

Hillman & Bond Copy Letter Book Aug 1936 – March 1937

Summarised by Team member Roger Clarke (2010)

18 August 1936. Solicitors writing to Lady Headlam of “Limited Service Employment Scheme”, Holywell, Durham, on behalf of client Mrs Bacchus, Little Winters, Uplyme. A girl (Margaret Downey) had been provided to enter client’s service, but had been found in a “dead faint” on the floor by another servant. The doctor said she was very anaemic, with heart and lungs affected. Client said she was totally unfitted and had to be sent home —she wanted refund of her money plus the fare to send her home.

Further letters in August and September 1936. These Indicated that arrangements were made to send her home (the illness had increased), the matter was resolved and the account settled.

19 August 1936. Letter from Harold Ramsbotham (Solicitor) to Mr Washer of Weymouth, regarding the purchase of No 27 Sherbourne Lane, Lyme Regis, by Mr and Mrs Govier. The buyers had raised queries about drainpipes; use of washhouse; access; and boundaries. The Solicitor asked Mr Washer for a plan to resolve these problems, also the number was corrected to No 28. Further letters on 15 September and 16 November – the sale seems to have proceeded.

19 August 1936. Letter from the Solicitor to the Editor of “Who’s Who in the Counties”, responding to a request for names of Magistrates on the Borough Bench.

The Mayor, Reverend G F Eyre, West Hill, Lyme Regis.

Ex-Mayor, George H Worth, Devon Drive, Lyme Regis.

Harry Long, No 13, Sherbourne Lane, Lyme Regis.

Alben Wiscombe, No 36, Broad Street, Lyme Regis.

Allan James Woodroffe, Rhode Hill.

Reginald Walter Baker, No 21, Broad Street, Lyme Regis.

Mrs Phyllis Mina Coombs, No 33, Silver Street, Lyme Regis.

George Frederick Hawker, No 20, Church Street, Lyme Regis.

19 August 1936. Letter from Harold Ramsbotham to Miss Masters, The Bungalow, View Road, Lyme Regis. She moved to Exeter, and letters between the above date and 24 November 1936 seem to concern tenancy agreements on View Road and other properties (difficult to read).

20 August 1936. Correspondence on behalf of Mrs Boalch, to recover money following a cancelled holiday booking in respect of her property No 15, Marine Parade, Lyme Regis. It was eventually repaid after the threat of proceedings. The amount was 2 Guineas, less Solicitor’s fee of 2 shillings.

20 August 1936. Also subsequent correspondence – Solicitors handling a stocks and shares investment for Miss Castle-Smith, Corner Cottage, Lyme Regis.

20 August 1936 and further correspondence with Mrs Hoare about the sale of No 1 and No 2 Library Cottages, Lyme Regis. Involved with her late husband's will.

26 August 1936 and 19 September 1936. A letter to Mr W J Cooper, St Kilda, Lyme Regis, regarding a tenancy agreement in respect of "Manaton", Hill Road, Lyme Regis. Letter to Miss Bill, the tenant, acknowledging payment of the account.

27 August 1936. Letter from the Solicitor to Miss Marguerite B Wilson of No 49, Broad Street, Lyme Regis. She had inherited an estate - "Devonia" Woodmead Road, Lyme Regis, following the death of her sister. Solicitors' charges were 10 shillings and 6 pence. Miss Wilson subsequently bought a property at Bournemouth (balance paid £662.10s).

31 August 1936. Letter from Harold Ramsbotham to Inspector of Taxes at Dorchester, complaining that the rates on his cottage (Dorset House, Lyme Regis) have been increased from £16 to £22. The cottage is "tiny, 4 bedrooms, not in best state of repair". There is a tenant – Mr H W Long.

Letters between 3 September and 15 March 1937. From Solicitor to Mrs Mills of Pooles Court, Lyme Regis, concerning money owing to her late husband's estate. The Estate Duty Office is pressing for information and the Inland Revenue has issued an affidavit. Amongst people being pursued are Messrs Wiscombe, Case and Froom. The correspondence concerns whether she should sue to follow up the debts, or write them off.

4 September 1936. A letter on behalf of Mrs Fanny Gollop, No 19, Corporation Terrace, Lyme Regis, to her husband Mr F Gollop, warning him and threatening proceedings because of his behaviour towards her. He seldom comes home sober, and ill-treats and assaults her.

