

Who Says that Children aren't interested?



See p 55



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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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Cover picture: *A lot, held by John Davies, goes under the hammer at the Children's Auction; Xanthe Page with Robin Cassell of Mulready Philatelics*

Photographs Courtesy of Stamp Active

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

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

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

As I write these notes in October, we are well into another philatelic season and things seem to be going well with philately. When I see all the reports about local society meetings in various philatelic publications, I feel encouraged by the variety and quality of presentations being given – and also the enthusiasm from local members to make sure that philately continues to hold so much for so many collectors.



I found the two pieces that appeared in the last issue of ABPS News by David Rennie, (Bromley & Beckenham PS), and Richard Smith (Leeds PS) both interesting and helpful. Helpful in that the ideas put forward in the two pieces hopefully made readers think about their own society's future. More thoughts from readers of ABPS News would be welcomed – it would be nice for Keith Burton to have too much material to publish.

At the end of September, I spent some time at Stampex in London. I found it very noticeable that Royal Mail did not attend yet again. It would be very interesting to hear their reasons for not being there. Overall, I thought the event seemed quieter than in the past. What did others think? It appears that next year Stampex will be again be at the Business Design Centre in Islington from 23rd to 26th October. A noticeable change will be that the stands will be based in the Atrium Hall and Gallery to the right of the building rather than on the Mezzanine and Village Green (the main hall), as previously.

As attenders will know, there were no exhibition frames. I must remind you that through the ABPS a national exhibition of 146 frames is planned for March 2024. It will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society London. The exhibition is aimed at those who are seeking to qualify for forthcoming international competitions. Online entry can be made at exhibitions.abps.org.uk and the deadline for entry is 12th February 2024. Enquiries can be made to exhibiting@abps.org.uk

Talking of future events, can I remind you that the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be in Southampton from 11th to 14th July 2024? It will be based at the Leonardo Grand Harbour Hotel, close to the harbour and city centre. The programme will have as its theme **new directions in philately** including "Context Philately". We can share the latest developments and best practices in philately. This is an event for everyone with an interest in philately with displays by local collectors as well as leading overseas collectors.

As usual, I end by stressing the importance of communication. Without good communication who knows what's going on or what the current issues are in philately that need addressing? Please do let me know what you think about all that is currently happening in philately. My email address is chair@abps.org.uk and my postal address is Steven Harrison, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or write to Keith Burton, your editor at editor@abps.org.uk

Steve Harrison

Editorial



It is always good to have a response to an item in an issue - this time I have had a number, some of which are just simple but welcome comments, others with additional information or points of view. Jean Alexander suggested that it would be a good idea to have a listing of which societies are holding regular Zoom meetings that are open to anyone. This seems to me to be a good idea - the list might also be available on the ABPS website, giving a relevant society contact, the dates or regularity of the meetings but not containing any direct links (for security - remember the unwanted invasion of a Harrogate meeting early on!). How do you Zoomers feel? Mike Robinson's email as a returned stamp collector is reproduced later in the issue. Helen Soby of Torridge sees the task of transforming the demographic of collectors to be enormous, requiring a huge amount of time and effort over a considerable number of years with a high level of uncertainty around a positive outcome. Maybe some brave, energetic person or people will come along and prove her wrong or perhaps a lot of people will each do a little! She says "Regarding the lack of response to the 'analysis and call for action' out-lined by Richard Smith in the last issue, sadly I think this tells the ABPS all it needs to know. I assume the vast majority of collectors either feel they have 'done their bit' over the years or are not the type of people to help with organisation and are unlikely to start now." Sandy Poole's comment was a longer letter in response to David's article and contains some suggestions so I have included it elsewhere in this issue. See page 24

I often hear the comment that children don't want to collect stamps these days. I would like those people to see the enthusiasm of the children at Stampex. I was lucky enough to be able to see the school group brought by teachers and helpers one day. They were full of enjoyment and took their items home very happily. The Saturday auction was a noisy riot as usual - with children and parents (not allowed to bid as they had no points) fully committed. Well done, Stamp Active, in providing the concepts, and all their donors in providing the material. Most of us are not able to do the former but we can all do the latter. See page 55

As you know, we want people to communicate. I was astonished to find that I have no diary entries for this issue after the Leeds Fair in November - so does this mean that your society and federation fairs or society weekends are not happening in 2024? Perhaps you have already entered the details on your and the ABPS websites but why haven't you sent the date, name, times, venue and contact details to me for inclusion in the Diary towards the end of each issue? I am not psychic nor do I have time to go looking for the details; they must be sent to me and in good time. For example by 15th January I need to have information for April onwards. Why not take advantage of free advertising? It's your job - don't rely on someone else.

Keith Burton

Society anniversaries

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:

York Philatelic Society - 75 Years

On Friday 21st July, during the York Stamp Fair, we held a dinner at The Pavillion Hotel in Fulford as part of our 75th Anniversary. Invited guests included members from Munster Philatelic society (York's twin town in



Der Briefmarkensammlerverein Münster – links der Vorsitzende Rolf Janssen, rechts sein Stellvertreter Stephan König – war zu Gast in York.

From the Munster Newspaper, showing the exchange of gifts between the two societies.

Germany). There has been a link between the societies for over forty years. The evening consisted of a three course meal, raffle, a general knowledge quiz and the exchange of gifts between Colin Lea, the Vice President of York philatelic society, and the chairman of the Munster philatelic society. A selection of philatelic displays was available for people to view during the evening. The displays included Aboriginal Philately, rare Penny Black perforations, engravings, and a royal-themed display which includes a letter from King Charles III. *Colin Lea*

Guildford & District Philatelic Society - 80 Years

On 11th October, we celebrated our 80th Anniversary with an evening party. Our members were joined by **Nicola Davies** (RPSL Head of Collections), **James Podger** (RPSL & West Indies Philatelic Study Group), **Peter White** (Surrey Federation), three past presidents and representatives from other local societies and WIPSG. After opening remarks by **Susan Taylor** (president), **Barry Stephens** (secretary) gave a brief history of the society from its first meeting on 2nd October 1943 at 146 High Street. James Podger commented on the society's remarkable achievement. Barry Stephens and **Charles Smith**, our former president, were each presented with a Surrey Federation Diploma of Merit by Peter White. The formal part of the meeting concluded when Nicola cut our



magnificent Anniversary cake and guests/ members were invited to view the display.

The display was *One Stamp, One Page, One Story*. The topics ranged from a missing colour on a Churchill commemorative from Montserrat to Rosalind Franklin and included pages on: 1905 Liège Universal Exhibition; Alan Turing; Anguilla Boxed Cancels; Australian Antarctic Territory; Blue Nose Schooner (Canada); Carteret Packet Ship Letter; Che Guevara (Eire); Camel Postmen (Sudan); Disaster at Sir Lowry's Pass; Indian Fiscals; New Hebrides; PO Tower; Sir John Marriott (T&T); Social Distancing & Vaccination (Austria); Uganda Protectorate; and Van Riebeck's Ship (RSA). **Graham Stockdale** highlighted a Penny Black on cover, the subject of the first display at the society, and a letter to Bletchley Park dated 1943, the year of the society's foundation. **Michael Miller** showed his presentation on *Surrey Post Offices*. Past President **Michael Lockton** spoke about the erudite membership and somewhat intimidating formality of the society when he joined in 1968.



Rob Cooke

Your society information?

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

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

Michael R Thompson



Michael presenting trophies at the NPS 2014 competition

The National Philatelic Society has been saddened by the news that Michael R Thompson, its immediate past president and former auctioneer passed away on Wednesday 27th September 2023. Michael became auctioneer of the NPS in 1997, running its monthly auctions for over twenty years. For a decade from 2012, he combined this with the role of president. Many NPS members will recall enjoying his president's displays of *Lundy Island*, *Classic Ceylon* and *Philatelic Congresses* - three of his main interests.

With his drive, determination and thirst for hard work, the society owes a great deal to Michael and it was indeed unfortunate that the end of his term of office coincided with the Covid pandemic and the onset of illness. Outside his NPS activities, Michael played an important role in the Kent philatelic scene and the London & Provincial Stamp Club, and was also involved in Stamp Active where he conducted the children's stamp auctions at Stampex for many years. A fuller obituary and tributes will appear in the December edition of *Stamp Lover*.

His funeral is due to take place at noon on Friday 17th November at Thames View Crematorium, Gravesend, followed by a wake at the Civic Centre, Gravesend.

Michael Goodman, Peter Mellor et al

LONDON SPRING NATIONAL EXHIBITION

28th – 30th March 2024



The 2024 National Competition and Exhibition will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society London. The competition is open to all classes including one for experimental 3D-entries.

This is particularly aimed at those seeking to qualify for forthcoming international competitions.

To enter your exhibit please go to our website www.abps.org.uk and follow the Exhibitions menu to register yourself and enter your exhibit(s) there. Entry is only possible by registering online. The deadline for entry is 12th February 2024.

It will be good to have lots of entries, including from people who have not entered before. Entrants do not have to be members of the Royal.

Federations – A First Exploration

Upon taking over as Federation Liaison Officer, my first job has been to find out as much as possible about each federation, and the obvious route seemed to be to visit all the websites.

It has been an interesting exercise. One could almost divide the sites into 'the Good, the Bad and the Ugly'.

Every federation needs a good website. To be effective, it needs to be informative, easy to navigate, and most importantly, UP TO DATE. A site showing three-year-old display information is likely to have out-of-date contact information too (if one can find it at all). A clear, uncluttered home page is desirable too, to give a good first impression and inspire confidence in the visitor. (This of course also applies to society websites.)

Several of the sites are very good, and lured me to delve deeper into their constituent societies. Others were inconsistent or inaccurately labelled or just seemed to want to hide information, with no clue as to secretary or webmaster.

One site announces that it is no longer available 'due to the lack of support from the Federation Committee' – a pretty damning indictment which can only have a negative impact on any reader seeking information on the area. It should be removed and the problem addressed rather than advertised.

Worst of all, there are three federations who do not even have a website, to my mind an indefensible situation in 2023. Does this mean that their constituent societies never co-operate on events or swap speakers?

Perhaps this is an area where the ABPS could offer help, guidance or training, as we all know that websites are almost always run by volunteers, many of whom may be learning on the job and/or have minimal spare time for site development. Would Federation/Society webmasters appreciate having a web support person to whom they could turn for advice?

Please give some thought to what *your* federation needs from the ABPS and send some feedback – my crystal ball is not infallible – and I shall keep digging.

Daphne McMillan

Congratulations to those who qualified as judges to federation level in July at York: **Wendy Buckle, Susan Burn, Malcolm Gascoyne, Brian Hague, Brian Harmon, George Henshilwood, Mike Hoffman, Gerald Lovell, James McLeod, Lubomír Špacek** and **Anne Stammers**.

THE NORTHERN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

19th - 20th July 2024

This will be held at York Racecourse courtesy of the York Stamp & Coin Fair. Entry is through the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk by following the Exhibitions menu to REGISTER YOURSELF OR ENTER AN EXHIBIT HERE. Entry is only possible by registering online. Enquiries to: exhibiting@abps.org.uk

A response to: Are We Too Late? What Can Be Done?

I came to philately late in life: I am now retired. I had dabbled in my childhood like most people (of my age anyway) but after that, nothing.

It was only about six years ago that I decided to dabble again. I signed up for a few societies. People are generally very amiable and helpful but from what I have seen, almost everyone has been involved in philately for many, many years. At meetings, I have felt like a fish out of water. Often bewildered and overwhelmed. As I say, everyone seems to have been involved for yonks and I wondered for most of the six years where on earth I could fit in. I have amassed material without any real idea (or perhaps, any idea) as to what to do with it!

I floundered around until a few months ago when I suddenly realised that I could combine stamps with stuff that I am generally interested in such as wildlife and history. Postal History etc can wait. Amongst other things, I'm working on a project involving Napoleon Bonaparte's exile on St Helena. I have collected all the stamps issued by St Helena (at least I think I have) and am working on a project starting with Napoleon's surrender to Captain Maitland of HMS Bellerophon, moored off Rochefort, on 13th July 1815 (I have Maitland's book) through to his death during May 1821 and beyond so as to include the repatriation of his body to Paris. Other projects include lichens and the birds of St Helena on stamps (I also want to look at the birds of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha). I have a number of other projects on the horizon and am now enjoying myself.

