

## HILLMAN & BOND Copy Letter Book 1932, 25 Jan to 23 Nov.

Compiled & researched by Team member Derek Perrey, March 2011.

1932 was a year of recession in the United Kingdom with 16 per cent unemployment. A theme runs through the letters of much reduced property prices and sluggish markets. However much of the work of the practice was still conveyancing or property related, including the collection of rents. Probate work also tended to generate some conveyancing.

A number of the pages of the copy letters have been cleared of writing when hand written because of water, but the carbon copies of the type written letters survive very well although some pages have rendered the handwritten pages illegible because of leaching of the carbon paper ink.

### MISCELLANEOUS

p2. 25 - 1. HJR writes to Watson & Swaine to purchase in his name Southern Railway 5% stock for £700 but to pay dividends to Mrs. Ramsbotham.

P38 5 - 2 Letter informing Watson & Swaine that Mr. RG Edwards was of Lily Farm Charmouth, but as a retired farmer now lives at Minnesota Charmouth

p39 5 - 2 A Mr. Chatterton has enquired of Mr. Wallis about someone who visited him. Mr. Wallis in turn has asked HJR to reply. HJR tells Mr. Chatterton that the visitor was Mr. Wallis' eldest son who is a seaman at present between ships and who HJR occasionally gives a small gift to enable him to get to Hull and take ship. His description is "I am afraid he is an undesirable and hopeless case."

P45. 8 - 2 Letter from HJR to Southampton University regretting never having attended meetings of the Court of Governors and hopes his successor will have more time and opportunity to attend.

P49. 9 - 2 Letter to Excise Officer Sidmouth to explain that Mr. F. Wiscombe has ceased to sell beer since 3 - 2 - 1932 as his licence had not been renewed, but he continues to sell tobacco.

P54. 10 - 2 Letter to Mr. Furnis to explain that if he returned to work which was less remunerative due to partial incapacity his employer would be liable for half the difference between the old employment and the new..

p64. 15 - 2 In a letter to his Mother at Milton Rectory Berks HJR refers to a diet as more or less perpetual. (*Presumably for medical reasons.*)

p81. 19 - 2 Letter advising that there is no notary public in Lyme Regis. The nearest are Roper in Bridport and Mossop in Ottery St. Mary.

P91. 22 - 2 In a letter to "My dear George" HJR complains of being left on his own in January for 3 days due to illness in the office. HJR also complains of the fall in the value of securities.

P152. 9 - 3 An extraordinary letter from HJR asking the Publishers, Butterworth & Co to advise on the transference of a share of a tenant in common, now deceased, and in whom the title is vested. (*Presumably it was an intestacy as it would be known to HJR that it vested in the executors. On intestacy it would vest in the President of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court.*)

P172 18 - 3 In a letter to Mrs Dale it is mentioned that H&B had heard from her son **by third post.**

P194. 23 - 3 HJR writes to Southern Railway to record the fact that he has purchased £1055 of S. Rly 5% Preferred Stock in addition to the £900 already held. As with the latter the dividends should be paid to Mrs. I H Ramsbotham at Milton Rectory Didcot Berks. In another letter to the Southern Railway p312 21 - 4 HJR states that he has purchased £452 5% Guaranteed Stock and that the dividend should NOT be paid to Mrs. I H Ramsbotham, but to another lady (unspecified) and asking for appropriate forms.

P247 7 - 4 Writing to Mr. M. Brewer at 38 Broad Street Lyme Regis, H&B state that they have been informed that the partnership between Mr. M. Brewer and his brother Ernest has been dissolved and that MB is to enter into a restrictive covenant not to carry on a baking or confectionery business.

P248 7 - 4 Letter to Mr. F. Gollop on Mrs. Gollop's behalf calling for improvement in his behaviour and complaining of his drunkenness and assaults on her and the children.

P465 7 – 6 Letter to Mr Baker of Victoria House Lyme Regis concerning HJR's guarantee given to Lloyds Bank and in view of "considerable loss of income" wishing to reduce it.

P465 7 - 6 HJR writes to "Dear Hill" at Lloyds Bank to say that he wishes to be out of the guarantee given for Baker on security of the deposit of his fire policy.

