

The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society

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Editor's Introduction

This Bulletin comes with the AGM Minutes and annual accounts which describe what is happening in the Society.

The topic of Troopships runs and runs with two more items in this edition plus a further comment to another article in the last edition. Keep the articles coming on any topic, new ones, or, in response to those already published which will all make for an interesting and perhaps thought provoking read for Members.

The Society was sorry to hear of the passing of Alec Easy and Brian Rogers. We welcome a new member to the Society, Michael Brian.

Are you still in touch with former colleagues who are serving or retired Civil Servants? Do they collect stamps? Would they like to join CSPA?

Editor

An important announcement about the Exchange Branch

A few years ago the Exchange Branch was reformed with just two sections, GB/Commonwealth and Foreign / Spacefillers after the loss of two long serving EBSs. Together with the closure of the two remaining London groups, this resulted in the Exchange Branch becoming an almost all postal service. CSPA was fortunate in having Martin Crofts, an ex-CSPA group Leader and packet secretary for the MOD stamp club, step forward and take on the GB/CW section. Martin re-established the circuits and has successfully run the section. However, it is my unhappy duty to inform the membership of the reluctant decision taken by Martin to retire as the EBS for health reasons. Council fully understand his reasons and offer their grateful thanks for his hard work ably assisted by his wife Val, in the running of the GB/CW Exchange Branch.

Council and members send him our best wishes for his recuperation and future well being.

Effective immediately

I shall assume responsibility for all sections of the Exchange Branch. Packets which have yet to finish their circulation will be allowed to do so, please return them to Martin as scheduled for closure. All books and monies will be returned in the usual way.

When I receive notice of final closure and a copy of the circulation lists, I shall send out some new packets. Please send all books for circulation to me.

If you are reading this on the website and need contact details, please use the Society e-mail address cspilsociety@googlemail.com

Robert van Goethem, CEBS May 2015

From the Membership

In the last edition I mentioned I had mislaid an article, but it has since re-surfaced, so here it is with apologies to the author.

Cold War Troopships

Picking up on Laurie Farrell's interesting item on troopships, my mode of travel to and from a 2nd Tactical Air Force posting, Harwich to Hook of Holland was by one, or more, of these ships. The crossings, which can only be described as stressful, were enough to put you off seafaring for life. Due to the Freudian effect of this experience, I'm unable to recall the names of the four tubs I travelled on.

The open plan accommodation was a forest of 3 storey hammocks interspersed with several large dustbins. It soon transpired that these were the MOD's cost cutting provision for sea sickness and I'm not sure how frequently they were employed.

I do carry two memories with me though. One of these concerns a notice boldly displayed in the heads (or toilets), the official legend on which was 'Nothing to be thrown down these latrines'. This had been skillfully defaced to read, 'It is nothing for an MP to be thrown down these latrines.'

Oddly enough, my second memory also concerns an MP, or Snowdrop in my case. We were obliged to travel in best blue with peaked caps with a patent leather decorative band with a buckle. Having seen some unfortunate colleagues have their hats blown off into the water in their journey along the dockside, I stopped to arrange my leather band as a chin strap only to be stopped by a Snowdrop with the challenge, 'Airman, you're improperly dressed. Who do you think you are.... Roy Rogers?'

MP is the abbreviation for military policeman, each of the three services having their own corps. In the early 1950's many of the personnel were reputed to be repatriated Gestapo members.

Ron Oughton

My Cruise Liner Empire Test 1950

Laurie Farrell writes: I am indebted to John Davies for his informative and helpful information given in response to my query on Troopships. I have memories of Empire Test, Windrush and Fowey. I was one of those still trooping by ship when posted for my 2½ years in the Middle East, 1950-52.

