

Context Philately from Guildford and Barnsley



See pp 31 & 8



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

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Cover picture: *Anti Home Rule Poster from 1893 shown by Peter Wood at Guildford as part of his display of The Road to Irish Independence and Barnsley's 80th Anniversary Cake*

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk a few months after publication. Contact details for ABPS are on the page by the inside rear cover.

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

Notes FROM THE CHAIR:

The new 2024/2025 stamp season is now in full swing and many of us will be enjoying new stamp talks and displays at our local, national and specialist societies. I am looking forward to seeing many more delights in the coming months.

We will also have had the opportunity to visit the new look (and smaller) Stampex. What did you think of the new event? As the overall show, organised by the PTS, no longer has meeting rooms or an auditorium, ABPS has stepped in to provide the opportunity for societies to hold meetings and I am delighted that five have done so. This is just one example of the active role played by ABPS in the organisation of the hobby. I often get frustrated that some

individuals say that they are unaware of ABPS or their activities, so I have taken this opportunity to highlight some of the **Key Achievements of ABPS in the last twelve months:**



- Complete review of the Speakers database (and website update)
- Ongoing update of the ABPS website with news and information. *Have you looked at the ABPS website recently?*
- New project started for a “Learn” Module on the website
- ABPS News magazine circulated quarterly, showcasing local, national and specialist societies
- Executive Bulletin circulated quarterly to share news and best practice with societies
- Financial support for Stamp Active’s youth programme
- Provision of a meeting room for societies at Stampex
- Small Grants support for local societies, such as grants towards AV equipment
- Award of the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit to recognise personal contributions to philately
- Organisation of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held in Southampton
- Organisation of the national stamp competition, held for the first time at the Royal Philatelic Society London, viewed by 400 visitors
- Organisation of the national stamp competition at York
- Organisation of UK Commissioners for International Exhibitions

- Training courses for Exhibitors and Federation/National Judges
- Organisation of the EuroPhilEx International Exhibition, to be held in Birmingham in 2025

This also highlights the importance to you all when you receive a pdf copy of ABPS News. Please share it with other members of your own society.

Lack of awareness of ABPS, and the difficulty we had in filling vacancies on the Executive Committee over the last twelve months, has shown the need to get more people involved. I would like to see individuals acting as **Regional Representatives** for ABPS, making contact with local societies in their area, offering support, seeking feedback and creating greater participation in the work of ABPS. A “job description” has been drafted and I would like to hear from anyone who would be prepared to take on such a role. You can decide the size of the geographical area that you would cover, so limiting the scope of the role for yourself. Please email me if you are prepared to help.

I still want to get much more feedback from individual collectors, clubs and societies at every level about ABPS. What do you think we are doing well? What do you think we are doing less well? What are we not doing that we should be doing? Please tell me.

My email address is chair@abps.org.uk My postal address is: John Davies, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW or write to Keith Burton, the editor of ABPS News at editor@abps.org.uk

John Davies RDP FRPSL

Editorial



Not much to say this edition, John has said it all. Please read carefully and think what your response is. Were you aware of all of this? If not, why not? Have we failed to get through to you or is there a blockage somewhere in the system that stops information from getting through. We cannot provide individual copies of the Bulletin or News - the printing and postage costs would be impossible unless everyone became a Friend or Patron. So we rely on societies passing on the information via their website or email. But we also rely on you reading what is there. If you don't receive from one of your societies - ask questions. Perhaps we have the wrong email address - it happens. Officers change for various reasons and the communication chain is broken, or an email arrives and is shelved for the moment - and that moment becomes for ever.

In all of this though don't forget that your collecting is for you to enjoy. Perhaps you can share that enjoyment by sending a small article to the News. I have been told that the articles in the News are now as good as the reports - so thanks to the contributors to both - join them - for fun.

Keith Burton

ABPS

Role Description Regional Representative (Ambassador)



Purpose: To represent the ABPS, in a defined geographical area, in relation to contact and support to local philatelic societies.

Specifically, to contact known societies in the region:

Where a society is affiliated:

- To share details of ABPS key projects over the last twelve months
- To thank the society for their ongoing support
- To ask for feedback on ABPS
- What are we doing well?
- What are we doing less well?
- What are we not doing that we should be doing?

Where a society is not affiliated:

- To share details of ABPS key projects over the last twelve months
- To suggest that the society affiliates to ABPS
- To ask for feedback on ABPS
- What are we doing well?
- What are we doing less well?
- What are we not doing that we should be doing?
- Where there is no interest, to ask why they are not willing to contribute to organised philately in the UK and support the future of the hobby.

**Could this be you? If you are interested please get in touch with John Davies chair@abps.org.uk
You will chose the area, ideally close to your own society. More personal contact often works better.
British Philately needs your help.**

John Edwin Colton

An Appreciation

I'm not sure when I first met John. I think it was when I was Treasurer of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association in the late 1980s, and he was the Rotherham PS delegate. He worked for the National Provincial Bank and knew my uncle, Herbert Hindle, who was the manager of the Broomhill branch in Sheffield in the 1950s where John worked, which helped develop our friendship.

John joined Sheffield PS in 1997, although, as a member of Rotherham PS and the Yorkshire Postal History Society, he was well known to us as he was a regular visitor to Sheffield with inter-society visits.

He then acted as delegate for both Sheffield and Rotherham for the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, becoming their President for the 2001-02 season. He gave many displays around the county. He won many Sheffield and YPA competitions, eventually graduating to national and international level. He signed the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists in 2005. His only term as President of Sheffield was in the 2004-05 season.

His knowledge of philately was quite extensive. John was always very generous with his time and always willing to help. He was an eloquent speaker when giving his displays, which made them even more interesting.

He was an avid collector including displays of Rotherham Postal History, Bavaria, and several "offshoot" collections. He gave many displays to us, either as President of Sheffield, President of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association or as an invited speaker.

In the latter years of his life, his attention was drawn to Free Fronts, especially those signed by Yorkshire MPs and clergy. He wrote a book on the GB Failed Free Hand Stamps of the Franking System with R B Galland as well as writing articles about special cancellations used by the Royal Mail to validate the use of the free post system.

Although he was unable to attend meetings over the last few years, several of our members kept in touch either on the phone or by visits to his home. His knowledge and friendship will be missed by all who knew him.

Richard A Hindle



You can honour someone who has worked hard for your society and/or federation by putting them forward for the ABPS Award of Merit. If they have done even more they could be eligible for the Congress Medal. See the ABPS website for details and nomination forms. → www.abps.org.uk/awards/

Barnet & District Philatelic Society - 70th Anniversary

Our first meeting of the new season was an opportunity to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Barnet and District Philatelic Society. Fourteen members and a guest, were entertained by our president, **Don Knight**, who opened with a brief history of the society, explaining that we now welcomed members from a wider area than before, for example by incorporating those from the former Finchley Society. He continued with an extensive display of material from the society's Barnet Postal History collection, which starts long before the



introduction of adhesive stamps. Although created by two founder members of the society, **Roy Henderson** and **Dudley Styles**, the collection has been curated and expanded by Don for over forty years. He continued our celebration by cutting the cake. This was followed by a social evening, where all ate, and drank toasts to the continued success of the society. Following the vote of thanks by chair, **Peter Cox**, we are now looking forward to the interesting and varied programme for remainder of the season, prepared by **Margaret Mathews**, our programme secretary. *Steve Fraser*

Barnsley Philatelic Society - 80th Anniversary



On the 24th July 2024 we held a quiz night and fish and chip supper for our eightieth anniversary, having been established in 1944. There was also a mention of our much-missed

member **Nigel Harpham** who passed away suddenly in November 2023. His brother kindly donated money so that we could remember him and his love of all things philatelic. A member arranged for a beautiful cake, so we had fish to assist our brains during the quiz and cake to console us for wrong answers or congratulate us for good ones. A good night was had by all.

Glenn Fearons



Inter-Federation Competition York 2024

by Federation

Thames Valley and District - Total 258

Malcolm Gascoyne	Post-WWII Postcards in Sarawak	Gold
Eric Holmes	Gibraltar: Instructional Handstamps 1845-1872	Large Gold
Tony Stanford	The Morocco Agencies KEVII Centimos Issues	Large Gold

Cornwall - Total 257

Colin Benford	Air Road to the Isles Highland Airways Ltd	Large Vermeil
Barry Mudie	Channel Islanders Internee Mail Nov 1942-May 1945	Large Gold
Neil Sargent	The Registered Envelopes of Turkey - 1914 & 1933	Large Gold

Yorkshire - Total 256

David Druett	Trinidad Pre-Stamp Postal History	Gold
Richard Hindle	The Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1918-1925	Large Gold
Thomas Richard Smith	Cynicus - His Take of Social and Political Issues	Gold

Surrey - Total 253

Barry Feltham	The Great British Seaside Pier	Gold
Robert Mott	German Inland Postage Rates during 1923	Large Gold
Peter White	East African Airmails: The Early Years	Gold

Scottish - Total 247

John Chalmers	Auchincruive	Large Vermeil
George Henshilwood	The Stamps - Postage Dues & Revenues - of the Danish West Indies	Large Gold
John Sawkins	Building Bridges: Technological Developments in Materials & Design	Large Vermeil

Congratulations and Thanks to all who took part. It was a great competition and display. We look forward to the next InterFed Competition. Also many thanks to the Judges - they obviously had a very difficult task.

Your society information?

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

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

Results of the National Competition in York July 2024

Large Gold and Best in Show:

Simon Martin-Redman Sarawak Postal Cards Until 1942 (Japanese Occupation) PS (92)

Gold:

Brian Harmon The Irish Architecture £1 Definitive M (88)

Tony Plumbe Nyasaland Field Force in the First World War PH (87)

George Henshilwood Proud to be... T (86)

Anne Stammers The Seductive Power of Gold T (86)

Alan Rogers GV - GB Definitive and Commemorative Stamp Issues T (85)

Karen McShane Handstamps of the Uniform 4d Post used in Ireland PH (85)

Large Vermeil:

Jon Higgins Japanese One Line Overprints on the Stamps of Brunei T (83)

Peter Chadwick The Bye-Posts of Fochabers PH (83)

John Penrose Iceland Postal Stationery - Single Postcards 1879-1932 PS (83)

Brian Hague York Historic Pageant of 1909 P (83)

Dave Rothery Anglo-Egyptian Sudan - Gordon Statue Airmail Stamps 1931-8 T (83)

Vermeil:

Brian Warren Dun Laoghaire - My Hometown P (78)

Garrie Naden Mailcoach routes between London & NW England PH (78)

John Sussex The Postal History of the Isle of Bute PH (78)

M = Modern; P = Postcards; PH = Postal History; PS = Postal Stationery; T = Thematics

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part.
Also many thanks to the Judges for your hard work.

TO EVERY SOCIETY SECRETARY AND TREASURER

In early January I shall be sending out the yearly 'affiliation to the ABPS' requests. If you have not received this request by the end of January 2025 then please do not hesitate to contact me and advise me accordingly.

Every year I have a good number of emails returned. If you are a new secretary or treasurer, are you sure I have your email address? Or have you changed your email address recently? Please do not hesitate to contact me to check. My details can be found towards the back of this ABPS News.

Barry Stagg, ABPS Membership Secretary

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 'specialised' (i) 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, collect-ors & 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 un-saleable 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, Philatelic Expert.
Author: Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions UFA

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

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

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'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! ...

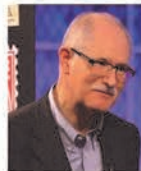
They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!


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) ...

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Author, Managing Director
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The Irish Village at The 1908 Franco-British Exhibition, The 1909 Imperial Exhibition & The 1910 Japan-British Exhibition at White City

The village of Ballymaclinton was a popular attraction at all three Exhibitions being modelled on a typical Irish village of its time. The cost of construction was £50 000 being financed by McClintons Soaps to promote their products. The village consisted of an ancient Irish Cross together with a Castle and Tower with a Blarney Stone, Church, Village & Concert Halls and Cottages to house members of staff and for housing the Cottage Industries which were part of Irish life.

