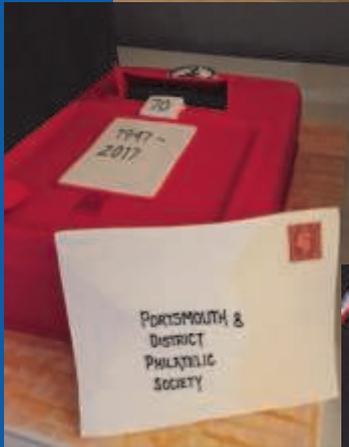


Portsmouth celebrate 70 years



See p 7

The ABPS News is also available online
www.abps.org.uk



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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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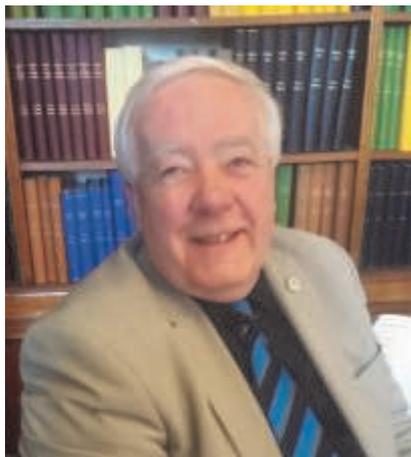
Cover pictures: *Portsmouth members viewing Wendy Buckle's display taking them to Latvia, The Celebration cake, and Society badge*

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

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

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

From the Chair:



Happy New Year to everyone! Since the last issue, I have had some usefull meetings with representatives of the PTS, Postal Museum, Spink and Stanley Gibbons regarding a Stamp Day. All seem very positive, but it will need all of us to be involved in some way to celebrate our hobby and advertise it throughout the country successfully.

Spring Stampex, just "around the corner" as I am writing this, is always something to look forward to. This year, the Exhibition team led by Bill Hedley have introduced something new an Ephemera class! This is an area we can all relate to, whatever we collect. I hope this experiment proves to be popular; it certainly has my support. Congratulations to all involved.

After Stampex, the next National level show will be York on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st July. All National Classes

are catered for, including the new Ephemera. The full 150 frames will be available this year, so no disappointed exhibitors! I would like to thank Chris Rainey and Kate Puleston for their continued support, and Corbitts for their continued sponsorship of the Exhibition.

The ABPS event of the year is a Centenary - the 100th Congress - being held at the Jurys Inn Hotel at Gateshead Quays, beside the River Tyne. A fine hotel and a great series of Displays, Lectures, Debates and Discussions to look forward to. The dates for your diary: Thursday 26th - Sunday 29th July. Watch the ABPS website for full details. As usual, the Congress will be held in conjunction with the RDP Ceremonies.

I did say that I would report on a new Vice-Chair and Federations Officer in this message. Unfortunately, I will have to postpone this until the next publication, as owing to illness, I was unable to discuss the matter at the last management meeting.

Finally, I am looking forward to philatelic events in 2018, not just the national ones, but also local and regional. Personally, I am having a year off from International exhibitions to concentrate on this new job here. However we must not forget the forthcoming overseas exhibitions, notably PRAGA 2018 from 15th - 18th August, and Stockholmia next year, from May 29th - June 2nd much more about that later in the year.

I will look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones at events throughout the year.

Graham Winters FRPSL
Chairman ABPS.

Editorial

So a New Year of collecting is upon us. Soon there will be Stampex to visit and Fairs to attend around the country. For those that are organised by societies and federations we are pleased to offer a space in the Diary towards the end of each issue. I am sometimes sent information just before the event is to take place with a request that I will advertise it but that is not possible unless you allow enough time for an issue to be edited, proof-read, printed and distributed. All of this takes about 6 weeks so I advise sending in information of date, time, venue and contact details at least 2 months before the event. In fact if you send in full or partial details as far in advance as you can I will enter it into the running diary on my computer from which I extract a few months at a time for each issue. You can always update as more information becomes available so that I can add to the entry during the year.

I hope and expect to visit a number of societies during the coming months. It is good to see how other societies run things and to learn of good practice and successful or even unsuccessful attempts to bring in other collectors who at present are content to collect on their own - visiting fairs and auctions and dealers but not their local society.

It is always sad to learn of a club's closing through lack of members but something that continues to happen. Do we



welcome the orphan members to our own family if they make the effort to visit another society or do we treat them as outsiders? I have seen both happen and know which of the two societies I am thinking of at the moment I would be more willing to visit again if I was in the area or moved there. It is up to each individual to be as welcoming as possible without being intrusive or patronising. "What is your area of interest?" is a perfectly reasonable question. "Haven't you started specialising yet?" or "Oh - I only like postal history/stamps/mint blocks or whatever" are not welcoming responses for a newcomer. I have heard the statement "No sensible philatelist collects first day covers." being made to a young collector who was pleased to have just bought an FDC with his points left after the Stamp Active Auction at Stampex. Everyone needs to be as positive as possible. I look forward to reports from more societies to say that they are very positive indeed.

Keith Burton

To all Club and Society Secretaries and Treasurers:

On the 1st of January I sent a request to all ABPS affiliated clubs and societies to re-affiliate for 2018. The vast majority of these requests were sent by email but a few were sent by letter. If your club has not received anything from me by the time you read this please contact me by email. My details can be found at the end of this magazine on page 58.

Barry Stagg, ABPS Membership Secretary.

Society anniversaries, 2018

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones.

125 years

Scottish Philatelic Society 125 Years of Philately in Scotland

In 2018 the Scottish Philatelic Society, the first in Scotland, will celebrate its 125th anniversary. It was founded on 4th November 1893 in Hannah's Restaurant, York Place, Edinburgh by a group of German stamp collectors living in Edinburgh. It was initially known as the Briefmarken-Sammler-Verein zu Edinburgh und Leith. The first President was Herr August Schnepel. For the first two years the meetings were conducted in German and as the minutes record some of the early meetings were very lively affairs. On two particular occasions the birthdays of Kaiser Wilhelm II and Otto von Bismarck were celebrated in true German style with many glasses of beer consumed.

Local collectors, being aware of its existence, soon joined and in March 1895 the name was changed to the Edinburgh and Leith Philatelic Society and then in December 1897 it was finally named the Scottish Philatelic Society. Activities have only been suspended during the First and Second World Wars. Over the years the society has met in 26 different establishments in the centre of Edinburgh and meetings are currently held in St. Mark's Unitarian Church Hall, Castle Terrace.

In April 1913 the society hosted the 5th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and then in September 1993 the 75th Congress, when celebrating 100 years. In Scotland the society has previously hosted the Annual Scottish Philatelic Congresses held in 1927, 1938, 1965, 1984 and 1993. As part of the 125th anniversary celebrations, the society will be hosting the 89th Scottish Congress to be held on 20th and 21st April 2018 at Perth, where a 62 frame display of archival material and members' collections will be shown, under the banner '125 Years of Philately in Scotland'. Souvenir items have been prepared, including a Cover, Postcard and a privately produced Smiler sheet and Label.

Richard Cuthbertson



70 years

Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society 70th Anniversary Year

On 26th October 2017 the Society held its annual dinner for members and guests, with an additional celebration for our 70th anniversary. The PDPS was inaugurated on 4th November 1947, and still has one of the 76 founding members on the membership roll. Sadly, on that evening, David Bowker was suffering from a heavy cold, which he thoughtfully declined to share with his fellow philatelists!

Membership peaked in 1979, with 246 members registered; our current roll has 52, and a steady attendance around 30-35 at evening meetings. There is a sprinkle of gender diversity, and several members are still contributing to the world of full-time employment, although most of us are 'Pompey Pensioners'.

At the Anniversary Dinner, the President, Mike Bolt, wore the Presidential Chain of Office, which is a rare event! The chain is made from the silver medal for literature awarded to Lt Commander Cyril Sinfield at STAMPEX in 1983, for 'The Post in Portsmouth'. Mike organised a commemorative engraved wine glass for each member, and we had a red post box cake to complete our celebrations.

Mike, in his address, said that the society had been very formal in its earlier days, and that many members and visitors welcomed the more relaxed and friendly approach of the current meetings. He noted that Portsmouth was the first society to include the APBS logo on its stationery, and that we owed our successful financial status to the kind bequest from Roy Cosby. This helps members to attend Stampex and other philatelic events.

The Society has an excellent archive of Postal History and literature, housed in the local Museum; there is a plan to 'digitise' this, to increase access, and to update the website.

The society is well-supported by its members, and recent evenings have included Latvia 1785-1945 with Wendy Buckle and Bob Small's rare Napoleonic War material.

Sue Crane

60 years

Golden Jubilee of Basildon Philatelic Society

The Basildon Recorder newspaper for 5th July 1968 reported that a stamp collectors club had been formed at an inaugural meeting held at Woodlands Boys School. This was at the instigation of a group of employees of Basildon Urban District Council. Early meetings were held at the school, but, after access difficulties, some subsequent meetings were held in the Council Offices. Our meetings moved to the Painting Studio of the then Arts Centre in 1970, a good home for the Society near the town centre until its demolition without



President Mike Bolt

replacement in 1988. The forced change of venue, initially to the nearby Unemployed Workers Centre, which proved unsuitable, and then to Laindon Community Centre, led to the pleasant problem of growing attendances outstripping available room capacity! From the start of 2000, we moved to the George Hurd Centre, close to the town centre. The improved environment at the new venue resulted in a further growth in attendances, and gave more flexibility for programme planning. The building was closed for redevelopment in May 2008, so we moved with the centre to newly-built premises from June 2008.



Within a year of founding we joined the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies, and have been active in the association ever since, providing at least one officer continuously since 1977. In 1978, we joined the British Philatelic Federation, transitioning to ABPS in 1994, and have sought to play a direct or indirect role in national affairs ever since, usually through AEPS.

The Society held its first exhibition in 1971 as part of the Basildon 21st Anniversary celebrations, marked by a commemorative cover issued by the Society, and we hosted our first AEPS event in 1982. Two annual Stamp Day exhibitions and fairs were held in Basildon until the late 1990s when competition from commercial fairs made them unviable and, since then, we have only hosted an AEPS event every five years, this giving a much greater customer base. A highlight was the ABPS National Exhibition of 1994, the society being active in its organising committee and on the day.

1978 saw the 25th anniversary of Basildon becoming a Head Post Office, and the Society co-operated with the Post Office in the production of a commemorative cover, marking the start of a close working relationship with the Head Postmaster in Basildon that lasted until the office was downgraded.

An exchange packet operated since the earliest days and remains a key element of the society's services to members, along with an extensive library, auctions, etc.

We make a point of encouraging members to compete at society and AEPS levels, winning the county competitions for the first time in 1985. Several members are also active at national and international levels.

As with most societies, we have suffered a decline in membership due to age and the current lack of interest among younger people in joining societies of any kind, but we are not lying down to die. We were one of the first societies in the country to operate an Internet website, in the mid-1990s, and we have been active in use of the internet and e-mail ever since, our newsletter, "The Basildon Philatelist", now being e-mailed to a wide readership inside and outside the society. We are raising our profile further by participating in publicity opportunities "outside the box", such as providing a philatelic Christmas tree to one of the local churches' annual display, a display of poems illustrated by relevant stamps to an arts festival and taking part in an annual open-air hobbies exhibition in the town centre. The ease of modern scanning and lamination gives many opportunities to promote philately not dreamt of until recently. Our Golden

Jubilee gives us the chance to find further publicity opportunities. Our programme for 2018 includes several themed events, a much-anticipated highlight being a display by one of our founders, John Snoding, who is still an active member of the society. We are also hosting the AEPS Spring StampEssex Exhibition and Fair at James Hornsby School, Laindon on 28th April.