At some time in the future, God willing, I can move on to Postal History etc as a progression from what I'm doing now.

It hasn't been easy. For all I know, my experience may be unique. For the average person, it might be easy to slip into things. I'm not sure if this will be of any interest but it outlines my experience in getting involved, essentially from scratch, the difficulties I experienced and of course, still experience.

Kind regards ~ Mike Robinson



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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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from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**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

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, 51 years later!...

~~Wrong Offer X~~ ~~Wrong Price X~~ ~~Wrong Place X~~
(naive seller) ✓ = **me** but I was only 15 at the time!



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

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 'socialised' 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 his collecting / 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 51 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka LUPA) – the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps from 54 different countries 'in his international auctions'.

Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them... He loves working in stamps



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

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

~~Wrong Presentation X~~ ~~Wrong Place X~~
therefore Wrong Price X

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

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

– **Lucky for the seller that 2 well-heeled 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 more collector clients than any other stamp auction**

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).

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 former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 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



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

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). **Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead.** Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous **Example:**

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for £1,000 – but You received circa £656

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

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example £2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less – especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate £2,000 = £1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either – he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock **OR,** like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices... So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 36% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon:** Universal Philatelic Auctions, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

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

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

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 20 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 more than 2,250 different regular bidders. 📞

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 20 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 20 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 square peg into a round hole. 📞

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

- 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.
- 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...
- 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 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

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297

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The Collectors' Secret Weapon

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... Look for the 'US'? (Unsold lots)

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Collectors – New to my UPA auctions?

Let me tell you an open secret ... with up to 19,000+ world-wide lots in each auction, unsurprisingly ...

Not everything sells 1st or even 2nd time offered

This is your chance to turn this to your advantage ... in 'archaic' philately, it is high time for a refreshing change, isn't it?

If you are tired of unrealistic Dealer's selling prices, don't be any longer, because unlike the rest of the stamp trade, each time an auction lot is **UNSOLD** – we reduce the estimate (and reserve), and furthermore ... we inform you!

Instead of typical trade 'cover-ups' (altering descriptions, repeated same estimates and reserves) ... here is how my 20-year time-proven unique UPA reducing-estimate and reserve system works, allowing lots to find their own value, and you to find extraordinary value, even bargains:

When you see ...

'US' after a description – 'US' indicates the number of times that a lot has been **UNSOLD**, and how many times the lot has been reduced in price by initially 11%(US), a further 12%(US2), a further 13%(US3) etc.

Yes, each time a lot is unsold the reduction is 'ramped'...

... and because reserve is always 80% of estimate ... a US4 lot will start at ... as little as 46% of 1st time estimate...

This is the reason why some collectors do not even bother to bid in our auction! ...

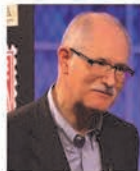
They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!

So ... looking for the 'US' makes sense, doesn't it

... and you can join them. If you would like to spend some philatelic time, looking for the 'US' (Unsold lots) ...

... and because most clients support UPA by bidding in future auctions, I'm making this easy for new clients like you to get started –

Dedicated to De-mystifying Philately



Andrew McGavin
Andrew McGavin,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions
(UPA)

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Northern National York 2023 Palmares

Congratulations to all who participated in the National Competition, hosted in July at the York Stamp and Coin Fair.

There were 51 entries in the following classes: Aerophilately, Cinderella, Modern Philately, Open Philately, Philatelic Literature, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Postcards, Revenue, Thematic and Traditional.

Results ranged from Large Gold to Silver.

Gold Medals were won by **Jon Aitchison, Brian Harmon, Tony Plumbe and John Stimson.**

Large Gold were achieved by: **Brian Callan, Chris King, Daphne McMillan, Chris Symonds and Andy Taylor**, who won Best in Show for his display of

The Newspaper Postage Stamps of Austria

CALLING ALL SOCIETY SPEAKERS

The ABPS is in the process of reviewing and updating the speakers' list on the ABPS website. This periodic review is a key requirement of compliance with data protection regulations. ABPS has written to all speakers who are currently on the list and everyone involved is encouraged to return the compliance form and update their entry, if required. Anyone who fails to respond by 31st December 2023 will, unfortunately, have to be removed from the listing on the website. This is also an opportunity to add a photograph of yourself and images from your display, if you choose to do so. Forms and images can be emailed to vicechair@abps.org.uk

If you are a society speaker and would like to add your details to the ABPS website, you can do so by going directly to the speakers' section website and completing the form by clicking on "Add your details to our Speakers database here".

There is generally a shortage of speakers for societies and you will be greatly assisting programme secretaries by adding your personal details to the website.

The ABPS actively represents the interests of UK collectors and societies at home and abroad. For more information contact the membership secretary: Barry Stagg at membership@abps.org.uk

Or visit the web site: www.abps.org.uk

*For any additional information contact the Public Relations Officer: John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB
01295 255831 or pr@abps.org.uk*

EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025 – Update

Arrangements for the next mid-decade British International Exhibition, EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025, are progressing well. It will be held at the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham, the first time a British International has been held outside London, from Wednesday 7th to Sunday 11th May 2025. The NEC is located near the centre of the country, close to several motorways and junctions, with over 16 500 parking spaces. It has its own railway station and is adjacent to Birmingham International Airport.

The exhibition will have over 2000 exhibition frames and has FEPA Patronage and FIP Recognition. **All FIP classes are available and it is now open for entries.** To enter an exhibit please go to the website at www.europhillex2025.co.uk and fill in an entry form. This is the process for all entries, not just those from the United Kingdom. Entries can be accepted from anyone living in a FEPA country, which is most of Europe, or anyone elsewhere in the world that is a member of a society affiliated to a European national federation. For example, The Royal Philatelic Society London, the Great Britain Philatelic Society, the Malaya Study Group etc. The website also shows opportunities for Supporters, Patrons and Sponsors who we encourage, as major exhibitions of this type rely on the generosity of some collectors, dealers and auction houses.

There is more space available for dealers than at London 2022, with a total floor area of up to 10 000 square metres, so we hope to have a large number attending. Details of trade stand prices can also be found on the website. A package of offers for societies will appear shortly. Meeting rooms will be available at very reasonable rates and there will be a Society Showcase event for one day of the exhibition. The Sunday afternoon will feature a live auction and there will be interesting presentations throughout. Watch out for a series of collectors' souvenir sheets starting next year.

Anyone who would like to receive more information and regular updates can register their interest on the website. EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025 will be one of the largest, best and most enjoyable exhibitions of the decade. Please put the dates in your diary now.



Web site: www.europhillex2025.co.uk
Email: enquiries@europhillex2025.co.uk

Why not consider how you might be part of this very big event? There will be a great need for help in setting up the displays, stewarding and general help.



American Society for Netherlands Philately
c/o Ben Jansen, Editor and Secretary
asnpmagazine@gmail.com
<http://www.asnp1975.com>

Free Society Membership for Netherlands Collectors
For the third year in a row, the American Society for Netherlands Philately is offering a free yearly membership to collectors worldwide who sign up for their electronic option beginning in September.

The ASNP, APS affiliate # 60, was founded by Paul van Reyen in 1975 as the successor to Netherlands and Colonial Philately (NCP), which had been the premier organization of Netherlands and related area collectors for many years.

In an effort to further promote the society, the ASNP Board offers both a print and an electronic option for members based on preference for receiving their bimonthly publication, *Netherlands Philately*, published since its founding. Unique is the offer of a free yearly membership to those selecting the electronic membership. Collectors interested in receiving a black and white magazine paper copy would be charged \$25 for US residents and \$35 elsewhere to defray yearly publication and mailing costs. Both offers remains unchanged for the 2023-24 membership that begins in September.

Longtime member and current magazine editor, Ben Jansen, welcomes new members among their ranks, saying "We are doubling our efforts in September to encourage even those collectors with a casual interest in Netherlands philately to join us, especially through our free offer. Beginners through advanced collectors will find interesting articles in our publication, can buy and sell material through our auctions and request books and periodicals from our extensive library, all potentially for free."

Full details about the ASNP, benefits of joining and these membership offers can be found on their web site at <http://www.asnp1975.com>



A sign of the times?

Third Class Mail

- noticed and sent in by a philatelist with a sense of humour.

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. 500 words roughly 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.



PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN 2024

Congress 2024 will be in Southampton from 11th to 14th July 2024. It will be based at the Leonardo Grand Harbour Hotel, close to the harbour and city centre. The programme will have as its theme **new directions in philately** including “Context Philately”. We can share the latest developments and best practices in philately. This is an event for everyone with an interest in philately with displays by local collectors as well as leading overseas collectors. For 2024 the Role of Distinguished Philatelists will be joining Congress to make it a very special event!



Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton Grand Harbour

West Quay Road, Southampton, SO15 1AG

Southamptongrandharbour@leonardohotels.co.uk

+44 23 8063 3033

Bedrooms are available to book now at special rates for Congress. Bed and breakfast - £195 single occupancy or £207 double occupancy per night.

Superior with a view - £30 upgrade fee per night

Superior with a balcony - £50 upgrade fee per night

Executive room - £60 upgrade fee per night

To book a room please call +44 23 8063 3033 - select option 1

The web site is Southamptongrandharbour@leonardohotels.co.uk

When booking quote: Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

OR Block Code: PHILAT110724

There will be special dinners on each evening of Congress, as well as the RDP dinner on the Friday evening – all details and a booking form will be available very soon – together with full details of the Congress programme – keep an eye on: www.abps.org.uk/philatelic-congress/



The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum marked the opening of the new temporary exhibition **Dressed to Deliver** with Post & Go stamps from 18th October. The new “The Postal Museum/ Dressed to Deliver” overprint will appear on

the “Mail by Bike” stamps originally released in February 2016. These six designs celebrate the use of innovative modes of transport from the Pentacycle in 1882 to Quad Bikes in 2002. They also depict the riders



wearing a variety of uniforms making them an appropriate way to celebrate the launch of our new exhibition. The overprint was live from 18th October 2023.

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



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'STAMP SWAP OUT' 1922/3

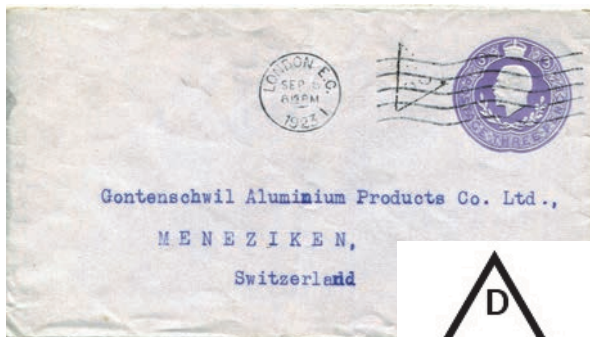
Many collectors will have been busy returning their 'old' definitive stamps to Royal Mail in exchange for the new 'bar coded' ones as part of Royal Mail's Swap Out scheme. Just over 100 years ago a situation arose where the public could exchange their stamps for a different reason: The postage rates had been raised over the previous four years as a means of raising revenue for supporting the war effort. Rates for domestic mail were eventually reduced on 29th May 1922, and the rates for foreign mail on 14th May 1923.

Existing stamps were still valid at their face value and could be used as such. The problem for the public and commerce revolved mainly around postal stationery: postal cards and envelopes which had imprinted stamps ('Indicia') for the 'old' higher rates. Postage rates were very rarely reduced. When the rates increased, postal stationery posed no problem, you simply added an additional adhesive stamp or had an additional imprint placed alongside the existing one. There are many examples of this practice to be found.

The problem posed by the reduction in postal rates was resolved by the post office as follows:

Existing stocks of postal stationery in some post offices were stamped with a triangular inspectors' mark and sold at the new reduced price (below).

Stocks of postal stationery held by the public could be exchanged at their local post office for new correctly franked stationery, or have the inspectors' triangular handstamps applied and the difference in price refunded. Commercial organisations which had postal stationery items with their own additional printing on could take their stocks to the post office where



the inspectors' triangular mark were applied and a refund given for the difference in the franking value.

John Barker

Based on an article by John Fowler, and a listing given by Dr A K Huggins, first published in the Postal Stationery Society Journal No 41 Feb 2007



‘STAMP SWAP OUT’ 2022/3

There seems to be a bit of confusion in some philatelic quarters about the RM “Swap-out” (or should it be “exchange scheme”?) for non-data-coded Machin stamps. (They are not barcoded – no bars and they do not look like barcodes as seen elsewhere!)

