

Yorkshire Honours Mike Roberts



See p. 26



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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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Volume 29, Number 3, Autumn 2022 (whole number 115)

Editor: Keith S Burton

(ISSN 1353 6869)

CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 Chair's Message: <i>Steve Harrison</i> | 22 The Case of the Lost Covers
<i>Mervyn Benford</i> |
| 5 Editorial: <i>Keith Burton</i> | 23 FEPA award <i>Yvonne Wheatley</i> |
| 6 Anniversaries: Bristol PS (125) <i>Ron Gillard</i> ; Bromley & Beckenham PS (60) <i>David Rennie</i> ; Solihull (50) <i>John Barker</i> | 24 On The Club Circuit |
| 10 Congratulations to Simon Martin-Redman <i>Mick Carter</i> | 55 Book reviews: Catalog of Postal Stationery Airgraphs by Wayne Menuz <i>Ken Stanford</i> ; Airmails of New Zealand - The Inland Flights - An Aerophilatelic History <i>Jeff Long</i> |
| 11 Federations - A Birth and a Death <i>John Shaw</i> | 58 ABPS Updates |
| 12 Obituary - Geoff Reynolds <i>Martin Snowden</i> | 59 Stamp Active |
| 17 The 1955 unissued Italy K2 stamp <i>Carlo Consolante</i> | 60 Diary of local events, national exhibitions and international exhibitions |
| 19 Stamp Day 2022 <i>Mike Mapleton</i> | 62 ABPS Executive, other officers and associates |
| 20 HM Hospital Ship No 67 <i>Gerusalemme 1944 Keith Lillywhite</i> | |

Cover picture: *Mike Roberts receiving the certificate relating to his signing the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists from the YPA president. Photo by R McMillan*

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

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



At this time of the year, we can perceive the new philatelic season just over the horizon! Another season of interesting local meetings, specialist society meetings and many, many fairs and exhibitions where you might just find that stamp or cover that you've been searching for for years! At least with philately there's always something to look forward to.

In the last sentence of the paragraph above I was going to use the word "hobby" but then decided to use the word "philately". A non-philatelic friend recently picked me up when I was talking about my "hobby". She said that by calling it a hobby we were underrating what we do in our spare time. She suggested that it can be far more than just a hobby. Pursuing postal history where it crosses over into social history can make a wonderful study. Looking at how stamps are printed and understanding the techniques is having an understanding of technology. So, is what we do more than just a hobby? I'd be interested to hear from anyone who has an opinion.

I started off, above, by saying that there was always something to look forward to. In some cases, this isn't true. I've heard recently of the demise of a philatelic federation. This sits alongside the closure of several local societies. In several cases I've heard of, the main reason why the societies have had to close is that there isn't anyone willing to organise things. This leads me to ask everyone – if you can spare just a little more time, please help with some of the "doing" in your local society!

If a society can see that it could help itself to continue if it had a little bit more money – for advertising or new frames or generally helping with better communication, please don't forget the ABPS small grants scheme. If an affiliated society thinks a small grant would help, please do contact Nigel Gooch, the ABPS treasurer at treasurer@abps.org.uk – and perhaps we can help!

I always like to stress the importance of communication. Without good communication who knows what's going on or what the current issues are in philately that need addressing? This is why I really want to hear from you; from federations, societies, clubs or individuals. What are your thoughts about where the hobby is and its future? What should we be doing? Please do let me know what you think. My email address is chair@abps.org.uk and my postal address is Steven Harrison, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. I really want to hear from you!

Steve Harrison FRPSL

Editorial



The sad news about the Kent Federation and similar reports of the closing of societies has made me think more carefully about how things are organised in our hobby. The ABPS Congress in Birmingham in early September ("Why aren't you booked in?" or alternatively "Looking forward to seeing you there") is on the same theme and perhaps will generate some answers but niggling away in my mind are a number of thoughts which I intended to share with you, but Steve has said it all. We know that there are more collectors now, after the lockdowns - we must be prepared to find them, welcome them, and be positive in our response to their collecting interests.

So what else can I say? What a joy it has been recently to return to meetings in person - not just at local or specialist societies but at our federation convention and AGM. Not as many people there as usual but it was still good to have the chance to look through dealers' stock and find a few extra items. It became hard to remember what I already had in certain collections - memo to self: must make sure that my wants lists are up-to-date. The other advantage was the opportunity to meet old friends and to make new contacts. Soon after was the Regional meeting of the Royal and Postal History societies just before the York Stamp Fair. The Regional was a wonderful display of varied material from many collectors from a wide range of disciplines. These joint meetings increase the opportunity to spread outside my usual knowledge base. As those there will know, I had transport problems at the end - the response from my contacts was very supportive and showed the positive social side of being a collector. Many thanks to them all. Despite a very late night I was back in York for the two days of the Stamp Fair.

As usual this was another chance to meet people for a chat about stamps, covers and what was happening in their life. There were also new people to meet and to point in the direction of their local or specialist society. It was interesting to hear how they had returned to collecting - usually by finding an old album during lockdown, and now looking to expand or develop one particular area. It is a golden opportunity to reach out and share our enjoyment and knowledge. One had tried to find a local society but had not managed to find anything online for the city in which he lived. Perhaps we need to think about how or even if we advertise. Online buying has increased but the big fairs are still working. Another memo to self: Don't forget to go to the local one-day fair - there might be something there too - and take that updated wants list.

Yes - there is a lot that's positive - we mustn't lose sight of that when we are considering the future. The balance is important - enjoy your hobby, help others, talk to each other, be responsive if someone asks for help, think of something new that might help and do your bit. Anyone like to be an editor?

Keith Burton FRPSL

Society anniversaries

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Bristol - 125 years

Bristol PS 125th Anniversary Luncheon Battlefield

With four standing and only three seats remaining, a stampede was inevitable the moment the music stopped.

David Beal, far left, and I were bound to contest the seat immediately in front of us. **Ian Spencer**, extreme right, perceived a clear run down the right wing to grab one of the two nearest seats. **Mike Breward**, standing second from right, was weighing up his chances if he was to charge straight across the table-tops. Members were standing by, ready to swing their hand-bags to impede the contestant's progress. After the lunch it was quite possible members would use their screwed-up napkins to bombard those across the table. Next year we might



hold a similar lunch at a high rope course venue. (That's if we have any members left). All good sport at Bristol!

Ron Gillard

Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH is fast approaching. The exhibition's lead theme will be "Africa", but there will be exhibits in all classes, both competitive and non-competitive. The exhibition will be open from Wednesday 28th September until Saturday 1st October. For details of opening times please view www.stampexinternational.com

Nick Martin, ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee

Bromley and Beckenham - 90 years

To celebrate in style we held a very pleasant 90th Birthday Lunch at the Langley Park Golf Club on 29th June. The photos show the enjoyment of good food etc and good company.
David Rennie



1. The Committee Table: Frances Barnes, Graeme and Sue Ashdown, Andrew and Susan Harris, David Milsted, with Ian Crees standing
2. David Milstead, who has taken over as secretary, won a box of tea, presented by the president, David Rennie
3. Photographers' table shows Bob and Eileen Swan, Patricia Watson (our link to the Golf Club) Nick Hervey, John Palfreyman and Johanna Thomas
4. Peter Rowbotham won a bottle of Cointreau



Solihull - 50 years



Solihull gathers to celebrate

Celebrations for our 50th Anniversary went on hold due to Covid. However in early July we held our Anniversary Dinner at the Solihull Voco St John's Hotel. Originally planned as the culmination of our 50th season it had to be postponed. Members and guests gathered for an enjoyable dinner with a toast to the society and a speech from **Dane Garrod** who paid tribute to the society's success and to three current officers in particular who between them have given over 100 years of service: **Bryan Jones**, packet secretary, **Gerald Marriner**, programme secretary, and **Paul Woodness**, secretary. Three of our current members were at the first meeting: **Gerald Marriner**, **John Barker** and **Richard Periam**.

The society was formed in 1970. At the time, most big cities had thriving philatelic societies with their origins going back to the turn of the century. With changes in peoples' work, life style and residence there was a need to meet like-minded people closer to home. **John Nicholson**, a local stamp collector, placed an advert in the local newspaper asking interested stamp collectors to attend a meeting. This was held at the Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club in Marsh Lane where John was a member. About 40 enthusiastic collectors from all walks of life attended this meeting. The society was born and a programme of weekly meetings arranged. Since then we have continued to meet every Tuesday at this venue during the months September through to April up to the present day.

Over the years we have been privileged to see displays of top-class material from some internationally-recognised collectors and enjoyed many entertaining and informative talks. One of our founder members, **Gerald Marriner**, who has

been our programme secretary since the early days, continues to provide us with a programme which is the envy of many others.

Although many of our 71 members are mainly stamp collectors who are happy to collect at home with the help of our exchange packet, we are also proud to boast that we have 16 members who give regular talks to other societies, on a variety of subjects, dealing with *Stamps and Postal History of Fiji, Germany, Registration Mail, Andorra, Belgian Congo, India, 19th Century mail to and from Australia, Morocco, Greek Islands* and many more. Perhaps the most unusual is the extensive collection of *Postal Orders and National Savings Stamps*.

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations we are holding an Auction of stamps, post cards and coins on 6th November 2022 at Knowle Village Hall, the venue for the monthly Knowle Stamp Fair. All proceeds will go to the Marie Curie West Midlands Hospice. Any donations would be most welcome. We have managed to keep our meetings friendly and informal, always welcoming collectors from beginners to the experienced.

➔ www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk or Paul Woodness 01564 776 879
John Barker

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



**Are you willing to
support ABPS
as we support
British Philatelists?**



The committee at ABPS is actively looking at ways in which we might reward Friends for their support of British Philately. Although this is still an on-going action we thought it would be useful if we outlined the Benefits to Individual or Business Friends at the moment and these are, accordingly, listed below:

Benefits to Friends

- Entry on the Friends' page on the ABPS website
- The right to wear an exclusive "ABPS" lapel badge
- A complimentary electronic copy of the ABPS News (or a printed copy if required)
- A one-page article, once a year, in ABPS News (if space permits), to talk about your collection or business (but not a business advert.)

In return for these benefits ABPS would ask that you support us financially with a minimum donation of £25 per annum. If you would like more details on how to join as a Friend please do contact me direct.

Steve Harrison, Chairman. chair@abps.org.uk

Congratulations to Simon Martin-Redman

On the 25th April our member **Simon Martin-Redman** showed his Large Gold International Display to 25 members of the Frinton and District PS. This display was of stamps and postal history of Sarawak. The significance of this display was that it was a preview of Simon's collection of Sarawak that he has been accumulating for 37 years. Simon is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and he has just returned in May from the World Stamp Show, HELVETIA 2022 held in Lugano, Switzerland, where his exhibit won the International Grand Prix. This is the world's highest award for a stamp exhibit.

The former British Colony of Sarawak is situated on the north coast of the island of Borneo in Indonesia. Simon told tales of piracy and uncomfortable working conditions in this country, when, in 1841, Sir James Brooke worked for the Sultan of Brunei, ridding pirates from the seas around the North of Borneo. He was so successful that the Sultan awarded a huge tract of land, on the north coast of Borneo, to Sir James Brooke (known as the Rajah) which was known as Sarawak. Initially there were only about 30 Europeans in the whole of Sarawak and even by 1910 there were only 100. There was obviously little use for a postal service and stamps of India and later Straight Settlements were used on letters and packets sent out of the country. In 1869 Sarawak issued its own stamps but it wasn't until 1897, when Sarawak joined the Universal Postal Union, that their stamps were valid all over the world.

Simon displayed rare postal covers and stamps, some in small sheets of stamps, together with various proofs of stamps that printers were seeking to print for the Brooke family. These proofs were miniature works of art. Old stamps and covers from Sarawak are not only very rare but because of the stifling equatorial heat they are difficult to keep in good condition, hence the rarity of these items. With the coming of WWII and the Japanese Invasion the stamps of Sarawak were not valid for post and people had to use Japanese issues.

After the war Sarawak remained under the control of the Brooke family until 1946 when it was ceded to Great Britain and administered as a Crown Colony. There is no doubt that Simon's collection of stamps and postal history from Sarawak is the best in the world which has now been proved. Simon's achievement in winning this award not only reflects on his ability to compile such a collection but also reflects well on this country in the field of international philately. All of us in the Frinton and Walton PS are delighted at Simon's achievement, something that he has been striving to win for very many years.

Mick Carter

ABPS accredited judges

The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site www.abps.org.uk Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judging" tab. The link to judges is on the right.

Federations - A Birth and a Death

In 1958 I was privileged to represent the Salisbury PS at the inaugural meeting in Devizes founding the Wiltshire Federation. This year I hosted a Kent Federation ECM at which we decided to disband this federation, the posts of president, president-elect, treasurer and competitions secretary being vacant since the start of the pandemic, with no volunteers to step in - there was some rather patronising advice, but zero help. We did manage to get all remaining committee members save one who had family health problems to attend this meeting, one via Zoom.