Len Stanway

30 years

Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society 30th anniversary

The Stratford upon Avon PS was launched in 1988, by means of an advert in the Stratford Herald on 23rd March, placed by **Kurt Mannaberg**, inviting expressions of interest. There was sufficient response to get the club going in a very active way, not least in persuading the GPO to open a philatelic counter at Stratford post office. For quite a while it also produced its own newsletter "Avon Mail", edited by **Alan Godfrey**. Our initial setting up was supported and assisted by **Ken Trehella** and others from the established Coventry PS. In 2018 we therefore celebrate our 30th anniversary.



Four of the founder members: John Hill, Clive Golding, John Holland and Graham Jervis.

Another of the founder members, Ray Fisher, is not shown in the photograph, and others from the first years are also still members of the Society.

We are a very active society, with a regular attendance of about 20 from a total membership of about 30. As well as guest speakers we have a fair sprinkling of members' evenings, auctions, competitions, quizzes and the Christmas social. We are fortunate in having members' competitions in which almost all members participate, regardless of their expertise or

specialisation, with an enthusiasm not dampened by any strict internal or external rules or restrictions, other than that the previous year's winner cannot compete in the same category the following year; the latter rule was introduced to stop those with the "best" collections winning the trophies each year, which can be very dispiriting for "normal" collectors. Our way of deciding the winner in each category is commendably simple - each person present votes for what he/she considers 1st, 2nd or 3rd (using whatever criteria they choose), and the votes are simply added up; the nice thing about this method is that it never produces contentious results!

We meet on alternate Wednesdays and are a very friendly society, with great enthusiasm and encouragement, and without any intrusive sense of a hierarchy of membership skills.

John Gledhill

10 Years of Redex!!

Well can it really be 10 years? A whole decade since the first Redex. (The title 'Redex' was Neil's idea - I recall thinking isn't that a petrol additive?) I remember a certain **Neil Sargent** and **Des Kent** way back then suggesting that the West of the county should have its own fair to provide a balance with Cornex - the idea being an event to coincide with the 2010 celebrations of King George V's accession and if successful maybe we could run it again. Others said it was too short notice and couldn't be done within the time frame, however, being a bit naive perhaps, I thought 'How hard can it be?' If I had only known!

There followed what seemed endless trawling through local potential venues in Camborne and Redruth and even Hayle. I finally came upon the Jubilee Hall attached to the Methodist church in Redruth. I remember thinking "This'll be ok" and making a provisional booking with fingers crossed hoping the committee would agree and I wouldn't end up with egg on my face Then followed the next CPF committee meeting and me sitting there listening to someone else saying it couldn't be done that year due to time constraints...and thinking "Oh dear what have I done?". Then came my turn to advise the committee that I had found a venue and what the cost would be. To my surprise it was approved. I had never organised a stamp fair in my life and realised I had no idea how to locate potential dealers to attend - because I didn't know any! There followed what seemed like endless hours on the phone speaking to some dealers who had been recommended to me. I managed to find ten for the initial fair in June 2009. The date I had arranged was 13th June which turned out to be Murdoch Day*. You can probably imagine the names I called myself when this fact dawned on me. Well never mind - it'll be ok on the day I thought, and it was. In fact, it was a great success in no small way due to the excellent catering supplied by my dear wife Julie (her cakes are now legendary across the county). Despite all my early misgivings 'Redex' has gone from strength to strength and the 10th Fair on May 26th 2018 will be the biggest yet with 12 dealers in attendance...if they all turn up that is.....more to worry about!! But the cakes will be there so all's well.....

Mike Whyte

* Murdoch Day – see www.visitcornwall.com/whats-on/traditional-cultural/west-cornwall/redruth/murdoch-day

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Obituaries

Maurice Flack FRPSL

Maurice died unexpectedly on 10th December 2017 at the age of 67. In 2007 he joined the Royal and was awarded Fellowship of the Society in 2012 in recognition of his great contribution in the administrative field. Members throughout the world who have visited No 41 in the past few years will have probably been greeted by him at the door, made to feel at home and plied with coffee and chocolate biscuits. Maurice was virtually the permanent "Welcome Host" not just for formal meetings but for every other day he was there. He always had a welcome smile and was avid in his efforts to get visitors to join the society.

Maurice was awarded the prestigious London Medal in 2016, an award which gave him considerable and justifiable pride. Without his work the Royal will be much poorer in the perception of members and visitors alike and he will be greatly missed especially by our Staff.

At the request of his family donations in Maurice's memory may be made to the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Bernard Lucas

It is with sorrow that I report the death of Bernard Lucas on 3rd January 2018. Bernard was the longest surviving Congress Medallist, having received the honour in 1982.

He was a regular attendee at Congress until illness deprived him of attending. In 1979 he was Chairman of the Congress held in Harrogate. He served on the Council of The British Philatelic Federation, the forerunner of ABPS, and also served as Honorary Treasurer.

Neil Russell, who received the Congress Medal in 1990, now takes Bernard's place as the longest serving Congress Medallist.

Yvonne Wheatley

Chairman ABPS Awards Committee



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Gordon Rowe 1924 - 2016

Gordon, a collector for 85 of his 92 years, moved to Cornwall from Somerset in 1985 and it was not long before his organising ability coupled with his philatelic knowledge was recognised when he was elected as Chairman of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation.

His collecting interests covered many aspects — particularly his important collections of the Pre-Cancels of the United States of America and of the early postal history of that country. Gordon also formed many other collections including Jamaica and Australia. His encyclopaedic knowledge of these subjects made Gordon one of the favourite speakers of the Cornwall Federation. His USA displays were often described by him as being 'From my US Mailbag' and, lo and behold, he actually produced a genuine US mailbag and from it withdrew his particular display for that evening. He was also meticulous in his writing-up and this was always written in his own hand.

Gordon took an active part in the organised philately of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation and over the years served in many senior capacities. His local club was the Newquay Philatelic Society. If he ever missed a meeting of that club it



Members of the Cornish Postal History Society at Goonhavern 2001. From left to right Christopher Riding, Gordon Rowe, Peter Chantry, Richard Saundry, Michael Champness and Martin Hopkinson.

was because he was either on holiday or was giving a display elsewhere in the county.

It was a token of his regard for the Federation that his family kindly presented a special Cup to be awarded at the annual CORNEX event - to be known as 'The Gordon Rowe Memorial Trophy' — to be awarded to the winner in the

new category to be known as 'The Americas Cup', that is to say, any display covering the continent of America. The Cup was presented for the first time by his wife Molly, accompanied by her son Tim, at the CORNEX event held on the 28th October 2017. The first winner of the new trophy was Martin Hopkinson, for his display of early Canadian Postal History, a display that Gordon would most certainly have appreciated. The Federation has lost one of its great stalwarts but there is no doubt that Gordon Rowe will remain in our memories for many years to come.

Peter Chantry

Review of "The Postal History of Bristol"

The things you first notice about this publication are the sheer size of the four volumes, the stunning amount of detailed information, the enormous number of illustrations and the massive amount of research that has gone into this project. This gives the complete postal history of Bristol ranging as it does from the very earliest marks right up to the current Postcode areas and the BS 6-FAD branch codes currently in use.

Each A4 volume is plastic ring bound with semi-stiff covers, the print is in a very readable font and all illustrations are in black and white. Every mark is illustrated accounting for the 900+ pages.

Volume 1: 'Introduction & Narrative' is a very comprehensive explanation of the Bristol Posts based on extensive research at Post Office Records and private collections. The narrative covers the history and development of each topic making the book a history of the posts but with all the references to Bristol. The volume covers 25 separate topics with the Bristol Penny Post being the largest at 62 pages (over 20% of the volume) covering 70 Receiving Houses spread over 200 square miles from Thornbury in the North to Oakhill in the South.

Volume 2: 'The main marks of Bristol' is a 223-page catalogue with 22 chapters covering every Bristol mark, all illustrated with dates of use and with early marks, and some later notable marks, rated for rarity. The largest chapter at 29 pages is on Railway cancellations and 21st century marks are included in all relevant chapters.

Volume 3: 'The Slogan & Event marks of Bristol & the sub-Office marks of Bristol by type' is in two parts, as is to be expected from such a title. The slogan cancellations are covered in 85 pages and range from 1917 to 2017. The sub-Office marks fill the remainder of the 140-page volume. The UDC's are illustrated alphabetically and followed by a chronological table by issue date. The volume concludes with the areas covered by the BS postcodes and the list of BS 6-FAD codes currently in use.

Volume 4: 'The Offices under Bristol' is an Alphabetical list of the 354 sub-offices, both town and country from Abbots Leigh to Zetland Road and covers all the marks from 1792 walk number handstamps to the latest SIDs. There is some duplication of marks included in Volumes 3 and 4.

Overall the publication contains an amazing amount of information on the Postal History of Bristol and its sub-offices from the earliest marks right up to 2017. The authors are to be congratulated on both the detailed research they have undertaken and in finally publishing what has been a twenty-year project.

Chris Jackson

President of Midland (GB) Postal History Society

Retail Price £75 plus £13 postage & packing (overseas extra).

Cheques payable to: Bristol Postal History Group

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Game of Thrones comes to The Postal Museum Post & Go

The Postal Museum has announced today that the new Game of Thrones Post & Go stamps will be available from its machine from 23rd January. This is the first time there has been a Post & Go issue coordinated with a Royal Mail special issue.

A must-have for all fans of philately and the hit television series, the issue comprises two designs. Both depicting the Iron Throne, the two stamps show different backgrounds, one with Targaryen Dragons and the other with the Night King and White Walkers. The issue is available in all denominations.

The stamps will replace the Machin Commemorative and the Machin 2nd Class and will be available for one month.

The Post & Go machine is available at The Postal Museum during normal opening hours. Please see www.postalmuseum.org for more information.

We regret to inform that there will not be any commemorative products released for this issue.

Harry Huskisson

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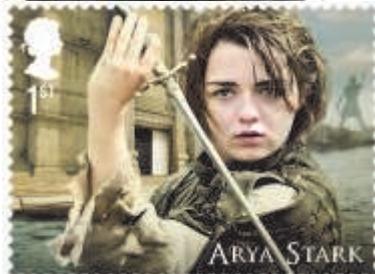
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British Stamp news

The business of selling stamps continues into 2018 with yet another monster set of 1st class stamps which in my opinion is aimed at collectors not at the use of the Mail services. Are these really available throughout the country at main and sub-post offices for us to purchase and use for a reasonable period of time? Or is Great Britain now into producing eye-catching labels aimed at aficionados of a particular television series, sports club, pop music etc who Royal Mail hope



will want to buy these ephemera to keep, in pristine condition. The post offices are apparently only allowed limited supplies - if my local one's experience of the Christmas stamps is anything to go by. They are expected to sell printed labels whenever possible, especially for larger valued items, with stamps as a sideline. Personally a block of ten 1st class stamps and 5 more in a miniature sheet relating to a USA fantasy TV programme which I have never seen and have no wish to see is a step too far. So I will stop buying special pages for my albums to hold these monsters - another loss to the businesses related to stamp collecting. For your entertainment I have included some of these not-so-pretty pictures - probably the only time that most of you will see them. *The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS.*



*The CENTENNIAL PHILATELIC CONGRESS of
GREAT BRITAIN*

Thursday 26 July 2018 - Sunday 29 July 2018

Jurys Inn Gateshead Quays

South Shore Road Gateshead NE8 3AE

The Centennial Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Jurys Inn, Gateshead Quays. This modern hotel has been built alongside the River Tyne and has fantastic views of the river. Using the new Millennium Bridge it is just a short walk into the historic city of Newcastle.

As this is the 100th Congress, the theme of Congress will be 'The Story of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain since 1909'. The Congress Committee are grateful for the support of the GB Philatelic Congress Study Group who will be providing several standing displays at this Congress.

The hotel can be easily reached by car and train. There is a fast train service from London.

The highlight of Congress will be the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists - an event not to be missed

Your Congress Committee have decided to arrange the banquet in a different location - Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newcastle. This is a superb venue and I am sure the evening will prove to be a memorable occasion.