P466 8 – 6 Letter to Municipal Mutual Insurance concerning an accident to Mr. A. Buckland and saying that the Council had been advised to deny liability for the accident (Slip and fall). Buckland has not paid his rent for the last quarter nor his rates for the last half year. His wife told a council member that at the time he slipped, he was standing still.

P497 17 – 6 Letter to Midland Bank concerning the disassociation of the partnership between M and E.R. Brewer.

P508 23 – 6 Reply to a Mr. Dankley? by HJR saying that there were only two good hotels in Lyme Regis viz: The Royal Lion (Capt. R.R. Slater) and The Three Cups (Mrs. Lloyd and her son R. Lloyd).

P534 2 – 7 Miss Briscoe of Fairwater Head Hawkchurch complains through H&B that the work done to her house (St. John, Seaton) by Messrs. GH Richard & Sons, builders of Parklands Seaton is more than authorised.

P586 14 – 7 Ellen Greenwood reported a fire at her property occurring at about 7pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> July which caused damage not specified in the letter. Damage to the property was estimated at £17-10-0 and £10-0-0 to furniture. The fire started in a beam over the fireplace. *(It is not to be suggested that there was anything suspicious about the claim, but it is of interest to note that even in July it was necessary to have a fire in the hearth of such intensity that it caused a beam to ignite.)*

p731 5 – 9 Letter from HJR to Mr. Long, his chief clerk applauding the fact that Mr. Long will return to work on Tuesday 13 – 9 and HJR promises to make it as easy as possible. HJR also assures Mr. Long that he can keep Dorset House. As Mr. Long knows HJR can sell it at a fair price at any time.

P813 29 – 9 H&B write to Mr. Santarelli on behalf of their client Mr. T.B. Glynne Williams holding Mr. Santarelli liable for the injuries sustained by Mr. Glynne Williams when hit in the leg by Mr. Santarelli's car.

P820 1 – 10 HJR to the Inspector of Taxes admitting to having been appointed Clerk to the Burial Board from 15 – 5 – 1931. The salary he received to 5 - 4 -1932 being £8-10-0. HJR apologizes for the late filing of his return which was due to the protracted absence of Mr. Long brought about by the death of his wife.

P917 28 – 10 In relation to an insurances matter and in connection with a boat intended partly for carrying fare paying passengers, H&B explained that there is a short season in Lyme Regis running from only mid-July to mid-September.

## **WILLS & PROBATE**

p17 29 – 1 HJR letter to Hon E M Massey to send her draft will which excludes Roman Catholics from inheriting.

P48. 9 – 2 Letter regretting the death of the father of Mr. S. Toms of 32Corporation Terrace Lyme Regis.

P50. 10 – 2 Letter to Lady Clarina (?) at Pinhay, re her daughter's will.

P303 18 - -4 Letter to illegible addressee, the brother of Robert Hodden to advise of the latter's death on 22 – 3 – 1932 and of the provisions of his will. The assets were the house assessed as a maximum of £200, £10 in cash and furniture worth £20. The text of the will states that the addressee was Edwin James Hodden of Kelvin House Merivale NSW.

P859 17 - 10 Mr. Henry A. Trim died at Lower Ware on 6 – 10 - 1932 Leaving an estate of £400 - £500.

## **PROPERTY**

p79 18 – 2 Letter to Mr. E.A. Washer to advise him that the completion of his purchase of Nos. 27 & 28 Coombe Street will probably occur next week. In p104 26 – 2 Mr Washer is sent a letter to tell him that Mr. Gapper has completed the purchase and paid £267-10-0 the balance of purchase money.

P118 2 – 3 Letter to Mr. Bass at the Volunteer Arms concerning the transfer of the Nags Head and enclosing the transfer for sending to the Excise Officer Sidmouth.

P130 4 – 3 Formal notices to Howard, solicitor, re Miss Tarn (?) remortgage of Portland House Charmouth for £50 with interest at 10/- above "rate" with a minimum of £5-10-0 per cent pa. (*Presumably "rate" is the inter-bank rate*)

p139. 7 – 3 HJR writes to Miss Munro reporting an offer from Mr. L. Harris of £18pa for her field. HJR comments that it may be less than she wanted. Mr. Harris is a milkman who complains that he has never been worse off than at present HJR continues..."though I expect that ultimately it will do him a bit of good." A further letter p150. 9 – 3 indicates that the offer was accepted and possession was to be given on Lady day.

p140. Two letters concerning the water supply at Fernhill which the Ministry of Health were pressing the RDC Bridport to continue to take and letting Mrs Kennedy of Fernhill Charmouth know the situation.