When I joined the federation council, some 17 years ago, firstly as a society rep then as president-elect, Kent was a vibrant organisation with fairs held across the county and excellent weekend seminars which did not cost the attendees a fortune. Can anyone forget **Ian Harvey**'s excellent seminar on GB booklets? Much of the success was due to a small number who really cared, about both the federation and the hobby, so what went wrong? There were a couple of unfortunate/disastrous appointments, and one "bloody difficult man" but this is not a blame game and they did not really contribute to the demise.

We all believed the pandemic did not help but the real problems appear to be an ageing population, unwillingness for speakers to travel long distances at night, diminishing competition entries, lack of volunteers for office, and lack of help from some of the societies hosting the fairs. The lack of reasonably priced venues for fairs has virtually killed off many of them. In addition, we lost our two main stalwarts, **Maurice Flack** and **Colin Tobbitt**, our "heavy lifters" who for many years, behind the scenes, had transported and managed the display frames; both were taken before their time and both were my good friends. Several others, from my 22 years living in Kent, are worthy of mention and I apologise for any omissions.

Peter O'Keeffe was editor of our well-received journal and only retired after issue 200 - a formidable effort! **Jennie Viggars** took over as a capable and valued replacement. Past president, **Grahame Boutle**, twice stepped in for long periods as secretary, also hosting our ECMs, and was well supported by chairman **Ron Burn** of Tristan da Cunha fame. **Michael Dobbs** is a fairly recent appointment as communications officer as is **Nicola Davies** as honorary secretary and both have been worth their weight in gold: Michael will continue to publish a directory of Kent societies and a calendar of meetings, but by email only, so as to incur no costs. Michael and another county member, **Geoff Hanney**, have also been recognised for their contributions to the hobby, Michael being given an ABPS Award of Merit and Geoff the London Medal for his outstanding work for the "Royal"; well done and well-deserved to both of them. In addition, for 2022 we awarded the Lingley Shield, for service to the hobby, jointly to **Michael Dobbs** and **Michael Thompson**. They both made significant contributions over the pandemic to keep the hobby alive.

Despite the demise of the federation, our hobby in the county is in good health, although different. Three societies have merged into the North West Kent PS

and some, including Dartford, have disappeared. This year, my two local societies, NW Kent and Lewisham, have enjoyed some excellent and interesting displays, but interest in exchange packets and auctions has flagged somewhat.

So what to do with our archives, trophies and our money? Our archives shall be stored at the Royal, and probably digitised, as shall any trophies not required to be returned to their donors. The committee was unanimous in voting our remaining funds be given to Stamp Active in the hope this will be investing in the future of the hobby.

Should the federation wish to reform, with maybe a new set of people, then the archives, president's regalia et al could be returned to them, so they would have a recovery package of sorts. It is with great sadness that we have had to perform this duty.

John Shaw - past president

Obituary - Geoff Reynolds 1944 - 2022



Geoff Reynolds had been Hon Secretary of Redcar & Cleveland PS for more than 20 years. His easy manner and willingness to help and support the society members with their collections made him a very popular man. He was also the organiser of the Germany & Colonies group in the northeast and served as Chairman of the Aerophilatelic/Postal History Group for a considerable period. It is likely that these two groups would have folded without the enthusiasm and doggedness of Geoff to keep them going.

He was involved with organising three NEPA Conventions as well as being involved with events and

conventions run by the ABPS and the Germany & Colonies Society.

In the 1991/92 season he was NEPA president and in 2018 he signed the "Roll of Distinguished North East Philatelists".

Geoff was a numismatist but coins took a back seat to his philately. He had excellent collections of the stamps of France and Germany. His pride and joy was his collection of Zeppelin Mail. He loved giving displays and talks on this subject. He entertained not just philatelists with his commentaries on his superb material. He rarely, if ever, turned down an invitation to give a display.

At Stampex in 2014 he was awarded a Gold Medal for his entry on Zeppelin Mail and another Gold Medal followed at Adelaide in 2019 with "Commercial Zeppelin Mail". In the competitions held by his local association – NEPA, he won in a number of classes over the years.

Geoff was a true Yorkshireman, he loved to talk, he loved to encourage collectors and he loved to smile and laugh.

He will be greatly missed by many but he will be well-remembered by many more.




Martin Snowdon

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

Philatelic Expert Lets You into his Selling Secrets so you can benefit from a totally different (and New) Selling Experience

1 If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 51 years later!...

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



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

About The Author ▶ Andrew found his Father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He 'snooped' (1) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year; he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp 'Tips' articles, appearing on Local Radio and National TV, promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual – in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 51 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) – the Largest, No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his international auctions.

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



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

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

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

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



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

– **Lucky for the seller that 2 well-heeled bidders saw the potential value that day** or it could have been given away... the seller could easily have lost out couldn't he? or she?

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

The Secret is Simple – it's ALL ABOUT: TIMING

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation  **Place**  **and Price** 

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

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

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

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – **I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction**

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

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

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock – but **absent collectors in**

the place they choose to sell their stamps in. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that our former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

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

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

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

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

8 Truth is, it Has been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

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

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

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

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

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

Request Your Next FREE Catalogue NOW



UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

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

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297



11 Q: What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

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

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 20 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold – *but what didn't sell...* So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU** – 'US' = once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we **reduce by a further 12%** and **WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away...

12 Any Scientist will tell you that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, PLUS each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee – this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold. This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with more than 2,250 different regular bidders.

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 20 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 20 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue – using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon

your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend.

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

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

- You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements
- If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...
- Finally you ask U P A to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value...

16 What Happens then? A member of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy

17 How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market?

Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium. Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.

18 What Should I Do Next?

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

19 Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure So

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

20 My Double Cast Iron Guarantee:

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

21 Act NOW: Contact Andrew

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

Andrew McGavin

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

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

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

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The Collectors' Secret Weapon

Discover the UPA reducing-estimate system ...
... Look for the 'US'? (Unsold lots)

Join 2,000+ regular bidders, 95% Collectors from 54 different countries who have discovered the Collectors' Secret Weapon – No Buyer's Premium, ALL Lots Guaranteed, Loyalty insured Airmail Post-Free delivery Auctions, **PLUS ... your 1st £55 value lots are on me ...**

Collectors – New to my UPA auctions?

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

Not everything sells 1st or even 2nd time offered

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

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

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

When you see ...

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

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

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

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

They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!


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

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

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

Dedicated to De-mystifying Philately




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

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The 1955 unissued Italy K2 stamp

Background

K2 is on the border between China and what was in 1954 the newly independent Pakistan. At 8611 meters (28 251 ft) it is the highest point of the Karakoram Range and second highest mountain in the World.

Previous Italian expeditions in the Baltoro Muztagh Karakoram

In 1890 Roberto Lerco entered the Baltoro Muztagh region of the Karakoram. He reached the foot of K2 and may even have climbed a short way up its south-east spur, but he did not leave any account of his journey.

In 1909 the Duke of the Abruzzi expedition again explored various routes before reaching 6250 metres (20 510 ft) on the south-east ridge before deciding the mountain was unclimbable. The route became known as the Abruzzi Ridge or Abruzzi Spur, and eventually became recognised as the normal route to the summit.

On 31st July 1954, Italian climbers Achille Compagnoni and Lino Lacedelli became the first people to reach the summit of K2, the second highest mountain in the world after Mount Everest, which had been climbed for the first time the previous year. The expedition was led by Count Ardito Desio.

In 1955 it was planned to issue a set of two stamps dedicated to the conquest of the peak K2. The proposed date of issue was 2nd June 1955, printed in photogravure by the State Polygraphic Institute, Rome, imperforate, on unwatermarked paper, designed by Renato Mura, who designed the Gronchi Rosa issue of 3rd April 1961, amongst six other Italian stamps between 1955 and 1961. Although the issue was authorised with a directive from the President of the Italian Republic; No 585 of the 2nd June 1955, published in the Official Gazette no 172 of July 1955, it was never issued.



*K2 single corner stamp,
unissued 25 lira
commemorative 1955,
Sassone N P1,
reference, Catawik*



*K2 single corner stamp, unissued 25
lira commemorative 1955,
Sassone N P1,
reference, author*



*Special delivery cover to the editor of
The Postmark journal, Rome, with CDS
2-1 June 1957. Turin, Philatelic.
Source, Stampboards*



*A block of four, Pakistan 2 annas,
issued 25th December 1954,
conquest of K2, Mt. Godwin-Austin,
28 850 ft. K2 conquest.
reference, author*

Pakistan celebrated the conquest by issuing a 2 annas commemorative stamp on the 25th December 1955. It was printed by the Pakistan Security Printing Corporation Ltd and issued on unwatermarked paper.

There are three known types of printed proof:

1. Two colour photogravure colour tests (green and red) printed on imperforate sheets
2. Two photogravure printing tests in green
3. Imperforate ungummed sheets of 40 stamps with multiple stars watermark type I.

Carlo Consolante, Bedford PS



Warwick & Warwick

TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT

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

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Tel: (01926) 499031 Fax: (01926) 491906 Email: info@warwickandwarwick.com*

Stamp Day 2022

It is rather sad to reflect that we in Britain lag far behind many of our European friends in celebrating Stamp Day. Whereas we tentatively remember the anniversary of the issue of the Penny Black, France and other countries simply celebrate stamps and the history of the post in their country with the issue of stamps and much philatelic merrymaking.

Since the ABPS first mooted the idea of a stamp day, we in Cockermouth have mounted an annual exhibition in St Joseph's Parish Hall together with the offer of free valuation of collections and other blandishments including tea, coffee and bikkies. The response has varied from year to year, particularly this year when local folk were very cautious about gatherings as we emerged from Covid and all its concomitant nastiness. My role as meeter and greeter was less than arduous with but a single thrill when a young lady presented herself with the hope that we might be dealing in stamp accessories. 'At last', I thought, 'here we have a proper philatelist - maybe a prospective member of our club.' Trembling with anticipation, I asked what in particular she wanted and she replied, 'Tweezers.' This only served to reinforce my earlier analysis that we had a serious philatelist in our midst. All my hopes were dashed however when she added that she found that stamp tweezers were so much better than tweezers one might find in a make-up bag. It proved to be the case that she was a practitioner in the dark art of decoupage.

Mike Mapleton, Cockermouth Stamp Club

Stars of the CISS Auction at Market Harborough

An 1855 wrapper sent from Jersey to Naples with a strip of 4x QV 6d embossed stamps and a 2d star. It had Jersey and London datestamps and a red PD in an oval. This fetched £600.

A 1942 registered cover with 11 x ½d Jersey Arms stamps, which had been cancelled with the rare St. John's Church datestamp and had a St. John's Church registration label, attracted very fierce bidding, and was finally sold for £375.

Why can't I find these items?



HM Hospital Ship No 67 “Gerusalemme” 1944.

For many years this worn-looking cover (alongside) had languished in my pending tray having been purchased for 5p from a dealer's Bargain Box. Not being familiar with Hospital Ship 67 I contacted Peter High, our leading authority on Hospital Ship Mail, for his help in finding the background to this cover and learnt of the ship's history.

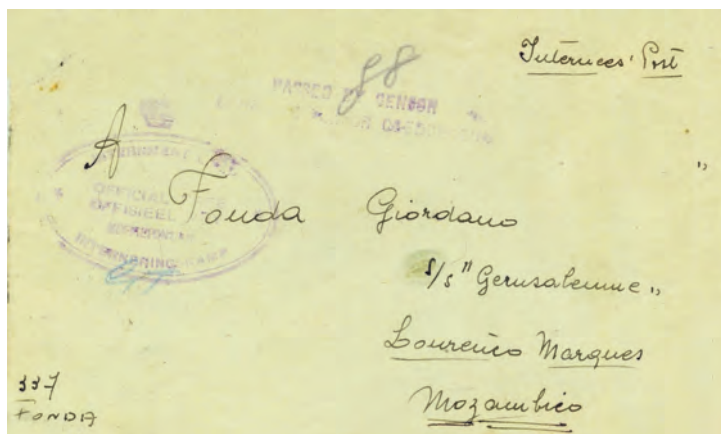


When Italy declared war in 1940 the Italian Cruise Ship *SS Gerusalemme* (left) and the *SS Timavo* tried to flee the Allied Forces. The *Timavo* grounded herself north of St Lucia Bay on the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa, between Durban and the Mozambique border, and the crew were captured but the *Gerusalemme* escaped and managed to reach Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), a neutral port in Mozambique, where she was interned. In 1943 Italy surrendered to the Allies whereupon the *Gerusalemme* was seized by the British and sent to Durban to be converted to an Allied Forces Hospital Ship to be named HMHS 67 (right) and manned by the Royal Navy and Union Castle

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles on anything philatelic by our readers. 500 words or thereabouts 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.

Company crew. The cover was sent by Maritime Mail by Captain Black to the Union Castles Offices in London.



