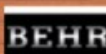


Stampex goes Virtually Philatelic



SPINK AUDITORIUM



See pages
20 & 21

Something to fill those spare moments

The word square below was provided by **Patrick Collins** of Oxford PS. Hidden within it are the names of the 40 countries below in the form that appears or has appeared on their stamps. Enjoy your hunt - then find a stamp showing each!

R	W	R	I	T	N	E	D	E	R	L	A	N	D	E	D	D	R	O
O	E	A	G	N	O	T	W	E	L	I	B	A	N	A	E	N	O	T
Y	H	P	E	N	U	A	M	S	E	E	O	F	T	I	U	H	M	E
A	C	O	U	U	V	N	T	T	R	T	Y	F	C	T	T	R	A	O
U	V	M	W	B	E	L	G	I	Q	U	E	O	U	E	S	H	N	C
M	I	A	K	S	L	O	P	C	H	V	R	N	E	V	C	A	A	E
E	C	I	T	A	L	I	A	N	E	A	I	O	E	L	H	G	H	S
D	S	T	A	I	E	M	C	P	M	S	C	R	D	E	E	A	O	K
U	N	E	A	E	C	H	M	A	I	E	I	G	A	H	S	Z	S	O
L	O	T	I	I	A	A	C	E	D	G	H	E	H	D	R	S	E	S
A	Y	N	R	R	L	N	N	I	E	O	M	A	C	N	E	R	E	L
O	T	R	E	Y	E	R	I	E	E	Z	M	T	T	A	I	O	I	O
S	A	E	P	S	D	A	N	M	A	R	K	I	E	L	C	R	N	V
H	C	Y	I	E	O	N	M	A	O	L	R	Y	N	S	H	A	A	E
L	C	A	Q	O	N	A	N	A	W	U	I	E	O	I	R	Y	E	N
L	C	B	H	N	I	P	P	O	N	K	S	D	T	M	C	G	C	S
A	P	O	S	T	E	S	P	E	R	S	A	N	E	S	P	A	O	K
A	F	G	H	A	N	E	S	U	G	U	I	N	E	E	O	M	N	O
L	A	T	V	I	J	A	T	J	U	G	O	S	L	A	V	I	J	A

AFGHANES ITALIANE SVERIGE HELVETIA SHQIPERIA EESTI
 OSTERREICH SUOMI BELGIQUE ESPANA SYRIE TUNISIE LIETUVA
 DEUTSCHES REICH TURKIYE CESKOSLOVENSKO DANMARK
 ROYAUME DU LAOS LIBAN VATICANE REPUBLICA DOMINICANA
 NIPPON JUGOSLAVIJA NOYTA CCCP MAROC ISLAND ROMANA
 GUINEE BAYERN TCHAD NOUVELLE CALEDONIE LATVIJA EIRE
 POLSKA MAGYARORSZAG POSTES PERSANES OCEANIE NORGE
 NEDERLAND TONGA

ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies is published four times a year: spring, summer, autumn, winter.

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Editor: Keith S Burton

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Cover picture: *Virtual Stampex website - home page*

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk a few months after publication.

Contact details for ABPS are on the page by the inside rear cover.

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (see p 58) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

So, just when we did not think things could get any worse! Mind you, I am writing this in mid-October by the time you read it, we could all be wondering what all the fuss was about... but somehow, I rather doubt it. We just have to stay positive and keep things going.

On Tuesday 29th September, we had our "virtual" AGM and broke all records for brevity, 35 minutes. However, we covered all of the necessary items and our next General Meeting will be at Harrogate next year.

I have had an interesting week, arranging my first local society Zoom Meeting. I have to

thank Mark Bailey who has been extremely helpful. He has also become a "Country Member" of the Wakefield Philatelic Society! I have to say, I have become quite a fan of these virtual meetings, The Royal Philatelic Society; Great Britain Philatelic Society; The Society of Postal Historians, and many local societies have been doing lots of good work in this field. If you have held Zoom Meetings or something similar, please send reports and photographs to Keith Burton, he will be delighted to publish details in the magazine.

Since my last message, the main philatelic event in the UK has been "Virtual Stampex" at the beginning of October. I think many congratulations should go to all concerned for a most successful and enjoyable event. I would particularly like to thank Isobel Klempka and her PTS team; Simon Richards, Nick Martin and all of the ABPS Exhibitions Committee for putting on such a good show in difficult circumstances. I would also like to thank Chris King and the judging team for doing such a great job. I hope everyone is "gearing themselves up" for February, as it looks increasingly likely that a repeat performance will be necessary! However, between now and then think of all the writing-up we can get done and converting our displays into PowerPoint presentations. I should remind those societies looking for such presentations that it would be well worth searching the ABPS Speakers' list on the new website.

So, what is the government's message.... "Hands, Face and Space"? Perhaps ours should be, "Prepare, Present and Zoom"? As well, of course, as keeping communicating with each other as best we can. *Graham Winters FRPSL*

You might have noticed that the picture at the head of this page has changed. Graham assures me that this is not so that he can put in for the post of Santa Claus. To quote his own words "The lock-down beard is developing nicely!"

Editorial



Strange times indeed. One of the things that has heartened me is the way that individuals, groups, federations and societies have settled down to make things work by going outside our normal comfort zones. I enjoyed being part of The Royal's booth chat group at ungodly hours of the night for three days. I met a few old friends, made new friends and had interesting chats with a former acquaintance from Leeds who has just started entering competitions, a young man in Eastern USA who is just starting philatelic collecting having previously been involved with numismatics only, an established collector from the western USA and a council member of the Royal. What a mix and what an opportunity. I barely had time to visit the exhibitions to see how the InterFed competition went (Well done Thames and District) or how the individual entries measured up to former shows. The answer is that they were all well-worth the visit and some were definitely outstanding. Well done to the competitors, the judges and the organisers. I didn't manage to visit all the dealers - who could? But I still managed to find some things to add to my collections.

Another positive is the help that people have given to each other. The knowledge that we have is not just confined to stamps, covers, routes and rates. Some people know how to make online meetings possible and interesting, some have skills in preparing online displays and so on. The great thing is that many people are willing to try new things and others are willing to help. Having spoken to someone about converting a "normal" display to a PowerPoint one for online use, I was honoured to be asked for a bit of help in preparing a short slideshow. I am no expert but apparently managed to help. I don't know what the viewers will think of my efforts but I enjoyed doing it and being able to use different information, pictures, maps etc with such ease. This could well be the way forward and it certainly means that each slide can be spoken about and seen by everyone at a "meeting". If there are questions about some item it is simple to return to the slide to "chat" about it. Also the difficulty and cost of transport to a more distant meeting place vanishes completely. By the time that you read this I will have given my display to Southampton - some 250 miles from my home. No problem - so now I am willing to show anywhere - if it can be done online. I need to start work on changing my other displays or extracting sensible material from them to make new displays - then I need to add the information to the ABPS and my Federation's Speakers' Lists. So do you!

There is plenty to do and not enough time to do it all - but if I can help you in any way, please get in touch via editor@abps.org.uk I want to help, and if you know something that I don't, I will ask you.

Keith Burton

On page 42 of the last issue I included the statement that Alton Stamp Club had closed. I apologise for this as Hampshire Federation tells me that they are still thriving. I hope that Alton will forgive me and decide to become an affiliated society sometime in the near future.

Society anniversaries, 2020

According to the date of foundation shown in the societies' information on our records, significant anniversaries include those shown below (though several societies have not let us know their foundation date, so there may be more).

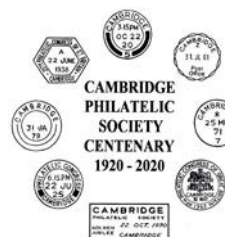
Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Cambridge Philatelic Society celebrates its centenary in 2020:

The society's first meeting was on 22nd October 1920. The centenary event will be marked by a commemorative cover and illustrated book on Cambridge postal history. Our first President was **Dr J N Keynes**, father of the noted Cambridge economist John Maynard Keynes. Membership grew and at one time the numbers exceeded 200, but membership now stands at around forty-five, which includes two members from overseas. The society's logo is based on the upright barred oval '158' postmark, originally introduced in 1873.



We first hosted the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1925 and have acted as host a further six times since then, the last time being in 2016 when the event was organised by the late **David Stirrups FRPSL** and chaired by the Society President, **Rufus Barnes**. A memento from this Congress is illustrated. Society members take an active part in the Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation and won the Millennium Shield in 2019 coming top in the annual inter-society



competition. The society is also affiliated to the ABPS and the British Thematic Association. Five members are ABPS accredited Federation judges.



A special hooded postmark has been designed by the current President, **Dr Simon Kelly**, for use on an envelope to celebrate the Centenary on 22nd October 2020. The envelope will feature a range of Cambridge postmarks of the last one hundred years. A special centenary lunch originally planned for Friday 6th November 2020 will now take place at some point during the centenary year at the University Centre, Granta Place.

Sixty years ago, the late **Derrick Muggleton** started what is now our Cambridge Postal History Collection which covers Cambridge and its surrounding villages. His publication, *A Postal History of Cambridge* (1970), remains the principal book on the subject. Dr Simon Kelly has been the collection's curator since 1997 and has written up over 1400 sheets for display. The collection forms the basis for a new book containing approximately 150 pages, which will be published during the centenary year to mark the society's milestone. Many interesting items covering a wide range of Cambridge postal history will be illustrated.

Since 1988, evening meetings have been held at Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Currently they commence at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday and the third Friday of each month and the programme can be viewed on our website (see below). In normal times, meetings include displays by visiting speakers and specialist societies. Members' evenings are also extremely popular and always produce a wide range of displays. Other meetings include the annual auction, annual competition evenings and social events. Because of Covid-19, the society is exploring the possibilities of electronic displays for at least some of the forthcoming season's activities. Members may borrow any of the 800 books in our library. The society also benefits from having an active exchange packet. There is also a small bourse at most evening meetings.

Membership is open to all who are interested in stamps and their usage, whether beginner or advanced, whether general collector or specialist. Many members will be only too pleased to help kindle enthusiasm and extend knowledge in our splendid hobby in a relaxed and informal setting. Anybody living in Cambridge or nearby is most welcome to come along to one of our meetings and, hopefully, join us. ➔ cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk or Secretary, Peter Morton 01223 263946, from whom details of the forthcoming book can also be obtained. Enquiries about the limited edition special centenary cover and postmark, which are available for £3.00 each (postage paid in the UK), should be addressed to Rufus Barnes on rooodle2@sky.com

Richard Husbands et al

Wiltshire and District Philatelic Federation (60)

A Brief History

The 17th August 1960 was a notable date as it was the day that the preliminary meeting was held to form a federation of Wiltshire Philatelic Societies. The invitation to the meeting went out from the Devizes society to the members of Chippenham, Salisbury and Swindon societies to attend a meeting at the Elm Tree Hotel in Devizes and all sent delegates. The prime mover in the formation of a federation seems to have been **Dr Renton**. After discussion a draft set of rules was drawn up and the delegates went back to their societies to see if they were in agreement to the setting up of the federation.

Three months later on the 9th November 1960 the foundation meeting of the Wiltshire Philatelic Federation was held at the Elm Tree Hotel in Devizes, and so began a federation which exists to promote philately in Wiltshire. Of the founding

members of the Federation many names still live on in the trophies of the Federation which are awarded annually to the winners of our 9- and 16-page competitions. There have been many societies who have been members of the Federation since the first four founding members. They are as follows:

1963 RAF Compton Bassett PS	Bath PS
1964 Warminster PS	1966 Melksham PS
1967 Bristol North PS*	Bristol & Clifton PS*
1968 RAF Colerne PS	City of Wells PS
1969 Wiltshire Constabulary PS	1971 Wessex GB Society
1972 BAC Stamp Club	1976 Trowbridge & District PS
2005 Bristol Woodlands Civil Service PS	

* Became Bristol PS in 1977

At the Annual General meeting in 1978 it was decided to change the name of the Federation to the Wiltshire and District Philatelic Federation as this would reflect more accurately the composition of the federation.

The Federation continues to support philately within the area but as we are all aware in current times the promotion of philately is not easy, especially with younger people; the list above shows the societies that have been members of the Federation, although many do not now exist. Three of the four founding members continue to be members with the Devizes society having been put into abeyance in 2016. In addition the membership of the Federation includes societies in Bath, Warminster, Bristol and Bristol Woodlands.