The Village was staffed by over 200 colleens who were artisans, hostesses and guides. For the first two years the village had a fully functioning Post Office where visitors could buy postcards of the village to send to family and friends. When posted through the Irish Village Post Box, these postcards received a Special Postmark, Ballymaclinton Shepherds Bush Exhibition which was applied from the 10th July to the 31st October 1908. Two handstamps were supplied to the Post Office. They differed only in the



*The Irish Village General View & McClinton
Soaps Postcard*



View of Post Office 1908

spacing of letters in the word "Shepherds".

The following year the Village reopened as part of the 1909 Imperial Exhibition with the visitors being offered a postcard with an alternative view of the Post Office which could be purchased to receive a re-dated special postmark which was used

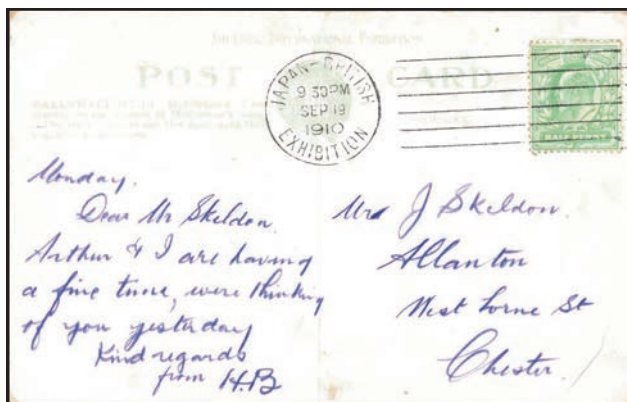
from the 1st June to the 2nd October 1909.

The final year of the Irish Village at White City was 1910 The Japan - British Exhibition but in a reduced form with the loss of the Concert Hall, Carpet Factory Cottages and the Post Office. The General Shop survived to sell souvenirs etc and Postcards which received the Japan-British Exhibition Postmark (applied at the Paddingtn Chief District Post Office)



View of Post Office 1909

at the shop. The number of Ballymaclinton postcards in circulation bearing an Exhibition postmark is less than in previous years and those receiving Japan-British Exhibition Machine Cancel are scarce.



Japan-British Exhibition Columbia Machine Cancel



Irish Village Colleen Miss Simpson

On the final closure of the Irish Village it had attracted over three and a half million visitors. Not all the Colleens returned to Ireland many being persuaded to remain in England long after the Exhibition had closed.

Keith Lillywhite

Acknowledgements: The Franco-British Exhibition 1908 Donald Knight.

A Story of the Ballymaclinton Village 1908-1910. G.E.R. Ithell.

John Baron, formerly ABPS Chair, has asked us to point out his new contact details:

Landline 01933 327762 (Preferred)

Mobile 07359 096153

Dawlish Stamp Club

We would like to thank both Dawlish Council and the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) who have helped us to obtain digital projection equipment that enables the club to present its talks in a more effective manner. The club is now regarded as one of the leading lights in its use of technology to present talks and displays. DSC is now able to bring the same technology to its main meetings as it uses for its Zoom meetings, bringing presentations from anywhere to its meetings here in Dawlish. The recent presentations included *Latin American Curiosities* that showed the link between the various Latin American countries to their philatelic development (11th July). The next Zoom meeting on 24th July was on the subject of *Cricket*. The link to join our meetings can be found via the club's website and all are welcome. More information about the club can be found on the club's website or by calling 01626 864844.



Jim Wigmore

One of the advantages of being affiliated is that societies can apply under the Small Grant Scheme for support - Dawlish did. Here's the result.

ABPS updates

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

Local Societies

Bristol Philatelic Society: New Secretary is **Robert de Smit**
robcdesmit@gmail.com

Dundee & District Philatelic Society: New Secretary is **Lynn Podger**
lynn.podger@btinternet.com

Hastings & East Sussex Philatelic Society: Website is
hastingsstampclub.org.uk

Wirral Philatelic Society: has affiliated to ABPS - welcome.

The secretary is **Steven White** steven.white54@btinternet.com

Yeovil & District Philatelic Society: New secretary is **David Bowman**
d.bowman2@btinternet.com

Specialist Societies

Postal History Society has a new email address for all enquiries relating to the society and Postal History in general: -
enquiries@postalhistory.org.uk

150 years of the Universal Postal Union

Further to an initial exploratory meeting in Paris in 1863 called by Montgomery Blair (USA) a second meeting of national postal authorities was convened in Berne in 1874 instigated by Heinrich von Stephan (Confederation of German States). The outcome was the formation of the General Postal Union and a treaty was signed by the interested parties on 9th October in that year. This organisation was renamed the Universal Postal Union in 1878. So began the international administration body for the world's postal system based in Berne. Congresses were held every four years in various host countries to progress affairs.



In 1900 on the 25th anniversary Switzerland issued three stamps to commemorate the UPU. The extraordinary meeting called over the period 2nd to 6th July 1900 set aside funds for the building of a



Barry at the monument in Berne



The 3 Swiss 1900 25th Anniversary stamps

monument to the UPU which was unveiled on 4th October 1909.

This iconic statue in the park became the recognised “logo” of the UPU world wide.

Commemorative stamps were issued by some member countries in 1924 (Jubilee), in 1949 (75 years) and by virtually all the membership in 1974 for the centenary.

Most collectors of any country will doubtless have these in their portfolio.

This year 2024 the Universal Postal Union celebrates 150 years and on 9th October, which is designated World Post Day it will begin a themed event centred in Berne based on its 150 year logo.

Some countries have already issued stamps including our Isle of Man.

Where is the GB issue? Maybe Star Wars and Peppa Pig have precedence!

Barry W Evans

LASO Offers Philatelic Guides

Stamp collectors of all levels and interests looking for help can pose their questions to knowledgeable volunteer members of LASO--Learning About Stamps Online.

Conceived earlier this year, LASO's mission brings collectors of all ages and philatelic specialties together via the Internet, sharing knowledge and resources with one another to better appreciate, enjoy and promote the hobby. There are now 220 members from 12 countries around the globe. The first LASO Zoom open meeting took place in June with monthly presentations taking place since then.

Many members clearly expressed their need to connect with experienced collectors to answer questions they had. That's what sparked the idea of creating a list of LASO members who were willing to answer such questions, not only from members, but from the stamp collecting community as a whole. A page on the LASO web site is now dedicated to help any collector get answers. Click the "Philatelic Guides" category at the top of a page. Find the collecting area or speciality best matching the inquiry and send an email to the listed guide or guides. He or she will respond as expeditiously as possible. Please note that guides will not value or expertise items.

There is no charge to join LASO. Zoom meetings take place on the third Tuesday of every month at 8pm Eastern (midnight GMT), with an open discussion beginning at 7:30pm. → details on the LASO website [//learningaboutstamps.org/](http://learningaboutstamps.org/).

Email questions to info@learningaboutstamps.org.

The USA is making all the running for online stamp collecting activity. Who can start this ball rolling in the UK or even Europe?

8pm Eastern time in the USA is just about my bedtime, and certainly later than I would like my grandchildren to be taking Zoom calls.

IMHO the STAMPEX Virtual space is aimed just too high as is the Museum of Philately www.museumofphilately.com Both seem to be aimed at the needs of collectors buying from the great auction houses. They are wonderful to see but a long way from most collectors.

What about people thinking about restarting or even starting the hobby?

Julian Jones

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. 500 words roughly please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

A Cautionary Tale

or

You Can't Trust the Value of a Stamp.

When we go to the Post Office to buy a stamp (even though they want us to buy a label instead) we hand over a sum of money and pick up the stamp.

Sometimes it has an actual value on it – 20p, 50p etc but often it has just 2nd or 1st to show that it will pay the standard charge for a 2nd Class letter or a 1st Class letter. It might be a 2nd Large or 1st Large and so available to send a Large Letter by the appropriate class.

Now I, and possibly others, thought that the value of the stamp 85p, £1.65, £1.55 or £2.60 was retained by the stamp until Royal Mail in their wisdom (or lack of it) decided to increase the charges again. So I could use a 1st Class stamp to send something 2nd Class – augmented by suitable additional stamps to make the going rate for whatever I wanted to send or vice versa.

Yes – but – some sorting office officials see a 1st Class Stamp and say that clearly means that the item is to travel 1st Class. What happens if there are two stamps on the envelope – one 1st Class, one 2nd Class? That can happen easily if you want to send a 2nd Class Large Letter <250g. The cost is £2.50 – easy - one of each of the two standard stamps. One person at my local Post Office told me that you cannot use both types on one envelope - the stamps were already on there so I persisted. The item made it in one piece so clearly half didn't go 1st Class and the other half 2nd Class.

BUT - See this correspondence:

Message to me from Rory:

Perhaps others have informed you, or maybe the Royal Mail didn't check all the copies of the ABPS News, but I had to pay a fee of £1.50 to get my copy as it was over the first weight step, being about 110 grams.

After our response came a note of what had been received by Rory from Royal Mail when the matter was raised with them:

I have at last had a reply from Royal Mail. Their take on this is that there was no indication from the sender that it was to go by Second Class mail and he had stuck a First Class stamp on it so they assumed he wanted it to go by First Class post and therefore was underpaid at 110gms.

I don't necessarily accept this statement as I don't know if there are any Royal Mail procedures for handling apparently underpaid items, but their argument is reasonable.

Of course it took longer to reach me than First Class should have because they had to process it and I had to pay before they would deliver it.

I remember that in the old days when first and second class post was introduced we usually wrote on the cover what class we intended. I think that we need to still do that and not leave them to decide.

We have agreed with this as being the best way in future, until the rates change and we do not get the overlap of a Large 1st Class Letter <100grams being charged the same as a 2nd Class Large Letter < 250grams (as it was at the time

that the Autumn issue was sent out). Now of course the 1st Class rates have all increased so the overlap doesn't happen - but watch out!

HOWEVER - you might be lucky and come across an official with common sense:

From another correspondent, Michael:

I received my ABPS News Autumn 2024 magazine yesterday. However, before I received it I received a card from Royal Mail to say that I had a package for which I owed £1.50. I went to our local Royal Mail delivery office to collect it and the person behind the desk brought it to me and there was a yellow label on it with a "FEE TO PAY £1.50" and the box "Underpaid – Format" ticked. He looked at the envelope and said it had a 1st Class Large stamp on it and couldn't understand why such a label had been placed on it. It did not feel too heavy and not too large. Anyway he declined to accept the £1.50 and simply said he would mark it refused and let me have it!

So where do we go from here:

1. Put the service that you want on the envelope or packet
2. Don't let the person behind the counter bully you into buying what you don't want or need.
3. Stay Calm and try to be reasonable even when they aren't!
4. Don't pay their punitive charges without a fight (verbal and polite, not abusive and physical).
5. You can always refuse the item - especially if you think that you probably didn't want it in any case!
6. Ask not to have ABPS News as a printed copy - digital is quicker, easier, cheaper - and for other things send emails, texts etc until Royal Mail and the Post Office have to be taken back into public ownership - or just close down.

A bit drastic that last one perhaps but at least we won't have all those strange stamps being produced that we cannot get from our local Post Office, WH Smiths, Corner Shop or whatever tries to keep the service going.

Keith Burton

PS I enjoyed writing this - so thanks to all concerned: Post Office, Royal Mail Rory and Michael.

Stuart Rossiter Trust Announces a New Book by the late Gavin Fryer RDP FRPSL

In 2019 Gavin acquired a small bundle of WWII material which included three small format exercise books recording the correspondence received and sent by Hugh Robinson, a British Army officer prisoner of war. With his trademark research adding much background detail, Gavin tells the story of Hugh Robinson's war through his letters, postcards and Red Cross parcels featuring prunes!

Unfortunately, Gavin died before he had completed his final research, however the trustees of The Stuart Rossiter Trust felt that this story should be told and, with the agreement of Gavin's family, are pleased to publish this book.