I travelled by Empire Test and sailed from Liverpool in April 1950, calling at Tripoli and Bengazi en route, dropping off mainly Army married personnel and their families. The majority of personnel being RAF, disembarking at Port Said bound for the air bases down the Suez Canal and onward transmission to bases in Jordan, Iraq (Hubbanyia) and Mauripur (India). The two things that I still recollect about that journey was the terrible bout of sea sickness I had, I think I went 3 whole days with nothing to eat or drink and how awful it was to be so sick when there was nothing to come up. On the morning of the fourth day at 6.30am I crept down to the on board NAAFI which opened at that time and bought a cup of tea and a small amount of arrowroot biscuits. Actually I seem to recall that my tongue had begun to swell and never in my whole RAF career had NAAFI tea ever tasted so good!! The rest of the journey I recall with great pleasure, sailing down the Med, the sea calm, the sun shining bright and walking round and round the deck for exercise.

Liverpool - Port Said - Egypt via Tripolia.Benghazi

I was posted to the Middle East Command June 1950 and was transported in the troopship 'Empire Test'. It was one of the smaller vessels carrying some 5000 service personnel mainly RAF, but also included were a number of military mainly married families who disembarked at Tripoli.Benghazi.

Troopships were all pre-fixed with the word 'Empire'. Five thousand personnel were crammed on board. It was a fight for space but after we passed through the Straits of Gibraltar and became subject to the warm Mediterranean climate, life became much more pleasant. Four of us were posted together from RAF Manston, Kent. When we disembarked at Port Said our postings were read out, two went down the Canal Zone. R Stainer went to Luca Malta and I went to Iraq for onward posting to Transjordan. The only one I ever saw again was R Stainer who kindly sent me this photo in 2003 (Below). I met him and his wife in approximately 1992 when we were on holiday at Warmwell, Dorset.

Laurie Farrell



Civil Aircraft Immediate Post War 1946-48

Towards the end of WW2 thoughts turned to the building of civil aircraft to be used in peacetime. During the war all efforts were concentrated on military aircraft production. Using the basic bomber designs these were modified to cater for civil use. The picture below shows a Handley Page Halton, 'Falkirk' of 1947.



Using the basic 'Halifax' bomber design Handley Page produced the civil Halton as a temporary stopgap. Twelve of these aircraft were ordered by B.O.A.C and used on the London to Karachi service, where the picture above was taken. They first entered service on 1st July 1947. They were all withdrawn from B.O.A.C on 2nd May 1948 and sold to other users and later operated by Bond Air Services, they played a leading role in the Berlin airlift.

Forum or against 'em

Various philatelic questions arise in building a stamp collection but the problem seems to be getting answers. In past issues of the Bulletin 'questions' have been published but answers have not always been forthcoming.

The possible reason for this is that all philatelists know of some fellow collector whose knowledge knocks theirs into a cocked hat, making them reticent to express their views. But this raises the question, 'Why don't the real experts come forward?'.

The internet seems to thrive more than other forms of communication and an e-mail is a low-cost item, so let us hope the Forum question panel succeeds.
There are, though, some 21st Century dinosaurs still not switched-on, including yours truly.
Anon

Value for Money – follow up piece

Do many people realise that when the first Christmas stamp was issued, one could post 80 Christmas cards for a pound and 1/9 (7½p) covered nearly all ones parcels containing presents. Now, one is lucky to post one under £1 and parcels, well enough said.
Laurie Farrell

What you missed at recent meetings.....

2nd February

Members' Evening and Postcard Displays

For a winter meeting this was well attended with plenty to look at and the Society thanks the following Members who brought in items to display.

Peter Coe: This display depicted postcards from New Zealand from what were to be the last trips Peter's wife made to the country on holiday. The cards included the South Island, Lakes, Paikia Bay and Wellington.

Margaret Emerson: A selection of postcards depicting Maidstone and what would now be described as the Medway Towns, mainly from the Edwardian era, formed this display.

Margaret explained she has lived most of her life in Maidstone and that her Grandparents came from Rochester and Strood. One card showed the church where her Great Grandparents were married in Strood.

Margaret Emerson: The 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V and the 1937 Coronation featured in this display. It consisted of a number of covers. The Jubilee items were of the Omnibus issue from around the British Empire mainly on Registered envelopes.

