

## Rogues' Galleries or The Face of the Future



Channel Islands Specialists Society  
AGM by Zoom above a Leeds  
Philatelic Society (and visitors)  
Zoom meeting

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# 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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**Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 70) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.**



## Message From The Chairman:

As I write this in January, the Covid news is pretty bleak and set to get worse by all accounts! However, there is plenty to be optimistic about: vaccines are on the way which should improve things for all of us, not that we shall be going to real meetings anytime soon, even when you read this in the Spring. Another reason for optimism is Zoom! More and more societies are organising these virtual meetings which are proving to be a real saviour for our hobby. As I mentioned in previous messages, I have been to a number of these meetings from the Royal Philatelic Society, SPH and local societies. I have come to the conclusion that their great strength is the clarity that is brought to the various subjects on offer, a clarity not always easy to achieve in traditional meetings. In difficult times, I think it always helps to have things to look forward to, and we certainly have plenty of these. From 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March, we have another Virtual Stampex coming up with exhibits, presentations and a good number of dealers. There is also another exhibition in Perth from 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April; the annual Scottish Congress with a Northern National Exhibition this year. The last one of these that I attended, I was a part of the Jury and was very impressed with the organisation of the exhibition and the quality of the exhibits. I'll certainly be looking in on these two virtual events.

Beyond the Spring, it might just be that we can look forward to live events again. I am looking forward to a Philatelic weekend; working on a jury at the National Exhibition and exhibiting all the new subjects that I have been writing up during the pandemic; four single frames and two multi-frames which will complete my exhibiting in all the National Classes.

I am sure that many of you will be looking forward to one or other of the international events planned for the year: Philanippon from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August; Cape Town 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November; Greece 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Full details of these are, of course, available on the ABPS website.

Finally, if Spring and Summer events still prove to be impossible, perhaps Autumn Stampex in late September and early October will be our first live show. Earlier in September there is the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at Harrogate. This will celebrate the Centenary of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists which was first signed in 1921 in Harrogate with HM King George V as the first signatory. This event will also be my last as Chairman of ABPS as I shall be handing over to Steve Harrison at the AGM. More about this in the Summer edition.

It has been necessary to make this edition of ABPS news digital only, and it is possible that this will be the case in the Summer. However, until then, stay positive, cheerful if you can, and keep writing up those collections.

*Graham Winters FRPSL*



## Editorial



I think lockdown and staying at home has done me good. OK I have missed going to society meetings, Stampex, London 2020 and York Fair and seeing friends including dealers - but I have kept in touch by telephone, email, Skype and Zoom. I have even made more friends by attending Zoom meetings run by other societies than my own. That has given me the chance to see how people are collecting and displaying different things. The detail that I saw in a recent Dawlish meeting (watched from Harrogate) was about flaws on early Cyprus stamps - something that I had never seen and normally wouldn't be interested in - but it was great, fascinating and well-explained. The detail that I could see when I relayed it to my television screen (better viewing and sound - another thing that I have learnt to do) was far greater than if I was peering at a "usual" display. What more could I ask for? I have also started to do my own mini-displays on small topics. These can be just a few PowerPoint slides (hadn't done that before) up to a fairly full 40-slide display lasting about an hour - I am on the second re-write. It has changed after each display - and is being prepared for the next one - but it is much easier than re-writing the pages for a "normal" display.

Another positive for me is related to my work as editor of this magazine. I soon realised that the number of meeting reports would fall off rapidly. I did not think that the situation would continue so long. I asked for articles and was astonished by the number of responses and the diversity of the topics covered. Some have been discussing the way forward, others on specific philatelic material, more on personal experience. I have had and continue to receive lots of support in this way and I do appreciate it greatly. It could be that I cannot use something that you send - forgive me if that happens. It might be that it is too similar to something already used recently or that it will just not fit in the A5 pages. I will try to tell you, but it could be that I forget - please forgive me.

A great result of this has been the number of positive comments that I have received since the first lockdown issue. The number of times that people have contacted me to say how much they have enjoyed the latest issue or a particular article has astonished and heartened me. I cannot say how much I have appreciated this. I think that saying thank you is important - so thank you to all of you for your comments. I appreciate the criticisms too - even if I don't always agree with them. The vital thing is that there has been a response to the work that the writers and I have done - and my wife as she proofreads for me!

Sharing what is going on in our collecting lives is useful to others. Try asking to join a Zoom meeting if your own society hasn't taken the plunge - many are very welcoming. I will hope to see you at one of the ones that I visit.

Finally one Monday after my computer had given notice that it no longer loved me and for continuity needed to be replaced (BAD NEWS) I received a thank you in the form of election as a Fellow of the Royal. Great timing and I am delighted to be so honoured!

*Keith Burton FRPSL*

## Society anniversaries, 2020 and 2021

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:

### GB Overprints Society - 50 years

Over a period of 86 years many different GB stamps were overprinted, either for use within GB or in post offices in various overseas territories. The first ever such issue was a 'Cyprus' overprint on GB stamps in 1880 and overprints in one form or another continued until the last, local currency overprints on stamps used in Abu Dhabi, in 1966. The principal event commemorating our anniversary is a presentation by a number of members covering many areas of overprinting. This was to have been at the Royal Philatelic Society in London earlier in the year but has been put back until March 2021; hopefully there will be no further delays due to Covid restrictions. In the meantime, readers may have seen some of the articles by GBOS members that appeared in recent editions of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, starting with the November edition. Various articles will appear in GSM over the next few months, illustrating many aspects of overprinted GB stamps. Most of our meetings are either held at major exhibitions such as Stampex or are local or sometimes overseas weekends. Covid has of course meant the cancellation of all such meetings for the time being. In common with many other societies, to fill the gap the GBOS has started Zoom meetings; the first held recently saw two presentations on British Levant. The first was an introduction, covering the history of GB post offices in the Levant, why overprinted stamps were first issued there, examples of all overprinted stamps up to WWI and some interesting items of postal history, included an 1881 postcard from Beirut to Messrs Stanley Gibbons, then based in Gower Street, complaining that no acknowledgement had been received regarding a consignment of stamps sent previously! The second presentation was a detailed study of registered post sent from Constantinople after WWI, when for a period of time the Army of the Black Sea was based there and Army and later civilian postal services were provided. Plans for future presentations are in hand and include an overview of overprinted Seahorse stamps and a look at various aspects of overprints issued by the GB post offices in the Morocco Agencies. We also maintain an active packet circuit and members are currently continuing to research various aspects of overprinting history; a recent publication by **Dr John Gledhill**, *Overprinted British Postal Orders, A Directory*, illustrates both the breadth of our interests (overprinting occurring on postal stationery as well as stamps) and the depth (the Directory comprising detailed research into an area where new discoveries are still being made). If anyone would like to join us, details are on our website, [www.gbos.org.uk](http://www.gbos.org.uk) or contact our membership secretary directly [membership@gbos.org.uk](mailto:membership@gbos.org.uk)

Julian Bagwell

## North Berks Philatelic Society - 50 Years

I joined the Society in 1978 shortly after it was formed. Originally, we met in the chairman's house but very quickly outgrew this and then met in the Southmoor village hall. By 1980 we had thirty six members and one junior, my son. Over the next few years we had displays by members and interesting displays from visiting speakers. When the Southmoor village hall was destroyed by fire the society moved its location to the nearby village of Hinton Waldrist. We meet in the village hall. I took over as treasurer in 1990 when there were 26 members. Over the years due to members moving away and inevitably deaths we are now reduced to 8 members. When we moved to Hinton Waldrist, one of our members, **Greta Barber**, was the village post mistress operating from a shop attached to her house. When she retired the post office was moved into the village hall. Not many philatelic societies can boast their own post office. Over the years we have had several members of philatelic note. **John Davis**, the war tax guru, later moved to the Bournemouth area. **Rodney** and **Edith Knight** who run the Spanish Study Circle moved away to York. As our shrinking membership has aged (most of us are over seventy) we have moved our meetings to the summer months. We still try to have at least two visiting speakers each season with the remaining evenings given over to members' displays, I hope that when the lockdown is over there are enough of us left to restart the society

*Bob Spencer (Treasurer)*

## Faroe Islands Study Circle - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Study Circle was founded in April 1991 as the inspiration of **Marilyn Amedro** and **Douglas Scott**. Sadly, Douglas died in September that year and never saw the Study Circle develop, from its initial membership of 34, all living in the UK, into the international society it is today. An important moment in the society's history was the group visit to the Faroe Islands in July 1993. Friendships were forged on that visit which flourish to the present day and which have proved fundamental to the way the Study Circle has grown. The photograph shows the 1993 Study Circle group outside the philatelic bureau of Postverk Føroya, which (at the time) was the name of the Faroe Islands' postal service. The photograph includes **Marilyn Amedro** (co-founder, secretary until 1993 and journal editor until 1995). It also includes **Arthur Jennion** (Chairman 1993-6), **John Smith** (Chairman 1996-2000 and Treasurer since 1998), **Roger Tozer** (committee member since 1996 and Chairman 2016-20) and **Sheila Denholm** (committee member since June 2020). The photo was taken by **Norman Hudson** (journal editor since 1995 and



secretary since 1998). We pride ourselves on being not only a specialist philatelic society but also a society of friends. Many of the longstanding friendships date back to that visit in 1993. But we are not rooted in the past. Our body of work now includes 58 editions of the society's prize-winning journal and 50 editions of its newsletter, both published twice a year, with their unparalleled record of information about Faroese stamps and postal history and, more generally, about the islands' geography, history, wildlife and culture, usually shown through the medium of philately. The society currently has members in 16 other countries outside the UK. In January 2000, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* said the Study Circle is "a very lively group which really enjoys its collecting and many associated activities". That was accurate then and remains true today.

*Norman Hudson*

## **It was 20 years ago that the Pakistan Study Circle began to play!**

You might recognise that I am paraphrasing the famous lyrics by the Beatles: "It was 20 years ago today, Sergeant Pepper taught the band to play". Although I am not comparing us to the amazing achievements of the "Fab Four", nonetheless it is remarkable that four passionate people managed to start a society that has keenly promoted Pakistan philately to an international audience for the past two decades. This is how it all began.

As the new century was getting into its stride, an excited group of philatelists were making their way to the historic Court House at Warwick, situated in the heart of England. The date was Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2001 and the respected auction house Warwick & Warwick was holding one of its regular bi-monthly all-world stamp sales.

Not being a regular attendee, fortuitously I had been alerted to the sale by a brief description in the *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* magazine. This reported that a large collection of Pakistan material was to be imminently offered in 75 lots.

Subsequently the catalogue duly arrived and I was intrigued by the mouth-watering descriptions and low estimates against each lot. Never before, or since, have I seen such a comprehensive collection of Pakistan (and Bahawalpur) material offered at a public auction. For example, lot 612 described as: Excellent collection of mainly illustrated FDC's, substantially complete from 1948 to 1977, contained in 4 bulging albums, some duplicates per issue but only to show different cancellations and cover illustrations - Estimate £30. Then lot 620 announced elusive Partition overprints: Gilgit. "Pakistan" rubber handstamp in violet on KG VI postage values to 12a M, on India 1½a postal stationery envelope unused, on India ½a on 9p postal stationery card unused (2), on officials with KGV 2a 6p M, KGVI values to 1 r, 2r and 5r M (5r with double overprint) additional values to 5r FU on pieces etc Estimate £75. If you prefer decimal overprints lot 648 boasted: Magnificent specialised collection of 1961 decimal surcharged local handstamps, well written up and presented by district in 5 bulging albums, providing M and FU pieces, covers including postal stationery errors, officials, etc. Far too technical and extensive for a detailed



description but close inspection should prove very rewarding. Estimate £330. This is typical of the quality in each lot.

Although a seasoned Pakistan philatelist of 30 years, I had not met more than one or two other serious collectors of this (then) underrated country. Thus, I entertained strong hopes of being able to secure the bulk of the lots, possibly even below those tempting estimates.

With the sale commencing at noon, and only interested in the Pakistan lots, I slipped into the main hall around 2 pm and was surprised at how full the place was, with all the seats taken by collectors and dealers. Standing at the back of the large room, time passed slowly but eventually the auctioneer reached page 31 of the catalogue and the first Pakistan lot at 609.

As this number was called, my bidding paddle optimistically shot up but was immediately outbid and being at the rear could see other paddles enthusiastically raised from different parts of the hall. So much for thinking I was the only interested party! Lot after lot saw estimates exceeded with the majority going well beyond my budget. The bidding frenzy continued until lot 684 brought the Pakistan section to a close. I immediately left to collect my acknowledgement, listing the lots won. It was only then, when others joined the queue, I realised that most of the bidders had also been solely interested in the Pakistan lots. We were now in an excited group checking our winnings and totting up. I was very gratified to find that 14 lots had been knocked down to me. It didn't take long to introduce ourselves as all were happy to discover others shared their passion. I fondly recall meeting such enthusiastic collectors as **Dennis Attwood**, **Martin Robinson** and **Mike Roberts** for the first time. At Mike's suggestion we decided to start what was to become Pakistan Study Circle (PSC); quickly exchanging contact details, the four of us as founding members. Little did we realise that one day we would find ourselves celebrating this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with the 40<sup>th</sup> issue of Pakphil, which was initially started by **Jeanne Pogue**, who passed it on to **Jeff Siddiqui**, and finally PSC took over the publication of this journal.

P.S. Upon paying for and collecting my lots, I asked for an extra catalogue. Therefore, if you would like a memento of the wonderful collection that led to our formation then please email the editor stating why you would like it. The member with the best reason will be sent the spare catalogue. *George Rab*

My recollection is very similar to George's. What he did not know was that the collection in its entirety had been offered by an auction house in Holland a few months earlier for sale AS ONE LOT. I had reluctantly decided for financial and logistical reasons that to purchase it was not viable, but the penny dropped when I later saw the Warwick & Warwick catalogue at a Huddersfield Philatelic Society meeting.

I spent a day viewing the week before the sale, and returned to Warwick with the assumption that, no-one else in his right mind collecting Pakistan, I would clean up. Most of the blood was spilled over the Partition overprints. I secured the five volumes of 1961 surcharges and quite a few other lots. What was noticeable

was the relative youth of the Pakistan collectors. With the exception of Dennis, we (and there were a couple of other chaps from London and Birmingham with whom we soon lost touch) were all in our forties. We had all been collecting in splendid isolation, in the North, Midlands, South West and on the South coast, since our teens, stamps from a country which were interesting and (up until then) cheap.

Whilst it would be wonderful to go back in a philatelic Time Machine and attend the sale again (or even go to Holland!) it is pleasing to note that collecting Pakistan is now very popular and that there is great enthusiasm amongst younger collectors both in the UK, Pakistan and elsewhere. *Mike Roberts*

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

## **Michael Elliott**

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Mike Elliott, (aged 82) sadly passed away having suffered a serious stroke five weeks earlier. Mike had been a keen stamp collector for many years and an enthusiastic and active member of Rickmansworth and Amersham Philatelic Societies. He leaves a widow, a daughter, a son and four grandchildren.

*Mervyn Pigg*

## **Rest in Peace - Colin Spong**

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain wish to record, with much regret, the passing of **Colin Spong FRPSL**, who passed away in his sleep on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at the age of 90.

He served the society as editor for 16 years during which time our journal won many awards. Colin was Chairman for three years and became the society's Life President in 2010.