Softback, £12.50 including UK postage Order on <https://www.rossitertrust.com/>

On the Club circuit

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

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

Local Societies

Amersham and District

The season kicked off on 12th September with a *Fill a Frame or Two: letters C, D and E*. Seven members displayed, with the subjects ranging from *Cigarettes via Dominica to Estonian Revenues*. We held our stamp fair Stampersham on 22nd September which, although heavily doused with rain, proved to be as popular and successful as last year, and was attended by 14 dealers. Sadly, the speaker was unable to visit on 26th September due to illness, but at short notice several members came to the rescue. **Tim Harrison** displayed four frames on *Postage and Official Stamps of Iceland 1873-1943*, ably supported by displays on *Robert Burns, Dominica, The Trucial States, British South Africa Company, and Abu Dhabi*. Our next auction will be held on 7th November, with 500 lots ranging from Aden to Vatican City. The



Stampersham 2024

catalogue is to be found on <https://stampersham.org.uk/>.

The members' one- and three-sheet competitions on 5th December will close the year. Highlights for early 2025 include *1887-1901 Jubilee Controls* by **Stephen Reeves** (6th February), showing some previously unknown material, *Austro-Hungarian Army and Navy in WWI* by **Roger Morrell** (6th March), *Card Post* by **Maurice Buxton** (20th March), and our Spring Auction on 3rd April.

Tim Harrison

Ayrshire

Our new session started on 3rd September with the traditional President's Night with our new president, **Russell Ramsay**, in the hot seat. Taking his cue from Michael Palin, instead of "Around the World in 80 Days" he took us *Round in 80 Minutes, in Stamps*. His display began with issues of GB and the Channel Islands before crossing into France. Crossing Europe we were treated to Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Greece, then on to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. We then sailed to India, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Japan before crossing the Pacific to the USA and back to the UK. The outgoing president, **Ian Smith**, congratulated Russell on an auspicious start to his year in office. At our latest meeting we were entertained by **Peter Smith**, one of our own members, on the topic of *The United Nations*. He opened the evening with a slide show illustrating the way that the United Nations evolved, followed by snippets from his time as a lobbyist there. This was followed by a display of New York issues of the UN, the Swiss issues first for the League of Nations, then those for the different constituent bodies, and finally the Geneva issues of the UN. It was an extremely interesting evening and the vote of thanks was given by **Ian Smith**. → Ken Gibb at ayrstamps@yahoo.com



Peter Smith receives a certificate

David Rossall

Basildon

In July **Maggie Thompson** opened *Flora & Fauna* with examples from her extensive *Triangles* collection featuring animals and flowers. **Alf Potter** reminded us of times past with three frames of *Birthday Picture Postcards* featuring flowers, mostly roses. **Len Stanway** completed the evening with a full round of the *Malaysia 1965 Definitive Issue*, covering federal (bird), state (flower), postal stationery and postage due issues. Our visitors from Benfleet PS were **Colin Evans** and **Andy Howson** who brought displays, supported by **Tony Greenland**. In August the President's Guest was **Roger Johnson** with *Sarawak*. The three Brooke "White Rajahs" were very much concerned to encourage the many peoples to develop a prosperous society based on native customs and values. It remained independent of Britain until WWII destroyed the infrastructure. Sample displays covered topics such as airmails, postal stationery, Japanese occupation, revenues, etc. Visitors Rayleigh PS were represented by **Sue Stacey** and **Roger Sentence**. Sue opened with *Assistive*

**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.**

Technology, an open philately display on devices assisting the less able members of society. The earliest recorded wheelchair was made for Philip of Spain in the 16th Century. After the break, Roger showed part of his collection of 2½d rate Wilding stamps, covers, meter marks, stationery, etc. In September **Alan Taylor** displayed *Royalty*, concentrating on a new and developing collection of Royal Visits, starting with the first post-war visits of George VI. Members' displays on *Pages from my collections* included **Ian Hunt**, **Maggie Thompson**, **Alf Potter**, **Charlie Mead** and **Len Stanway**. *Fly on the Wall*

Bolton

In July **Paul Wreglesworth** visited us. He gave us a talk and display about *The 1960s Issues of NZ Stamps*, from their original drawings to the final printing processes. Our Members' display meeting covered a large variety of topics. **Jack Lindley** brought a *Collection of Flown Covers from NZ to Australia in the 1930s*. **Roy Williamson's** covers showed the Royal Tournament held for years at Earls Court. **Derek**



Paul Wreglesworth in full flow

Earnshaw produced *Registered Covers used in the Bury area 1900s to the 1960s*, and a display on *The British Empire Games held in Sydney 1938*. **David Brigden** brought *Postcards and Covers around the Suez Canal*. Our club competition in September had lots of variety: *Thematics*, *NZ hand-painted Covers*, *US Navy Covers*, *Stamps and covers showing The Namib Desert*, *French stamps and Covers showing Painters and TPOs in early 20C Egypt*. *Postal History* was covered by *Belgium Rail Parcel Stamps*, *Early 20C Egyptian Hotel Mail*, *NZ WWI Troopship Mail* and *Postal History of Tarn, France*. The last category was 16 sheets on any subject which comprised *WWI NZ Transport Ship Mail*, *Saucy Seaside Postcards*, *Early Egyptian Tobacco Industry-related Covers* and finally *French Revolution Period Covers*. Quite a busy 3 months.
 ➔ our Facebook page for future events. *Henry Lisowski*

Bookham

In July we had an enjoyable display from **Sue Burns** entitled *Smithy and his Bus*. Sue's display was structured around **Ian Mackersey's** book on Charles Kingsford Smith, or as he was known to everyone, Smithy. Smithy learnt to fly during WWI and went on to be the first person and his aircraft, the Southern



John Davies explaining

Cross, the first aircraft to circumnavigate the world. In addition to the mail carried, Sue also showed a large amount of supporting material such as correspondence, tickets and brochures. August brought us a wonderful display from **John Davies** - *Fifty years of the Uniform Penny Postage* and *The Introduction of the Penny Black* which were celebrated with major events, including Grand Exhibitions and Conversazioni at the Guildhall, and the Post Office event at South Kensington Museum, as well as an exhibition organised by the London Philatelic Society (now the "Royal"). The display brought together the full history of these events with illustrations of the philatelic material and

ephemera produced during the celebrations. September included a members' day with a thematic theme for the annual Roy Gilbert Cup. A variety of material was shown from 18 members. The winner will be announced at our Christmas meeting. → www.bookhamstampclub.com

Barry Feltham

Burnley & District

The stamp exhibition for August in Burnley Central Library promoting our 80th year of Stamping around Burnley and District showed postal history and our own society archives. The life of our late Queen Elizabeth II featured pictorially in the stamps and we included the newer barcoded versions of King Charles III. Hopefully we can use this to further the hobby and gain new members. However we do empathise with all the points raised by Salisbury PS in recent issues about ways of increasing membership. We only seem to gain some attention when folks have unexpected collection finds in their attics and are at a loss what do with them. We can only continue to advise and publicise in supermarkets, libraries and park notice boards. Meantime we hold onto what we have, our own enthusiastic, die-hard, social bunch! We started up again after a summer break with a *Latest Acquisitions* night, caught up with the membership and handed over the new season to our new president, **Howard Hughes**. Our speaker season starts with *Postcards from Switzerland*, *150 years of the Universal Postal Union*, *Rail Trips from the North*, *Victoriana*, *Aspects of France* and *Things from Down Under* (New Zealand). This will see us through to Christmas. Happy New Year!



Peter Markham (retiring) and Howard Hughes our incoming President

Barry W Evans

Caledonian

The first meeting of the 2024/25 session of the society was held on the 3rd October 2024 with the Presidential Display given by **Andrew Black**. The display was entitled *Caribbean Airmails* but also covered Central America. Andrew is an accomplished artist and many of his sheets were embellished with beautiful watercolour images. A wide range of countries was covered including Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela and the Leeward Islands, so there was much of interest even if you did not collect Airmails. An impressive display accompanied by knowledgeable explanations.



Andrew pointing out a highlight in his display

Stewart Gardiner

Cambridge

At the July Zoom meeting, **Chris Hill** gave a very detailed and informative display of *Germany to Unification*, with scans of all the many different stamps involved over a complex period for Germany. The early August meeting was a Members' Evening on *Show What You Like*. As is usual at such meetings a very varied range of stamps and covers were displayed. For the September Zoom display we teamed up with Harrogate PS for a series of six-minutes-maximum displays from as many participants as possible over an almost two hour connection. A mixture of mainly stamp displays and postal history were very evident across the evening covering a wide area of philately. Our president, **Rufus Barnes**, gave two different displays in early October. The first covered *Burma* which commenced with many different shipping covers and covers from travelling post offices. This was followed by a series of *WWI censorship marks on covers* and then various *WWII covers depicting the East Africa Brigade*. The second half comprised *Abu Dhabi* with postal covers and the first stamps of 1964, followed by re-prints and varieties. Many later issued stamps and covers followed, including a batch of aerograms.

➔ info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

Our first meeting back from our summer break on 10th September was members presenting new acquisitions covering a good range of subjects from the *Gilbert and Ellice Islands* to the *Last Flight from Hong Kong before the Japanese Invasion of WWII*. A fortnight later we were delighted to welcome back **Giles du**

Boulay with an excellent presentation containing a wealth of material entitled *Prussia from 1793 to 1920*. In October long-time member **Norman Sharpe** gave a very entertaining and informative display entitled *My Favourite GB Items*. New members and visitors are always welcome. → Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or daveeverard@live.com
David Everard

Cheltenham

This season's programme started with a most diverse evening of *Recent Acquisitions* with six members showing *Tredegar House Postcards*, *Edward VIII, Gibraltar*, a bargain purchase of *Early Sweden, Algerian Railway Stamps, Thule, South Moluccas, Mexican Exporta series artwork* and *old SG colour guides!* Topping this off were two very modern rarities – subscription reminder envelopes to club members postmarked 32nd July! At the start of our second meeting the Rose Bowl was awarded to **Josie Remes** for her *William the Conqueror* entry (which she narrated in a poem!) and **Brian Garnier** received



Josie receives the Rose Bowl and Brian the Memorial Shield - well done!

the Victor Turner Memorial Shield (best talk by a club member) for *Bermuda*. Egypt specialist **John Davis** showed the interesting *Philately and Postal History of King Farouk* as the main item of the second meeting. Andrew Millington

Chichester and District

In August **Heather Lawn** showed a vast cornucopia of colourful stamps - blocks, letters, covers, and more, all featuring a wide variety of *Parrots*. She showed Tonga's first issue of a parrot stamp from the 1890s, a Solomon Islands \$2 Pygmy parrot stamp. These parrots are three inches high. Compare that to the over three-foot long Hyacinth Macaw. The biannual competition evening in September was a success with many interesting entries. Indeed, so much enthusiasm was shown that the competition secretary **Alan Bush** worked overtime! The ST Birkin Modern trophy was awarded to **Russell Hill** with an amusing display of *Donald McGill's Banned Comic Postcards*. Some were deemed so risqué that in 1953 a complaint was made to the police. Second

place was **Heather Lawn**, (*Systematics of Parrots*), and third was **John Armstone** (*Local Posts of the British Isles*). The Allam Postal History Plate had Joint First place winners:- **Christopher Podger** (*Cyprus Queen Victoria Payment and Accounting for Unpaid Post*) and **Frank Griffiths** (*Virgin Islands/ Leeward Islands Used in the British Virgin Islands*). The Peal Cup went to **Heather Lawn** (*Morphology of Parrots*) - a colourful and well-executed display of parrots and their scientific backgrounds. Second place was **Frank Griffiths** (US Virgin Islands) and joint third were **Michael Asteris** (*The Royal Navy HMY Britannia*) and **John Armstone** (*First Air Mail From England to Australia*). Other members who displayed were **Christopher Dudeney**, **John Armstone** and **Martha Brown**. → [//chichesterps.wixsite.com/chichester](https://chichesterps.wixsite.com/chichester) or 01243-527068.