Ron Oughton: This was a very informative display of close family interest to Ron, but a sad story concerning the loss of the airship R101 on 5th October 1930 and his uncle Leonard Frederick Oughton, the coxswain of the doomed airship. A picture of the mooring in 1929 started the display off and the first picture of R 101 as well as the first flight on 13th March 1930. The crash site HMAR101 at Beauvais was depicted. There was a picture of Coxswain Oughton wearing a pith helmet, despite the temperature being low. The crew were honoured with a lying in state at Westminster Hall and various articles and pictures of the funeral were shown. There was an item marking the 75th anniversary from the Musee de Dirigibles. Various cards and photographs were displayed and an 80th anniversary commemorative cover. There was a picture of the memorial wreaths laid on 3rd October 2010. It took until 2014 for a memorial plaque to be unveiled and the dedication ceremony took place on the 27th November 2014. Ron was invited to this ceremony and there were items from this event.

Derek Rock: The first items here were hand drawn ladies on postcards from the 1900's. Then the display moved on to WWII items from Jersey, including the German Military Hospital and drawings of the islands by Tricia Le Gresley and some wartime covers. Finally coming up to date were leaflets for the Emirates cable car over the River Thames.

Mike Thatcher: Poster stamps from the 1951 Festival of Britain formed this display. There are at least three different issues from the Zoological Society of London at Regents Park, the North of England Zoological Society and the Zoological Society of Scotland in Edinburgh. There are three large stamps depicting an okapi, orang utan and giraffe and they come in three colours, green, blue and dark red mauve. There are 12 smaller stamps depicting 12 other animals, also in three colours, as well as a printed card. This means

there are 27 different sets across the three Zoological Societies. Mike told us they are difficult to find 'mint' as they are often stuck to the card as intended.

Bob van Goethem: The first part of the display was of Reader's Digest items, starting with the first two coil stamps. Covers for these followed and coil strips at 11½ pence and 12 ½ pence rates. Booklets were made up for Beamish Hall. The 12½ pence rate of light green was pre-released in an issue of 1000, as the strips were not ready in time for mailing on 30th December 1981 and appeared on 27th January 1982.

The second part of the display featured BOAC items and in particular Comet covers including the Comet 1 disaster of G-ALYP. There were crash covers and the obituary notice for Captain Morrow, details about the Comet accidents and for the arrival of Comet 4.

Mike Wilkinson: New Zealand was the theme of Mike's display including cards of The Bluff Hill, Napier Cathedral, Marine Parade and Hastings, New Zealand. The Journal of the New Zealand Philatelic Society was shown and postcards of Hawke's Bay.

2nd March 2015

USA Railway Post Offices: Magic Carpets made of Steel

A Talk and Display by Derek Mauri

Apologies were received from Mick Coad, Peter Harris, Derek Rock, Eddy Weeks and Mike Wilkinson.

Derek started by giving some history about the railways in the USA. The Baltimore to Ohio Railway was running in 1827 and in 1834, Philadelphia to New York. The railways were authorised in states which at this time amounted to twenty. In 1836 all canals were post roads and it took 48 hours to travel from Washington to Philadelphia and 24 hours from Philadelphia to New York. Post was not a priority and newspapers and post would be removed if there was fare paying passenger luggage to transport.

The first mail to be sorted on a train was in 1862, Hannibal to St Joseph which had links to the Pony Express. The first official railway post office was running in 1864, Chicago to Clinton. In 1882, all routes became railway post offices. A photograph of Illinois Central was shown. The Chicago to Illinois route ran north to south and there was also the route via the Mississippi. Covers put into the post had the name of the steamboat that the sender wanted it to travel on. Various covers were shown including one where the sender had put the route on the cover and a last day cover New York to Washington RPO. There were Mississippi Central Railway items and cachets on delayed mail.

A Chicago to Cairo item was shown which would have travelled by ferry between Kentucky and New Orleans as there was no bridge. There were numerous marks for explanation.

Chicago to New Orleans was a trip of 925 miles. Long distances took a time and some routes were split into sections, each with cancels.