Letters 28 August, 4 September, 7 September 1936. Acting for Miss Eyre of Westhill Road, Lyme Regis, to secure the purchase of a strip of land near the Hospital.

7 September, 30 September, 2 October 1936. Letters on behalf of Mrs Parker of Yeovil, who owned No 16, Marine Parade, Lyme Regis. Mr Langholme of

London rented this property for 4 weeks in July 1936, fully furnished. He has not paid the amount due, which is £28-11-9d, including 5/9d for repairs and breakage. A summons has been issued for repayment.

9 September, 28 September, 30 September 1936. Acting for Miss Cumine who is a tenant of the Manor House, Charmouth – which is owned by Captain J F S Bullen and Mrs Bullen. Miss Cumine installed gas and electricity in the property, and the owners have agreed to extend her tenancy for a further 3 years.

1 September, 18 September 1936. Letters to Mr C N Sansom, Spring Cottage, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis, regarding the sale of Crogg? Farm to a Mr Lane. Deeds and papers, plus Solicitors charges.

21 August 1936 and 10 September 1936. Letter to Slaughter and May (Solicitors) in London, regarding their client (unnamed) who had tenancy of Hadleigh Villa, Lyme Regis. Hillman and Bond are acting for a Mrs Cooper. She is claiming that the property was in first class condition initially, but has been left in a poor state of decoration upon the expiry of the tenancy. She is claiming recompense to bring it up to scratch before it can be re-let. The estimate is that the amount needed would be £56. 5s.

There is mention of work needed on the “outside lavatory”, which is in effect the “servants’ lavatory”, with a door from the kitchen. There are letters to Mrs Cooper from 3 September, but some of the correspondence relates to matters other than the above. She lives at Sunny Bank, Lyme Regis.

10 September, 26 September, 1 October, and 5 October 1936. Letters from Mr Ramsbotham to Mr Escott regarding the purchase of part of the property “Red Cottage”, Lyme Regis. This confirms which part of the property the name actually refers to.

11 September 1936. Letter (difficult to read) to Mrs Bamford, Golden Cap Hotel, Broad Street, Lyme Regis.

19 September 1936. Solicitor’s letter to HM Stationery Office in London, requesting 50 legal forms and enclosing a postal order for 2/11d.

22 September and 29 September 1936. The Solicitors are acting for Mrs M A Bass of The Volunteer Inn, Broad Street, Lyme Regis, with regard to the purchase of a property called “Liskerret” on behalf of her daughter. The price was £585, with charges of £12.13.2d.

23 September 1936. Solicitors wrote to Mr Eli Emmett of No 1, Mill Green, Lyme Regis, reminding him that his Personal Accident Policy renewal is overdue. Unless they receive a remittance for £6 they will treat it as cancelled.

24 September 1936. Letter to Sun Insurance of Bournemouth on behalf of Mrs Dorothy Cox, "Kiaterin", Hill Road, Lyme Regis, requesting new insurance policies – House £1000, Contents £300.

24 September and 29 September 1936. Acting for Mr G E Halliday of the Cloverdale Filling Station – sending an account to Mr F Heathcote, Dorset Hotel, Pound Road, Lyme Regis, for goods supplied and work done.

20 September 1936. One of a series of letters on behalf of Mrs Cooper, Sunny Bank, Lyme Regis, apparently chasing debts for unpaid rent from tenants. No reply from Mrs Holman and Mrs Hallet, so he suggests issuing summonses. Mr Cheeseworth is out of work, so nothing can be done at the moment, and Mrs Jefferies is without means, so a summons would be of little use.

29 September and 2 October 1936. Mr Gillingham of Cards Mill Farm, Whitchurch Canonicorum, is renting 2 fields from Mrs Bullen for £26 per annum – to be paid half-yearly.

7 October 1936. Harold Ramsbotham wrote to Mr G F Hawker, No 20, Church Street, Lyme Regis, informing him that the Borough Magistrates had re-appointed Mr Hawker to the Panel of Justices to deal with juvenile cases. The Home Office needed his date of birth.

9 October 1936. Letter to Mrs Richards, No04, Silver Street, Lyme Regis, concerning unpaid accounts relating to Messrs Tidewell and Burbidge, asking if she wished to pursue via County Court Proceedings? Further letter dated 24 October 1936 indicates she will proceed against Tidewell.

