]	RW366	[• ]
NCC-014A	Wishing Chair, Giants Causeway.	[As NCC-014 but sepia]		[• ]
NCC-015	Black Cave Tunnel, Larne.	[Crest by picture]	RW165	[• ]
NCC-016	Parkmore Fall, Glenariff, Antrim Coast.	[Crest by picture]	RW538	[• ]

“**THE GLENS OF ANTRIM TOUR**” "Lawrence, Publisher, Dublin". Coloured.

NCC-020 First Class Corridor Train. Run in connection with above tour. [4-4-0 & train] [• ]  
NCC-021 For Particulars apply to the Manager. Laharna Hotel Larne Co. Antrim [• ]

**COLOURED VIEWS** Anon, coloured, title in white margin below picture. Probable official.

NCC-030 Dunluce Castle, Portrush, Co. Antrim. N.C.Ry. [• ]

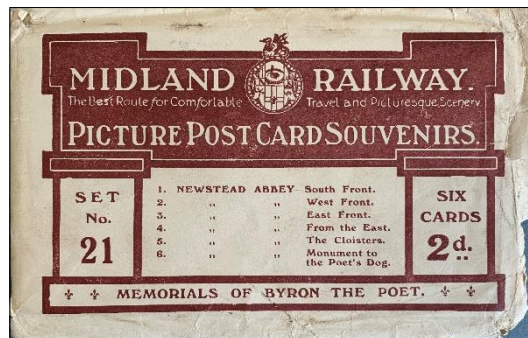
**HOTELS** Anon half-tone, white border. Probably an official issue

NCC-040 Midland Station Hotel, Belfast. [• ]

## PART 6 SET CARD PACKETS

### 6. SET CARD PACKETS

It has been mentioned in Section 2.2 that cards for general sale were made up of six different cards in an “appropriate wrapper”. As far as is known these wrappers took the form of packets (envelopes) with a list of contents printed on the front. Different designs were produced over the years and a number have survived. The collection illustrates 16 of these - some actual packets and some scans, again by courtesy of John Alsop. Two packets actually contain their set of six cards. Two typical designs are illustrated (*Figs. 28 and 29*). All sixteen can be viewed on the website by following the procedure outlined in 1.2 above but, at step 4, inserting the word “Packet” instead of an Alsop Number. All 16 records can then be scrolled.



**Fig. 28**

This packet in the collection contains the complete set of 6 cards of Set No 21. The design was used for a large number of sets.



**Fig. 29**

One of the packet designs used for Set No 8.

For a while after 1906, Sets 5 and 6 were issued as a single un-numbered 12 card set entitled “Haddon Hall (Derbyshire Peak District)” (see *Fig. 30*).

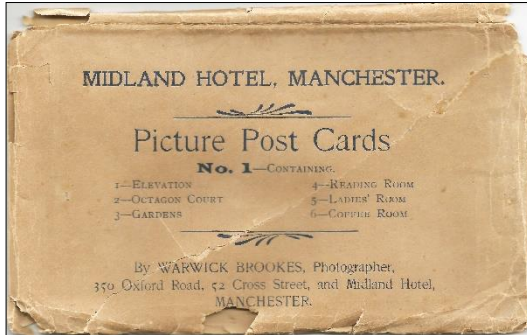


**Fig. 30**

The packet design for the 12 cards of combined Sets 5 and 6.

## Part 6 - Set Card Packets

Referring back to Section 3.3.3, two original packets of Sets 1 and 2 of the Warwick Brookes hotel cards have come to light, each of six cards and marked respectively as Set 1 and Set 2. They are shown by courtesy of Mike Dean in *Figs. 31a and 31b* and, as there is no mention of the Midland Railway, do not support the earlier view that the cards might be official. It is particularly interesting that the packet for Set 2 (Fig 31b) bears the name of the publisher whilst Set 1 (Fig 31a) does not. Further, stronger doubt is cast on their being official by the presence of the name and address of the publisher. The precise similarity of the two packets would otherwise indicate that both came from the same publisher and the omission of the name from Set 1 may have just been an error. The contractual arrangements between the hotel, the photographer and the publisher, unfortunately, still remain unknown.



**Fig. 31a**



**Fig. 31b**

The two Warwick Brookes set card packets mentioned in Section 3.3.3 (and Part 6).

## PART 7 THE MIDLAND OVERPRINTS

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

Overprints (OP) occur on Midland official cards as a means of providing basic texts for standard messages used by various departments when answering enquiries from members of the public, traders or other businesses. Unfortunately, no official records remain of overprints used by the company and the source material can therefore only be those cards that survived to be collected by enthusiasts. John Alsop has collated such information as has come his way; although of necessity incomplete more than 40 different overprints have been identified. They form the basis of the Midland Overprint Checklist given at 7.3 below, in which each distinct overprint is described and allocated an OP Number.