Alan Green & Martha Brown

Dawlish

Our September meeting was extremely well-attended with several visitors. They heard presentations on *The Postal Markings from Army Training Camps on Salisbury Plain during both WWI and WWII* by **Colin French** and about *Stamps issued by The Colonies of France* by **Bill Lusty**. In addition attendees had a lot of donated philatelic material available to sort through and make donations to the club for anything they decided to take. Our next Zoom meeting was on the subject of *The Messages on Postage Stamps*. We were delighted to welcome **Adél Bulpitt** to our meeting on 9th October when she delivered very well



received presentations on *Antonio Gaudi, the Spanish architect and designer*, and *Australian States*. The following day she was able to attend a reception, along with a number of other members, organised by **Robin Buchanan**, our secretary. Adél, who lives in Pretoria, South Africa, is on a six-week visit to the UK, during which she has also visited the Cambridge PS and is planning to spend time at Stampex in London later this month. She has been a passionate collector of stamps for over 20 years and is currently President of the Pretoria Philatelic Society. Many readers will have met Adél on Zoom meetings. The link for Zoom meetings can be found on the club's website, these meetings start at 7.00pm. → dawlishsc.org or 01626 864844 Jim Wigmore & Robin Buchanan

Glasgow

Our first meeting of the 2024/25 session was held on 17th September 2024 with the Presidential Display given by **Sandy Kerr**. The first round was a very interesting and attractive display entitled *Biodiversity in Scotland* opening with a comprehensive explanation. The display covered the diversity of several species native to Scotland including butterflies whose numbers, sadly, are rapidly declining. Sandy introduced the second round covering *Scouting* with a very interesting talk on the origins of the scout movement. The display itself comprised stamps, miniature sheets and ephemera issued by many countries in 2007, commemorating the centenary of the first scout camp. The meeting was well attended by 16 members and guests. The society meets in Partick Borough Hall in Glasgow every two weeks from September to March.



Sandy Kerr making a point

Stewart Gardiner

Grantham



Bill in full flow

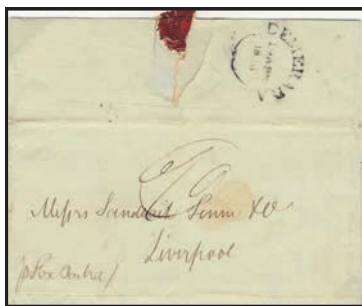
Our August meeting was well-attended for the talk and display by **Bill Barrell** on the *GB Postal Reform 1d Value 1840 to 1880*. This was an exceptional and brilliant display by one of the country's foremost experts on the subject. September saw our internal Club Competition night with five entries from four members being judged by **Richard Husband**. Nine-sheet displays on Traditional, Thematic, Aerophilately and Postal History were shown with the most points (85) being awarded to **Wojciech** for his *Czech Postal History* display closely followed by **Fina** with 84 points for her Traditional display on *El Cid*. All are welcome, along with anyone who wishes to attend our monthly Zoom meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. For details of the Zoom meeting → MAVlodge@btinternet.com

Steve Carter

Guildford

Our 2024/25 season commenced with the President's Evening. **Susan Taylor** took members through *400 years of Caribbean Postal History up to 1900*,

highlighting many of the common themes and several of the differences between islands. She introduced members to some excellent online resources, including **John Olenkiewicz's** record of packets and the artist **Nicolas Pocock's** illustrated diary of his travels on the *York*. The presentation included many early covers, some kindly provided by **James Podger**, that illustrated the various postmarks and stamps used over the period. Susan provided a handout that included a map of the Caribbean and lists of key developments and killer cancels used. In October, **Peter Wood** gave a presentation entitled *The Road to Irish Independence* showing detailed knowledge of 200 years of history with a magnificent display of ephemera, postcards, letters and stamps. Both meetings were well-attended and the club continues to grow. Our next meeting will be *Australia 1913-2013* on 13th November, followed by our Christmas Social Evening on 11th December, including the annual competition, quiz etc., and *Africa and Adjacent Islands* on 8th January.



*British Guiana Demerara
Large Fleuron 6s 9d Triple
Rate*

→ www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub Susan Taylor and Rob Cooke

Harrogate

The new season of meetings began on the 20th September with a Zoom meeting held jointly with Cambridge PS with nearly 40 attendees. The title *In the Beginning* had attendees scratching their heads for ideas, but as usual they produced the goods with displays ranging from *The Birth of the Universe* to the *Scottish Penny Post* via *Stamp Colour Changes* and *Baden*. It was a philatelic feast. Visitors to the meeting came from Pretoria, Cambridgeshire, Stockport, York and Hull. **Rufus Barnes** from Cambridge, proposed thanks to Keith for arranging the meeting. At the next face-to-face meeting, we enjoyed a display by **Norman Hudson** on the life and work of *Alfonso Mucha*. He showed correspondence to and from Mucha including one from the sculptor Claude Rodin. Mucha designed a 100 koruna banknote in 1918 incorporating a portrait of Josephina Crane Bradley, and the famous first stamps of the newly independent Czechoslovakia. The second part of the display was of the *Tatra Mountains* depicted on stamps and postal stationery. At our first afternoon meeting, displays included a cover charged £7 for delivery, which, according to the Post Office/Royal Mail had previously used stamps on it, postcards of Ripon including one showing 'Old Boots at the Unicorn Inn 1762' who was supposedly able to balance a penny between his nose and chin, and Florence Farmborough, an English woman who worked for Radio Nacional during the Spanish Civil War. Harrogate have truly started the new season of meetings in fine style.

Edith Knight

Henley & District

Like many societies, we are losing members and so are looking for new ones to join our friendly group. The loss of members over several years has been for many reasons, especially as we are getting older. The big question has been to find the solution to this and attract younger people. Over the last year we have had some very interesting guest speakers with wonderful displays. Some of the subjects have ranged from *Smithy, Australia's Most Famous Aviator* to *Bailiwick of Guernsey* and woven into this program we had a very successful auction and an evening of practical tips to help improve our collections. This year we are anticipating a program of more interesting subjects and speakers and we are looking forward to our auction in March. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 pm.



→ Steve on 07767 251670 or www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk Steve Hewitt

Hereford & Mid Wales

Our season got off to a splendid start with so many members wanting to display from *The Letters N, O, P* that there was insufficient time for our president to show his material! Topics included *Nature, Polar Wildlife* (not just Bears and Penguins); *Overprints from Brazil* and *Obock, Officials* (some also overprinted), *Postcards from Ost Afrika, Postal Cards*; stamps from *Peru, Portugal, Österreich* and *Postal Marks from Newark, Numeric Postmarks, Postal Stationery from Nossi-Be* and *Pictorial Stamps featuring Opera Houses, Postboxes and Primroses*. For our October meeting we were privileged to have **Mike Kentzer FRPSL** showing us his *Mail into Scotland during the period of the "Additional ½d"* together with a whistle-stop journey on the *Whitby to Scarborough Railway*. Technology was used to the full, with Mike's main presentation being given using PowerPoint whilst simultaneously being viewed over Zoom by members who were unable to attend in person. From November until March 2025 our meetings will be held experimentally in the afternoon on Wednesdays (6th Nov, 4th Dec, 8th Jan, 5th Feb & 5th Mar) starting at 2pm to make the most of winter daylight. Topics will be as varied as usual and visiting guests will continue to be made most welcome.

Janet Nelson FRPSL

Huddersfield

In our first meeting of the new season, in September, **Adrian Lee** presented *GB issues from 1980 to 1995 – Royal Mail changes to postage stamps as a result of Fraud Prevention*. He pointed out that a lot of material/information is available, relatively cheaply, including from past editions of the Philatelic Bulletin. Adrian advised how Royal Mail undertook much work on fraud prevention, particularly



Adrian with his display

for the definitives, but also with the commemorative stamps. The high value castle definitives, especially, demonstrate the changes that Royal Mail made. This culminated in the production of the £10 stamp with brail embossed, heat-sensitive ink, silk thread embedded in the paper and elliptical perforations. As well as the fascinating presentation topic, Adrian also took the opportunity to outline the relative ease with which a presentation might be put together for display.

→ jtaylor3@ntlworld.com for further details.
Jon Taylor

Hull

Our new season got off to a good start with interesting displays from two visiting speakers. The first was **Geoff Blackwell**, showing *Photography*. His display led us through the development of photography from the pioneers of the early 1800s all the way to the holographic images found on some modern stamps. He told us how it had been pointed out to the Post Office in the very early days of the penny black era that photography might provide a means of forgery, depriving the authorities of revenue. This was dismissed as unlikely. We heard stories of early experiments and saw two covers addressed to Henry Fox-Talbot, one of the pioneers of the science of photography. The advent of cinematography led to the famous sequence of a galloping horse, which settled arguments as to the horse's gait. Our second visitor was **Steve Harrison**, showing a potted history of *The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 1909 to 1946*. A wealth of illustrative material included labels from Perkins Bacon in the early years, De La Rue and of course, Harrison. Material from the 1911 Birmingham Congress included a



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Displays lead to discussion

proof of an inverted watermark. Was this an early example of cynically 'philatelic' material? An outstanding item was the hand-painted essay for the 1933 label showing extremely fine detail. The 1940 programme included a 'Philatelic Writers' Breakfast', maybe an event which the RPSL might be encouraged to revive at the next Crawford Festival?

Daphne McMillan

King's Lynn

April continued with an informative display by **David Leathart** on *Specimen Stamps and Postal Stationery 1694 to 1902*. David was commended for showing every conceivable example of beautifully engraved revenue tax stamps. The 16-sheet competition entries were judged on 26th April whilst members enjoyed searching for a bargain amongst the Bring & Buy tables. During May **Malcolm Gascoyne** gave an illustrative and very entertaining zoom presentation on *The Development of the Picture Postcard*. The season finished with the AGM and members' one-frame displays – always an excellent and enjoyable evening with a diversity of subjects. In September the first Zoom of the season was **Mark Bailey's** *Business in Abchurch Lane, London*, an absorbing history enjoyed by all attendees. **Geoff Blackwell** presented an unusual and captivating display on *Photography and the Postage Stamp*. The month ended with a display by **Adrian Boggust** on *Newfoundland 1857-1947*, a fascinating history in stamps, postal history and airmail of a small territory and how it survived. October's Zoom meeting on *The Great British Seaside Piers* by **Barry Feltham** was very entertaining, evoking happy memories of bygone childhood holidays for some. The next meeting a number of members displayed items from their picture postcard collections. Subjects included *Royal Marine Training on Malta*, *Prince of Wales 1922 Tour of North Borneo*, a miscellany of general items, superb *Oilette cards of Whitby*, *Edward VII-era Postcard Postmarks and Vignettes*, *Sandringham Royalty with Mailcars and Post Offices*, *Singapore*, *Malawi* and finally *Scouts-related Cards*. *Dahlia Harrison*



Adrian Boggust receives his certificate from president Donny Birdseye

Largs & District

Our new president, **Ricky Boyd**, started the 2024-25 session with a selection of his wide-ranging philatelic interests. This included covers and other memorabilia from his trip to the *D-Day beaches and Other Sites in France*, including Pegasus Bridge, with one signed by the son of Stag, the weatherman; *Battle of Britain Covers* and others commemorating *VC Winners*. Ricky's other rounds ranged through *Washington, the Schneider Trophy, BOAC, Antarctica, Transport, The Falklands* and *Scottish Congress covers*. **Robert Watt**, the outgoing president, gave the vote of thanks. In September we were pleased to welcome **Sandy Kerr**




Angus Dodds and Sandy Kerr

showing us the *Biodiversity of Scotland*. In his first round he introduced us to genetic makeup, habitats, mammals, extinctions, families and insects. In the second round we saw marine mammals, birds, swans and ducks, cryptogams, Post and Go issues and freshwater creatures, mainly fish. Our October meeting was entitled *How to...* Our members were asked to bring a representation of their collection to show how each of us has a different approach. **David Rossall** opened by saying that unless you are exploring

competitive philately, with its own rules and regulations, there is no right or wrong way to collect. Stamp collecting is a hobby for personal enjoyment. In two rounds most of the members showed what, why and how they collected, some showing how their collecting styles had developed and others asking for pointers as to where they should proceed. All agreed that it had been a useful, interesting evening. → davidrossall@sky.com David Rossall

Launceston

At our August meeting Neil Sargent's display was *The Countries that Made Rhodesia and Nyasaland*. Neil began with the British South Africa Company,

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followed by a short-lived federation and its breakdown, then independence for Malawi and Zambia and the turmoil of Southern Rhodesia. The whole display comprised postal stationery of all classes and rates. In September the speaker was **David Hatwell** whose subject was *London's Stamp Centre-Selfridges 1931-*



David receiving his certificate from Evelyn Sandercock

1939. David opened by outlining the early life of Harry Gordon Selfridge, an American who worked for the Marshall Field department stores, working his way up through the ranks to senior positions until able to come to London in 1908 and open his own store, Selfridges, on Oxford

Street. In 1909 after Louis Bleriot's flight across the Channel his monoplane went on display at Selfridges. David showed a postcard featuring Bleriot and his plane. During the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations of 1935 and 1937 the Selfridges building was elaborately decorated. David showed superb coloured illustrations of the decorations. In 1931 Selfridges established a stamp department and was instrumental in publishing the Stamp Magazine. The stamp department was also active in the production of first day covers. Despite David's research the Selfridges archivists said the stamp department did not exist!! The department closed in 1939. David then showed an almost complete collection of the 1937 Coronation first day covers produced by Selfridges. He encouraged discussion on the possibility of some of the postmarks being forged. No conclusions were reached!