There are some points which people need to appreciate.

Firstly. The non-data coded stamps **DO NOT HAVE TO BE “SWAPPED-IN” BY THE END OF JULY 2023!** They should not be used after that date.

There is **no set date** for the end of the Swap-out Scheme and RM informs me that currently there are no plans to end the scheme. Therefore, collectors of Machins and other stamps affected (see the second point) need not decide now whether to keep their collection or swap it in before it becomes impossible to swap the stamps for usable stamps if it cannot be sold as a collection when they no longer want it.

Note that RM might decide to end the “Swap-out” scheme in the future (see the third point) so collectors retaining affected collections should “keep their ear to the ground”. Hopefully, if an end date is set, it will be well publicised.

Secondly. The RM website is not absolutely clear on what needs to be “swapped in”. It begins by stating, “Regular stamps (?) without a barcode will no longer be valid” and it pictures Machins. It then goes through lots of info on how to exchange stamps and it shows examples of what should be swapped – 4 x Machins, and examples of what need not be swapped – commems and Christmas. To find out more one has to scroll down quite some way and click on questions and open a PDF file where one can find details of further stamps which need to be swapped. All very difficult to follow! **So here is a list as far as I can work it out.**

The stamps which are no longer accepted on mail are: Machins of all types from 1p to £5, including those with 1st, 2nd (will be swapped for current values) or with E on them, stamps marked for large letters, the double-headed issues, Regionals, Country stamps, the £10 Britannia stamp, decimal Castles, the small Olympic worldwide stamp, Machins with special use such as International tariffs, worldwide including postcards, special and recorded signed for and similar. Note that some of these stamps are found (or also found) in booklets and miniature sheets.

Note that all KC3 definitives are coded so do not need to be swapped and all Christmas issues have been removed from the need to be swapped.

It is not clear what is happening with stamps having a ½p in their value. Hopefully the ½p’s can be added together and swapped!

There are other stamps which RM has **not** mentioned as needing to be swapped. These include small sized stamps with various designs such as flags, heraldic symbols, messages, views, patterns, etc., repeats of the first QE2 definitives (Wildings) but with decimal values on them, repeats of Queen Victoria stamps (on anniversaries of the stamps) and various other miscellaneous designs. Some of these come from stamp booklets, some from miniature sheets, some from Smiler and similar sheets and some from exhibition sheets!! It is

suggested these should be swapped if not needed but can be kept and swapped later. A few might be worth a bit so best to keep.

Remember that you do not have to swap stamps that you have in your collection – just not use them, and hopefully swap them when you give up collecting if you cannot sell them for a reasonable sum.

Thirdly RM should be made to understand that there are very many collections of Machins and other affected stamps, both in the UK and around the world. If these collections are to remain intact, RM MUST clearly state that the “Swap in” scheme will be never-ending so such collectors will not feel forced to swap in their collections to avoid being landed with them if they become worthless as a collection.

It is suggested that all collectors of Machins and other stamps affected should write to RM and ask (or demand) that the “Swap-in” scheme be extended indefinitely. RM may only do this if they realise that they will upset many possible customers if they do not.

The address is: Mr. Nick Read, CEO of Royal Mail, RM Headquarters, 185 Farringdon Road, London, EC1A 1AA

Finally. It is my personal opinion that when one buys a stamp from RM one enters into an unwritten contract with RM. One buys a stamp which can be used as payment for posting an envelope or package and RM agrees to accept it as payment for the delivery of the said envelope or package. If RM declares some stamps as invalid and declines to accept them, they have broken that contract. And that the “swap-in” scheme does not change the broken contract as it has not been agreed by both parties.

Is anyone reading this message legally qualified to express a legal opinion on the above point or know of anyone who would be willing to express such a legal opinion? If so, would you or they do so without charge and let me know?

My contact details are below. Do feel free to contact me (preferably by email) to let me know your views on this subject or the result of any correspondence with RM or anyone else on the subject. You may pass on my contact details for this purpose.

Richard Camp

01952-405458. mail@richardcamp.co.uk.

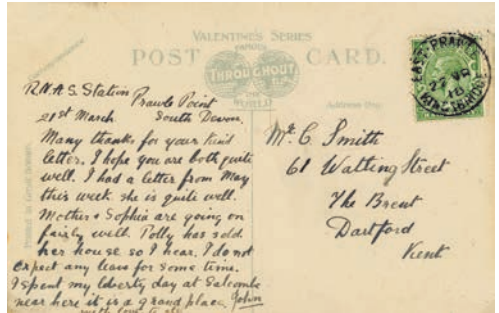
Chairman and Vice-President, Telford Stamp and Card Club

Introducing StampEd from American Philatelic Society

The APS is proud to announce our plans to launch a new (and free) digital magazine: **StampEd**. This quarterly publication, debuting in February 2024, will invite the digital generation to connect with stamp collecting in new and exciting ways through thoughtful articles and born-digital content. Regular columns will include **Stamp Apprentice**, focusing on stamp collecting basics; **The Gallery**, highlighting stamp artists; and **Screentime**, which will introduce readers to digital philatelists, creators, and communities. "StampEd is not just a magazine, it will also become a community for the next generation of collectors," said APS Executive Director Scott English. "If we're serious about growing the hobby, we have to go meet these collectors where they are and stop waiting for them to come to us." Email stamp@stamps.org

Royal Naval Air Service Prawle Point. East Prawle. South Devon. 1918.

The Royal Naval Air Service Prawle Point was a World War I airfield situated outside the village of East Prawle South Devon. The airfield was opened in 1917 to provide a base for de Havilland DH 6s and DH 9s of the Royal Naval Air Service flying anti-submarine patrols. With the formation of the Royal Air Force in April 1918 the airfield became RAF Prawle Point 254 Squadron. The Squadron was disbanded on 22nd February 1919 and flying at Prawle Point ended. Today the land is used for farming.



The above rare postcard was sent from the RNAS Prawle Point Air Station and bears an East Prawle Postmark dated 22nd March 1918, just prior to the formation of the RAF.

Keith Lillywhite



Royal Naval Air Service crew at East Prawle 1917.

de Havilland
DH 9



A Response to David Rennie

Hi David,

I read your article with interest. I realise your membership numbers, like those in most societies, are falling, but I am sure that a lot of us are envious that, despite everything, you can still boast 91. We had 90 members in 1990 and now have 37. In fact, that is quite a comfortable number for us as we moved into smaller premises, which provide disability access, which we did not have before.

Yours is obviously a very proactive society, attending and hosting stamp fairs and other events, which has probably helped you to gain a few members.

I have a few other suggestions, which may or may not be new to you:

- Look at other society websites for fresh ideas and jazz up your own. This is an opportunity to attract new and younger members. It needs more than just a page showing where you meet and an application form. It needs to show what you do, what you offer at meetings. Ensure it has visual impact and that it is easy to navigate, (I know I am prejudiced, but we do have an excellent webmaster. If you have time, do visit the Notts Philatelic website, with its meeting reports, Newsletters and particularly the zoom meeting display on 'New Zealand Internee Mail' by Andrew Dove, FRPSL.)
- If you have a willing volunteer, start up a Newsletter, with members able to contribute news, articles, photos, anything of interest. We find it is a good way to allow those members who no longer attend meetings to keep in touch.
- Have an occasional Zoom and PowerPoint display: popular with younger people.
- Try a mix of afternoon and evening meetings if you don't do so already.

In reply to your query, we did have an award for the best display of the year for a visiting speaker and also one for our own members. This has continued successfully for quite a few years.

All the best,

Sandra Poole,

Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Notts Philatelic Society

One of very few responses to the double article in the last issue, though Salisbury has followed up with their members and other local societies and awaits their replies to a questionnaire. This was a good reply - thank you Sandra and Notts PS

Editor

ABPS accredited judges

The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

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.

Federations

Hampshire

HAMPEX and competitions have taken place in September. There was a good selection of entries, judged by national judges **Pat Reid** and **Mike Smith**: five 32-sheet two-frame entries and nine single frame 16-sheet entries. Many thanks to the members of Ferndown, Southampton, Portsmouth, and Ringwood Societies who entered exhibits. The number of dealers selling at fairs like this is falling – we and they need your support. Our AGM in 2025 will be important as we will need a new chairman, when **Julian Jones** stands down after many years.

Julian Jones from Hampshire Federation Newsletter

North East Philatelic Association

NEPA has produced a new booklet to show the officers, syllabus and meeting arrangements for their 16 affiliated societies and groups. They also include details of the frames and what they can hold, to enable speakers to plan their displays in good time – always useful to have that sort of information. **Jeff Armstrong**, NEPA Secretary, has now been appointed as National Advisor for Philately within the U3A throughout the UK. He hopes to encourage more U3A members to become philatelists, there are currently seven philately clubs within U3A. He might be a useful contact if you want to offer postcard or philatelic talks to U3A groups in your area. Such talks can be presented as more social history or visual content in many cases.

From NEPA Syllabus

Wiltshire and District

We successfully held our 9-Sheet competitions as an integral part of Swinpex on the 10th June. All the entries were judged before the day by **Robin Pizer** who gave individual written feedback to each competitor. This meant that all entries were on public display from the start of the show. The winners were: Traditional



Mike Tanner (left) & Simon King (right) before they 'arm wrestle' to see who takes the trophy!

class and Aerophilately - **John Roe** of Bristol; Postal History and the Picture Postcard classes - **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon; Thematic Class - **Julian Frost** of Salisbury; Open class - **Stephen Belcher** of Swindon and the Cinderella class - **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon. Joint Best in Show were **Mike Tanner** of Bristol (winner of the Revenue class) and **Simon King** of Swindon (winner of the Postal Stationery class). This year's 16-Sheet Competition will be held in Swindon on 2nd December

concurrent with our AGM with the last date for submission of best quality colour photocopies being 1st November. *Paul Latham-Warde*

It would be good to hear from federations more often. Some send something occasionally, others never - are you active?

Specialist Societies

Channel Islands SS

14 members attended our members' meeting on 16th September. Four more joined the afternoon session by Zoom. We held a 64-lot room auction. 43 lots sold, a sum of £470 being realised. Room displays included that given by **Simon Burke** who showed *Herm*, including seven scarce Tuck picture postcards and four postally-used postcards, all cancelled with the rare HERM double-ring datestamp. The first Zoom display was by **Bryan Elliston**, on *Early Guernsey Postal History from 1592 to 1844*. This included examples of free frank and disinfected mail, packet letter handstamps, correspondence sent via forwarding



agents, ship letters, pre-adhesive markings and handstruck numerals. The second room display was given by the secretary, **Richard Flemming**, on behalf of **Gerald Marriner**. It featured *Channel Island Destination Mail*, mainly to and from Jersey. Examples were shown relating to

Europe, North America, the West Indies, Southern Africa, the Far East and Oceania.
Steve Wells

The Czechoslovak PS of GB

A dozen members met at the George Inn, London on 16th September to enjoy **Les Percy's** presentation on *Czechoslovakia Newspaper Stamps*. In the early days of the republic the usual stop-gap measures included the use of Austrian and Hungarian stamps, bisects, and a wide range of emergency provisional labels. Some papers were sent free to injured soldiers – these were covered by provisionals with a red cross in the design. In December 1918 the Alfons Mucha 'windhover' stamps were introduced, and plenty of material was shown on this



Les Percy (left) explains aspects to members

issue – including fly-speck flaws, printers' waste and colour varieties. Examples of the stamps in use, affixed to wrappers and newspapers, included some paying for up to 200 copies at 5 haler each. The Mucha design was followed by Benda's dove design in 1937 – once again imperforate, but with many privately perforated examples. The Bratislava miniature sheet was included, together with a sheet overprinted for the New York World Fair, and there were examples of mixed frankings with both the 'windhover' and dove designs. Sudetenland overprints, Bohemia & Moravia newspaper stamps, *Slovenský štát* overprints, and the newspaper stamps issued by the Slovakian protectorate were displayed (in sheets and used on piece) and the collection concluded with the December 1945 postwar issue. There was a great deal of interest among members, particularly in the examples of the stamps in use – this kind of material can be hard to find and expensive when it does turn up. → www.cpsgb.org.uk

Tony Holdsworth

Faroe Islands

The Study Circle's journal was awarded a Large Vermeil medal at the Great American Stamp Show (GASS), held in Cleveland, Ohio, from 10th to 13th August 2023. The decision to enter the journal – called "238" and edited by **Norman Hudson** – in the society journal's section of the show's Literature Class was made early in 2023 when it was known that the Faroe Islands' postal service was arranging special launch events at GASS for the first day of issue of the Faroes' 1000th stamp (10th August) and the 1000th stamp by the Norwegian-Swedish stamp designer and engraver, Martin Mörck (11th August). Mörck has designed/engraved stamps for 28 postal administrations around the world. His

1000th stamp design was a 50KR stamp for the Faroe Islands reproducing a 1933 painting by Emil Axel Krause (1871-1945) entitled *Returning from the Fishing*. There had been seventeen entries in the show's society journals competition. From the list of entries, it was assumed that the Study Circle was the only society outside the USA to participate in the competition.