Philatelic Congress is very friendly and we look forward to meeting you at Gateshead

Gerald Marriner

For further information contact: gerald.marriner@gmail.com

www.abps.org.uk

Provisional Programme

Thursday 26th

- 2.00 Presentation 1 – Philatelic Art Gallery - David McMonagle
- 3.30 Presentation 2 - Mike Gibson
- 4.30 Presentation 3 - World War One - Tony Walker
- 6.30 Reception sponsored by Stamp Insurance Services
- 7.00 Dinner (hot buffet) at the Jurys Inn hotel
- 8.30 Four sheets to tell a story - all delegates

Friday 27th

Static Display: *100 Congresses - the first years, 1909 - 1940 - the PCGB Study Group*

- 10.00 Official opening of Congress
- 10.45 The 100 Congresses: the memorabilia - The PCGB Study Group
- 11.45 The Kay Goodman Lecture – The Future of Philately
- 12.45 Association of British Philatelic Societies AGM
- 4.30 RDP Ceremony and Congress Medal Ceremony
- 6.00 RDP drinks reception
- 7.30 Reception sponsored by Corbitts Auctioneers & Mark Bloxham
- 8.00 Dinner (barbeque) at the Jurys Inn hotel

Saturday 28th

Static Display: *100 Congresses - the later years, 1946 - 2017 - the PCGB Study Group*

- 9.30 The Congress Medalist
- 10.30 Displays by 2 new RDPs
- 12.00 Displays by 2 new RDPs
- 2.00 Choices:
 - (a) An organised excursion / visit / trip
 - (b) A meeting of the Philatelic Congress of GB Study Group
 - (c) A small group of dealers with material for sale
- 7.30 Reception at Crowne Plaza sponsored by Corbitts Auctioneers & Mark Bloxham
- 8.00 Congress Banquet - **Crowne Plaza Hotel**

Sunday 29th

- 9.30 Presentation 1 - World War One
- 10.30 Presentation 2 - World War One
- 11.45 Local Philatelic Society members entertain - 10 static displays
- 12.45 Closing ceremony and the award of the Stanley Gibbons Cup
- 1.00 Scheduled close of Congress

On the Club circuit

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

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

Aberdeen



Robert Murray



Ray Welland

Here are some of the intrepid travellers who have recently come to Aberdeen by bus, train and cars. **Ray Welland** displayed *WWI Miscellany*. **Robert Murray** showed 8 mini displays including *Flags* and *Quirky Scottish stamps*. Representing Perth, **Robert MacLeish** showed *60 years of modern*



Robert MacLeish & Norman Watson

Canada and **Norman Watson** delighted us with *On cover Postal History of the 1d black and 1d red stamps*.
Sheila Den

Amersham & District

This season we have been fortunate in our selection of presenters. All presented high quality well written-up material. On 19th October we were privileged to receive a visit from **Bob Galland** who gave an outstanding presentation of *The First Surface Printed Postage Stamps of GB* during the reign of Queen Victoria. **David Wilson** also gave us an excellent display of high quality GB Queen Victoria material under the misleadingly modest title *Quite a lot about not very much*. David offered many snippets of information, one of which referred to the so called “Jubilee Issue” of 1887. These stamps do not in fact commemorate Victoria’s Jubilee, but they make up a definitive set which at that point was required for postal reasons. The timing was coincidental. **Mick Bister** and his wife **Marion** drove all the way from Cambridge to give us another fine presentation, this time on *French Somaliland*. During the late 19th

and early 20th centuries that large arid country in the north east of Africa was colonised by the Italians and the British, with a small section claimed by the French in the form of Obock port which was replaced by Djibouti, when larger ships required docking facilities. Between David and Mick's displays we held another successful and well supported auction where sales exceeded £4000. *Jim Drummond*

Ayrshire

We started the new year with an evening of displays at the invitation of our Vice President, **John Chalmers**. The first display by **Willie King** was of *The Provisional Overprint of Sudan*, which included full sheets as well as single stamps showing different settings and varieties, and included postal stationery, postage dues and some rare forgeries. Willie was followed by **Ken Gibb** showing a fraction of his vast collection of *Minerals on stamps*, mainly on maxi-cards from a wide range of countries. *UK Airmails* was the title of the display by **Dan Ross**, starting with the 1911 first official airmail and including the railway-operated air services. He concluded his display with the story of how graphite and then phosphor lines were used in mail sorting. **Ian Smith** then showed two frames of *Jamaican Postal History* starting in 1780 and including temporary rubber date stamps which were used before new post offices were issued with their permanent metal stamps. The evening was brought to a close by the Vice Chairman with five frames from his collection of the *Allied Occupation of Germany*, covering all the occupation zones as well as temporary local issues, and the 1947/48 'workers' issue

used in all zones. → David Rossall at davidrossall@sky.com *David Rossall*
Basildon

Chris Harman showed us *Revenue Stamps*. Any display by Chris is eagerly anticipated and this lived up to



Chris Harman taxes Basildon

expectations. He began with the origins of Stamp Duty and taxes on paper, newspapers and almanacs in 1711-12. We learned of Irish handbill and directory taxes, playing card taxes and taxes on hats, wallpaper, dice, gloves, vehicle road tax (1740s!) and pedlar licences (still needed, so if any knock on your door ask to see it!). Silver spoons exhibited tax hallmarks from 1783 to c.1860. Hair powder tax was followed by horse hire tax, turnpike road tolls and medicine tax (including forged labels for export). Private banknotes had to bear printed tax stamps. Adhesives appeared in 1853. Examples included receipts, life policies and money drafts, court and guildhall fees. *Essex Postmarks & A Picture Tour of Ireland* was **Ray How's** display. He began with postcards and covers of places in Essex with which he had been associated during his life. Part two took us on a (mainly) postcard

tour of Ireland, starting from Fishguard Harbour, then seeing the sights of Dublin and County Wexford. Guinness publicity postcards led us to Dingle, Saint Patrick's Day covers from USA and Ireland and transatlantic flight covers. A very entertaining evening!

John Copeland brought us *Postcards & Postal Regulations*. John explained the legal and postal background to the introduction and regulation of postcards and their design, with examples from their inception in Austria to their heyday in Britain between the wars.

From *The Basildon Philatelist*

Bolton

Our October meeting was Presidents' Evening. President this year is **Derek Ernsshaw** who gave a wonderful display of *Rochdale Postal History*. Our annual Stamp Fair was held on 28th October. 20 dealers attended and we also hosted the North West Federation Annual Convention. The November meeting was our fourth auction of the year. Over 400 lots were offered to room and postal bidders. Any member of an ABPS society can bid for any of the lots in our auctions. The December meeting was an informal evening.

Members were asked to display three sheets on *Something beginning with P*.

Howard Anderson

Bookham

In October we were entertained by **Chris Harman FRPSL**. Chris lived up to the billing with a superb display of *Modern Postal History 1936 – Decimalisation*. He explained that it was a display that was affordable though you needed to know what to look for! We saw singles and combinations of stamps from different reigns from KGV to QEII. This included

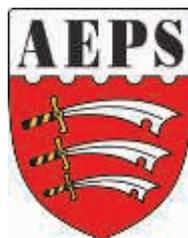
inland covers, Air Mail letters, covers abroad (especially a cover to General Franco's wife), covers with Perfin stamps, stamps on telegraph forms, WWII censorship covers, Registered and Express covers, illustrated/ advertising covers, stationery and the use of high values. We had not appreciated the scarcity of stamps that had a very short period of validity - in some instances only days eg the 75p Machin issued for Registered mail in 1980. The registration rate increased just 4 days after issue on 31st January 1980. In November **Simon Richards FRPSL** brought *Dominica*. Starting with a history lesson, he gave a superb and comprehensive display of material from the Island from the first known letter to England dated 1763, through scarce postmarks, packet/ship letters, essays, master proofs, to die proofs and specimens. GB stamps were made available in 1860 and Dominica stamps were first issued in 1874 by De La Rue. Then Simon showed six topics covering George V, Leeward Islands generic stamps of 1890 to 1903, censored covers, pre-paid letters and



Simon Richards on Dominica



BPS
**Golden
Jubilee**



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cards, postmarks from the villages on the Island and finally postcards of the Island.

→ www.bookhamstampclub.com

David Bravery

Bromley & Beckenham

The first visitor from Croydon PS was **L C C Nicholson**, its President, on the 1st March 1933. He came again in April 1934 with a display of *Jamaica*. Since then our clubs have provided speakers and display teams regularly for each other. The latest was when **Richard West MBE**, current President, brought two members, **Brian Asquith** who showed *Concorde from Inception to 1st*



Brian Asquith with signed covers

Commercial Flight and **Dr Chris Board** with *Cape of Good Hope Postal Stationery cards*. Chris included proofs and design essays as well as many illustrated items, often used for commercial or advertising purposes. Brian's display included competition design entries, promotional flights including a Day Trip to South America and testing in icy/sludge conditions at Fairford. Numerous items were signed by French and British ministers and designers. Former President and

Honorary Life Member **Bob Larg** travelled up from Worthing to give us three displays. *Catapult Mail* was implemented by the North German Lloyd Line using the steamers Bremen and Europa on the trans-Atlantic service to New York to enable the mail to arrive many hours before the ship docked. Bob showed 90 sheets of covers, including both the first and last flights. For *India: Queen Victoria* he showed stamps, covers and postal stationery, starting with a genuine ½ anna white Scinde Dawk. *New Zealand* began with a 1900 cover to the Orange River Colony "Under Martial Law" and went on to 1913 Exhibition postcards.

→ David (02087787001), Chris (02084021263) or

www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp

David Rennie

Cambridge

We held our Christmas meeting in early December - very much a social evening. The newly purchased cup, in memory of the late **John Pearce**, engraved The John Pearce Memorial Trophy for Open Class Philately was presented to **John George** for his winning competition entry earlier in the year. The New Year kicked off with a members' evening covering *The Letters N, O and P*. As is usual on these evenings a wide variety of topics were on display which included many of the Indian States, issued stamps and fiscals, Perfins, Officials, Poland, Papua & New Guinea and the Post Office development in Edinburgh. →

info@cambridgephilatelicssociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

We welcomed four members of Basildon PS who provided us with a

very entertaining and informative evening. **Charles Meade** led with *The Halfpenny Post in the 19th Century*. Following the introduction by Rowland Hill of the Penny Post in 1840 it took a further 30 years for a halfpenny post to be introduced. Then **Len Stanway** showed *Stamp-issuing International Organisations*, such as the International Labour Organisation, Bureau of Education, the UPU, the League of Nations and its successor the United Nations. **Alan Taylor** provided an interesting *Quiz on Queen Elizabeth Dates of Issue*. Finally **Claude Crowder** presented *Spanish Postal Labels* including a sheet produced by TNT and *The 1971 Postal Delivery Strike in the UK*. **Tony Hoad** of Goodmayes PS introduced us to *Tristan da Cunha Seven Island Families* – all related to early shipwreck victims. He started with a geography and history lesson on this remote island, emphasised by the last day for posting Christmas mail. For surface mail it is early September and for air mail a fortnight later. Tony moved on to the stamps of the period 1954 to the current day. The first pictorial issue was in 1954. The volcanic eruption of 1961 resulted in the residents being brought to the UK to live until it was considered safe for their return home in 1963. Several stamps have been issued since their return home including in 2006, to celebrate 500 years since discovery, depicting ships that had visited the island.