The earliest Northeast America mark was from 1847 with a 5c rate payable. The Baltimore Railway had a circle and line. Next were Pennsylvania to New York covers and labelling North-South on routes. It was possible to have back issue hand stamps as the hand stamps themselves went on the market. Next came New York to Pittsburg and Pittsburg to Chicago covers.

An early cover from New York Central has a straight line rail road cancel and another a circular Skelton cancel. There were railway handstamps. Next was an Airmail cover from 1929, the longest routes being Canada to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Uruguay. There was a Canada-USA cover cancelled on the border. Transit marks were shown and a Fall Brook Coal Company railway item. A Boston to Albany item had a faint straight line cancel, an albino cancel.

The big four companies were the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St Louis Rail Road. There was a postcard from Germany with an arrival mark of Detroit and a Detroit to Buffalo

mark as it had been placed in the wrong bag. The next item was for the Mad River and Lake Erie Rail Road. Then came a special delivery envelope with a cancel for each handover. A schedule for the New York to Chicago route was shown which was in three divisions. There were Express schedules to carry mail and a map and examples of the cancels were shown and some covers.

Derek had several covers from the same person with a number on the top of each. One depicted the wrong year, Eastern Division 8th February 1894 but the stamp on the cover was from 1895. Special Delivery items went east to pickup the express. An 'Empire State Express' dated 7th December 1941 was a new train and there were special envelopes. When it left New York there was peace, but the United States was at war when it reached Chicago. Maps of the Middle and Western divisions were shown and covers.

Where did the term Magic Carpets come from? The 20th Century Limited in 1908 had seven trains and one postmark, with just one title in the postmark. Special postcards were issued to passengers. Broadway Limited had just one train but although they left at the same time, racing between companies was forbidden. They were on level track to Englewood Station. The former company had via 'Twentieth Century' hand stamps and there were cachet stickers. There was a special cover from when services were streamlined, when dissolved and for the 60th anniversary. Next came a Grand Central Station New York card. There was a picture on board the train.

Part 2

This started with Street Car RPOs. There was a desire to speed the mails or to blame someone else. At this time there were few paved areas and things could become very muddy. Horse drawn cars were replaced by electric ones. A picture of a preserved car was shown and the first was St Louis to the border, Street Car RPO Number 1. RPO 1 was extended giving the Grand Avenue Circuit. In 1904 came the St Louis Exhibition and new RPOs for example Kirkwood and North and South Broadway. Few covers exist and there were different circuits, for example Southwest. These ended in 1915 as no budget was voted by Congress and the post office was looking to save money. The last service ran on 14th November 1915, a Sunday so the last day cover was for the 14th, although it was not announced until 18th.

Baltimore was the last city to have a streetcar, running until November 1929. Cincinnati ran to October 1919 and a card was shown. As for Brooklyn to Chicago, there were very few machine cancels, ones displayed were for Maddison Street and different avenues.

Seattle only used one hand stamp so there are versions in various states of repair due to damage. San Francisco had three routes and two were shown. Pittsburg had two hand stamps. The streetcar RPO has a flag and there was an item with Penn. Avenue in error as this was how the cancel was made. Examples were shown of machine cancels and hand cancels as these were used as a backup. All but one Pittsburg hand stamp are circular hand stamps. The Boston Circuit RPO is common but others such as the Boston and Brighton are less common.

The next items were for New York City and the 3rd Avenue route which was a failure. There was a pneumatic tube system along the length of 3rd Avenue, running for five years 1st October 1895 to 1900. There were items from Cleveland and Philadelphia and Washington, down Pennsylvania Avenue. The 9th Street route is never seen. In Rochester there was an east and west side. The display rounded off with the comment that all would like an item dated 28th October 1904, which was an electric car.

The vote of thanks on behalf of the Society was ably given by Peter Coe and seconded by Margaret Emerson. Members showed their appreciation in the normal way for an interesting evening, covering items which were new to many Members.