Having written up the cover for display I then came across a cover addressed to an Italian sailor on board the *Gerusalemme* when she was interned in Lourenço Marques (above). It was in an assortment of POW Mail purchased from the John Daynes Estate, and was, to say the least, unexpected. The sender was an internee in the Koffiefontein Camp in the Free State Province of South Africa which housed some 2000 Italian and German Internees and Prisoners of War, and around 800 South Africans who were thought to be pro-Nazi.. The cover bears the Camp and Passed by Censor Handstamps undated but it must have been have been in the period 1940-43.

(Could the sender have been a crew member from the Timavo? - editor)

After the war the *Gerusalemme* sailed to Japan and Hong Kong's Stanley Internment Camp to bring back POWs and Internees. Finally she sailed to Indochina to bring French refugees back to Toulon. On the 25th October 1946 the *Gerusalemme* was handed over to the Indian Navy at Madras and was subsequently scrapped in 1952.

Keith Lillywhite

Hinckley & District Philatelic Society
Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition
Sunday 9th October
From 10 to 2
at
Hinckley Parks Primary School
Leicester Road, Hinckley LE10 1LP
Details: - 01455 448638

The Case of the Lost Covers

It is around 20 years since I managed my last Midpex as Honorary Secretary. After the event a plain dealer-quality plastic envelope was handed in containing a small selection of early Indian used covers - some in what look like formal dealer-described individual plastic covers. I contacted societies on my registered list of those present and described the basics but not so much as to enable the wrong person to identify them and falsely claim them. At the time such a loss would have been considerable and I would expect the claimant to say something clearly identifying at least one. Or two. No such claim has ever materialized despite a mention in an ensuing Midpex circular. I also believe at the time, in our Committee winding-up analysis, I was advised that if no-one claimed them I should sell them and donate the proceeds to charity. I still have them and have wondered what to do. A would-be claimant need just, from what must have been an immediate and painful memory, identify some of the particular items. Maybe one last mention in an ABPS News is their last chance to find their rightful home. If the rightful owner is not found by the first of January 2023 they will be sold for the benefit of a charity.

Mervyn Benford

Please send any claims to editor@abps.org.uk in good time for me to pass them on to Mervyn



Are you willing to support ABPS as we support British Philatelists?



The committee at ABPS is actively looking at ways in which we might reward Patrons for their support of British Philately. Although this is still an on-going action we thought it would be useful if we outlined the Benefits to Individual or Business Patrons at the moment and these are, accordingly, listed below:

Benefits to Patrons

- Entry on the Patrons page on the ABPS website
- The right to wear an exclusive "ABPS" lapel badge
- A complimentary electronic copy of the ABPS News (or a printed copy if required)
- A one-page article, once a year, in ABPS News (if space permits), to talk about your collection or business (but not a business advert.)

In return for these benefits ABPS would ask that you support us financially with a minimum donation of £50 per annum. To learn more on how to enter this partnership with us please contact me direct.

Steve Harrison, Chairman. chair@abps.org.uk

Congratulations to Southampton and District Philatelic Society on being awarded a FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately.

Southampton and District Philatelic Society, founded in 1932, is currently the largest local society affiliated to ABPS, with a membership of 160 members. The society actively promoted philately during the COVID pandemic and was one of the first in the UK to promote video presentations. Its open policy attracted several international visitors to the presentations. Now that the society has returned to regular meetings it has continued to augment its calendar of events with this type of technology.

The society has been represented on both the ABPS Executive Committee and the Hampshire Philatelic Federation by its members filling officer positions.

Communication with members is regarded as essential. The society's journal, in full colour, 'POSTMARK' is published quarterly and sent to all members. It was a runner-up in the ABPS Journal of the Year competition organised in 2008. In addition, the chairman writes an on-line monthly newsletter to keep all members in touch. Part of the society benefits include regular auctions and an exchange packet with over fifty recipients.

Members have visited a number of overseas philatelic events and developed strong ties with Le Havre Philatelic Society and members enjoyed active exchanges between the two societies. In addition, the society has organised a number of philatelic events including the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1952 and the British Philatelic Federation Congress in 1982.

This award follows the British Philatelic Trust 'Rowland Hill Award' for Society Work in 2005.

The society is a credit to ABPS and the recognition by FEPA of its achievements is well-deserved.

Yvonne Wheatley

Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

Awards

Do you think that someone or a society that you know merits recognition by a Federation, ABPS or FEPA?

It is a great way of saying "Thank you" - which we all like, don't we?

Please don't wait for someone else to start the process - or nothing happens.

Look at the Federation website and check the criteria. Does it need it to be done by a society? See if your own will step in and start the process?

The same applies for ABPS. The criteria are on our website at:

www.abps.org.uk/awards-of-merit/ or www.abps.org.uk/congress-medal/

FEPA awards can be found at: fepanews.com/fepa-awards/guidelines/

On the Club circuit

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

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

Federations

Hampshire

Like most other federations we continue to support members in any way we can. We currently circulate club programmes, auction catalogues and magazines published by federation members to every society secretary for onward distribution to its members. Clubs and societies seem to be very active but like others around the country are seeing smaller meetings with Covid still affecting these numbers. Some members are still feeling very unwilling to attend meetings now restrictions have been removed. However the federation is looking forward to HAMPEX on the 24th September. The federation clubs' total membership is around 600 and some clubs are attracting new members so things are looking up at the moment.

Steve Gerrard

North Western

Despite the challenging circumstances of the last two years, and the closure of a couple of local societies, we continues to promote philately in the North West. After a brief hiatus, the regional competitions have resumed, albeit in a slimmed down form, with entries displayed on the website, and the packet, with material from a wide range of sources, continues to circulate thanks to the sterling efforts of the packet organiser, providing members with plenty to look at and purchase, as well as making a substantial contribution to federation funds. We were also able for the first time in two years to hold the Paul Gaywood Memorial Lecture which was given by **Hugh Jefferies** in May. There was a large audience with several local societies represented, including Macclesfield, Northwich, Poynton, Ellesmere Port and Rochdale, together



Hugh answering questions

with the usual suspects from Trafford PS who were hosting the meeting. Hugh gave an enlightening overview of the origins of stamp catalogues and of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in particular, which helped put in context the way in which the present catalogue works and evolves from year to year, both as part of the SG 'Empire' and as a handbook for collectors. *Clive Griffiths*

Wessex

We have spent the spring and summer planning for our biennial fair, which will consist of

- * an exhibition of entries into the Federation's Competitions
- * presentation of certificates and trophies to the successful entrants
- * a number of dealers' stalls
- * light refreshments

The one-day fair is being jointly hosted with the Taw and Torridge Stamp Club, and will take place on Sunday 2nd October 2022, at the St John's Community Centre, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX32 8PG. Following the recent closure of the Bideford club, the Taw-Torridge Club is a little isolated from the other clubs within the Federation, most of which are located along the south Devon coast. This initiative is to lend support to one of our clubs which now finds itself quite a long way from neighbours, and to try and increase interest in our hobby in North Devon.

Our programme of Zoom meetings for the next 12 months is in preparation. If you would like to "visit" us, virtually, to share a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation of around an hour or so, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact dave.cleaver@btopenworld.com *Dave Cleaver*

Wiltshire and District

After a two-year break, we successfully held our nine-sheet competitions as an integral part of Swinpex on the 11th June. All of the entries were judged before the day by **Patrick Reid** and **Don Jeffreys**. This meant that all entries were on public display from the start of the show. The winners were: General Class **Simon King** of Swindon, Postal History Class **Malcolm Barton** of Bath, Aerophilately Class **Stephen Belcher** of Swindon, Picture Postcard Class **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon, Thematic Class **Mike Peddar** of Bath who also won the Novice Trophy. The winner of The Best in Show and of the Cinderella and Revenue Class was **Mike Tanner** of Bristol. This year's 16-Sheet Competition will be held in Swindon in December concurrent with our AGM with the last date for submission of 'best quality colour photocopies' being the 1st November.



The president (left) presenting the Best in Show trophy to Mike Tanner of Bristol

Paul Latham-Warde

Yorkshire

This year's Convention was held on 9th July, hosted by the Wakefield Philatelic Society. The Convention was opened by the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Wakefield, **Councillor David Jones**, who along with the Mayoress, **Mrs**



*The Mayor and Mayoress with Graham Winters,
Winner of the Sidebottom Trophy*

Annette Jones, was given a tour of the exhibits by the YPA president **Keith Burton FRPSL** and the president of the Wakefield Philatelic Society, **Revd Fr Philip Reynolds**. We were delighted that they found so much of interest in the exhibits and lingered long over the frames, chatting with several exhibitors. The competitions were being held again after a two-year break. They were judged by **John Davies FRPSL** and **Steven Harrison FRPSL**, the latter attending the Convention to give feedback to the entrants.

The Sidebottom trophy for

the Best in Show was awarded to **Graham Winters** for a display of very rare *Ceylon Postal Stationery*. Despite the rather low attendance it was a very enjoyable day. After trophies had been presented to successful competition entrants the members joined in congratulating **Mike J Y Roberts FRPSL**, who signed the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists. A previous signatory of the roll was the late **Frank Walton** (1998). The YPA honoured Frank's memory by having his page and a tribute on display during the AGM.

Daphne McMillan FRPSL

Specialist Societies

The American Stamp Club of Great Britain

We are holding our Annual Convention on 12th November 2022 in conjunction with the Stafford Stamp Fair at the Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, from 10am to 4pm. We invite non-members to visit us in the room signposted to view United States displays and our competition entries prior to our AGM to be held at 2pm. We will have specialists in US philately to help with advice and answer your questions. ➔ John Edwards on ponte38@msn.com
John Edwards

Channel Islands Specialist

26 members and guests attended our Society Weekend at the Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough in April. The traditional *Three Sheets to Tell a Story*

Competition was won by **Alan Moorcroft**, with his *The Transportation of Mary Le Nobel from Jersey*. Saturday morning was taken up with a 700+ lot room/postal auction. In the afternoon the displays were **David Winnie's** 90+ sheets on *Alderney*, **Gerald Marriner's** 80-sheets on *Disruption to the Mail Service 1940 – 1945* and **Bryan Elliston** with *A Call to Arms – Life and Times of the Guernsey Arms Stamp*. On Sunday there was a further round of members' displays. **Gavin Wood** showed a fascinating seven-frame display entitled *Sark during the German Occupation*. **Ron Osborne** termed his 33-sheet display *A bit of this and that*: it included a wrapper dated 23rd November 1840 from Jersey to York bearing a QV 1d black. **Julian Bagwell** showed *Early Guernsey Philately*, including an item of mail bearing the rare **FROM GUERNSEY** handstamp. Finally four members provided shorter displays of 2-3 frames. **Alan Moorcroft** showed *Early Channel Islands mail sent under the Franking Privilege*, **David Laurillard** brought picture postcards of the *Jersey Martello towers*, **Brian Sole** displayed *Royalty Issues by Jersey* and **Richard Flemming** closed with *Mail sent to France from the Channel Islands from 1760 to 1843*. The Weekend Meeting was also the launch of a new 93-page book, *Delivered by the Hotel's Care*, written by **Roger E Harris**, published by the society.



Gerald Marriner and Alan Moorcroft

Steve Wells; Photographs by Richard Flemming



CISS members and guests attending the 2022 Annual Dinner at Market Harborough

Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group

Correction to the report in ABPS News Summer 2022: The presenter giving the illustrated talk on the re-discovery of HMS Endurance was **Bill Featherstone**, who was deeply involved in the project, not, as stated, **Bill Tilbury**. My apologies to both Bills.
Daphne McMillan

Forces Postal History Society

We started the New Year by holding physical meetings once again at our usual venue, the Union Jack Club. Our first meeting in January was the long-awaited display *Kiwis in Captivity* by our New Zealand (but living in London) member **Lorraine Maguire**. Then in February at the London 2022 venue we held a “meet and greet” session and had a society table. March was the delayed members’ displays commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the ending of WWII, followed in April by our AGM and 9-sheet competition. For May we had a display by **Geoff Hanney** on *The UN Force in the Congo during 1960-64* and in June saw members’ displays on *China* (including Hong Kong and Macau). Unfortunately attendance at these meetings has been low - we hope that it will improve as time goes on. We still hold Zoom meetings and have held two so far (February and April). In early June we held our first regional meeting for a long while, at Hinckley, Leicestershire. Our meeting reports are placed on our website with some illustrations and our zoom displays are also available there as well

➔ www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs

Italy & Colonies Study Circle



Bash Orhan showing Italian Post Offices in Turkey

18 members & partners attended a most enjoyable weekend meeting at The Holiday Inn in Peterborough in late May. We had sixteen displays over two days and a highly successful auction. The displays included 19th Century Postal History of the Tyrol, The House of Savoy, 1838 Franco - Sardinian Postal Treaty, Italian Colonies in WWII, Italian Offices in Turkey WWI, South American Airmails LATI, Italian Postal Rates, Rhodes, Ethiopia and Trieste. Whilst

members were entertained by the speakers, the non-members visited Ely and Burleigh House at Stamford. We hope that our postponed trip to Lake Como will take place in May 2023 to coincide with Verona-Fil. Our next meeting (AGM & Auction) is planned for September in London. → www.icsc-uk.com or Andy Harris andyharris@blueyonder.co.uk Paul Woodness

National



Peter Mellor (left) makes the presentation to Michael Thompson

Our AGM managed to include a change of president, a lively bring-and-bid auction, and some diverse members' displays. After ten years, **Michael Thompson** retired as president with **Peter Mellor** elected in his place. Michael thanked members for their personal support during a difficult period. After various presentations, Peter spoke of Michael's "sterling work over the years and his energy, drive, and his firmness and fairness. His work is not just what you see at meetings, it was also what he achieved behind the scenes". Honorary Life Membership was conferred on Michael and **Chris Oliver**, the previous president. Peter is an NPS "veteran", having joined in 1986, served as general secretary (10 years) and membership secretary since 2011. More recently he has

helped revive the auctions and instigate virtual meetings amid the Covid crisis and its aftermath. We will be holding our London meetings next season at The Royal in Abchurch Lane, where members can make use of the library and other facilities. The first meeting of the new season on 10th September will feature a display on *Chile* by **Hugh Johnson** plus a room and postal auction. The September meeting will be presided over by vice-president **Michael Goodman** editor of *Stamp Lover*, as the president will be in Birmingham at the Philatelic Congress, helping with a presentation about the NPS. The society was also represented at the York Stamp and Coin Fair in July.