David Everard

Croydon

In October **Don Brookfield** brought us *The Life and Times of George VI*. Don had a wealth of material from a photograph of 1899 of the three



Don Brookfield on George VI

children, used as a Christmas card, to invitations to his funeral service, photographs of the funeral and letters of condolence. Between these were many letters including one to Lady Aran thanking her for the sweets she had given him, congratulations on the birth of his daughter, Elizabeth, material on the Abdication and details of the Coronation – invitations, order of service and coronation covers. The second half contained philatelic material, including miniature sheets of the stamps of the time as well as controls. On 14th November **Geoff Hanney** gave us a presentation on *Haiti*. Haiti was originally claimed for Spain by Christopher Columbus and then ceded to France in 1625 before gaining independence. The stamps of Haiti shown included the Liberty Head Issue, the first stamps issued in 1881, the earliest piece of mail from 1772 and a number of forgeries. One feature of the presentation was the number of flight covers in the early part of the 20th century. A large number of the covers were of internal mail but with a few to other countries such as Venezuela and Jamaica. We enjoyed the opportunity to view an unusual country. At our

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annual Grand Auction there were 250 lots on offer. Members enjoyed the evening and went home with many bargains to sort out at home.

Graham Harker

Dundee & District

In October we held a minute's silence in memory of **George Soutar**, recently deceased. **Andy Napier** and **Terry Woods** from Lanarkshire PS gave displays of their own material and also of fellow members **Ken** and **Maureen Mathieson**. These included *Fiji's leprosy hospital* where mail was disinfected in the cooling bread ovens after the day's baking had finished, *WWII Bomber Fund*, Switzerland's *Pro Juventute stamps from 1913 to 1985*,



Andy Napier and Terry Woods

explorers and *Postal history of Biggar and surrounding villages*. Our first November meeting recognised the exceptional achievement of **Dennis Collins**, a member for 70 years, who died recently. Members gave displays showing aspects of philately which Dennis would have appreciated and explaining how Dennis had influenced them. **Ann Findlay**, **Brian Cargill** and **George Parker** of Arbroath visited to show *Statue of Liberty* stamps and

postcards, New Zealand Post material to commemorate "*The Hobbit*" and "*Raphael Tuck*" postcards whose pictures were taken from copies of actual paintings. Amongst other things we learned that the USA had recently printed millions of stamps picturing the Statue of Liberty but the image mistakenly used was of the statue in Las Vegas! In December our *One Page* competition was won by **Norrie Kelso** with his entry showing the unusual use of two Saskatchewan revenue stamps on a Bill of Completion. Recent Acquisitions gave a glimpse into members' material including UDI returned mail, First Flight covers, 19th century illustrated envelopes, Antarctica flora and fauna, the Puntland State of Somalia and stamps on stamps.

Colin Campbell

Falkirk

On President's Night **Jean Osborne**, put on two displays of *Medicinal Plants*, complete with Latin names. We learnt a great deal. **David Cummings** from Caledonian PS gave us a talk and display on *Early Argentina postage stamps*. It was an uphill battle in the early days with regard to printing, posting and cost. David explained the changing situations, and eventually the authorities got it sorted out -- more or less. In early October **Ron Harkess** came from Perth to tell us all about the *German battleship Graf Spee*, launched in September 1939, which for a very short time created havoc in the Atlantic Ocean, until it was chased down to South America, where it was eventually scuttled by Captain Langsdorff after the battle of the River Plate. Ron's displays, forms, postcards and letters to and from sailors and others, took everyone's attention. The

I Spy...

A selection of images sent from clubs and societies. No prizes for spotting yourself ...

1



5



6



10



11



12



15



16





Postcard Club of Tayside (near Perth) visited in November and showed many old and very interesting items. One of their members also had a collection of very old cigarette cards, showing film stars way back, different breeds of dogs, and many football players who were stars in their time. **Jim McHardy** showed some of his *Butterfly* collection – a wide-ranging and colourful display. Members **Frank Soutar** and **Mike Turnbull** showed *Liechtenstein* and *Music* respectively. We brought 2017 to an end with a Quiz Night, nothing to do with stamps, with a cup of tea or coffee, a bun and a biscuit.

Alistair Moore

Ferndown & West Moors

Usually our in-house entertainment is 'what it says on the tin' and this meeting certainly kept up with tradition. 26 members took part, presenting interesting mini displays, covering a huge topic range. These included such themes as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Postcards of air and rail accidents*, *Les Folies Bergère*

on stamps, *Portuguese Postal Stationery Cards*, *Western Australia's 'Black Swan' mid-range issues*, covering colour variations, *Elephants on Stamps* with distribution stats and the *GB Victorian Jubilee Issue*, with the 1/- red/green on cover to Boston USA, a scarce and fine philatelic item.



Family Christmas Cards 1905-7 was a delightful addition. Completing the exhibits was the familiar seasonal contribution from the Club's 'Joker in Residence' – **Terry Kirkman**, entitled *Christmas Crackers 2017*, whereby a carefully chosen selection of stamps were given humorous captions ... a fitting finale.

Paul Barry

Harrogate

Ray Stephenson of Bridlington came to show us *Newfoundland*. There are



Paul Tennyson and Ray Stephenson in discussion

294 stamps listed in Gibbons but we must have seen more than that as there were also some Sperati forgeries. The first stamps were in 1857. Prince Albert appeared on stamps of 1865 even though he had died in 1861. Newfoundland was strongly Royalist and sent many men to WWI and WWII. Newfoundland produced the first Airmail stamp but mail was also carried by boat, rail and dogsled. We enjoyed a message saying that "Yesterday's steamer is expected tomorrow" and post offices with the names "Heart's Content" and "Heart's Delight". *Aspects of GB Postal History* was the title of **David Druett's** display. This was a newly prepared presentation including

items that caught the interest of a widely diverse audience. There were covers and stamps, postmarks and rates to puzzle over, very old, fairly old and a few more modern items. We enjoyed local material as well as national and the general feeling was that everyone had seen something that they coveted.

Keith Burton

The Huntingdonshire

Finn Donoghue came from Luton PS to show *Liechtenstein*. From the first stamps in 1912 we moved on through the Air issue of 1930, the definitive set of 1933 and the Red Cross issue of 1945. An interesting cover was a Zeppelin one showing the 1931 Graf Zeppelin Air stamp issue. We also saw examples of the Christmas cards sent to everyone who bought stamps from their Philatelic Bureau. The last issue of Official stamps was in 1976. It was an interesting display given by an enthusiastic speaker. **Peter Pugh** took us on *Another Bloody Railway Part 2*.

This time the subject was *Far East British mail sent via the Trans-Siberian Railway*. It was 5772 miles long and went from Moscow to far East Russia with connections to China. No mail was able to be sent during WWI and during the Russian Revolution no British mail was sent via the Trans-Siberian route. Hong Kong was used instead. There were many examples of mail sent during the various troubles along with postcards showing some of the trains used in carrying the mail. For our December meeting members were asked to display anything to go with mince pies. Festive items included Victorian and Edwardian Christmas cards, British Christmas stamps on covers and a card sent by Queen Victoria to all Post Masters at Christmas. Of local interest were two postcards depicting Godmanchester with the words Christmas Greetings on the front. ➔ 01480 468037

David Birkert

Captions for pages 30 and 31

- 1) John Copeland explained postal regulations at Basildon
- 2) Chris Board full of Good Hope at Bromley
- 3) Frank Simpson in action
- 4) Ray How at Basildon
- 5) George Parker, Ann Findlay & Brian Cargill of Arbroath Stamp & Postcard Club
- 6) Redcar President John Simms, standing, presented the winning 3 man quiz team, Jeff Harland, Glyn Wigley and Alan Rodgers, with the annual quiz prize.
- 7) Michael Goodman of the National and recently appointed President of the American Stamp Club of GB
- 8) Viewing the displays at WETS Autumn meeting
- 9) Geoff Hanney showing Haiti at Croydon
- 10) Stamp and cover hunting at Redex
- 11) Dane Garrod at the Royal with "Your Very Loving Madeline"
- 12) Alan Huggins with a fine item from his Embossed display at the Royal
- 13) Bob Larg up from Worthing
- 14) David Druett explains a point to Albert Megginson at Harrogate
- 15) Oxford members enjoying their Christmas Lunch
- 16) A good attendance at Bromley & Beckenham to hear...
- 17) The team from Croydon

Kendal & District

The first meeting in our 2017-18 calendar year was devoted to recent acquisitions. Members, who were still active buyers, displayed a range of philatelic material that they had bought since the beginning of 2017. In our October meeting, members were allowed to exhibit anything of their own choice. Displays included *Sheets of used copies of the first stamps of the Czechoslovak Republic*, philatelic and non-philatelic materials associated with *Sir Hubert George Wilkins*, the *JIPEX overprinted booklet panes of South Africa*, examples of *Mail collected by New Zealand's mobile Post Office Savings Bank vehicles*, a sheet showing *Used examples of all the 1d black plates* and, finally, an almost complete collection of *Used copies of all 175 1d reds*. In November, **Graham Chadwick** from Lytham St Annes gave a two-part presentation: *Alice in Wonderland* and *Great Western Trains*. In December, members were invited to produce materials relating to *The Letter I*. Over and above countries beginning with that letter, members showed stamps which had *Inverted watermarks*, provided examples of single copies and blocks of *Imperforates*, stamps relating to *Inventions associated with the development of submarines*, stamps linked to *the International Monetary Fund* and copies of *Australian stamps for exclusive use on International mail*. Everyone enjoyed the festive treats provided by two members.

Philip Gerrard

Kingston & District

Alan Tyler showed his *Palestine from Ottoman, through Mandate to Israel* to

us in October. His interest in the middle east came from his duty in that part of the world during and after WWII. The display was based upon the changes in the region between 1878 and 1955, and included the Sultan's Imperial post, European post offices, the stamps of the EEF invasion from Egypt during WWI and the Mandate stamps of Britain. These were overprinted PALESTINE in English, Hebrew and Arabic after Britain obtained the Mandate. In 1921 the Mandated territory was declared with stamps overprinted in Arabic, Hebrew and English. After Arabs protested at the size of their overprint compared with the larger Hebrew overprint, the overprint was redrawn. 1920 saw the



Alan studies a point

first postage due stamps issued, redrawn and reissued in 1928, and in 1927 the pictorial issue of stamps superseded the plain numerical stamps. In 1947 the UN took over and a division of the area between Palestine and Israel resulted in June 1948 after the first cease fire. Post mandate overprinted stamps for the Egyptian liberation of Gaza and the Jordanian occupation of Bethlehem were also displayed. Initially stamps

were inscribed or overprinted Doar Ivri until the name Israel was chosen for the new country. Hebrew charity stamps were used as interim postage stamps. When Israeli stamps were finally issued they included descriptive tags. Many of the early commemorative stamps are unknown postally used with their tags.

Chris Oliver

Launceston

In November **David Richards** presented *Venezuelan postage stamps, covers and other items of postal history*. His display spans a period of 100 years from 1862 to 1962. A feature of the display was the collection of early maritime packets and covers to and from Venezuela. There was also a set of Venezuelan



Des Kent and David Richards

commemorative stamps issued in 1944 to mark the centenary of the start of the Co-operative Movement in Rochdale, Lancashire by a group of local weavers and tradesmen. The set of seven stamps features Charles Howarth, one of the twenty-eight founding members of the society known as the Rochdale Pioneers. Our December meeting was

The Chairman's Evening with two interesting displays from **Viv Sandercock**. The first was of *Specially postmarked covers of modern GB commemorative issues* and the second *A Selection of recent additions to his South American collection* including early issues from Chile, Tierra del Fuego, Galapagos Islands, Easter Island, Juan Fernandez Island and Honduras. Chile included a selection of the early issues depicting the heads of Columbus while for Honduras there were examples of the genuine stamps of the 1896 President Arias issue including a cover together with examples of three different types of forgeries of these same stamps. Honduras also featured the stamps and miniature sheets issued to commemorate Apollo 11, their overprinting for the safe return of the astronauts from Apollo 13 and their overprinting also for the 50th Anniversary of the Honduras Masonic Grand Lodge. Commercial covers were included for each.