The Midland Railway Study Centre website provides an additional tool for those interested in researching overprints by following these instructions.

1. **GO TO [www.midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk](http://www.midlandrailwaystudycentre.org.uk);**
2. **CLICK The Study Centre Catalogue;**
3. Decide on which overprint you wish to view and note its OP Number, (not the Alsop Number);
4. **ENTER** this number in four character format OPxx (i.e. WITHOUT any “MR-” prefix) in the “Your search term” box in the “First Step:” panel;
5. In the “Next:” panel *click the drop-down menu arrow* in the “All Categories” box and select and *click* “Postcard ‘C’ (Official - Alsop)”;
6. In the “Then:” panel **CLICK** the SEARCH button.

The search will return all cards (and copies) with the selected overprint, which can then be scrolled through. In the case of some copies, only the correspondence side (the back) of the card is shown, the image on the front is not identified and no Alsop Number is given.

Note that if a card is overprinted on both the front and the back then two searches will be required, one for each OP Number.

### 7.2 THE OVERPRINT NUMBERING SYSTEM

The numbering system used for official overprints is separate from that in the main Alsop Checklists. It comprises the company identification (MR), the abbreviation (OP) and a two digit number (01 to 99). The overprints can be considered as falling into five groups, based upon the user department:

- Group 1 Traffic Department Correspondence..... (OP01 to OP40)
- Group 2 Goods Department Correspondence ..... (OP41 to OP50)
- Group 3 Hotels Department Correspondence ..... (OP51 to OP60)
- Group 4 Traffic Department Train Services ..... (OP61 to OP90)
- Group 5 Shipping ..... (OP91 to OP99)

The elements used to define each individually numbered overprint are based both on text and on print colour and are explained in the Checklist.

In some cases, particularly in Group 4, two different overprints can occur on the same card - one on the front and one on the back. The front OP Number is regarded as primary for Checklist purposes.



## Part 7 - The Midland Overprints

### 7.3 THE OVERPRINT CHECKLIST

The Alsop checklist for Midland Railway Official overprints is reproduced below with John's kind permission. Further explanatory notes with accompanying illustrations appear in subsequent paragraphs.

#### THE ALSOP CHECKLIST OF MIDLAND RAILWAY OFFICIAL OVERPRINTS

##### Midland Railway Official Overprints

Print colour is noted. Green is that used on the back of sets 1 to 4. The grey is rather variable and can look greenish.

Minor spacing variation can be found; this is not recorded.

Except when searching the Study Centre website as explained in Part 7.1, the reference numbers should always be used with prefix 'MR' e.g. 'MR OP02'.

<b>MR OP01 to OP11    General Superintendent's Office, Derby</b>		
<b>Note:</b> 'For General Superintendent' often seen with 'For' crossed through. Later printings have no 'For'.		
OP01 190... Dear..... I beg to .... which shall	'Derby' starts line	[Green]
OP02 190... Dear..... I beg to .... which shall	'Derby' moved to right	[Green]
OP03 191... Dear..... I beg to .... which shall	'Derby' moved to right	[Grey]
OP04 191... Dear..... I beg to .... which shall	'Derby' starts line	[Grey]
OP05 undated Dear... I beg to.... which shall		[Black]
OP06 191... Referring to...	to whom.... 'Master at' on line 2	[Green]
OP07 191... Referring to...	to whom.... 'Master at' on line 2	[Grey]
OP08 191... Referring to...	to whom.... 'Master at' on line 3	[Grey]
OP09 191... Dear..... I am in receipt of... which shall...	no 'FOR'	[Green]
OP10 191... Dear..... I am in receipt of... which shall...	no 'FOR'	[Grey]
OP11 191... Dear..... I am in receipt of... which shall...	no 'FOR'	[Brown]
<b>MR OP14    District Superintendent's Office, Sheffield.</b>		
OP14 undated	[used with OP85]	[Black]
<b>MR OP15 to OP16    District Superintendent's Office, no station</b>		
OP15 190... No correspondence printing	[used with OP61 to OP72 & OP75]	[Brown]
OP16 190... I have to ....	Your obedient Servant,	[Green]
OP17 19... I have to	Your obedient Servant,	[Green]
<b>MR OP20 to OP25    District Passenger Agent's Office, St.Pancras</b>		
OP20 191... I beg to....	which shall have....	[Blue]
OP21 191... I beg to....	which shall have....	[Grey]
OP22 19... I beg to....	which shall have....	[Green]
OP23 192... I beg to....	which shall have....	[Dark green]
OP24 191... Referring to your....	to whom....	[Grey]
OP25 191... I beg to....	which shall have....	[Grey/green]
<b>MR OP31 to OP33    District Passenger Agent's Office, no station</b>		
OP31 191... I beg to...	Yours faithfully, For District Passenger Agent	[Grey]
OP32 191... I have to ...	my early attention.. Your obedient	[Grey]
OP33 191... I have to ...	atten- tion hyphenated on two lines	[Grey]
<b>MR OP36    Railway and dateline only.</b>		
OP36 Midland Railway	190..... [used with OP72]	[Black]
<b>MR OP41 to OP45    No railway name, identified by code GF 1118. (Goods Form)</b>		
All: In reply to your favour		
OP41 'of' ends line 1, 'delivery' starts line 4		[Green]
OP42 'of' starts line 2, 'that' starts line 4		[Green]
OP43 'of' starts line 2, 'respecting' line 2		[Brown]
OP44 'of' starts line 2, 'respecting' starts line 3		[Brown]
OP45 'favour of' starts line 2, 'respecting' starts line 3		[Brown]

