

PILLAR BOX PERSECUTION!

INTRODUCTION: British pillar boxes have been subjected to criminal acts by people 'posting' explosive and dangerous items, damaging the letters inside and/or causing harm to property and major injuries to the public if the box shatters.

1. SUFFRAGETTES...threw bombs, acid and ink into pillar box apertures across the country from 1912-14, as part of the 'Votes for Women' campaign.



'London Opinion' postcard No.5033, artist: Alfred Leete.

...fireworks were also dropped into pillar boxes, usually around Bonfire Night.



PLAN: Running through the entry, numbered section headings are in **bold**. Descriptions are in *italics*.

2. 'ER' NOT 'EIR'...was coined by protesters in Scotland, who blew up a pillar box in 1953 because it had an 'EIR' cipher. They argued that the new queen was the second Elizabeth of England, but the first of Scotland.



3. THE PROVISIONAL IRA... placed timed devices inside five pillar boxes in the centre of London in 1974. The blasts injured twenty people.



1971 'Patriotic Seal' propaganda label

Matchbox label

4. ANTI-SOCIAL ARSON... was a problem in north-west England in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The number of pillar box fires led the Post Office to obtain handstamps to apply to affected mail. The culprits posted lit matches;...



Cover salvaged from a pillar box fire in Warrington. There is also water damage, from where the fire was put out.