13th April 2015

Television

A Talk and Display by Mark Routh

Apologies were received from Mike Blackman, Mick Coad, Peter Harris, Ron Oughton, Derek Rock, Eddie Weeks and David Wilkins.

It was in 1900 that the name television was first used. The first transmission did not come until 1st October 1925 and it was demonstrated by Logie Baird on 26th January 1926. The BBC was setup in 1922 and Marconi and Baird were head to head for the contract to supply. Baird's system had 240 lines, which the BBC wanted and, Marconi 405 lines. Disaster struck on 30th November 1936 when Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire as this meant the loss of Logie Baird's offices and equipment.

Mark displayed Radio Olympia pictures from August 1936, a paper and poster stamps. There was a Crystal Palace programme from 1888. The BBC studios were at Alexandra Palace, the rebuilt version being used by both Baird and Marconi. A radio card of the aerial was next.

On 1st November 1939 television transmissions were halted, with a Mickey Mouse cartoon being the last programme. If there had been no television, there would have been no radar. Television transmission started up again on 7th June 1946 with Mickey's Gala Premiere. Jasmine Bligh was the first person to appear and Mark had a signed photograph. Another prized item is the board placed in front of the camera when there was foreign interference. The next item was the Coronation edition of the Radio Times from 1953.

A number of BBC slogan cancels were shown and these included a licence cancel FDI for the stamp issue. The first Great Britain TV stamp showed Baird's televisor and a block was shown. Then came a photograph of Logie Baird signed by Philip Sharland the designer of the 1/9 value from the set. There were several London cancels and a 50th BBC anniversary cancel. A Post Office poster for the TV set was displayed with the stamps attached on the front with a FDI cancel.

Various covers showing televisions and police cards which were handed out, also showing televisions, were next. The 50th anniversary of 1986 was shown with the gold missing. There were Doctor Who covers, one with a BBC stamp. Two Presentation packs were shown, the Royal Mail and BBC versions. There were phosphor and watermark varieties and dropped yellow. There was also a Broadcasting House 1928/29 TV studio cancel. Covers from the 1940's were shown from France with cachets for each department, the takeover of the Baird company, with a hand change to the cachet. From Italy in 1954 the first TV stamp was shown including a full sheet. Postcards showing people and programmes, included some with the names running off the edge.

In 1936 TV France started in Paris, Premier Jour Television and a TV stamp from 1955 was displayed, covers and cards. These items were posted from the top of the Eiffel Tower. There were cachets from the Cinema Television Limited.

There were cinderella stamps in different colours, covers of the French stamps, colour examples and French definitive booklets with an advert for television. Next were German slogan cancels, Monaco slogan cancels, USA meter marks in multiple colours and a meter mark from Canada. There was a cavalcade of American meter marks, an Ivory Coast transmitter and various other examples of the elements of television, the studio, the transmission tower, aerials, the TV set and test card. Carole Hersee, the daughter of the head engineer at the BBC was on the test card.

Childrens' TV appears most on stamps. A FDI of the Muffin the Mule stamp was shown, depicting Baird in the cancel and, various Sooty items. Sting Ray was the first

programme entirely in colour, only seen as such in the USA, as in this country we still had black and white only. There were special cancels on the Clangers stamps and a Bagpuss item signed by Oliver Postgate. Dangermouse was next and a board from the animations, then a Rupert Bear booklet. There was a different booklet with Rupert Bear, Paddington and Noggin the Nog. The Smurfs featured on maxi cards and Mark also showed a display cover for the issue. Postman Pat was shown in the retail booklets along with a poster.

Part 2

This section started with Noddy, then Asterix with a FDC and booklet. There was a specimen overprint set and a USA Airmail label. From Russia there were covers, hand stamps and stamps. The Berlin TV Tower featured next and TV items on comic cards. There was a Rediffusion cover with a Hong Kong cancel. The Omnibus issue for the International Telecommunications Union followed and a letter stating that 50 Guineas would be offered for a design and extra if it was accepted. Artwork and sketches for the design were displayed.