→ www.faroeislandssc.org

Norman Hudson

Forces Postal History

Firstly, my apologies to ABPS News Editor (Keith Burton) and to John Walker for confusing matters by including the wrong name in my report but the right name in the photo caption, but which led to the wrong name being used in the last issue of ABPS News. Despite being a healthy society we are still suffering from low attendances at our London meeting venue. Like many societies we have lost members over the years, a good number of whom attended our meetings. Low attendance is not helped with new variants of Covid doing the rounds which may put off members from travelling on public transport. Looking ahead our next Zoom meeting will be on Saturday 18th November (at 2pm). We will be pleased to accept non-members to join us on Zoom - just let me know and I'll pass on your details. We also have our regular Saturday afternoon meetings at the Union Jack Club on 9th December - if you have an interest in military mails why not come and join us, we are a very welcoming and friendly society. Our 2024 programme is in the process of being compiled and will be made available with our Winter Journal. → website for details of membership, meetings and many displays, together with a free download of our Winter 2022 Journal -

www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs

Helvetia

Midpex 2023: This was a welcome opportunity to do some networking and make some new acquaintances. Taking up such opportunities 'to fly the flag' is essential for our future prosperity. Several of us attended this event to promote the society. Among our visitors, there were a few non-philatelists seeking advice about philatelic material discovered or inherited. Such enquiries serve as a constant reminder that some of us have yet to add any helpful guidance notes to our collections which may assist others at a future date when disposal is contemplated. Best of all, we had the pleasure of recruiting a new member. Our website www.swiss-philately.co.uk remains as the gateway to learning more about Swiss philately and postal history. Visitors are also welcome to participate in our occasional face-to-face meetings as well as those using Zoom online. Looking forward, we have a day meeting in



*Werner Gattiker & Norton Wragg
behind the desk during Midpex*

Salisbury on 29th October and the 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in Worcester over the weekend of 27th and 28th April 2024. If you are interested in attending any of our meetings which are flagged up on the website

→ secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk

Mike Sharp

Joint Central European Societies

The annual joint meeting of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav specialist societies was in Leeds on 12th August. Compared with 2022's baking summer, 2023's made much pleasanter travelling and attending.



Although slightly depleted in numbers, we enjoyed a wide variety of short displays on all manner of topics related to central European philately and postal history. In fact, it was hard to cram them all in before closing time. Topics covered in short displays were: *WWII Polish Corps mail*; *Saxon-Bohemian 'Switzerland'*; *Hungary in WWI*; *Poland's struggle in WWI as commemorated in post-WWII stamps*; *The Austrian enclave Kleinwalsertal*; *Prince Michael stamps of Serbia*; *Mixed currency frankings of Austria*; *The second Czech airmail issue with route labels*; *Hungarian pengő banknotes from 1927 to 1946*; *The historical Semmering railway line in Austria*; *Mail from the Czechoslovak lands taken back by Hungary and Poland 1938*; *Stamp issues of Romania to 1938*; *Meter mark usage from around Europe*; *Czech famous airmen issue of 1945/6*; *Hungarian parcel cards 1939-1944*; *Mail from Poland Post WWII*; *The insurgent mail of Western Hungary, 1921*; *Mail from the remote village of Jungholz in Tyrol*; *Czechoslovakian TPOs between the wars*; *Early postal history of Brno*; *Innsbruck post office development* and *An early permit to travel (from the Tyrol to Salzburg!)*. Many thanks to Yvonne for organising the event (and home-made cakes) and to Richard Wheatley for chairing the meeting which all went very smoothly. Looking forward to next year!

Roger Morrell

Malaya SG

A concerted effort led by our chair **Dominic Morris CBE** for members to present *Kedah*, with many emails reminding about the meeting on 23rd September, made this a splendid afternoon with superb displays on all aspects of *Kedah*. Publicity



Dominic Morris and others viewing exhibits

works! We were pleased to have members of the Thai Philatelic Society as contributing guests as well. The meeting started with a display of *Cancellations of Kedah on Siamese stamps pre-1909*, then *FMS and Straits Settlements in stamp shortages until 1920*, some interesting *Aspects of the definitives some only known recently* followed by the *Malaya-Borneo Exhibition 1922 overprints*. *Air Mail covers from Alor Star* introduced the 30s which were to end

in *WWII and censorship*. There were brilliant exhibits of *Japanese occupation* and subsequent *BMA covers*. Finally, all the *Issues up to modern times* many on covers showing usage were exhibited. A most distinguished Thai philatelist **Prakob Chirakiti RDP** ended the afternoon showing highlights from his collection of *Early Kedah in Siam cancellations* on examples of early covers.

Michael Waugh

National

We have welcomed about 80 new members following the decision by members of the London and Provincial Club to merge with us. Members at our September London meeting were treated to a superb thematic display by **Brian Sole FRPSL** on the subject of *Cycling*, while the online meeting in October featured colourful issues of *Labuan and North Borneo*, presented by **Dr Jon Higgins FRPSL**. In addition to regular meetings, and a bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover*, the society offers an extensive exchange packet, which circulates nationwide.

➔ Membership enquiries to Peter Mellor npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk
01582 762284

Michael Goodman

The Royal

Our 2023/2024 season began in traditional style on 14th September with a display from the Royal Philatelic Collection presented by gracious permission of

If you are thinking of joining the Royal or wonder what all the fuss is about, perhaps you could gain from watching the youtube video showing Nicola Davies, the Head of Collections, giving a guided tour. It is under the Exploring Stamps account.

Go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1UvHw_DP7o

His Majesty King Charles III. The material, selected by **Rod Vousden FRPSL**, Acting Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, featured material from the South Atlantic islands of *Ascension Island, Falkland Islands (and Dependencies), St Helena and Tristan da Cunha*. This was the first time since the 2019/2020 season that we have enjoyed the privilege of viewing material from the Royal Philatelic Collection. That was also the season during which the new building at Abchurch Lane was officially opened by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 26th November 2019. It was



Mike Roberts & Rod Vousden

therefore poignant that, within the material from St Helena, was a first day cover of the set to mark the Coronation of King George VI in May 1937. The cover was addressed to HRH Princess Elizabeth of York, and was formerly in the personal first day cover collection of Her Majesty. The next display was of Bermuda 1617 to 1970 by **David Cordon**. David confessed that, having been born on Bermuda and a collector from the age of 8, he had always wanted to have one of the best collections of the island, a broad-based collection that would also include the varieties. Asked to select a favourite item from his collection, David chose the King George V 12s 6d Revenue stamp of 1936 with a fiscal cancellation, of which six copies are currently recorded.

South African Collectors'

We held our AGM via Zoom in August this year with no changes to our committee structure or officers. In the next ABPS News, I hope to be able to report on both a regional meeting in Letchworth on 14th October and then on the Southern Africa Societies Conference in Meriden on 4th & 5th November 2023.

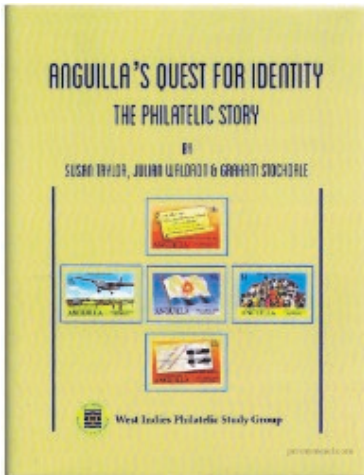
➔ www.southafricancollector.com or contact the Secretary, Chris Oliver on oliversofham@gmail.com or 020 8940 9833.

Chris Oliver

The West Indies PSG Convention

Members had travelled from Jamaica, France, and across the UK to attend our first biannual convention. It was held at Weybourne House in Guildford. Many members welcomed the opportunity to catch up over dinner and drinks over the two days. **Julian Waldron** won the Collett Award for his article *St Christopher, Village Manuscripts and SG24b* as the best contribution to the BWISC Bulletin in the 2021-2023 period. He signed the Collett Scroll which is to be kept at the Royal Philatelic Society Archive. **Andrew Fowles** enthralled us with his *Postal History of Jamaica to 1920*. He included Dummer correspondence and packets of the 1700s, early local post from offices across the island, the 'Kingston Keyhole', transits via South American countries, GB used abroad cancels, varieties of Kingston marks (including red), temporary date stamps and early registered post. **Peter Tribe's** talk about *Montserrat Philately* began with a visit in 2005 and the devastation caused by the 1995 volcanic eruption. His exhibit

Anguilla's Quest for Identity



At the West Indies Study Group Convention **Julian Waldron** and **Graham Stockdale** launched the WIPSG's first book: 'Anguilla's Quest for Identity – the Philatelic Story' with a captivating account of how the island's stamps tell the story of its struggle for recognition and independence.

Julian Waldron and **Susan Taylor**, secretary of WIPSG, will travel to Anguilla to present the island's history to dignitaries in the public library on Saturday 2nd December.

'This book contains a fascinating insight into the philatelic history of Anguilla. The events of the 1967 revolution are well known and many former philatelists have written articles on the stamps and history of the Island however, this is the first attempt to bring its philatelic history

into a single reference point.

Anguilla's postal history is interwoven with the economics, political and Government events of the day and explains why the Anguillians, through years of neglect by controlling authorities, wanted independence. To see a clear philatelic history of the island the authors have extensively researched the events, people, covers and stamps to produce a comprehensive review of Anguilla's philately. It is hoped that this captivating book will stimulate interest and further research from other philatelists.'

The book is available for £44 from Pennymead Books www.pennymead.com

National Youth Stamp Competitions 2024

The Youth Stamp Competitions, which each year attract youngsters of all ages from across the United Kingdom, will be held as part of the national competitions to take place at the York Stamp and Coin Fair on 19th and 20th July 2024. This event, which draws thousands of enthusiasts, will be held at York Racecourse.

The competition will include entries for the Stamp Active Competition and the British Youth Stamp Championships. Full details of these competitions, with helpful hints for those entering, together with application forms, can be found on the Stamp Active website at www.stampactive.co.uk

Entry forms must be submitted by 31st May 2024 and the exhibits themselves received by 30th June 2024. The youth entries will be judged in advance of the event and the best overall entries will be displayed as part of the national competitions at York.



Julian signing the Collett Roll

included early packet letters, the Montserrat fleuron and much other early material. **Ed Barrow** shared an interesting review of the *Red Cross philately of Trinidad and Tobago*. **James Podger** brought an impressive range of *Early Virgin Isles correspondence*. **John Jordan** presented *Two Recent Antigua finds* with the social history stories behind both items, and



Andrew Fowles on Jamaica

Kevin Darcy presented a range of *Cayman Islands History* on rare philatelic items. Other silent displays came from **Lawrence**

Grech, Richard Capon, Alistair Kinnon, Susan Taylor and Paul Wright.

Susan Taylor

Local Societies

Adur

It's been an eventful year for us, filled with captivating displays, engaging presentations, and exciting plans. Some of the notable moments of our sessions are: **Peter Cockburn** showcasing his incredible *BMA Malaya*, **Brian Baldock's** captivating *New Zealand*, and on a return visit, he treated us to the beauty and history of *Australian stamps*. In members' evenings, our members make our sessions come alive with their enthusiastic displays. **Josh Spoor** took us on a special journey with his personal tribute to **Marc Burgess**, focusing on *Swiss Aviation stamps*. **Bob Knight** shared his *Worthing Postcards and Postmarks*, giving us a glimpse into local history. **Dave Hilton's** *This and That* presentation added a touch of variety, reminding us that there's always something new to learn and enjoy in the world of stamps. In our ongoing quest to expand our stamp-loving community, we are considering a change in meeting times. Starting next year, we're exploring a rotating schedule: one month at the familiar 7pm and the following month an afternoon slot. This approach aims to accommodate and attract new members, enriching our discussions and interactions. We

extend our heartfelt gratitude to the trustees of the late **Marc Burgess**, who generously bequeathed to Adur Stamp Club. Their thoughtful gesture not only honours our shared passion but also contributes to the continuity and growth of our club. We are humbled by their support and are committed to upholding the legacy they have helped preserve.