→ Peter Mellor on 01582 762284 or npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk

Michael Goodman

Pacific Islands Study Circle

We held a meeting via Zoom on 11th June, commencing at 0830 UK time. This was an early start for members in the UK but was chosen to allow members in Australasia to take part. Up to 16 members were on line during the meeting including two in Australia, one in New Zealand, one US member holidaying in Fiji and one in Finland. Five members gave PowerPoint displays, the subjects being: **Denise Rosenfeldt** - interesting *KGVI covers from Fiji*, **Hugh Bennet** - *Design and Production of 2022 new issues from Kiribati*, **John Ray** - *Pacific Islands covers with unusual official cachets*, **Keith Johnson** - *The Gilbert and Ellice Islands 1964 First Air Service Commemoratives* and **David Alford** -

Covers with a Fiji connection. The meeting formally closed at 1040 but several members stayed on to chat until 1120. Two more meetings are scheduled for 2022, on 24th September and 3rd December. These will start at 1930 UK time for the convenience of members in the USA and Canada. Guests are welcome to join in → John Ray, secretary@pisc.org.uk for the meeting IDs and passcodes.

John Ray

Royal

In what proved to be a somewhat different, but totally fascinating, presentation



Peter Cockburn, Vincent Schouberechts and Reg Harrison

given to the Royal in May, **Vincent Schouberechts FRPSL** unravelled the background of *Jean-Baptiste Moens (1833-1908)* and *Louis Hanicau (1835-1924)*. They came together in the philatelic trade and became well-known as publishers of catalogues, albums and philatelic magazines. Through correspondence, photographs and other documents Vincent traced the background of their joint endeavours. Among the

many surprising facts revealed was that as early as 1862 there was a great interest in forgeries, while in a newspaper advertisement in 1866 they were offering 2fr for 1000 Belgian stamps. In addition to giving his presentation Vincent was able to display a selection of the items featured, including his own collection of albums and books that came from Moens' private library. Filling over forty frames, no fewer than 24 members from the Wessex Region had supported the meeting on 16th June with displays. Some unusual subjects were featured including the *Railway Freight stamps of the Colony of Victoria*, *Barbed Wire, Great Britain Unemployment Revenues*, *The Liberation of the Channel Islands*, *The Art of the Valentine*, *Christmas Island Atomic Tests* and *The Early Postal Markings of Sark*.



Julian Jones, Robin Pizer, David Winnie and Claire Scott - the Wessex organisers

The Royal - Eastern Region

Seventeen members and guests enjoyed a sunny and enjoyable day at Bacton on the Norfolk coast on Saturday 14th May. A total of 16 displays covered a range of areas including *Postal History from GB (George VI)*, *Sicily*, *Early Malta* and *US forces in the New Hebrides in WWII*, while stamps on view included *Early Albania*, *The Perkins Bacon issues from St Vincent*, *Morocco Agencies* and *Ascension Island*. The day also included a hearty lunch in the venue, the Poacher's Pocket.

Mike Kentzner

South African Collectors'

We held an open meeting at Letchworth Garden City, on 7th May, when half a dozen superb displays were presented. A tasty repast at lunch time was welcome. Similarly, very good displays were enjoyed at our gathering at Meriden on 26th and 27th June when we enjoyed the social interaction which had been missed since 2019. Zoom meetings are still taking place - more short displays were seen on 23rd April. The AGM of the society saw some changes in roles but not in personnel. Our next zoom meeting will be during the summer. Some of our members will be displaying as part of Autumn Stampex, themed on Africa.

➔ www.southafricancollector.com or the secretary, Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 020 8940 9833

Chris Oliver

Spanish Study Circle

Like many societies the SSC rested during the pandemic, although the annual postal auction was held and the magazine *España* was produced as usual thanks to the editor **Neil Ritchie**. We spent three days at London 2022 with a



At the society table at London 2022

society table on the Wednesday, and were pleasantly surprised at the number of people who stopped and asked questions about Spanish philately. The chairman and secretary have restarted in-person displays of Spanish philately to societies, including Hull and Stratford on Avon. This follows from several successful Zoom displays. At the AGM, held at the York Stamp and Coin Fair, the committee was re-elected en bloc. Plans for

future meetings and the reorganization of the Library were discussed. ➔ spaincircle@gmail.com or spaincircle.wixsite.com/spainstudycircle

Edith Knight

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

West Africa Study Circle

After a two-year hiatus, we were very pleased to hold our annual meeting at Salisbury on 18th June. This is a very informal event, with the organisers selecting two themes which are capable of a wide range of different interpretations, this year's being *Rates* and *Revenues*. Although a few regulars were unable to attend due to illness (thankfully not Covid!), we enjoyed displays by **Jeremy Martin, Tony Simmonds, Ray Harris, John Powell, Peter Richards** and **Philip Quirk**. Unusual material included a photographic proof of an unissued KGV £5 revenue design from Nigeria, the Lease to a Gold Coast gold mine, and a fiscally used example of the 1884 Sierra Leone 5s on 1s surcharge, most of which were remaindered. We have optimistically booked Saturday 17th June for 2023!

Philip Quirk

Local Societies

Amersham & District

During what might be termed the "interim period" 2021/2022 following the relaxation of CV-19 Rules, we have joined the Thames Valley & District Federation following the closure of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation. We have continued to have a varied programme with subjects including *Free Franking Privilege Mail, The Titanic* and *Postal Routes to and from British Central Africa from 1891 to 1907*. Also we held a successful auction in the newly-built Chilterns Lifestyle Centre. The society continues to be one of the largest and most active in the region, with 100 or so members who have a range of interests, a regular fortnightly meeting with guest speakers on a variety of topics, exchanges of



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meetings with other philatelic societies, members' evenings, competitions and twice-yearly auctions. Following a summer break the 2022/2023 programme will start on 22nd September and the next auction is scheduled for 3rd November. The regular fortnightly meetings will continue to be held in the Amersham Community Centre, Barn Hall. Full details of all activities and officers can be found at our website: <https://stampersham.org.uk/> David Lee

Ashford (Middlesex) & District

We were delighted following lockdown to be able to restart the club in September 2021. We've had some really interesting talks from club members on *Ecuador, Islands of the UK, Concorde* and *Art or Science (how forgeries are investigated)* plus an excellent display from a past member **Mike Gorrington** on *British Empire Exhibition Postal History*. We are only a small club but we enjoy various activities - club competitions, sales events (auctions and bourses) and social events such as a Quiz night. We will now be closing for the summer but will resume club activities from 29th September 2022 when we would be happy to welcome any visitors or new members. We will be publishing our 2022/2023 programme as it evolves on our website ashfordstampclub.wixsite.com/home Please take a look and come and join us for some interesting evenings.

Wendy Rushton

Ayrshire

The final meeting for 2021-22 was the AGM on 22nd April. Reports were submitted by the main office-bearers and accepted. **Alan White** was voted in as new president but the post of vice-president remains vacant. Most other posts remained as previously, but **Ian Smith** stood down as packet secretary, though agreeing to stay on the committee. We are therefore looking to fill this position.

Robert Watt had agreed to represent the society at Scottish Congress. **Ian Barker** stepped down as second auctioneer but will continue to produce the newsletter. Trophies for the competitions already held were presented - President's Trophy and 20th Century Cup to **David Rossall** and Thematic Shield to **Ken Gibb**. In Any Other Business the possibility of moving the meeting night was raised with a Thursday evening being the preference if rooms were available. The committee were also asked to explore how to increase the number of competition entries. The formal meeting closed at 7.59. This was followed by the two remaining club competitions, voted on by members present. With only three entries in each class, the 3- Sheet competition was won by an entry on *Swiss Trial Prints* from **David Rossall**, and the new Postcard competition also by **David Rossall** with an entry on *The Bars of York*.

David Rossall

Basildon

David Church has only a couple of missing dates in his amazing collection of *Penny Black May Dates*. He included background information relating to the entire/cover or the persons involved in the correspondence. He continued with *Paquebot Mail*, with background information on the ships that carried each item.

Later in April, **Colin Evans** gave a thematic display, which included stamps, postcards and covers. First came *The Letter H*, as in Hands, Huts, Hovercraft, Hounslow, Halley's Comet, etc. Then came *General Thematics*, plus *Islands*, including Caldey Island, Brownsea Island and the South Antarctic islands. He also showed *The Ill-fated Russian TU144 ("Concordski")*, *The SS Great Britain and Railways*. In May we saw Danzig "*Luposta 1932*" - *The greatest airmail exhibition ever!* from **Giles du Boulay**. It was an excellent evening. A well-attended AGM roundly defeated a motion to wind up the society. **Charlie Mead** stepped forward to take the place of **Alan Taylor** as secretary, who is taking a well-deserved retirement after serving us well for 22 years – by far our longest-serving secretary. **Claude Crowder** stood down as auction secretary and auctioneer, without a replacement. All other officers were reappointed. At our Thematics Evening **Ian Hunt** displayed a selection of material *Sold in Over-the-Counter Thematic packets*. **Alf Potter** showed *Great Britain issues of Queen Elizabeth II since 1952*. **Charlie Mead** concluded the display with *A Selection of Forgeries*.
From Basildon Philatelist

Bookham

On the 24th May our AGM was attended by 38 members who unanimously re-elected the current officers together with a new committee member, **Peter White**, who will be our vice-chairman. The retirement of our long-serving treasurer, **Tom Appleton**, and his replacement by **Tom Allen** was also approved by the membership. Honorary Life Membership was awarded to our packet secretary **Julia Todd**. Following the conclusion of the AGM and the tea-break a mini-auction of some 120 lots was held, resulting in good sales, all to help with club funds. The after-sale of "unsolds" was unusually brisk, for no good reasons other than old age and an inability to get their arm in the air quick enough! At our June meeting **Chris Oliver FRPSL** gave a wonderful display and presentation of *The Union of South Africa*. The superb material illustrated the whole history of The Union which was established on 31st May 1910 following the two bitter Anglo-Boer wars, and brought to a close by the unilateral proclamation of a Republic on the 31st May 1961. The Union, lasting some 51 years, brought together the four independent states of Natal, Orange Free State, Cape and Transvaal into one state. Chris's presentation was most informative and enjoyable and the stamps, covers and postal history items on display were hugely appreciated - and in more than one case much envied.

David Bravery.

Bromley and Beckenham

At the AGM in May, **David Rennie** retired as general secretary after 18 years and was elected president for 2022-2023. **David Milsted** was appointed general secretary, (davidmilsted1@outlook.com), **Graeme Ashdown** president-elect and programme secretary, **David Abraham** assistant packet secretary and **David Marsdale** auctioneer. The picture shows retiring president, **Andrew Harris**, installing **David Rennie** with the presidential badge of office. In accepting this David recalled that it was way back in 2001-2002 that he was



president, that it had been an honour to be secretary for so long, longer than any previous secretary, and he was grateful for the support of members and the committee during that period. The society is far less formal now than it was then, with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in pleasant surroundings. In 2004 there were 169 members, now there were 100. He bemoaned the fact that 74% of members now were aged over 70, compared with 68% just five years ago, including eight now over 90, but only five under 60. At the AGM members agreed to donate £500 to **English4Refugees** to support crash courses being run in Estonia by **Philip**

Marsdale, (son of David above), enabling Ukrainian female refugees to learn English quickly, before arriving at their final destinations. *David Rennie*

Burnley & District

London 2022 proved very successful for one of our members, **Howard Hughes**, who won the Grand Prix National and a Large Gold for his entry on *The Maltese Cross*. Reflected glory for us but our congratulations go to Howard for his achievement. We are fortunate to have "Royalty" as members with **Derek Lambert FRPSL** having completed 50 years, **Mark Everiss** recently elected and Howard himself. The photo shows us celebrating this success at a recent meeting. We finished our season with a society visit from Leeds PS in May and thank them for re-arranging from March 2020 when we had the lockdown. Our AGM clashed with football and we know now Leeds survived to play another day at Burnley's expense! All's fair in love and philately. We also arranged a library display on "*Stamp events in the reign of QEII*" for the Platinum Jubilee to generate more local stamp collecting interest. We start again on 1st September after a brief break for the summer.