Paul Latham-Warde

Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group 50th Anniversary

The Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group (FIPSG) is honoured to have an issue by the Falkland Islands Government to commemorate their 50th anniversary. Chairman **Kim Stuckey** said "This is not a common occurrence for philatelic societies and we are delighted that a superb set of stamps have been issued to celebrate our anniversary. It has been a strange 50th anniversary year as both our two main events, a luncheon on board the SS Great Britain (to also acknowledge the 50th anniversary of her return to Bristol from the Falklands) and a display by the Study Group to the Royal Philatelic Society of London, have been postponed."

The FIPSG was formed as a result of a letter from a schoolboy, **Mark Burton**, to **Malcolm Barton**, who had been considering starting a study circle for a year or so previously. Some initial small newsletters gathering potential members led to the first meeting on 26th September 1970 at the Shaftesbury Hotel, where the embryo Study Group was given great assistance by the already existing Polar Postal History Society of Great Britain. It is excellent that both Malcolm Barton as the Past President and Mark Burton recently Treasurer are still active members of the Study Group.



The design for the stamps is based around four themes of philately; “Buying” the stamps from the Stanley Post Office and Philatelic Bureau, “Research” of philatelic and social history in the Falkland Islands Jane Cameron National Archives, “Publication” of research in the Study Group magazine Upland Goose or in a

monograph and “Collecting” illustrated by the iconic stamps of the Falkland Islands such as the Franks, the 1933 Centenary Issue and HMS Glasgow error.

Kim Stuckey

If you think we’ve missed you out, please let the Editor know.

A philatelist’s psalm

Stamp collecting is my hobby, I shall not be bored.
 It maketh me to do research in far places.
 It causeth me to correspond with odd people.
 It keepeth me alert.
 It leadeth me into areas of understanding for curiosity’s sake.
 Yea, though I live through many months of lockdown
 I will fear no boredom, for my stamps are with me.
 Their beauty and their history intrigue me.
 They provide me with a means of escaping from domestic responsibilities.
 They fill my house with books.
 My cash runneth lower.
 Surely interest and knowledge shall follow me all the days of my life,
 And I shall rest in the company of Sir Rowland Hill for ever.

This was found during a lockdown clear out by Tim Kestin of Stroud & District PS. It is an adaption of a 16th Century psalm - some things don’t change.

A gentle reminder to all society secretaries and treasurers that the 2021 affiliation fees are due to the Membership Secretary, Barry Stagg, as soon as convenient after January 1st. The fee remains at £1.50 per active British member. Please don’t wait for the third or fourth reminder - it wastes funds.

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Assuming that you read the last issue of ABPS News or have visited the Postal Museum website you will know that they are seeking postal articles connected to Lockdown and the Corona Virus. As you can see below there have been some interesting responses. It is interesting to note that the cancellation on the envelope to the right is

of the well-known biro variety. It is also noteworthy that a 1/9 stamp has been used - though more of a decoration than paying for the postage.



A letter with a face mask enclosed



More information, and on-line previews of exhibitions, on webpage postalheritage.org.uk

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Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING**?

This is

HOW THE STAMP TRADE WORKSPhilatelic Expert Lets You into his *Selling Secrets* so you can benefit from a **totally different (and New) Selling Experience**

by Andrew McGavin

1 If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke

About The Author Andrew found his Father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He specialised (!) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year, he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp 'Tips' articles, appearing on Local Radio and National TV promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual – in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 45 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) – the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his latest auction. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them...

it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 48 years later !...

Wrong Offer X Wrong Price X
Wrong Place X
(naïve seller = me but I was only 15 at the time!)

2 Three years later, attending my first public stamp auctions I wondered how some bidders seemed to buy everything, paying the highest price? It didn't occur to me that they were probably Auction Bidding Agents, paid by absent (dealer) bidders to represent them. I wondered why two collectors sitting side by side muttered to each other "he's a dealer" as if that justified him paying the highest price...

...but did it really? What was the real reason? How could a Dealer pay a higher price than a Collector? It doesn't make sense, does it? Collectors are customers. Customers usually pay the highest price, unless... for a Collector, this was...

Wrong Presentation X Wrong Place X
therefore Wrong Price X

3 Fast-forward 48 years later to a British Empire collection, lot #1 in an International Stamp Auction – Estimated at \$3,000, but we were the highest bidder at \$21,000 – YES – some 7x higher. Including Buyer's Premium in the extraordinary sum of \$4,788 we actually paid GBP£25,788 – upon a \$3,000 estimate... however, we broke it down into sets, singles, mini-collections etc. We made a profit. Some might say it found its price. Others may say:

Wrong Estimate X Wrong Presentation X
Wrong Structure X Wrong Protection of Price X

– Lucky for the seller that 2 well-healed bidders saw the potential value that day or it could have been given away... the seller

could easily have lost out couldn't he? or she?

So, by un-peeling the layers of obfuscation, hopefully we can all agree:

The Secret is Simple –

it's ALL About: **TIMING**,

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation X Place X and Price X

4 Understanding the problem...

I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' – Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked - in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called "The Philatelic Exporter". There's nothing that special about it – and you won't learn much or find massively reduced prices by subscribing – BUT – it is a forum, a paper focal point, a last 'bastion' in this on-line transparent world that we inhabit... whereby dealers (and auctioneers) can try and communicate with each other. I publish my own articles there...

Recently I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers 'what is your biggest problem?'

To a man, (why are we almost all men), they replied – "my biggest problem is stock, if I can get more of the right stock I can sell it easily"

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – I seek to satisfy collectors

This is the reason why my company has such massive advertising. This is the reason why we spend up to 8% of turnover – up to £200,000 per annum in marketing costs. (Most dealers don't even sell £200k per annum).



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

REQUEST Your 'Tips of The Trade' FREE copy >



5 Why is that? Because, as the world revolved the Stamp Market, imperceptibly **Changed**, and incrementally - **Massively**

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock - but absent collectors in the place they choose to sell their stamps in. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all - but it is true of most - so that our nearest competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 68th Auction we had 2,184 different bidders from 58 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers - so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) - so that when you sell through them - you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it - TO DEALERS (and some collectors), but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...**

6 Now, let's examine the cost implications - Example: Your stamp collection sells in public auction for \$800. Upon a 25% buyer's premium, the dealer pays \$1,000 and it could be more. He breaks it into \$2,000+ selling price (much lower and he'll go out of business). The auction charges you a seller's commission of up to 18% (VAT included) upon the \$800 sale price. This is GBP\$144. Therefore you receive approaching \$656 - which is approximately 33% of the dealer's \$2,000+/- retail selling price - BUT... now that we have identified the problem...

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right in The Face ?

7 Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers? Sell to Collectors instead ? In our example with buyer's premium, sellers commission, lotting fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance - you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, **to the wrong person.**

Why not direct that 40% cost you're paying to sell to Collectors instead? Sounds good, so why hasn't this been done before ?

8 Truth is, it Has been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the obvious so that money may be taken, almost surreptitiously, in numerous different ways, (without us apparently noticing until we see the cheque in our pocket) - the transparent 'seller pays' has been deliberately 'obscured' - so much so that, **amazingly**, the latest 2017 European Auction Selling Legislation just introduced - now requires auctions that charge 'buyer's premiums' **to warn the buyer in advance.** Just imagine going into the petrol station, and being warned that the price you're paying to put fuel in your tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

9 How can you cut out the middleman and sell to Collectors instead? Well, I can think of two ways. 1). DIY - Do It Yourself selling on eBay. That may be fine for lower grade material - but, would you risk auctioning relatively unprotected rare material on eBay ? We don't and we're professionals, so we should know what we're doing. Or 2). Cut out the extra middle-man. Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead. Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous Example:

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for \$1,000 - but You received circa \$656

UPA sells them to collectors for you for up to \$2,000 - even after 40% commission you receive up to \$1,200. Up to \$544 more. Now that's amazing, isn't it? 🍷

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example \$2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less - especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate \$2,000 - \$1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either - he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock OR, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices...

So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 36% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon: Universal Philatelic Auctions**, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

11 Q.) What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

A.) It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System... ★★

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 18 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold - **but what didn't sell...** So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU - 'US'** = once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we reduce by a **further 12% and WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away... ✓

12 Any Scientist will tell you that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, **PLUS** each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee - this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold. This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with 2,184 different bidders in my recent auction. 🧐

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 18 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 18 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue - using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are

ATTENTION OWNERS OF LARGE/ VALUABLE COLLECTIONS -

sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend. 🍀

14 AND the SMALL PRINT? Some lots are too small in value for us to offer this system. Other lots may not be suited to selling in this manner (e.g. surplus mint British decimal stamps best used for postage) – especially if the market is heavily compromised by stock overhang in specific areas. Some Collectors will not wish to use time and systems to leverage price, others will want to agree a specific price and know that they are paid precisely this amount. No client is treated like a number and no client is forced like a square peg into a round hole. 🍀

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

a). You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Descriptor what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements

b). If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...

c). Finally you ask U P A to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value... 📦 🚚 🏠

16 What Happens then?

A member of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,
I've dealt with the public for 37 + years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy 📦 🚚

17 How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market?

Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-Independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the

industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium. Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.



18 What Should I Do Next?

Discuss your collection with U P A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now... 📞 📧

19 Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure

So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to \$200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps 😊

20 My Double Cast Iron Guarantee:

We can do a better job valuing your stamps in our office than in your home. If you don't agree I'll pay you an extra \$50 for you to pay somebody trusted to open the boxes and put your albums back, in the same place, on the shelf they came from. 😊 😊

21 Act NOW: Contact Andrew

or an experienced member of his Team using the on-line selling form at our website, by fax, telephone or by mail. We'll work harder for you not to regret the decision to sell all or part of your collection... 📞 📧

Andrew

Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Expert,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA

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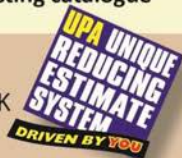
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ABPS Stamp weekend, Market Harborough Saturday 20th March – Sunday 21st March 2021

It is with regret that the ABPS Committee have decided to cancel the Stamp weekend due to be held in March 2021 because of the current Coronavirus pandemic. It would be hard for people to decide to make a booking given the current situation so we decided not to continue with the weekend.

However ...

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN 2021

We are delighted to announce that this important ABPS event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate from Thursday 23rd September to Sunday 26th September 2021. This will include the award of the Congress medal and the RDP Ceremony. The first Signing of the Roll took place in Harrogate in 1921 so this will be a very special Centenary Year.

Gerald Marriner FRPSL



WHAT'S GOING ON IN FEPA?

I thought readers might be interested to know something of what has been going on recently in FEPA, the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, of which I have the honour to be President. For those of you who may not know, it has 44 members representing the philatelic organisations in almost every European country with Israel and Egypt added for good measure. FEPA is an independent organisation with its own Board and Congress but, as one of three Continental Federations, it is an Associate Member of the FIP (the world philatelic body) and follows the FIP's standards, for example on judging of exhibits. The ABPS represents the UK in the FEPA Congress and has made a major contribution to its work since FEPA was founded in 1989.

FEPA's job is to support its members in their efforts to promote interest in philately throughout Europe. We do this in a number of ways, the first of which is to encourage good practice and cooperation between members. A good example is an investigation we are carrying out into the scope for sharing exhibition frames between nations. Another is the support we give to exhibitions in member countries by granting them patronage and recognition.

This international support is widely appreciated and helps to encourage participation. This year, of course, the exhibition programme has been almost entirely cancelled. I was due to visit exhibitions in Italy, Estonia, Sweden, Bulgaria, Indonesia and, of course, London where FEPA had planned to hold its 2020 Congress, but travel became very difficult and all except Estonia were postponed. The result is that there is now a very busy programme of exhibitions, postponed and new, planned between June 2021 and May 2023.