Viv Sandercock

Leeds

In August we enjoyed meeting each other in a member's garden. Our 2024-25 season opened with a *Variety Night* by **Rick Rickwood** on September 10th, when he showed *Pre-stamp material from 1720 up to the Penny Post*. He continued with some of his wonderful *Foreign Letters up to 1957*. His second half showed *Paris Étoiles, Mexican Postal History* and his favourite *Volcanoes*. On September 24th **Tony Taylor** shared an interesting display of *Moroccan Agencies with Postal History from Tangier, Mogador, Casablanca between 1890 and 1898*. His second half showed a display of *King George V and some Perfins*. On October 8th we had the pleasure of three visitors from Morecambe society. The first display was of *New Zealand and the History of Flight Routes to the US*. The second display was of *Penny Reds and all the Varieties*, specialising in plate 55. Our third guest's title was *1945 Wots American* showing two frames of 1945 covers, reply covers and then advertising covers, which provided much interest. Advertising covers show the social history of the times.

In the Guardian of May 8th 2024 the title “Nothing to write home about? Phones risk killing off holiday postcards”. This may be of interest to some readers. We look forward to our 2024 Leeds Stamp Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall on November 16th and 17th. All welcome.

Liz Schweiger

Lewisham

Our meeting on 1st October was a first for our speaker – her first presentation to a philatelic society. In terms of content and delivery, however, it was a highly professional session.

Rebecca Clarke gave us an enthralling account of her ‘grandfather-in-law’s’ time as *A Prisoner of War in Norway during the First World War*.

Supported by a wealth of letters, postcards, and memorabilia, she related how Arnold Clarke had signed up as a sailor in 1914, went aboard the converted P & O cruiser *HMS India* in April 1915, and was rescued from the water after a U-boat attack off the coast of Norway. Rebecca had been drawn into the story through boxes of papers inherited from her husband’s great-aunts,

only to discover that further letters were circulating amongst collectors, particularly those with interests in the WWI and Norwegian postal history. Through her thorough research she had been in touch with descendants of some 30 other members of the *India*’s crew,

obtained a copy of an account of the sinking written by a survivor, and even found a report from one of the U-boat sailors. Life in the internment camp was safe, but incredibly boring and very cold (down to -21°C!). She has written a book about it all (eagerly snapped up by some of the audience!) entitled ‘A Bare Chronicle of Existence’ – this is a quote from one of Arnold’s letters, summing up his time as an internee in Norway. → hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

Tony Holdsworth



Rebecca with *HMS India*

Lostock

In July **Mark Everiss** from Burnley entertained us with his fascinating talk *Georgia, British Occupation of Batum*, including various forgeries and an amusing story about how on one occasion Mark really wanted a particular set of stamps from that area costing several hundred pounds. But because it was around Christmas time and he had four young children he talked to his wife and decided to officially abandon the idea of buying the stamps. In secret he put in a bid but was outbid. On Christmas morning he had a lovely surprise - one of his presents was the set of stamps. Unknowingly his wife had bid against him to get them for him. In August **Barry Evans** also from Burnley gave his talk on *St Kilda to Tristan Da Cunha*. Barry always goes into great detail because he likes to research every aspect of whatever subject he talks about. September was our

Famous for Five Minutes when members display something from their collection usually about five sheets with a little bit of fun as we each talked about our stamps. In October **Arthur Jennon** visited with *Returning to Railways Special 150 years*. Finally members were reminded that on the 5th November our member **Phil Wharmby** will be our main speaker. We end the year on the 3rd December with *Members' Open Christmas Lunch* with families and friends.

David Morley

Lothian

The season opened on the 24th September when we gladly returned to a refurbished church hall which seems a little cosier than our last season of meetings. President **Bill Torrance** presented us with a most cheerful and colourful display of UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands entitled *Childhood & Beyond*. During this meeting we also celebrated the appointment of a long-term member **Dr John Law** as an Honorary Member of the group. Sadly in

August, the Lothian philatelic scene lost a long-standing and well-respected member, **David Mekie**. Our 2024-25 season consists of fourteen fortnightly meetings but with a longer Christmas break to allow for the winter weather. We meet in St Marks Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. Doors open at 19:00.

→ <https://edinphil.wordpress.com/>

Steve Cowles

Maidstone & District

Our 2023/24 season finished in early June with the AGM and Social and we were fortunate to have had a good season of meetings with a regular attendance and two new members. The programme for the forthcoming season has been finalised by our very efficient programme secretary and consists of 18 evening and 9 morning meetings including *Postal History for Haiti and Plymouth*, *Postal Stationery from New Zealand*, *Light Houses* and *League of Nations* and society visits, plus the usual members' evenings, competitions and auction. The morning meetings include *Czechoslovakia*, *Christmas*, *Red Cross*, *London Coffee Houses*, *Republic of Venice* and *The Ottoman Empire*. The first meetings for both evening and morning were members' displays of *Military and Music* and were well supported. Our first speaker of the season was **Geoff Hannay** with a fine display of *Haiti* from which we learnt that the role of president is not a secure job, as many of the stamps showed every new president. The display also included a fine display not only of stamps but postal history and numerous forgeries. We are now looking forward to **Robin Tapper's** display of *Plymouth Postal History*.

Brian Stonestreet



Dr John Law Honorary Member

Norfolk and Norwich

Several changes in personnel have emerged for the 2024-2025 season. **Larry Lewendon** has become secretary, relinquishing his former treasurer role to **Peter Boyce**. **John Moseley** is our new membership secretary, but **David McIntosh** continues as President. A full programme is already in place for our usual twice-monthly Tuesday evening meetings, though an innovation was an afternoon meeting on 22nd October at 2 pm when **Peter Boyce** displayed *Norway*. We are delighted to welcome **Chris Harman** on 12th November to display *Cinderellas* and to enjoy his wealth of knowledge and unusual material.

Chris Southgate

North-West Kent

Our year started on the 9th January with members 8-page displays or 50p fine. Later president **Geoff Hanney** gave a display describing *The Construction of the Panama Canal and the subsequent Exposition*. In February **Paul Skinner** brought in a lively display of *Jersey under German Occupation*. On March 12th we welcomed **Giles Du Boulay**, who always has a lot of varied material to show the diverse *Story of Danzig*. **Barbara Priddy** followed with her tales of *West African Airmails*. In April we had short displays by members and our AGM. In May **Don Davies** brought his slant on *British Postal History*, from pre-1840, the early postal services, pre-paid & payment on arrival and many other trials to prevent fraudulent use through to modern forgeries. Our first round of club competitions featured 2- & 5-page competitions, both won by **John Sinfield**. In June our meeting was **Colin Evans**, with his stories of *Ross Dependency*, tales of *Scott & Amundsen's Race to the Pole*, the *Research Stations* following on to annual new issues. Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS paid us a visit. **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins** gave a *History of Ukraine* and **Tony Davis** told *The Story of the Twopenny Blue* and a resumé of the *Variety of Inks used* and *A Short Tale of Registration Fees*. Then **Colin Walsberg** gave us *The History of the Cunard Queens* from 1936 to date.

John Sinfield

Oxford

An evening on *Airmails* produced a variety of air letters, first flight, crash mail, even airmail labels and pigeons! At the next meeting, the annual presidential evening produced an extensive and interesting display on the *Nigerian city of Abeokuta*, including double frames on postcard sent from CCC (Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club) members to a local trader, as well as items associated with a colonial officer who acted as Resident during the 1930s. In July, **Michael Fernbank** visited us to show *Maltese Postal History up to the 1920s*, as well as *Malta in the World Wars*. The final meeting of the 2023-24 season was a busy evening for swapping, buying and chatting. After over 40 years as our packet treasurer, the indefatigable **Laurie Simmons** retired; it was heartening to see **Grahame Allen** immediately volunteer to be Laurie's successor. In September, members paid their subscriptions whilst a Silent Auction played out quietly in the background. Early October saw a meeting on *The*

Letters XYZ which produced a nice selection of relevant countries, sports, artists and the yellow stamps of Greenland!
Dr Simon Heap

City of Preston

Our programme of meetings resumed in September after a Summer break. Our meetings are held at The Thurlby Club in Ashton in Preston and its good to see up to 16 members joining us on Thursday evenings. September's meeting was for Members' Displays - up to 10 sheets. **Chris Jackson** presented his recently acquired *Egypt* stamps, while **Geoff Dyer** treated us to a display of his recent additions to his *SWA and South Africa* Collection. We were also pleased to see **Geoff Clarke**'s magnificent *Bird Photographs*. As he explained you need a great deal of patience and a level of good luck. Also in September we had an amazing presentation by **Peter McCann** on *Victorian Stamps and Covers*. Peter is an expert on Victorian postage and showed some exceptional items especially with embossed stamps. We were all enthralled by his presentation and particularly how he sources items on eBay. Future items in our programme include members **Geoff Henckel** and **Paul Walton** respectively showing *Let Me Entertain You* and *The Emergence of the Balkan States*. As you can see we are not strangers to variety and/or varieties. Check our web site for details, but be assured of a friendly welcome if you would like to join us. *Bernard Walmsley*

Rochdale

At our October monthly meeting, members welcomed Burnley Philatelic Society on their annual visit. We commenced with **Peter Markham** presenting his collection of *GB Victorian Line-engraved 2d Blue Stamps and Covers*. Following on, **Barry Evans** gave a talk on the *History of The Universal Postal Union* from its inception on the 9th October 1874 to its 150th anniversary on 9th October 2024. Our final session by **Howard Hughes** was about *GB Edinburgh Postmarks* regarding the use of Maltese Cross cancellations as used in receiving houses. New members are always welcome at our meetings. Our next evening will be about UNESCO. *Peter Grimshaw*

Royal Sutton Coldfield

In September, **David MacDonald** gave us a great display *A Danish Miscellany* which aroused a lot of interest from members, especially since most of us had not seen many early stamps from Denmark before. I was particularly interested because I am starting to collect the Danish West Indies. David was formerly a member of our society before moving elsewhere - so long ago only one member could remember him! It was a good reunion. He also warned us about philatelic creep! All guilty of this I expect. *Margaret Langley*



Plenty to view

Salisbury & District

At the season's second meeting we started with members being able to choose from a gift of old albums and stamp leaves, which had been given to the society. They then made a donation to the society. The treasurer was kept reasonably busy. The main part of the evening was a talk by **Keith Chadwick** about *Hong Kong Airmails*. He spoke with good humour and in a light-hearted and informative manner. His interest in Hong Kong derived from him being a pilot for the RAF, BOAC and finally BA. The main route he flew was to the Asia-Pacific region and in particular Hong Kong. He described the development of air transport used by the Hong Kong Post Office to carry mail to and from the colony. Pre-war it included the use by Air France, KLM, Pan Am and Imperial Airways. The second half described the resumption of services after the war, the start of the jet operations and the use of Kai Tak airfield until its closure in 1998. It was interesting to see how throughout the period many nations and airlines were jostling for supremacy on the various routes. Politics was never absent. The planes involved went from Fokker transport planes through to jumbo jets. It was surprising how many members came out of the woodwork and had connections either with the RAF or the region. We were very lucky to have had Keith talking to us.

