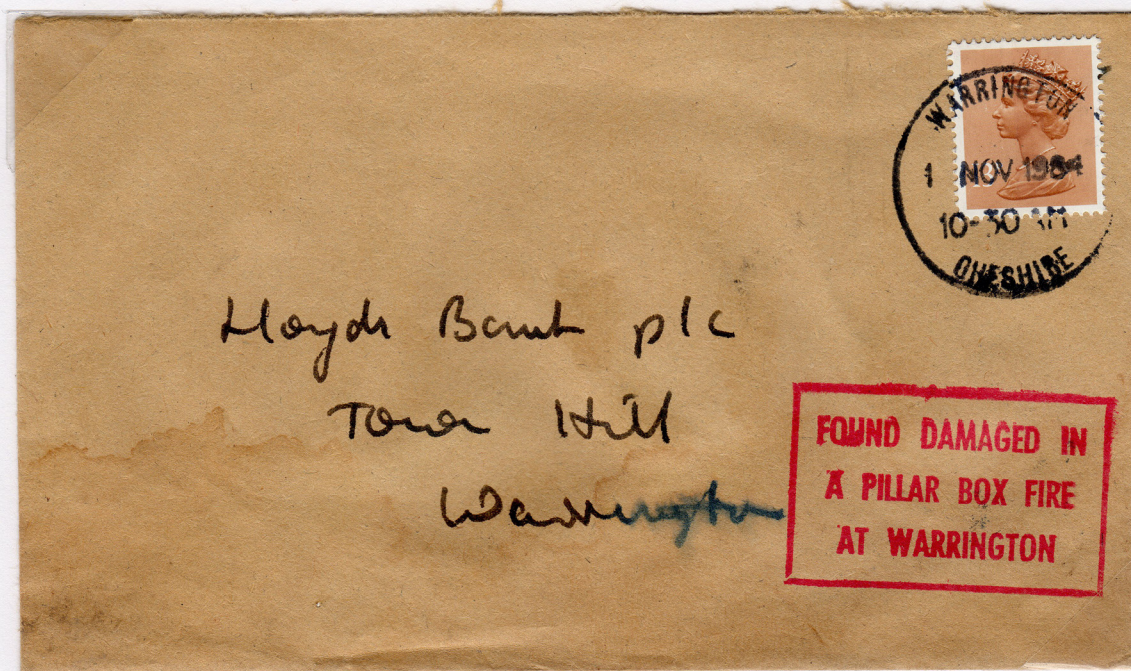
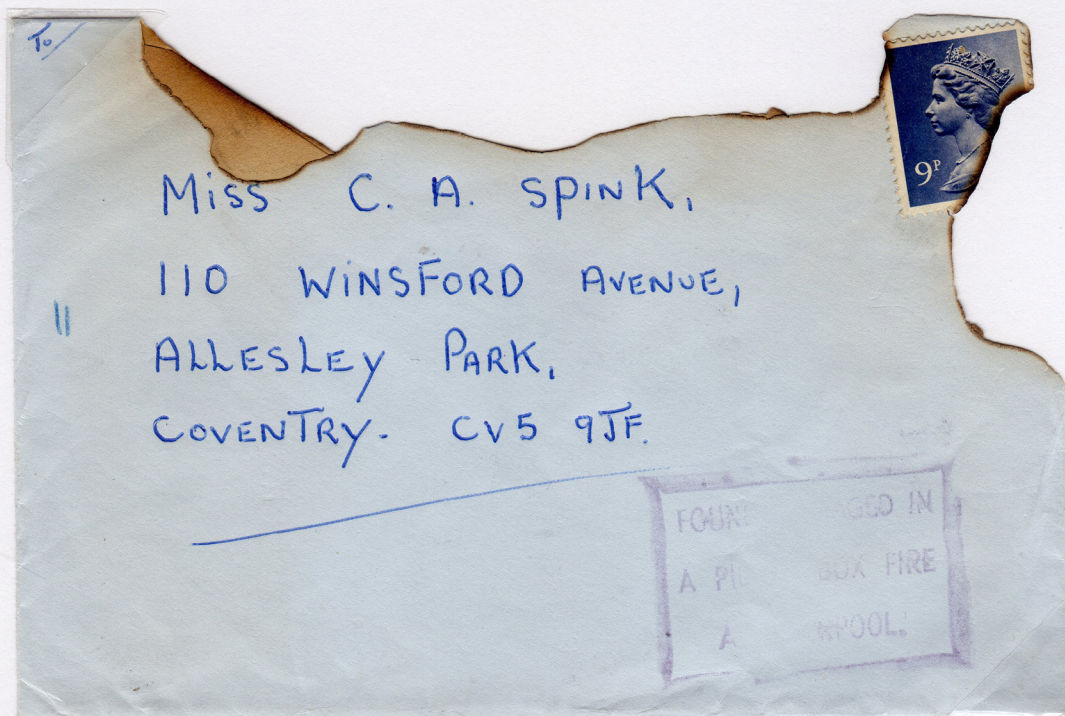


PILLAR BOX FIRES

Roadside pillar boxes are vulnerable to having lit matches, cigarettes and fireworks posted into them by vandals. There must have been a particular problem in the North West of England in the 1970s and 1980s, because affected mail in Warrington and Liverpool had bespoke handstamps applied.



Cover with a 13p stamp affixed (2nd Class rate to 60g, 3rd September 1984 to 3rd November 1985), cancelled by a Warrington circular date stamp on 1st November 1984, sent to a local address. A boxed handstamp in red states: 'FOUND DAMAGED IN / A PILLAR BOX FIRE / AT WARRINGTON'. The envelope has water stains from where the fire was extinguished.



Cover with a 9p stamp affixed, the 1st Class rate up to 60g from 13th June 1977 to 19th August 1979. The item has extensive paper charring and a violet handstamp has been applied, which states: 'FOUND DAMAGED IN / A PILLAR BOX FIRE / AT LIVERPOOL'. Presumably the letter was still sent to its destination in Coventry.