

LISTS OF POSTCARDS

Introduction

The core of the Society's collection of Snodland postcards and pictures was formed by Gerald Edgeler (1910-1998) and bequeathed to Andrew Ashbee, and has since been supplemented by many gifts, loans and purchases. New images continue to appear, but this catalogue shows what we have and know about and will be updated from time to time. Over time many of the cards appeared in more than one guise – changed captions, with and without captions, changed layout, coloured or sepia or black and white, and so on. The draft list of Snodland topographical cards is arranged according to the numbering in the Society's catalogue.

Alfred Nethersole Hambrook (1876-1955) was a stationer in Snodland from 1901 until the late 1940s, selling stationery, toys and china knick-knacks at his shop in the High Street. (Apparently he also had another shop in the upper High Street for a time which is shown in the images, but no details have come to light.) He had a printing works in May Street where he produced what was required locally and where he also manufactured his postcards, assisted by his brother Percy. The latter were of many kinds and included series made for shops in several Kent villages, which often had the name of the shop-keeper on them rather than Hambrook's own. For a time Hambrook was also Managing Director of Stedman & Co in West Malling and many of their early 20th century cards bear the same style as his Snodland ones. Most of these are labelled Stedman, but a few have 'Stedman and Hambrook'. The Stedman parishes included West Malling, Leybourne, Mereworth, Offham, and Ryarsh

All Hambrook's original glass plates were destroyed many years ago and Snodland Historical Society is engaged in collecting and cataloguing his work. These lists therefore have a dual purpose. First they provide a growing catalogue of Hambrook's postcards, which increasingly shows how diverse and important his work was. Second they provide a record for members and others of what we have (including non-Hambrook Snodland area cards), so that they can search for missing items when the opportunity arises. We are happy to accept scans (at 266 dpi or higher) as well as original cards in making the catalogue and collection and are grateful to members and friends for gifts of many examples of both formats.

An N in the lists signifies we did not have the card/scan at the time the list was made/updated; an e-mail to andrewashbee6@gmail.com would confirm the current situation. Many of our pictures can be seen in the Snodland section of the Kent Photo Archive at www.kentphotoarchive.org.uk.

A: THE KENT SERIES

Hambrook was one of several photographers who contributed to this series. The cards seem to have been first issued in 1904 and one series is coloured. Printing is either green or brown on the reverse. Some pictures are numbered. A second series (some of which are duplicate images of the first) was begun c.1907-8 and has wide white margins and mauve/sepia pictures, with the caption placed in the bottom left margin. A few of the pictures are known in issues by other photographers too.

B: HAMBROOK'S NUMBERED SERIES

These currently commence at no. 1001 and run consecutively to 1369. All appear to have been produced in the years before the First World War. The cards are in sepia. Some images appear in Series C, where the cards are unnumbered and only show 'H Bros S'.

C: OTHER UNNUMBERED CARDS BY HAMBROOK

There are several duplications of images in Series A-C and a variety of formats. The logo 'H Bros S' [Hambrook Brothers, Snodland] appears in Series B and C (but beware of 'HB F&L' for Folkestone area cards: this is a different firm entirely). Some of the 'H Bros S' cards may also appear in the numbered series B. A first listing of cards which appear to have been made by Hambrook, but which show the names of local shops, is made here. The multiview cards are very helpful in identifying some of these.

D: HAMBROOK'S SNODLAND POSTCARDS

These are mostly sepia and were re-issued many times with varying caption styles, as shown in the list. A number have no publisher identification, but are attributed to Hambrook on the grounds of style and colour.

E: OTHER SNODLAND POSTCARDS

These are non-Hambrook (or are not identified as Hambrook) and come from a wide variety of sources, not always Snodland-based.

ANDREW ASHBEE

This catalogue dated 1 December 2014

In 2024 I have published *Alfred and Percy Hambrook Kent Photographers A Catalogue*. (99 A4 pages, with some illustrations) This is available at the Museum, priced at £5, or with postage at £8.