P154. 10 – 3 Letter to Mr. Harris, Rhode Barton Farm Lyme Regis, to remind him to cut the thistles twice a year.

P156. 10 – 3 Letter to Mr. F. Wiscombe Marine Parade Lyme Regis, to send him the engrossment of conveyance of Beach House from Messrs Brutton to himself. Linked to:-

p172. 15 – 3 Letter to Mr. Wiscombe concerning a mortgage on Beach House at a rate of 6% payable quarterly, and if paid within 21 days of the due date the interest to be reduced to 5%. (*This is a bit of legal trickery. If the rate had been expressed as 5%, but with a fine of 1% if late. The Courts would have said that is a penalty and as such unenforceable. Expressed as a bonus for payment within time, it may not be treated as unenforceable.*)

p202 24 – 3 Mr. F W Miller of Wayside Morecombelake paid £4 for the quarter's rent of Wayside.

P212 29 – 3 Letter requiring Mr. F J Pitman of Church View Cottage Whitchurch Canonichum to pay £3-10-0 interest on mortgage for the half year, being 4% on £195, £145 on the old mortgage and £55 on the new one for the land purchased last September.

P213 29 – 3 Miss H M Marden is sent £7-10-0 being her half of the quarter's rent from Mr. Beer for 29 Broad Street Lyme Regis less the commission due to H&B at 6d in the £.

p229 4 – 3 Letter to inform Mr. Jennings that the proposed date for completion of 6Cobb Road is 24<sup>th</sup> June.

P231 4 – 3 Acknowledging from Miss Jones Mitton of the Manor House Charmouth the quarter's rent for the Manor House due to Col. Bullen

p335 27 – 4 Letter listing the properties sold by Mr. E.A. Washer:- Hayes bungalow Dec. 1929; Cottage Sherborne Lane to Mrs. Phillips Dec 1929; House 19Millgreen, sold in 2 portions Aug 1928 and Jan 1929; Swains Cottages 28 Oct 1928; Hockey's Cottage Uplyme 28 July 1931; Woodbine Cottage Uplyme July 1930.

p 345 29 – 4 Letter to Mr. GW Reed acknowledging his cheque for H&Bs charges in respect of his acquiring 18Broad Street Lyme Regis.

p350 2 – 5 Letter advising Mis FM Briscoe that St. Johns Seaton had been completed and the balance of purchase money of £1080 had been sent to Lloyds Bank Axminster. Letter (p360 4 – 5) to Parnell & Daniell 10 Marine Parade Seaton , Estate Agents, acknowledging £87-10-0 the deposit on St. Johns less commission. .

P376 11 – 5 Letter to Miss Love 35Broad Street Lyme Regis re Briar Lodge which is ready for completion and requiring payment of £718-12-6 to effect it.

P386 12 – 5 On behalf of Mr. CJ Stapleforth sending £333, the balance of purchase money for Lot 2 (of Lots 2&4) in the matter of Pryor deceased.

P486 15 – 6 Letter concerning the sale of 6 Cobb Road Lyme Regis by Eley to Jennings, with no details except that it is probably due for completion 24 – 6 – 1932.

p502 20 – 6 Letter acknowledging a cheque for £497-12-11 to complete 6Cobb Road.

P543 5 – 7 Letter to Mr. C. Hallett to say that the hut he has purchased is on land belonging to the parochial church and he must pay an acknowledgement rent or demolish the hut.

P556 7 – 7 Letter to Mr. G.W. Reed of 18 Broad Street Lyme Regis enclosing the counterpart lease of 32A Broad Street Lyme Regis for execution.