Mark, Derek and Howard - Burnley's Royals

Barry W Evans

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Cambridge

In early April **Jon Higgins** from King's Lynn gave an excellent and detailed presentation on both *Labuan* and *North Borneo*, which included many difficult and interesting items. Zoom presentations have continued with **Adél Bulpitt** from Pretoria PS (South Africa) in late May with *Australian States*, and two members from Leeds PS in late June with *Canada WWII* and *A Synopsis of Biafran Postal History*. We held our AGM in early June when many members were present. **Graham Wylde** took over from **Simon Kelly** as president for two years, with **Rufus Barnes** being elected into a new position of vice-president for one year. We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting and also a zoom presentation each month. → info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford and District

Paul Green gave a very detailed presentation covering *Postal Services in Iraq* from the era of Turkish post to the Iraqi republic foundation. **Michael Musgrave** displayed a wide range of material on *Australia* containing a wealth of variety including triangular stamps, airmail and sea mail labels. He also displayed more specialist labels and some very strange postmarks. He continued with a display of Frama labels, personalised "My Stamps", and special postmarks. We welcomed **Maggie Thompson** to our meeting again. She gave a very informative display of *The Postal History of The Saar*. Her presentation included stamps, (including Cinderella issues), postal stationery, postcards and a wealth

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of other material. When friends from Sudbury PS visited, **Edward Hitchins** began with *New Zealand* including early postage stamps, revenue stamps & other lesser-known stamps and seals. He also displayed a wide range of licences. Then **David Goodesmann** gave an excellent display on the *Australian state of Victoria*. He also displayed material for *South West Africa*. As well as displaying a wide range of material he gave an interesting insight into the history of this barren land. **Charlie Mead** came for the final meeting before our summer break, displaying a comprehensive, very attractive selection of *GVI Fiji issues* as well as postage dues, postal stationery, and a host of other extremely interesting items including souvenirs from the first Pan Am flight from San Francisco to Auckland which stopped off at Suva, Fiji.

David Bravery

Cockermouth

Our busy programme of alternating Zoom and face-to-face meetings have continued throughout the spring and early summer. **Malcolm Gascoyne** entertained and educated us in April with a most interesting presentation on *De La Rue*, a subject to which many of us could relate and which generated much discussion. Two gatherings at the Friends' Meeting House were particularly interesting. At the first members were invited to tell us about their other hobbies. **Bill Myers** produced some wonderful local printed ephemera and medals awarded to past legends of *Barrow Rugby League Club*. **Guy Hindley** described his *Overseas travels as an accordionist with troupes of morris dancers*, **Bob Reader** displayed *Badges from a lifetime of attending Scout Jamborees*, **Richard Stroud** flew *African flags* and **Ken Sears** relived his *Triumph in beating Sebastian Coe in an under 17 athletics race* (SC was only 14 at the time though!). More conventional *Members' Displays* were shown in June and featured a guest appearance from **Frank Bennett**, on holiday in the Lake District, who had managed to secrete a couple of dozen sheets of *Hereford Postal History* into his suitcase without Ann noticing. Finally, July brought Zoom presentations of "*Scipio*" *Crash Covers* (**Duncan Crewe**), *Bogus Pakistan Surcharges* (**Mike Roberts**), *South Africa WWII Cinderella Labels* (**Jamie Smith**), *Sarawak overprints* (**Malcolm Gascoyne**) and *Recent Cumbrian acquisitions* (**Mike Mapleton**). We have a full diary for the rest of the year including an auction in November. Guests are always very welcome to join us.

Mike Roberts

Croydon

On 12th April we held our first meeting at our new venue – Shirley Methodist Church, Eldon Avenue, Croydon, CR0 8SD. The speaker was **Geoff Richardson** who showed *Bosnia and Herzegovina*. He started with sheets of commemoratives and definitive stamps showing various perforations and shades. The display also included postage dues, overprints and stamps with postmarks from the various provinces. In May **David Rolls** showed his



Geoff with the president



David Rolls makes a point.

material of *Early Peru*. After a short history, he mainly concentrated on the 19th century. The first definitives were issued in 1858 followed by early embossed issues. We saw issues for War in the Pacific, Chilean Occupation of Lima and the Peruvian Government in Exile. There were many forgeries which David displayed. His display of postcards included the Central Railway in Peru from the coast at 0 feet above sea level to 15 000 feet in the Andes mountains. In June we welcomed **Peter Pugh**, accompanied by his wife Rosemary. He showed *Hong Kong Railway Extension*,

concentrating on Hong Kong Mail carried on the Trans-Siberian Railway, mainly mail sent from 1910 to 1912. There were many destinations in the UK; Sardinia, Rome, Germany, Milan, Denmark in Europe; and Boston in the United States by boat from Liverpool after the rail journeys. Some of the rail trips involved changes of gauges on the railways. For each item of mail Peter showed a picture of the boat or train used for the journey.

Graham Harker

Dawlish



BAT stamp postmarked Signy Island

Our meeting on 11th May was warm and well-attended for a very cold subject *British Antarctic Territories*. This vast area was originally administered from a postal point of view from the Falkland Islands Post Office in South Georgia. It included the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and the Sandwich Islands as well as the British Antarctic Territory (BAT) itself. Today BAT is a self-administered territory with post offices that open only during the Summer tourist season. Many interesting stamps are produced featuring the area's extensive wildlife. Our Zoom meeting on 25th

May was on *Decimalisation and the Post Office*. The *British Nuclear Submarine Fleet* from HMS Dreadnaught and beyond was the subject matter of the presentation given by **Dave Cleaver** on 8th June. We were both fascinated by and amazed at the amount of philatelic material accumulated by our speaker and his background knowledge of the subject. It was also very interesting to hear about how our Submarine fleet had evolved over the years and the capabilities they have. Visitors are always welcome and more information may be obtained by calling 01626 864844.

Jim Wigmore

Frinton & District

In June our members were treated to two members' displays. **Dave Pugh** took us back to the days of the British Empire, under Queen Victoria, to the early stamp issues of Ceylon. The first stamp was a 6d Purple issued in 1857. Why

just one value was issued was unclear. It was totally inadequate. Other values soon followed with different colours, shades, perforation and watermark variations. Dave also showed a variety of postmarks from towns and villages in Ceylon. Between 1885 and 1908 a well-known photographer, William Cave, overprinted Ceylon stamps with his name 'CAVE', later shown in Perfin. This was totally illegal but Mr Cave got away with it and they are very much sought after by collectors. Altogether an excellent display showing the great designs of the Victorian and Edwardian era, compared to modern stamp issues. Then **George Oliver** showed rarer issues of France over the past 120 years. His first stamps were Postage Dues of the late 1800s. These are difficult to acquire. Other stamps had been overprinted for use by the French Army, also some beautiful stamps issued purely for use on Air Mail covers. Other regular stamps had been pre-cancelled by the Post Office and supplied to private firms. Further rare issues were for use by the French Foreign Legion and Red Cross. The beauty of stamp collecting is that collectors learn so much from the stamp designs as regards geography, politics, natural resources and history of the countries concerned.

Mick Carter

Halifax

Zoom meetings continue with guests from other societies and countries. **Max Smith** entertained with a display built around a book *From India to England by Air July 1929* written by Harriet J M Camac, re-discovered by Max within his library. It started by boat from Bombay to Karachi, transferring to a scheduled flight (City of Delhi). Scheduled flights carried mail and Max had a cover that had been carried on the second flight which had carried the author, with an arrival strike dated 7 AUG. Max identified a delay due to heavy rain, referred to during the journey by the author resulting in a flight to Alexandria with no overnight stop in an attempt to reduce the delay which could result in a fine for the late arrival of mail. We learnt that the pilot of the author's outward flight (Captain Woodbridge) later died in an aircraft accident. **Paul Allen** introduced us to *the Postal Rates operating from India to France*, with both pre-paid and pay-on-delivery items shown. Pre-payment could not be used prior to 1856 on this route. We were introduced to the different currency and weight descriptions, changes in routes used, various rates applied to mail passing through France and the collection of charges. **Stephen Parkin** outlined the *Operation of the East Coast Line TPO* and its development as railway improvements occurred and the mail being carried grew. We saw maps, documents, photographs of railway carriages and examples of carried mail.

Adrian Lee

Harrogate

We finished a successful season in May. Last September, at the beginning of the season, we wondered how it would unfold. Would anyone attend? Would our society collapse? We held our breath and waited..... As it turned out we needn't have worried. Five new members joined – was this the benefit of putting effort into our Zoom meetings during lockdown? Zoom meetings certainly kept our profile up and made sure that we were still very much alive. Turnouts for our live

meetings ranged from 12 to 20. Speakers still gave displays without hesitation and told plenty of anecdotes when presenting items from their fascinating collections. These displays included *Wilding Castles*, *Italian Air Services during WWII*, and *Mulready Caricatures*. There were just too many to itemise here. All were much appreciated. Competitions resumed with an entry from Trinidad winning our Dr Solly Trophy for the best 16-sheet entry. Refreshments had to be discarded along the way; however the half-time cup of tea returned for our last meeting – a display of items from former member **Paul Tennyson's** collection which he had earlier gifted to the society. Our Annual Dinner was a casualty but perhaps it will return next season. Zoom displays continued throughout the season including Home and Away visits to Aberdeen and Southampton. A big thank you to president **Peter Rix** and all the members and guests who supported the club through the season. What will next season bring, I wonder?

Bill Tait

Hereford & Mid-Wales

We have been enjoying a rural alternative venue in light summer evenings while our regular hall is undergoing repairs, but we are looking forward to returning to our city location next season. In May we were treated to the first full evening display by member **Peter Cliffe** who provided an excellent selection of items from his superb collection of *France*. Our June meeting took place just before the Jubilee holiday when members' appropriate displays on *Celebrations* took up



Frank Bennett (left) receiving the Founders' Trophy from society president, Greg Brunt

half an evening, the remainder being filled with bring-and-share refreshments and a toast to Her Majesty. In July, we ended our season with another AGM, this time actually on schedule, followed by our annual society competitions in which 11 members competed for four trophies. **Anthony Mills** won the Novice Cup with *The Royal Visit to Canada in 1939*. The Founders' Trophy for Postal History went to **Frank Bennett** with a display of material from the *Herefordshire village of Leintwardine*. This was particularly

pleasing as it was the first meeting Frank has been able to attend following a long spell of ill health. The President's Cup for Traditional Philately was retained by **Nick Nelson**, this time with a display of *Madeira in the 19th century* and the Shingler Cup for Thematic Philately was taken home by our vice-president, **John Setchfield** for an entry on *Rowland Hill*.

Janet Nelson

Don't forget to tell us of changes in officers and meeting places. Send to editor@abps.org.uk or membership@abps.org.uk

Hinckley & District

On 29th March **Chris Hailstone** and **Richard Flemming** entertained us. Chris started with his *Airmails*, including issues of Honduras, Mozambique and Angola. Richard followed with a *Family Collection of WWII correspondence* to and from his father-in-law tracing his service in Singapore and subsequently life as a prisoner of war. *By Air or Sea* was the subject of the following meeting, with **Tony Bishop**, **Chris Hailstone**, **Joe Booker**, **Richard Flemming** and **Mick Rose** all contributing to the evening's entertainment. In April was a visit from Rugby PS, with **Mike Whittaker** showing *Burma*, **Kit Jarman** with *Local posts of Morocco* and a study of *Hong Kong and other treaty ports* by **Peter Pugh**. **Rex Dixon** of Germany & Colonies PS gave a display of *German Winter Relief* on 10th May. The Winter Relief Programme was an annual donation drive by the National Socialist People's Welfare to help finance charitable work, initially set up to support German people during the Great Depression. The collection of stamps, booklets and postal stationery was well supported with publicity posters, vouchers and documents from the 1930s to 1943. The AGM was held on 24th May, attended by 16 members and one visitor. After the formal business, new member **Chris Grimshaw** gave an excellent *Postal History Display of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli Campaigns*. **Mick Rose** followed by showing a few sheets of the late **Roger Holmes**'s collection, which was sold off at the end of the meeting.