FEPA provides regular news updates on philatelic initiatives and developments through its website (www.fepanews.com) which also holds an exhibition calendar as well as much other information. It also publishes the 'FEPA NEWS' journal twice yearly. If you would like to read the latest issue of FEPA NEWS, published in July, it is on the website along with all previous issues. Recently we introduced an electronic newsletter to drop the latest news into your Inbox. The newsletter is sent out every three weeks. If you would like to receive it and you are not already on our list, just drop an e-mail to info@fepanews.com



Another FEPA function is to support philatelic literature, study and research, as well as exceptional achievements in the field of philately. A contribution to this is the annual FEPA Awards programme in which three medals are awarded for exceptional achievements, including one for study and research based on recently published works. The UK took one of the medals this year with the award for exceptional service to organised philately going to **Chris King Hon FRPSL**. Certificates of

Appreciation are also awarded to philatelic organisations for outstanding activity in promoting philately. This year I am pleased to say that they included our own **Stampactive** for its excellent work in Youth Philately, as well as five societies around Europe. The late **Edward Klempka FRPSL** was also awarded a certificate for his excellent work *Foreign Military Activity in the Russian Civil War 1917-1923*. We will be calling for nominations for the next round of awards fairly soon and I hope the UK will once again make full use of this opportunity to showcase its outstanding achievements on the international stage.

With the permission of the editor I will bring you news from FEPA from time to time during my Presidency. The UK's reputation as a philatelic nation stands high in the wider world, not least through the sustained and innovative contributions made by the ABPS. It seems reasonable, therefore, to use this opportunity to update you, the ABPS members, about what is going on internationally in organised philately.

Bill Hedley

POW Camps WWI

At Zossen, twenty miles south of Berlin, two propaganda camps for Mohammedans were established. One known as Weinberg was reserved for Mohammedans from Russia; the other at Wünsdorf was given up to

Mohammedans from northern Africa and India.

The camp at Wünsdorf was known as ***Halbmondlager*** (The “Half Moon Camp”)

The camp at Wünsdorf housed between 4000 and 5000 Muslim prisoners of war who had fought for the Allied side. The intended purpose of the camp was to convince detainees to wage “Jihad” against the United Kingdom and France. To that end, detainees lived in relative luxury and were given everything they



Postcard to French Prisoner of War from Tunisia held at Halbmondlager. Posted in December 1915.

needed to practise their faith. It was the site of the first mosque to be built in Germany.

The leader of the “Jihad experiment” was Max von Oppenheim, a German diplomat and aristocrat (1860-1946). In 1914, the NfO “Nachrichtenstelle für den Orient” (*Information Centre for the Orient*) was created under the direction of Von Oppenheim.

The “Nachrichtenstelle für den Orient” produced a camp newspaper called *El Dschihad*, or *The Jihad*. It was produced in six languages for Halbmondlager’s diverse prison population: Arabic, Georgian, Russian, Turkco-Tatarian, Hindi, and Urdu.

Notably, the latter two editions were issued under the title “Hindustan,” because the South Asian prisoners in Halbmondlager included Muslims and non-Muslims.



Postcard of the mosque at Zossen with Mohammedans inset (presumably POWs).



Message on the Mosque card. This was sent from Zossen to Hamburg in November 1916.

The NfO proposed that changing the title to a common name for the Indian subcontinent would more effectively unite Indian POWs against the British.

Oppenheim was assisted by Shaykh Sâlih al-Sharîf, a Tunisian who had served in the Ottoman Empire's intelligence agency. He served as a spiritual leader for the detainees.

Up to 3000 of the detainees from the camp were recruited into the German Army to fight

in North Africa and the Middle East. However, low morale and troop revolt plagued the resulting divisions, and few believed in the Jihadist cause. In 1917 the remaining prisoners were put to agricultural labour in Romania.

Malcolm Cole, Bookham SC

This article has arisen from a Lucky (and relatively cheap) purchase of two postcards by Malcolm Cole. They were described as 2-bob cards - with the addition of "What price now?" following the necessary research. It shows what can come from lockdown!

Time to be thinking about nominations for ABPS Awards

Although philatelic meetings are not taking place at the moment you can still be thinking about nominating someone in your society or federation for the ABPS Award of Merit or Congress Medal.

Both the Award of Merit and Congress Medal are ways of recognising collectors who have given outstanding voluntary service to British philately over a number of years in one or more levels: regional, specialist or local society and in the case of the Congress Medal, at national level. The nominator and nominee must be members of a society affiliated to ABPS. In addition federations, patrons or friends of ABPS may also make nominations.

The nomination forms and guidelines are on the ABPS website. Nominations must be received by the Chairman of the Awards Committee, Yvonne Wheatley, awards@abps.org.uk or 0113 2601978, by 1st March 2021 to be considered for next year's awards.

*Yvonne Wheatley
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee*

Lockdown

Of course none of the societies here in Cumbria have met during the long period of lockdown. Meetings of the Cockermouth Stamp Club, the Keswick Philatelic Society and the Cumbrian Postal History Society have been cancelled right left and centre and members' displays which had been prepared for these meetings are currently gathering cobwebs in studies, upstairs rooms and cubby holes.

What has been happening in the meantime? The positive report is to say that there have been no members of any of these three groups who have succumbed to the virus. Indeed, I know of no one who has been tested positive. Perhaps this is because of the characteristic philatelic age profile which places most members in the over-70 category. In short, we have all been staying put in our houses where a few of us have kept to our promises to tidy up our rooms and write up all of those treasures which have hitherto found themselves in boot boxes or receptacles of choice.

I have been in touch with many members and their promises have had variable consequences. In many cases, the amazingly clement weather has meant hours spent in gardens. This has resulted in healthy exhaustion and less philately. Others, chary of increasing their holdings, have suspended purchases on line and through other sources but have kept busy with material which has been written up during the period of incarceration. Some have managed to organize partners to do the gardening while they practise the black arts of stamp collecting and postal history.

The most deviant behaviour I can report is the member who has, in his late seventies, embarked upon two new interests, namely the postal history of the Åland Islands and a collection of postal markings of offices with his surname. If this development proves to be common, we can all look forward to new riches of material on display when we can at last meet in safety. Let us all hope that it will be sooner rather than later.

Meanwhile, if your tunnel is carpal, your shoelaces are getting further away and your veins are varicose, be comforted by the fact that you are members of an ever-increasing wrinklies' club.

Mike Mapleton



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Virtual Stampex

"The Philatelic Traders Society celebrates the success of the live show as it goes on demand"

October 2020: With over 6000 people registered to Virtual Stampex, the world's first international show was an exciting opportunity to bring the global world of philately together all under one roof. The 72-hour event hosted from 1st – 3rd October 2020 included 84 booths, 11 stamp talks, two competitive exhibitions and the Court of Honour hosted by the Museum of Philately.

Spink & Son who also sponsored the auditorium, which was home to the stamp talks, proudly sponsored the show. Olivier D Stocker, founder of Spink & Son, comments "Spink & Son are delighted with the impact Virtual Stampex has had on our hobby as a whole. As an organization we are leading the digital revolution for collectibles. We see Virtual Stampex as an exciting way to engage the philatelic audience, drive and connect further with a younger stamp collector."

We also asked show attendees their thoughts on the show:

Joe Cortese, founder of Noble Stamps and booth holder, comments

"When the necessity for a virtual stamp show materialized due to Covid-19, collectors and dealers had no idea what to expect. The first ever Stampex virtual show, this past October 1st-3rd, far exceeded everyone's expectations! Stampex has literally pioneered a new frontier for the stamp industry to reap the benefits of technological innovation. It doesn't get any better than exploring the globe from the comfort of your home."

Bill Barrell, founder of Bill Barrell Ltd, comments: 'We used 'Virtual Stampex' as a global marketing opportunity for Bill Barrell Ltd and it exceeded all expectations. To promote VS we emailed our database three times and when the show went live we were immediately greeted by buyers, receiving so many orders we had to delay all sendings until after the interactive aspect closed. Financially really very successful but also great fun, the chat functionality was easy to use and led to great connectivity with collectors; follow up sales now coming in!! Would I do it again? You bet!!'

Mark Bloxham from Mark Bloxham Stamps Ltd has been in the industry for many years and he was delighted by the impact the show had on online sales just a few hours into the live concept and ongoing. "Half way through the first day we had made a profit on the whole show. Over 80% of sale were to new customers and only 4 days later 25% of the new customers have re-ordered."

The 72-hour live show now goes on demand. Which means visitors can visit booths, leave messages, browse the Court of Honour and watch the live talks in the auditorium. Sign up to the show at stampex.vfairs.com

Virtual Stampex In Numbers

Heralded as the world's first international virtual stamp show, Virtual Stampex was an exciting addition to the philatelic calendar. The live show lasted for 3 days with the on demand period running until end of October

Here is a snap shot of the show in numbers

- 72 hours – the length of time the show was live for
- 28 days – the length of the show including on demand days
- 84 booths – the number of philatelic dealers, auction houses, societies, online businesses and services which took part
- 11 Virtual Talks – including dealers, auction houses and collectors
- 6426 individuals – have registered for the show to date with over 1000 joining us within the first 4 hours of the show opening
- 4324 unique visitors in the initial 72 hours
- 75 758 booth visits – that's people clicking and visiting booths
- 5356 documents were downloaded into Virtual Briefcases (or swag bags) across the show
- 13 375 buttons were clicked at booths taking visitors to shops, mailing list sign-ups, videos, blogs, special offers and more
- 280 total user attendees – to the World Postcard Day meet up

Chairman of the PTS, Suzanne Rae comments: 'The Philatelic Traders Society are really proud of what we have established and are excited about what is to come. The good thing about an online show is that we can review and analyse the data and help to grow and support the show. We are excited about the next virtual show and are currently looking at ways to make it bigger, better and more engaging for our visitors.'

Rainbow Peace Covers - Part II (Northern Branch of Olives)

Whilst sorting through my late parent's items I came across some old envelopes one of which was covered in foreign stamps on the labelled addressed side and stamps shaped into a crucifix display on the rear. Front and rear were also highlighted with slogans. The sender written on the label was *Philatelic Crusade For Peace, Alexandria Egypt*. Since there were no contents, and being intrigued, I looked on the internet and found similar covers for sale which had been delivered to other parts of the world. There was little information available on stamp forums or Study Circle websites however, so I filed the envelope away. More recently rummaging through my father's boxes I found related postcards, religious cards, leaflets, press cuttings and the introductory letter to him dated October 18th 1960, signed by Constantine St Tsirimonis, sponsor



It also said; If your friends write to us they will receive a much similar *Rainbow of Peace through Stamps* cover, as soon as previous requests have been fulfilled. Attached were numerous printed acknowledgements and endorsements from the period 1957 to 60 from President Nasser, Pope Pius XII, D D Eisenhower (sic), Richard Nixon, Nelson Rockefeller et al. This clearly was the contents of the large envelope. There were also smaller envelopes presumably sent later and some interesting printed letters one from the United States Senate Democratic Party Leaders Office, September 19th 1960 signed by

Lyndon B Johnson enclosed as publicity. As a dampener, one letter was from the Treasury Department stating that the law was being violated relating to the importation into the United States of literature bearing illustrations of US postage stamps and uncanceled foreign postage. A further undated postcard, perhaps the contents of the smaller envelopes,





revealed the demise of the Rainbow covers now posted, from an address in Athens (*similar to that seen in Grace Davies' article last issue*).

These items were free on request over a period of perhaps five years so there must be thousands of them out there. Maybe it's time we started chasing rainbows again?

Barry W. Evans (Burnley and District)

The challenging hunt for thematic stamps

Thematic collecting is a very broad topic. I was challenged by my local club to put up a thematic display on the topic of *Window Cleaning*. After long searching online, I found one stamp.

I commend this to readers who find stamp collecting less challenging than they want, and they may wish to use this as a club competition to find the least expected topic. Perhaps readers of this can tell me of any others on this topic please?

Happy hunting.

Dr John M Gledhill



John's son came up with a challenge to see if he could do a thematic display of central heating radiators. As he said - Well, I tried!



No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor? It could get you new members, and also gives hints on good speakers to other societies.

The First Collectors' Conference



A special online conference dedicated to collecting classic GB stamps is set to take place as a "virtual" event on the popular www.allaboutstamps.co.uk website from 13th to 15th November.

Being held in partnership with the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS), the online event follows the success of the month-long Summer of Stamps, which attracted thousands of collectors from around the world. The three-day conference will give collectors the chance to learn more about British stamps with special talks, webinars and Q&A sessions. The online conference will be free to attend and is set to be the first of an ongoing series of 'Collectors' Conference' events to be featured on the allaboutstamps.co.uk website.



Editor Matt Hill said: 'The Summer of Stamps was a great success and covered all kinds of different subjects. We'll definitely be returning for a second Summer of Stamps festival next year, and right now we're keen to focus on a particular topic and really give collectors expert insight to help them build their knowledge and their collection. We're very pleased to be working with the GBPS on the conference content. Once again, collectors can enjoy all the content for free as we work to bring the community together and share our passion and expertise.'