Eric White via Dave Hilton

Amersham & District

The programme for 2023 to 2024 got off to a cracking start with 30 members attending the opening session, which consisted of an outline by the president of the programme ahead followed by a members' session of *Fill a frame or two A-B*. In the following meeting the president discussed plans for the forthcoming Stamp Fair; administrative and operational issues. After this came a display by **Tim Harrison** on *Iceland Postal History*. Quite amazing how much has been achieved by a country with a population of only 300 000 people. It must be the midnight sun in summer time that makes the difference! On Sunday 15th October our much-anticipated Stampersham Fair and Thames Valley Federation 16-sheet competition happened in the new Community Centre in Amersham. The committee had been busy the previous day with set-up and local road signage to bring in visitors from all directions. Fifteen dealers, many of national significance, were busy setting up on Sunday morning. They covered postcards, stamps, postal history and military material while the society set up a cosy café, reception and tombola, and supported the federation in setting up displays.



Doors opened at 10am and philatelists were soon swarming in. The day ended at 15.30 and many positive comments were exchanged as dealers and philatelists headed for home.

➔ stampersham.org.uk

Keith Wright

Ayrshire

The new session started with the President's Night in September. Our new president is **Ian Smith**, and his display, *A Philatelic Journey*, was his philatelic biography. His collecting interests started with Jersey and, having amassed the stamps, he moved on to postal history



Ian with part of his display

with flight covers, German occupation and internment mail. His next interest was the 1947 Royal Visit to South Africa but that soon spread to other Royal visits. Wanting another country to collect he selected St Kitts-Nevis, starting with the early issues of St Christopher and including a 1776 cover from Greenock. Ian's second round covered some of his recent interests starting with a range of stamps covering the rulers of and subjects relating to Monaco. Having acquired a collection of early Rumania, he has expanded it to cover items from WWI and WWII, and his latest interest is the George VI issues of Bermuda, also showing how external mail was routed. At our next meeting **Colin Breddy** brought his *The Cunard Story*. He started in 2006 linking all the ships that have been in the Cunard fleet from 1840 until 2020 when Cunard became primarily a cruise company. Trade moved in patterns, with ships in the 1880s onwards being built to cater for the emigrant trade from Europe to the USA and Canada. In WWI and WWII many were requisitioned as troop ships, and between the wars there was a marked increase in size and elegance.

→ Ken Gibb at ayrstamps@yahoo.com

David Rossal

Basildon

Since July we have held two members' evenings on *G,H & I* and *My Favourite Theme*. There were 5 displays for the former and six for the latter. Our speakers included **Andy Soutar** showing *Grenada* from the earliest GB stamps used there to modern issues, and **Alan Moorcroft** returning to show us his *German Occupation of the Channel Islands*. This was a mixed digital and frame presentation and included the experiences of some individuals caught up in the events. In September **Andrew Skilling** showed us *British Honduras*. He started with pre-stamp material, then took us through Victorian and early 20th Century material to the early days of Queen Elizabeth II. In the second round, he completed new issues to Independence, plus a range of village postmarks. As if this amazing display was not enough, he completed the evening with some of

his *Harwich Ship Letter mail*, including a reused wrapper that had been shipwrecked on the first lap of its travels! He continued with *Railway Art and Railways* including a display of railway and tram art on postcards, posters, stamps, etc, by the late Terence Cuneo and a wide variety of other artists. Round two was devoted to Stephenson's Rocket for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the Rainhill Trials, etc. The final round covered a wide range of other railways, including modern traction such as the Advanced Passenger Train.

Fly on the Wall – Basildon Philatelist

Burnley and District



Viewing latest acquisitions

The summer shutdown came and went and apart from local fairs several members made it to Midpex and York. We started again on 7th September with an open night and members showing the latest acquisitions from the summer. My contribution was some covers from Japan and a Christmas card. A parcel from a friend in Tokyo was left on my doorstep last week (1st September) by relatives of a near neighbour. It had been wrongly delivered, taken in, and forgotten about, but surfaced during their visit. It also contained some heavy stockbooks and had been posted on 2nd December 2022! Newly acquired, I had no guilt in showing it. The mail always gets through! Despite advertising the open night on a "What's on in Burnley" webpage no one new arrived other than a lady from the next room's watercolour painting class with a schoolboy stamp album to be assessed. **David Rennie's** and **Richard Smith's** articles last quarter are a reasonable reflection on where we are, both in age and direction, but we persevere with the converted. Perhaps no one can afford stamps any more? A visit to the post office cost me £2.20 for a barcoded stamp for a

postcard to Germany, and £1.85 took a large envelope with magazine enclosed off to Scotland, As was said the grandchildren don't see stamps, as gifts arrive in white vans.

Barry W Evans

Caledonian

Elizabeth Nairn's presidential display was entitled *Captain James Cook: Son of the Land and Master of the Sea*. The wide-ranging display covered Captain Cook's life, survey work in North America, his move from the Merchant Navy to the Royal Navy at the time of the 7-Years War, and his long-term relationship with Joseph Banks. The material shown ranged from stamps depicting Cook to relevant maps and ephemera, all beautifully presented.

Stewart Gardiner



Cambridge

At the beginning of August we had a members' display evening in Cambridge under the heading of *Show What You Like*. In line with previous displays of this nature we were shown a vast range of material from members during the evening, squeezing in 180 sheets. In early September we kicked off our new programme year with **Steve Hannath** who gave a detailed and well-researched display covering the postal history of *Simon's Town, South Africa from 1795 to 1975*. This included civilian covers and many naval covers. We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge on the first Wednesday each month and a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month.➔

info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford and District

For our first meeting after our summer break, members were invited to present their New Acquisitions. **John Copeland** began with *Postcards of Morocco and Bells Cards* covering a number of themes, followed by **Eric Lienhard** with stamps and maximum cards of *Traditional Swiss festivals*. **Nick Harris** displayed *First Flights from South Africa* and large mint blocks of British high values overprinted for *Morocco Agencies and Ireland*. **Paul Green** presented mint stamps of the *British Empire* including Indian Native stamps, Egyptian stamps for the 1933 Railway Congress and 1934 UPU Congress. Finally **Pat Adams** showed a selection of *Norwegian cards and covers* featuring hotels, advertising and exhibitions. For our next meeting we saw *African Airmails* during British, French, Belgian and Italian colonisation and the effects war had on the forced abandoning and changing of routes. The display of envelopes showing attractive stamps provided a glimpse of a bygone age with examples of post to and from Africa. **Derek Connell** gave a display with a London theme entitled *More From*

My Collection. His presentation included very early postal history of the capital including envelopes from the 16th century to Italian Merchants named Corsini, Bishop Marks and early memorabilia and examples of literature, including invitations and menus covering exhibitions, (some with postage stamps affixed) up to the present day. David Everard

Cheltenham

After 75 years we decided on a change! – and are now called the Cheltenham Stamp and Postcard Club. Last season finished with many talks on *B's*: **Tony Stanford** *Bechuanaland*; **Martyn Parker** *Britain's Omnibus Issues*; **Peter Fernbank** *Bahamas* and the chairman on *Belize*. **Ian Spencer** and **John Davies** gave talks on *Australian Antarctic Territory* and the *1890 Penny Postage Jubilee* (perhaps they didn't get the memo!). Twelve members – more than in recent years - entered our two competitions. **Tim Mahon** won the Eagar Trophy with his *Stellaland* display, and **Simon King** won the Rose Bowl for *QV Postal Stationery*. As usual this season started with *Recent Acquisitions* when almost three times as many members as last year appropriately showed stamps, postal history *and* postcards on a wide range of topics including a French correspondence, parachutes, copper, Lundy, the final postcard in a collection, and using up Machins before 31st July! We continued with **John Biddlecombe's** *Cinderella and Life Insurance stamps from New Zealand* and a workshop on phosphor lamps, electronic watermark detectors and perforation gauges that the club recently purchased for members to use. We are also trialling Zoom meetings with Swindon Philatelic Society. Finally for this report, we are delighted to report that five new members have joined us this season. *Andrew Millington*

Chichester & District

Our second competition evening was in late September. A fine turnout of members and a great many entries resulted. The Peal (Novices Cup) was won by **Neil Smith** with his display on *French engraver Albert Marius Hippolyte Descaris*. Other entries were *Private Ship Letter Stamps of the Caribbean* by **Frank Griffiths**, **John Armstone** with *Sussex Cinderellas*, **Christopher Dudeney's** *Charles Augustus Lindbergh*, and **Russell Hill's** display entitled *Where's Chichester*, a display of covers showing Chichester cancellations. In the Allan Postal History Cup Joint winners were **Martha Brown** and **Christopher Podger** with *Third Reich National Stamp Collecting Day* and *Cyprus Incoming Postal Stationery* respectively. Then followed **Frank Griffiths** *Virgin Islands*, **Russell Hill** *Chichester to Selsey Tramway*, **John Armstone** *D-Day & the Post Office*, and **Christopher Dudeney** *Ryde IOW Postmarks*. As one can see, there was quite a mixture of themes in the postal history displays for the Cup. The Birkin Modern Trophy went to **Heather**



Lawn with *Aitutaki in the Cook Islands*, showing the island's birds. **Christopher Dudeney** *Turkish Cyprus Posts*, **Martha Brown's** colourful *USA Federal Duck Stamps*, **Russell Hill** *A New Millennium*, **Christopher Podger** with *Turkish Cyprus Revenue Stamps*, and **John Armstone's** cheery *Christmas Charity Posts* took the remaining places. → chichesterps.wixsite.com/chichesterps or 01243 527068
 Martha Brown

Croydon

In early October we enjoyed an excellent display and presentation in two parts by **Chris Forwood**. The first part *Stamps and Symbols* showed how images on stamps have been used for subtle propaganda, using the dispute between Korea and Japan over the ownership of the Dokdo islets in the Sea of Japan as an interesting example. Chris then covered the long-running claim by Argentina over ownership of the Falkland Islands or "Malvinas" as referred to by the Argentines, including Argentinian map stamps showing them as part of their

territory. There was also a display of stamp design which was clearly wrong, most notably a Liberian stamp showing US president Kennedy congratulating Martin Luther King on winning his Nobel prize in 1964 though Kennedy was assassinated in 1963! The second part of the display was a superb showing of *Great Britain George V*. This began with Downey Head definitives, including proofs, followed by the Mackennal Heads and photogravure issues.



Chris receives his certificate from the president after an excellent display

There was also an impressive selection of stamps and covers covering the George V commemoratives. Both British Empire Exhibitions, the Universal Postal Union and the Silver Jubilee were also displayed including first day of issue and control items. Members present were treated to a presentation of some truly outstanding items and our thanks go to Chris for a very enjoyable afternoon. *Dave Meaney via Graham Harker*

Dawlish

Our meeting in the Manor House on 13th September was all about *Torquay Postal Markings*. The extent and variety of these markings was a great surprise to a very well-attended meeting, so much so that we overran our time for the meeting. Our ZOOM meeting on 27th September was also very well-attended





An early and busy Sudan cancel

with attenders from all over the country. They were shown an excellent display of *Early Sudan Postal History*. The extent of the display and the interest shown by attenders led to quite an extensive meeting. Our next meeting in the Manor House was *Short Presentations and a Swaps Evening*, and for our next ZOOM meeting later in October the subject was *Illustrated Airgraphs of WWII*. → our website or 01626 864844

Jim Wigmore

Dundee and District

The new session started with the presidential display given by the new president **Norrie Kelso**. Norrie is well known for his interest in *Canadian Revenues*, and his display showed his in-depth knowledge of the subject. He gave an outline of the history of revenue fees and displayed items from a number of Canadian states. The destruction (in error) of many revenue documents by the Canadian authority had resulted in the scarcity of many examples. However Norrie was able to display some of these. His display included revenue stamps applying for electrical installation and then another for the completion of the work! He also included rare perforation errors and examples of when the stamps were removed from the document for reuse and the space signed. This fascinating insight to an area new to many members was a fitting start to the new session. Our first Zoom meeting of the season was a display by **Adrian Pearson**, a member of RPSL and GBPS, on *Crimean War Postal History*. This was the first part, with the second to take place in 2024. A detailed handout prior to the meeting gave an in-depth account of the war, and his talk and display of mail gave a fascinating insight into the events in the Crimea. As well as the philatelic interest Adrian spoke of the cultural and technical advances including the use of electric telegraph, prefabricated hospitals, the use of photography and the first war correspondents.