From H&DPS Bulletin

Huddersfield

In April **Douglas Armitage** outlined the *Recent and Postal History of Zimbabwe* particularly a period of hyper-inflation from 1980 to 2009. He showed mail in and out of Zimbabwe with a variety of commercial postal services, some resulting in underpaid dues being charged internationally. During this period, inflation rates rose from 48% p.a. to the accelerated rise from 1.2 million% to 231 million% in 2008. The values printed on adhesive stamps were shown resulting in the use of non-value indicator stamps for different mail services. **Mike Roberts** explained why *Pakistan Surcharges 1961* occurred with overprinting of their stamps due to the currency change on 1st January 1961 for which the postal authorities



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appeared unprepared. Some of the surcharges were locally produced and remained valid for use. The number of varieties of overprint resulted in forgeries. In May president **Peter Clemenson** brought us *Airships*. He explained the construction of different airships, the various gases used to provide lift and their use in WWI. We saw photographs of airships and items of mail which showed their use around the world. The Zeppelin became known for their use when modified as bombers during WWI for attacks on Great Britain. In June in a departure from normal meetings, guest members of Holmfirth and Longwood Harriers attended to view **Mike Pennington's** display of *GB 2012 Olympics* stamp issues together with ephemera from the event. Mike gave the display in the uniform provided to helpers at the events - very smart. Adrian Lee

Hull Stamp and Postcard

The April meeting was a PowerPoint display of *Hull postcards* given by **Robert McMillan**. We saw how areas of the city had changed over the period 1904 to 1930, particularly in the city centre and the pier area, as well as the docks and municipal parks. We also saw how fashions changed from the Edwardian era onwards. In May **John Sussex RDP** treated us to a display of *Modern British Postal History*. Some of the often short-lived rates shown, notably to obscure destinations in Africa, are particularly difficult to find. This is a neglected area of collecting, often dismissed by collectors because it is so recent. John's collection is considered to be currently the most comprehensive of its kind and would be extremely difficult to replicate. **Edith** and **Rodney Knight** gave us a *Spanish Miscellany* in June, showing material ranging from postal stationery and postcards of Spanish Guinea, through 1850s postal history, railways and maritime mail. There was also some more modern tourist material, contrasting sharply with the examples of UPU specimens, in strips of three, from the Madagascar archives and some interesting advertising envelopes. ➔ Robert McMillan, robertfmcmillan@gmail.com or www.hullphilatelicsociety.com
Daphne McMillan

Huntingdonshire

At our Members' Evening in May the subject was *The Letters E, D and F*. We started with used *French stamps covering the 1960s and 70s*, followed by examples of the *Annual Gift of the Federation of German Philately* with a special stamp and postmark. Then we saw a colourful display of different types of *Fungi*, and from Australia covers and related ephemera relating to *Fate*, the second most well-known Australian aircraft. There was a photograph of the crew and two passengers that were in the plane when it was flown to New Zealand. Registered Covers sent by *Fears Export from Sierra Leone to Great Britain* were followed by a selection of *Stamps from Dominica and Denmark*. Finland was represented with stamps from 1917-2010 covering definitives and commemoratives. The closing display was of items related to *Ely sub-post offices* in the form of postcards and mail. Some of the post offices covered were Little Downham, Mepal, Coveney and Adelaide. A newspaper cutting from 1968 showed details of when the post office at Stretham was raided. David Birkert

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Keswick

Our society rather resembles a disaster area at the moment with two members down with Covid and two others recovering from falls. Most of us have had the virus but mercifully, every such experience has been with mild symptoms. Undaunted, we carry on and have completed our 2021/22 season albeit with some evenings barely quorate. Our annual scavenger and reverse scavenger hunts have been by far the merriest events in what has otherwise been a miserable year. Scavenger hunts have now been enjoyed in two or three counties outside Cumbria thanks to the missionary work of members who travel. It would be good to see the gospel spread further so any secretary who is looking to fill a gap in the programme is welcome to get in touch with me and I will be happy to give them the lowdown on the black arts associated with this parlour game. → michaelfjmapleton@gmail.com Mike Mapleton

King's Lynn

We were treated to *Another Look at Scarborough and Whitby* on 22nd April when **Mike Kentzer** kindly stepped in to replace the published speaker. Mike gave an interesting and informative talk about Scarborough and its history, walking us through the town from north to south with a variety of views. He continued with the postal history of Scarborough from various post offices and sub-post offices, with examples such as late cancels, trial handstamps in different colours, duplexes and tax marks. The second half centred on Whitby with its long history of monasteries and abbeys. The Abbey was the site of the Synod of Whitby in 667. A short selection of postal history was followed by colourful artwork of views of the town and its surroundings on early postcards – a stunning collection. The zoom meeting on 6th May was an excellent two-part display by **Andy Soutar** on *1d black & 2d blue, Anniversary Issues* commemorating the issue, and *The 2pf Tax stamp for the Berlin Airlift*. The AGM was followed by **Mike Kentzer's** shortened display on *Scottish Halfpenny Wheel Tax*. Mike's postal history display consisted of examples of mail coming in to the country from abroad, enhanced by a map of the packet routes, pictures and postcards of the period. He explained the different marks and the stories behind them. The Annual Dinner was enjoyed by members, family and friends. Zooms continue during the summer recess. Dahlia Harrison



Mike with his ½d display certificate

Kingston & District

In May our members' meeting theme was *Modern issues from 1990*. **Russell Hill** displayed a variety of postcards, covers and stamps relating to his exploits



Nigel Gooding at Kingston

since 1995. **Chris Oliver** produced some *South African booklets* and a miniature sheet for his display. **Brian Sole** displayed some attractive and colourful stamps and Cinderella material from his collection of *Guernsey*. At the next meeting, **Nigel Gooding** gave us an excellent display of *Philippines during the Spanish Occupation 1854-80s*. On 1st February 1854 The Philippines was the first Asian country to issue postage stamps countrywide. Nigel led with the eleven issues of Queen Isabella II (1833 – 1868), and some of their forgeries. Between 1868 and 1874 a

Revolutionary Committee governed Spain and its colonies, and determined that the remaining stamps from the 1864 issue should be overprinted “HABILITADO DO POR LA NACION” [Validated by the New Government]. The speedy surcharges resulted in many varieties of hand-stamping dies. After diplomatic negotiations, Amedeo, Duke of Aosta, was selected to rule as King Amadeo (1870 – 1873) but he resigned on 11th February 1873. *Holiday Destinations* was our final theme. **Chris Oliver** suggested *Kruger National Park* or *Swanage and Corfe Castle on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset*. Our president, **Susan Oliver** showed postal history from *York*. **Roger Niven** showed late 1800 / early 1900's PPCs of *French seaside destinations*. Finally **Brian Sole** brought *Slogan Postmarks from seaside resorts* and *Railway labels to stations served from Waterloo*.
Chris Oliver

Lanarkshire

A much-shortened and interrupted season (for reasons we all know) has recently concluded. However, the work goes on; a syllabus to finish off and we are also hosts of South West Congress (held annually, first Saturday in October, in Prestwick) so vendors' tables are actively being sought and allocated. As with most, if not all societies, our numbers were well down when we resumed from the various lockdowns so we've decided to have a mix of daytime and evening meetings when we resume in an effort to bring our numbers back to pre-Covid levels. Our recent AGM elected **Mrs Maureen Mathieson** as president and we look forward to our usual varied array of displays when the next session resumes on 2nd September; both from our members and our



visitors. Anyone with an interest in philately (in all its many forms) is always made welcome at our meetings. Full details of our programme, and contact details, are available on our website www.lanarkshireps.co.uk Andy Napier

Largs & District

The current session came to a close with the AGM on 20th April. The president, **David Rossall**, gave a short report thanking those members whose attendance and support had enabled the club to bounce back after the pandemic, and also the committee who had been very supportive. The club is in a good position financially and subscriptions are unchanged. Certificates were presented to competition winners for 2019-20 and 2021-22 sessions. The president agreed to continue for a further year and **Robert Watt** agreed to accept the role of vice-president. The rest of the committee were re-elected en bloc. Following the formal meeting there was a one round display from members starting with *Lighthouses* from **Duncan Turner** and *Scotland and the World Cup 1978* from **Ian Armstrong**. **Finlay Mitchell** then showed *Iceland*, **Russell Ramsay** *Luxembourg* and **Ricky Boyd** *Golf covers*. The round concluded with the *Early Issues of Ukraine* from **David Rossall**. The 2022-23 session will start on Wednesday 7th September. David Rossall

Leeds

This summer 2022 should be a time for having a break and relaxation after living through the rigours for over 2 years of Covid but it seems it isn't (well not as yet) as I am sure most societies are trying to catch up and plan for the future. In April at our two meetings, **Brian Lythgoe** gave a talk on *Cameroon*, once a colony of Germany, then portioned into mandated territories of France and Great Britain, now independent but troubled politically, and **Roger Oakley**, one of our most distinguished members, gave a digital presentation - *Roger Oakley Entertains*. In May, four of our members visited Burnley to repay their visit some time ago. In May we had a memorable display by the dealer and gold medallist **Bill Barrell** as part of his Roadshow on *Penny Reds*, imperforate, stars and letters in corners. We saw so many aspects in an amazing display that our minds were left spinning. But it did cause a great deal of discussion about one frame displays. The philatelic year ended with Members' Displays on 24th May. Nine members gave displays. As would be expected *The Queen's Platinum Jubilee* was the theme of many of them. Two members gave digital presentations. Anybody in the Leeds area is more than welcome to attend as a guest. Michael Waugh

Lewisham

Lewisham withdrew from ABPS some years ago on grounds of finance but, partly due to donations, is now on a firmer footing and at the AGM in April voted to rejoin. Despite membership being only 15, attendance is seldom less than a dozen and the society enjoys excellent displays, many of them home-grown. There are few GB collectors, most members being interested in the Germany/Austria area, especially Third Reich. It might even be described as an offshoot

of Germany & Colonies! The last display of the season was by **Geoff Richardson** showing *Trieste*, including some beautiful 19th century covers and cards; before that in no particular order were **Lindy Bosworth** with lovely *Czechoslovakia*, **John Shaw** with *Iraq* and **Tony Hickey** with *Bohemia & Moravia*. At the AGM, **Tony Hickey** was re-elected secretary and publicity officer, **Michael Dobbs** becomes president, **Tony Bosworth** vice-president and was re-elected treasurer, having taken over from the late **Colin Tobitt** whose death was a great loss both to the society and to the hobby as a whole. Meetings resume in September and those considering joining or visiting the society should contact the secretary, Tony Hickey at

hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

John Shaw

Lostock

In May Geoff Dyer brought *South Africa*. He included perforations, shades, colour changes, and methods of printing as well as the stamps and themes. The visiting speaker for June was **Arthur Jennion**. His subject was *Mail on the Manchester and Liverpool Railway*. Among the many interesting facts, stamps and envelopes he displayed were several documents and marking used to indicate which train or TPO the mail was moved by. Arthur also explained about the original Rainhill Trials and later explained about early 1742 maps of the area and over the next hundred years the rapid growth of rail transport taking

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business off stage coach services. By 1847 all mail was being moved by the railways. One letter showed delivery from Liverpool to Oldham at the then remarkable speed of 27 days. Finally a close inspection of the events surrounding the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester which was reported in a very old letter from one of the officers of the time. It gave an entirely different perspective of the newspaper reports of the period. *David Morley.*

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Well to everyone's surprise Maidstone has come through its first full season following Covid restrictions remarkably well. Thanks go to our secretary, **Margaret Emerson**, for organising a good programme in difficult circumstances - firstly for finding speakers who were prepared to travel and display wonderful material. The sad side is that so many speakers have decided to hang up their tweezers and not display anymore. The displays we saw for the last part of our season were as follows:- *The Machin Head* by **Robin Tapper**, *Tanganyika Territory and GB QV Covers* by **Paul Davey**, *Doctor Who* by **Mark Routh** and *Ashes Cricket and Our Kingfisher* by **Greg Newey**. For the morning meetings we have had a variety of members' displays this season. It is still our centenary year and we have just had an enjoyable summer social evening courtesy of **Lewis Giles** and his daughter **Suzanne**. On 19th November we will hold our Centenary Stamp Fair at Aylesford Community Centre, Forstal Road, Aylesford ME20 7AU with around 20 dealers. Our new season kicks off on the 8th September with **Philip Clarke's** display of *The UPU*. *Brian Stonestreet*

Morecambe and District



The president and the Mayor checking the items for sale.

We held another very successful Stamp Fair back in our usual slot of the last Saturday of April at the Platform in Morecambe. Once again we were lucky enough to get Lancaster's Mayor to come and visit the Fair. Many of our dealers are now regulars but we had a few new ones as well and a good spread of philatelic material offered. And as usual the homemade cake refreshments went down very well! We have also had excellent meetings with a members' night on the theme of *Penny Blacks* and a talk from **Niall Thompson** of Garstang club on *The Furness Railways*. Our final meeting of the season on 5th July is our competition winners' presentation night and a fish and chip supper accompanied by a short talk on *Alnwick Postal History* which has developed as a sideline to researching family history for club members **Peter Howitt** and **Carol Bennett**. Also, after doing extra time as president taking the club through the COVID shutdown, I finally hand

over the president's chain of office (yes we really have one!) to **Dr Paul Townley** who takes over from the start of our new season in September when we will once again be preparing for our annual Stamp Auction (our 40th!!) on 8th October 2022.

Lesley Vincent

Oxford

During this period, members of the society displayed their 9- and 16-page competition entries for judging by **Malcolm Gascoyne**. At a subsequent meeting the displays were shown in detail, along with the judge's comments on ways to get even more marks.