Cont.

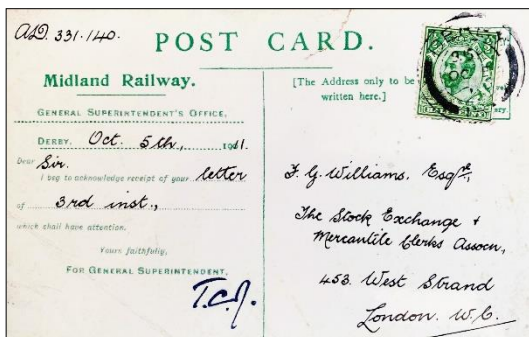
## Part 7 - The Midland Overprints

### THE ALSOP CHECKLIST OF MIDLAND RAILWAY OFFICIAL OVERPRINTS cont.

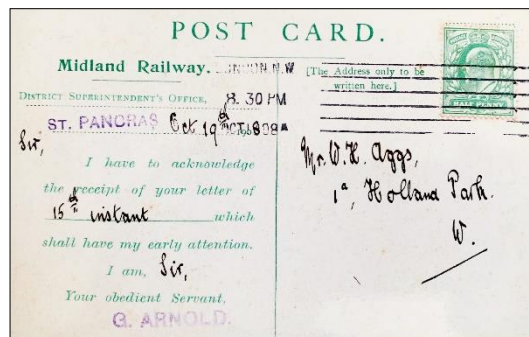
MR OP51 to OP55	Hotels			
	OP51-OP54	The Manager begs...	and has pleasure	
OP51	Adelphi Hotel Liverpool			[Brown]
OP52	Telegrams—"MIDOTEL" Telephone—1904. [Manchester]			[Black]
OP53	Midland Grand Hotel, 191...			[Blue]
OP54	Reservation - picture is Adelphi Liverpool.			[Black]
OP55	Midland Hotel, Morecambe. 19...			[Brown]
MR OP61 to OP85	Train services, below picture			
OP61	St.Pancras - Manchester table	undated	[OP16 on back]	[Black]
OP62	St.Pancras - Manchester table	July, Aug...Sep 1904	[OP16 on back]	[Black]
OP63	St.Pancras - Manchester table	March 1905	[OP16 on back]	[Black]
OP64	St.Pancras - Manchester table	July 1905	[OP16 on back]	[Black]
OP71	Bradford & Leeds to St.Pancras table	undated	[OP16 on back]	[Black]
OP72	Bradford & Leeds to St.Pancras table	July 1905	[OP36 on back]	[Black]
OP75	Manchester and St Pancras table	October 1904	[OP16 on back]	[Black]
OP81	Sheffield and Yarmouth table	undated		[Black]
OP85	Through Carriages by the Midland Route		[OP11 on back]	[Black]
MR OP91 to OP92	Shipping			
OP91	Belfast and Heysham Steamers,	pleasure in reserving	190..	[Grey]
OP92	Midland Railway, 1, Albert Square 191...	Sir, We beg to	James Little	[Brown]

### 7.4 EXPLANATORY NOTES

Difficulty may sometimes be experienced in distinguishing the overprinted text when this has been added in the same colour as the originally printed text. This is best illustrated by an actual example. *Figs. 32 and 33* show the backs of two cards bearing overprints OP01 and OP16 respectively. Close examination shows both cards have the same originally printed correspondence back, the left hand section of which has the underlined text "Midland Railway" below which are two horizontal dotted lines with the lower one ending in the date "190". The other text on the left hand side differs from card to card and each is a different overprint.