Howard Hamblin

Leeds

We have been shown superb material by excellent presenters towards the end of 2017. In October **Jeremy Piercy** (York) exhibited *Modern British Postal History* making us realise the complexities of every Post Office marking on all our mail. The next meeting was a visit from our colleagues in Halifax including a wonderful display of *Pre-stamp Halifax postal history*. November brought our old friend **Robert McMillan** from Hull with the *Falklands Islands* display which is just out of this world and shows years of astute collecting. After the successful 2-day Pudsey Fair, the year ended with two very pleasant evenings. Our

President **Rick Rickwood** gave the President's evening with a printed resumé. There were two rounds - *An unfinished study of barred numeral cancellations of Leeds, and Soldiers' concessionary mail at the beginning of WWI*, followed by the complexity of *The Industria Definitives of Brazil*. The second round covered *Metals, Brazilian Airmails to USA and Europe*, and *The Machin story as viewed through the development of £1 stamp*. Lastly a pre-Christmas treat was a members' evening on Africa. It was a delight to see some of our newer members exhibiting and the well-known **Tony Plumbe** showing *Nyasaland airmails* and *Art work of modern Nigerian stamps*. *Michael Waugh FRPSL*

Lostock

In mid-December 2017 we enjoyed the Christmas Buffet during which **David Hargreaves** ran a philatelic quiz. Prizes were handed to the winning table led by **Les Gandy** with 31 points. The one question all got wrong was "Who were the first non-royals still living to appear on a stamp?". During the meal our esteemed member **Alan Rigby** explained the virtues of always entering even the simplest one-page competition. Over the years he has built up a number of good friends through making the effort to support his local society and ENTER. Later Alan also spoke about his recent publication "*The Flying Scotsman in stamps*" Proceeds have been donated to charity. All in all the evening went well and rekindled the spirit of this is why we support a lifetime of philately. (Answer = The England cricket team winners of the 2005 Ashes) We are grateful to ABPS News and Officers for bringing moral support following the publication

in the Autumn 2016 issue of an article entitled REBIRTH-LOSTOCK. (*And we are honoured by your support – The Editor.*) In addition to all the activity we are experimenting with a home-grown WEB PAGE. Please have a look at sites.google.com/site/lostockphilatelicsociety David Morley

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

The first half of our 95th season has seen a variety of displays. September started with *Egypt* and *George VI Postal History* by **Ken Burr**. **Colin Evans** followed with *The American Civil War*. In October **Colin Tobitt's** display of *Aspects of Austria* was followed by **Robin Pizer's** remarkable display of *German Exchange Controls 1918 to 1925*. *Things I Like* by **Ray Barton** was a display of reasonably priced items that had caught Ray's eye at stamp fairs or on Ebay, often of considerable interest. Following our Bi-Annual Auction we had a visit from **Giles du Boulay** with a fascinating display of *Danzig - The Propaganda War*. In December our Annual President's display was a Joint one with his wife. Between them they displayed material of Czechoslovakia covering *Sokol (which stands for Falcon) Legions*, (a youth sport and gymnastics organisation) formed in the 19th century in the Austro-Hungarian Empire before coming under Czech control in the early 20th century. Maidstone held an experiment for their final meeting of 2017 by holding it three days after Christmas. Over twenty members turned up, bringing with them displays covering *The Letters M, N and O*. As usual we had 12 remarkable displays before we ran out of time. These covered many subjects, countries and the usual bad puns.

Our well-attended morning meetings have been a Members' display on *Transport*, **Hugh Johnson** showing *Pre Ship Mail* and **Mr E Shilling** with *Spain*.
Brian Stonestreet

Mid Sussex

During the first half of our season 2017-18 we have been entertained by a wide variety of displays from our visiting speakers. We opened with **Flo McCarthy** presenting *An Array of Irish postal history*. **Wendy Buckle** followed, giving a lucid account of *Latvia's* chequered existence as a nation state. Next came **Ben Palmer** with an in-depth study of the *1888 Centenary of New South Wales issue*, followed by an equally focussed display of the *Tin Can Mail of Niuafo'ou* presented by John Davis. **Tom Kemp** then displayed the seldom seen country of *Turkey*. Our final two meetings leading up to Christmas had an American theme. **Colin France** displayed a range of material under the title of *America with a Difference* followed by a themed collection of *Abraham Lincoln* presented by **Angus Lincoln** (No relation!).
Jim Etherington

Morecambe & District

Early in November **Richard Wheatley** took us on a journey. We started with the Supermarine Swift and concluded with an empty Spitfire beer glass. This was the only disappointment. Later in the month we were visited by **Yvonne Wheatley** who guided us through the *Early use of the Railways to carry mail up to the use of the TPOs*. Both speakers had a good level of attendance to hear these presentations and the membership requested that both speakers return to visit us in 2019.
Frank Colling

North Berkshire

This year we have enjoyed displays by **Bob Paterson** with *Look at the Stars* and **Malcolm Watts** with *Wiltshire Military*. Our members also showed a wide variety of topics from their collections for the *Letters U and V*, as well as from their collections for *African countries*.
Maurice Meardon

Oxford

We are sad to report the untimely death of **Alan Hughes**, the author of our recent history celebrating 125 years of our history. Members **Stephen Marks** and **David Potts** gave us an illuminating evening on *China up to and from 1949*. With China being a hot stamp collecting country – even on the school curriculum, everyone was educated in the history of Chinese stamps. The thematic meeting on *Fish and Fishing* produced a wide array of freshwater and saltwater contributions: from Japan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Madagascar and Tuvalu, to fisherfolk, subsistence fishing, rod and line, spear fishing, kite fishing, Big Game fishing and commercial trawling. **Simon Richards** gave a wonderful display of *Dominica*, showing the key milestones in its philatelic history with rich material from his first class collection. December was a busy month. A festive Christmas lunch at the Royal British Legion in Marston was enjoyed by two dozen members and their spouses, made even more enjoyable (and tricky) by some quiz questions for each table to solve. Then the always popular evening of *Recent Acquisitions* in the week before Christmas showed that members continue to add to their stamp collections and philatelic knowledge: Austria, British POs

overseas, Canada, Nigeria, and a large number of forgeries with interesting histories.

Dr Simon Heap

Petersfield and District

Good attendances continue to be recorded at our meetings, and with no break in the year members have been active: A visit to Hampex in September, then a description of *From Posthorse to Postbus* by **John Armstone** in October and **Ron Wood** gave an enlightening talk and display of the stamps of Belgium in November. We finished 2017 with chairman **Robin Pizer's** evening of *Commonwealth*. Displays by our members in January brought a good response with some talks held over to next month. Subjects covered included *U-boats*, *Tiger Burning Bright*, *Adverts on stamps* (New Zealand Adsons), *GB used abroad*, *Korea*, *El Salvador*, and Barbuda. We intend to accept an invitation to participate in a Victorian Day in Petersfield in May aimed to highlight the era with a wide range of activities on the Victorian theme. Stamps and postal history are obvious subjects on this occasion!

David Allen

Poole & Bournemouth

For Event 3 of the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebrations 12 members visited the Dorset Mail Sorting Centre in Poole, covering all the BH and DT postcodes, at the start of their evening shift. There we met **Jaki Magorian** who took us on a 1½ hour tour of the centre. We were able to see close up the varied machinery at work and to talk to the various process controllers. We saw the local mail arriving and being unloaded, then sorted into regular letters, large letters, parcels and Special Delivery items, and the sorting routes each of these followed. Jaki explained how the machines



Example of an automatic sorter



Warwick & Warwick

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worked, what problems occurred, the manual sorting processes still required and how unsortable mail was handled. All first class mail had to be ready for outward despatch by 9.00pm and second class by the morning. By the time the local mail had been sorted and prepared for delivery, mail from other centres around the country and from overseas for the BH and DT areas would start to arrive, and new sorting patterns would be set up on the machines to arrange the mail into the correct order for each postman's delivery rounds. Some interesting statistics were given to us: some 3.5 million letters have been processed this year so far, there are 1081 BH and 762 DT post boxes. 261,623 homes are delivered to in the BH area and 104,100 in the DT area, all within 1025 square miles.

Chris Wheeler

City of Preston PS

On the 20th September we had a visit from the Red Rose Postcard Club based in Preston with whom we have strong links - I am Chairman. The post card collectors put on a display of competition boards A2 size covering a wide range of subjects from *Liverpool Anglican Cathedral to Egyptian Pyramids*.

Derek Williams

Redcar & Cleveland

Our end of year 2017 Presidents Quiz & party was well supported by 15 members who donated prizes for an excellent raffle to support society funds. Wine, cheese, mince pies and Christmas cake were provided by **John Simms**, our current president, who also baffled us with an intricate quiz which left most of us head scratching and ceiling gazing!

Martin Snowdon

Ringwood

We enjoyed a really worthwhile 2017 programme, ending with the Christmas Meeting, where **Philip Cant** presented *Titanic Revisited*, having previously shared his iconic ... *From Cradle to Grave*. Forming the riveting display (no pun intended!) were stamps, postal items, postcards, photos, press reports, and references to Cunard documents and other research findings. Philip traced the inception, building, Board of Trade involvement, staff recruitment, provisioning, passenger and cargo lists and departure for New York. Also covered were aspects of the voyage, two ice warnings, collision, reference to Marconi and the miracle ship 'Carpathia', partial rescue and the role of the American press. A particular emphasis was placed on 'the Enquiry', subsequent vital maritime law changes, and recent deepwater wreck site exploration. Artefacts are expensive, but Philip did have ownership of a rare, limited edition Cunard Steiff black bear...the evening's highlight! (See p 52). Members and guests further celebrated the festive season with sumptuous refreshments. This was another notable event in the society's busy programme.

Paul Barry

Royal Sutton Coldfield

At our November morning meeting **Malcolm Hughes** entertained with *An Evening of Two Parts: 'British Honduras' and 'Provisional Fever in Oil Rivers'*. The first sheet in the display was a map of British Honduras followed by the first stamps used: 1d, 6d and 1/-. Other items in the display included an early cover to the colony from London, old currency stamps surcharged in Dollars used for up to 3½

years after the change of currency, examples of two new date-stamps, oval and circular with name and date, a series of first flight covers to various destinations, and the Hurricane Relief Fund issue from 1932. Malcolm finished the session with 3c and 10c Belize commemorative stamps for the University College of British West Indies on cover. After a short break Malcolm gave some brief details of the history of the Oil Rivers. The main post office was established at Calabar in November 1891 and sub-offices were developed at Benin, Bonny, Brass, Opobo, and Warri. At first postage stamps of Great Britain were used, but in 1892, 6 British stamps were overprinted "BRITISH / PROTECTORATE / OIL / RIVERS" and issued. Other items included examples of various cancels, British Postal Stationery cards with Great Britain crossed out and overprinted Oil Rivers with the stamp also overprinted, 1d stamps overprinted ½d twice ready to be bisected and a registered cover from 1894 with a 1d bisected stamp. Malcolm ended with covers with Oil Rivers stamps used in Nigeria.

Albert Smith

Rugby & District

Our first speaker was **Christopher Jackson** from Worcester, who provided an excellent display of *Postal History material of Worcester*, going as far back as the 16th Century. He included a cover from an inmate in Worcester prison and another from the bishop bearing a bishop mark. Then he focused on Worcester district, including early Tenbury and Shipston mail. In October **Doug Nottingham** explained *The Changes in the English postal system of the 1830s*, with particular

attention to the uniform penny post. Later that month **Paul Woodness** from Solihull presented *It's all Greek to me*. It actually featured the island of Rhodes and its postal history under various occupations, including Maltese Knights, Italian, German and British MEF forces. Some of the postmarks shown were extremely rare, and the WWII material was really special.