He was a Friend of Philately and was a regular attendee at Congress where he gave a paper on *The Secretary Bird*, detailing the work of the secretary of a local society. He was the Joint Secretary of the 1978 Congress held at Worthing.

In 1983 Colin received an Award of Merit for services to British Philately.

He was a member of Kingston-on-Thames Philatelic Society before moving to Worthing and joining the local society there. He spent ten years as joint secretary for the Worthing Society and then went on to become president.

Colin collected Slovakia and had a serious philatelic interest in Madagascar. His studies enabled him to produce a monograph *Madagascar Rail and Mail Services* for the Indian Ocean Study Circle in 2003.

As a committee member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society he contributed a regular column for that society's journal as well as convening the Southern Group of that society for 32 years.

Our thoughts are with his widow, Pat, to whom he was married for 60 years.

Colin was always ready to give encouragement and share his philatelic knowledge. He will be greatly missed.

*Yvonne Wheatley*



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

This is

**HOW THE STAMP TRADE WORKS**Philatelic 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

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** **Wrong Price**  
**Wrong Place**  
(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** **Wrong Place**  
therefore **Wrong Price**

**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** **Wrong Presentation**

**Wrong Structure** **Wrong Protection of Price**

- 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** **Place** and **Price**

**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).

**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 & Parties 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...



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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**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 30% 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 QJ What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?**

**AJ 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 wanted 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



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/Describer 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

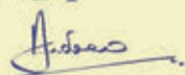
So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to \$200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps 

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

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## Paquebots of the Mediterranean 1842-80

*This is the report of the display from Tony Howgrave-Graham to the France & Colonies (Wessex Group) - see page 52 for the rest of the report*

81 covers on 56 sheets were shown having recently been improved courtesy of **Peter Mayberry**. Starting with Franco-Italian mail from Marseille to Genoa, Livorno, Civita Vecchia, Naples, Messina and Palermo, the various modes of sending and receipt were looked at with examples posted in offices receiving standard pc or gc numerals.

Those posted in the Marseille mobile box got "Ligne" CDSs and anchor cancels whilst those posted in gangway boxes weren't cancelled until receipt at the port of entry. Here examples of the 5-bar Livorno and Civita Vecchia grill were shown. These were replaced by Italian numeral cancels which were also shown including the rare (reputedly unique) Palermo boxed "1". Some were also cancelled by the various attractive "via di mare" entry marks. There was also an 1867 "Brigade Francaise/Italie" cover from Rome. Moving eastward the paquebot service to Salonica and Constantinople was shown



*1867 double rate entire posted in a gangway box at Marseille cancelled by the Civita Vecchia grills*



*1873 quadruple rate posted in the Marseille mobile box to Constantinople*

including a nice 1871 cover franked the 40c Bordeaux provisional. Venturing into the Black Sea there was a named paquebot cover to Galatz. On to the Crimea including an 1855 envelope, with the "KHAO" lozenge of Kamiesch, from General Coulston to his wife and a double rate cover from an officer of the Imperial Guard where the reason for the double rate was a very large and elaborate wax seal! Rounding the Black Sea there was a cover from Samsoun and back through the Bosphorus to

Brousse, Smyrna and into the Mediterranean with Volo, Mersina, Levant, Syria, Beyrout and one from Jerusalem cancelled at Jaffa. The display ended with pc and gc covers from Egypt.

*Tony Howgrave-Graham*

## Queensland Used in Victoria

### A Cover to Charles Lathrop Pack

This is a registered cover with a mixed franking of Victoria and Queensland stamps to the value of 5½d from Howard Davies, a Melbourne stamp dealer, and addressed to Charles Lathrop Pack, the noted American philatelist, at Cleveland, Ohio and redirected to Lakewood, New Jersey. The cover bears a red City Road, South Melbourne registration label No. 162 and the stamps are cancelled with an unframed circular postmark of 'City Road/Victoria' dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 1911. The stamps paid the registration fee of 3d plus the surface rate of 2½d to the USA.

There are handstamps of **REGISTERED**, **Forwarded** and **859**. On the back are receiving markings of Cleveland, Ohio and Lakewood, NJ and a philatelic souvenir label for the First Australian Congress and Exhibition, Sydney, 1911.

Charles Lathrop Pack was born in Michigan in 1857, the son of a wealthy timber businessman. He continued in the business and became one of the wealthiest men in America prior to WWI.

He was one of America's most distinguished philatelists and was a leading practitioner of positional plating. He formed outstanding collections of NSW, Victoria, New Zealand, Spain, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. His plating of the Brazil 100 reis stamp of 1894-1897 showed that a collection costing less than 1d a stamp could garner a gold medal. He became the owner of the famous 'Bull's Eyes' 30 and 60 reis stamps in a joined strip now known as the 'Pack Strip'.

He also wrote the book 'Victoria - The Half Length Portraits and the Two-penny Queen Enthroned'.  
Viv Sandercock



Charles Lathrop Pack



## A Personal View from *Dave Cleaver*

2021 is the Centenary of the Torquay and Teignbridge Stamp Club, and it couldn't have come at a worse time!

Our club is probably fairly typical among stamp clubs. Membership is mostly elderly, conservative, and not highly computer-literate. Many members do not have mobile phones, never mind smartphones. We decided quite early on in the outbreak that we would suspend meetings until further notice, but I don't think any of us expected that the crisis would turn into a pandemic, that currently shows signs of continuing, in some form, at least until the summer. As even this is still uncertain, there appears to be reluctance in the club to go ahead and make plans which probably can't happen. Our biggest problem, apart from the understandable fears and concerns of an older membership, is that we use a church hall as our meeting venue. This is managed by a committee of similarly elderly, apprehensive, conservative church members, who are also understandably focused on keeping themselves safe and protecting friends and family. So they are not meeting together either, and this is a double blow to trying to make any plans. Everyone is at home, keeping themselves to themselves, and few plans of any sort are being made. Of course this pattern is probably being repeated all over the country, and even though this might sound like a grumble, it's not anyone's fault. These are undoubtedly unprecedented times, and we're all doing the best we can, given the unique and varying limited resources available to us.

We didn't have very grand plans for our centenary, but plans were in progress. Nothing had actually been finalised, and there were some decisions still to be made about which suggestions/options would be pursued, and by whom. We managed to hold one committee meeting between lockdowns, but due to the venue problem, and the fact that mass gatherings were (and are still) impossible, there was little that could be done. The main business of that meeting was to discuss the club website that had been built, and to explore ways of holding remote video/phone meetings. The website had been built by, and on the initiative of, one of our members with much support from a member of the nearby Exmouth club, following the launch of the Virtual Stampex. It was well received. A small number of members have since contributed articles to [www.torquayandteignbridgestampclub.org](http://www.torquayandteignbridgestampclub.org). The idea of "Zoom" (other platforms are available) meetings was accepted by the committee, but members' response to the questionnaire we sent out was not encouraging. A couple of members with some experience expressed a willingness to host Zoom meetings, but bereavement and other circumstances have conspired to prevent any progress here. It would have been a very limited start, with maybe only a handful of members joining, but the committee decided on the "build it, and they will come" approach. In the event, the Dawlish Club has taken the lead in our area, and has been good enough to invite outside contacts to join meetings. These have worked very well, and it will only be a matter of time before word gets around as to how interesting and useful these meetings can be.

I detect a general belief that the club will just go into some kind of hibernation, or state of suspended animation, until it is safe to poke our heads out into the open air again, at some point in the future. The belief seems to be that when the vaccine has been rolled out, everything will get back to normal. We should be able to hold meetings again starting in September or October, and we'll be able to get back to normal, and just carry on doing the things we did before. This is not a criticism - it's an observation based on what I've heard and seen. In many ways it would be lovely to get back to the way it was before the pandemic, but the cold truth is that it will never be the same as it was. And it never could be. I used to deliver a Project Management introduction course, and one of my favourite PowerPoint slides was the one that said "If you do what you always did, you'll get what you always got." In other words, things only change when you make a specific intervention to change them. This is a basic tenet of Change Management.

There's not been much evidence of much organised "philatelic evangelism" during the pandemic. Several reports seem to indicate that the hobby is experiencing something of a growth spurt. It is, of course, the kind of activity you can undertake on your own, at home, buying material on line, and just getting on with it. Many dealers report increased sales, obviously those with an on-line presence. We all miss the fun of a stamp fair, rummaging through boxes and crates of assortments, covers, old albums, part collections, remnants, etc, but a lot of us have spent a lot of money online. But for me, the great part about having any collection is being able to show off what you've collected, or how you've presented it, whether you've followed any traditional conventions or not. Every collection has its own story, and it doesn't matter whether it breaks any "rules" or not - it's your collection, and the principal feature of that collection is how you present it, and the explanation you give to fellow enthusiasts about why you did it that way.

So, I don't really think that philately is just a solitary hobby. It can be, but if you never show or discuss your collection, and never see anyone else's, then I think your experience is all the poorer for that. The focus of the ABPS, and any other national level forum, therefore, in my opinion, should not be simply about philately - philately will survive (people will always collect things - it's human nature). Stamp collecting is not in danger of extinction. What is at risk of extinction is stamp clubs, or what I like to generically refer to as "Organised Philately". This consists of local clubs, local federations of clubs, specialist nationwide clubs, and national level associations. These are all fed and nurtured upwards - it's like a food chain, starting with the individual collector, and his/her need to have fellowship and interaction with like-minded collectors means that he/she goes along to the local club in his/her town. In turn, the town club, and neighbouring town clubs, are affiliated to the local county-type federation of clubs, and so on, upwards. If individual "town" clubs fall by the wayside, eventually the federation will, as well. Many "town" clubs have already gone, over the last couple of decades, with membership dwindling to a handful, and then the club either winds down or merges (officially or unofficially) with a nearby

club, and the process repeats until the size of the catchment area becomes so large as to become a discouragement, due to the distances that must be travelled. Distances are acceptable for members of National Clubs and their Regional and Study Groups, which probably meet quarterly, but for a local "town" club that would typically meet fortnightly during a season, or monthly, this is too large an undertaking for most elderly members.

So, how do we address this? The first thing we have to do is be brutally honest with ourselves. The future of stamp clubs and philatelic societies does **not** lie directly with the current membership. The elderly profile of club memberships means that (and this is a guess - I have no statistics, but assuming that the majority of members are in their 80s or late 80s) it is reasonable to assume that within 5 years, stamp club membership would be reduced by 50%, due to death. We therefore need to be attracting new members into town clubs. And to plan properly for the future, we need to aim at the 45 - 55 age group, generally. People can argue what exactly that age group should be, but for the sake of argument, let's just use the 45 - 55 age bracket. The reason I say this, is that, at 64, I am somewhere near the youngest member of our club, and the general age bracket of our members is 20 years older than me. There are only maybe three others around my age in the club, and so far, only one other with committee commitments, and those four of us are not enough to sustain a club when all the older ones have died. (I'm sorry if this sounds brutal - it's meant to!!) The next step is to "flesh out" our target future membership. What sort of people are they? Where do they live, what are their other hobbies? What do they spend most of their time doing? Well, crucially, at that age, they are hopefully working, and in full time employment. This brings two key factors into play. The first is that because they are of working age, they have limited time available, and quite possibly, limited finances available to fund their hobby. The second, though, is much more of a positive thing. It is that they are of a "tech-savvy" computer-literate generation. Their working life will revolve around and depend upon the use of electronic media in some way. They will have a computer on their desk in the office, and they will be familiar with word processors, e-mail, Skype, Zoom, the internet, and things that many of us have never heard of. They will use them as everyday tools, and have their own equivalent hardware and software at home, and in their cars, and on their smartphones. In fact, they will not just be familiar with it, they will probably be dependent on it. If, by any chance, at their relatively modest age they have a desire to join a local stamp club, their first thought would be to Google the local town stamp club, so if your club doesn't have a website, it is, in effect, invisible to the type of people we need to attract. The chances of such people finding us are very slim. The people we need to recruit to be the next generation of members of "Organised Philately", whether we like it or not, or whether we even recognise it or not, will be tech-savvy. They will be on Zoom, they will be on Facebook, and in multiple Facebook specialist interest groups, they will be permanently on the internet, they will have expensive smartphones with more computing power than NASA needed to land men on the moon. They will have group chats and meeting capabilities, video phones, streamed music and data 24/7. They will order takeaways and pay for

them on their phones, and they will do their shopping online, and pay in the same way. They will not use telephone directories and Yellow Pages, or go to their bank. They will book and pay for theatres and restaurants on their phones, as a matter of course. These things will be second nature, and perfectly normal and everyday to people of this generation.

Maybe we don't realise it, but by default, we expect them to find out about stamp clubs, somehow, and to go along to a cold, draughty, damp church hall, maybe twenty-five miles or more away, to help old men lug chairs, tables, and display boards from difficult-to-access cupboards or storerooms into the main hall, for a two-hour meeting with old men who are very traditional and resistant to change, clinging on to the 1970s for dear life. (OK, maybe that's a bit over the top, but I'm trying to make a point here!) But their modern day expectations of how stamp clubs should work would probably include fully interactive websites, where they can join and pay their membership fees on-line, with videos, maybe a live chat feature, and other things I can't imagine, or a Facebook page or group or other social media platforms that I don't yet know about.

Maybe the ideal primary target member is the recently early retired. Possibly a bit older, late 50s onwards, but with similar levels of "tech-savvy" and familiarity with IT systems and social networking, having only just finished working. They may have a little more disposable income, with the mortgage paid off, family grown up and left home, and a retirement lump sum and pension. They would also be more physically and mentally active, and looking for something to do with their retirement and newly-found time.

Whether our priority should be seeking early retirees, or people who are still working, is largely irrelevant. The point is that we need to be actively pursuing and recruiting this type of person, so that we can pass the baton on to them.

My own experience is that I retired just before I turned sixty, with the intention of finding a stamp club to join and get involved with. I had sufficient funds to start seeking out items I didn't yet possess and to mount them all "properly" with a suitable write up. I instantly regretted not having sought out a stamp club earlier, while I was still working, as I realised that I had been denying myself access to the wealth of knowledge, experience, advice and friendship that I found. My "excuse" for not doing it earlier was that I worked away from home during the week for a number of years, and getting to club meetings would be difficult, and that I didn't have enough time, when working, to spend on my collections. How many times have you heard people say "I collected stamps in my teens and twenties, but then life got in the way, and I got married and had a family, and had a career to build"? I realise now that I could have picked up this great hobby much earlier, and learned much more from being an active member of an active club.

Some readers will recognise some of the IT facilities, techniques, or "tech-savvy" attributes that I mentioned, and may even use some of them occasionally, but probably in a sort of grumbling, grudging kind of way, still bemoaning the passing of a bygone era. But that is my point! It is a bygone era! What Coronavirus has taught us, surely, is that we have become extremely



complacent about all sorts of things (all age groups, all walks of life, all aspects of life - not just old men who collect stamps!). We should take nothing for granted, and we should always be looking for ways to innovate, and move forward. Information Technology is crucial to this, as has been demonstrated by the ABPS championing Zoom meetings, and the highly successful, highly untraditional Virtual Stampex. This is indisputably the way forward.