Michael Moody



Salisbury's stand at the Salisbury Stamp Fair

Twickenham and District

After a short summer break and a good 2023-24, the new season is upon us. We meet on the first Thursday of every month (September – June) at Teddington Methodist Church, Stanley Road, Teddington from 1pm. On the third Thursday we meet via Zoom and have participants from around the world. (Especially as our Vice President has decided to move back to the States!!). Everyone is welcome to join our Zoom meetings and our subjects cover all aspects of philately. December 19th is *Postal Stationery*, January 16th *Air Mails*, February 20th *Asia*. Our first meeting for 2025 is on 2nd January when we will be

having an auction, open to all. Catalogues will be available beforehand, and bids can be submitted via email. On February 6th we will be entertained by Ashford & District PS and on March 6th we are going to have *So You Want to Display* - a demonstration session which will include online presentations. To take part in any of the Zoom meetings or for any other information contact the secretary **Huw Williams** via email huwie35@sky.com Huw Williams

Wakefield.

On the 17th July our past president, **Philip Reynolds**, presented an interesting display of *Japan*. Our next meeting on the 29th was a Zoom session with **Mike Kentzner FRPSL** who entertained us with a display *Additional Halfpenny Scottish Wheel Tax from Abroad*. On 7th August a members' evening was entitled *My Other Collections & A Mystery Display* when members were invited to bring along items outside their usual. This included: **Graham Winters FRPSL** *Mystery collection of Snowdon Mountain Railways* together with *A Collection of Handbells*; **Jill Fearons** *Ships' Menus*; **Glen Fearons** *The Vietnam War 1960/70s*; **Philip Reynolds** *Japanese Military History Books by Publishers Ospreys* and **David Hemingway** *A Million and One Insects*. At the end of August **Graham** and **Eve Winters** kindly welcomed members into their garden for the *Annual Barbeque*. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed themselves. September commenced with **Brian** and **Julie Hitchcock** entertaining the members. Brian displayed *GB EDVII & GV* and Julie a number of her *Postcard Collections*. On the 18th September **Nigel Grizzard** paid a visit with his *Bradford: from the West Riding to the Continent & More* followed by *The Future of the Stamp Trade*. This was followed by a Zoom display of *Norwegian Whaling Mail* on 23rd September by **Robert McMillan FRPSL**.

Julie Hitchcock

Watford

In May we held our AGM and welcomed **Arthur Howell** onto the committee. With the official business quickly executed, it was time for our annual informal cup competitions with members voting for the winner. There were eight entries in the six-page competition, which had to be (very loosely!) based on the letters *M, N and O*. The S A Jones Cup was awarded to **Wayne Cox** with *Mexico? No, Oaxaca!*. The one-page competition, for the Victor Punter Memorial Trophy, produced seven entries, and was again won by **Wayne** with *Philatelic Firsts*. For our final meeting before the summer break we welcomed **John Spencer** from Leighton Buzzard, who gave us an excellent display of *King George VI British Empire Definitives*. John showed us some beautiful examples of engraving and printing expertise, and included all manner of 'fly-speck' flaws, which he detects with the use of a microscope! ➔01923 218433 Wayne Cox

West Riding

Our 2024 season of informal meetings continued with displays in September including one by **Tony Plumbe** with *Nyasaland WWI and WWII censored mail*. He covered incoming, outgoing and transit military, concessionary and civilian

mail. Tony explained during WWI Nyasaland was a supply route to German East Africa. Germany (Schutztruppe) attempted to cut the rail line along this route which was prevented by actions of the Belgian and British forces with local Askari, South African and Southern Rhodesian – about 45 000 troops. Numbers of troops in the area from many different nations generated civil, military, POW and Red Cross mail - examples of which were contained in the display; many of these items being scarce. WWII generated a situation of civilian and military censors which was introduced immediately on the outbreak of war. The display contained examples of "Q" code cachets and applied paper seals. Tony had formed a study of the various types of cachets and tapes used and mails sent via Thomas Cook & Son London. He explained that examples of military censorship of mail within Nyasaland are scarce because their troops were moved to Kenya, however that did generate more inward censored mail. We saw examples of Army A600 shield, East Africa Command type cachets and POW/Red Cross covers. Examples of the various postage rates in use at the time produced a colourful display of the variety of stamps applied together with censor tapes and cachets.

Adrian Lee

York

Our society continues its long relationship with Munster Philatelic Society. A group of their members visited us in July 2024. They went to the York Stamp Fair on the Friday and Saturday and between those spending possibilities had a social meeting with some of our members on the Friday evening. They have invited us to reciprocate so we are now considering a visit in the other direction with York members going to Munster at the end of May 2025. In August **Mike Kentzner** visited us from Kings Lynn to show Scottish Postal History with *Mail from a Variety of Different Countries 1813 onwards* including lots of stories within the display. He followed with *Scarborough to Whitby Railway* – local and very interesting.

Colin Lea

Federations

Cornwall

Cornwall were proud to come a close second in the InterFed Competition at York. Chairman **Neil Sargent** made a presentation to **Barry Mudie** at Launceston's August meeting. Barrie was awarded a Large Gold medal for his *Channel Islanders' Internee Mail* entry.

Viv Sandercock



Essex

The Federation continues to produce a regular bulletin for its 15 member societies. This gives details of the secretaries and venues. It helps if changes are sent in as soon as possible. There is also news of society meetings.

Glasgow Thematic Society

is host to the annual Scottish national

ASPS (Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies) Congress

to be held on
4th and 5th April

at The Vine Conference Centre, 131 Garvock Hill,
Dunfermline, Fife KY11 4JU.

This event attracts dealers and visitors from across the UK and helps promote philatelic collecting in all its forms.

The theme for Congress in 2025 is the centenary of John Logie Baird, the Scot who produced the first working images on what came to be known as 'television' in 1925 - a creation that has had global impact.

As host society, the Glasgow Thematic are producing a souvenir cover to mark the centenary and providing over 40 framed exhibits on various themes.

There will be the usual attractions - the Tom Reilly display, the Alan Watson (open) competition, junior displays, other society displays, and exhibits for other high level competitions.

Many of the usual philatelic dealers will be present and a dinner will be held on Friday evening, with good food and the usual highly entertaining after-dinner speech.

The 2025 Congress is the first to be held in Dunfermline, proud city, ancient capital of Scotland and the birthplace of Andrew the Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist.

The Glasgow Thematic Society intends this to be a highly memorable event.

Midlands

MIDPEX 2025

Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

5th July 2025 10:00am – 4:30pm

Plans for MIDPEX, sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd have been confirmed and dealers and societies are now booking up for this popular and successful show. Organiser, **Steve Harrison**, commented "Dealers are always enthusiastic about the show and many of them, as well as the specialist societies, have confirmed they are taking part with over 30 dealers already booked and at least 20 specialist societies taking part. This is very encouraging at such an early stage. This is a great opportunity for both dealers and collectors to enjoy a quality philatelic event." Additional details of the venue with views of the hall and site location including parking, can be accessed on

<https://www.warwickshireeventcentre.co.uk>

John Davies

Specialist

Channel Islands

A total of 18 members attended the 74th Annual General Meeting of CISS held on 6th July in London (including eight via Zoom). A 64-lot room auction realised £415, with the highest bid being for an unusual June 1945 Passive Resistance Acknowledgement letter from the States of Jersey which had a reserve of £3 but achieved a hammer price of £65. Displays were provided by **Gerald Marriner** (*Jersey Hotels*), **Richard Flemming** (*Mail from the Channel Islands during the German Occupation*), **Mark Bailey** (*Mail related to George Campbell*) and **Simon Burke** (*Herm Postal History*). The AGM saw chairman **David Winnie** stand down before being re-elected, with the remainder of the committee members standing for re-election also successful. **Julian Bagwell** was elected as the new competitions secretary, replacing **Nick Martin**, who continues as journal editor. **Roger E Harris** was awarded the John Hirst Salver for his article '*Consular Mail Service between Ireland and the Channel Islands from July 1940 to mid-1941*'. This was published in the September 2023 issue of the society's journal *Les Iles Normandes*. The salver is awarded each year to the member who wrote the best article, as judged by all committee members, from the previous year's four editions of the journal. Steve Wells

France and Colonies

Our new season is now underway with a postal auction on 14th September, the first of our regional meetings on October 26th in Rotherham, and a *Show and Tell* Zoom meeting on 12th November. We completed our last season with our 48th Annual Residential Weekend attended by 27 members including two from the USA and three from Europe. We were entertained by seventeen formal presentations over the three days and over a dozen informal 'show and tell' displays in the evenings. The dining room also saw additional energetic and informative discussions. The main presentations included a range of material from France, (for example *Napoleonic Material, Cartes de Visite, French Zeppelins, Early Paper, Corsica and St Malo*), and the Colonies (for example *Mail to and from Réunion and Guinea, The Complicated Postal Arrangements between France and Countries in Central and South America, Air Mail – especially to, from and within West Africa, Cross-border Algerian and Moroccan Mail, and Mail Services in St Pierre et Miquelon*). We were also treated to displays on *Submarine Mail, Journée de Timbre Issues, Military Mail, and Mail illustrating the Care of the Wounded in WWI*. Full details of these are in our latest journal. Our last season also closed with two successful Zoom displays to members on *French Colonial Allegorical Group Types* and a vast range of material associated with *Saint Jeanne d'Arc*. → secretary@fcps.org.uk

Roger Niven

I will be delighted to receive more reports and photos from specialist societies.