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. 350 words maximum please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

PRESTWICK 1954 AIRCRASH – MAIL FROM ADEN

by **Neil Williams (Aden & Somaliland Study Group)**

Mail recovered from crashes, wrecks and other mishaps is a major thematic discipline, whilst also being of interest to collectors of the countries or regions concerned. There is usually an interesting story to be told.

BOAC Boeing Stratocruiser G-ALSA 'Cathay' crashed in poor weather at Prestwick airfield, Ayrshire, at 0330 on December 25th 1954. The aircraft was on approach to land when it descended excessively, due to, according to the Inquiry, crew error. On striking the ground, one leg of the undercarriage collapsed causing the aircraft to overturn and break up. The ensuing fire destroyed the aircraft and killed 28 of the 36 persons on board, the survivors having been thrown clear.



A Boeing Stratocruiser of BOAC (Flight)

The aircraft had left London bound for New York with a scheduled stop at Prestwick. The bulk of the cargo of 250 mail bags was recovered, in various states of damage. With mail in tied bundles, the principal fire damage was to edges and those items near the top and bottom of a bundle, whilst everything would be soaked by fire-fighting water and potentially by fuel. As was normal practice, salvaged mail was removed for re-sorting and wherever possible forwarding to original addressees, being re-secured if necessary – all forwarded or returned mail received an appropriate cachet to indicate the reason for damage and delay. With the mail was a valuable consignment of diamonds of which only 90% was ever found, even after digging up and sifting the crash site – the missing 10% 'presumed' to have burnt!



Firemen at Prestwick recovering mail from the crash and piling it in a charred heap on the ground. (local press photo)

The majority of the mail being carried was from the UK to the USA and Canada. Mail to Central and South America and from the Commonwealth routing through London is scarce.



A salvaged item with substantial fire damage. (Leith)



Formula Airletter from the Aden Camp merchants Tarachand Popatlal to Havana, Cuba, concerning trade in white sugar. Franked at 1/-, the Airletter rate to the Americas, and cancelled ADEN CAMP, 7-AM, 21 DE 54 (Proud type KD19). The oval cachet is a reverse image of Popatlal's cachet and appears to be from another item of mail, transferred either by water and/or aviation fuel. The Airletter is 'cockled' and widely stained and shows evidence of having

been officially re-sealed (top centre, bottom right and left side) by gummed tape.

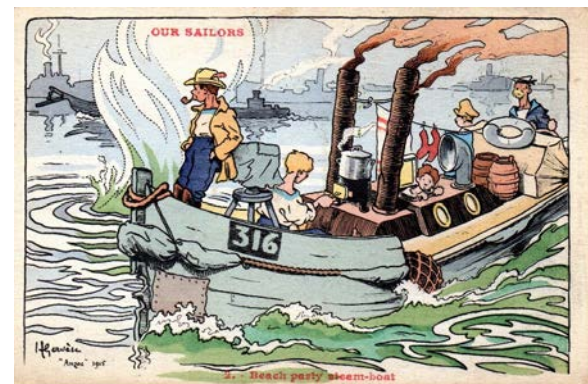
ABPS accredited judges

The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site. Enter www.abps.org.uk/judges/ and scroll down the resulting page. There are filters to help you.

Our Sailors

Knowing my long term fascination with life at sea, those who know my collection will not be surprised by my latest acquisition. Bought as a birthday gift, it is a set of post cards issued after the first World War by a French company, Raffaelli of Toulon. They are a series of 20 cards based on amazing cartoons of life at sea with which artist Henri Gevese illustrated his letters home to his parents. Having joined the Navy at 17 in 1897, he found the rigid

discipline quite hilarious. His career spanned the first World War and he rose through the ranks from 2nd class midshipman to captain of a frigate by 1919. He remained as a reserve until 1933. He was named "Painter of the Navy" in 1921. By 1933 he was a competent artist in all mediums. He died in 1959 in Buenos Aires. The ones I have chosen are: no 2 *Beach party steamer* subtitled *Anzac 1915*, no 5 *Man overboard*, no 9 *Patrolling*



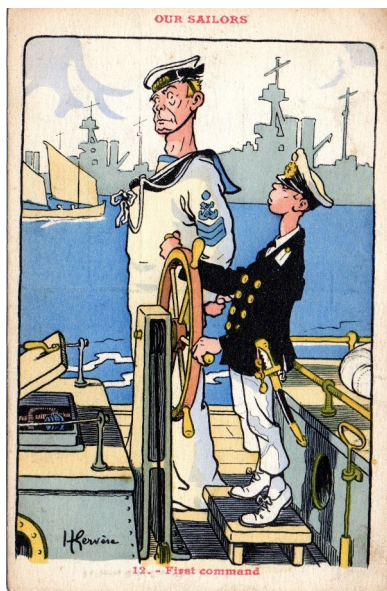
Beach party steam-boat, subtitled Anzac 1915



Man overboard



Patrolling subtitled Salonique 1916



First command



Official visit in wartime



Kit Inspection

probably a relief. The uniforms often look French but no doubt the same discipline was inflicted on British sailors and their reactions just as amusing. Indeed there are other cards aimed at the French market showing the matelots doing even dafter things. One cannot but wonder what his superiors and colleagues thought of his cartoons and if any recognised themselves as caricatures. As postally unused they are in reasonably good condition and did not cost the earth but you can bet as soon as the fairs start up again I'll be looking through all the boxes for used examples.

Jill Fearons (President of Wakefield PS)

THE GREAT AIR RACE

With Australian Prime Minister William 'Billy' Hughes keen to bolster civil aviation in Australia in early 1919, his government announced what became known as the 'Great Air Race'; with an offer of £10 000 for the first successful flight from England to Australia, completed within 30 days and before midnight on 31st December 1920. Just before 9 am on 12th November 1919, the highly decorated WWI pilot Captain Ross Smith, his brother Lieutenant Keith Smith, navigator and

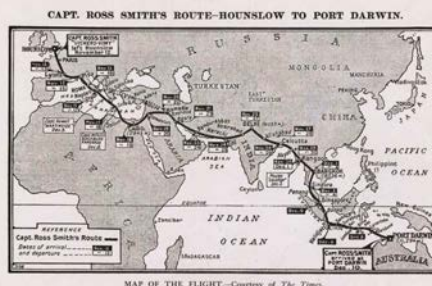


assistant pilot,
and aircraft
mechanic
Sergeants
Walter 'Wally'
Shiers and

James Bennett, departed in their twin-engine VICKERS VIMY from snow-covered Hounslow Aerodrome, London.

Despite variable weather conditions

Ross Smith and crew landed at Fannie Bay airfield, Darwin, on 19th December 1919, as race victors. They had flown an incredible distance of almost 17 800 kilometers (11 060 miles) in just under 28 days, in an aircraft constructed of fabric, wire, and wood, and aided by basic maps. No sat-navs and air control in those days - just a compass and visual geography! It is said that Ross Smith joked that the "Vimy's" lettering 'G-EAOU' stood for "God Elp All Of Us".



In 1969 Great Britain issued a 1/9d blue & yellow stamp along with an FDC, displayed.

Several other countries, on the flight route, issued special commemorative stamps on the 50th anniversary of the event in 1969, including Italy, Iraq, Pakistan, Singapore and Australia.

In 2019 Australia also issued several philatelic items including special stamps, several FDC's including coin covers and also Maxi Cards.

All of these items can be viewed and purchased on Ebay or Delcampe or purchased directly from Australia Post online store.

Martin Snowdon (Redcar & Cleveland PS)



THE SIMON ARZT STORY

BY: RICHARD WHEATLEY FRPSL, FSPH

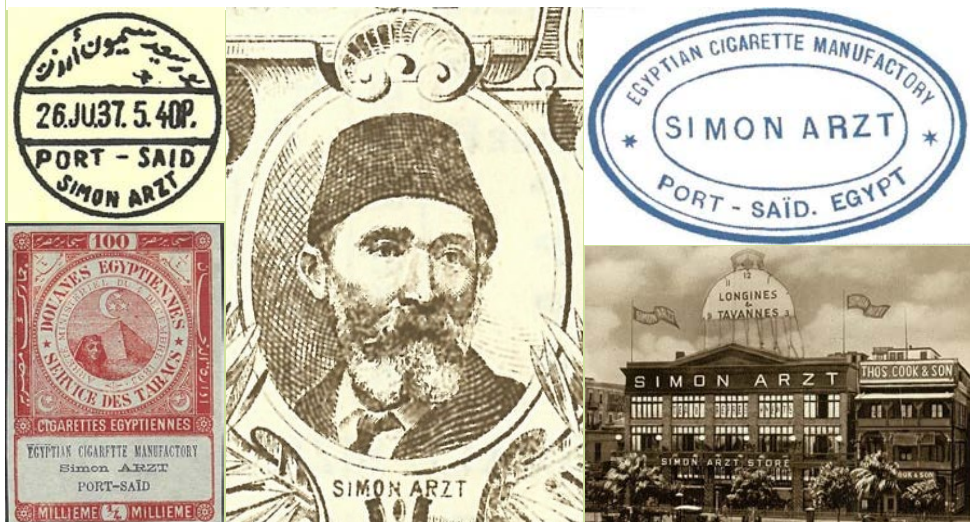
He arrived in Port Said in 1869, the year that the Suez Canal was opened. Gradually he expanded from just making cigarettes, to a store that catered for the tourist, selling everything from picture postcards, watches, perfume, jewellery, cameras to cigarettes.

Prices were fixed. No haggling – which appealed to tourists.

His advertising appeared on many picture postcards, which are now collector's items.

In 1932 his successors opened a new store on the quayside at Port Said and two years later a post office was opened on the first floor, the postmarks having his name on them!

This is a thorough investigation into all aspects relating to Simon Arzt, with many tables and full colour illustrations. A4, 44 pages, plus art board covers.



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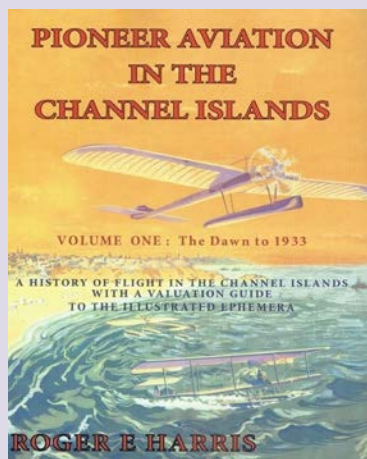
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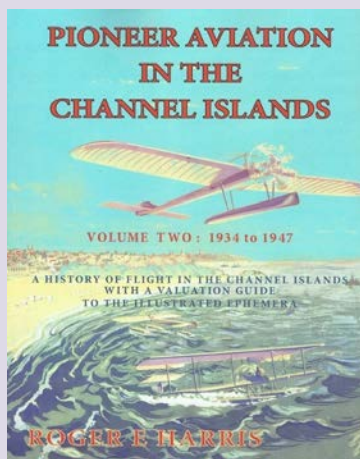
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On the Club circuit

A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies.

*Please send your reports direct to **the Editor**. We cannot undertake to include every report sent to us, and reserve the right to edit the reports we receive in the interests of space; short reports are best please. Full contact details for the societies are in the ABPS handbook and website. **Visitors are welcome at all societies listed.** When submitting photos please ensure that any people shown (especially children) have agreed to their photo appearing in this national newsletter (Data Protection and all that...). "➔" Indicates contact information.*

Amersham & District

Very sadly our Competitions Secretary and longstanding member **Derek Chandler** died in July after a short illness. He joined our society as a 20-year old in 1960, but like many of us he allowed his membership to lapse once children arrived on the scene, but fortunately he returned later as an active member. Derek owned an impressive collection of local postcards as well as good quality GB material. He will be greatly missed and we have conveyed our deepest sympathy to his wife Eileen and her family. Although we have not been able to organise any regular club meetings our President **Chris Marsh** successfully convened a committee meeting at his home on 24th September. To abide by the "rule of six" three of the committee had to offer their apologies and accept a later briefing. Much of the time was spent discussing our professionally designed new website which looks attractive and should serve us well in future. Our Secretary **Keith Wright** advised our members of Virtual Stampex and we hope they were able to take advantage of that information. Our exchange packets have now restarted after a break of 6 months due to Covid-19 and we hope to make up some of the lost ground with our good quality booklets. The Packet Secretary is **Dave Bird** ➔ amershamdps.pktsec@gmail.com Jim Drummond

Cambridge

Our meetings are usually held at Oddfellows Hall in Cambridge on the first Wednesday and third Friday monthly. In mid-August we were made aware that Oddfellows Hall would remain closed because of Covid restrictions through until at least mid-January 2021. We had already planned to try evening Zoom meetings for the usual evening meeting times. On 2nd September **Rufus Barnes** gave a talk and presented our first evening PowerPoint display via Zoom covering *Specialising in Tokelau* 20 members and philatelists were connected into the meeting. On Friday 18th September **Tony Crowther** gave a talk and a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom on *The Scottish Additional Halfpenny Tax 1813-1839*. A total of 19 members and philatelists were connected into this

meeting. We celebrate our centenary later this year as the society was founded in October 1920. Please also see the article at the beginning of this magazine.