I mentioned earlier the Zoom meetings of the Dawlish Stamp Club. I was unable to join the first one, and I understand there were only about six or seven attendees. The second one (my first) had fifteen, if I remember right. It wasn't perfect, and you could always argue that it was never going to be a substitute for seeing actual stamps, and gathering round the boards, having a cup of tea and chatting and discussing and admiring the exhibits and the presentation. But, it **was** a philatelic meeting, and you could see who was there, and there was a bit of banter. It went very well, and with more practice, and more people willing to spend the time and effort to put together a display in PowerPoint format, I can only see a great future for this type of meeting. Amongst other things, you don't have to get the car out on a cold, wet, windy, winter's night, and you can pour yourself a glass of wine, or have a bottle of beer, or make yourself the perfect cup of tea (just the way you like it), and sit in your favourite comfy chair in your own home. What's not to like about that?? Furthermore, you can invite people from "up country", or "down south", to give presentations that you would otherwise never get the chance to see. The potential to increase the available pool of "visiting speakers", and therefore subject material, is immense, and involves your club in little or no expense.

There is currently much talk in the media about "loneliness, anxiety, and mental health issues affecting all of us, in these difficult times". I don't know how real any of these are - I don't feel them, fortunately, but what I do know is that, even with lockdowns and other restrictions, life doesn't have to be so singular, or so isolated. (I know a few people who are a bit fed up, bored, disappointed, or frustrated, but let's not confuse any of those with genuine anxiety, depression, or mental health issues.)

Today, there are several methods of using technology to talk to people remotely, either one to one or in groups. We don't have to wait for that technology to be invented - it's already here!! It's all over the place, but sometimes we treat it like the elephant in the room, because we don't want to have to admit that we have to take the responsibility ourselves to address it and learn about it, and use it. We all have sons and daughters or other relatives or friends who can help us get started. And if we continue to resist it, and not embrace it, we are in danger of presiding over the extinction of organised philately.

We have to get younger people in to our clubs.

We have to use technology to attract them in.

We have to let them bring their technology with them.

We have to let them use their technology for advertising, publicity, general awareness, out there in the communities in which our clubs exist.

We have to let them (in fact we have to actively encourage them) to get involved, grow and develop the club into a fit-for-purpose community for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and take the club forward, for us, for themselves, and for those who will come after them.

We have to stop clinging on to the past, and we have to stop sleepwalking towards an extinction event.

We have to act today, or there will be no tomorrow for “Organised Philately”.

*After that thought-provoking article perhaps you feel strongly enough to reply.*

*Please do - we need to hear as many views as possible of the way forward.*

**NO FIVE COLLECTORS ARE ALIKE**

Here is something to tax your brain when you want a rest from your thoughts of the future and your collection. Logical thinking will get you there - or you can look at the answer on page 60 and see how it fits the 6 clues

ALFRED, BRIAN, CHARLES, DEREK and EDWARD are all collectors but none of the five collect anything like any of the others.

Please tell me who collects what, where they buy it, where they keep it and in what condition.

NAME	COLLECTION	CONDITION	STORAGE	WHERE BOUGHT
ALFRED				
BRIAN				
CHARLES				
DEREK				
EDWARD				

1. Neither Alfred nor Brian collects used stamps, either loose or on cover, whereas Derek’s Flight covers in the box all have air mail cachets from around the world.
2. The person who buys direct from the Bureau never goes into his local shop, not even for an album.
3. Brian and Edward put their purchases into printed albums, but neither goes to fairs or auctions; Edward is housebound.
4. The person who collects thematics puts them into his stockbooks as soon as he gets home.
5. The Commonwealth approval dealer doesn’t sell mint stamps, mounted or otherwise.
6. The Post Office FDC album only houses GB items, unlike the Davo Europa and SG GVI albums.

© David Rennie

## Simple “Rules” for Effective Digital Presentations

Over many years (more than 100 or so!) we philatelists have developed a highly effective format for displaying our material. We generally mount our material on A4 sheets (in portrait format) and surround that material with detailed explanations and information.

In the early days, such sheets were handwritten. Philatelists then adopted typewriters before moving onto word processors and later desktop publishing software. The two examples below show two such sheets, illustrating the effective use of these established techniques.



There is evidence that in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, some presenters at philatelic societies used “magic lantern” projectors to illustrate their displays. Regrettably, very few societies have continued that development and many presenters have failed to adopt modern projection techniques to illustrate their material using a laptop and digital projector.

The 2020 pandemic and the abandonment of regular meetings meant that to keep going, some societies turned to ZOOM meetings. Members quickly realised that their “usual” A4 portrait format was not ideally suited to their computer’s landscape screen. The example following illustrates this limitation.



It is clear that the original sheet appears cramped with diminished writing - and a very large portion of the screen is empty. Some presenters have tried putting two of their pages onto one screen. The illustration below shows this.



Although they fill the screen and are better than a single sheet, the images are still cramped and diminished. With effective use of a scanner and investment of a little time, the presenter can create alternative images which display the same material in a much more attractive and effective way. The two illustrations below



show the original sheets, now scanned, cropped and rearranged to suit the landscape format.



Here are 10 straightforward rules/guidelines that should be applied when preparing material for digital display - whether it be for a ZOOM presentation or for a digital introduction to one of our society meetings.

Present no more than four images on any one screen.

*One or two covers or a small group of stamps is more than enough.*

Use as little writing as possible.

*Remember **you** are talking about the image; your audience is looking and listening and not reading. **You** are in control of the information.*

For one slide, talk for a maximum of 2 minutes.

*One minute is better.*

Manipulate your image (using colour and sizing tools) to improve its appearance.

*Bring out the colour or detail you wish to emphasise and crop out any extraneous material.*

Put an enlarged image of a smaller part of your object alongside the larger object.

*This is particularly effective when you wish to show the detail of a cancellation alongside a cover.*

Master the technique of using your scanner to generate high quality images

*The software for your scanner will enable you to scan at varying settings, thus providing different detail levels.*

Don't use photographs unless you are a really competent photographer.

*Think about your reaction when you look at an item on eBay and see the cover, postcard or stamp out of focus and badly lit?*

Introduce a variety of both display techniques and material throughout the presentation.

*The same format and layout on a number of slides is as boring as the same format on repeated "conventional" pages.*

Similarly, don't take up too many minutes explaining the intricate details of any highly specialised aspect of your philatelic material.

*Such material may not hold the attention of members for too long. Think about the times you have endured a detailed 10-minute explanation of a minor flaw in a stamp.*

Don't display all your material on a screen that has a stark white background.

*Pastel colours or grey make better backgrounds for your material and are far more restful and tolerable than plain white.*

Several philatelists have said to me that such display techniques demand an expertise in PowerPoint or its equivalent. Good displays can be made using jpeg, PDF and other image formats. However, the use of PowerPoint does enable you to construct a coordinated display which is easier to manage. It is well worth the effort to learn some basic PowerPoint techniques.

Please remember our aims when we display our material. They are:

- ◆ To show other philatelists the joys and wonder of our area of study
- ◆ Maybe more importantly, to encourage any new people in our audience to pursue the hobby and join a society.

- ◆ Think carefully before you cram your digital presentation with masses of information and poor images whilst talking a great length. You may not be achieving these aims.

Some other philatelists have also said to me that they have been displaying **their** material in **their** own way for many years and don't want to change now. The future of our hobby depends on attracting younger people. By not adopting up-to-date presentation techniques - with which these younger people are totally familiar - we may be contributing to the slow decline of our fascinating hobby.

**PostScript** - I have written this article to be deliberately straightforward, blunt and even provocative. If you disagree with the points made, then please write to the editor and say why you disagree. The more we debate these changes, the greater the chance of being successful in the vital processes of reinvigoration and renewal.

*Richard Smith* Leeds Philatelic Society

*And here are the thoughts of someone who has taken the plunge*

## **PowerPoint experience**

We have all experienced many changes in our lives since the coronavirus has struck - none more so than the cancellation of society meetings. Each society has met these changes in its own way - some have just shut up shop until it's all over; some have circulated newsletters (electronic and physical) in order to keep the group together and connected whilst others have experimented with Zoom meetings.

The Royal has probably led the way in this and has found that it has drawn in its members from all corners of the globe. The 2020 Virtual Stampex has also demonstrated that whilst face to face meetings are the most desirable option, there is a lot to be said for electronic communications. As one of the booth holders for the Royal I was able to see and communicate with people in India, South Africa and even as far away as Harrogate!

However, the use of video conferencing is not confined just to large societies and organisations; two smaller ones of which I am a member have also embraced this comparatively new technology. Recently I have been asked by two different organisers to put together Zoom presentations to give to members. A challenge on how to go about it. My approach was based on the 3 'P's - Plan, Prepare, Present.

Well, my first presentation was a relatively short one as it was to be a regional meeting of the Royal along with contributions from other people. So, the first decision had to be what to show. When giving a display one is normally restricted by the number of sheets, and time is a secondary consideration. In this case time was the constraining factor (about 20 minutes) and the number of slides needed to fit in with it. My approach, therefore, was to try to 'tell a story' rather than just show a number of covers around a topic so I chose as my subject *The Canadian Expeditionary Force in WWI*.

From my collection of 50 or 60 sheets relating to the First Contingent I chose a number of items that I felt were of interest in their own right and at the same time were sufficiently related in order to tell the story of this particular group of

soldiers. After scanning each of the items I moved on to PowerPoint and selected a plain background from the available templates as I did not want a pattern to distract from the material. The first slide had to be one which introduced the subject of my presentation so having uploaded my first item I then added text then went to the icon which said design ideas' and up popped some suggested layouts, so I chose the one I felt most appropriate

My next slide consisted of a post card with a special cancellation, so I uploaded that, with some text and also an enlargement of the postmark. As a result, PowerPoint was unable to suggest a layout. Rather than leave the background plain I went to 'Design' then 'Format Background' and selected one which I felt appropriate - it was light blue in 'Pattern Fill' as I felt that this highlighted the material without overpowering it. I proceeded to prepare my other slides either using suggested formats or plain slides with the selected background, whichever I considered was most appropriate. In order to link together some of the items and illustrate the story it was necessary to add in some illustrations and maps.

I also enhanced some of the slides in two ways. Firstly, by adding in some enlargements of a key feature, for example the postmark. Secondly, some of the slides were built up by using the transitions feature whereby text and/or images can appear individually onto the screen. It was great fun playing about with this tool in order to make the whole presentation livelier and hold the viewers' attention. However, this has to be used judiciously otherwise it can be confusing for the viewer. Similarly, a balance has to be struck between the number of slides shown and the talk that goes with it. How many of us have suffered 'death by PowerPoint'?

My next move was to write a script to go with the slides as it is not possible to tell the whole story on the slides and in the heat of giving the actual presentation it is always possible to forget something. Some people prefer to just make it up as they go along but I felt that I wanted to make sure that I could cover all the key points and that the talk and the slides flowed.

From doing this I made changes to the slide presentation and also my talk until I was satisfied that everything fitted in nicely and was timed at exactly twenty minutes, the time I had been allotted. Having satisfied myself that it was ready I passed it on to a colleague for his opinion. He pointed out the inevitable grammatical/spelling mistakes which saved yours truly from some embarrassment.

Before the big day the organiser very sensibly arranged for all of us to go through the technical process of giving our presentation so that everything would run as smoothly as possible. Having got my presentation 'Oven Ready' all I had to do then was wait for the big day.

So, what was my experience of giving my first Zoom presentation? Well, overall, it was an enjoyable if different experience from giving a normal display. Firstly, it seems rather strange talking to yourself for twenty minutes. Normally you can look round the room and see whether or not you are holding the attention of the audience or if anyone is nodding off. You just have to deliver it and hope for the best. Secondly, prepare for the unexpected. In the middle of my talk the



telephone went off right next to the microphone - not good. We had not had an incoming call for some 10 days and it was not something I had considered but I will in future, and it will be disconnected.

The advantage of preparing PowerPoint presentations is that once you have done so it is available to present anytime. For those not having PowerPoint, presentations can be put together using Word and I have seen some very good ones. This method of presentation is different from giving a live display in which you have to prepare each one individually, even if you are using the same material, because some societies want 90 sheet and others up to 180. You can also give your presentation to any society in the country or even overseas, without having to go there.

From a society's point of view, it can help to expand membership from just those people who can physically attend meetings to anyone to whom you give access to the site, literally anyone in the world. The disadvantage of course is that anyone who is not familiar with computers is left out. Whilst I would not like to see them replace meetings entirely - that would destroy the very essence of the social side of the hobby - it may be the means of ensuring that societies survive even after Coronavirus becomes a footnote in history. Also, it is good fun putting together and presenting. Give it a go.

*Alan Spencer*

## GBPS YOU TUBE CHANNEL

The Great Britain Philatelic Society now has a YouTube channel. This hosts the videos of the Society Zoom meetings and other presentations provided by members. These videos are intended as a member benefit and some are restricted to members of the Society.

The 30-60 minute presentations from the recent "GB Collectors' Conference" are now available on the GBPS YouTube channel for anyone to view, and cover a wide range of topics in GB stamps and postal history. To see them you need the direct links which are on the website at [www.gbbs.org.uk/videos](http://www.gbbs.org.uk/videos)

We plan to add more videos to both the public and members' sections of the channel in the coming months, so remember to subscribe!

Full details of the Great Britain Philatelic Society and an application form can be found at [www.gbbs.org.uk](http://www.gbbs.org.uk)

## 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 70. 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 70.

## THE 2020 INTER-FEDERATION COMPETITION HELD AT VIRTUAL STAMPEX

The Inter-Federation Competition held at Virtual Autumn Stampex attracted entries from eight federations. There were 24 entries to be judged. The opportunity was taken to give judging experience to three Federation-level judges. They judged the exhibits and submitted their results to two experienced National judges, who moderated these results to arrive at a final result. As an incentive to encourage first-time entrants, a bonus of five points was added to their score. With a limited timescale, the Federation judges only had five days to judge the entries and review their scores with their team colleagues. Done remotely, this was more difficult than the usual jury-room huddle.

The purpose of the moderation was to ensure that the scores were similar to what would have been agreed by a national jury, to provide feedback to the Federation judges on their judging skills and recommend areas for attention and provide detailed feedback to the exhibitors. The Moderators provided more extensive feedback than usual, as there was no opportunity for personal interaction at the frames.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, none of the judges had ready access to libraries to read up on unfamiliar topics, which would normally be done.

The 24 entries covered a wide range of subjects over most available classes. However, the general standard was very high. Some exhibits were reclassified in order to obtain the best mark. This was explained in the feedback. It was encouraging that fourteen of the entrants were first timers.

The results are summarised in the following table:

Federation	Aggregate Score	Position
Thames Valley	271	1 <sup>st</sup>
Scotland	263	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Surrey	259	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Mid-Anglia	254	4 <sup>th</sup>
Yorkshire Philatelic Association	244	5 <sup>th</sup>
Wessex	240	6 <sup>th</sup>
Sussex	234	7 <sup>th</sup>
North West	224	8 <sup>th</sup>

Our thanks to the entrants, the Federation judges and Nick Martin who ran the back office. The whole exercise was an enlightening experience. If it is repeated, then more time should be allowed for the online judging.

*Patrick Reid & Christine Earle. Moderators*

## Three Important ABPS Reminders

### Make Someone's Day

We all like to be appreciated if we give outstanding service to British philately. It means a great deal to receive recognition through a Congress Medal or an ABPS Award of Merit.

So, if you are a member of a Federation, Local or Specialist Society affiliated to ABPS and you have a member or members whose services you have relied on and they have made a valuable difference to your organisation for a number of years, now is the time to nominate them for the 2021 Awards.