Roger West introduced *An evening wasted* in early November. This was a real potpourri of mini-displays, excellently explained and with a lot of humour too. He managed to match stamps with pubs in Derbyshire and with famous sayings. There was a broad response to our members' night theme on *Water* including clouds, rivers, waterfalls, lakes, seas, shipping. Finally, we welcomed **Steve Ellis** with some super material on *French maritime mail to and from the port of Marseille and Cross-channel mail provided by shipping companies run by railways at either end*. → 01788542358 theo.schilderman@btinternet.com

Theo Schildermann

Sheffield

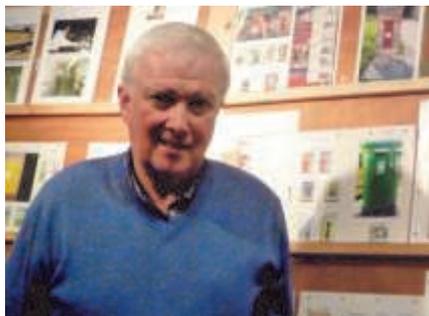
December's Thursday meeting was a Members' Night. They brought in the usual diverse range of material: Political Treaties, Cadiz Province during the Spanish Civil War, Caches and Postage Due, Christmas Scout post in Weare Somerset amongst others. The highlight of the evening was **Ken Rutter's** display. Through a series of stamps he showed what had happened to him in recent weeks.

Steve Cook

Solihull

John Mason, our President, gave us a good start to 2018 with his *Presidential*

Display of items from his collection which reflected his background in the Post Office and his interest in Northern Europe. Part of his display was devoted to the history of letter boxes as illustrated on stamps which he brought



John Mason with his Presidential Display

to light with an actual example of a wall mounted type yellow letter box as used by the French Post Office. Our monthly day time meetings continue to attract a regular core of enthusiastic collectors who can be relied upon to come up with some amazing and unusual one frame displays. If you have not been to one of these meetings, give it a try. We meet from 10.30 am on the second Thursday of the month. Our evening meetings start at 7.30 pm every Tuesday evening. → 01564 776 879 or www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk

John Barker

Southampton & District

Thursday afternoons in Chandlers Ford The meeting in September duly took place as a 'Ladies' afternoon. Despite Harold trying to get in on the act, there were easily enough presentations given by all of the ladies: **Judy, Beverley, Sue** and **Pauline** to fill the afternoon, with **Felicity** bringing in her

display in October. Also at the October meeting the convenor gave a detailed presentation on *The Postmarks of Malaya*, greatly assisted by the vast knowledge of **Robin Holley**. Other displays were given by **John Berridge, David Lewis** and **Keith Lloyd**. In November apart from the tea party we had the best attendance of the year (including a brief cameo appearance of the Society Chairman.....) **John Cruttenden, Cathy Bruce, Jim Rankin, Alan Whittaker, Peter Parr, Harold Barstow** and **Keith Lloyd** all gave most interesting presentations with several other members holding themselves in reserve.

From Southampton Postmark

St Albans, Harpenden & District

This season began in September when **Bernard Williams** displayed *The Great Man*, using the stamps of Czechoslovakia to illustrate the life and significance of Tomas Masaryk to his newly formed country. He was the first president and led his country from 1918 to 1935. He was also a distinguished scientist and a philosopher. During an excellent evening, the talk was illustrated by many examples of stamps bearing portraits of Masaryk issued both during his long political life and after his death. October brought *Penguins* - a fine thematic display by **Pauline Avery**, which took us through the many types of penguin. The star had to be the King Penguin on the Falkland Islands Centenary stamp of 1933. Pauline demonstrated the thematic collector's eagle eye for spotting penguins lurking in the most unlikely corners of philately. No prizes for guessing the chocolate biscuit that our speaker kindly

distributed in the coffee break. **Lorraine Maguire** presented her *Steam Railways of New Zealand* to a large audience in November. She showed the growth of a railway system across the difficult terrain of both Islands and the association with the development of the New Zealand postal system. She also covered experiments with automatic mailbag collection from moving trains to replace the simple but less reliable technique of hauling the bag out of the back! The year closed with our December Christmas Social and Three Sheet Competition, won this year by **Colin Smart** with *Jamaica*. → 01582762284 or p.mellor@btinternet.com

Peter Mellor

Stratford upon Avon

The post is too fast! We were treated by **Clive Jones** to a fascinating display of



Clive Jones explains the death of Travelling Post Offices at the hands of faster trains

Markings for Travelling Post Offices. Far from being just for postmark fans, the display explored social history, geography, expansion and decline of railways, and bizarre unregulated extra "late fee" charges for putting letters in

the box attached to the post office sorting carriage in the station. The system was launched in 1838 as the previous horse carriages were now deemed too slow. But the whole system of dropping off and picking up mail bags automatically as the train whizzed past the pick-up points turned out not to be viable by 1971, as the nice new fast trains were too fast for safe transfer of the bags: just imagine a 70 lb bag of mail bouncing into the sorting carriage at over 100mph! → Colin Fountain 01789841606

John Gledhill

Thatcham

In October we saw *Forgeries, Scams, Miss-prints and Cinderellas* from **Ian Keel, Bob Paterson, Mike Smith and Dave Tanner**. They included forgeries of war-time French issues, Bechuanaland ones that looked better than the originals printed in Britain, Lion stamps of Persia and a lovely book by Brian Cartwright 'Madam Joseph Revisited' about all the forged cancellations of the Commonwealth. We learned that sometimes forged plates were confiscated but later used for real issues! *Vegetation* was November's first topic. **Juliet Keel, Andrew Gore and Neil Hatton** provided material including ladies working in the fields, Gambia palm tree issues and the 1963 4th June commonwealth issues relating to 'Freedom from Hunger'. Then **Graeme Stewart** showed some wildlife sheets of 'vegetation' that grew under the sea and some of wildlife from the Ross Dependency. **Mike Smith** spoke about collecting Cacti and then showed sheets to illustrate the various types. In late November **Bob Galland** brought *Undeliverable Mail*. Much of his

collection was 'by mistake' until he had so much of the material that it became a whole subject in itself. His display included Dead Letter Offices material from London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Manchester, standardised returns envelopes, and Instructional Marks including 'Addressing Problems' and 'Not Called For' items. Bob showed several sheets returned by the censor in WWII and finally a bottle of shiraz with a returned label on it! We ended 2017 with a Christmas Social, Quiz and *Charity Stamps* provided by **Juliet Keel, Bob Paterson and Graeme Stewart.** From *Thatcham Postmark*

Wakefield

In October **Neil Ritchie** gave an excellent military postal history display entitled *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914 - 1919* which consisted of covers depicting the postal workings of the Army during this period together with an explanation of the various militia postmarks. We had two November meetings. **Rodney Knight** gave an attractive and rare display of stamps from *China* starting with the early issues and with a special interest in the Cultural Revolution Period. Then **Robert McMillan** visited with a fascinating display of stamps and postal history covers of *The Falkland Island Dependencies and British Antarctic Territory* from the beginning of WWII. He included an historic section on the Norwegian Whaling Mail. To finish 2017 **Martyn Cusworth** gave an excellent display of *Chile Flight Covers.* *Julie Hitchcock*

Watford

In September, our season's first meeting was an informal bourse, and the chance for members to catch up on

acquisitions during the summer. Through our website, we also welcomed a member of the public to the meeting who was looking for some advice from the members present regarding the possible value of his late father's collection. In October we welcomed back **Tony Hickey**, who showed us more of his excellent collection, this time looking at the German occupation of the Sudetenland, entitled *Munich: the Road to War.* It included a wide variety of material from philatelic items to propaganda postcards. Two members of Barnet PS visited us in November (we returned the favour in December). **David Cox** went first, showing us his collection of *Seychelles.* He was followed by **Alan Harris**, whose display was *Ancient and Modern* covering everything from early Bishop Marks to contemporary Gibraltar stamps. December was our President's evening. This year our president invited **Andy Middleton**, who entertained us with *Zululand*, a country you do not see very often. Andy's excellent material included both stamps and postal history, and we were all given an information sheet and map, which was very helpful. → Brian Thurlow 01923 243243 or watforddps@gmail.com

Wayne Cox

West London

We were pleased to welcome **Michael Furfie** to give his display of *Postage Dues & the UPU.* Michael explained that the General Postal Union was formed in 1874. This was by no means Universal as it took another five years before the UPU became operative. The earlier body adopted a method of charging for and collecting postage due across political and economic borders.



Michael Furfie at West London

Examples of the complex gathering of taxes for various types of deficiency was illustrated. When the UPU was established, a more workable postage due system came into being but this was subject to many peculiarities and changes to suit economic and political alterations. Michael explained this on a frame-by-frame basis with good examples of most rates. Changes were particularly apparent after WWI with some countries experiencing hyper-inflation and the advent of innovative airmail such as the empire "All-up" mail incentive.

Chris Oliver

Federations

Essex

The Federation has produced the 2018 digital handbook *Philately in Essex*. Further details can be obtained by accessing stampessex.org.uk/

Wiltshire and District

We held our 16 Sheet Competitions concurrent with our AGM in December. At the AGM we welcomed **Jeremy Hutchinson** back to our Committee as

our new Treasurer. Winners of the 16-Sheet Competitions were Swindon's **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** and **David Gibbon**. Our next significant event will



Wiltshire PF President with prizewinners Barbara Borlase-Hendry and David Gibbon

be our 9-Sheet Competitions which will be held as part of Swinpex on the 9th June. For the first time we will be including Picture Postcards as a competitive class. This will be our 4th year of submitting 'best quality colour photocopies' only, at our Federation level competitions.

→ www.wiltsfed.org.uk

Paul Latham-Warde

National and specialist societies

Channel Islands Specialists' Society

No report - but my apologies to them for giving a wrong name to the society in the Winter 2017 Issue - my fault, not your correspondent's. *The Editor*

Exhibition Study Group

One of the displays at our weekend at the Crystal Palace in October was **Ramon Goody** with items from the 1924-5 *British Empire Exhibition*. His

display was different, showing ephemera which are less well known than the stamps. He included a London Underground poster, publicising a 1923 opening. In fact it did not open until 1924. An LNER issued postcard gave details of the non-stop train service into the exhibition ground station. We saw an unused complimentary ticket for the opening on 23rd April and a card to advertise the re-opening in 1925. To boost 1925 attendance, there was a free competition with a cash prize of £100. Competitors had to estimate the number of attenders through the turnstiles on the following day. An unused free coupon plus a used counterfoil were shown. Business and trading were conducted during the exhibition, shown by an invoice, dated 13th August 1925, for an Indian carpet by the Taj Mahal Trading company in the Indian Pavilion, the receipt using two 1d special Wembley stamps. Over the two days a number of other interesting displays were put up, enjoyed by all. → 0208 4403547 donaldrk@btinternet.com

Don R Knight

The Great Britain PS

Nigel Sudborough and **Julian Tweed** delighted a room full of members and guests with their displays at a recent meeting. Nigel's display *Exploring the Postal Use of the Penny Black* began with a brief review of the eleven plates of the Penny Black and the development of the line engraved stamps before moving on to a very wide range of usage of the stamps, both usual and unusual. In the afternoon Julian's *Express Mail* display explained how the service operated and developed over time. Of special interest were Express Delivery in

London on Sundays and the operation of the service in wartime. Julian also showed how sometimes things went awry for one reason or another! At a later meeting, members were able to enjoy displays by **Ian Harvey** and husband and wife team **Paul** and **Judith Bradshaw**. Ian's display *Planning Machine Booklets 1967 to 1980* contained not only booklets but also material used in their planning and production such as essays, trials and proofs. A veritable treasure to see. Paul brought *Northamptonshire Postal History* which contained items from many small towns from the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century. Judith's display included *Southwold Postal History* and *Southwold Railway* together with *Woodbridge Postal History* which included material from the mid-18th century through to the end of the 19th century. There was much animated discussion when members adjourned to a local hostelry following the meeting. → www.gbps.org.uk or membership@gbps.org.uk