➔ info@cambridgephilatelicssociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Cockermouth

Well, running an auction during a pandemic certainly had its moments. Viewing wearing gloves and masks and utilizing garden furniture in the auctioneer's garage worked very well, but as additional local lockdown restrictions applied for some of the time, a handful of visitors had to pick up the lots of interest from the pavement and view in the comfort of their cars to ensure they did not encroach into the auctioneer's garden. Fortunately (and astonishingly for West Cumbria) it didn't rain. The result was 70% of lots sold with enquiries from as far away as Thailand and successful bidders from throughout the UK. Publicity in ABPS News certainly helped to reach a number of new collectors, and press releases placed locally have hopefully resulted in us recruiting at least a couple of new members. Whilst the excitement of a live auction (as well as bidders getting carried away) was missing, resulting no doubt in realizations in some cases being lower than they might otherwise have been, this meant that there were bargains to be had. There was quite a scramble to pick up unsolds at 90% of estimate after the sale. The Club is giving consideration to running virtual meetings via Zoom during the winter months, and another auction (hopefully "live" but if not postal) is planned for March or April 2021.

➔ mike@mikerobe.co.uk or 07885839622

Mike Roberts

Dawlish

We held our first meeting of the Autumn on 9th September under Covid secure conditions with everyone socially distanced. The speaker was **Jim Wigmore** on *Cyprus 1878-1960* with a display that was given using an overhead projector onto a large screen. This type of display gave all a full view of the details within the exhibits and meant there was no need for attendees to huddle around display frames trying to spot the key items with magnifying glasses etc. We learned a number of key factors in doing displays using this media and it will now be formally adopted by the club for future meetings. We have already been approached by other clubs in the Wessex Federation interested in following our pioneering approach and learning about the process and how to get the best results.

Jim Wigmore

Halifax

News from behind the mask. The 2020-2021 season has set off with a hesitant start, but hopefully we will be zooming along as members are becoming more competent with online meetings, with the more competent leading from the front. Our first two meetings have produced interesting online displays hosted by **Paul Allen** from his home in Knoxville, Tennessee. First **Max Smith** showed on *The "Great Liverpool"*. Max outlined the purchase of the vessel to facilitate greater capacity for mail between Britain and India and the features to allow recognition of the vessel. Online, he exhibited sheets containing period prints which he

described whilst identifying points on the vessel and terminating with its last voyage when it was wrecked on 24th February 1846 during a Mediterranean squall. Captain McCloud returned in March to recover the mail. Max showed a cover exhibiting damage caused during its recovery from the wreck. This was followed by **Mike Roberts** who displayed sheets outlining *Pioneering Aviation circa 1910 to 1937* which enabled air mail to be provided. He included detailed information on The French Morocco experimental flight showing routes, details of pilots, aeroplanes and covers flown; 1911 Cape Town flight; the interest shown by The Post Office in 1920 followed by a selection of South Africa postal stationery. **Paul Allen** presented *India mail to Italy 1854-1876*. He exhibited several covers which he described whilst identifying points. Paul also demonstrated how online sheets could be moved onto and taken off the screen.

Adrian Lee

Harrogate

Over the summer we were thrown back on sorting out our own collections, preparing displays or competition entries and spending on EBay etc whilst our secretary **Bill Tait** took a well-earned rest from organising Zoom meetings. Now a few of us, led by President **Peter Rix**, are putting together a fortnightly programme - all on Zoom. We are alternating show-and-tell member sessions with single person displays. We bought a licence and are working on a meeting of two halves with a 10 to 15 minute comfort break between - to refill the wineglass or coffee cup (not something that we can do at physical meetings). Friday nights are returning to a new normal. Anyone who is interested can get in touch to join us or to offer a display (very welcome!). Our packet circuit has also restarted giving great opportunities for both acquiring and selling material. By the time that this is read we expect to be masters of this new technology - there is always Hope in Harrogate.

Keith Burton

Henley & District

Sadly it seems as if the present no-meeting conditions will be with us for some time to come so to try and keep our members in touch with each other we are trying meetings by email, starting with our traditional opening meeting *Latest Acquisitions*. Over half the members took part using scanned pages. Topics included two non-philatelic contributions of a recently purchased classic *Jaguar Mark 2* and another of a *huge tractor with earth moving equipment to improve field drainage!* Other varied philatelic topics



included: *Imperial Austria* including a 1917 First Day Cover (on the 3rd anniversary of

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the assassination of the Archduke at Sarajevo) and a *Kirchenblatt* newspaper item of 1855; *Buenos Aires* scenes at the port entrance and the Old Loading Mole; *Canada* 1939 Royal Tour including a cover posted from the royal train; *Costa Rica* British stamp issues posted there; *German Army Feldpost* a range of items from 1944; *Grenada* postal stationery – very scarce QV 1881 1d, also QV 1882 1d and KEVII 1902 ½d; *Guernsey* Unauthorized c1941 use of KGVI bisected stamps; *Black-lined Mourning Envelopes* with Victorian GB stamps; *Newfoundland* a recently completed set of the 1910 Colonization Tercentenary set; *New Zealand* explanation of a set of c.1917 fiscal and postage stamps, from legal or ledger documents in the Otago/Dunedin district, also some 'pigeon' post and a cover associated with the sinking of the *SS Wagirerapa*; *Panama Canal* first day cover on the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Canal postmarked *SS Charleston* – Canal Zone and *Spain* views in Valencia and the funicular above Barcelona. In October members were sent a display from our new Chairman and Argentina enthusiast, **Ian King**, who had compiled a very topical display on *The History of Vaccines* using stamps of that country. We hope to hold a quiz, possibly using Zoom, and to have two traditional evenings of members' displays on *Blue* and *Festivities*. Anne Stammers

Hereford & Mid-Wales

We are very lucky to have the use of a spacious church hall, with plenty of room for a meeting with full social distancing. So the new season got off to a surprisingly good start in September with an actual physical meeting with 10 members attending to show off what they had been doing philatelically during lockdown. All our risk assessments and control measures were in place, sent out to all members in advance and limits put on the amount of material to be displayed by any one member. What could possibly go wrong? Very little as it transpired! By this time everyone was well versed in mask wearing, hand sanitising, and queuing tidily 2m apart at entrances and exits. Our designated members had sanitised the frames and tables ahead of the meeting and erected them at 2m intervals all around the hall. Each member spoke about their display at one of the frames, and for viewing, members progressed round the hall in a one way system, with a short time to view each display. This was where the only



difficulties occurred. When one member wants to spend more time at a particular display it causes an unpopular tailback, and philatelists are notoriously keen to PICK UP sheets for a closer look! (Shouts of "strictly forbidden"). Overall it was an enjoyable, Covid-secure event, and we came away full of enthusiasm for the next meeting and ideas

*Masked and socially distanced - philately goes on!
President Paul Olver shows his lockdown results.*

for improvements to cope with larger numbers and/or larger displays. We had even managed a raffle using quarantined prizes and virtual tickets! BUT then came the "rule of six" and goodbye to any more physical meetings for a while. Undaunted, we decided to venture into the world of Zoom meetings. After all if the Church of England can do it and the RPSL can do it internationally, then so can we! Our treasurer was very much in favour, as a Zoom licence is cheaper than a hall rental! Our October meeting on *The letters B, C and D* attracted seven nervous virtual attendees, none of whom had done a Zoom philatelic presentation before. However, as the evening progressed and familiarity with "mute", "share screen" and so forth increased, a large variety of material was viewed, most of it the right way up! Subjects ranged from *Matsuo Basho* (Japanese Haiku poet) through to *Dahomey/Benin*. Once again those taking part left the meeting inspired to spread the word to fellow members, and vowing to improve their Zoom skills. While Covid restrictions are in place, it is proposed to continue to hold our meetings on Zoom at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Members of other Societies are welcome to join us. → fascinatinglady@hotmail.com for an invitation.

Janet Nelson

Kingston upon Thames & District

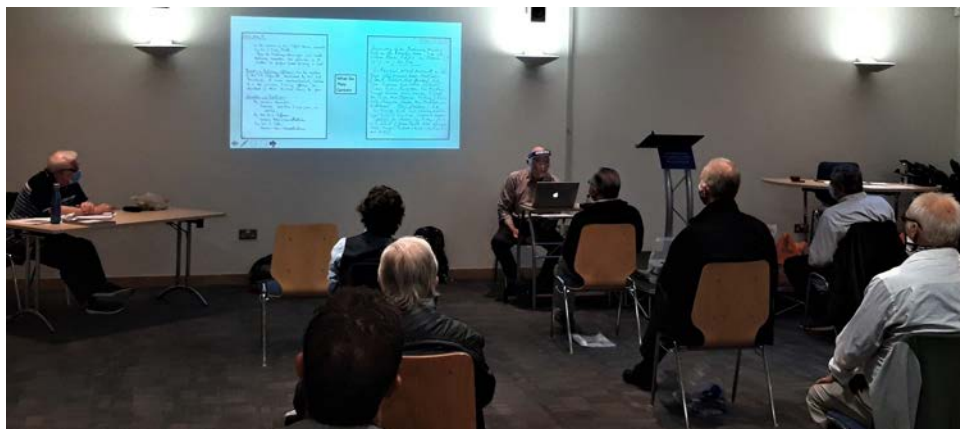
We will need to find a new evening meeting venue as the one at Sutton Library is no longer available for public hire. We are considering going over to daytime meetings only. The packet continues so there is still life in Kingston philately, just a problem or two in sharing it - but we are not alone in that. We hope to hold afternoon meetings at St Mary's Church, East Moseley from January 2021.

From *Kingston Newsletter*

Leeds

Our Opening - and Closing - Night

In March 2020 with four meetings and an AGM to go, our society (like yours) closed due to the Covid-19 situation. We kept going with regular bulletins written by members and emailed to all members. After sharing 25 bulletins over a 10-



week period, we started to meet again with regular ZOOM meetings. Throughout that time, we were planning our re-opening on September 8th. A small sub-group was set up, capable of meeting (via ZOOM) at very short notice and responding quickly when required. We were in regular conversation with the manager of our venue and, following two visits to the venue, we had all the Covid-19 safety measures in place for a maximum attendance of 23 members. We would have our temperature taken on entry, sign in with contact details, be masked and maintain strict social distancing throughout the meeting. Our usual meeting format had to be changed. It was no longer possible to have a presenter walking around several display boards and moving next to members. It also seemed unacceptable and inappropriate to ask members who had understandable concerns about their safety to attend a full AGM. We therefore delivered a very much-shortened AGM, during which members agreed the proposition that all officers of the society remain in post until May 2022, so that the society could benefit from their experience of dealing with this changing situation. Two displays then followed, using our now preferred presentation method. Each speaker gave a synopsis with very large projected images of key items from the exhibit. Later, members could look at the 80 sheets of the display, while keeping social distancing. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all eighteen members



who attended. They went home having been given the details of the next meeting in two weeks. Sadly, that meeting would not happen! That same evening the government announced the Rule of Six for gatherings. Two days later we cancelled that next meeting but held open the other calendar dates. We are in regular contact with the manager of our venue to ensure a quick response when the situation changes.

Are we glad we opened? Yes, we are.

Was the meeting a success?Yes. We had a great evening, enjoyed by all present.

Was it worth the effort involved? Of course it was.

Sometime soon, we hope, we will be ready and able to open again in the knowledge that we can make it work safely. *Richard Smith*

Lostock

We had just stuck a new deal for monthly Friday daytime meetings. Everyone was contacted then boom Bolton goes back into lock down so below is the result.