Go to the ABPS Website ([www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)) and the Awards tab. Under Awards of Merit, you will find a Nomination Form followed by the Guidelines for both the Congress Medal and Award of Merit. Complete the form and send it to me by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for this year's awards.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yvonne Wheatley*: Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

### To Treasurers and Secretaries

The ABPS affiliation year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December and at the start of the year I send out email requests to each Society to re-affiliate (to the very few clubs with no email contact details I do send letters).

**If you are a secretary or treasurer of a society and you have not received a re-affiliation request please contact me asap.**

My contact details can be found on page 70.

*Barry Stagg* ABPS Membership Secretary

### To all those who have created PowerPoint Displays (or their equivalent)

For now and the future societies are going to need Zoom speakers with suitable displays. You have seen earlier what can be done or you have already done it. ABPS wants to help - so we need to know the names, contact details and subjects for all those who are willing to provide full or partial displays. We need a Zoom Displays List. Please send the details to the editor or to the Secretary. They can then go on our website for Programme Secretaries to see. Thank you in advance.

*Keith Burton* Editor

## 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. Consider the length 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.

## **Forthcoming international exhibitions for which applications are invited.**

The following six international exhibitions are currently accepting entries from the United Kingdom. If you would like to enter any please contact the UK commissioner shown at the bottom of each. As far as we are aware they are not affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and are likely to proceed. All exhibits must have already achieved at least a vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national show.

**Perth April 2021** is the only qualifying opportunity in the British Isles prior to London 2022. This will be a virtual exhibition. It will also be an opportunity to qualify for the exhibitions listed below. See the Diary (page 69) for details.

**PHILANIPPON 2021. Japan World Stamp Championship Exhibition 2021.**  
Held at Pacifico Yokohama Hall B/C, Yokohama, Japan from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

A full international exhibition under FIP patronage and FIAP auspices. Website [www.japan2021.jp](http://www.japan2021.jp)

All FIP classes except astrophilately and maximaphily accepted at 11 000 yen per frame (about £75) or 14 000 yen (about £95) for single frames and literature. UK handling charge is £30 per frame.

Deadline for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 but late entries may be accepted if you hurry.

For entries → the UK Commissioner **Simon Richards** at [simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:simon@sidebell.co.uk)

**IPEX 2021 International Philatelic Exhibition, Cape Town, South Africa.**

Held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Date change). This is an FIP specialised exhibition with FIP patronage. Website <https://capetown2021.org>

All FIP classes accepted except astrophilately and maximaphily at US\$65 per frame, US\$80 for single frame entries and US\$80 for literature, plus a UK handling and transport charge of £30 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. For entries → the UK commissioner, **Jon Aitchison** at [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com) 01279 870488

**NOTOS 2021 European Philatelic Exhibition, Athens, Greece.**

Held at the Peristeri Exhibition Centre from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021. Website [hps.gr/notos2021](http://hps.gr/notos2021)

A full European international with FEPA patronage and FIP recognition. All FEPA and FIP classes are accepted at 30€ per frame and 30€ per literature entry plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. For entries → the UK commissioner, **Jon Aitchison** at [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com) 01279 980488

## **HUNFILEX 2022 Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition. Budapest, Hungary.**

Held at Millenial Park, Second District, Budapest, Hungary from 31<sup>st</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022.

The exhibition has FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. Website [www.hunfilex2022.com](http://www.hunfilex2022.com)

Available classes are Traditional Philately, Postal History, Revenues, Thematic, Open Class, One Frame and Literature. Frame fees and entry deadline are yet to be announced. UK handling and transport charge is £25 per frame. For entries → the UK commissioner **Bill Hedley** at [ewlhedley@gmail.com](mailto:ewlhedley@gmail.com) 01892 531516.

## **HELVETICA 2022 Specialised World Exhibition, Lugano, Switzerland.**

Held at the Padiglione Conza Convention Centre, Lugano, Switzerland from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

The exhibition has FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. Website <https://www.helvetica2022.ch>

Available classes are World Stamp Championship Class, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Thematic, One Frame and Literature. Entries open soon. Frame fees are CHF80 per frame or CHF100 for one frame entries and Literature Class. UK handling and transport charge is £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. For entries → the UK commissioner **Chris King** at [chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net) 0208 346 1366.

## **IBRA2023 World Stamp Exhibition, Essen, Germany.**

Held at the Messe Essen from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Date change).

Website [www.ibra2023.de](http://www.ibra2023.de)

A full international exhibition under FIP patronage with FEPA recognition. All FIP classes are accepted at 80€ per frame, 110€ for single frame exhibits and 50€ for literature, plus a UK handling and transport charge of £25 per frame. UK deadline for entries is September 2022.

For entries → the UK commissioner **Frank Walton** at [Frank@FrankWalton.com](mailto:Frank@FrankWalton.com)

**UK handling charges** have now been standardised on all international exhibitions at £25 per frame for shows in Europe or £30 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits, and £25 per literature entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner → **Jon Aitchison** at [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com)



# 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. Contact details for the societies are on the ABPS 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.*

### Barnet & District

It is now almost 9 months since we were forced to suspend our normal meetings due to the corona virus, and like other local societies, we recognise how important social contact at the ground roots has been in promoting our wonderful hobby, and how important it will be to maintain some kind of networking until we can all return once more to studying each other's collections in intimate detail. Our packet secretary, **Bev Nicholls**, has managed to keep our packets circulating safely. Like masked intruders we pass them on to each other in a plastic bag which can be wiped down and can be left unhandled for a week if necessary, and we don't require the usual signature of the receiver. Our treasurer, **Steve Fraser**, has suspended subscriptions for this year, and has upgraded our website so that he can update it regularly. We are now able to post 9-sheet displays from some of our members on it every fortnight on the days that we would normally have met. We invite other philatelists to view the collections, and welcome any comments. As we cannot hold any live auctions we have decided to hold our first **Postal/E-mail Auction**, which we have circulated to other societies within reasonable driving distance of the secretary's home where the lots are kept. In recognition that the postage on a number of the bulkier items might be considerable, we have suggested that winners collect their winning lots where possible, and we are prepared to send scans of most of the lots if requested. We have even managed to hold a Virtual Committee Meeting by Zoom, albeit without the usual hospitality. Flushed with this success, we are contemplating holding regular Virtual Society evenings in the same way, and perhaps hold the various competitions that we missed holding earlier in the year in this way. Only time will tell if we are doing enough to maintain our membership.

*Alan Harris*

### Barnsley

As a society we had a donation of stamps going round in a box, to support Against Breast Cancer. It was mainly GB on paper collection, but we have been giving 5p a stamp or more if desired, and some have added their spares to the

box, and so far have raised £75. It has kept members in touch and entertained several who may be missing a good sort. We didn't find any penny blacks, but members filled some holes in their collection.

*Jill Fearons*

## Bromley & Beckenham

We recommenced circulating boxes in September; much appreciated by the members, and continue to do so in the second lockdown with members passing on “no-contact” at the doorstep. We believe these “welfare” visits are in the best interests of members in isolation, with something to look forward to, help maintain morale, counteract possible depression etc. Following the success of the display-lectures at Virtual Stampex, in October, (still available to view until the end of the year), we commenced our own programme of ZOOM display meetings. These started with the postponed AGM at which all officers were elected to continue in post, and all subscriptions were extended free of charge until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. We ran our postponed Grand Auction by post/e-mail/telephone in October with reasonable success, and will plan another in the spring. Meetings have had slowly increasing attendance. At the first we learnt some more of the basics of the software, which has improved our subsequent meetings and prompted better presentation of the material. Then **David Rennie**



*1937 Malacca to India and return*

showed two heavily postmarked covers, *1937 Malacca to India, 1964*

*Winchester to Australia*, both undelivered and returned to sender and **Mike Dobbs** showed 2 covers with British Forces Postal Service 1000 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of the war with Japan and ending of WWII, and the other with British Forces Postal Service 3229 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to celebrate 75 years of British Forces in Germany. He also showed some Revenue Protection

labels used in 2019 - £2 fee for mail where no postage has been paid and £1.50 for underpaid mail – the latter being a dual English/ Welsh language label. In October **Nick Hervey** showed two copies of the *Johore 1876 2c SG1* with Crescent and Star overprint, **Mike Dobbs** produced *Buckingham Palace machine postmarks* on three covers, **Adrian Thomas** had *Bishop Mark, 1880 1d Venetian* on cover to Bonham-Carter and **David Rennie** showed 3 Covers - 1941/2 cover to Sumatra and return “No Service”, GB EVIII FDCs,



*2 Johore SG1 (Straits Settlements SG 11 with overprints) - true or forgery?*

1948 Montserrat registered to USA with Customs cachet, 1951 registered St Kitts to Curaçao and returned.

At November's first meeting **David Rennie** showed 16 sheets of his collection of *Australian Postage Dues* with a suitable commentary. He commented on the plagiarism of the USA design for the NSW issues and its subsequent "scratching out" amendment to the plate leaving a white space for the Commonwealth of Australia issue. He then continued with the green unified "completed" design issues with values to 20s, "SPECIMEN" overprints or CTO cancellations from the Collectors' packs.

The bi-coloured design was adapted from the Victoria design, (which had in fact preceded the NSW issue), when printing was switched to Melbourne. Its subsequent changes in printing methods and revised designs, watermarks and perforations and numerous plate/printing varieties were also included. At the

next meeting **Nick Hervey** gave a fascinating and informative PowerPoint presentation about the life and death of *Captain Fryatt* during WWI. This included illustrations of the man and his memorial monuments, his exploits and heroism in attacking German U-Boats, his various vessels, his crew, his State Funeral and later private funeral, and other Fryatt-related items including a mountain in Canada. Accompanied by detailed biography Nick reported on Fryatt's death by firing squad for being a "Franc Tireur" or "combatant civilian." He also included material relating to Edith Cavell, British propaganda leaflets against the Germans, (also published in other languages), the Ruhleben Internment Camp etc. Finally in December **Adrian Thomas** gave an erudite,



informative and entertaining display about *Pietism on Stamps*. He started with an analysis of stamps by country. Most stamps are German where the movement started. Pietism in Scandinavia was very influential and Norway, Denmark and Finland have philatelically celebrated their



#### TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT

Are you concerned about leaving a specialised stamp collection to your heirs who do not have a knowledge of stamps or the stamp market? Plan ahead by registering details of your collection with the free and confidential "Warwick & Warwick Trustee Service". The department will ensure the correct method of sale of your valuable collection after your death and in accordance with your instructions.

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Pietists, but Sweden, in spite of having many influential Pietists, has commemorated none of them. He included Martin Luther, who ignited what became the Reformation, with stamps depicting him including a controversial Vatican stamp. Other German stamps followed showing Paul Gerhardt, Philipp Jacob Spener, August Hermann Franke, Gerhard Tersteegen, Johann Albrecht Bengel, and Nicholas Ludwig Count von Zinzendorf. Scandinavian Pietists included Hans Nielsen Hauge from Norway, Nikolai F S Grundtvig from Denmark, and Paavo Ruotsalainen and Lars Levi Laestadius from Finland. Zinzendorf provided assistance to the Moravian Church which as one of the oldest Protestant denominations in the world dates back to the Bohemian Reformation of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and to the reformer Jan Hus. Material related to the Moravians was illustrated, and because of their missionary work, stamps from all over the world are available. The Pietist influences have been enormous and these were illustrated. They include depictions of the theologians Fredrich Schleiermacher and Karl Barth; founder of Methodism John Wesley; the philosopher Søren Aabye Kierkegaard; and Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was executed by Hitler. Pietism is the basis of much that we see that is typical of modern Protestantism.

*David Rennie*

## Burnley

We are not great users of online as a whole so those who will have joined up with other groups. Some have tapped into the Royal PS and one member who is in a study group encompassing South Africa, USA and Australia found a cheese and biscuit/bottle of wine at 3am was just right! Another linked with Stockport PS. Some show direct and others email PowerPoint items which the host puts up as a split screen presentation. All on a learning curve but improving. What do we do for the older members (our eldest is 92)? At present we are dropping things through letterboxes whilst on a weekly shop at 8am! Difficult times but we all have to change with them.

*Barry Evans*

## Caledonian

The 'Caley' has been holding regular meetings over the Winter and weekly meetings are scheduled for the first four months of 2021. The first meeting of the



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New Year took place on 14<sup>th</sup> January and took the form of *The Committee Entertains*. Contributions were received from six Committee members, wide-ranging from *Prominent Americans* (most certainly not Donald Trump!) through *Lanarkshire Postal History* to *US Local Post*. All enthusiastically enjoyed the philatelic experience as shown by the reaction at the end of the meeting. Anyone interested in joining our

meetings → **Alistair Burrow** [alistairburrow@btinternet.com](mailto:alistairburrow@btinternet.com) for more information.

*George Henshilwood*

## Chichester & District

### IN MEMORIAM:

**George Nash**, a valued member of the society, died in September. He was also a member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society. With Chichester he held Life Membership for services and offices held throughout many decades with us. He leaves a wife, **Kath**, who is also a member. George was a true gentleman, kind spoken, and very helpful to other philatelists seeking information on stamps. He will be greatly missed.

Seven members of the society submitted two pages each to an Online Competition held in July/August. Topics included *Third Reich Germany*, *Horizon Labels*, *The Destrier (Horses)*, *Cricketing Gems*, *Cyprus*, *King Edward VIII* and *HAPAG Private Ship Letters*. First place went to **Frank Griffiths**: *HAPAG Letters*, and joint seconds were

**Michael Asteris**: *King Edward VIII* and *Martha Brown*: *Third Reich*. In September/October we held a one-page challenge with seven members submitting material. **Bob Tebbitt** came first with *Good Old Sussex By The Sea*. Second and third were **Martha Brown**: *Germany 1922 Printed Postal Card* and **Howard Morgan**: *Newfoundland 1908 2c Lake Security Printing*. Thanks to other members who took part: **Raymond Butler** *Isle of Man*



*1894 1pi postcard from Cyprus to Ireland*

*Railway Douglas to Port Erin Line, Christopher Podger Cyprus*  
*Correspondence of Government Officials, Heather Lawn Palm Cockatoo.*  
VERMEIL AWARD! Hearty congratulations to **Howard Morgan** for achieving a Vermeil award at the Virtual STAMPEX 2020. He entered a single frame of *Newfoundland Aerophilately 1919-39*. Sadly, so much has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. We managed a committee meeting in a park between lockdowns, have kept “glued” together by telephone calls/newsletters/emails, and have the packet up and running (but not in Lockdowns). Our AGM was shelved. We hope to hold it in 2021 when, hopefully, a new President will be elected. **Martha Brown** has held this position for two years and thanks all members for their support and kind words during the pandemic, especially where very difficult decisions have had to be made. She also thanks committee members, **Frank Griffiths**, secretary, and **Howard Morgan**, treasurer. Online Competitions wouldn't have been possible without the maths/computer talent and inspiration of **Alan Bush**, competitions secretary, and packet secretary **Alan Price** has done a great job keeping tabs on all those stamps and covers! With ALL members pulling together and communicating with us/other members we will survive this pandemic. Indeed, many new ideas for competition/quiz night/meetings have arisen! It has been a privilege to serve as president (and as news editor). The past two years have certainly been busy with our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Pandemic.  
*Martha Brown*

## Cockermouth

Rather late in the day we began Zooming in December, with **Nick Coverdale** pressing the buttons and handing out the buoyancy aids to those dipping their toes into virtual philately for the first time. Copying other societies we have tried members' displays at first, but invited speakers and a quiz are on the agenda for the coming months. Following the success of the postal auction in October, another sale will be held in the spring with about 500 lots of GB and world stamps, postcards and postal history. Material from a couple of estates and three of our members who have been having a “proper clear out” make up the bulk of the sale, with something of an emphasis on local postal history and world stamps. Jabs permitting, the sale will be “live” in May. Otherwise it will be postal only, with viewing in the auctioneer's garage, garden, or, as last time, on the pavement, depending on the prevailing social distancing rules. Catalogues should be available by the end of February → [mike@mikerobe.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikerobe.co.uk) or 07885839622.  
*Mike Roberts*

## Dawlish

Our October Auction had to be carried out as a Postal Only Auction. The response by members and many fellow collectors was fantastic and we had one of our best auctions ever. The consensus was that everyone must have been working on their collections. Due to the Covid lockdown we held the November meeting on ZOOM with a reasonable attendance including people from outside the club. Presentations were given by **Jim Wigmore** on *Postal Oddities* and **Bill Lusty** on *Early French Mail*. We agreed to invite one of our external attendees to



Early airmail to Cyprus

give a presentation along with club members at our December Meeting which was also on Zoom where the attendance was double that of the October meeting. The attendees included visitors from East Grinstead, Gloucester, Plymouth, Sidmouth and Torquay Clubs. Presentations were given by **John Biddlecombe** of Gloucester on *The Self Adhesive Stamps of New Zealand*; **Jim Wigmore** and **Pete Halmkin** of Dawlish gave presentations on *Early*

*Cyprus Air Mails* and *The First Stamps of Sarawak* respectively. It was agreed that we would make these presentations available for use by other clubs.