Germany & Colonies

We are delighted to announce yet another successful AGM. President **Albert Jackson** and the committee welcomed members and their guests to the rural setting of the Abbey Hotel in Redditch for the three-day event. Following the formalities of the AGM the bourse once again proved popular with a chance for collectors to buy rare and sought after stamps and postal history. Lunch was followed by a world-class display of philatelic delights! Twelve members expertly elucidated the finer points of their chosen subjects, these included the *Breslau Games of 1938*, the 'Blue Flea' *Surtax Stamps of 1948*, *Numeric Indicia Stationery 1943-45*, *Leipzig Messe, Ostbahn*



John Panckridge in action

and *The 1923 Inflation Issues*. A special thank you goes to **John Panckridge** who had travelled from Tasmania. John gave an excellent 30-sheet display on the *Postreiter Postal Stationery Series of 1921-1923*. The Gala reception and dinner was most enjoyable! We were especially pleased to take this opportunity to award two literature prizes for outstanding contributions to our journal *Germania*. These went to **Robert Mott** (Peter Rickenback cup) and **Robin Pizer** (Fred Goatcher salver). Following the Sunday morning auction, it was time for friends to bid farewell. It was a wonderful weekend! A big 'thank you' to all members and spouses for making it such a convivial event. →

www.germanyphilately.org and follow us on X (Twitter) at [@GermanPhilately](https://twitter.com/GermanPhilately)
Carl Buck

Great Britain

We have started our new season. Forthcoming meetings reflect something of interest for everyone. Visitors are always welcome. There is an all-day meeting on 23rd November at the Royal. This has two sessions: **Susan Burn** showing *Rise of the Flying Boats & Empire Airmail Scheme – WWII*. This will be a traditional two laydown display with a PowerPoint presentation made available on the GBPS website afterwards. Susan focuses on the civilian airmail route to and from Australia and New Zealand for the period 1937-1950; and **Patrick Frost** with *Postage Due Mail 1839 to Present Day* looking at the treatment of charged mail by the British Post Office from 1839 until the present day, showing why items were deemed to be underpaid, how charges were calculated and collected, the explanatory and charge marks used, use of due stamps, errors in charges, unusual categories of mail such as printed matter, newspapers, postcards, parcel post, parliamentary proceedings, jury summons, registered, express, maritime mail, campaign and forces mail, TPOs and redirection. Our 14th December Zoom meeting will be a PowerPoint by **Darin P Cherniwhan** from Canada. The title is *Digital Philately*. His personal mission in the hobby is to "Keep the hobby alive. One collector at a time." This presentation promises to be

an enlightening journey into the world of digital philately. Whether you are a seasoned collector, a newbie, or someone intrigued by the fusion of tradition and technology, this talk is tailored for you. → www.gbps.org.uk

GBPS Northern Group

Once again an enthusiastic group assembled at Stockton-on-Tees for a day of entertainment and education overseen by **David Willmer** and **Peter Chadwick**. The morning was devoted to the two main speakers. We were delighted to see *The Queen Victoria Jubilee Issue: Part 2*, presented by **David Willmer**, who had so impressed us with part one in April. Here the values from 4½d were presented in the same depth and detail including many rare and unique pieces. **Ken Mitchell** showed a range of *North East Postal History*, much of which came from the collection of the late **Phill Harriman**, well-known to Northern collectors, whom he praised as a good collector and thorough researcher, introducing us to Stockton, Middlesbrough and Guisborough in many forms. The attendees' afternoon displays were wide ranging: *The Great North Road beyond Newcastle, Yorkshire Temporary Handstamps, Falkland Islands, North Yorkshire/Malton, Northallerton* (again ex Phill Harriman), *Early Additional ½d wheel tax, Late use of the Maltese Cross in the North East, Routes around Yorkshire and beyond, Bedale, Thunderstorm Reporting, Wartime and Modern Illustrated Air Letters and Edinburgh to Overseas*. This was topped off by **Peter Chadwick's** atmospheric telling of the trials and tribulations of the early postmen as they walked long routes in evil winter weather. Our customary good buffet lunch was enhanced this time by un-ignorable cream cakes – warning: Northern Philately can seriously damage your waistline!
Daphne McMillan

Joint Central European Societies Meeting

Once again, members of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Yugoslav and the former Polish Societies met at the Brown Cow in Whitkirk, Leeds, for a day's 'show and tell' on topics central European, organised by **Yvonne** and **Richard Wheatley**. Once again there was an eclectic mix of material in a total of 22 short displays by 11 of the participants over seven rounds, four before a buffet lunch and three afterwards, closing with tea and cake. As always, there was a wide range of subjects including: *The Polish Army in France, 1939; Parcel Cards of NDH Croatia during WWII; Telegram Receipts from Austria and Hungary; Czechoslovak Printed Matter and Newspaper Stamps*, including provisional issues; *Austrian Kinderballoon Mail; Sending Cash through the Austro-Hungarian Post; Austrian and Hungarian Bills-of-Exchange using Fiscal Stamps; Czechoslovak TPOs of the 1920s and 1930s; Stamp Issues of Twenty Years of Independent Poland, 1919-1939; Czech and Slovak POW Mail from Russian Camps; Recent Austrian Postal Curiosities; Definitive Stamps of Unified Yugoslavia (1921–1939); Pre-stamp Postmarks of Prague; Polish Regional Issues 1918-1920; Austrian Mixed Frankings due to Currency Changes; Austrian Court Delivery Stamps and their Usage in Galicia and Bukovina; Philately of the 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics; 1918 'Revolutionary' Czechoslovak Overprints; Slovak Military Mail 1934-45; Cards and Maps depicting the Austro-Hungarian Empire Break-up* and finally *The Polish 1923 Copernicus Issue*. It was another

philatelic mind-broadening experience and long may this series continue. Many thanks to the organisers. Looking forward to next year! *Roger Morrell*

Malaya

21st September was for members' displays of Picture Postcards, something new for us. **Andrew Norris** started with *Labuan*, including Kime cards and a card to John Kime at Labuan. There were many Hilkes cards and a card showing a team from HMS Diomedé versus a local football team. **Michael Waugh** showed picture postcards featuring *Deutsche See Post from 1902 onwards*, then *DEI Postagents* where the cards transmitted to Malaya through Penang or Singapore, Crag Hotel Penang views, a card with 1922 MBE overprinted stamps on a card to Switzerland, and two Gimlette cards both Kelantan to UK. **Tony Plumbe** produced *Singapore Cards, from Early 20th Century Onwards*. Examples were Malay family, Malay rajas, Chinese hawkers, Hindoo family; Port: Borneo Wharf, views from St James; Retail Establishments: Tamil ice seller, Chinese cake sellers etc. **Peter Cockburn** presented postcards of *Sandakan, British North Borneo, 1900 –1935*, a massive display with seascapes, fishermen, townscapes, street scenes, social events and parades, infrastructure and industry with police, telegraph, religious and government institutions, and visiting ships including HMS Kent's tour. **Susan McEwen** brought *Johore: the Official Cards of 1906 and 1907*, complete sets of each; then a *Series of Lambert cards* and a collection of *Views of the Causeway* - being built and showing trains on the causeway. My grateful thanks to **Susan McEwen FRPSL** who has acted as midwife to our updated website and kindly wrote the last quarter's report. → www.malayastudygroup.com/ *Michael Waugh FRPSL*

National

December's *Stamp Lover*, our bi-monthly journal, will include a special feature to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the NPS founding. Its modest beginning was a meeting over a shop in Clapham South London, in November 1899, presided over by **Fred Melville**, then only 17. The meeting founded the Junior Philatelic Society, forerunner of the National. Melville launched *Stamp Lover* in 1908 as the society's journal and became a prolific philatelic writer, as well as an eminent philatelist. *Stamp Lover* editor, **Michael Goodman FRPSL** said, "I hope this issue will provide a reminder of the rich history of the NPS and the personalities involved". The society, one of the largest non-specialist societies in the UK, now has over 400 members in the UK and overseas. There is also a thriving packet circuit offering GB, Commonwealth and Foreign material. The September London meeting featured **Len Stanway** presenting *Aspects of Malaya*. Then *GB Revenues* was presented by **David Leathart** online in October. He explained how Revenue Stamps were introduced in 1694 to pay for war with France and showed specimens from the 17th to the early 20th century. Online displays by



members followed including *Sudan Postal Seals* from **Malcolm Coe** and *Postcards* from **Peter Mellor**. The evening online meeting on 9th December will feature *Christmas Stamps*, presented by **Julian Bagwell**. The new year begins with a London meeting on 11th January when **Mick Bister FRPSL** will show *French Somali Coast*.

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

Postal History

The society's ZOOM Meetings for the first half of 2025 will return to the first Monday of every month at 2.15pm for 2.30pm (London). So that means they will be on 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May and 2nd June. If anyone would like to give a display then please contact me at secretary@postalhistory.org.uk

Marc Oxley

Northern Regional Groups: Postal History and The Royal

Again, a fine assemblage from both societies at the Marriott Hotel attended this annual event... 45 people in all, 26 of whom stayed for the Evening Dinner. Thanks must go to Marc Oxley for organising all arrangements with the hotel. Thanks also to the Wakefield PS for providing the frames. Those present signed



Brian Coop of Harrogate in full flow



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cards for **Mike Roberts** and **Bill Pipe**, wishing them speedy and full recoveries. The first full round was shown by **Marc Oxley**, the new secretary of the PHS: *Crown Circle Free Franks 1807-1840*. I'm sure we shall be seeing many more displays from him in the future! Ten members of either society then showed a wide variety of displays before lunch, from *The Sugar Estates of Mozambique* to *Ahmadnagar Camp in India*. After lunch, **Peter Cockburn** led the way with a frame from *North Borneo*. Nine others then followed with fine *Great Britain* and *Central European* displays before tea. After tea there were seven more excellent displays, ending appropriately with **John Scott's** *Industrious Yorkshire*. Next year on the Thursday before the York Stamp and Coin Fair, the Royal Philatelic Society will again be organising the event. Graham Winters FRPSL

Scottish Regional Royal

There was a good attendance of 19 fellows, members and guests at the 19th Scottish Regional RPSL meeting in the Dewar's Centre, Perth. **Stewart Gardiner** and **Francis Podger**, who jointly organised and chaired the meeting, welcomed all present. This was the first meeting since 2019 due to the Covid pandemic and some deliberation about viability and the venue. Francis showed *Straits Settlements Revenue Stamps* and Stewart followed with *Sealing and Securing the Letter (Complementing the 1839 Postal Reforms in Great Britain and Ireland)*. After lunch, we were treated to a wide variety of short displays by **Bob Adams**, **Richard Cuthbertson**, **Sandy Forbes**, **David Kindley**, **Elizabeth Nairn**, **David Millar** (for **Martin Kirkbride**), **Ian Anderson**, **George Henshilwood**, **Anthony Duda** and Stewart, again! After each display session there were many questions and answers which led to some animated discussions. Before the close there was a short discussion about the format, location and timing of the next meeting. The 20th Scottish regional meeting in the current format will be held in the autumn of 2025, probably in the Dewar's Centre, Perth.



Stewart in action

Stewart Gardiner

The Royal

The new season began traditionally with a display of material from the Royal Philatelic Collection shown by gracious permission of His Majesty King Charles III. As always, it was a great privilege for members to see this fine material which this year focused on *The Region of West Africa*, including Gambia, Gold Coast, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. There were stamps from the reigns from Queen Victoria to King George VI, with many overprinted SPECIMEN. For the next meeting **Jonas Hällström** focused *On War*. It was based on his personal collection, an array of postal and philatelic material brought together without concern for the rules that determine what is shown in competitive exhibits. This thematic collection reflects Jonas' professional background, as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Swedish Armed Forces, and the renowned work *Vom Kriege* ('On War') by the Prussian General, Carl von Clausewitz. This work, although



Pragya Jain by his display

unfinished at his death in 1831, is regarded as a seminal treatise on military strategy and science and is still studied today. In October a most comprehensive presentation of the first issues of India, from 1852 to 1854, was given by **Pragya Jain**. He detailed the early stamp issues from the first postage stamp of India, the Scinde District Dawk of 1852 and continued with the stamps printed by lithography, the half anna, one anna and two annas, each in a single colour, and the four annas printed in two colours.

South African Collectors'

We enjoyed an excellent Zoom meeting in September with interesting and informative displays from **Hugh Amooore** (SA), **Rob Lester** (UK) and **Keith Klugman** (USA). A successful and cosmopolitan event. Later despite travel obstacles, eighteen members and guests attended a day meeting in Letchworth. This was hosted by **Bob Hill**, with able assistance from **Lyn** and **Rob Lester**. There were two exceptional six-frame displays. One, by **Ian Shapiro** showed original material from the *Royal Visit to South Africa in 1947*; the other, by **Dr Daana Strydom**, was of original artwork, proofs and stamps of the *1885 Vurtheim issue of the Transvaal*. **Bob Hill's** display was given in memory of **Paul van Zeyl RDPSA 1950 – 2024**, a dealer friend of many.



Tony Howgrave-Graham at Letchworth

Faced with declining membership, we have put a large chunk of our resources into a new website. The aim is to create greater online awareness of our activities and philatelic material of Southern Africa. It includes pages of News, upcoming Events, Zoom Meetings, online Displays and an Auction. The Resources section houses a searchable archive of old copies of 'The Springbok', our magazine. In the first six weeks since its launch there has been an 8% increase in local and international membership. One new member has already displayed an impressive Transvaal VR 1877-1881 collection at our day meeting. The new website retains our first html website created by the late **Otto Peetoom**. Packed with excellent information and advice too important to lose, it has been updated and retained as a Legacy Website within the new one. **Steve Hannath**, SACS Webmaster, said "It is early days yet, but SACS is beginning to feel good about itself and what is possible going forward."