Lockdown Philately

'Too many stamps, too little time'? – Well, with weeks of spare time to fill this was a great opportunity to address those philatelic tasks I never have time for:

1. Cataloguing – (a bit like train spotting) – highlighting the stamps in my S&G catalogues that I have in my collection. This of course has already been done for my favourite countries eg Belgium, Netherlands and France, but never before for those less attractive such as Hungary, Poland and Italy.
2. Preparing future competition entries. Combining laptop with collection to produce sheets on *Jaarbeurs de Flanderen* – International Trade Fair held in Gent annually since 1945; cinderellas, advertising cachets, correspondence etc.
3. Sorting and Organising – looking through accumulated Belgian Railway and Parcel Post stamps for Gent/Gand cancellations with a view to presenting as a future display or competition entry.

A very enjoyable and fulfilling way to pass the time. *Through Dave Morley*

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

We were hoping to restart our evening meetings in some form in September, but alas like many other societies it was not to be. We had finally received the method statement from the church hall, but with all their conditions it was not going to be practical. In addition we had been advised by the Indoors Bowls Club, where we hold our morning meetings, that it was not possible for us to come back at present. Finally we decided to cancel our November Stamp Fair. We will review the situation in January 2021 where we will hope the world is a better place. *Brian Stonestreet*

Preston

We, like other societies, have not been able to meet since March 2020 due to the Corona virus and the imposition of the lockdown, but we have kept in touch by email during the last 6 months or so, during which time we have elected new officers to varying posts due to the resignation of our President, **Derek Williams**. We have held competitions and written about our separate experiences of the Covid 19 situation. We also held our first and hopefully last virtual AGM meeting. During this enforced absence from club meetings, recently it was suggested that to keep in touch we should explore the possibility of holding a virtual Zoom Stamp Club meeting. This was accepted and agreed, and our first virtual Stamp Club meeting was held on 1st October. After a faltering start it was a success! Our speaker was **Dr Peter McCann** who entertained us with *New Acquisitions of Victorian GB*, many and varied scans and a PowerPoint presentation. We hope

that when a reliable and safe vaccine is discovered and administered the membership can once again hold actual stamp meetings, stamp fairs and attend all the other peripherals that occur.

Ann Beaver-Thomson

Southampton & District

At the beginning of September **Julian Jones** returned, talking this time about the *Anglo-US Postal Treaty between February 1849 and December 1867*. This treaty established a common method of charging postage for mail between Britain and America. Initially there were offices of the exchange in London & Liverpool in Britain and Boston & New York in the US; others were added in the US & Dublin later. The rate was established at 24c (40c for West Coast mail later on) from America or 1/- (1s) from Britain per 1/2 ounce, divided as follows; 3c GB internal, 16c ocean postage & 5c US internal. The Ocean postage was allocated by the nationality of the ship contracted to carry that piece of mail. Cunard was the only British shipping company contracted; all other mail was carried by US lines. In what was an incredibly complicated system of accounting each piece of mail showed which country should receive what fees and the whole system was balanced at the end of each month and any outstanding sums were paid in silver. Having described the system in detail the main body of the presentation was a variety of covers that illustrated the combinations of rates, including the cover shown, which is one of only nine bearing the red 21c that was used between June 1864 and March 1865. Julian went on to



1864 Cover to Illinois from Wednesbury

explain the increasing importance of the Liverpool Floating Receiving House for the late collection of mail. He finished the talk by showing examples from the other offices of exchange that were opened later; Philadelphia, Portland (Maine), Detroit, Chicago, Dublin and Baltimore. We took to the air for our next presentation when **Peter Wingent** spoke about the *Imperial Airways Empire Flying Boats at Southampton 1936 – 1940*. By the early 1930s routes both to South Africa and via the Far East to Australia were being established by aeroplanes flying from Croydon near London but both the planes and the airfields were small and numerous. The Empire flying boats, both the S 23 and the larger S 30, represented a better choice from both capacity and range. By March 1937 all flights had transferred to Southampton where the flying boats were held in Southampton Water, opposite Hythe. This meant that passengers and mail had to travel from the terminal at Southampton docks to the flying boats in tenders, not always a pleasant experience in rough weather. 1937 was the year of expansion on the South African route. During April to August 1938 the flying boats were accommodated at Berth 101 at the top of Southampton docks.



The improvements in the facilities and the expansion of the services were well documented in the presentation by both photographs and many press cuttings from the Southampton Echo. By December 1938 twin docking berths were established at Berth 108. In August 1939 a weekly service to New York was established using S 30 "Caribou" but the war intervened and the Imperial Airways operation was moved to Poole, where

the facilities were found to be inadequate. They then returned, to Southampton and then as the danger of bombing increased back once more to Poole in January 1940. Our most recent presentation has been by **Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye** and was entitled *Lithographic & Photogravure Stamp Printing Processes*. In fact the title did not begin to cover the wealth of material that Geoffrey presented to the audience. Starting with early examples of lithographic and letterpress printings he then showed a direct comparison between the Letterpress stamps from the 1912-24 period with the Photogravure stamps of 1934-36. His next comparison showed that compared against both lithography and gravure the Intaglio process gave a very much better image. In 1939 the leading supplier of printing inks was the German company BASF. Britain needed to conserve printing inks as much as possible and different methods were adopted which led to lighter coloured stamps. Geoffrey then discussed in detail the colour screening and screen angles that were adopted when four-colour progressive printing became the norm. He also paid tribute to the work of Harrison's and showed some photographs from the early days of Gravure cylinder etching, when workmen came to work in a collar and tie. As technology advanced so did the quality of the printing of stamps. In particular the North Korean four colour progressive printing process produced some outstanding stamps. All the way through his presentation not only was the material shown superb but Geoffrey's detailed commentary helped the audience understand the complexities involved. The latest development that was discussed was Stochastic screening. The Canadian company Lowe-Martin is a world leader in this field with nine colour printing. The penultimate frame was of some Canadian stamps designed by Dorothy Knowles. When Geoffrey enlarged the stamps it was possible to see the rich depth of colours that were present through the nine- colour printing process. No examples of his presentation are shown simply because the finite detail shown has been lost when the images are shrunk to fit these pages. There are a series of four further video presentations planned up to December and, with the uncertainty of Covid-19, it may well be that we will look to continue these presentations into 2021. As ever the society welcomes visitors to all its meetings and so if anyone reading this report would like to join us please do contact me at sec.sdps@gmail.com If anyone is hesitant about joining a Zoom meeting then still contact me and we will arrange a 1 to 1 session to show you how easy it is. Away from the meetings the next issue of "Postmark" is underway and the

society is continuing to conduct Postal Only auctions. The packet circuit is also continuing under slightly different conditions. For the latest

→ www.southamptondpsorg.uk

Eddie Mays

Wakefield

We have no plans to meet for the foreseeable future due to Covid-19. However, we are looking into the possibility of holding Zoom meetings. We have a new president, **David Hemingway**. Our past president, **Jill Fearons**, has completed her term. Our members would like to thank Jill for the marvellous job she carried out on behalf of the society over the last two years.

Julie Hitchcock

West London

After our last five meetings were curtailed, due to the plague, our members were pleased to resume our meetings on Tuesday 6th October, although with some necessary restrictions. Six, allowed to be present, from our eleven members displayed on the theme of *The letter K*. The other five will be given first refusal of attendance at our next meeting on Tuesday 3rd November. This will be another members' meeting with displays on the theme of *Winter*. We cannot, yet, have meetings of more than six or invite visiting speakers, but we hope this will improve. → Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary on 020 8940 9833 or on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or visit our website <https://sites.google.com/site/westlondonphilatelicociety> although the programme is outdated until regular meetings are re-established.

Chris Oliver

Federations

Hampshire

Having taken on the role of the Federation Secretary only a short while ago it has been a very steep learning curve, but with the current way of life I now have the time. We use our bulletin (I am also the editor) to keep members informed of



Warwick & Warwick

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club activities but at present we have to rely on the members to supply articles, news and miscellaneous items to plug the gap of no society reports. The past six months have been very hard to comprehend and the impact very difficult. All clubs and societies in whatever interest you have are all struggling just as philatelic clubs and societies are at present. With no meetings, clubs are finding it very difficult to function and along with funds not being generated things are tough and getting tougher. The Federation Chairman **Julian Jones** says: "I must emphasise the value in email addresses that have allowed intra-society communication to flourish, and the benefit of the internet for both online research and ZOOM meetings - with family as well as with fellow philatelists". The chairman recently purchased a Pro Zoom licence to hold committee meetings to avoid travel and the restrictions that COVID-19 has put on venues to keep people safe. He will also use it to facilitate meetings of other societies he is involved with. The federation has 17 members and they are using Zoom to hold virtual club meetings with displays and talks to keep meetings going if only virtually. Club newsletters, letters and quizzes are being employed to keep in contact with members. BUT communication is the word and we must use all the tools available, otherwise people will start to drift away, and clubs and societies will fall by the wayside.

Steve Gerrard

Kent

When I produced our Kent Federation report for the Autumn issue of ABPS News (it was written at the end of June) I was optimistic about clubs in Kent re-starting their new seasons programmes in September - how wrong was I! I have not heard of any Kent stamp club/society re-starting meetings until at least the beginning of next year (2021) and even that may be optimistic. Whilst many miss the social interaction between members we have to recognise that the majority of members are of a certain age and medical condition that would either prevent them from venturing out or indeed wanting to go out at this time. In addition the requirements of social distancing could make meetings more difficult to organise and control, depending upon the size and location of the meeting venue. A small number of clubs and societies is trying to engage with members by having online meetings - Zoom is one such. In addition there are still displays or specific items circulating by email. I am also aware of one club which is keeping in touch with members occasionally by phone calls. Some clubs suspended their circulating boxes during the lockdown but have now re-started sending them out - this is another means of keeping members interested and involved in the hobby. As regards stamp fairs in Kent, the vast majority have been cancelled until at least the end of the year - I am aware that the Sunday stamp fair at Bexley at the end of September went ahead and that it went very well. The Azalea Hall, Beckenham stamp fairs had expected to re-start at the beginning of October, but have now been cancelled until at least the end of the year. All this emphasises that clubs and fair organisers are in the hands of venue owners as to whether or not they can open – and then they must ensure compliance with current COVID-19 regulations set by the government. Regretfully the revised regulations and the current surge in COVID-19 cases mean that we are in this for the long haul -

well into next year. I am keeping my Kent email contacts updated with philatelic news as and when I receive relevant information - you can also find plenty of information on Michael R. Thompson's website "Supporting Philately in Kent" (<https://kentphilately.weebly.com>). *Michael Dobbs*

National and specialist societies

Civil Censorship Study Group

We are pleased to announce that all our Bulletins, 1973-2018 (numbers 1-200) have been digitised and made fully searchable.

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Further editions will be added from time to time.

Instructions for accessing the system through the RPSL website can be obtained from our officers.

→ gmarkb34@btinternet.com

Graham Mark

See 3 covers showing censor marks on page 48

Forces Postal History

Since I wrote my last report a lot has happened in terms of COVID-19 and Government rules and regulations. As a result we cancelled all our physical meetings in London until the end of the year at least and feel that this may extend well into next year. We decided to hold online meetings using Zoom and have already successfully held two such meetings, which have enabled some of our overseas members to join in as well. In addition we decided to hold a December meeting at the Community Hall in Banstead where we hold our War & Philately fairs, as the hall is large enough to accommodate up to 30 persons with adequate social distancing (not that we were expecting that number!). However, subsequent changes in COVID-19 rules following a second wave have caused us to cancel that and have a Zoom meeting instead. You can see the material shown at these zoom meetings and meeting reports on our website - on the home page on the left look under "Recently Added Displays" for individual displays. Below that are links to our 2020 meetings.