Jim Wigmore

## Dundee & District

Like all societies we had to solve the issues related to Covid 19. Committee meetings were trialled using Zoom and once confident of its use members' meetings started. The first full meeting took place with displays by three of our officers. **Francis Podger** provided a PowerPoint display related to *Singapore*. He began with a Share Certificate giving a detailed explanation of why the certificate had to be stamped three times due to the increases in revenue charges. He then displayed some Postal Stationery and two letters to Singapore. **Charles Lloyd** then displayed a series of registered covers from the 14 different *Mobile Post Offices (MPO) in South Africa* in the 1950s. These could be bilingual or unilingual. All registration labels were shown as English first. Finally **Norman Kelso** gave a PowerPoint display on *2d Blue letters*. He explained that 2d blue stamps were issued between 1840 and 1876, and gave an interesting insight into the numerous varieties of 2d stamps used. His display also showed how underpaid letters were dealt with. The next month our president, **Harry Jackson**, gave a presentation linked to the *Monte Rosa / Empire Windrush: A Ship and its Postal History*. He followed the history of the ship, originally the German cruise ship *Monte Rosa*, by displaying photographs of the ship as a liner and then, during the war, as a troopship. Post-war the ship was allocated to Britain as a 'prize boat' and renamed the MV Empire Windrush. Between May and June 1948 she sailed to various destinations in the Caribbean. It was one exceptional voyage that resulted in a significant historic event in modern British social history. Finding the ship would be half empty on the return to Britain from the West Indies in June 1948, the managing agents sold discounted passages mainly to Jamaican men who wanted to emigrate to the UK for work. The Windrush arrived at Tilbury 21<sup>st</sup> June 1948 with about 1000 passengers, about half of whom were West Indian men and also 60 Poles. In 1954 the ship caught fire in the Mediterranean and sank. He included a display of a sheet of customised stamps commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the



## WINDRUSH 70 AND BEYOND A LEGACY THAT TRANSFORMED BRITAIN 1948-2018



THE SS EMPIRE WINDRUSH SHIP ARRIVED AT TILBURY DOCKS, ESSEX ON 22 JUNE 1948, WITH 492 PASSENGERS FROM JAMAICA, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, WHO CAME TO ASSIST WITH POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION IN BRITAIN.

DURING 2018, WE WILL MARK 70 YEARS OF WINDRUSH WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THESE STAMPS, TO COMMEMORATE AND PRESERVE THIS RICH AND FASCINATING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



© STAMP DESIGN ROYAL MAIL GROUP LTD 2018



Empress Windrush at Tilbury. The stamps were a result of the work by the Birmingham-based Kingsway Project <http://www.windrush70.com>. **Annette Robinson** of the Kingsway Project attended our meeting and outlined the story of these stamps and the difficulties faced. They were finally authorised in 2018 with a few days to spare. Colin Campbell

## Halifax

News from behind the mask. The 2020-2021 season has set off with a hesitant start, but we are zooming along as members are becoming more competent with online meetings, with the more competent leading from the front. Attendance is rising steadily with new membership and guests attending. We have had nine successful online meetings including **Mike Roberts** presenting a series of his five-minute favourites consisting of seasonal items starting with a *Postcard with Christmas themes from the Federated Postmen of York 1895*. Knowledgeable members provided additional information. This was followed by series of letters and Christmas cards originating from Ken Abbott who was in *The Gambia* during WWII to family/friends in England. Mike noted an inward telegram from London informing that the house was gone, family ok. He deduced from the dates that it was possibly a result of a V1 flying bomb. **Bill Tait** produced his second display featuring *Germany Schleswig-Holstein*: a general history with covers and stamps 1848 to 1866. Bill outlined the geography of the area, the majority of which was originally controlled by Denmark. He discussed its tortuous history.



followed by a short display of postcards generated during the *Berlin Blockade 24.6.1948 to 12.5. 1949*. The blockade was put in place to isolate Berlin from "the west" fearing that new currency arrangements would put "the east" at a disadvantage. Cards featured included transmission by The Air Bridge put in place to maintain supplies to Berlin, which had both East and West German stamps, a 1963 black and white card showing the Berlin Wall and a 1986 25<sup>th</sup> Wall Anniversary PPC. Bill finished his display with personal photographs he had taken whilst on a cycling holiday which featured the Brandenburg Gate and refurbished ornate East German postboxes. **Paul Allen** featured mail transported between *India and Mauritius 1868 and 1870* to enhance trade between the two, describing the routes and rates available despite there not being a direct steamer service. He also showed *Mail via Southampton*. **Max Smith** showed a *Letter from Bombay to Halifax* sent in June 1840 via the Persian Gulf route which was expensive and unpredictable. The contents were an invoice for a bale of woollens delivered to Bombay. Max described the route taken via El Co steamer to Muscat, to Bushier dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, camel post to Beirut, Admiralty steamer to Marseilles 1<sup>st</sup> August arriving London 6<sup>th</sup> August. Guest displays included **David Druett** showing a recently acquired *Hawaii UPU 1897 postcard* posted in 1900 which featured a message concerning bubonic plague which had broken out on Hawaii. The securing and burning of contaminated buildings in the Chinese area resulted in some 38 acres being incinerated. He compared the period outbreak and written description to the current COVID-19 epidemic. Also **Graham Winters** showed a letter in *Cover from the Pontefract MP Sir Roland Winn of Nostell Priory*. The cover had a Foreign Office tête-bêche mark possibly because Winn had worked in that Office. Meetings appear to be thriving.

Adrian Lee

## Kendal & District

Like all other societies, we were obliged to comply with the Government-imposed restrictions in the early part of 2020. Afterwards, members anxiously awaited the easing of these restrictions and, for our Cumbria-based society, that occurred in late August, enabling us to hold a meeting in September. Given the size of the room we hired, we were restricted to ten members: this was not a problem for us as we only have eight. By late September, restrictions were tightened and we were advised that only six could attend future meetings. To manage numbers, members were advised that they had to confirm their attendance in advance with the secretary and the first six to register could attend. Fortunately, only five registered. In any event, we had a system in place where two members said they would not attend if the other six registered. As for the meetings, the September one related to *Recent Acquisitions* while the October one was *Something beginning with L*. To facilitate social distancing, members were obliged to follow a one-way system. They were also told not to pick up any of the display sheets. We remained compliant with these and other venue-specific regulations. Soon after the October gathering, the rules changed again resulting in us being 'shut down'. Members are left wondering when the next meeting will take place.

Philip Gerrard

## Kingston & District

We have not met since March, but our Exchange Packet is alive and well. The Newsletter has continued to be issued regularly with donated articles from members. It is with some relief that we have had the offer to resume our meetings at our original venue when Covid-19 permits us.

Chris Oliver

## Leeds

After receiving confirmation in March 2020 that our venue was closed, our committee “met” to plan and prepare for regular ZOOM meetings. A few weeks later, members responded to the call to adopt - and adapt to - the new platform. Our programme of 13 meetings ran from June to mid-December, keeping to our regular pattern of fortnightly meetings. During seven of those meetings, members showed a wide variety of their material - adapted to suit this new ZOOM format. These evenings included admiring some stunning *Russian stamp designs, covers celebrating the 1940 Olympics* and *Stamps and Covers from the 1956 Royal Visit*.

Five visitors also gave individual displays:

**Maurice Buxton:** *A Look at the Early Development of USA philately;*

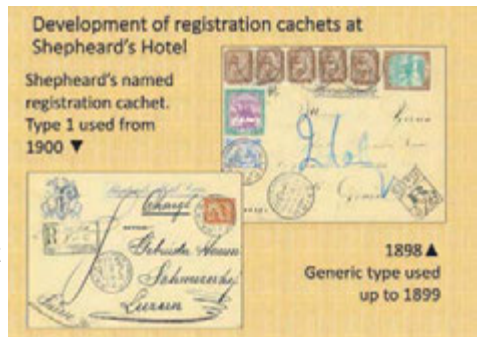
**Roger Oakley's** *One-shilling stamp journey around the world;*

On one evening three members of Stockport Society showed us *Dutch Postage Dues, Stamps Commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voyage of Columbus* and *Along the Newcastle to Edinburgh Mail-Rail Route;*

**Paul Kellett's** presidential display, with a novel approach to the *History of Two World-Famous Stamps;* and

**Richard Wheatley's** colourful journey through the *Hotel Post Offices of the Nile*.

During one of our members' evenings, we asked members to show items acquired during the lockdown and tier periods. We had so many volunteers that an additional evening was “squeezed” in between Christmas and New Year! Over twenty members regularly attended these ZOOM meetings and 3 new members joined us during this period.



Richard Smith

## Maidstone & District

We are taking tentative steps in the direction of Zoom meetings in order to maintain our contact and show some of our latest purchases online or our attempts to convert displays to PowerPoint. It will be interesting to see what members have managed. Sorting out continues as well - who knows what we will find? We look forward to the next Virtual Stampex and even being able to “travel” to Perth.

Brian Stonestreet

## Petersfield

We held a few meetings keeping members apart but enjoying a range of displays from them. Unfortunately we have lost two prominent members of the club. **John Gammon** died in August but we did not know. We have printed an obituary and a photo in our ongoing Newsletter. John was a founder member in 1966 and was responsible for a lot of the advantages the club received during his tenure. **John Leathes**, another longstanding member who contributed a lot to the society, has also died. Our chairman, **Robin Pizer**, is keeping the club going as long as he can. The monthly meetings have been suspended. The annual auction in March has also gone.

David Allen

## Redditch

We launched our 50<sup>th</sup> season in traditional fashion with *New Acquisitions*. What was less traditional was that instead of meeting in person, we held our meeting online. Five members contributed material. The second September meeting was held using Zoom and our treasurer, **Alan Godfrey**, gave a display entitled *The Amazing Life of Sir Hubert Wilkins*. This PowerPoint display told the story of George Hubert Wilkins (1888-1958), a little known Australian polar explorer. 1<sup>st</sup> October marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of the postcard in UK. To mark this occasion our speaker was **Richard Farman**, who gave us his

PowerPoint display *The Origins of the Postcard*. A fascinating evening for everyone. The members' display on *The Forties* was an evening which drew material from 1640s to 1940s. The earliest item was **Chris Jackson's** 1646 cover from Charlton, near Pershore to Hanley Castle, complete with photographs of the sender and recipient! (at least photographs of a memorial and an engraving). The Quiz Night on our programme for November was replaced with a members' evening of *Stamps*.

The winner of the single sheet

competition was **Chris Jackson** with a much-travelled cover of 1858 sent from Stoulton, near Worcester, which received 12 cancellations and 13 manuscript markings before ending up in the dead letter office. Our December speaker was **Neil Ritchie**. In order to make this a PowerPoint presentation there was a change to the programme to *WWII Mail from Warsaw post offices to the Red Cross in Geneva*. Neil gave us a detective story par excellence, narrated by the fascinating history behind the mail, together with some outstanding items of postal history from an astonishingly short period. The final meeting of the year



*First day of issue of GB Postcards*

was our usual *The Committee Entertains*. All our members on the Zoom call were asked to provide themselves with plenty of seasonal fare: sausage rolls, mince pies etc as well as a glass of something cheering. Five members of the committee provided displays. The latest edition of our 10-page newsletter "*Halcyon*" was published in December and is available on request. ➔

[www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk](http://www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk)

Alan Godfrey FRPSL

## Ringwood

We have published our first Newsletter for Members, the December 2020 Edition. As our president, **Colin Mount FRPSL**, wrote these past months have been a difficult time for us all, and like many similar organisations we've been hit very hard by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The committee has discussed various ways of keeping in touch with the members, and our newsletter 'UNHINGED' is one new way of doing just that. Apparently good material is very hard to come by, possibly because many past collectors have returned to the hobby during this pandemic. So if you see material that looks good it may be worth taking a chance by buying it. We planned a Christmas Zoom Social and having visited other societies' Zoom meetings are looking at adding our own. We hope to hold RINGPEX in June ➔ Diary for details.

Paul Barry

## Sheffield

The 2019-20 season finished early due to lockdown, but restarted in September 2020 with twice-monthly trial displays on Zoom by members to both learn how to give these displays and also judge how effective they are. Whilst they are not as pleasant as meeting face to face, they have the benefit of being able to explain the items on display to everybody watching.

We are now in the process of arranging "visiting" speakers to give displays. The syllabus secretary is arranging speakers to the end of July. He will post them on our website. Any ABPS member who would either like to present a display to us or attend a meeting should contact the secretary, **Richard Hindle**, at [secretary@sheffieldps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldps.org.uk) He will pass on details of those who wish to give



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displays to the syllabus secretary or provide links to the Zoom meetings. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
*Richard Hindle*

## Southampton & District

Our worst fears have been confirmed - we will not be holding club meetings before May this year. Luckily the members are still receiving the quarterly magazine 'Postmark' and the flow of articles to the editor has been surprisingly good. Live auctions are on hold but the next postal auction is in February and there are nearly 600 lots in the catalogue. The packet circuits have been re-activated, with new precautions in place, and the video presentation evenings are steadily growing with an average audience of 30+. The programme of these presentations until the end of April is on our website under Meetings.

Our last October presentation was given by **Malcolm Coe** and told the story of the eleven stamps shown below. A simple display but it gave an insight into the *British Military Postage Services in Egypt during the period 1932 - 1935*. In 1932 the Egyptian Government decided to increase the postal charges for Forces mail. In response the British Government paid their Egyptian counterparts the reputed sum of £10 000 for the first year and then £6000 pa for the next two



years and in exchange they were allowed to produce a series of stamps to be sold in the NAAFI canteens and shops. The eleven stamps show the different versions that were used in increasing numbers during this period.