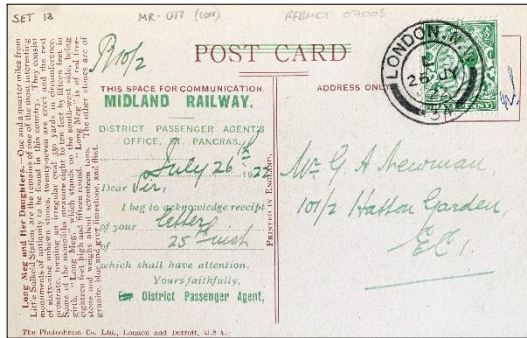
**Fig. 32**  
**OP01**



**Fig. 33**  
**OP16**

Three illustrations of Traffic Department overprints: Figs. 32 and 33 (OP01 and OP16) show different overprints applied to a common correspondence original print back and Fig. 34 (OP22) shows a very clear presentation of the overprint element on the original print back.

## Part 7 - The Midland Overprints



**Fig.34**  
**OP22**

Fig. 34 shows the back of a card from Set 13 where the divided back is an original print in brown and on which the green overprint OP22 is very clearly defined. The backs shown in these three Figures are typical of the Group 1 overprints for the Traffic Department (OP01 to OP40) and demonstrate how much repetitive writing by clerks is avoided.

Traffic Department overprints are the most numerous. They include those prepared for the General Superintendent's Office in Derby, for District Superintendent's Offices and for District Passenger Agent's Offices. Larger users in the second and third categories may sometimes be printed (e.g. St Pancras and Sheffield) but in other cases blank space is left to be filled in locally, either by rubber stamp (as in Fig. 33) or in manuscript.

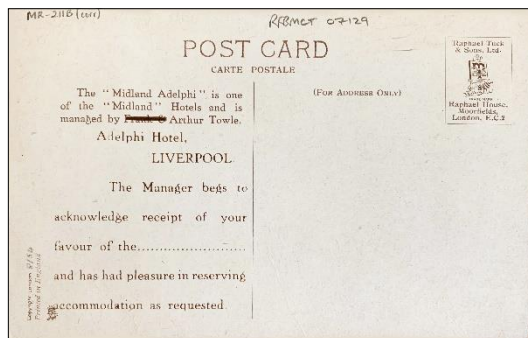
Each of the Group 2 overprints for the Goods Department includes a Form Number GF1118 within the Midland form numbering system (see Fig.35). This seems to indicate that supply of these cards to goods stations and depots might have been administered through the company's nationwide Stores Department stationery requisition system.



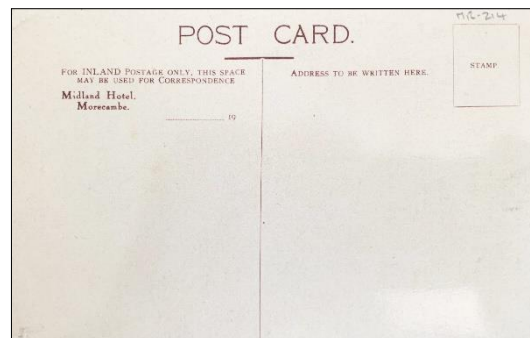
**Fig. 35**

**OP43** An example of a Goods Department overprint showing the Form Number GF 1118.

Group 3 overprints on Hotels Department cards were mainly intended for use in acknowledging reservations (see Fig. 36 for an example). There are however some cards with a minimal overprint that simply identifies the originating hotel (see Fig. 37).



**Fig. 36**  
**OP51**



**Fig. 37**  
**OP55**

Two hotel card backs which show widely differing use of overprints.

## Part 7 - The Midland Overprints

Group 4 overprints appear on the fronts of Traffic Department Train Services cards, below the picture, to provide a skeleton timetable of relevant train services. Overprints were clearly appropriate for this purpose as timetables could be kept up to date without having to make any change to the standard basic card (see *Figs. 38 and 39*). Some of these cards also have an overprint on the back and in such cases the OP Number of the back overprint is also quoted for reference.