→ www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs

Gibraltar

We held our AGM/Competition meeting at the Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton over the weekend 25th – 27th September 2020. Twelve members and partners attended and although fewer in numbers it was nevertheless a very enjoyable weekend. Covid-19 restrictions as laid down were strictly adhered to. There



Colin Searle & Eric Holmes

were ten competitive entries from five members across six classes, judged on the Saturday morning by **Bill Gibb**. The morning was free to enjoy the delights of town. In the afternoon members were invited to view the entries, and then hear the judge present a résumé of his findings. Bill also commented that all the entries would have stood up well in a national competition. There followed the main display of the afternoon, a superb display of early *Gibraltar Airmails* by **Colin Searle**. It was a great pleasure to welcome the editor of the ABPS News, Keith Burton, to join us for the afternoon display. Thank you Keith for your support. The AGM followed Colin's

display where all officers were re-elected en bloc. The combined weekend was a result of the spring 2020 meeting at Clevedon being cancelled due to the lockdown. The Competition winners were **Eric Holmes** (Premier Class & GB Used in Gibraltar), **Bert Burton** (Postal History & Miscellaneous), **Doug Corbin** (QEII Class) and **Suyog Gondhalekar** (Adhesive Class & Novice Class) who was the first member to submit an entry under the revised rule which allows non-attendees to submit a photocopy entry – from California in this case. *Bert Burton*

Malaya Study Group

Like most philatelic societies worldwide MSG has been affected by the pandemic of COVID-19. Although the Annual General Meeting and Spring auction on 14th March were held, 2 meetings for 15th May (Leicester) and 19th June (London) and the first for 2020-2021, 19th September (Worthing) were cancelled. Hopefully a Zoom meeting will occur on 14th November 2020. But like a winter hibernation, activity continues. The President **Dominic Morris CBE** and Secretary **Mike Padmore** have kept us up to date by email. MSG through your correspondent took advantage to promote itself in *Stamp Collector* and its online Virtual Festival of Summer of Stamps from 9th July. The learned specialist journal "The Malayan Philatelist" volumes 61.2 May 2020, and 61.3 August 2020 edited by **Len Stanway** were distributed on time. Our website is especially useful for members, particularly those in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, USA and more distant parts of UK who cannot get to meetings. However you have to be a member and pay the subscription to obtain all the useful information in the Members' Area. Our archive kept by **Mac McClaren** is in the process of being moved for safekeeping to RPSL. A most useful service is provided by our Packet Secretary **Michael Ellison** from Moray in Scotland. ➔ Membership secretary **Martin Roper**, martinsroper@gmail.com *Michael Waugh*

If you have email but have to wait for a printed copy, make sure that your society or federation secretary has your email address.

The Great Britain PS

Due to the worsening Coronavirus situation the GBPS has already had to cancel their September meetings and at the time of writing (towards the end of September) the October and November meetings are looking doubtful, as social gathering rules are again being tightened and it looks like we are heading into the predicted “second wave”. However, details are provided below, in the hope that the meeting can go ahead. The meeting on Saturday 21st November will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW from 11am. This will be a *King George VI Definitive & Queen Elizabeth II Wildings Day* consisting of as many members’ displays as possible. This is an opportunity for showing any aspect of the KGVII or QEII Wilding definitive that you find interesting be they stamps, covers, proofs, errors or whatever. Do you have a new theory to air with your peers? Do you have a problem with which you would like some help? The Stanley Gibbons Evening Reception, planned for December, has been cancelled. Sadly, due to the ongoing uncertainty around the Coronavirus situation and the need for social distancing, Stanley Gibbons have announced the postponement of the ever-popular Christmas Evening Reception (scheduled for the evening of 9th December). It is hoped that this may be rescheduled for a date early next year should the situation improve, so watch this space. **As always, please check the website for any late changes to the scheduled programme before travelling to meetings.** → www.gbgs.org.uk

John Davies

The Royal

A magnificent gift for ‘Tomorrow’s Royal’

The Royal Philatelic Society London has received an extremely generous gift of £750 000 towards its ‘Tomorrow’s Royal’ appeal. The gift has been made available by the Trustees of the Spear Charitable Trust, and falls within its objectives of providing benefit to educational projects, training, the arts, culture, heritage and conservation. The Trustees of the Trust have a close connection with the Society through its former Honorary Treasurer, **Nigel Gooch**. The Society, in recognition of this wonderful act of generosity, has agreed to name its museum The Spear Museum of Philatelic History, an act that has been enthusiastically received by the Trustees of the Spear Charitable Trust. The ‘Tomorrow’s Royal’ on-going appeal follows the Society’s move to a new home in the City of London, at 15 Abchurch Lane, from where it plans to enhance both its own public image and that of the hobby of philately through its extraordinary and extensive museum, archives and library. The gift will provide an invaluable impetus towards achieving this goal.

West Africa SC

We managed to time our March 2020 meeting at RPSL just before Boris’ lockdown came into force! The first main display was given by **Barry Burns**: *Aspects of St Helena Stamps and Postal History*, which ranged from the first Queen Victoria issue in 1856 to the Tristan Relief set of 1961. **Ian Anderson**

then transported us to the virgin territory of *Dahomey*, for which the only published information on the postmarks was written in the 1920s. Ian hopes to produce a sequel in due course. Ian then became the ninth recipient of the Society Medal, a well-deserved award for someone who has been a very active member for coming up to 50 years. The day concluded with the customary Members' Displays, including *West African airmails*, *Southern Cameroons postal history after reunification*, *newly discovered postmarks of Ghana*, *Northern Nigeria postal history*, *Gold Coast railway items*, and a miscellany of *Interesting Items from the Nigerias*. → www.wasc.org.uk Philip Quirk

Only 27 reports from Societies and Federations, instead of the usual 50+. The next issue will be very thin unless I receive some more articles and/or reports. Surely something philatelic is happening near you. If in doubt, please get in touch with the editor. Thank you to all those who provided fascinating material for the last 2 issues. I enjoyed reading and using them.

SPREADING THE WWW.ORD

Does your Society or Federation have a Website?

Please check that the ABPS Website has the correct link.

If there are any changes needed please send them to:

The Secretary (secretary@abps.org.uk) or

The Webmaster (webmaster@abps.org.uk)

What If you don't have a website?

If you have someone willing to try creating one please get in touch through editor@abps.org.uk

We are willing to help you create a basic site.

We will then be able to publish a link to your website

Also ABPS is happy to include your programme on our website, provided that you can send it to the **Secretary** as a **pdf** document.

We cannot accept it in any other format.

Whenever you make any changes you will need to send the new version as soon as possible.

Covers from some kind collectors



Airmail from Barbados 30th January 1943, paid 1s.11d. to Curacao. Censor H/3631 at Barbados (we believe he/she was a Spanish reader, seconded from London, who also worked in Trinidad). The H prefix was the censorship code for Barbados. On arrival at Curacao the item was passed unopened.

Airmail from Gibraltar 7th August 1941, paid 1s.4d. to New York.

Examined by local censor #1 using label type 1C (known used Aug 41 - Jan 42 but not known used on transit mails). Returned to the post 9th August, after censorship. No censorship in USA at this time.



3 covers from Graham Mark



Airmail from Darjeeling 5 October 1939, paid 10 annas, to Norwich. Examined at Darjeeling by censor #1, using a label and handstamp, both very scarce, only known used during the first two months of WWII.



An airmail cover sent from a member of the Brooksville Rifles, Y Force, Canadian Forces in the Caribbean. It was censored by Censor 316 in Jamaica and posted to Peterborough, Ontario
Provided by Colin Baker, Forces PHS

I still can't believe people's survival instincts told them to grab toilet paper.

I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one leaves.

If I had only known in March it would be my last time in a restaurant, I would have ordered dessert.

At the store there was a Big X by the register for me to stand on... I've seen too many Road Runner cartoons to fall for that one.

Having some states lock down and some states not lock down is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.

Until further notice, the days of the week are now called, thisday, thatday, otherday, someday, yesterday, today & nextday.

THEY SAID A MASK AND GLOVES WERE ENOUGH TO GO TO THE GROCERY STORE

THEY LIED, EVERYBODY ELSE HAD CLOTHES ON

The dumbest thing I've ever purchased was a 2020 planner.

When Does Season TWO of 2020 Start? I Do Not Like Season ONE.

Keep in mind, even during a pandemic, no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit.

The buttons on my jeans have started social distancing from each other.

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are

Is it a British thing - to find humour in the midst of a difficult situation?

Thank you.

Some thoughts provided by **Juliet Keel** (Thatcham)

Congratulations

To the Competitors in Virtual Stampex

Special commendations go to the winners of 5 Large Gold awards:

John Davies; The South Kensington Conversazione & Exhibition

Robert McMillan; Kingston upon Hull Ship Letters

Christopher Harman; Bank Note Duty 1821 to circa 1850 - Congreve
Compound Plate Printing

Adrian Keppel; Karl Bickel - The Swiss Stamp Engraver

Christopher Harman; Liannos Poste - The Constantinople Local Post 1865 to
1867

Gold awards were won by:

Dave Rothery; Anglo-Egyptian Sudan - Wartime Air Mail

Jon Higgins; Airmails in and from British Borneo 1926-39

"Rollerman"; Overseas Business Mail from Japan (1922 to 1941)

Peter Chadwick; The Fifth Clause Post of GB

Peter Chadwick; Evolution of the Scottish Wheel Tax handstamps

Stewart Gardiner; Unpaid and Part-paid Mail to Greece 1861-1875

Glenn Morgan; Royal Household Mail: The Vidler Years, 1990-2002

Stuart Gough; Arran's Post Offices plus some other features of postal
delivery

Grace Davies; The Dove and Olive Branch, Symbols of Hope and Peace

Gary Green; The Life of the Honey Bee

Tony Stanford; The 1921 Surcharges Issued at the British Post Office in
Constantinople

Adrian Boggust; The Pence Issues of Newfoundland 1857-1929

Takashi Yoshida; 14.00 Yen Himeji Castle

There were 10 Large Vermeil, 8 Vermeil, 1 Large Silver, 5 Silver and 1 Silver
Bronze awards

In a Junior Competition 2 Silver and 1 Silver Bronze were awarded.

The Results of the InterFed Competition

1st: Thames Valley & District (John Davies, Tony Stanford, Rollerman)

2nd: Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (George Henshilwood, Stuart
Gough, Adrian Keppel)

3rd: Surrey (David Griffin, Roger Niven, Peter White)

Congratulations and thanks to all who took part

ABPS hopes that it was a good experience for all 8 Federations

British Stamp news



Common Carder Bee
Bombus pascuorum

There have been a number of new issues during the Covid-19 onslaught. Perhaps not the best timing but advertising the Pollinating Issue in October as "It's a Bug's Life" could be seen as a trifle insensitive. However I like the results – good to see small thing expertly shown at stamp size. It is always interesting to see the range of values that are included, and this set keeps up the custom of high values. In September the Rupert

Bear issue broke with tradition and included some 2nd class stamps. The series took me back to my childhood.

These two stamps show the effect of Rupert's Rainy Weather. Rupert

Bear was one of my earliest reading experiences. No doubt many others were in the same boat! Going back another month we could have bought a lot of memories with the stamps showing the stories of Sherlock Holmes, many of which have been filmed and televised. It is good to read during lockdown as a change from our stamps.

The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS



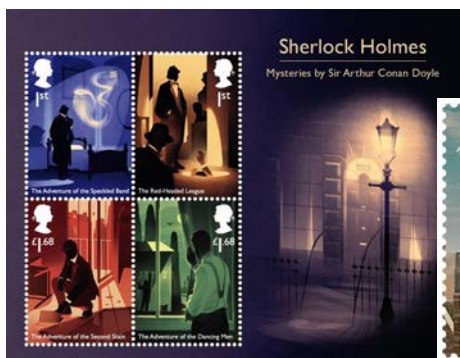
Marmalade Hoverfly
Erysyrphus balteatus



*Then with a terrifying roar,
The water bursts in through the door.*



*The bath is rocked from side to side,
And Pompey quite enjoys his ride.*



ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Other less immediate changes will appear in the details on the website abps.org.uk I will be grateful if you will send any more amendments or error notifications as soon as possible to me at editor@abps.org.uk I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. Please note the changes below.

Federations

Hampshire Philatelic Federation (p 56): Secretary Steve Gerrard
HPFSEC@gmail.com

Specialist Societies

British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group is no longer affiliated to ABPS

Local Societies

Castletown PS (p 104) will meet on Monday nights (formerly Tuesdays)

Kings Lynn PS (p 126): Secretary's telephone number is: 01553 617291

Petersfield & District PS (p 144) The contact is Robin Pizer 01730 893856
robin.pizer@pizer.me.uk

Royal Sutton Coldfield PS (p 159) Secretary has a new email address:
mandkhughes795@gmail.com

Rugby & District PS (p 151) Secretary's email is
schildermantheo@outlook.com

Scarborough PS (p 153) Secretary's telephone number is 01723 368475

Wakefield PS (p 166) has a new correspondence secretary: Nigel Harpham
nigelharpham@yahoo.co.uk or 01266 930164

The Future?