In early November our esteemed **ABPS Editor Keith** took us on a Pan-European tour from Mount Olympus to Munich and then northwards to Kiel (Sailing) and

Ausburg (Canoeing) when he followed the *1972 Olympic Torch Run*. His talk was illustrated with covers, stamps and maps of the route and it was fascinating to see how the route wandered, sometimes for political reasons, and how much or how little philatelic material was produced by each country; Germany used one design but different colours.

**Mike Torreggiani** returned at the end of the month with Part 2 of his display of the *Allied Zones in Germany*, with the emphasis on the Russian Zone. Mike admitted that this evening's presentation was a vastly reduced display but it still contained some very splendid examples of philatelic material. We moved continents for our next evening. **John Wills** (Milford Society) talked about the short history of the *Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland* (1953 -1963), created by the British Government under political pressure from the local

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

populations John showed fine examples of all the stamps produced during the period. He also displayed examples of aerogramme and various covers, like the one alongside, that was produced for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Airmail service. It was also political pressure that caused the breakup of the Federation with the three colonies going their separate ways; into the Republics of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



By popular demand we held an extra club meeting just before Christmas when 16 members showed a wide range of Christmas-

themed material. Following the Christmas Break, our latest evening has seen

**Tom Anderson** show a selection from his collection entitled *Postcards of the Peoples of Sarawak*. We were delighted to welcome members from the Sarawak Specialist Society. Tom started by laying out the location of the tribes within Sarawak. Starting with the largest, the Iban, he then showed an incredible array of postcards that detailed their way of life in costumes, buildings, tribal practices and skills (like the young Iban girl weaving a mat). The quality of the photographs on these postcards was first class and many of the photographers were world-famous. The other five tribes were also covered in detail and the whole evening gave us an insight into a world away from today's troubles.



*Eddie Mays*

## Southampton Postcard Club

On a very cold evening in December 1980, some 30 people attended a meeting in the Civic Centre Southampton to assess whether or not demand existed for the formation of a postcard/cigarette card collectors club. Fortunately enough people were in favour and the "SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT POSTCARD AND CIGARETTE CARD CLUB" was inaugurated.

The first meeting took place at the Mayflower Public House and about 40 members were present, this number remained fairly constant for the subsequent two meetings. A constitution and set of rules were agreed, which have formed the basis of subsequent revisions.

Unfortunately records do not appear to exist for a period after these early meetings but in 1988 it was decided that the name of the club was too long and it was shortened to "SOUTHAMPTON POSTCARD CLUB", which it remains today. The aims of the club were agreed as: 1 To bring together postcard collectors; 2 To encourage new members; 3 To publicise the hobby by advertising; 4 To issue a bi-monthly newsletter; 5 To investigate and monitor the work of local postcard producers; 6 To promote interest in local history. Many of those aims remain today; however the publication of a newsletter has not been possible. Very successful local fairs with the issue of a special

postcard were held at the Hampshire Cricket Ground in Northlands Road until 1994 when they were suspended due to the number of commercial fairs taking place in the area. **Jack Foley**, the author of the definitive catalogue of FGO Stuart postcards, was an active member of the club for many years.

The club met at Crabwood House in the Ordnance Survey grounds in Romsey Road for a number of years but consequent upon the reorganisation within OS, the club was required to vacate the premises in 2003. Meetings were then held in various locations until 2005 when a new venue on the first floor of "The Friends Meeting House" in Ordnance Road was found ideally suitable.

Membership has fluctuated over the years from a maximum of 40 in the early years to a low point of half a dozen following the closure of Crabwood House. It has now picked up and 12 to 14 members regularly attend the monthly meetings, which are held generally on the fourth Monday of the month commencing at 7.30pm. No formal meetings are held in July when members meet for an evening meal or in August when many are on holiday. A Christmas evening meal also replaces the December meeting. The club AGM is held on the fourth Monday in February. Over recent years members have exhibited boards in the Picture Postcard Show competition held in London, given displays to a number of societies and clubs in Hampshire and invited speakers of note. It continues to thrive not only in its postcard aspect but with a social side as well. When meetings are permitted to recommence, they will be held at the Woolston Community Centre in Woolston, which has ample car parking and the room is all on the level. Why don't you consider joining us? You would be made very welcome.

*Colin Bayley*

## **St Albans, Harpenden & District**

With regular meetings suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have endeavoured to maintain contact with our members through email, our website and post, and circulating auction catalogues normally available at monthly meetings, encouraging participation in the "From my Collection" feature on [www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk](http://www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk) and a philatelic quiz at Christmas. On 13<sup>th</sup> January, we held our first Display/Meeting on Zoom which appears to have been well-received and appreciated. It also provided valuable experience. Prior to this, contact was made with others who were further down this road and the guidance and advice that they have freely provided has been greatly appreciated. As we were feeling our way, we prepared and used a PowerPoint presentation *More than Sticking in Stamps*, on this first occasion. Now we are resuming a programme of display meetings on our regular monthly dates using Zoom. For this we would like to secure Zoom Displayers from some distance away since this not only enables our members to enjoy material they would not otherwise see, but it also means that we will not have used up the pool of speakers living within travelling distance when we are able to return to live meetings. Maybe exchanges with more distant societies and a supplementary list of "Zoom Displayers" in the ABPS Speakers List could be of help in this regard. ➔ 01582 762284 or [p.mellor@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mellor@btinternet.com)

*Peter Mellor*

## Wakefield

On 28<sup>th</sup> October we had a Zoom meeting where members shared interesting items including a cover addressed to a member of "Herman's Hermits" with stamps showing The Imperial Japanese Crane; Microfilm from WWII showing how airgraphs and V Mails were reduced in size for transportation; Numbers in Maltese Crosses on Penny Reds; Czech postal stationery for the Prague Pneumatic Letter Post; New South Wales, some rare Captain Cook multiples; LATI Airmails: Eritrea to Seville; Spain to South America; Bridlington - an Abchurch Lane link; A Temporary handstamp on a Certificate of Posting for Recorded Mail; A Queen Anne's Bounty letter; free post for the Archbishop of York; First Day of Uniform 4d Post, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 1839, used in Pontefract. On November 18<sup>th</sup> we had our second Zoom meeting where we were entertained by visitors with PowerPoint presentations: **Yvonne Wheatley** showed some *Scout issues from Czechoslovakia*; **Mark Bailey** some *French post cards using postage stamps to complete cartoon characters* - some fine caricatures. **Martyn Cusworth** continued with some serious *Postal History from the Italian Post Office in Tunisia* and **Richard Wheatley** "breezed through" some boyhood memories of *Butlins Holiday Camp in Skegness*. Our third Zoom meeting took place on 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was started off by **Nigel Harpham** bringing along a single page of *American postcards* and continued with **Graham Winters** entertaining members with his new presentation about *Post Cards*. These included, amongst others, Cave Golf cards, Education, Comic postcards, Pontefract and some beautiful Silk cards. *Julie Hitchcock*

## West London

In spite of being able to start our meetings in October with some restrictions, the trend was thwarted by further government restrictions, due to the plague. Perhaps in March 2021! *Chris Oliver*

## Woking & District

With physical meetings remaining out of the question, a number of members, although sadly not all, have been engaging in the dark arts of Zoom to bring us together on a fortnightly basis and display material whilst having a welcome chat on philatelic and more general matters. Presentations and discussions have included *Canadian Special Delivery stamps from 1898 to 1946*, *Mauritius 1847 1d reds and 2d blues*, though sadly no members had any in their collections! *KGV 4d Gray-Green plate flaws*, *Swarovski crystals on stamps of Austria and Hong Kong*, *Leeward Islands village postmarks* including Plymouth on Montserrat which has now disappeared following an eruption, *Rhodesian double heads*, *Christmas greetings post cards from the early 1900s*, *Early Christmas stamps* and this year's *Royal Mail Christmas stamps* being designed in Woking, based on stained glass windows in Anglican churches showing the Christ child in the arms of the Virgin Mary. A diverse and fascinating range of subjects. We hope to get back together at some time in 2021 but value the opportunity to zoom until then. *Brian Sheriff*



# Federations

## Kent

With the continued lockdown in place throughout Kent there has been very little, if any, activity in the federation. It is as though we are in a state of suspended animation. We keep Kent clubs informed of any developments mainly stamp fair cancellations. With clubs not meeting and no stamps fairs or live auctions, collectors are having to rely on online facilities to obtain new material - or make use of the additional spare time to mount up their past accumulation of stamps or covers.

The only news we have is sad news in that we have lost a dear friend and colleague **Colin Tobitt FRPSL** who died in early January after a long and painful struggle with his illness (non-COVID related). He was our treasurer and had been for many years and also stored and brought our display frames to federation events as well as being a federation judge and a Kent speaker willing to travel around clubs to give displays. He was a long-standing member of both Lewisham PS and Eltham & Woolwich SC and a member of at least one specialist society, the Austrian Philatelic Society. For more than 15 years he was also part of the Expert Committee at the Royal Philatelic Society London and an acknowledged expert on the stamps and postal history of Austria. He will be sorely missed.

*Michael Dobbs*

## Scottish

We held a delegates' meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Unfortunately, the outcome of that meeting was that ASPS has cancelled Congress, due to be held in Perth in April. But do look out for some displays by member societies on the ASPS website, available in April.

*George Henshilwood*

## Yorkshire

YPA is hosting a series of Zoom displays over the coming months. As it seems highly likely that 'live' philatelic meetings will not re-start until the autumn, we have decided to schedule a series of Zoom displays, initially for five months, starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February with Neil Ritchie.

Some societies have been quick to organise virtual meetings, many have not, and we see this as an opportunity to maintain contact with collectors across our large catchment area and beyond who may be suffering from philatelic withdrawal. All meetings will be held monthly at 3pm on the first Tuesday.

Further dates already scheduled: 2<sup>nd</sup> March Graham Winters; 6<sup>th</sup> April Richard Hindle on *Amundsen*; 4<sup>th</sup> May Robert McMillan on *Hull postal history*. ➔ Philip Reynolds [life.draw@btinternet.com](mailto:life.draw@btinternet.com)

*Daphne McMillan*

## National and specialist societies

### The BTA is ZOOMing along.

After much thought and planning Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December witnessed the first virtual BTA meeting via ZOOM. And what a success it was. A total of 27

members had the great pleasure of watching **Andrew Millington** give a talk entitled *Aspects of my Copper Collection*. He started by talking about the number of copper and copper mineral stamps available, the number of countries that had issued copper stamps (some having no connection to copper whatsoever) and then looked at some interesting people who had a strong connection with copper and had been commemorated on stamps. Andrew talked about the use of copper in lightning conductors and finished with an entire from the Insolvency Court in Port Augusta, Australia to John Pascoe working in a copper mine. The work that Andrew had done to tell us the 'back-story' of John Pascoe and this envelope was inspirational. We held the second ZOOM meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January. It was a fascinating and informative talk by **Wendy Buckle** entitled *Watermarks: from medieval trademark to modern security feature*, watched by over 30 members. Wendy started her talk by going through the process used in the early days of making paper (Do you know how the Foolscap paper size got its name?) and how the watermark was 'applied' to the process. She then showed a number of watermarks that could be used in thematic collections. There were lots of them! Wendy went on to show a range of philatelic material that had watermarks - stamps, envelopes etc and finished by showing the 3D watermarks used on bank notes. A lovely presentation: interesting and very informative. BTA ZOOM talks can be found in the Members' Own section of our website. ➔ [www.britishthematic.org.uk](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk) *Jim Etherington*

## Channel Islands Specialists'

21 members attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020, which was the first to be held using Zoom Video Conferencing (due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic). It had been delayed from July. The use of this online method provided the opportunity for a member from the United States, **Peter Viscusi**, to participate in the meeting. The majority of the committee was re-elected *en bloc*. Acting competitions secretary, **Alan Whittacker**, and acting treasurer, **Bryan Elliston**, were formally elected to their positions. They had replaced **Alan Moorcroft** and the late **Robert Porter** respectively during the year. Membership secretary, **Mark Bailey**, advised that the society had 244 members as of December 2020. Society secretary, **Richard Flemming**, announced that the Joan Flood Silver Salver for 2020 had been awarded to **Roger Harris** for his two-volume publication, *Pioneer Aviation in the Channel Islands*. *Steve Wells*



*Bryan Elliston*

## Forces Postal History

We have been holding monthly Zoom meetings since last August and for our December 2020 meeting we opened it up to non-members as our guests - we had seven guests, one of whom has subsequently joined the society. We plan to

hold monthly Zoom meetings for the whole of 2021 even if we do happen to hold a physical meeting from time-to-time and will welcome future non-members as our guests (so long as we don't get too overwhelmed with requests!) to these meetings. Generally these Zoom meetings show items from members' collections which may be recent acquisitions, their favourite item or specific to their collecting interests. During the coming year we hope to have one or two meetings on specific subjects. Full details of dates, times and any specific topic will appear on our website. 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 2021 meetings. In addition to our Zoom meetings our editor, **Chris Grimshaw**, is planning to keep our recently expanded journal at a whopping 72-page issue following his recent successes at that size. He sends grateful thanks to those members continuing to provide him with articles large and small for him to publish. → [www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk) *Michael Dobbs*

## France & Colonies

Yes, a live meeting!!! - made possible by the hard work and planning by **John** and **Claire Scott** in preparing the venue (the Library Room at their home) consistent with Government guidelines.

Our thanks to them both for their efforts resulting in a brilliant philatelic day. Five members and one guest attended the meeting which started with the traditional glass of champagne followed by our guest speaker - **Tony Howgrave-Graham** putting up his excellent display of *Mediterranean Paquebots* which took us round the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. High cuisine was the order for lunch and John collected pre-ordered fish and chips from the chippie in Blandford Forum whilst Claire stood over the stove boiling some peas (unfortunately not 'mushy!'), washed down with wine and followed by a delicious pudding. The Grasmere Hotel certainly has competition. During the day the following displays were also shown:

**Paul Latham-Warde** (Guest) *Marianne Definitives* *Alsace Parcel Labels*

**Claire Scott** *French military letter cards (Flags) of the six Allied Nations:*

*France, Belgium, Great Britain, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro.*

**Jeremy Martin** *Belgian PO's in France during WWI* *Madame Joseph forgeries*

*France, the phony war* *WWII Op Dynamo*

**John Scott** *First Day Postcards*

*The Paper and Parchment Revenue Stamps of France 1673 -1690*

**Colin French** (Convenor) also attended. We had an excellent day - so good getting back to normal, albeit only temporarily. Our next meeting would be in February 2021, however, for obvious reasons no arrangements can be made at this time. *Also sent to the France & Colonies PS Magazine* *Colin French*

## Gibraltar Study Circle

The spring AGM weekend for the society has been arranged at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke over the weekend 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021. However at the present time, it is not known whether this will be able to go ahead due to the

*Bert Burton*



We held a one-off Zoom meeting for members on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This was an opportunity for some socialising and catching up but a few members presented some sheets. Here is one eye-catching example from **Alan Blakeley's** display on *The Life of an Insurance Policy*. *George Henshilwood*

We have a continuing programme of online meetings until Covid restrictions will allow physical meetings to take place. The December meeting attracted over sixty attendees with 37 short humorous displays by members, many on a festive theme. As we enter 2021, it looks unlikely that physical meetings will be possible for several months. As a result, we will continue to organise online meetings. In addition we have been invited to provide speakers for online sessions at Virtual Stampex in March (25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>) and there may also be another online GB Collectors Conference. If you are interested in providing a short talk (20/30 minutes) supported by some visual slides (most easily created on PowerPoint), please let **John Davies** know by email at [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com)

**Phil Waud**, Honorary Secretary, and **Maurice Buxton**, Webmaster, have been appointed Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London for their services to philately. We extend our warmest congratulations. **Chris George** has taken over as GBPS Newsletter Editor from the January 2021 issue. He has replaced **Paul Ramsay** who has undertaken this role for the last seven years and did such a good job. The planned online meetings are:

27<sup>th</sup> February 2021: The 1971 Postal Strike by Maurice Buxton FRPSL

27<sup>th</sup> March: Newspapers, Postal Opinion & The Post by Norman Wilson

21<sup>st</sup> April: Usage of Postage Dues by David Watson.