P7332 5 – 9 HJR writing to Westminster Bank concerning a Capt. Theobald who is in the Cottage Hospital suffering from a nervous condition (*probably a nervous breakdown*)and, having reached his overdraft limit needs his affairs to be sorted out. The deeds of the freehold house he owns, 5Cobb Road Lyme Regis, are held by the bank, but Capt. Theobalds hopes to sell it very shortly although the market in Lyme Regis is seriously affected by the general depression.

P788 21 – 9 Letter to Mrs Figgis of Knapp Cottage Morecombelake asking if what H&B hear

is correct viz:- you are proposing to sell your cottage. Is there an unlimited supply of good water?

P918 29 – 10 HJR writes as having the power of attorney from Capt. Theobald to sell his house at £1100 or possibly near offer. (*Capt Theobald was in a nursing home suffering a breakdown and had exceeded his bank overdraft facility.*)

p927 3 – 11 HJR writes that he is looking for a mortgage and has looked up the facts about Bow House Lyme Regis which is a freehold boarding house let at £150 p.a. For 5 years from 25 – 3 – 1930. The first mortgage is £1150 at 7% and the second £300 at 6%. The owner wants to refinance with a mortgage of £1600 to £1700 at say 5%.

## **MAGISTRATES**

p127. 4 – 3 Letter to Customs & Excise from HJR as Clerk to the Justices to say that the Liberal Club is in course of closing down and giving up its tenancy on 25 – 3 – 1932.

p239 5 – 3 Sending to the Home Office £1-5-0 fines imposed in the Borough last quarter. Also, letter to County Offices sending Police Fund fee £1 and fines of £1-19-0 and 5/-.

p 305 20 – 4 Letter to Mr. F.D. Marquis advising that he had been fined £2-2-0 for driving his car whilst it was unlicensed. At p339 28 – 4 a further letter was sent to Mr. Marquis warning him that a distress warrant would be issued for the two guineas unless it was received by Monday next.

P449 1 – 6 Letter from HJR as Clerk to the Justices informing Mr. J.H.A Cottle that for his unlicensed vehicle magistrates had fined him £1 and for obstructing the highway a further 5/-.

p499 18 – 6 Letter to the Magistrates Association giving the names of the Borough Magistrates:- R.W. Baker, Samuel Harris, William Rendell Wallis, George Henley, Henry Long, Alban Wiscombe, Alban James Woodroffe and John C Hearsh, who had left Lyme Regis and was now in Bournemouth.

P512 24 – 6 Letter to the Clerk of the Peace, Dorchester to inform him that H.J. Lawrence had pleaded guilty to breaking and entering a garage and stealing a motor cycle for which he had been committed for trial at the quarter sessions on 6 – 7 – 1932.

p580 15 – 7 HJR as Justices' Clerk writes to Mr. White saying that a fine of 5/- was imposed for allowing his dog to stray without a collar.

P702 24 – 8 This morning the Court fined Mr. W.L.J.S. Reynolds £25 plus costs for dangerous driving and disqualified him for 12 months.

P846 11 – 10 HJR, as Magistrates' Clerk to the Home Office sending £36-4-0 fines payable under the Motor Car Acts.

P856 15 – -10 Mr. E. McManus was convicted of interfering with a towel machine in a public convenience having been charged under the Vagrancy Act 1924 (s4) as being in a public place with intent to commit a felony. He was sentenced to 7 days in prison – had he any money he would have been fined.

P880 19 – 10 Magistrates fined Miss J. Spurrell 10/- for obstruction and 5/- for no lights and a further 5/- for not having signed her licence.

## **COSTS & PRICES**

P2 25 – 1 H&B letter to Inspector of Taxes to say that the land given up by the tenant of Bufferlands was re-let to Col. JBS Bullen at £65pa from Lady day 1926.

HJR letter to Mr. Cameron in Ward 5 of Cambridgeshire Mental Hospital enclosing £1 and notifying him that he is taking his annual fee of 10/6 for sending the £1 monthly.

p85. 20 – 2 Acknowledgement to Mr. Wareham of Bingley Farm for £8-10-0 of receiving the mortgage interest for the half year due to Lyme Regis Foresters and to Mr. Ramsbotham.

P111. 27 – 2 HJR sends a cheque for £50-13-2 being the premium on his life assurance policy less commission of £1-6-0.

p146 8 – 3 Sending a cheque for £6-12-9 for the 1931 edition of Halsbury's Statutes.