Where are the views of the young collectors who are Stamp Active? What would they like to see in the future?

Bromley & Beckenham PS was a major supporter of the Stampex and Melville Junior Competitions, and regularly won silverware. Unfortunately only one of those regular competitors is still a member.



The first picture shows **Kenneth Tonkin**, standing in for the Postmaster General, Anthony Wedgewood Benn, to open Stampex in 1966, ably supported by **Richie Richardson** holding the mike. That was the year England won the World Cup, but more famously the Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen to be found later

by the dog Pickles. The text in our history is:

"The highlight for one junior member, Kenneth Tonkin, son of the Colonial Packet Secretary, apart from winning a Diploma in the Junior Class at Stampex, was being asked at short notice to open the event when the Postmaster General, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, for political reasons, was unable to attend. The PMG had tried to persuade the Queen to dispense with having her portrait on pictorial stamps, "to allow for more design space." Ken is seen here with Richie Richardson holding the mike.

In the year when England won the FIFA World Cup, the "Jules Rimet" cup itself was stolen from the display but eventually found by the dog "Pickles" in the front garden of a house on Beulah Hill, Norwood. There is no mention of this, England's win, or the subsequent "England Winners" stamp in the Minutes."

Back in 2006/7 The British Postal Museum and Archive published three Teachers' Packs to tie in with the National Curriculum: *Penny Black Changed the World*, *First Class*, and *Last Post: Remembering the First World War*. I reviewed them at the time, but I don't know if they are still available or if any new titles have been published. Teaching methods have of course moved on, but I believe stamps offer so much opportunity for incidental learning, rather than just being used to illustrate a project.

Some years ago a local secondary school student did Philately as his main subject for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and joined BBPS where we gave him all the help we could. He passed of course, and then went off to University, and moved away from the district. I don't know if he still collects. Is "stamp design" offered as a module in any art degree courses? Or indeed IT courses using PaintShop Pro or similar software?

I don't know what the answer is but I suspect lateral thinking is needed to put stamps in front of a wider audience. Does anyone collect stamps on Doormats? I don't but this was a Christmas present from one of my daughters. How about that for lateral thinking?

David Rennie



Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary know of any changes to the details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p 58. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

Also if you want changes in times, venue, website or email addresses and telephone numbers of your secretary to appear in the Amendments List - send them to the Editor - details also on p 58.

Stamp Active Network

Learn about a 'stampy' activity every day. Share your work online, enter competitions and have fun. There will be some challenges, competitions and free give-aways. Families, teachers, youth group leaders and anyone with an interest can access the activities and join in!

Take a different look at stamps through different themes, cultures, languages. Discover how they are little works of art and you can use them to create your own works of art! And 'Stamp over October' doesn't need to end after October! StampIT can be accessed through

scottishphilately.co.uk/moodle

StampIT is supported by Stamp Active Network.



David Rossall

StampIT's been stamping all over

StampIT's launch of a new look website along with a range of new activities like *Stamp over October* has seen an amazing number of interactions from all around the world!

Stampy things is one of the new sections which has online books on a variety of different philatelic areas – perfins, watermarks, postmarks, cancellations and more. However, all of them have simplified titles and explanations along with fun activities. For example, *Stamps with holes* tackles the subject of perfins with an activity to design your own art made of holes!

The *Language of Stamps* series is very popular and recently StampIT was commissioned to produce a learning pack which covers a broad area of skills linked to China and the Mandarin language. *Let's Look at China through stamps* comes complete with individual workbooks, teacher presentation, game, online book, sound files etc. This approach makes it adaptable to blended learning. It is aimed at an upper primary level but also useful for secondary and links to the curriculum in literacy, expressive arts, modern languages and social studies.

'Let's Look at China through stamps is an engaging and innovative interdisciplinary project which covers a variety of topics whilst learning many Mandarin basics. The stamps are beautiful and pupils have been really engaged in the project. They have their own booklet to write in as well as a range of activities such as Chinese brush painting, clay



modelling and they are also using catalogues to find out information about stamps.' Language Development Officer, South Ayrshire.



South Ayrshire children at work



StampIT items

Information & contact

StampIT is the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies' youth programme and also has support from Stamp Active and the Scottish Philatelic Trade Association. → scottishphilately.co.uk/youth stampit.asps@hotmail.co.uk or Sandie Robb on 07963 070654

Stamp over October

Learn about a 'stampy' activity every day. Share your work online, enter competitions & have fun.

1 language	2 culture	3 countries	4 geography	5 themes	6 perforations	7 hinges
8 identify	9 collage	10 postmarks	11 perfins	12 first stamp	13 soaking	14 mounts
15 equipment	16 shapes	17 history	18 art	19 album pages	20 value £ \$ ¥ €	21 definitions philately stock book commemorative face value cancelled-to-order entire
22 covers	23 miniatures	24 design	25 cinderellas	26 mint & used	27 journals	28 unusual
29 watermarks	30 smallest	31 trick or treat				

Full details at scottishphilately.co.uk/moodle
 @Sandie_Robb #StampoverOctober

Diary for the next few months

Don't forget to check before making a journey

Local and regional events by ABPS members

2021 January

- 30 AEPS Annual Seminar: 9.30 - 4.30, Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, **Witham** CM8 3HR

March

- 6 Launceston Spring Fair: 10 - 3, Central Methodist Hall, Castle Street **Launceston** PL15 8BA → 01288 355918
- 26 to 28 Gibraltar Study Circle AGM: Red Lion Hotel, **Basingstoke**

April

- 24 Morecambe & District Annual Fair: 10 - 3, The Platform, Marine Road Central (opposite the Midland Hotel), **Morecambe** LA4 4DB

May

- 22 Redruth Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG → 01209 213422

July

- 7 MIDPEX: 10 - 5, Warwickshire Event Centre, **Leamington Spa**, CV31 1XN → sharrison500@btinternet.com or sites.google.com/site/midpex

August

- 7 Newquex Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St. Eval**, Near **Wadebridge** PL27 7TU (follow brown signs to Chocolate Factory) → 01288 355918

September

- 23 to 26 GB Philatelic Congress, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kings Road, **Harrogate** HG1 1XX

October

- 15 to 17 Gibraltar Study Circle Competition Weekend: Golden Lion Hotel, 114 High Street, **Northallerton** DL7 8PP

Not surprisingly few events have been notified for the Diary, but don't forget that this facility is available to all affiliated societies. You can also put forward events for the ABPS website. Have a look on www.abps.org.uk

For next year

National Exhibitions 2021

Held at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH unless otherwise stated

- 17th - 20th February 2021 SPRING STAMPEX 2021 Non-competitive exhibition of up to 100 Royal Philatelic Society Frames, 100 Years of Great Britain Postal Stationery
- 16th - 17th April 2021 PERTH 2021 Dewars Centre, Perth Competitive exhibition with ASPS → agblakeley@aol.com
- 29th September - 2nd October 2021 AUTUMN STAMPEX 2021 Competitive exhibition The British Thematic Association will lead. (Coordinator: Barry Stagg)

International Exhibitions 2021-2023

- 25th - 30th August 2021: PHILANIPPON 2021, Yokohama, Japan. FIP patronage. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Japanese postage stamp. UK Commissioner: Simon Richards simon@sidebell.co.uk
Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at www.japan2021.jp
UK participation to be confirmed. Entry deadline 1 February 2021
- 9th - 13th November 2021: IPEX 2021, Cape Town, South Africa. FIP patronage. UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison britishlocals@aol.com Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at www.capetown2021.org Entry deadline 31st May 2021
- 19th - 22nd November 2021: NOTOS 2021, Peristeri Exhibition Centre, Athens. FEPA patronage with FIP recognition. All classes invited.
→ hps.gr/notos2021 or notos2021@hps.gr UK Commissioner Mike Roberts at mjyr@btinternet.com Entry deadline 31st May 2021
- 2nd - 9th February 2022 The postponed LONDON 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH. Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts.
(ukcommissioner@london2020.co) → www.london2020.co
- 31st March - 3rd April 2022 HUNIFLEX 2022 Budapest, Hungary. FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition: postal history, traditional, revenue, thematic, open, literature. → mabeosz.hu/huniflex2022
- 18th - 22nd May 2022 HELVETIA 2022 Lugano, Switzerland. FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition most classes invited. Details to follow.
- MAY 2023 IBRA 2021, Essen, Germany. FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition. UK Commissioner: Frank Walton. Classes invited will be Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard.
Bulletin 1 issued. Entry deadline: to follow → www.ibra2021.de
Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information

Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab.

Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee
Simon@sidebell.co.uk

ABPS General Information

Honorary Life Vice Presidents

Brian Asquith, John Baron, Tony Bosworth, Mike Brindle, Peter Chantry, Michael Elliott, Hugh Feldman, John Hammonds, Phil Kenton, Margaret Morris, Susan Oliver, Pat Rothnie, Neil Russell, Frank Soutar, Richard West, Alan Wood.

Executive Committee

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j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk

Vice Chairman: **Steven Harrison**

sharrison500@btinternet.com

General Secretary: **George Henshilwood**

secretary@abps.org.uk

Company Secretary & Treasurer and Small Grants Chairman:

Nigel RN Gooch

treasurer@abps.org.uk

Minutes Secretary & Editor (Newsletter): **Keith S Burton**

editor@abps.org.uk

01423 569907

Awards Committee Chair: **Yvonne Wheatley**

awards@abps.org.uk

Communication Director: **Alan D Godfrey**

communications@abps.org.uk

Membership: **Barry Stagg**

07858 332620

membership@abps.org.uk

Specialist Societies Liaison: **Dane Garrod**

dane.garrod5@btinternet.com

International & Exhibitions Chairman: **Simon Richards**

Simon@sidebell.co.uk

PR: **John A Davies**

davies1890@btinternet.com

Congress Committee Chairman: **Gerald Marriner**

gerald.marriner@gmail.com

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Distribution Manager: **John Woodson**

jrwinrmh@gmail.com

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Please use this RPSL address for all correspondence apart from the following:

Membership (if not emailed):

ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

Society reports (if not emailed to the editor) for the ABPS News:

Editor ABPS, 6 Old Trough Way, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 3DE

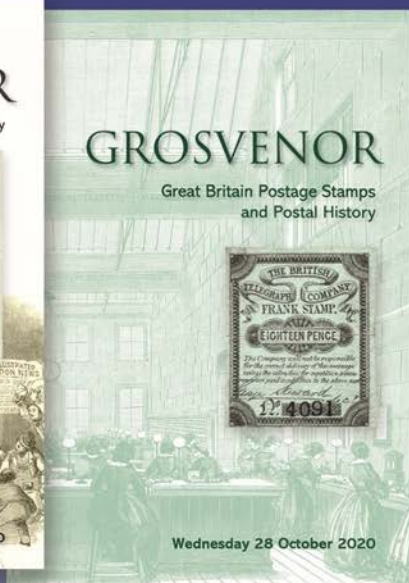
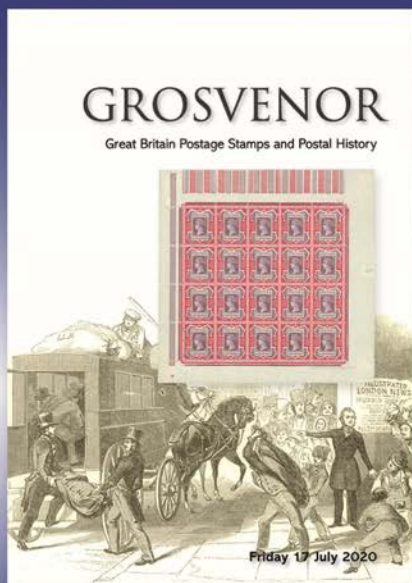
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

SAN, c/o 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4TH

ABPS News is published by the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Website www.abps.org.uk This also holds further information on Committees.

Great Britain



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14-16 Dowgate Hill
London, EC4R 2SU

Over 65 years' Service to Philately 30th November & 1st December Auctions 2020 - Great Britain & Worldwide Stamps & Postal History

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the John Sussex RDP FRPSL exceptional collection of Wilding postal history;
the Peter Stafford collection of USA stamps and postal history; and
the Dr. David M.J. Williams collection of fine St. Vincent stamps & postal history.
Also including superb Great Britain and foreign stamps;
and fine 19th & 20th century postal history.



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