

USEFUL DIRECTORIES FOR RESEARCH INTO PERFIN USERS

BRIAN MERRYWEATHER brought to ray notice the following article in the Postmark Society Journal. Being assured the content would be of interest to our members, Brian wrote to Barry R. Reynolds, editor of the Postmark Society, and received permission for me to print the text in our Bulletin. Thanks to Brian and Mr. Reynolds.

PIGOT and Co.'s NATIONAL COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY (Facsimile Editions)

by Michael Winton; for details of prices see text that follows. MJW's address is as follows: 5 Lynn Road, Castle Rising, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6AB.

Pigot's early and mid-19th century directories of the counties of England seem to cry out to be reprinted and made more widely available. It is very nice to own an original copy of an early directory, of course, but these have become increasingly expensive over the years. Here you may obtain a clean and handsome reprint at a fraction of the price. I would just have liked a brief one-page introduction to round things off.

Pigot's directories are not as detailed as many of the publications which followed, such as Slater's, Kelly's and the like. You will not find tiny villages listed here in their own right, although they may be referred to in the lists of tradesmen of a larger village. The directories are very effective for tracing the family tradesmen and give some information about post offices: a useful reference for the postal historian.

I am very pleased with my copy of 'Norfolk and Suffolk' at £6-95. Also available are 'Essex, Herts, Middlesex 1839' at £8-70, 'Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Northants 1830' at £7-65, and 'The Norwich Directory' at £4-95. All prices are inclusive, and cheques should be made payable to M.J. Winton. The directory for Kent and Surrey is planned for early this year. (Presumably this was 1993 - Ed.)

Michael Winton would like to publish Pigot's Alphabetical Directory of London and its Suburbs 1839, but with 670 pages and a 16-inch square map, the price would be about £16 plus post and packing, therefore requiring about 400 advance orders.

If you are interested in any of the directories, write to Michael at the above address or give him a call on 0553 631786.