Janet Bygate

Helvetia PS of GB

14 members attended the Southern Group's meeting at Whaddon in October (with 12 apologies received) – a healthy number for potential future attendances. For a change, this was set aside entirely for *Members' Displays* which proved to be both fascinating and popular. **Bob Medland** presented a collection of *Covers forwarded by Free delivery service* run by a society in Geneva during WWI. It enabled people living in warring countries to correspond. The late **Peter Hobbs** amassed the collection. Eric **Lienhard** presented postcards and assorted ephemera from *The National*

Exhibitions of 1896, 1914 & 1939. **Ted Stern's** varied subjects included *Pro Juventute* card sets, *FRAMA* machine-labels and *Meter postage markings*. **Marc Burgess** presented both genuine and forged versions of the *1847 Zürich 4 rappen stamp* - to the envy of many! **Bob Medland's** main subject of *Postage Due* included Victorian covers from GB to Switzerland with the suggestion that under-franking may have been deliberate. *Razor-blade Cancels* aka *The Cutting-edge of Philately(!)* was the topic offered by **Fred Hoadley FRPSL**. These were flexible cancellers invented by de Coppet (manufactured by Güller) to ease what is now known as RSI for postal clerks. **Brian Thurlow's** *1882-1904 'Standing Helvetias'* demonstrated the huge variety of printings, perforations, errors etc offered by this issue. **Alison Kilpatrick** and **Rosalind Ragg** entertained with an excellent thematic display of *Floral* and *Equine-related stamps* respectively. **Richard Donithorn** ended the day with an excellent study of *Stamp Designers and Modern Designs*, with various thought-provoking questions. *Bob Medland*

The National PS

We have a new venue for our Saturday auctions and displays - The Postal Museum, Phoenix Place London WC1. The final meeting at the Welsh Centre in December was an auction, Christmas refreshments and a display by members. Past president **Chris Oliver** showed stamps and modern covers from *The Island of Madagascar*, **Tony Johnson** in a 14-sheet display explained *Methods of stamp printing* with examples from Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. **Barry Cook**

showed the *Commonwealth 1949 omnibus issue for the 75th anniversary of the UPU* including stamps on cover and mint stamps and **Russell Pegler** showed *RAF related items* plus an amusing spoof page of "Ripley's – Did you Know?" on philatelic curiosities. At January's meeting, **Paul Cahill** showed *Aviation Crash Mail*. In February **Nick Martin** will show *Belgium*. There is also a country meeting at WestBex on Saturday 24th March where NPS members will display alongside members of the local Thatcham and Thames Valley Societies. There is a special membership offer available at Stampex and other major exhibitions such as the York Stamp and Coin Fair in July.

→ www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps,
npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk or
 01582 762284. *Michael Goodman*

The Royal

It was the first time a display of El Salvador had been presented to the members but all were in for a rare treat when **Guillermo F. Gallegos** showed *The Prestamp Period, from 1525 to 1866* on 9th November. The presentation spanned the period of a Spanish colony, the Central American



Patrick Maselis with Guillermo Gallegos after his display.

Join the Spanish Study Circle



The Spanish Study Circle was founded in 1956, to promote the study of the stamps and postal history of Spain and its former colonies. All aspects of Spanish Philately are covered and we have members from all over the world. In 2003 the Study Circle received the accolade of being elected to membership of the Spanish *Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia y Historia Postal*.

- **Members are welcome at the annual weekend meeting held in Bournemouth, and encouraged to write articles or pose questions for the Study Circle's magazine "España", using our new website (provided courtesy of the ABPS).**
- **In 2018 we are planning two initiatives; first to produce two issues of "España" under the guidance of our new editor, and secondly to continue developing the website to enable us to provide information, articles and news to our membership.**
- **We have a number of specialist study groups within the Society that act as a forum for discussion on specific areas of collecting, eg. Classic, Spanish Civil War, Postal History.**
- **There is an annual postal auction and a popular Circulating Packet.**

If you collect Spain or Spanish Colonies, and would like to hear more about the Society please get in touch with the Secretary Mrs E. Knight (01904 796825), spaincircle@gmail.com, via the ABPS website or visit the website at spaincircle.wixsite.com/spainstudycircle

Your article?

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

Federation onto the independent Republic. Included were many fine and rare covers, often the majority of only a handful known. The display ended with a taste of the issued stamps. Later that month **Alan Huggins RDP FRPSL** gave a masterful display of *The Embossed Stamps of Great Britain 1841-1973*. He started with the William Wyon and Charles Whiting die of 1840, produced to prepay postage by stamping paper supplied by the public. Later this led to the 1d pink embossed envelopes issued on 10th February 1841. Then came stamped-to-order and stamped envelopes, including registered ones, from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II, and the stamped-to-order postcards and lettercards of QEII, many shown commercially used. Official and Forces envelopes were also featured. An immense cache of correspondence from the Victorian and Edwardian era, letters and envelopes sent between and to Sir James (Joe) Drummond, The Lord Lieutenant of Carmarthenshire, and his wife Madeline, led **Dane Garrod FRPSL** on a journey of discovery and fascination. Brought together as *Your Very Loving Madeline* – the way she ended her letters to Joe – the story was unfolded in a display given on 7th December.

➔ 02074861044; www.rpsl.org.uk or adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk

Richard West

South Africa Collectors

September's meeting was headed *Cinderellas* so we saw mainly labels. **Rob Lester** included large coloured 1938 Cape Postmaster General's conference and Eucharistic Congress labels, then a 1942 Young Muslim Brother's Association cover. None of us had seen the 1956 Worcester Deaf and



Studying the Cinderellas

Blind Institute label, nor the Springs "Agricultural and Industries Future" publicity, and the 1925 Natal Industrial Exhibition and 1933 Johannesburg First National Exhibition labels are also believed to be unique. "MOTHS" is nothing to do with butterflies but the Most Excellent Order of Tin Hats, an organisation founded in 1927 for service personnel who had served in the front line; Rob showed two 1945 covers with labels. **Chris Oliver** showed an interesting and eclectic mixture, starting with a scarce 1929 Christmas seal tied to cover, then the 1952 and 1953 "Help Cripples" booklets, an 1867 Cape compulsory registration cover, the compulsion due to the fact the letter contained coins. Finally, there was a 6th May 1941 War Train cover which also used a national savings stamp as postage. **David Paige** concluded the displays with the TB – tuberculosis – theme. He started with forerunner TB fund items from a variety of countries. Profits from South Africa Christmas seals went towards overcoming TB and David showed the first SA item, from 1929, very nicely tied, but on a 1930 cover. Finally David showed the 1954 booklets and the many varieties in the inside and back

covers with variations of the English and Afrikaans inscriptions inverted.

Chris Oliver

WETS

For our April meeting there was a real *Buzz in the Air* when **Gary Green** gave a presentation on “The Life of the Honey Bee”. We learnt much about bee-keeping, hives and the relationship of the various types of Bee to the Queen Bee. We were surprised to learn that the worker bee’s short life was spent as a hive cleaner, then a hive defender and finally a forager in the hive. We were told how honey is collected and what products were created from both the honey and the wax used to contain the honey in the hive. This was a very comprehensive display, much appreciated by all. Following lunch attenders put up their

offerings based on the theme of *Flight*. 10 displays were shown including *Airlines Around the World*, *British Owls*, *Flights of Fantasy*, *A Day in the Fresh Air and Up Up and Away*. In October, **David Roseveare** showed his *From Grandeur to Gravure: the story of Pierre Bequet the French Stamp Designer and Engraver* who David had been very friendly with over many years. There were many examples of his work including essays signed by Pierre. Part of David’s display was a 90 sheet exhibit that had been displayed at Paris by special invitation. On both occasions a superb Buffet Lunch was produced by **Martin & Sally Ellam**. The afternoon theme was *The Clothes We Wear*. We saw six very different and very interesting displays.

From *WETS newsletter*



Food for the body courtesy of Martin & Sally Elam at Buckfastleigh



In November a challenge was held in Hamilton, New Zealand among the Royal Philatelic Societies of London, New Zealand, Sydney and Victoria. The Grand Award (Grand Prix) was won by **Lesley Marley** with *A Whale’s Tale* in the Thematic Class. Lesley was presented with her award by **Patrick Maselis RFP FRPSL**, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

How Can Societies Support Each Other?

It can be difficult to find ways of helping other societies without appearing to be interfering. Of course, speakers can be persuaded to visit either individually or as a group of 4 or so - to show a full display or 4 × ¼ displays – but not everyone wants to produce so much material. For seven years a group of societies in the South East has been meeting annually in a very informal display competition. The participating societies have varied, but some have been there most years. Bromley & Beckenham were the hosts this year as they are conveniently placed. They welcomed members from Bexley, Lewisham, Sidcup and Royal Tunbridge Wells, and 2 observer guests from Croydon. It was the first time that Royal Tunbridge Wells had taken part. Besides the displays there was a bourse and seasonal refreshments. Each society put up 3 one-frame displays and then the full audience considered what they saw and heard, and voted for their favourite. The displays were very varied – so everyone could find something of interest. Unfortunately one Bexley member was unable to attend so there were 14 frames to see. The order was **Cliff Hurst** (S) *Yukon Airways & Exploration Company*, **Mike Dobbs** (L) *Danish Peace-keeping Forces*, **Nigel Gooch** (RTW) *SANDUQ (pillar box) marks of Persia/Iran*, **Cliff Gregory** (S) *WWI Indian Prisoner of War Regulations and Mail*, **David Milsted** (BBPS) *GB QV 1d lilac Army Officials*, **Tony Hickey** (L) *Anti-Semitism material, covers and documents mainly 1930s Germany*, **Don Brookfield** (Bex) *GB 1948 Silver Wedding issue*, **Geoff Hannay** (S) *Danish Contingent of UNEF (Egypt)*, **Ray Houghton** (L) *GB & Islands promotional collection of lithographs for various 1970s/80s FDCs*, **John Shaw** (Bex) *South Africa 5/- Ox-wagon issues 1927-54*, **Ian Marshall** (RTW) *The "Penny Black" story showing all plates including matched pairs*, **Ian Reed** (BBPS) *Channel Islands early maritime mail from 1700s onwards*, **Jenny Viggars** (BBPS) *A thematic display about the Heart, its functions, defects, treatment etc.* and **Robin Tapper** (RTW) *Bromley & District Pre-stamp Postal History*. Where else could you expect to see such a variety and have good food and conversation – other than by visiting one of the National or International Shows? To me, an outsider, this seems to be an excellent way to create good relationships with societies that are within a reasonable distance without a small number of people having to create a large display. I hope that others will explore ways of providing support and let us know what they have done and how it went.

Oh – the result! Jenny Viggars won for the home society by only 2 points from one of the newcomers Robin Tapper – clever of him to bring Bromley material!



Jenny receives her bubbly from BBPS President Adrian Thomas

ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

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

Barry Stagg is a judge for the Midland Federation (add to p 28) and has qualified as a National Judge (Thematic).