Dr Simon Heap's Presidential Display



Mike Payne and Colin Davies, two of the competition winners

Lots of learning for next time! At the AGM prizes in the form of cups and certificates were handed out to the worthy winners. In May, I gave my first Presidential Display on the

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony during the GV-GVI period. Though the Nigerias remain my primary collecting interest, my first philatelic purchase of GEIC GVI definitives at the Bolton Stamp Centre as a child meant I could claim almost fifty years of collecting the colony. Displayed chronologically with some unique and rare stamps, full sheets and idiosyncratic stories, a lovely evening on these Pacific islands was enjoyed by all. In early July, members enjoyed our summer social event with a convivial evening at a local pub.

Dr Simon Heap

Rochdale

Derek Earnshaw gave a talk on *The 1793 introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in and around Manchester*. Over 50 examples of penny post letters were shown from the 36 postal offices in the area. In 1837 because of over-charging, a court case established that Post Masters must legally charge no more than a penny for local post. Postage for letters addressed to locations outside the

Manchester area continued to cost considerably more. To send a letter you had to take it to the local Post Master's office who charged the postage rate payable. Later the system changed so that instead, the recipient had to pay the postage when picking up the letter from the local Post Master. The club's annual competition was held with 9 members each presenting 9 sheets. The topics were *Maltese stamps issued in 1992, British postmarks from 1844 to 1880, Postmarks from Lancashire and Cheshire, British Open Golf Championship, Overprinted New Zealand 2½ cent stamps, Events from WWI, Japanese issues to encourage young stamp collectors, Memorabilia of the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana and British Forces stamps from Egyptian postal concessions on letter postal rates*. The winning presentations were judged by members to be 1st Egypt, 2nd Lancashire and Cheshire Post Marks and 3rd Japan. ➔ Neil on 01706 665698. or Neil.Warmby@gmail.com

Peter Grimshaw

Rugby

Our 21/22 season finished on 4th April with the cup competition and AGM. All areas in the competition had at least one entry and we are solvent for at least another year (subject to inflation). Normally there would have been nothing else to report, but one of our members, **Kit Jarman**, asked if he could invite all the members to the retaking of his Holy Orders. On 25th June half of the society and partners joined him, as he committed to continue in the role he has been in for 50 years. Kit is a keen collector and active member of the society. Members made a return visit to Hinckley that was well received, despite the journey becoming a mystery tour in both directions because of roadworks. Our program for the next season has been finalised and promises to equal last year's (Covid permitting).

Steve Williams

Scarborough

After the problems with Covid, meetings have restarted at a new venue, Osgodby Community Centre, 4-6 Osgodby Lane, SCARBOROUGH, YO11 3QE. At the AGM in April there were a number of changes with a new secretary, **Stuart Hogg**, and treasurer, **John Penrose**, appointed. The AGM closed with



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the best of all matters – refreshments. Our May meeting was by **Martin Snowden**, from Saltburn, showing us *Fakes, Forgeries and Fantasies* in relation to philatelic propaganda by all sides during WWII. Martin displayed some remarkable and rare items which were an education to those of us who had very little knowledge of this most secret and obscure posturing by Special Operations personnel during this time. *From Scarborough Post & Website*

Sevenoaks & District

We had a number of serving military personnel and local dignitaries amongst our first members, and in the 1950s had just over 100 members but times have changed. Due to lack of younger collectors, an ageing committee and few willing to take office, we are considering closing down in December! However we will hold a “Luncheon” early in August at a local inn, which it is hoped most of the present members (plus partners) will attend. Certain awards are to be made to long-serving officers, and we hope to display several items from past records in remembrance of better times. *Peter O’Keeffe*

Sheffield

Frank Walton Memorial Display

As many of you are aware, **Frank Walton RDP FRPSL RDYP** was a member of Sheffield PS for many years. We have decided to hold an annual display in his honour. **Peter Cockburn FRSP** has very kindly accepted the invitation to present the inaugural display on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 2 pm. If you would like to attend, please contact the secretary, **Richard Hindle** stating the names of the people attending. We only have a limited number of places, so acceptance will be in the order of receipt of the emails. We continue to meet at 2 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the United Reform Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield – free parking available - and also hold a Zoom meeting on the first Thursday of the month. If you wish to attend any of these meetings, please contact Richard Hindle on 0114 258 5988 or richard.hindle45@outlook.com *Richard Hindle*

Stratford-Upon-Avon

Our meetings are changing time to the afternoon instead of evening in the next season 2022/23. They remain on alternate Wednesdays and will be in the same location as at present (at the back of Stratford Racecourse buildings, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9SE), but will now start at 1, and are due to finish at 4-4.30pm. There is parking near the room. Refreshments are in the mid-meeting break. Our 2022/23 programme is a mixture of visiting speakers and members showing their own items. The first meeting of the 2022/23 year is Wednesday 7th September. We hope that those of our members who missed some meetings because of the national virus problems will be able to come again. Of course new members are always welcome. → Colin Fountain on 01789841606 or cfountain@talktalk.net The programme for 2022/23 will be added on the website <https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/stratfordps> which also covers other nearby philatelic societies. *John Gledhill*

Taw & Torridge

We held the last meeting of our 2021/22 season on 9th September. Once again programme secretary, **Peter Harris**, excelled in compiling a broad range of topics and speakers to keep club members thoroughly entertained through the season. Seventeen members gathered for the final presentation by **Barry Mudie** who delivered a real treat and a fitting finale to our season. Barry's presentation was entitled *Channel Islands Occupation – part one June 1940 to 1942*. He explained how the UK Government failed to notify the Germans that the Islands were demilitarised. As a result, the Germans bombed the ports on both Jersey and Guernsey inflicting the first 44 deaths of the occupation. We learnt how differently the islands reacted; Jersey deciding to only evacuate 6600 inhabitants whilst Guernsey evacuated over 17 000. Barry went on to describe the Nazis' draconian control of the islands which became almost completely isolated for most of the war; but how the spirited islanders found ingenious ways to communicate (at least amongst themselves) and even managed to poke fun at their tormentors via coded stamps. Full of fascinating facts and supported by some poignant and often rare items of philatelic history I, for one, am very much looking forward to 'part two' which is planned to take place when the club's meetings resume in September 2022.



Barry Mudie in mid-explanation

Helen Soby

Thatcham & District

In April *Transport* was the theme. **John Shambrook, Malcolm Hoskins, Jim Andrew, Mike Smith, Martin Farr, Barney Bardsley, Dave Tanner, Ian Keel** and **Graeme Stewart** rose to the challenge. *Postal Stationery* followed later in the month with another broad response. *Birds* were in evidence for the next meeting. We are well-blessed by people bringing such variety. For *The Chairman's Evening* after the AGM and his report, **Mike Smith** presented philately from *Botswana*. It was all very well laid out and presented with very interesting descriptions of selected items. In early June **Brian May** started the meeting on *Underpaid Mail* with a few old covers that he came across with postage due charges and cancels. **Jim Andrew** brought a large flat envelope absolutely 'splattered' (his word) with changes and customs charges. Thursday 16th June was *Philatelic Halves* with **John Tingey** and **Barney Bardsley**. John spoke of *Reginald Bray The Englishman who posted himself and other curious objects*. It was a great talk and display and very well presented. Then Barney spoke about *Canals and Waterways* – which, apart from 1d blacks, is his favourite subject. He showed a large map of the canals and waterways of

England and Wales and pointed out many of the rivers and canal systems on it. He also showed some 'Carried Mail' letters and cards to be delivered but they had to relate to the cargo carried by the boat. The whole display had some great photographs of canals and locks.

From Thatcham Postmark

Torquay and Teignbridge Stamp Club

We've now held our second AGM since lockdown restrictions were lifted, and we seem to have settled properly back into philatelic life, as it was before. We have a programme of monthly meetings running throughout the year, which is now arranged up to November 2023 (believe it or not!). Our plans up to Christmas include *President's Night*, a members' evening with the letter "L" as the theme, *GB (with a difference)* by **Bob Wheeler**, one of our three Competition nights, and a visit from the Exmouth Stamp Club. If you've not tried a visit from a neighbouring stamp club, it's a great way to extend your circle of collecting friends, establish new philatelic contacts, and see material and presentational methods you've not seen before. It's also a great way to get visiting speakers without having to make people travel too far, and keeping expenses down to a minimum, or sometimes, even, without any cost. Anyone visiting South Devon would be very welcome to come along to one of our club nights.

→ torquayandteignbridgestampclub.org

Dave Cleaver

Wakefield

We welcomed **Stephen Holder RDP FRPSL** at the beginning of May to give a very enjoyable display and presentation entitled *Bradford Postal History*. Later in the month a members' evening produced various displays. On 1st June we held our Annual Dinner at the Old Halfway House in Horbury, West Yorkshire. The meal was well attended and enjoyed by all who dined. On 15th June we held our AGM following which the awards were presented to winners of the Annual Competition. On 27th June **Tony Plumbe FRPSL** gave a Zoom display entitled *Biafra* and on 6th July he paid an in-person visit and displayed his Biafra collection face to face, accompanied by a very interesting and knowledgeable historical presentation. These displays were very much enjoyed by all members present.

Julie Hitchcock

Watford & District

We continued our season in February with the annual nine-page competitions. The stamps category was won by **Brian Coates** with *Lundy Isles*; Brian was also the victor in the postal history class with *GB Halfpenny Packet Post* and guess who won the thematics? Brian of course! Our April meeting was the annual auction, a successful evening, with 207 lots knocked down by our resident auctioneer, **Brian Thurlow**. In May we welcomed **Chris Oliver**, who displayed his extensive collection of *South Africa*, and took us through the interesting history of the country from its formation in 1910 to 1961, when it became a republic. ➔ 01923 243243 or watforddps@gmail.com Wayne Cox

West London

Three meetings have been held since the last issue of ABPS News and these were all members' meetings. Subjects were *The Colour Red*, when four members displayed; *New Acquisitions* which followed the AGM, when four displays were seen and *The Letter K* which also produced four displays. (All from seven members). Our president-elect was concerned that Italy, which he collects, does not have a letter K in its alphabet. We have a varied programme for the 2022/23 season and will welcome new members. → the secretary, Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 020 8940 9833. Chris Oliver

West Riding Stamp Club

Our season of informal meetings started in April with a display of *India 9th February 1931 Inauguration of New Delhi* issue from **Owen Heathcote**, now featured in Vol 56 2022 of the India Study Circle magazine. Owen explained that KGV encouraged the capital of India to be moved from Calcutta to New Delhi to be more central. He displayed the KGV pictorial issue stamps accompanied by a detailed explanation of the buildings shown on that issue: ¼a Purana Qila, ½a War Memorial Arch (WWI), 1a Council House Parliament Building which has featured in a number of Indian philatelic issues, 2a Viceroy's House designed by Lutyens, 3a Secretariat designed by Herbert Baker as part of Lutyens' town plan, 1R Dominion Columns and Secretariat - the columns donated by South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Owen showed the town plan map of New Delhi and an aerial view. In May we held a self-help session allowing members to discuss and demonstrate how to create and present displays. Continuing during the summer period we can look forward to a visit from Cockermouth Stamp Club in July and a WRSC auction in August with **Mike Roberts** as auctioneer, with pie and peas being provided to attending members. Meetings normally commence around 13.30 however the auction will commence earlier for viewing at 11 am at Lindley Liberal Club Huddersfield HD3 3EQ, refreshments being available at about 12.20. Adrian Lee

STAMPEX WHAT'S ON

Court of Honour

We are delighted to be showing Chris Harman's *Chalon Heads* collection.

World Postcard Day

Hosted on Saturday 1st October, we will be celebrating World Postcard Day with a dedicated postcard and a Postcrossing Meet Up!

Society Day

On Saturday, we have many societies scheduled to meet including the GBPS, Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Study Group, Ceylon Study Circle and Egypt Study Circle as well as others. This is a great opportunity to join a new society or meet them face-to-face.

Book Reviews

Catalog of Postal Stationery Airgraphs:

by Wayne Menuz

Published in 2020 by The United Postal Stationery Society, Inc, 75 pages, soft cover 8½ in x 11 in Available on www.upss.org under publications, where payment can be made with PayPal or credit card (processed through PayPal, no PayPal account needed), or by sending a cheque to: UPSS Publications Office, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA, USA 23831. Postpaid price, domestic and foreign, is \$34 to non-UPSS members, or \$27.60 to UPSS members.

This catalog covers postal stationery airgraphs of the United Kingdom East Africa Command, Ceylon, Egypt, India, Palestine, South Africa and Southern

Rhodesia. An essential wartime service need of Great Britain in WWII was to enable troops in its far-flung empire to send and receive mail from home via airmail rather than by sea. This could not be done during the first years of the war due to the small number of airplanes available and the extremely limited cargo capacity of those aircraft. Sending by sea took many weeks or months, and the danger of losing mail due to attack by German or Italian submarine was high. If mail were to be lost, morale of both the troops and their families back home would greatly suffer. Airmail letters, even aerograms that were soon introduced to obviate the need for an envelope, did not weigh much per item, but the number needed per month was hundreds of thousands, resulting in mail cargo initially weighing more than a dozen tons weekly. The widely used Short Brothers "Empire" flying boats, extensively used to the East, had a 2.2-ton cargo capacity plus 17 passengers, with a 1500-mile range.