All the meetings start at 2pm. To register for meetings, please email

**zoom@gbps.org.uk** to request the URL. Please check the GBPS website for the latest information. **www.gbps.org.uk**

*John Davies*

## Malaya Study Group

**“Emerging like a butterfly from the COVID gloom”.**

Several meetings had to be cancelled throughout the Spring and Summer of 2020. Meanwhile planning had been gathering pace. On 14<sup>th</sup> November a well-attended International Zoom meeting on *Perfins and Security Markings*, with two



presentations by **Lin Yanhchen** and **Peter Cockburn**, was a great success with many intelligent questions. This has resulted in another Zoom meeting to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 on a wider range of topics with more speakers. It seems that Zoom meetings will complement London-based meetings for the future. There are many benefits of joining MSG: an active website, Zoom meetings, MSG auctions (great rarities and a necessity for a Malaya area specialist), the journal, publications and a members' packet. Throughout these times our quarterly journal, *The Malayan Philatelist* very ably edited by **Len Stanway**, has reached us all on time despite being printed in Malaysia and the postal system from there being delayed and our packet secretary **Michael Ellison** from Moray in the far north of Scotland has ensured the packet's circulation. Our secretary **Mike Padmore** with our chairman **Dominic Morris CBE** have wisely led us through a difficult period. → membership secretary **Martin Roper**, [martinsroper@gmail.com](mailto:martinsroper@gmail.com) *Michael Waugh*

## The National

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, we had to suspend our very popular London meetings and Room auctions but we hope to resume them as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we continue to serve our 400-strong membership. The exchange packet continues to circulate nationwide with three separate circuits, for GB, British Commonwealth and Foreign. There is now a 725+ lot postal auction held bi-monthly (January, March, May etc) with the recent auctions grossing over £2500 per sale. A philatelic book list, circulated with the auction catalogue in our journal *Stamp Lover*, takes hundreds of pounds per list. Books are offered at a fixed price on a "First Come - First Served" basis. Members also receive their free copy of *Stamp Lover*, which has 32 pages in colour and provides not only news of the society and its activities but feature articles from philatelists worldwide. Recent articles include a series on Tennyson and philately, a guide to books on forgeries and stamps depicting the legend of Ramayana. We also run a website [www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps) → membership secretary Peter Mellor on [npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk](mailto:npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk) or 01582 762284 *Michael Goodman*

## Pakistan

Elsewhere you will be able to find details of the Circle's creation twenty years ago. Having been in hibernation for a few years, we are very fortunate to have a new group of enthusiasts, not just in the UK but also in Pakistan, who are bringing a modern outlook to the group. With **Ehtasham Ahmad** and **Shahzad Zia** editing our journal *Pakphil* and Shahzad looking after our Facebook page and other digital presence, collectors of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bahawalpur are enjoying Zoom meetings every two or three months and looking forward to our regular gatherings in Staffordshire once circumstances permit. It is also likely that we will begin to hold regular auctions, commencing in the autumn. Anyone interested in the stamps or postal history of this fascinating area is invited to contact our secretary, **George Rab**, [george.rab@gmail.com](mailto:george.rab@gmail.com)

*Mike Roberts*

## The Royal: Maintaining interest in our hobby

Just before, what is now known as the first lockdown, the Management Committee of the Royal, meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March, was informed that London 2020 had been rescheduled and so it was essential that we thought about methods of securing sufficient interest in philately to avoid potential resignations and financial losses. Someone had heard of Eric Yuen's amazing invention called ZOOM! It took a month, which included the Easter holidays, for a programme of virtual meetings to be dreamt up, discussed, and initiated by a small group of dedicated RPSL members and on 23<sup>rd</sup> April – St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday – the first act started the drama with a show by Past President **Frank Walton** on the *Dorothy Wilding issues of Great Britain from 1952 – 1967*. The result was dramatic! Hundreds of members logged in but many were unable to join. The user licence we had was only for 100 people and at the time it was thought adequate. Not a bit of it: as the word spread members logged in from countries all over the world. Members stayed up into the early hours to watch with comments and questions pouring in by simply clicking a button. With this excellent experience the Royal took to Zoom with a series of presentations that covered a wide range of philatelic and associated activity and which involved up to 166 viewers from 22 countries on one occasion, with in total 382 viewers from more than 34 countries attending a Zoom meeting in 2020. Philately it seems has finally come into its own as a stimulating activity. The range of our presentations has been wide, covering subjects from *The Sudan – the De La Rue Years 1898 -1901*, by The President, to *Western Tasmania – Prospectors and the Post Office*, by **Malcolm Groom** presented from West Hobart. In this we heard about the Gold Rush in Tasmania and a newly-discovered rate of an additional 1d introduced on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1895, which payment allowed a post card bearing an advertisement to be displayed in the Post Office to which it was sent. From the other side of the globe **Dr Cheryl Ganz RDP**, resident in Chicago, showed a selection of her remarkable *Zeppelin* collection, this time concentrating on Hindenberg's Onboard Post Office and of course the great Airship's demise in an electric storm on landing at Lakehurst New York in 1937. From India, **Markand Dave** showed the *1854 Two annas stamp printings and varieties*. **Simon Martin-Redman** zooming in from Essex, explained the unique political situation in *Sarawak in the 1850-70s* when a substantial area of the Island of Borneo was gifted to James Brooke, a merchant adventurer who had a close relationship with Angela Burdett-Coutts of the Coutts bank family. The correspondence generated was infrequent and now rare, a feature of the splendid early covers illustrated by Simon. For the pre-Christmas meetings the members of Council gave ten-minute displays, one of which was **Mark Bailey's** showing of *Mail to and from the Society* over many years. Presenters have demonstrably come from several different continents, something that in pre-Covid times would not have been recognised as possible. The Royal accepted an invitation to be a co-partner with the PTS in holding the first ever Virtual Stampex in September. With the help of many members acting as hosts from different time zones full coverage for 72 hours without break was

maintained and many enquires and book purchases were recorded. Several other excellences have come to light as a result of the use of Zoom or other video conferencing facilities. The process has encouraged interaction between professionals and amateurs at the same time from every corner of the globe. During a recent Zoom lecture, we had comments and questions from Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, the USA and Argentina all within a minute or two of each other. This is not routinely possible except perhaps during major FIP shows which are fewer as the expense and organisation become more and more challenging. Virtual Philately has been vital to keep our hobby together during these difficult and challenging times. Sadly those philatelists without the necessary equipment have been missing out. It is vital, however, that in our enthusiasm to promote much wider coverage of philately we do not lose the essential and highly desirable social aspects of the hobby which have been around since the start 150+ years ago.

*Peter Cockburn FRPSL*

## Thailand

Our AGM has always been held in London during the Autumn – but not this year. And it's nearly all good news. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.00pm London time we held our first ever video-conferenced AGM. **Jonathan Manning**, controlled the meeting from home and we had participants from the UK, Canada and Thailand. There was only one apology arising from the timing – a member in Arizona told us that it was 6 am there and his wife had forbidden him to log on that early. We should have recorded the proceedings so that he could watch it later but, being newbies, we forgot. The business side of the AGM was completed fairly quickly and we had two excellent presentations. Jonathan Manning showed die proofs of the 1883 first issue from the Waterlow files. He explained how the sequence of making the printing dies for different values could be determined from minute dots on the King's collar on each proof. There were also some sheets of Waterlow specimen stamps, some of exceptionally



good quality of printing. Next, **Prakob Chirakiti** showed a presentation of the first issue of Siam and its usage. He started by explaining the Chula Sakaraj (Lunar) calendar dates used from 1883, the new datestamps introduced in 1888, and the change to Rattanakosin dates in 1889. Then followed the “new curve” datestamps and the English-language cancellers required after Siam joined the UPU in 1885. Many examples of these and other usages were shown on single stamps, covers and postal stationery. We shall certainly be doing this again.

*Used in 1886*

The Thailand Philatelic Society has been based in the UK and has always had a large proportion of members overseas. Many of our members found it difficult to travel to London for the AGM before we had the pandemic. Now we can look forward to the participation of many more of our members, although we also have to consider our members who are not familiar with computers and the Internet.

→ [HonSec@ThailandPhilSoc.org.uk](mailto:HonSec@ThailandPhilSoc.org.uk)

*Rory Morrisey*

## Collecting GB Overprints

For my sixth birthday I was given a stamp collector's starting pack and ever since I have been completely hooked, graduating from collecting all World to Empire and then just mint GB. As part of my mint GB collection I had accumulated a number of GB overprints and in 1980, disillusioned by the excessive number of unappealing new issues and increasing cost of the early issues, I made the decision to sell my GB collection and concentrate on collecting just GB Overprints, one of the best decisions I have ever made.

One of the interesting things about GB Overprints is that often, but not always, the overprinted stamps can be obtained for less, sometimes a lot less, than the unoverprinted stamp. This allows collectors on a limited budget to build up good collections of overprints. Added to that, the overprints often have histories of their own, related to the places that used them.

Unlike many of my colleagues who specialize in a particular area, I decided to collect all GB overprints and my collecting interests soon expanded to include other overprints that were contemporary with or preceded the GB overprints, in particular the Morocco Agencies Gibraltar overprints, the Gulf Indian Overprints and the Bechuanaland Cape overprints.

Joining the GB Overprints Society gave me access to a lot of detailed information about the overprints and the under-lying stamps, as well as the enduring friendship of a great group of fellow collectors and over time further extended my knowledge and interests to include varieties and cancellations. I would recommend anyone starting to build a collection to join a specialised society, of which there is a full list on the ABPS website.

I am still finding new items and varieties to add to my GB overprints collection which, after 40 years, continues to keep me absorbed and fascinated and I now also have the honour of being the President of the GB Overprints Society.

*Tony Stanford*

### A selection of items from the collection



*I had accumulated a number of GB overprints over the years including the £1 Royal Silver Wedding stamps and was delighted when I found the short bars variety on the right to add to my GB Overprints collection*

*In 1880 the first GB Overprints*

*were issued in Cyprus and these included the only overprinted line-engraved issues. This attractive corner copy of the penny red plate 201 overprinted CYPRUS has untrimmed deckled edges.*







*This GB half-penny wrapper has been uprated with a half-penny vermilion and provisional Cape of Good Hope half-penny, all overprinted BRITISH BECHUANALAND, to pay the 1½d foreign rate from Ramoutscha in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Bavaria in 1895.*

*This control pair of British Levant KGV 1¾ Piatres surcharges has the variety 'small pointed 4' on the left stamp.*



*A pair of KEVII penny scarlet stamps with 'ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL' overprint and a neat 'CHATHAM DOCKYARD' cancel. These departmental issues had a short life, being introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1903 and withdrawn on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1904.*



*This attractive censored airmail cover sent from Tangier to the USA in 1941 has a combination of Tanger overprints and unoverprinted stamps. Between 1936 and 1949 only low value stamps and commemoratives were overprinted for use in Morocco*

*Agencies and Tanger.*

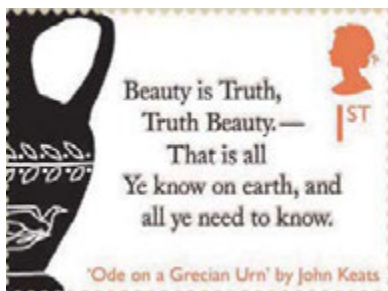
An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) a few months after publication.



*Abu Dhabi and Das Island were the last British Postal Agencies to open on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1963. This Das Island FDC has the full set of available 'value only' overprints originally produced for use in Muscat and Dubai.*

## A Stamp, A Bench and Collecting Stamps

I often wonder how many people who pass through Eastgate Square, Cicestrians and visitors alike, realise whose statue it is seated on a bench. Of



those in the know, are they aware that Royal Mail recently issued a special stamp to commemorate this celebrity?

The person in question is the famous poet John Keats. The reason he is remembered in the city is because he stayed nearby (look for the blue plaque across the road above Retro & Vintage) in January 1819 when aged 23. It was at this location that he started to write one of his best-known works, "The Eve of St Agnes". This poem tells the familiar tale of two young lovers

forced apart by their feuding families. Soon after his Chichester visit, Keats became ill, and died in Rome just two years later.

As a member of the Chichester Philatelic Society, I am one of those who collect according to a theme. Some collect a specific country or period, others a particular topic such as a sport, birds or trains and some seek letters sent before postage stamps were invented. Therefore there would be people whose interest is Literature or Authors, and they were well catered for when the set of ten Romantic Poets first class stamps was issued in April. One of this set has a line from another of Keats' works, "Ode to a Grecian Urn".

However keen you are to own a copy of this stamp you would be very lucky to find a Post Office stocking it. Current policy severely restricts the availability of philatelic items to the general public.

*Sam Talbot*

## Greetings Books - and the Patterns

When the first Greetings Books came out in January 1989 I was attracted to the novelty of additional labels to send actual greetings on the envelopes or letters inside. Each book had two strips of the same five 1st Class stamps. Ever keen to test things philatelic out, I bought several books and tried the labels on our many friends around the world and of course here in the UK. Val and I have been round the world - as they used to say - five times and we consistently try to stay in touch and all accept my request to return these items some time for my idiosyncratic GB collection, if they don't want them themselves. I use stamps and rates that are not all that much used so it makes interesting postal history and I can say not a single communication has ever been purely philatelic. It has always been regular news, birthdays, packets, parcels, Christmas cards, and in the UK professional contacts linked to my teaching and journalistic duties. Philatelic purpose is of course reflected in those deliberate choices of stamps and services.



*6 fitting together*

So I have quite a collection of greetings stamps and labels properly used from around the world. Using so many, I realised one day that the 'fun' design covers seemed to join up and I quickly assumed they probably had started out as large sheets of card to be guillotined into stamp books at some point. Slowly but surely over a few months I bought a stock eventually sufficient to determine that indeed there was an overall pattern that might have been itself repeated in larger pieces of card. I was not to know that they would earn much higher catalogue value. I saw books offered at £50 but seemingly reduced now but my 36 books @ £1.90 still seem a fine investment at SG 2019 £24 each Mint, Stoneham 1998 £30.