9 October 1936. Letter to Mr Baker of the "Cosy Café", Lyme Regis, confirming his appointment as a Co-Trustee of The Burridge Charity. Appointed by the Charity Commission.

1 October 1936. Mr Pike of Ludlow is buying a plot of land – Plot 87, Colway Lane, Lyme Regis. The vendor is Mr S R Forrest, and the price is £150 – including £3.3shillings for conveyancing, 5 shillings for documentation, 15 shillings for stamp duty, and 5 shillings for search fees. Several more letters

in October , with the one on 31 October indicating that the contract had been drawn up. Four more letters in November 1936, and finally one on 7 January 1937 recording the completion of the sale. The delay was due to the buyer wanting a right of way and connection to a sewer – and the costs arising from this work.

1 October, 12 October, 10 December 1936. Letters to Mr J D Legg of No25, Coombe Street, Lyme Regis, regarding the recovery of money owed to him by Mr Cole, Hay Garth, East Cliff, Lyme Regis – possible Court Proceedings. He has offered to pay by instalments (£2 down and 5 shillings per week), and letters dated 12, 15, 16 October indicate that the offer has been accepted. A further letter to Mr Cole on 12 January 1937 indicates that he has failed to keep up the offer.

13 November 1936. Letter to Mrs W Toms, No 28, Corporation Terrace, Lyme Regis. If payment of instalments to Mr Berry are not renewed it will be necessary to take proceedings.

11 November 1936. Letter to Mrs Case, No 50, Broad Street, Lyme Regis, following the winding up of her late Father's estate. Money has been paid out on her behalf, and the account has been outstanding for some time. Further letters dated 23 December 1936 and 15 January 1937 still request settlement, then 17 February and 1 March 1937 threaten proceedings and the issue of a writ.

20 October 1936. Letter to Mr N Roberts, No 61, Broad Street, Lyme Regis. The furniture cover on his contents insurance has been increased to £260 – the annual premium is now 5 shillings.

Letters 23 September, 2 November, 17 November and 26 November 1936. The Solicitor is acting for Mr R A Harris, No 14, Corporation Terrace, Lyme Regis, who is indebted to various creditors following County Court Proceedings for a total debt of £41.11.2d. In the letter of 2 November the Solicitor sets out the various options open to Mr Harris, i.e. if he starts work again – a Court Order; Administration Order; assistance of relatives and friends. Another letter to one of the creditors (undated) states that Mr Harris is out of work due to illness and has an invalid wife, but his brother has offered to make a loan for repayment – if the creditors accept.

Letters 16 and 18 November 1936, and 19 February 1937 to Mr J R Homyer, The Cobb, Lyme Regis, regarding his sale of plots of land to Mr Hawker and Messrs Rice and Lang. There is an enquiry as to whether there could be an agreement as to the sharing of Solicitor's charges?

Letters 22 September and 1 October 1936. Reverend J H Carter of Oxford has purchased a house in Lyme Regis from Mrs Escott. He paid £1350 plus £60 charges. The October letter is addressed to him at Silver Street, Lyme Regis, enclosing the deeds of his new house.

Letter 20 November 1936. Mr P Randall of 1, Hillside, Cobb Road, Lyme Regis has received a refund following a revision of his furniture insurance policy.

18 November 1936. Harold Ramsbotham (Solicitor) in his capacity of Clerk to the Borough Justices was directed to write to the Lord Chancellor, House of Lords, to recommend the following names as additions to the Bench.

George Henry Worth, Devendorf, Lyme Regis – ex Mayor.

Sir George Hunter, Cliff House, Lyme Regis – former Judge in Kenya and Chief Justice in Zanzibar.

John Edward Hill, Coram Cottage, Lyme Regis – ex Bank Manager.

Leslie Deacon Haddon, 26-27, Broad Street, Lyme Regis – successful business as Draper and Outfitter; President of the local branch of the British Legion.

Letters 8 October, 20 and 27 November 1936. Mr and Mrs Sweetland, No 38, Colway Mead, Lyme Regis, have submitted an application for the adoption of a child. A Mr Ostler of Yeovil was paying maintenance for the child under a Court Order. There is also a letter to Messrs Mayo and Sons, Yeovil, regarding payment of the maintenance. The child was living with its Grandmother.