→ Bob Hill on 07718689192

Steve Hannath

West Indies

A very convivial gathering of southern 'WIPSGers' took place on a sunny September day in the secretary's home and garden. It was an opportunity to share knowledge and debate matters of philatelic note. One or two gardening notes were also exchanged. Here you see some of the attendees enjoying an outdoor lunch, and the



secretary/caterer in her kitchen.'

Susan Taylor

Proof at last that philately can be a social activity to be enjoyed.

An Announcement from the Stuart Rossiter Trust

The Stuart Rossiter Trust is making an offer to specialist societies where the Trust would contribute to Publication costs of Postal History books so the money can be used to reduce the selling price.

This will make your book more affordable and attractive to Collectors.

The books would need to meet the Trust's standards, our recent books can be seen on the Rossiter Trust website.

Contact the Corresponding Trustee at srtcorr@gmail.com to discuss your Postal History book.

→ <https://www.rossitertrust.com/>

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 "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

Graf Zeppelin LZ-127
South America Airmail
1930 to 1937



International Philatelic Exhibit
By Brian Callan FRPSL

BOOK REVIEW

by Ken Sandford

GRAF ZEPPELIN LZ-127 SOUTH AMERICA AIRMAIL – 1930 – 1937

International Philatelic Exhibit,
by Brian Callan

The book details the flights of the Graf Zeppelin LZ-127 airship to and from South America using the flight covers contained in the author's philatelic exhibit of the same name. The book allows additional information to be added that exhibit space does not allow. The major purpose and intent of the book is to preserve the details of the exhibit and in particular the postage rates associated with the flights illustrated. The book also details the history of this airship, which

was the most successful of its time, flying for nine years without fatality or significant issues.

The book shows the Exhibit Title Page and then has five sections, as follows:

Section 1 – 1930 & 1931 Pre-commercial South America flights

Section 2 – 1932 Launch of commercial scheduled flights to South America

Section 3 – 1933 Commercial flights, including Century of Progress flight

Section 4 – 1934 Commercial flights, including only flight to Argentina

Section 5 – 1935 to 1937 DLH aircraft support services

There are three appendices.

Appendix 1: 1929 Mail posted on board Graf Zeppelin airship

Appendix 2: Awards achieved by exhibits

Appendix 3: Index by country

All exhibit pages are shown in full colour. The book is hard cover, A4 size.

The book is an excellent presentation of this award winning exhibit. It will be an excellent reference for collectors of Zeppelin mail to South America.

The cost is: US\$50 plus \$20 postage to North and South America

UK£40 plus £15 postage to UK 45 Euro plus 15 euro postage to Europe

Inquire with author for postage to Africa & Asia

Payment by PayPal to briancallan9@gmail.com

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

The Postal Stationery of Nigeria by Peter Horlyck
Published November 2023

ISBN 978-1-913015-27-5 Retail price £54 RPSL Members' Price £49

This new book, written by the sadly recently deceased author and completed by his long-time collaborator Ray Harris, provides an in-depth study of the postal stationery in all forms produced in or for Nigeria.

The book starts by being divided into broad geographic areas within Nigeria. There are chapters on Lagos, Niger Coast, Northern Nigeria, Southern Nigeria, Nigeria 1914-1960 and Nigeria 1960 – 2000. It does not cover more recent items. It then considers specific types of artefacts: Postal Orders, Reply Coupons, UPU Specimens and Cut-outs, before returning to geography with chapters on the Cameroons under First World War British administration, and another on Biafra. There are Appendices relating to De La Rue archives, Crown Agent archives, British Post Office archives, Government gazettes, essays and proofs in private hands plus a list of known scarce items (a unique feature of the book is its attempt at a rarity assessment). Each chapter is profusely illustrated and is supported by helpful author comments about the history, rarity and/or provenance of particular items, including of course postcards, aerogrammes, and registered envelopes. The book is extremely well-written and has obviously been the subject of a lifetime of study; it includes many interesting personal anecdotes as well as well-researched commentary on the items under consideration. Production and sales figures are given wherever possible. Numerous footnotes and references can be found in every chapter.

The book ends with a bibliography and a brief index.

Who is the book aimed at? Obviously, it will be of great interest to those who collect Nigerian philately in any form, but it also is a role model for any postal stationery enthusiast, whatever country they are looking at, thanks to its wealth of ideas on the types of items to collect and how to analyse what one has collected.

Green, Red, Gold and Now Blue

Driving around the country lanes of North Cornwall, near Stratton I spotted the attached. According to the present owner of the property the previous owner had it mounted in the wall and painted it blue. Unfortunately people still post items in it, although it's not official. *Des Kent*

But don't be fooled - collections might be few and far between. Is this one for the Post-box Collectors? Do you know of any other strange post-boxes? Editor



Entries Invited for the 2025 National Stamp Competition

The ABPS London National Competitive Exhibition 2025
will be held from 27th February to 1st March 2025

at The Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.

This is a National Exhibition, open to all exhibitors who are resident in the United Kingdom and from other countries who are affiliated to FIP or FEPA.

Overseas entries are very welcome as well as those from the UK. This exhibition provides an opportunity for people to qualify for entry to international exhibitions if they achieve at least 80 points (Large Vermeil).

Entrants can select on the online entry form whether their exhibit is competitive or non-competitive, so if you do not want your entry to be judged but still want to share your passion for a particular collecting area, this is the opportunity to do so.

The exhibition is open to applications in the following classes:

Traditional Philately	Cinderella Class	Postal History	
Picture Postcard Class	Aerophilately	Ephemera Class	
Postal Stationery	Non-Competitive Display Class	Revenue Philately	
Three-Dimensional Class (for philatelic ephemera)		Thematic Philately	
Open Philately	Astrophilately	Maximaphily	Literature.

A competitive entry may be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 8 frames each made-up of 16 standard display sheets or equivalent. No pre-qualification is needed for 1-5 frames. Exhibits awarded (at least) 80 points and large vermeil at a previous national exhibition may increase to 8 frames at the exhibitor's discretion.

Anyone who is entering the national exhibition for the first time will not be charged an entry fee thanks to the support of ABPS and the Philatelic Fund, providing they are a member of a society affiliated to ABPS, or a Friend or Patron of ABPS. This offer also applies to individuals who enter an International Exhibition for the first time. All others will be charged £25 per frame for the national competition.

Exhibitors will find the general rules and full information on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk

Applications should be made using the online application form which is available at www.abps.org.uk under the Exhibiting tab. Any exhibitor wishing to apply who does not have easy access to a computer is requested to contact the exhibition secretary by telephone (+44) 01424 251169
or email exhibiting@abps.org.uk

The closing date for entries is 31st December 2024.

Space is limited, so please get your entry in early to avoid disappointment.

Diary

November

- 16-17 Leeds Stamp Fair: Pudsey Civic Hall → www.leedsps.org.uk/
- 30 Bookham Stamp Fair with Surrey Federation Competitions: 10 - 4: The Old Barn, Church Road, **Bookham** KT23 3PQ

2025

March

- 1 Launceston Stamp Fair: Lifton Community Centre, Park Wood Rise, **Lifton** PL16 0LA (New Venue)

April

- 4-5 ASPS Congress hosted by Glasgow Thematic Society: The Vine Conference Centre, 131 Garvock Hill, **Dunfermline**, Fife KY11 4JU
- 12 Falmouth Stamp Fair: Emanuel Baptist Church, Western Terrace, **Falmouth** TR11 4QJ

May

- 20 Redruth Stamp Fair: Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG

July

- 5 MIDPEX 2025:10-4.30: Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa CV31 1XN → sharrison500@btinternet.com or sites.google.com/site/midpex

National Exhibitions 2025

- London at The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 Abchurch Lane. 27th February – 1st March 2025

International Exhibitions 2025

To enter an international exhibition your entry must pre-qualify by achieving a large vermeil medal (80+ marks) at a national exhibition. Literature does not need this. To enter please contact the UK commissioners shown. Exhibitors from outside the UK should contact their national commissioner.

- **Uruguay 2025:** 17th - 22nd February 2025. FIP patronage with limited classes. Website www.Uruguay2025.com UK Commissioner, Simon Richards simon@sidebell.co.uk Entries closed.
- **EuroPhilEx 2025:** Hall 9 NEC, Birmingham. 7th - 11th May 2025. 2000 frames with FEPA Patronage. Website www.europhilex2025.co.uk All FIP classes at £100 per frame or £120 for single frames and £40 for Literature. UK Commissioner: Daphne McMillan. Royal Commissioner: James Podger pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com Entries closed.
- **PhilaKorea 2025:** Seoul, South Korea. No frame fees or deadline yet. FIP Patronage with FIAP Auspices. Contact UK Commissioner, Simon Richards at simon@sidebell.co.uk

UK handling charges for all international exhibitions are now £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 covers the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact **Jon Aitchison** at britishlocals@aol.com Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information: Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee* Simon@sidebell.co.uk

American Philatelic Society Warns Public of Fraudulent Online Store

The American Philatelic Society, a trusted name in the stamp collecting community, is issuing a warning to the public about a rogue online store, www.superstampcenter.com, that is engaging in fraudulent activities. This website has been found to be cloning the online stores and product descriptions of legitimate businesses, including the [APS Stamp Store](#), other reputable sellers on HipStamp and eBay.

Fraudulent Activities Identified:

- 1. Cloning of Online Stores:** The rogue website has copied the layout, design, and content of legitimate online stamp stores.
- 2. Fake Product Listings:** They are posting products they do not possess, using descriptions and images from authentic sellers.
- 3. Discounted Prices:** These fraudulent items are often listed at significantly discounted prices to lure unsuspecting buyers.
- 4. Impact on Consumers:** Customers who purchase from this fraudulent site risk receiving counterfeit products or no products at all, leading to financial loss and disappointment. We urge the public to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of online stores before making any purchases.

Steps to Protect Yourself:

- 1. Verify Website Authenticity:** Check the URL and ensure it matches the official website of the seller.
- 2. Inspect the Business Operators:** Check the business organization pages of the website to see if it seems a legitimate business. Such website pages might include the following: about, contact, customer service, returns, and shipping.
- 3. Look for Reviews:** Search for reviews and feedback from other customers.
- 4. Contact the Seller:** Reach out to the seller directly through verified contact information.
- 5. Report Suspicious Activity:** If you encounter a suspicious website, report it to the relevant authorities.

Thanks to the APS for their care and Patrick Reid for passing it to me.

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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:

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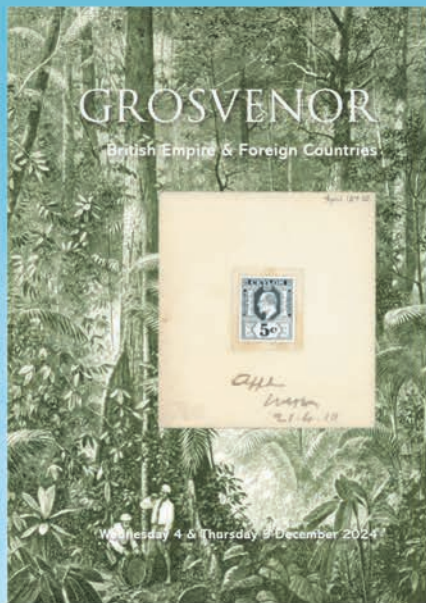
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

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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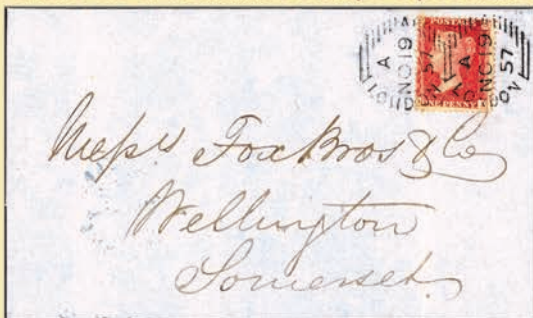


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