There was a sketch of the Sultan of Brunei's head and an overlay. Various overlay headers for the Omnibus and Crown Agents issues were next and a preliminary essay which was not used for the St Kitts issue, perforation errors, Nigeria items for the TV broadcaster including art proofs. From the USA was a large copy of the Lucille Ball stamp. There were further Berlin TV Tower items, covers, stamps and the logo. There was a window booklet with a cat and dog fighting over a TV screen and sausages. From France came cancels on comic postcards. There was a 10 shilling Wilding booklet with a TV screen advert.

Doctor Who featured in many items including an artist signed cover number 1. There was a 25th anniversary cover, four Doctors had signed it, as well as trade cards. Tom Baker the fourth Doctor Who was at Stamp Show 2000. Displayed were Royal Mail stand packs which had been printed in Southend, where Mark had been a policeman. Stamp covers had been signed by Tom Baker and the Doctor's assistant Elizabeth Sladen.

There was a design by children at the show, Mark took two along, and the designs were printed there and then. There was also a Dalek stamp and the theme on the Saturday at Stamp Show 2000 was Television. This item was signed.

Weetabix issued Dalek cards and Mark showed an uncut block. Benham produced a hand painted cover showing Davros and there was an item that was probably a promotional Dalek item, plus the time travel Dalek stamp which was part of the Millennium issue.

Numerous Dalek cards from June 1999 were displayed and these were signed by the Dr Who actors and also the designer and maker of the Daleks. November 1999 was the anniversary of Doctor Who and a copy of the Radio Times with a Dalek was shown. From 2012 there was a limited edition print of a Dr Who item and if pre-ordered, it was of a Dalek. There was a perforation item on cover and issues from Egypt and Monaco from 1997, meter marks, PHQ cards, gutter pairs, Southend cancels, a stamp with a dropped Queen's Head, and Hitchcock. Next was the Hungarian Television Service inauguration from 1958. The GB Comedian set issued 1st April 2015 came next and then Star Trek.

This section included USA badge cancels. There was a Stampers Club for children, featuring Bugs Bunny. There were two printers and two types, a perforated item and one that was almost imperf. There were covers featuring Daffy Duck and Kyote. All were featured on a sheet with special cancels.

Next came Telstar covers, stamps and a French cachet, plus lots more stamps. Mark had a Cuba sheet, in fact four. The display rounded off with the Teletubbies.

The vote of thanks on behalf of the Society was given by Margaret Emerson and Members applauded what had been an animated and interesting talk with display. Mark had mentioned at the beginning of the evening that he was not a stamp collector, but there was plenty of

philatelic material for Members to enjoy. He also pointed out that he does a full evening of Doctor Who but he felt that might just be too much for us.

11th May 2105

Members' Evening

Apologies were received from Neville Biden, Mick Coad, Peter Harris, Eddie Weeks and David Wilkins. This meeting was lightly attended and there were just two displays. The Society thanks the two Members.

Margaret Emerson: This was part one of a three part display to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black and consisted of pre-stamp marks, the earliest being from 1700. Most were Bishop Marks and there were a number of sizes including a small red mark from Scotland. The display concluded with an item for Uniform Penny Post, the immediate predecessor of the postage stamp era and a picture of Rowland Hill, the postal reformer.

Ron Oughton: This display consisted of various sheets celebrating early flights in balloons and airships. There was a Zeppelin sheet from the People's Republic of North Korea and another marking the 75th Anniversary of the Zeppelin. Balloon flight pioneers were depicted including Henri Gifford, flew 1851, Tussandier, flew 1883 and Lebandy, 1910. Various Zeppelin stamps were included from countries such as Mongolia, Mauritania and the Soviet Union. There was a souvenir postcard of Zeppelin LZ127, as well as LZ1 on a stamp from Paraguay with Ferdinand Zeppelin another for the centenary, showing the Statue of Liberty and LZ127. There was also an item marking the Nonvex 80 International Stamp Exhibition.