Letter 27 November 1936, from Hillman and Bond to the Manager of Pullman's Weekly News, Yeovil, asking for the insertion of an advert. This invited all persons having claims against the estate of Eustace William Albert Collbron of "Coombe", Hill road, Lyme Regis (he died on 22 November 1936) to send particulars to the Solicitor. Many subsequent letters regarding these claims.

Letter dated 28 November 1936 from the Solicitor to Mr E G Harvey, No 15, Coombe Street, Lyme Regis, asking for financial details so that they could complete an Income Tax Return for him.

A letter dated 30 November 1936 to Mrs Burge of Keble Cottage, Lyme Regis, enclosing a cheque for £10, which apparently she is in urgent need of. The lateness of this payment is due to her son being late with his rent payments. Further letters – 23 December 1936, 18 February 1937, 25 February 1937, also included cheques for her, pointing out that these payments are hampered

by her son not heeding warnings about the importance of punctual payments by him.

A letter from the Solicitor to The Secretary of State at the Home Office dated 30 November 1936, concerning a Mr Archibald Nash of Lyme Regis, who wishes to become a naturalised British subject. Mr Nash was born in February 1897, to an American Father and Scottish Mother. He was taken to the USA aged two, and remained there until 1930. Since then he has lived in England and has lost his American citizenship. The Solicitor does not feel that it is necessary for Mr Nash to be naturalised, but would welcome a Home Office ruling.

1st December and 18 December 1936. Letters to Mr J Benson of Lilac Cottage, Uplyme, warning him that proceedings will be taken if he does not pay his rent by 4 December.

A letter from the Solicitor to Mr B Tidwell, Jordan House, Lyme Regis, dated 4 December 1936. The Solicitor has checked with the County Court and it seems that Mr Tidwell has not carried out his offer to pay 50 shillings a month to a Mrs Richards. Therefore unless the full amount is paid forthwith, steps will be taken to enforce the Court Judgement. Further follow up letters dated 7 December 1936 and 5 January 1937, and finally a letter on 4 March 1937 indicating that the "matter is closed for the present".

A letter dated 4 December 1936 to Mr R E B Canney of No 4, Ozone Terrace, Lyme Regis, confirming that his insurance policy has been increased to £1000, thereby increasing the premium by 1 shilling 3d.

The Solicitor wrote a letter dated 7 December 1936 to the Town Clerk, Lyme Regis, enclosing a petition from the inhabitants of Silver Street, Lyme Regis, demanding a remedy to the deplorable state of the main sewer. The letter asks for the petition to be brought before the Council.

Letters dated 8 December, 18 December, 30 December 1936 and 22 January 1937, all concerned house purchase conveyancing and deeds. These were in connection with the purchase of "Seacroft", Lyme Regis, by Mrs Elliott-Drake.

A letter from Harold Ramsbotham (Solicitor) dated 9 December 1936 addressed to The Vicar, Vicarage, Lyme Regis, informing him that the Burridge Trustees met and had donated four blankets to nominees. He asked the Vicar for the names of the nominees, who were to attend the Town Hall at 12 noon on New Years Day to receive their blankets. Also another letter on the same day to Reverend W H Stradling, The Manse, Sherbourne Lane,

Lyme Regis, asking for nominees from the Baptist and Congregational Ministries.

A letter dated 12 December 1936 to Mrs Coombe, No 33A, Silver Street, Lyme Regis, informing her that the Mayor has fixed Monday 21st January for holding a Children's' Court at 10.30. The Solicitor asks if it is convenient? The case is a child who is to be charged with obtaining money and goods (toys) under false pretences.

A letter to the Town Clerk dated 18 December 1936, forwarding a petition from the residents of Coombe Street, Lyme Regis. The complaint was about the short notice of sewerage work, which closed the street.

Letter to Mr J B Owen, The Gables, Lyme Regis (dated 18 December 1936) setting out the procedures he must adhere to if he wishes to apply for a "Full Innkeepers Licence", and a "Billiard Licence". For example, the various notices and timescales which are required.

A letter 29 December 1936 to Mrs Burlinson, No 27 Coombe Street, Lyme Regis. Following the receipt of a letter from her estranged husband, the Solicitor is advising that there is no point in bringing him before the Court. She is not likely to get a grant for the children – what is needed is reliable evidence as to whether he obtains any work.