**MIDLAND RAILWAY.**  
THE MOST INTERESTING ROUTE TO SCOTLAND.

**MANCHESTER (Central) and LONDON (St. Pancras).  
EXPRESS TRAIN SERVICE.**

	WEEKDAYS.										SUNDAYS.													
MANCHESTER (Cen.)	dep.	7.15	8.40	10.10	11.40	1.10	2.40	4.10	5.40	7.10	8.40	10.10	11.40	1.10	2.40	4.10	5.40	7.10	8.40	10.10	11.40			
LONDON (St. Pancras)	arr.	11.50	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45		
LONDON (St. Pancras)	dep.	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	
MANCHESTER (Cen.)	arr.	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15

A Lanchester, Dining, or Sleeping Cars are run on these Trains. C Arrives 9 to 10 a.m. on Sundays.  
D Monday earnings excepted. Tables provided in Corridor Carriage. Breakfast Baskets can be obtained at St. Pancras.  
October, 1904.

**Fig. 38**  
**OP75**

**Pleasure Steamers, Great Yarmouth.**

	WEEKDAYS.										SUNDAYS.													
Express Service (SHEFFIELD) via MIDLAND RAILWAY (YARMOUTH)	dep.	7.15	8.40	10.10	11.40	1.10	2.40	4.10	5.40	7.10	8.40	10.10	11.40	1.10	2.40	4.10	5.40	7.10	8.40	10.10	11.40	1.10	2.40	4.10
via SHEFFIELD	arr.	11.50	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45
via SHEFFIELD	dep.	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45
via SHEFFIELD	arr.	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15	5.45	7.15	8.45	10.15	11.45	1.15	2.45	4.15

via Peterborough.  
via Skegby and Boston.  
via Grimsby, on Mondays.

**Fig. 39**  
**OP81**

Two very different forms of timetable overprints on the front of cards.

The only two Group 5 overprints that have been recorded in relation to shipping were both produced for use by James Little, the Midland's agent in Belfast (see *Figs. 40 and 41*).

**MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY**  
**POST CARD.**

Address only to be here.

*Mr G. D. Hytton Esq*  
Belfast and Heysham Steamers,  
12, ROYAL AVENUE,  
Belfast. 1905

*Dear Sir,*  
*I am in receipt of your favour of*  
*and have had (shall have)*  
*pleasure in returning*  
*to the boat of*  
*Channel*  
*at 9 p.m.*

*12 St James Road*  
*North Park*  
*Co. Down*  
*Surry*

*England*

**Fig. 40**  
**OP91**

**MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY**  
**POST CARD.**

Address only to be here.

*Mr G. D. Hytton Esq*  
Belfast and Heysham Steamers,  
12, ROYAL AVENUE,  
Belfast. 1905

*Dear Sir,*  
*I am in receipt of your favour of*  
*and have had (shall have)*  
*pleasure in returning*  
*to the boat of*  
*Channel*  
*at 9 p.m.*

*12 St James Road*  
*North Park*  
*Co. Down*  
*Surry*

*England*

**Fig. 41**  
**OP92**

The two overprints so far identified in connection with shipping.

## RAILWAY POSTCARD CHECKLISTS

### Official Postcards

1. Caledonian and Highland Railways
2. London and North Western Railway
- 2A. LNWR Official Overprints
3. LMS, Midland, Northern Counties Committee and North Stafford Railways
4. Maryport & Carlisle, Furness, Lancs & Yorks, Glasgow & South Western, Portpatrick, Stratford-on-Avon & Midland Junction, Wirral, West Coast and Barrow Steam Navigation
5. Great Central, Great Eastern, Great Northern, North Eastern, East Coast and Hull & Barnsley Railways
6. Great North of Scotland, North British, West Highland and London & North Eastern Railways
7. Barry, Cambrian, Corris, Great Western and Vale of Rheldol Railways
8. Southern Railway and constituents and Early London Views
- 8A. The French Railways Poster cards
9. Irish and Isle of Man Railways, Snowdon and other minor British Railways; The London Underground Railways
15. British Railways Officials (pre-privatisation)

### General Postcards

10. Commercial Coloured Railway Postcards, 1902-c. 1960  
Excluding Locomotive Publishing Company, Alpha, Tilling and Ian Allan
- 10A. Commercial Coloured Railway Postcards, 1897-c. 1960 Locomotive Publishing Company, Alpha, Tilling and Ian Allan
11. Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway to 1960
12. Black and White Commercial Railway Postcards to 1953  
Part 1: Locomotive Publishing Company
13. Black and White Commercial Railway Postcards to c. 1960  
Part 2: Miscellaneous Publishers including Mack, Pouteau, Smith, Sweetman, Valentine, W & K and Wrench
14. Stations and other cards of Railway Interest by Kingsway, Charles Martin, Chapman and Fred Spalding

£2.50 each except 2A £2.00

Full details of all the above lists are available from:

John Alsop  
Chapelmere, Rodley, Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, GL14 1QZ  
Tel: 01452 760633