Federations

Association of Sussex PS (p 56): New Secretary: Norman Sansom
aspssecretary@btinternet.com

Specialist Societies

Czechoslovak PS of GB (p 71): New Secretary: Colin Smith 01732 848392
secretary@cpsgb.org

Exhibition Study Group: Secretary's number is 0208 440 3574

Pacific Islands Study Circle (p 80): Secretary's email
secretary@pisc.org.uk

Society of Postal Historians: Secretary: Dr Duncan G Crewe
duncancrewe@aol.com

Local Societies

Ayrshire PS (p 90): Secretary's email: ianlbarker@aol.com
Society has no website

Bradford PS (p 98): New secretary: Julian Smith, 01274 541668
juliansmith37@icloud.com

Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club (p 99) has closed

Caledonian PS (p 101): Secretary contact: 01389 762502
raywelland@hotmail.com

Falkirk & District PS (p 112) is now **Falkirk Stamp & Postcard Club**

Fenland Stamp Club (p 114): Meet twice a month until April at 1.45pm at The Upper Parlour, Trinity Methodist Church, Church Terrace, **Wisbech**, Cambs. PE13 1BL → richard@lewis8571.plus.com or 01945700954

Grantham Stamp Club (p 115): Venue is now: Great Gonerby Memorial Hall, Belton Lane, Great Gonerby, **Grantham** NG31 8NB

Grimsby & District PS (p 116): Secretary: David McMann
mcmann@btopenworld.com

Huntingdonshire PS (p 125): Secretary: Mick Twinn
huntingdonshire.philatelic@ntlworld.com
Venue: Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, High Street,
Hemingford Abbots, Cambridgeshire PE28 9AH

Leeds PS (p 130/1): Meetings: Second and Fourth Tuesdays September to May
Venue: The Oxford Place Centre, Oxford Place, **Leeds**, LS1 3AX

Rutland PS (p 151): Secretary: add dave.I17@btinternet.com
Venue: Congregational Church Hall, High Street, **Oakham** LE15 6AL

Swale PS (p 160) have re-joined ABPS. Secretary: Rodney Browne

Truro PS (p 164): Secretary's email ctbenford@btinternet.com

Speakers

Yvonne Wheatley (p 255): email whyareuu@outlook.com

The following speakers are no longer giving displays: **Colin Baker** (p 188), **D F Elliott** (p 205), **Brian Moorhouse** (p 229), **Iain Stevenson** (p 245), **Malcolm D Watts** (p 253):



Three Items from Ringwood's Titanic Display by Philip Cant - see page 39

Advertising sheet for the first crossing from Southampton for £7.45 - third class.

Carpathia Cablegram.

13 APR 1912

The Marconi International Marine Communication Company, Ltd.

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FROM: CARPATHIA

CHARGES TO PAY

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Office of Origin CARPATHIA

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A detailed illustration of the Titanic ship, showing its four funnels and the hull number 54.

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MonacoPhil HOSTS YOUNG COLLECTORS

A group of young high potential collectors was recently invited to attend MonacoPhil by members of the Club de Monte-Carlo. There were 2 from the UK, 2 from Belgium, 1 from Russia, 1 from Italy and 10 from the USA. They were invited to all the activities of the Show for free including the exhibition itself, the cocktail party, gala dinner and closing dinner. Individual members of the Club de Monte-Carlo sponsored them on a voluntary basis.



Patrick Maselis with the lucky recipients of a fantastic opportunity

RPSL President Patrick Maselis would like to undertake a similar initiative at Autumn Stampex in London and anyone knowing young high potential philatelists is invited to contact Patrick Maselis by email on patrick@maselis.be
David Rossall

FIP Presidential Election - Bangkok 2018

Chris King has declared his candidacy for this very important post. As you will know from the Executive Bulletin, ABPS - the British Federation - has declared its support for him. You can see the questions that he is asking and the aims that he has if elected on

feapanews.com/news/chris%20king%20bulletin%202.

I am sure that he would appreciate messages of support. *The Editor*

WINNERS OF ROYAL MAIL CHRISTMAS STAMPS DESIGN COMPETITION ATTEND CLARENCE HOUSE FOR PRIZE PRESENTATION BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



The two winners of Royal Mail's 2017 Christmas Stamp Design Competition attended Clarence House for a prize-giving presentation by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. Each received a framed copy of their stamps from Prince Charles.

The winning designs were

chosen from over 200 000 entries received from children aged 4-11 years across the UK in response to the question 'What does the Christmas season mean to you?'. The entries were shortlisted for the next stage of the process where local judges from 12 UK regions selected their top two entries to represent the region in the national final. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales chose the two winning designs which were approved by HM The Queen. This is only the fourth time in Royal Mail's 500-year history that children have designed the Christmas Stamps.

Both winners had a special postmark that featured on stamped mail delivered to addresses nationwide.

The two winning designs were 'Santa Claus on his sleigh on a starry night' by **Ted Lewis-Clark**, aged 10, a pupil at Oakfield Academy in Frome, Somerset, that appeared on the 1st Class Christmas stamp, and 'Snow family' by 9-year old **Arwen Wilson**, who goes to St Chad's Catholic Primary School in Dudley, West Midlands, that appeared on the 2nd Class Christmas stamp.

1st Class stamp winner, Ted Lewis-Clark said: "It's incredible! I couldn't believe that I had won a competition that had over 200 000 entries. And that now my design will be sent all over the world as the Christmas stamp!"

And of the prize-giving event at Clarence House, he said: "It was a little nerve wracking at the start, but once Prince Charles came into the room it was so obvious that he was a nice person that I relaxed immediately."

Local and regional events by ABPS members

March

- 3 Royal Sutton Coldfield PS Annual Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, **Birmingham** B43 7NF → Steven Harrison, sharrison500@btinternet.com 0121 3130671
- 10 Launceston Stamp Club Stamp and Postcard Fair: 10 - 3, Central Methodist Sunday School Room, **Launceston**, Cornwall PL15 8BA → 01288 355918
- 24 WESTBEX: 10 - 4, The Kennet School, Stoney Lane, **Thattham** RG19 4LL → Graeme Stewart 01635 866942 or www.tdps.org.uk
- 24 Falmouth Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, St Francis School, Longfield, **Falmouth** TR11 4SU → 01288 355918
- 25 Hinckley and District PS Spring Fair: 10 - 3, Stoke Golding Club, Hinckley Road, **Stoke Golding** CV13 6DZ → Richard Flemming 01455 613826

April

- 14 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Grove Green Community Centre (opp Tesco's), **Maidstone**, Kent ME14 5BT BT → Brian Stonestreet 01622 675784
- 14 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 10 - 3, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, **Telford** TF1 1LU → Bob Pilkington, sbpilkington02@outlook.com 01299211737
- 28 NEPA Convention and Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, **Bowburn**, County Durham DH6 5AT
- 28 Spring StampEssex hosted by Basildon PS: 10 - 4, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, **Laindon** This includes an exhibition to mark the Golden Jubilee of Basildon Philatelic Society
- 28 ASPS Stamp & Postcard Spring Fair, St Marks Church Hall, **Little Common**, East Sussex TN39 4BZ
- 28 Morecambe & District PS Stamp Fair: The Platform, Marine Drive, **Morecambe** → Frank Colling 01524 733589

May

- 26 Redex Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG → 01288 355918

June

- 16 YPA Convention hosted by Scarborough PS: 10 - 5, Westborough Methodist Church Hall, opposite the railway station, **Scarborough**

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.

July

- 14 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 10 - 3, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, **Telford** TF1 1LU → Bob Pilkington, sbpilkington02@outlook.com
01299211737

August

- 4 Newquex Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Dr, **St.Eval**, Nr.Wadebridge PL27 7TU → 01288 355918

September

- 29 HAMPEX 2018 - Hampshire Federation: 10 - 4, Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** PO17 5AL → 01794 514902 or www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm

October

- 6 Yeovil & District Stamp & Postcard Fair: Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road, **Sherborne**, Dorset DT9 3NL
- 13 ASPS South of England Stamp Fair: South of England Centre, **Ardingly**, West Sussex RH17 6TL
- 13 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 10 - 3, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, **Telford** TF1 1LU → Bob Pilkington, sbpilkington02@outlook.com
01299211737
- 27 Amersham Stamp Fair: Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, **Amersham** HP6 5AH
- 27 Cornex Liskeard: 10 - 4, **NEW VENUE** Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF → 01288 355918

When sending the Editor details of events please give the postcode of your venues - it helps people with satnavs.

National Exhibitions 2018 - 2019

Please note that fees at UK National exhibitions will be £25.00 per frame or literature entry from 1st January 2018. This includes Spring Stampex 2018.

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

- July 20th - 21st 2018: York 2018: Following the success of this year's exhibition, another Northern National will be held at York Racecourse Grandstand with 150 frames. Details and application form will be published later.
- September 12th - 15th 2018: Autumn Stampex 2018: Full National Exhibition. We are expecting the American Philatelic Society to visit, and the Forces

Interested in Exhibiting and/or Judging?

A Seminar is to take place in the very near future.

Falkirk 3rd - 4th March 2018: Exhibiting and Judging seminar

Organised: by Alan Watson on behalf of the Scottish Federation.

Presenters: Bill Hedley, Graham Winters, Paul Wreglesworth

→ Alan Watson

Postal History Society and Civil Censorship Society have also offered to provide displays to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Free Seminar from **Yamil Kouri** 'An American Perspective'

- 13th -16th February 2019: Spring Stampex 2019. To mark its 150th anniversary The Royal Philatelic Society London will be the lead contributor with a display on the theme of 'King George V'. This will also be the last opportunity in the UK to qualify for London 2020 - online through the ABPS Website
- 11th -14th September 2019 Autumn Stampex 2019. Further details will follow.

International Exhibitions 2018-2020

- 27th - 31st May 2018 ISRAEL: 2018 World Stamp Championship, Specialised exhibition under FIP patronage covering Traditional, Postal History, Modern Philately and Literature. 1000 frames UK Commissioner: Simon Richards Simon@sidebell.co.uk
- 8th - 10th June NORDIA 2018 Gardabaer, Iceland : Multinational, Nordic countries. United Kingdom exhibits have been invited. UK Commissioner: Mike Smith mikesmith.philatelist@gmail.com
- 15th - 18th August PRAGA 2018, Prague, Czech Republic: Commissioner: Yvonne Wheatley. Specialized world exhibition - Exhibition classes: 1) Traditional Philately, 2) Postal History, 3) Philatelic Literature, 4) One Frame Exhibits, 5) Modern Philately, 6) Open Philately 7) Revenues
→ www.PRAGA2018.cz
- 23rd - 25th November: ITALIA 2018, Verona as part of a philatelic exhibition devoted to the Great War. Literature Class only. The exhibition has been postponed as the Milan venue had not been confirmed. Revised regulations will be published shortly and will be available at www.italia2018.eu
- November 2018: Thailand. Closing date for entries is 15th March. For entry form and details → Peter Cockburn pfcockburn@aol.com
- 29th May - 2nd June 2019 STOCKHOLMIA, Waterfront Congress Centre, Stockholm, Sweden, RPSL exhibition with ABPS recognition. ABPS Congress. Closing date for applications which must be sent to the Commissioner General, Jan Berg, is 30th April 2018.
- 2nd - 9th May 2020 London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH
→ www.london2020.co UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts. The deadline for applications will be around the end of February 2019.

All forthcoming exhibitions are listed at:

fepanews.com/International%20Exhibitions

Web information

Further information on exhibiting and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Bill Hedley*, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee ewlhedley@gmail.com

ABPS General Information

Honorary Life Vice Presidents

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

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awards@abps.org.uk

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membership@abps.org.uk 07858 332620

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

Membership & Advertising (if not emailed): **ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ**

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

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

Stamp Active Network: please write to:

SAN, c/o John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9LB

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

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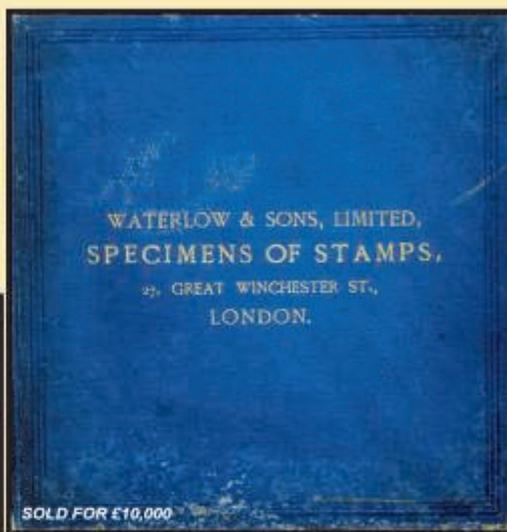
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