P237 5 – 3 Acknowledging £1-19-0 for quarter's rent of star Cottage Charmouth received from Mr. Elliott.

P242 6 – 4 To Mr. W. Hardy of St. Michaels Lyme Regis advising him of the receipt of £4-16-0 being the rent of Jordan House for eight weeks paid by Mr. Tidwell.

P348 13 – 4 Letter acknowledging half year's rent of £139-8-0 for Bufferlands Farm Whitchurch Canoncoram owned by Capt JFS Bullen and tenanted by Mr. W.R. Smith

p370 7 – 5 Letter acknowledging receipt of £22-13-10 H&Bs charges for acting on the sale of St. Johns Seaton.

P389 12 – 5 Letter to Capt. Bullen to advise him that a charge of 2/- in the £ was being made for water on the 3 or 4 cottages in Charmouth owned by Col. Bullen.

P470 9 – 6 Letter re debt collection which indicates that HJR's charges were 1/- in the £.

p488 15 – 6 Letter re Mr. Clarke deceased to the District Valuer. Mr. Clarke owned 8, 9 & 10 Marine Parade and occupied No.8. Numbers 9 and 10 were let at £45 and £30 respectively.

P516 25 – 6 District Valuer has suggested £1725 for 8, 9 and 10 Marine Parade. P538 4 – 7 Letter to District Valuer that H&B's clients agree £1725 for 8, 9 and 10 Marine Parade Lyme Regis.

P542 5 – 7 Acknowledgement to Mrs. Jones of the Manor House Charmouth of £5 being the quarter's rent of the Manor House due to Col. Bullen.

P559 7 – 7 Letter to Miss H.M.S. Marden of Bishops Tawton reporting the receipt of the rent for 29 Broad Street amounting to £15. The commission for collection is 7/6d.

P566 9 – 7 Letter to Mrs. Marsh of Winter House Charmouth reminding her to send £5 being the half year's rent for the stables.

P571 11 – 7 Mr. C. Stapleforth has agreed to sell a plot of land fronting Lower Sea Lane Charmouth for £75. The plot is 40 feet by 100 feet. The buyer is Mr. G..A. Toyne(?). The costs for deeds and fees being £4-10-0 approx.

p817 29 – 9 Acknowledgment of the receipt of £5 the half year's rent for the Post Office Morcombelake, due to the Misses Barratt.

P818 29 – 9 to Mr. F.W. Miller Wayside Morecombelake acknowledging the receipt of a quarter's rent of £4 due to the Misses Barratt.

P836 8 – 10 To Mr. Pitman of Church View Cottage Whitchurch Canonorum requesting £8-18-0 due to Miss L.M.M. Barratt as a half year's interest.

P836 8 -10 HJR writing to Mrs Dewe said that it was "certainly a bad time for holders of railway stocks and shares. Values referred to are £1261 LMS 4% Pref (1923) = £325; 980 LMS Ordinary Stock = £147; 637 LMS 1<sup>st</sup> Pref Stock = £171

p864 11-10 Acknowledgment to Mr. H. Elliott of Star Cottage Charmouth of £1-19-0 the quarter's rent due to Col. J.B.S. Bullen for the Cottage.

P843 11 – 10 Acknowledging £15 a quarter's rent of 29 Broad Street due to the Misses Marden. (JHR's commission being 7/6d). Letter of even date to Miss H.M.S. Marden sending her the half share of £7-3-6.

p855 14 – 10 HJR to Col. Bullen advising him that no person earning less than £42-10-0 in a half year needed to be included in the form, therefore it is a nil return.

P864 18 – 10 Letter to Mr. Caleb Austin of Westhay Farm Morecombelake asking for a half year's rent due to Capt. J.E.S. Bullen Being £72-10-0 for Westhay; £2-10-0 for Gollop's Hill and £1-11-7 for interest.

P926 3 – 11 Letter to Mr. Huxford of Silver Street Lyme Regis in respect of "Ridware" reporting that the bank are prepared to accept the offer of £950 and requesting £95 deposit.

P983 19 – 11 HJR writes to Mrs. Milne to tell her that Capt Theobald's nursing home charges are £5-5-0 per week.