1st June 2015 AGM See pages 13 to 17

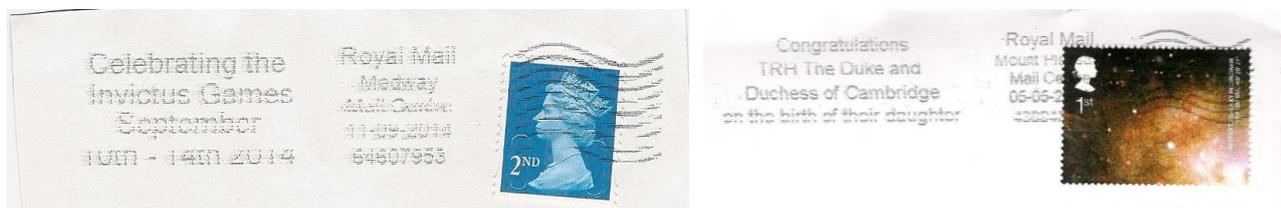
Postmarks and Postal History

Modern postmarks

There are numerous Inkjet Slogan cancels to be found on mail and many are in use for a relatively short space of time. Below six are illustrated. The first reads, 'Well done to Royal Mail Group employees for raising £2 million for Prostate Cancer UK' and is dated 15th May 2014. The second from 26th July 2014 is for Glasgow 2014, the Commonwealth Games. The second pair are related to the Remarkable Lives stamps and read, 'Celebrating the life of Abram Games Remarkable Lives Stamps 1914-1996' and the second, 'Celebrating the life of Joe Mercer Remarkable Lives Stamps 1914-1990'.



The fifth, below left, reads 'Celebrating the Invictus Games September 10th to 14th 2014' and finally a recent Inkjet 'Congratulations HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their daughter' from May 2015.



Cancellation of Postage Stamps after 1855

The volume of mail increased from 1845 to 1855 and further improvements were therefore considered to be essential, and not only from a time point of view but also in the economy of the use of ink. The first major improvement came about with the introduction of a combined cancelling device showing both office name, date and number. These are known as 'Spoon cancellations' and were used experimentally in certain provincial towns from 1854-57, deriving its name because of their resemblance to a spoon shape. See bottom left from Liverpool February 4th 1858. As a result of these experiments a standardized combined type, known as a Duplex cancellation was introduced and was greatly improved during the 1860's, mainly due to the efforts of a Mr D G Berri, who was employed by the Stationery Office to supply handstamp dies. The illustrated example below right is from Bath dated 8th June 1864.

Laurie Farrell



A New ABC of Terminology (Continued)

Date cuts: The Edward VII Great Britain issues printed at Somerset House have a vertical cut in the jubilee line. From these cuts you can determine the year of printing. Two cuts under the last stamp of the bottom row of the sheet or pane indicate a printing date of 1912, whereas one cut denotes printing in 1911.

Delivery-tax stamps: This term refers to Spanish stamps of 1931 which were at first issued for postage due use but were then used later in the year as postage stamps.

Demonetised (Demonetized): This refers to stamps that have been declared no longer valid for postal service. For example, stamps of the Canadian provinces issued before 1st July 1867. These were demonetised on 1st April 1868 which was the day the Dominion of Canada issued stamps for the confederated provinces.

Differential cancellation: This is a type of postmark so designed that when applied the effigy of the ruler is not defaced. They have been applied in Spain, Italy and Bhor, an Indian state, being an ornamental cancel to frame the portrait.

Glossary of postcard terms Part 2

Embossed: Such postcards have a raised surface.

Hand-tinted: These cards had black and white images but were tinted by hand using watercolours and stencils.

Intermediate Size: As the name implies these cards filled the gap between Court Cards and Standard Size, which measure 130 mm x 80 mm (5.1 inches x 3.1 inches).