The novel solution was the Airgraph service. Letters were written on standardized forms, microfilmed at or near the source, then flown to special development centers where the microfilm was developed into prints. These were inserted into window envelopes and mailed to destination. The Airgraph forms were designed so the address information was in a box located such that it would be positioned on the airgraph photo that, when inserted into the envelope, would appear in the window.

The number of British Airgraphs used in WWII was 313 745 182, and that amount of microfilm weighed 31.7 tons. If, instead, that correspondence had



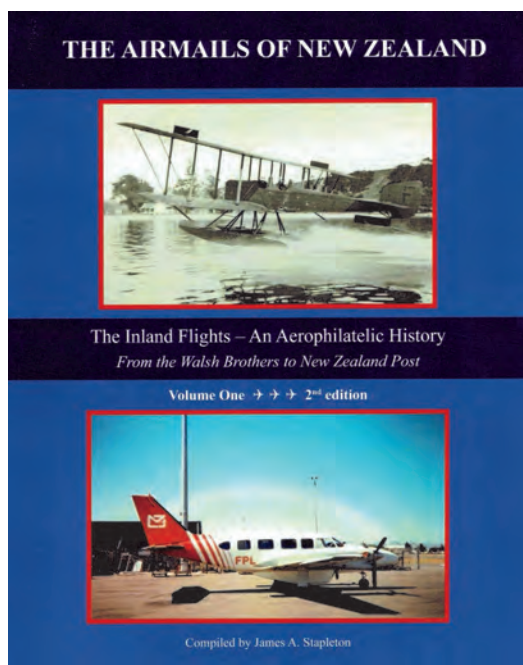
been lightweight aerograms, the air cargo weight would have been about 1400 tons, and if it had been letter paper with light-weight envelopes, 3000 tons.

Each Airgraph message to be microfilmed was required to be on a special form so that the whole process could be automated to a large degree. The forms were usually printed locally by private or government printers. The result is that there are many hundreds of different types known to collectors. Virtually all were formular (including all USA V-Mail forms), and given out free. These Airgraph forms required the application of an adhesive stamp (though the American V-Mail service was free). The adhesive stamp was placed on the back, and thus not microfilmed, and not visible on the developed Airgraph mailed to the addressee.

Eight countries issued some or all of their Airgraph forms prepaid. Two affixed adhesive stamps before selling the forms, so they were prepaid Airgraphs forms, while the other five sold them with indicia imprinted or implied. These are postal stationery, and the exclusive subject of this catalog.

The catalog shows all the different types of airgraphs in colour, as well as many photos showing the photographing and processing operations. The catalog is well done and will be essential to any collector interested in WWII airgraphs.

Ken Sanford



Airmails of New Zealand - The Inland Flights - An Aerophilatelic History

One of the main objectives of the Airmail Society of NZ is to record the airmail history of New Zealand as a handy reference for collectors and for future generations. The initial publication of the handbook *The Air Mails and Pigeon Posts of New Zealand*, compiled and edited by Ray Collins, was in 1931. In 1955 the *Airmails of New Zealand Volume One: The Internal Flights* was published, largely through the efforts of Douglas Walker. Then, in 1986 the society's third publication appeared: *the Airmails of New Zealand, Volume Two: Overseas Flights 1928-1940* by Douglas Walker. This was supplemented in 1997 with Robin Startup's *Airmails of New Zealand, Volume Three: International Airmails 1940-1970*.



In 2000 the society decided Volume One, The Internal Flights (which described the airmails in chronological order, from the 1897 pigeonmail through to the latest domestic airline services at the time) needed to be brought up to date, the older text revised, and illustrations, not possible all those years ago, to be included. Appreciating that a revised handbook required a large amount of work, the go-ahead for research was given.

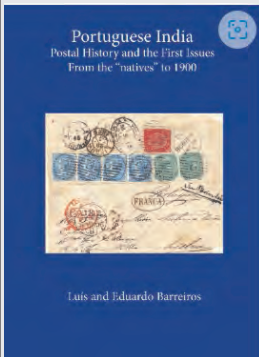

Jim Stapleton produced the typescript of a fascinating story of New Zealand's inland airmails in 1994, an extensive look at the flights and services behind flown covers, arranged by airlines. From this typescript came the manuscript entitled *The Inland Flights - An Aerophilatelic History*, covering the background to the development of aviation for the carriage of mails in New Zealand.

The book has been jointly published by the Airmail Society and Mowbray Collectables. At 150 pages, it includes 18 chapters on airlines ranging from the Walsh Brothers 1919-1922 through Cook Strait Airways and Mount Cook Airlines in the 1930s to 1970s, to NAC and Air New Zealand to 1994. Each chapter focuses on the services provided, and much effort has gone into obtaining colour scans of the original illustrations which were all monochrome. There are also substantial chapters on special event airmails to 1994, and a checklist of events and flights, as well as an index and bibliography. The monograph is 150 pages, perfect bound, with many excellent illustrations, most in full colour, and is very readable.

As the foreword notes, major contributors to the publication of this monograph other than Jim Stapleton, include Robin Startup, RDP FR SPL FRPSNZ who spent many hours on detailed editing work, Mike Shand, Keith Griffiths, Alan Tunnicliffe, Bill Mitchell and many other fellow collectors, plus David Smitham who brought the manuscript to publication stage. Mowbray Collectables agreed to arrange for the printing and publishing of the new book, and it should grace the shelves of those interested in aerophilately for many years to come.

The book is available from Mowbray Collectables, Private Bag 63000, Wellington, NZ 6140 or auctions@mowbrays.co.nz for NZ\$60 post-paid within NZ. Please enquire from Mowbrays for postage cost to countries outside New Zealand.

Jeff Long

	<p>A new book from the Royal PS.L.</p> <p>Portuguese India</p> <p>Postal History and the First Issues from the "natives" to 1900</p> <p>by Luis & Eduardo Barreiros</p>	<p>And another from Channel Islands Specialist Society</p> <p>Delivered by the Hotel's Care</p> <p>Private Postal Services of French Hotels in Jersey</p> <p>by Roger E Harris</p> 
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ABPS updates

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

Federations

Kent and Middlesex Federations have both closed, though Kent is maintaining a digital information service through Michael Dobbs

Local Societies

Basildon Philatelic Society: The new secretary is **Charlie Mead**
enquiries@basildon-philatelic.org.uk

Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society:

The new secretary is **David Milsted** davidmilsted1@outlook.com

Caledonian Philatelic Society: The new secretary is **Dr Stewart Gardiner**
secretary@caledonianphilatelic.org.uk

Camberley & District Philatelic Society: The new secretary is: **Jeff Wood**
jcwandjhw@yahoo.co.uk 07947 357 866

Great Yarmouth Stamp Club: The new secretary is: **David Saunders**
davidsaunders1@gmail.com 01493 663830

Heathfield & District Philatelic Society: The new secretary is **Jerry Stone**
jerrylastone@hotmail.co.uk

Scarborough Philatelic Society: The new secretary is: **Stuart Hogg**,
01723 378033, scarboroughphilatelic@btinternet.com

Stratford-Upon-Avon Philatelic Society: The meetings will now be held at
Stratford Racecourse buildings CV37 9SE from 1pm to 4 or 4.30pm on
alternate Wednesdays from September.

Woking Philatelic Society: The new secretary is: **Mick Coad**
michael.coad@apha.gov.uk

Yeovil Philatelic Society: The new secretary is **James Hooper**

We are pleased to welcome the following societies as affiliates:

Lewisham Philatelic Society: The treasurer is **Tony Bosworth**
atonybos@btinternet.com

We regret to report that the following societies have closed: **Bexley Philatelic Society, Dartmouth Stamp Club.**

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Stamp Art Workshops where children can create stamp cards or pictures
Free Prize Draw for adults bringing children to the Show
“Ask the Expert” sessions where both children and adults can ask any questions about collecting including how to get started, exhibiting and much more.....



Visit www.stampactive.co.uk for more information.



Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

2022

September

- 24 HAMPEX 2022: 10 - 4, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, **Fareham** PO17 5AL → www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm

October

- 1 South-West Scotland Congress hosted by Lanarkshire PS: 10 - 4: Prestwick Community Education Centre, 50 Caerlaverock Road, **Prestwick** KA9 1HP
- 2 Wessex Federation and Taw & Torridge Stamp Fair: St John's Community Centre, **Barnstaple**, EX32 8PG
- 8 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair: 10 - 2, Belmont Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp, 01952-405458
- 9 Hinckley & District Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition: 10 - 2, Hinckley Parks Primary School, Leicester Road, **Hinckley** LE10 1 LP → 01455 448638
- 22 Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Corn Exchange town centre, **St Ives**, Cambridgeshire PE27 5AD → David Birkert 01480468037
- 22 Yeovil & District Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road, **Sherborne**, Dorset DT9 3NL → 01460 74422
- 23 Festival of Stamps: 10 - 4, Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, **Banbury** OX16 9JD → davies1890@btinternet.com 01295 255831
- 28 - 29 Leeds PS Annual Fair: 10.30 - 5, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, **Pudsey**, Leeds, LS28 5TA
- 29 CORNEX: 10 - 4, Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF → 01288 355918
- 29 Kingston & District PS Stamp Fair, with Surrey Federation PS AGM & Competitions: 10 - 4, Claygate Village Hall, Church Road, **Claygate**, Surrey KT10 0JP → Brian Sole 01932 220677

November

- 5 Taunton Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, St James Church Hall, St James Street, **Taunton** TA1 1JS → 01823 666371
- 12 American Stamp Club of GB's Annual Convention: 10 - 4, Stafford Stamp Fair, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, **Stafford** ST18 0BD
- 19 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS - 100th Anniversary Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Aylesford Community Centre, **Aylesford**, Kent ME20 7AU
→ Brian Stonestreet 01622 675784

December

- 7 Grimsby Charity Auction: → Dave McMann 01472 887523

2023 July

- 1 Midpex 2023: 10 - 4.30, Warwickshire Event Centre, **Leamington Spa**, CV31 1XN

National Exhibitions 2022-23

- Stampex, BDC 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH 28th September – 1st October 2022 Theme – Africa. Competitive exhibition. Entry deadline: 31st July 2022
- Perth, Dewars Centre 14th – 15th April. National and Scottish Competitions
- York Stamp Fair, York Racecourse 14th – 15th July 2023 Competitive Exhibition - Norwegian Federation judges have been invited. Entry deadline: tba
- Stampex, BDC 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH 27th – 30th September 2023. Theme tbc. Competitive exhibition. Entry deadline: 31st July 2023

International Exhibitions 2022-2024

- **LIBEREC 2022:** Liberec, Czechia 13th – 16th October 2022 FEPA patronage with FIP recognition UK Commissioner: Steve Harrison (sharrison500@btinternet.com) Classes invited include Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard. Information is at www.liberec2022.eu Entry deadline: Closed
- **SOUTH AFRICA 2022:** Cape Town, South Africa 8th – 12th November 2022 FIP patronage UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison (britishlocals@aol.com) Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at www.capetown2021.org Entry deadline: Closed
- **IBRA2023:** Essen, Germany 25th – 28th May 2023 FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition UK Commissioner: Graham Winters (j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk) Classes invited include Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard. Further information at www.ibra2021.de Entry deadline: 8th October 2022
- **PhilaKorea 2024:** Seoul 15th – 19th August 2024: FIP Patronage. No UK invitation yet received

UK handling charges have now been standardised on all international exhibitions at £30 per frame for shows in Europe or £35 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits or per literary entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitulation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact **Jon Aitchison** britishlocals@aol.com Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information

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

Simon Richards, Simon@sidebell.co.uk

Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee

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

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ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

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

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

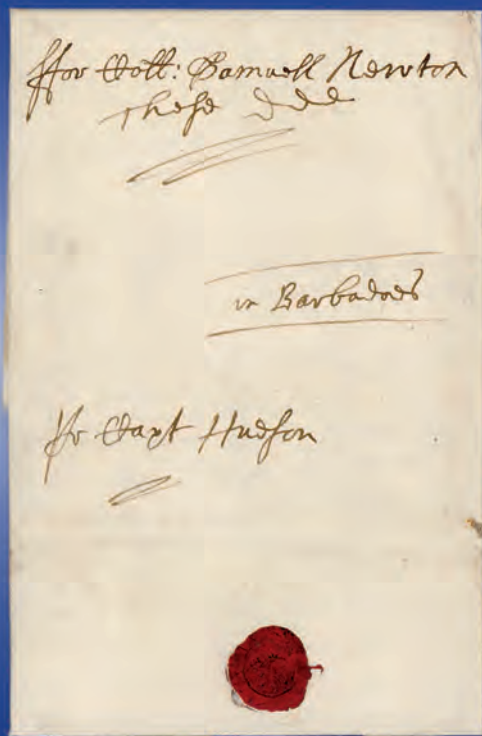
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

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

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

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

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