On 2 January 1937 the Solicitor wrote to Mr C M Hallett, Rhode Barton Farm, Lyme Regis requesting the balance of rent due to Miss Munro. This was in respect of her two small fields near Fairfield, an amount of £15. The rent must have been paid, as a further letter to Mr Hallett on 13 March 1937 asks if he wishes to rent the fields on the same terms as before – otherwise she must look elsewhere.

Letters dated 2 September 1936 and 6, 19, and 20 January 1937 to Miss Osborn, No05, Marine Parade, Lyme Regis, regarding No 6 and No 7 Marine Parade. As the thatched roof of these two properties are now joined, the Insurance Inspector has ruled that the premium should increase by 6 shillings.

Four letters (dated 8 and 30 January, 10 and 28 March 1937) to Mr L G H Messer, No 17 Church Street, Lyme Regis. These concerned the Wiscombe account – payments of 7/6d on the first of each month would be acceptable.

A letter dated 12 January 1937 to Mr P Farley, Penrith House, Uplyme, Devon, stating that he is in arrears with the Court Order obtained against him by Mr G T Fleming of No 20, Woodmead Road, Lyme Regis. This was followed by a letter to Mr Fleming dated 3 February 1937 asking if he wishes to take enforcement action.

The Solicitor wrote on 20 January 1937 to Mr H J de-Jersey, Raymond House Flat, Lyme Regis, about his possible attendance at a Licensing Meeting. A further letter dated 18 February 1937 addressed to him at "The Spirit Vaults", Lyme Regis, confirming the approval of alterations to the front bar of these premises.

At the request of Mr Cyprian Taylor, a letter dated 26 January 1937 was sent to Father Tobin enclosing £5 towards the Church Restoration Fund. This was addressed to – The Presbytery, Silver Street, Lyme Regis.

On 6 February 1937 the Solicitor sent a draft will and testament to Mrs Dunstan, Holmesdale, View Road, Lyme Regis, for her approval and return. This was done, and consequently on 8 February 1937 the will was again returned to her for signing in front of witnesses.

Mr L C Wheadon, No 30, Silver Street, Lyme Regis, was informed on 10 February 1937 that his letter had been read out in Court. As a result, the Court had inflicted a fine of 15 shillings with costs of four shillings. The Solicitor asked for costs of 19 shillings at his earliest convenience.

Letters dated 11 February and 19 February 1937 to Mr W G Rice, No74, Colway Mead, Lyme Regis, concerning documentation to be signed in connection with Mr Rice's purchase of a plot of land from Mr J R Homyer, The Cobb, Lyme Regis. Another letter dated 19 February 1937 stated that the sale had been completed.

A letter dated 11 February 1937 to Mr Jack Loveridge, No 1, Colway Mead, Lyme Regis, about his proposed marriage. The Solicitor needed details of the intended wife so that information could be put before a Justice of the Peace. A further letter to Mr Loveridge on 25 February 1937 informs him that the Justices have been informed that his parents have assented, and the summons has been withdrawn. A fee of 5 shillings was requested.

A letter dated 12 February 1937 to Mr Hawker, Glenmead, Colway Lane, Lyme Regis, also mentions notices of application to the local magistrates in respect of "young Jack Loveridge", giving his intended wife's name as Miss E M K Pugh. Also a letter to the Mayor of Lyme Regis dated 18 February 1937 on the same subject explaining that the parents' objection is because they do not want the young couple to live with them.

Letters to Mr Giles of "The White House", Silver Street, Lyme Regis, dated 24 February 1937, 26 February 1937, 3 March 1937 and 4 March 1937. Also to Mr Bennett of Silver Street, Lyme Regis, dated 3 March 1937 and 4 March 1937, and Lloyds Bank, Lyme Regis, dated 2 March 1937 and 15 March 1937. This correspondence refers to the conveyancing/deeds of "The White House" which Mr Giles has purchased from Mr Bennett, and indicate that Mr Giles is proposing some alterations to the property. There are queries about walls, right of way, and access by building workers.

The Solicitor was consulted by a Miss Francis, who was formerly in the employment of Miss Gibb, Green Shutters, Coram Avenue, Lyme Regis. The client alleges that her former employer made statements to the effect that Miss Francis was an "immoral girl" who spent the night with her intended husband. In a letter in early March 1937 the Solicitor warns Mrs Gibb that these statements are devoid of foundation, and if there is any repetition of such slander the client will not hesitate to take action.