Colin Campbell



Glasgow

Following the usual tradition of the first show of the season being the presidential display, **Stewart Gardiner** gave his on 19th September. He covered *Italian States, Greek Hermes Heads, Missionary Mail* and *GB Seahorses on Commercial Airmail* from some of his favourite collections. The society and the Caledonian PS are working together in order to increase attendances at their afternoon and evening meetings.
Stewart Gardiner

Grantham

For our August club meeting member **Bil Tilbury** gave his display of *British Antarctic Territory stamps* and *Antarctic Polar Explorers and Expedition* postcards, letters and covers. The display also included items from several other



Bil Tilbury explaining finer points to the assembled club

Southern Ocean islands including his favourite Bouvet Island. It was an excellent display. Four members submitted entries in the Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation Annual Competition. The entries in the 9-sheet inter-society classes were: Thematic – *Goya* (58pts) **Josefina Martinez-Perez**; Postal History - *New Zealand 1957 Health Issues* (66pts) **Mark Ellis** and Traditional - *Polish WWII POW posts* (83pts) **Wojciech Kierstan**. In the individual 16-sheet classes the entries were *Mexican Export Stamps* (Traditional 65pts) **Josefina Martinez-Perez**; *East Prussian Plebiscite* (Traditional 65pts) **Wojciech Kierstan**. **Maria McLoughlin** also entered a 9-sheet Youth class exhibit - *The Various Uses of Slogan Post Marks*, gaining 80pts and winning the Youth Trophy for a second year. In September we held our 9-sheet competition in Traditional, Postal History and Open classes. The competition, judged by **Andrew Dove**, was won by **Wojciech Kierstan** with a Traditional display on *Czechoslovak Forces in Serbia* showing essays and stamps produced by the FPO of the Czech legion in Siberia during WWI. Second came **Fina Martinez** with *Isabel the Catholic*. Her

display showed Isabel's life in a series of commemorative covers issued in 1951 in Spain. Third place went to **Mark Ellis** with *New Zealand – Health Issue Series the Early Years - 1929 to 1950*.
Steve Carter

Harrogate

Our August Zoom meeting was based on South America. There were eleven displays including *Argentina, Falkland Islands, Brasil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay* and *Post rates from Canada to parts of South America*. The 27 on the Zoom were fascinated by the exchange of information between Germany and England when two covers related to a 16-year old farm worker in Yorkshire (off a Kindertransport in 1938).

Andreas in Nürnberg was able to tell **Jamie** (in Stockport) of further information, which added significant social and historical detail to his already interesting covers on Erich Davidsohn.



Erich Davidsohn aged 16 after his release from Buckenwald concentration camp in 1938.

September's Zoom meeting was on "*The Cuckoo in the Nest*" – things that we had bought but which didn't really fit into our normal collections. The most fascinating were some wax seals – from 13th Century onwards – never likely to be seen on an album page but superb on Zoom. Our third meeting was a visit from two members of Burnley PS. **Barry Evans** introduced us to *UPU Congresses* and talked about the people connected with ephemera and philatelic items. **Roger Badman** brought material relating to *Harrisons & Sons, Printers*. The next meeting was *Swiss Sidelines* from **Alan Green** which included unusual military stamps from WWI with military instructions for commanders sent through the general post on open postcards!! We have still probably only scratched the surface of his collections. Keith Burton/Bill Tait

Hereford & Mid Wales

Our season got off to a promising start, with a visitor becoming a member at the end of our first meeting! The topic was our traditional one, alphabetic displays from members, this year, *K, L, M*. For **Jo** this conjured the Netherlands, so she showed us *Windmills and Tulips* as well as stamps featuring the expected letter-related topics! Other members showed material from *Liberia, Libya, Madeira and Malta*; **Peter** chose *Luftpost* (Swedish airmail) and **Janet** *Brazilian Lettercards*. **Greg** used *London* and featured a catchy first page. The October meeting theme was *Islands* and once again the range of



material displayed by members was astonishing, from tropical islands like the Comoros, Barbados and Galapagos to the remote southern Kerguelen, Macquarie, and Falklands. But **Martin King** provided an excellent finale with all the volcanic islands of the Atlantic all the way from Iceland to the South Sandwich islands. Our meetings so far have been characterised by fewer attending and more apologies than usual – I think the warm autumn weather is to blame, and trust that the errant holidaymakers will return with plenty of philatelic material for the rest of the season! *Janet Nelson FRPSL*

Huddersfield

Following our summer break, the 2023-24 season began on 11th September, when the guest speaker was **Max Smith**, who spoke about *Looking after your paper*. This extremely useful and interesting hands-on presentation provided essential advice on the conservation of our collections. Max included demonstrations of some of his 'works in progress', some that were unrepairable and some of his successes. On 9th October, **Adrian Lee**'s main presentation was on *Origins of GB Postage Due Adhesives*.

Adrian introduced the history of the collection of postage due on underpaid postage before looking at the designs of George Eve, in 1914, for the introduction of GB postage due stamps. Adrian demonstrated the history of postage due stamps between 1914 and their centenary in 2014. He also included examples from other countries, notably Canada and Egypt, explaining how some countries had introduced stamps prior to GB. The second part of Adrian's presentation concerned *Edward VIII to George VI examples of controls, coils and postal stationery* including wartime covers, with some censored material.



Viewing Adrian's Postage Dues

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➔ jtaylor3@ntlworld.com for further details.

Jon Taylor

Hull

The final display of our 2022/23 season was a visit from the President of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, **Keith Burton FRPSL**, who showed *Baden and Bavaria*. He introduced postal history and stamps of Baden from 1851 to 1871, including the possible fraudulent use of a 1Kr stamp before the rate was reduced. We saw an order to the 'Laudable School Council' for material for teaching metric mass and weight. The shadier side of royal politics included the suspicious death of Ludwig II shortly after he was secured and deposed. Postal stationery included a money transfer order, the stamps included the Prinz Luitpold Regency commemoratives, and there was a range of very attractive postcards, with material celebrating Augsburg Song Festival and the 1906



Keith receives his certificate from Daphne McMillan, president

Austro-German Philatelic Union's Philatelic day. Our new season began with a members' afternoon, followed by a visit from **John Sussex RDP**, showing part of his extensive *Postal History of Scottish islands*, with many locations illustrated by postcards. An outstanding item was an 1850 registered cover from Leith to Lerwick bearing three 2d blues and two penny reds. We saw all the Yells, plus an oil pollution reporting card and a fisheries reward notification for 1/- for the finding of a message in a bottle which had travelled 490 miles in 64 days. The incoming YPA President, **Robert McMillan FRPSL**, showed a comprehensive display of modern stamps from the *Falkland Islands and*

Dependencies, including the rare bird – the British Antarctic Terri - (1998).

Check out the error!

Daphne McMillan FRPSL

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Huntingdonshire

David Leahart from Kings Lynn was our guest speaker at our first meeting of the new season on the 12th September. His subject was *GB Specimen and Specimen Stamps*. The specimen stamps of the 1841-1868 issue were shown as die proofs and colour trials. The Irish dog licence showed exactly what it was for. Next came a specimen example of the 1867 five shilling high value plate 4. A selection of Victorian railway stamps from various companies dated and undated in various sizes were interesting along with newspaper and court stamps. An usual item was a revenue embossed from the 1694 war when King William III was on the throne. This was followed by various values of the specimen stamps issued for Queen Victoria's Jubilee in blocks of four. A Postmaster circular of 1884 showed designs and colours of the stamps issued on 1st April. A section dealing with taxation showed stamps issued specially for newspapers, Chancery Court, Probate Court, Inland Revenue, Electric Telegraph Company and military telegraph. David then went on to show examples of Mulready Stationery which was the postal stationery, letter sheets and envelopes which were introduced as part of the British Postal Reforms of 1840. They were on sale on 1st of May 1850 and valid for use from 6th May. David finished with something different, which was stamps from the *Terry Pratchett Discworld novel "Going Postal"*. This was a very interesting and well thought out display.

David Birkert

King's Lynn

Members were welcomed back to the new season on 1st September with an interesting Zoom presentation by **George Henshilwood** on the *Cook Islands* from the establishment of the Post Office on Raratonga in 1892 up to 1997. Named after Captain James Cook, who visited the islands in 1773 and 1777, they became a British protectorate in 1888 with administrative control transferred to New Zealand in 1900, followed by self-government in free association with New Zealand. This was followed on 8th September by a complicated but fascinating display by **Andy Soutar** comparing the *Postal Periods and Inflation Increases of Germany and Hungary*. This well-explained, detailed comparison of the two countries was illustrated with stamps, pneumatic post, local and national postcards, censorship and registered mail going abroad, parcel cards, surcharges on obsolete stamps reprinted in different colours, metermarks for bulk mail, regional overprints, banknotes, period of grace items and airmail from 1946. Members enjoyed a very entertaining and informative evening with **Derek Connell** on 22nd September. His display on the *International Stamp Exhibitions of London 1890-2022* was illustrated with a vast variety of items, the most unusual being pigeongrams, invitations, press passes, entrance tickets, signed menus and the original sheet music for The Postman's Knock. On 6th October **Adrian Pearson's** Zoom display entertained members with a varied selection of *nineteenth century illustrated postcards*. His talk covered a wide range of uses, with postcards illustrating souvenirs of places and events, humour, trade cards, club cards and message cards.

Dahlia Harrison

Kingston & District

In this season we have held two members' meetings and have had an excellent display on *Channel Islands Occupation WWII* by **Ron Brown FRPSL**, when we not only saw artwork and proof material in abundance but had a glimpse into the social deprivation of the islanders during the war years. Two Zoom meetings were held, the most recent being two excellent displays by **Jim Wigmore** on *Cypriot Airmail* and "*Aphrodite's Island*". Both displays gave an insight into the magnificence of the island in history and scenery and made some of us wish to visit. → Brian Sole, FRPSL 01932 220677 or brian.sole@btinternet.com or www.kingstonphilatelicsociety.com
Chris Oliver

Lanarkshire

Since the new session opened, we have enjoyed very diverse displays! The president, **Bobby Forrest** gave a colourful and humorous display of *The Scouts*. He started from the first camp, with twenty boys, held on Brownsea Island in 1907, and continued through to the present day showing mixed World Jamborees with Guides. Stamps, covers, postmarks showed the many activities which, through the years, have altered to suit the changing way of life. **Walter Simpson**, starting with the first definitive stamps issued in 1886, presented a wonderful display of the *Postal History of Gibraltar*. Covers, postmarks, aerogrammes, postal stationery, postcards and stamps - including sets on Christopher Columbus, Cruise Liners, Nature – showed the diverse history of 'the Rock'. Also that evening, **Andy Napier** presented a very specialised display of *Fiji - King George VI Definitives*. The first definitive was issued in April 1938. We saw a fascinating exhibit of printers, designers, colours, watermarks and perforations of the definitive stamps issued through the reign along with covers and postmarks. Also from 1938, the first pictorial stamp was issued with a design of the map of the islands of Fiji. Another amazing display was given by **Alan Rushworth** on *Steamers* showing a wonderful array of postcards of steamers, funnels, piers, locks, tourism charabancs and maps of the western Scottish seaboard. The starting point was the launching of Henry Bell's 'Comet' in 1812, sailing from Glasgow to Greenock. The competition that ensued caused a boom in boat building and tourism.
Elsie Miller

Largs

The 2023-24 session got underway on 6th September with the usual President's Night. Our president this year is **Robert Watt** who chose material from the Barbara McTaggart collection. The first round comprised post boxes and similar items on the stamps of *Jersey and the Isle of Man*, followed by America as portrayed on stamps, then *South African definitives of wildlife and nature*. Then we had a round of the USA with stamps and postcards relating to individual states. Our second meeting introduced a Local History Night, not limited to stamps, and with a wide interpretation from members. **Robert Provan** started the evening with his first-ever display showing items relating to *Three of the large houses near Beith*. **Martin McBurnie** showed maps and photos of the *IC*