I have not been able to find more than six books whose patterns link together. The patterns spread across front and back. The bottom one in the six illustrated joins in effect to the top one and so presumably sets of six repeated as required. The front right edge stops where the title ends but it seems that the left edge could feasibly have joined to more pattern on further card. However, my two sets cannot just sit side by side as clearly six like that to the left of the illustrated set would see the title text adjoining cut design pattern. I wondered if the overall card design



used additional sets of six upside down and alternately thus. None of my second six effectively connected with the illustrated six in upside down alignment. Nor any of the other 24 books I have, but there may have been examples that did and to which mine might then connect. I would like to see the actual size of the master cards printed and cut for stamp sheet insertion. Ask the Post Office maybe!



*3 with a different fit*

The other curiosity is that in the six books the particular elements, for example ships and teddy bears, occur twice, but at different angles. The orange rose appears going in opposite directions, up or down, the arrows go in several ways. The different bunches of grapes do their own thing. That may just have been the artist limiting the bigger picture to his or her preference. It really makes me want to see the entire original work of art! The smaller groups illustrated also reveal that the cut seems to be random, with the same book pattern sometime a whole double spread but



*2 more different groups*

sometimes cut by the guillotine. Guillotining has cut upper perforation at times unkindly. The stamp insertions also seem to tell the story in relative ways. In the set of 6 books Nos 4 and 5 have cylinder panes. In my second full 6 books Nos 2 and 4 are cylinder panes. In just a group of 3 that have connected pattern all three are cylinder panes. In another set of three two have them. A further group of three have no cylinder pane. Of my 36 booklets 14 have the cylinder panes. Does that affect value estimate?

*Mervyn Benford*

## Two of the Lots from the Channel Islands SS Auction



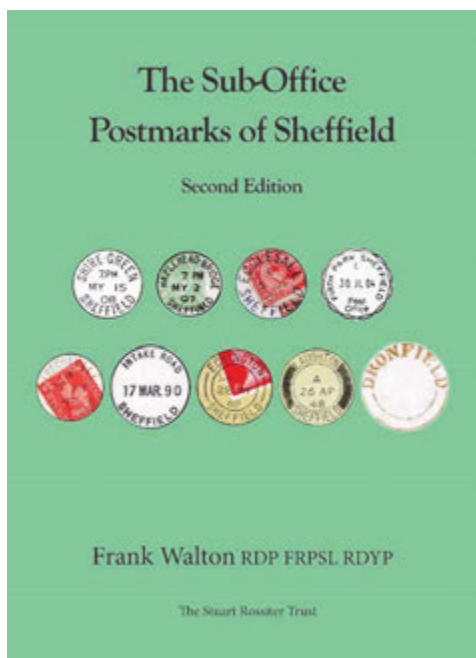
A cover from the Mueller correspondence, sent from P.O.W. Camp 801 in Guernsey to Germany



NO SERVICE / RETURN TO SENDER cachet. It was sent back to Canada with a MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED cachet



## Two Books supported by The Rossiter Trust



The publication of *The Sub-Office Postmarks of Sheffield* has led to a large amount of new information. In the first edition there were 1836 illustrations: this has risen to **2009** in the second edition. Also included are many hundreds of new codes, date range extensions and a new office has come to light: Stocksbridge PSO. This book documents the postmarks applied at all post offices that fell under Sheffield head office, other than Sheffield itself. The very nature of a publication such as this is that new discoveries will continue to be made; all new information would be welcomed by the author.

By **Frank Walton RDP FRPSL**

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Other locations or payment methods,  
 please contact the author.

Both of these and many other books  
 have been supported by the Stuart  
 Rossiter Trust, which supports  
 research and publication relating to the  
 history of communication through  
 postal systems of the world.

## Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the first Post Office Post Card



The first post card was issued by the Post Office on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1870. No official recognition of this anniversary appeared so two members of the Postal Stationery Society prepared their own cards to recognise this important date.

The front of the two cards are shown left. The first has an illustration of a mint 1/2d lilac post card. The second uses the 'scroll' heading from the stamped-to-order cards. The top card was produced by myself and the lower by Barrie Wright.

We treated the backs of the cards differently.

My card back is shown right and reproduces the Post Office notice issued to

150th Anniversary of the First Post Card  
1st October 2020  
Postage cost in 1870 - 1/2d Postage cost in 2020 - 65p



announce the sale on these new cards from the 1<sup>st</sup> October. They were sold at 1/2d each. The Notice further states that there must be no other writing on the front other than the address, nothing can be attached to it nor may it be folded, cut or in any other way altered. Barrie's card below has a reprint of the first large size card, clearly cancelled on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, posted within London. The introduction of post cards



significantly changed the face of correspondence by post and should not be forgotten. *Neil Sargent*

*Neil Sargent is secretary and auctioneer of the Postal Stationery Society - the home for all stationery collectors, whatever period, country or type they collect!*

## British Post Office Stationery Post Cards 1870 - 2007



Published in July 2020 this book for the first time illustrates in colour all the cards issued by the Post Office between 1870 and 2007. Sections show the cards for all five reigns as well as Official cards, Field Service cards and cards overprinted for use in other countries. Other sections include Inland & Overseas post card postage rates, packet bands as well as a size guide. In addition, there is catalogue number comparison with Higgins & Gage and

Huggins & Baker catalogues. The book is 134 pages long, printed perfect bound with card covers in full colour. Available from the author at a price of £19 plus £3 p/p in the UK. → [neil.sargent@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.sargent@btinternet.com)

### Some interesting bits and pieces



**Des Kent** says "We've been investigating the attic and have found the attached in my wife's keepsake box. The key was posted in Plymouth on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1936 and

addressed to my wife's mother in Torpoint. Now we have realised the significance of the date of posting. It was the day before Gladys Haimes 21<sup>st</sup> birthday - so I guess this was the "key to the door".

How would the postal service cope with such an item now?



And from **Brian Asquith**

The post office has entered into the spirit of Christmas by putting a lovely red felt tip line through the stamps rather than cancelling them with a dreary postmark.

# British Stamp news



What we need is uplifting. Being stuck in our own neighbourhood is not good for us. Royal Mail took this on board in January and produced a most wonderful set of stamps on the National Parks of Great Britain.

What's more they are all 1st Class stamps, so there is a reasonable chance that they will appear in my post over the next few months. If you want to write to me - take a trip to the Post Office and see if they still have any! But can you work out which ones have been left out of this fabulous set? Two were plain to me - one near where I live and the other near to my grandchildren. Have Royal Mail got something against me and mine? 2020's Christmas stamps suited me too. Having sung in a

church choir in the past it was good to see the colour and the message from the stained glass windows from around the country. The two shown are from churches near my home: All Saints Church, Otley, West Yorkshire on the £1.70



and St Columba's Church, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire on the £2.50. I don't suppose that I will see many of these higher values for a while. Star Trek fans will have enjoyed the other November issue. Not for me but I suppose that it suits those folk who are keen on personalities from TV or film, or the films and programmes for thematic collections.



18 1st Class stamps will make it a pricey addition. Finally on the next page you will see the other January issue entitled "United Kingdom - A



Celebration". Surely not a political statement after the end of the Brexit Saga - colourful to say the least. I await the next post. *The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS*



## ABPS 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](http://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](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk) I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. Please note the changes below.*

## Specialist Societies

**Concorde Study Circle** has closed the doors. No more flights.

**Manchukuo Philatelic Group** has joined ABPS. We look forward to hearing from them. Contact **Philip Reynolds** [life.draw@btinternet.com](mailto:life.draw@btinternet.com)

## Local Societies

**Bolton PS:** has a new temporary secretary **Pauline Rider** [paulinerider@gmail.com](mailto:paulinerider@gmail.com)

**Lostock PS:** When meetings re-commence they will normally be on the first Friday of each month from 1pm to 3pm. First meeting planned for April 9<sup>th</sup> - a week later than usual because of Easter.

We are pleased to welcome **Southampton & District Postcard Club** as affiliates to ABPS. The secretary is **Steve Gerrard** [stevesstamps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevesstamps@hotmail.co.uk)

We regret to report that the following societies are no longer affiliated to ABPS: **Bridgend PS, Chester & District PS, Derby PS, Lincoln PS and Wirral PS.**

*A list of the 2020 amendments is now available as a Word or pdf file. Please contact the Editor at [editor@abps.org.uk](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk) stating your preference.*

This 72-page issue is only possible because it has been produced solely in a digital format. This allowed me to give greater space to reports and articles. When we revert to a mixed format (printed and digital) we will need to go back to 60 pages. This will require articles of about two A5 pages and reports of 250 words maximum. Please stick to these limits to enable others to have space. Otherwise editing might have to be very severe and could remove something that you think of as integral to the piece. Thanks for your cooperation and for the wonderful response so far.

*Keith Burton FRPSL, Editor*

## Stamp Active Network



### **Congratulations, Alfie**

The winner of the 2020 Design-A-Stamp Competition, held as part of Virtual Stampex, in support of the NHS, is **Alfie Scott**, age 10, from Shetland.

He will receive an Amazon Voucher for £100.



Many congratulations.

Watch out for more stamp competitions in coming months on the Competitions section of the Stamp Active website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk) and see below

## Stamp Active “My Favourite Things” One Page Competition

Stamp Active Network is pleased to announce this year's one page competition based on the philately of favourite things which could include Places, People, Hobbies, Objects and much more. It could be favourite Flowers, Authors, Toys, Animals, Sports or Transport or it could be anything that the entrant likes to do or see or places they like to go to. The possibilities are endless. Entrants may choose to focus on one area - like Football or Cars - or they may wish to cover a range such as Sports or Transport. Or you could be creative with “Make a Wish for 2021” with details of what you are looking forward to!

Young people up to the age of 18 (on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020) are invited to create a one page mini-exhibit.

Stamps, covers and other philatelic items can be used. The page must have a title, and either captions or a short write-up that tells the story. The entrant's full name and address (home or school) should be on the back of the page, also their age on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020). Entries should be on good quality paper (A4) or a similar size album page, and placed in a clear protector. The entries can be either hand-written or prepared using a computer.

**A scan of the page should be sent to [stampactive@btinternet.com](mailto:stampactive@btinternet.com) as soon as possible. See the Stamp Active website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk)**

There will be three age groups - Up to 7; 8-10; 11-14; 15-18 - with prizes being awarded (*for First, Second, Third*) in each age group, **sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins.**

Winners will receive select philatelic gifts selected by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins website to the value of £25 (1<sup>st</sup>), £20 (2<sup>nd</sup>) and £15 (3<sup>rd</sup>).

**The best overall entry will receive an Amazon voucher for £100.**

The entries will be judged on knowledge of the subject, originality and presentation.

Only one entry per person is allowed. UK entrants only.

Winners will be announced in the philatelic press and on the Stamp Active Website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk)

The Entries will be also be on display as part of Virtual Spring Stampex 2021 from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

If you are unable to scan your entry, it can be posted to:

Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB

Entries will only be returned if you send a stamp-addressed envelope.

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The committee of Stamp Active Network are delighted to announce the appointment of **Peter Barham** as the new secretary. Peter is not new to the organisation, having been on the committee for some time as Donations & Auctions Manager, but has volunteered to take on the secretarial role in addition to his existing duties. Peter takes over the role from **Raymond Watkins** to whom we are grateful for his years of service. Peter can be contacted through his email address [barham42@outlook.com](mailto:barham42@outlook.com) and the role of Stamp Active Network can be viewed on their website <http://www.stampactive.co.uk>

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*Apologetic message from the editor relating to the last issue.*

*In the Stamp Active Network page I failed to make it clear that the main credit for Stamp over October in the StampIt article should have been given to Sandie Robb. The report was sent to me by two routes, both mentioning Stamp Active's involvement.*

NO FIVE COLLECTORS ARE ALIKE - Solution from David Rennie				
NAME	COLLECTION	CONDITION	STORAGE	WHERE BOUGHT
ALFRED	THEMATICS	U/M	STOCKBOOK	FAIRS
BRIAN	EUROPA	MINT	DAVO	SHOP
CHARLES	GB	FDC	PO ALBUM	BUREAU
DEREK	WORLD	AIR COVERS	BOX	AUCTIONS
EDWARD	COMMONWEALTH	USED	SG GVI ALBUM	APPROVALS

# Diary

**Don't forget to check before making a journey.**

**For this year**

## **Local and regional events by ABPS members**

### **2021 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

### **June**

- 5 RINGPEX: 10 - 4, Greyfriars Community Centre, Christchurch Road,  
**Ringwood** → 01425 470710

### **July**

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

## **National Exhibitions 2021**

- 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Virtual Stampex on your computer, tablet or phone
- 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 PERTH 2021 "virtual" exhibition → [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)  
The closing date for entries and submitting scanned exhibits is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.  
Exhibits will remain open for viewing on-line until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

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](http://www.abps.org.uk) on  
the "Exhibiting" tab.

*Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee*  
[Simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:Simon@sidebell.co.uk)



# ABPS General Information

## Honorary Life Vice Presidents

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

## Executive Committee

Chairman: **Graham Winters** [j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk)

Vice Chairman: **Steven Harrison** [sharrison500@btinternet.com](mailto:sharrison500@btinternet.com)

General Secretary: **George Henshilwood** [secretary@abps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@abps.org.uk)

Company Secretary & Treasurer and Small Grants Chairman: **Nigel RN Gooch** [treasurer@abps.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@abps.org.uk)

Minutes Secretary & Editor (Newsletter): **Keith S Burton** [editor@abps.org.uk](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk)  
01423 569907

Awards Committee Chair: **Yvonne Wheatley** [awards@abps.org.uk](mailto:awards@abps.org.uk)

Communication Director: **Alan D Godfrey** [communications@abps.org.uk](mailto:communications@abps.org.uk)

Membership: **Barry Stagg** [membership@abps.org.uk](mailto:membership@abps.org.uk)

Specialist Societies Liaison: **Dane Garrod** [dane.garrod5@btinternet.com](mailto:dane.garrod5@btinternet.com)

International & Exhibitions Chairman: **Simon Richards** [Simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:Simon@sidebell.co.uk)

PR: **John A Davies** [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com)

Congress Committee Chairman: **Gerald Marriner** [gerald.marriner@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.marriner@gmail.com)

Webmaster: **Maurice Buxton** [webmaster@abps.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@abps.org.uk)

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Dealers Representative: **Bill Barrell**

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Distribution Manager: **John Woodson**

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## Postal addresses:

**ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW**

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**

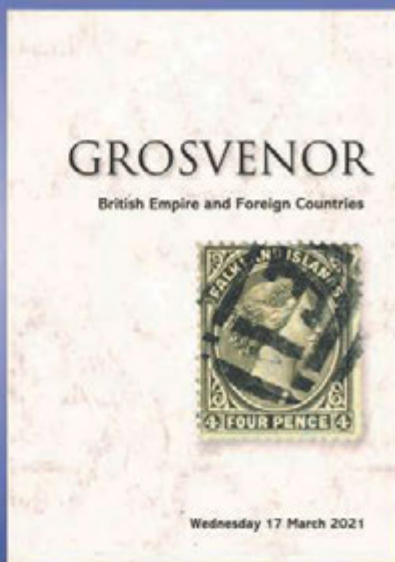
ABPS News is published by the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) This also holds further information on Committees.

# Watermark Rarities

Our auction scheduled on **Wednesday 17 March** presents an unusual offering of rarer watermark varieties from the Falkland Islands and other countries. For the latest information on this and other future sales we invite you to visit regularly our website, [www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com), or register your interests with us. Complimentary sale catalogues are sent on request whilst each auction is available to view in person, by appointment at our offices, or on our website with extra illustrations provided.

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