Plant and **Ian Anderson** gave one large sheet relating to *Hamilton*. The first round ended with **Duncan Turner's** *Potted History of Scotland*, **Ian Smith's** *Early Life* and **Ian Barker's** *History of the Great Orme Tramway*. **Hugh Lapham** opened the second round with *Pictures and Cards of Prestwick* - airport, baths and golf, **Ricky Boyd** followed with items relating to *West Kilbride* and the surrounding area, **Dennis Gray** had postcards of the development of the *Saltcoast Bathing Station* plus pictures of *Shel Mex* at Ardrossan and Hunterston A. **John Chalmers** showed two cards of *Portland Street, Kilmarnock*. The evening was brought to a close with displays of *Stewarton ephemera* and *Larkhall postcards* by **Robert Watt**. → David Rossall davidrossall@sky.com
David Rossall

Launceston

A well-attended August meeting of the club featured **John Browne** and his wife from North Devon as the traders for the evening and **Sue Burn** from Truro as the speaker. Sue's subject was *The Rise of the Flying Boats*, a display of over 100 pages of philatelic items and ephemera which followed the development of the flying boat in its use to enhance communications with Britain's far-flung empire after WWI. As a preamble Sue outlined the land routes that had been pioneered by Imperial Airways via Europe and Asia to Australia and highlighted the advantages that the flying boats had over the land-based routes in that landing sites



Sue Burn receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Barry Mudie

were more easily identified and developed. Initially routes were designed for the transport of mail but later the carriage of passengers became possible albeit expensive. Routes were also developed to South Africa via East Africa. Later Sue talked about the development of routes and services across the Pacific in conjunction with the American airline Pan-American Airways. This was a truly outstanding display complemented by Sue's outstanding knowledge on the subject.
Viv Sandercock

Leeds

The 2023-2024 Session opened with a display using PowerPoint and some of the collections described displayed around the room. It was given by our secretary **Richard Smith**, a well-known exponent of the use of computer

technology to enhance and make philately more understood and hopefully to attract younger members to philatelic societies. Over three years he and **Derek Baron** have led in scanning some of the society's collection which are available to members on a memory stick. He showed fine examples of the late **Mary Metcalfe**'s exhibition-winning displays, the local collection of Horsforth formed by **Edwin Peters** many years ago, a bomb-damaged display on show from 1941 when on public display in Leeds Library, and some others including the unique collection of fakes and forgeries made early in the 20th century to help members. Recent research on the Waddington collection on the memory stick has unearthed the names of some of that printer's designs. The next session was by **Norman Hudson**, from Chester, who is well-known as a writer and presenter of the wonderful collection ranging from pre-stamp to modern philatelic souvenir covers of the *Hebrides and Orkney and Shetland*, the display made the more interesting by his anecdotes about his travelling there. To finish in the early Autumn displays was **Richard Wheatley** giving a display on *Leeds Postal History* with covers from 1700 onwards, masses of different marks, cross post, mileage marks, both World Wars, everything to modern times, a bonanza.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

Lostock

Our visiting speaker in July was **Peter Aveyard** who entertained us with *Lancaster Postal History*. Peter opened by remembering his previous visit to Lostock back in January 1995 and his long-term friendship with our chairman **Adrian Jones**. In August **Arthur Jennion** gave his talk *Introduction to the Faroe Islands*. With over 120 sheets he showed Lunda Fiskur, an actual dried and preserved sealed sample weight 0.078kg priced 23.40 dated 15 12 1995. Tons of this dried fish are sold in this preserved state to typical holiday destinations like Spain. The unique process unlike freezing made it a valuable trading product. Jumping to 28th October 1954 the island of Kalsoy and the island of Kunoy investigated the oceans showing they were very interested in oil pollution even in the 1950s. Arthur showed samples of hundreds of post cards dropped into the sea on 31st August 1954 - one drifted 185 miles. Each postcard had a request on the back to be returned stating where and when found. In September we welcomed back **Dr Geoffrey Dyer** to give another of his fascinating talks *SW Africa and Overprints*. Over ninety individual stamps bear the simple SWA overprint.

David Morley

Maidstone & District

We have just started to get into our 2023/2024 programme. Our first two evening meetings have been for members, the first showing 12 sheets with the letters *A, B and C*. As usual there was a good response with many different variations of those letters being used. The second meeting was for the Thematic and Woodruffe Competitions. Unfortunately the response for the Thematic Cup was very poor compared with last season with only two entries. Our Woodruffe Cup is to try to get members to have a go at competing. They bring four sheets on any subject and members vote for their favourite. This time we had five entries,

again down on last season. Anyway, both competitions were won by our programme and competition secretary, **Margaret Emerson**. Our first morning meeting was again for members with the subject *Medical* which was thought to be an easy subject. Obviously it was not but three members saved the day with appropriate and interesting displays. We have an interesting range of subjects to look forward to over the coming months including our bi-annual auction and stamp fair which should keep everyone entertained. Maidstone members were saddened to hear of the passing of one of our long term members, **Mike Thompson**. He was a strong supporter of all things philatelic and always ready to share his knowledge when asked.

Brian Stonestreet

North West Kent

2023 included our belated Christmas get together with pot luck refreshments and some 5-sheet members' displays. In the next meeting **Geoff Hanney** showed the *Progress of the Construction of the Panama Canal and The Story of the 1915 San Francisco World Fair and Panama - Pacific exhibition*. In February **Colin Evans** brought his extensive collection and tales of *London International Stampex 1980*. Our two meetings in March involved **Dawn & Hugh Johnson** displaying the *Variations of Slogan Cancels produced on Krag Machines*, and **Nigel Steer** showing *Norway from the Land of the Midnight Sun*, with stamps and postal history and a comprehensive coverage from the kingdom of Norway and Sweden, 1855 to modern, including Polar Exploration and TPOs. In April **Peter Wood** proved *It's an Irish World* through the history of Eire, fame of Expat descendants, Nobel prize winners, how many Irish served in the British Army, built our canals, roads & railways and so on. **Brian Stalker** took us to *Carlisle the Railway City* in May, giving a potted history of the city, through postal carriers, mail coaches and TPOs covering the routes that intersected at the city. We also held a small bourse and a club 2-page competition won by **Geoff Hanney**. July involved **Ray Barton** with his display of *Things I Like*, a diverse and entertaining evening. After our summer break **Richard Morel**, Curator of the British Library collection, showed *GB Postal History* – a mind-boggling display even for a non-GB collector.



Geoff Hannay thanking Richard Morel

John Sinfield

Oxford

July saw a fascinating display by **Nick Levinge** on the *GV Silver Jubilee issues*, and an in-depth display of the *Indian stamps*. In August, a lovely evening of swapping, buying and chatting closed off another successful and enjoyable

season. In the background, some very strong packets continue to circulate to members. We are grateful to the team of **Colin Davies** and **Laurie Simmons** who keep the packet running smoothly. At the start of the 2023/24 season the collection of annual subscriptions, and welcoming of a couple of new members, led to a silent auction where items are examined and bids put down on paper until the designated time for settling up. Virtually every one of our meetings starts with a Bring and Buy, with intensive scrutiny of 5p stamps and miniature sheets and covers priced at 20p. The meeting on the *Life and Times of King Charles III* on stamps produced some material from 2023: British bar-coded stamps from 1p to £5, a variety of stamps at various points in his life including many as Prince of Wales, but also stamps of Charles III of Spain. A display of colourful miniature sheets showing the *Coronation of the King and Queen* from a variety of countries around Africa and the Pacific saw a division between the use of photographs and artistic drawings, some of the latter seemed quite wide of the mark for likeness!

Dr Simon Heap

Ringwood

This well-attended meeting produced eight worthy displays with a huge *Bring & Buy* session, thus providing an excellent evening, the first in the autumn calendar. *Locomotives* focussed on old railway engines under the neat title, *Art in the Age of Steam in Philately*, with the display ranging from 1830 onwards. *Australian Antarctic Territory* considered global warming, wild life, scientific and



trading supply shipping. *Interesting Postmarks* was a fascinating study of medical-themed cancels. *A is for Advertised* looked at the US Post Office's practice of advertising, to assist unclaimed mail. *A New Zealand Conception* featured Operation Deep-freeze while a scarce *Half-penny Wheel Tax Scotland handstamp* took centre stage. *Anhingas - a snapshot of a colonial past* looked at French Equatorial Africa issues. The chairman shared origins of his *Southern Rhodesian collecting*

interest, stemming from receipt of a large box containing an African drum, stuffed with numerous stamps, being posted to him, when aged 12, from his philatelist godfather based in Salisbury...magic!! (*Catch 'em young!*) Entitled '*Acquisitions*', it combined well with these presentations to complete the '*A is for...*' themed evening.

Paul Barry

Rochdale

Peter Rooke from Liverpool PS presented a *Postal History of Denmark* with covers and stamps from earliest times to the present. Danish politics and the monarchy was explained as seen through philately through the years. The consequences of war was particularly a factor when Denmark lost over a third of

its landmass in the nineteenth century, including Hamburg. At the end of WWI Denmark received war reparations by the return of the Danish-speaking half of Schleswig. → Neil.Wharmby@gmail.com Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Refreshed from our holidays we started off our September meeting with *Anything Philatelic* - a topic which allowed members a wide range of choice, from postal history to stamps of sports, ships and aircraft. The second meeting of the month was an absolutely fascinating display by **David Hutchins** on *A Philatelic History of China*. The display started triumphantly with the sounds of bronze bells from the Warring States period, about 430 BC. These were played by the special issue of a 1987 stamp, using a plastic mini-record. All this and music too! October brought us displays of *My Favourite Country*. Diverse displays from GB, Russia, Germany and the Caribbean. Members managed to find interesting items, whatever the country, with both covers and stamps.

Margaret Langley

Rugby & District

Before we ended last season, we had two meetings back-to-back. At the first we enjoyed a display by **Laurence Kimpton** of *Australian and New Zealand Empire Airmails*, an evening very well spent. The following week we welcomed **Steve Harrison** who had kindly agreed to judge our cup competition, while we finished off the season with our AGM. While I am sure our entries were not of international standard, all classes were seriously contested and his hard work and feedback was greatly appreciated by all. Those of us who were lucky enough to visit Midpex had a most enjoyable day, and the hard work that had gone into organising the event is to be commended. We opened our new season at the start of September with a members' evening, where we welcomed a new member, and five members displayed some of their recent acquisitions. Lastly on the 18th September we were joined by **Les Percy**, who entertained with a display of *Czechoslovak Stamps, Postal History and Unique Artwork*. As expected this was another enjoyable evening.

Steve Williams

Salisbury & District

So far this season we have had three successful and well-attended meetings. We started traditionally with members' *New Acquisitions*, which produced an eclectic mixture of items although many seem to have been found in long-forgotten boxes lurking at home. Our next meeting was a fascinating and informative talk titled *The Influence of the French Occupation of Belgium 1792 – 1815*. **Nick Martin** gave an audio-visual display followed by looking at items displayed traditionally on frames. This method enables items to be explained in detail where necessary and avoids presenters talking about something which the audience cannot see. It also has the advantage that those members who occasionally nod off can do so without embarrassment! There is the danger of 'Death by PowerPoint' but there was a feeling amongst most members that this is the way ahead. Lastly we have just had one of our day meetings where we



Nick Martin gives an audio visual talk. *The way ahead?*

invite members from other societies. This enables members and guests to see material from outside their local societies and is a good social event. We have put out a questionnaire to members about the questions posed in the last ABPS News on competitions and the future of local societies and also used the day meeting to discuss those points with members of seven other local societies. We won't have the results in time for this journal

but will forward our conclusions to the Editor later. So far the consensus seems to be that there is no magic bullet.

Mike Moody

Sheffield

The new season started with a most interesting Zoom display of *Parachuting through the Ages* by **Barry Stagg**. This included early designs by Leonardo da Vinci and the first parachute jump by a servant of the inventor, Sir George Cayley. The next meeting was *The Royal Franking Privilege* by our own member, **Keith Branigan**, who showed how the various members of the royal family as far back as George III were able to send mail without paying for it. Two weeks later, we had an informal meeting to discuss *The value of Specialist Societies*. The conclusion was that they are a most valuable asset to collectors as their magazines/publications contain information about their subject which will not appear in stamp catalogues, etc. Also, they provide a network of people throughout the world who can be contacted by email to discuss "new" finds before going into print.

Richard A Hindle

Sollihull

We had a great start to our new season in September with two first-class displays. Our chairman, **Clive Jones**, entertained us with some interesting examples of *Early GB Registered Mail* and **Sir Alec Jeffreys** took us through some of the *Early Postal History and Stamp Issues of Indian States*.

Our weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons continue to attract good attendances. → www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk or contact, Paul

Woodness 01564 776 879

John Barker

Wakefield

On 5th July we held a members' evening entitled *My Favourite Cover(s)* when some very attractive and interesting covers made their appearance. Our president, **Philip Reynolds**, entertained members on 19th July with a fascinating display and interesting presentation of his *Japanese* collection. August began



with a members' evening when members displayed some of their favourite postcards. The month concluded when **Graham and Yve Winters** very kindly welcomed members into their garden for the *Annual Barbeque*. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you, Graham and Yve. The new season began on 6th September when **Alwyn Peel** entertained us with a display

depicting the *History of Airmails* followed by a further display illustrating *The Life of William Bligh*. Both of these displays were extremely interesting and were accompanied by a very knowledgeable presentation. On 20th September we held a successful bring and buy sale plus a silent auction. The month concluded when **Graham Winters** hosted a Zoom meeting with a display entitled *Postcards, Postcards, Postcards* accompanied by a very interesting presentation.

Julie Hitchcock

Watford & District

In June we finished the season with our informal cup competitions, judged by the members present, with no rules. First we held the six-page competition for the S A Jones Cup. This year the letters of the alphabet for displays were 'J', 'K' and 'L'. There were five entries and the winner was **Arthur Howell** with *Music - Names Beginning with L*. Next was the single page competition for the Vic Punter Memorial Trophy. There were six entries and the winner was **Arthur Howell** again! This time with *Suffragettes*. The new season began in September. Our guest this month was **Tim Harrison** from High Wycombe PS, who showed two very different subjects. The first half was *pre-Union South Africa*, with some excellent material from the Cape of Good Hope and the other colonies which made up the region. The most unusual stamps were from the New Republic, which looked like they were printed with a 'John Bull' printing set! In the second half Tim showed *Iceland*, telling us the stories behind the earliest stamps through to the 1930 Millennium issue. Thanks for visiting us, Tim!

➔ 01923 218433

Wayne Cox

West London

The programme this year (details on our website) has some unusual subjects such as *Favorite Bicolours* and *War and Peace*. The latter saw postal history including prisoner of war and Napoleonic Italy, and various attempts to portray *Peace* on stamps. We are a small group of keen collectors, many also involved with other societies. Any readers who can get to Acton W3 on the first Tuesday of the month are very welcome! Car parking is possible (advice given) and a number of bus routes and stations are in the locality. ➔ **Melvyn Green: melvyn.d.green@gmail.com or 0208 730 3989** **Kevin Newson**

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 I will be grateful if you will send any more amendments or error notifications as soon as possible to me at editor@abps.org.uk I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. Please note the changes below.

Local Societies

Camberley & District PS: The new secretary is Jeff Wood jcwandjhw@yahoo.co.uk The meetings are at St Michael's Church Hall, **Camberley**, Surrey GU15 3 JP, twice monthly on 2nd and 4th Thursday. Only the 2nd Thursday in December and July, no meeting in August.

Cheltenham Stamp and Postcard Club is the new name of the old Cheltenham Philatelic Society. No other changes known.

Epsom & Ewell PS: Secretary is Robert Mott eandephilatic@gmail.com

Halifax PS: New secretary is **Steve Saville** savillesteven@yahoo.co.uk and 07454 612 936

Huddersfield PS: New secretary is Jonathan Taylor jtaylor3@ntlworld.com and 07950 438 727

Newport & Gwent PS: now meet at Tots Play Centre, Wern House, Wern Industrial Estate, Rogerstone, **Newport**, NP10 9FQ at 2pm on alternate Wednesdays.

Redcar & Cleveland PS: Secretary is Martin Snowdon martinsnowdonsaltb@hotmail.com

Salisbury & District PS: Secretary's telephone number is 07770 787096

York Philatelic Society have a new venue: Community room Tesco Askham Bar, Tadcaster Road **York**. Meetings will still take place on the second Tuesday of the month from 7.15 pm

We are delighted to welcome new affiliates:

Prestwick Stamp and Postcard Club: Contact Iain Gray ruthandiain@aol.com

Thornbury & District Stamp Club: Secretary Martin Elliott 0117 9696808 or 07989764194 martin.elliott48@btinternet.com
Meeting at: The Buckingham Room, The Chantry, 52 Castle Street, **Thornbury**, BS35 1HB fortnightly on Fridays at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

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

KIDS ROAR AT STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL 2023

Let's get
**STAMP
ACTIVE**

The familiar "Youth Zone", sponsored by the Philatelic Traders' Society, returned to Stampex, manned by volunteers from the Stamp Active Network.

Stamp Active had laid on a display of sports stamps and related activities, with youngsters winning points for the popular free children's auction on Saturday or exchanging points for prizes. The "Lucky Dip", "Guess the Number of Stamps in the Jar" and "Spin A Prize" games added to the fun. All young visitors received £20 in vouchers to spend at the show, financed by Stamp Active as a result of their fund-raising efforts and dealer patrons. Many dealers were also generous in giving big discounts to the kids on what they had chosen, or free items, which were greatly appreciated. This was all very well-received and resulted in some excited youngsters around the Show. The Show Zone also included a PostCrossing session in the auditorium on Saturday.

The team were pleased to entertain a Year 3 School Group from St John's Primary School, Highbury, who listened to a presentation about the history of stamps. They then completed a range of activities including "Design a Stamp", a "Quiz", "Guess the Number of Stamps in the Sack" and created their own Greetings Card with "Stamp Art". Overall, it was a busy session and the youngsters had to be persuaded to leave, such was their enthusiasm. Some returned on Saturday to take part in the activities and auction, showing that they had enjoyed their first visit.

The auction was run again by Keith Burton of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) who challenged the young collectors to choose from 30 lots to bid for their favourites. It was held in the Spink Auditorium, which provided a very professional atmosphere for the event. There was fierce competition for some of the more popular items. The kids roared their appreciation at the end for the generous donations from dealers and friends that made up the lots. At the end of the auction, there was a prize draw for a Penny Black, donated by **Robin Cassell** of Mulready Philatelics, which was won by **Xanthe Page**, aged 11, from St. Helens.

The best overall entry in the British Youth Stamp Championships came from **Dominic Beattie** of Aylesbury, aged 17, for a 16-page entry on "Die Ziffernserie".



Richard West with Dominic

Commenting on the event, Chair of Stamp Active, Susan Henderson, said “Stampex exceeded our expectations, particularly as there was a rail strike on our big day. Feedback from the children and their parents was excellent and made all our effort worthwhile. There was lots of fun. The youngsters enjoyed spending their £20 vouchers and we believe some of the dealers were very generous on what they gave to them. Lots of happy young collectors!”

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

November

- 18 2023 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10.30 - 5, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson’s Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS 28 5TA
- 18 2023 Convention of American Stamp Club of GB: 10 - 4 in conjunction with the Leeds Philatelic Society’s Annual Stamp Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS28 5TA
- 19 2023 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson’s Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS 28 5TA

National Exhibitions 2024

- British National Qualifying Exhibition, London. 14th - 16th March 2024; The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. Entries open

International Exhibitions 2023-2026

- To enter an international exhibition your entry must first qualify by achieving a large vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national exhibition. Literature does not need this pre-qualification. To enter please contact the UK commissioners shown. Exhibitors from outside the United Kingdom should contact their national commissioner.
- **Thailand 2023:** Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition, Grand Postal Building, Bangkok 27th November - 2nd December 2023; FIP Patronage. Entries closed. Contact UK Commissioner Simon Moorcroft at simon.moorcroft6@btinternet.com
- **Efiro 2024:** Bucharest 16th - 19th April 2024: Website <https://www.efiro.ro> (under construction). Entries closed 16th October but late entries still considered. A FEPA Patronage exhibition with FIP recognition. 2000 frames. Contact UK Commissioner, John Stimson at john.m.stimson@gmail.com
- **Mare Balticum:** 26th - 28th July 2024, National Museum, Tartu, Estonia: Website marebalticum.ee 500 frames with FEPA recognition. Entry deadline 29th February 2024. Contact UK Commissioner Jon Aitchison at jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com

- **PhilaKorea 2024:** Seoul, South Korea. 15th - 19th August 2024: No frame fees or deadline yet. FIP Patronage with FIAP Auspices. Contact UK Commissioner, Simon Richards at simon@sidebell.co.uk
- **Hafnia 2024:** European Stamp Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark. 17th - 20th October 2024 at Øksnehallen in central Copenhagen. Website www.hafnia24.com A FEPA exhibition with 1300 frames for all FIP classes except Astrophilately or Maximaphily. Contact UK Commissioner, Steve Harrison at sharrison500@btinternet.com Entry deadline: 1 January 2024
- **EuroPhilEx 2025:** Hall 9 NEC, Birmingham. 7th – 11th May 2025. 2000 frames with FEPA Patronage. Website www.europhilex2025.co.uk All FIP classes at £100 per frame or £120 for single frames and £40 for Literature. Open for entries now through the website. UK Commissioner: Daphne McMillan, RPSL Commissioner: James Podger. Entry deadline: 8th May 2024
- **Boston 2026 World Expo:** 23rd – 30th May 2026 www.boston2026.org

UK handling charges are now standardised for all international exhibitions at £30 per frame for shows in Europe or £35 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits or per literary 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 please contact **Jon Aitchison** at britishlocals@aol.com
 Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information

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

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

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Stamp Active Network: please write to:

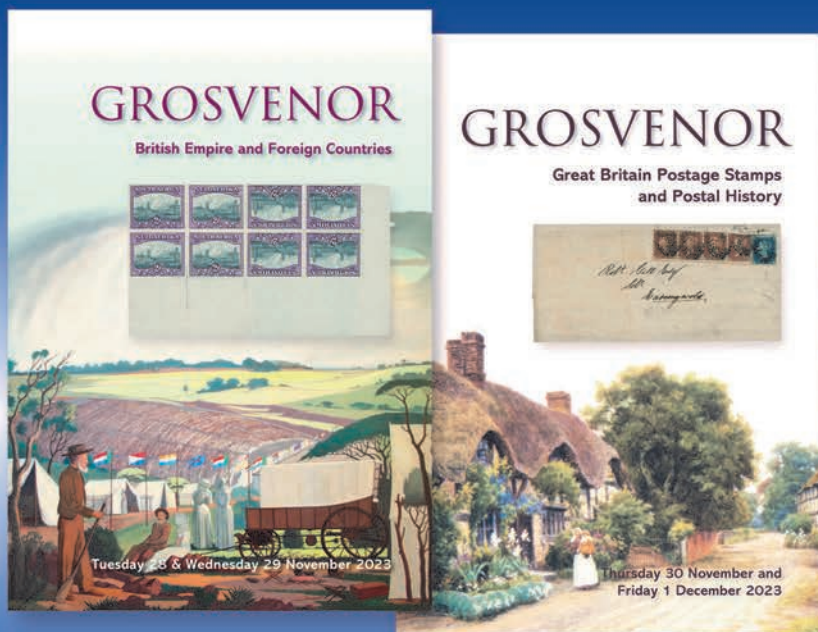
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Website www.abps.org.uk This also holds further information on Committees.

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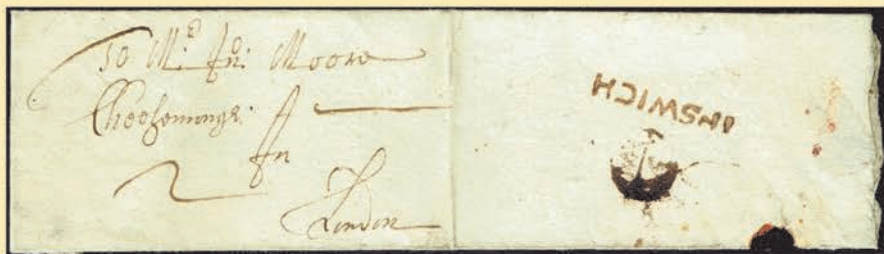
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