A look at Recent GB Commemorative Issues by John Davies

The 'Alice in Wonderland' Issue

The first special issue for 2015 was to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the publication of the book by Charles Dodgson using his pen name of Lewis Carroll. To commemorate it this year can be debated at length. However, the facts are there. On 4th July 1862 (probably marking Alice Liddells tenth birthday) Alice and her sisters with two adults set out on a boat trip for a picnic and the Revd Charles Dodgson was asked to tell them a story. This was called 'Alice's Adventures Underground'. After telling the story, the Revd Dodgson was later asked to write it out so that other friends could enjoy it. Over the next three years with several revisions and illustrations, the Revd Dodgson was persuaded to have the story in book form.

This was done in 1865 mainly for presentation purposes. However, the illustrations were seen not to be satisfactory and an attempt was made to recall all published examples. Not all were returned. Sir John Tenniel wanted to refine some of his illustrations having contributed just under 40. Macmillan and Co. Ltd. published the title which became 'Alice in Wonderland', rather than several other suggested titles in 1866 according to their introduction.

To commemorate a book is one thing but not to commemorate the same book with its original illustrations is an omission. What is the purpose having 'new illustrations' when those of Sir John Tenniel are of the same age. Even the 81 pence stamps showing the 'Mad Hatter' omits the 10/6 price tag.

The Revd Charles Dodgson died in 1898 having seen various editions of 'Alice In Wonderland' revised and published, the last in his life was in 1897. As for Sir John Tenniel, coloured illustrations appeared in 1911 and he died in 1914.

As for Alice Liddell, she married Reginald Hargreaves in 1880 a few years after the untimely death of one of her sisters. She died at the age of 82 in 1934.

The 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black

The Royal Mail issued a miniature sheet depicting two 'One Penny Blacks' and 'Two Penny Blues' arranged in a diagonal on 6th May 2015. In addition to the miniature sheet, there was a Penny Black stamp book containing six 'Penny Blacks', all these rated at the current first class letter rate (63 pence).

For such an important and historical anniversary, it is a pity that these stamps are not available in sheet formation. As a result, members of the public will not be able to send mail containing such stamps unless they break up a miniature sheet. Reflecting on the designs for the Centenary (1940) and again for the 150th Anniversary (1990), a double head was used. So why could not a similar design be produced this time. It will be noticed that the new special/commemorative Penny Black and Two Penny Blue show the letters at the base SC (One Penny) and QB (Two Penny) but the question which might be asked is their significance. Why not AA in both values when we know straight away from which part of the sheet they come from rather than working these out as 19/3 (One Penny) and 17/2 (Two Penny). One other point, if these stamps are self-adhesive what is the point in having perforations. After all, the original Penny Blacks and Two Penny Blues were not perforated.

An Aspect of the Inventive Britain Stamps

On the 19th February an issue containing 8 stamps was released entitled 'Inventive Britain'. It is not often that I receive through the normal domestic post any commemorative or special stamps (other than ones making up a rate) which are in current use. The 81 pence which included other definitives, were on a packet made up to the £1.24 rate, which is for a large letter weighing between 100-250 grams.

Looking at this particular stamp reminded me of the optical illusion whereby if the image was rotated, the concentric circles would appear to move. However as the stamp bears the inscription 'CATSEYES' light-reflecting /road safety innovation, it is a pity that the name of the inventor was not included. This is true for all the stamps in the series. A great omission on the part of the designers and those who approved them.

The Comedy Greats – An Alternative View

The Comedy Greats issue consists of ten first class stamps and was released to the public on 1st April 2015, with huge press and television coverage. Four of these stamps were mainly printed in black/grey and therefore the postmark or cancellation will not be clear. Whatever one thinks about what is 'great' must be a matter of opinion and measured by a 'yard stick'. It could be said that one persons humour is another's silliness. However, some of those featured on the stamps are still alive and no doubt other comedians will gradually take their place. Will they be greater than the featured 'greats'. Most were or are known mainly via television and the stamp featuring Spike Milligan who was born given the name of Terence Alan in 1918 at Ahmadnagar, India was a trumpeter and singer before being called up for military service. Later he teamed up with Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Michael Bentine for an experimental radio series 'Crazy People' in 1951. This gave way to the 'Goon Show'. Spike Milligan died on 27th February 2002. In May 2015, we commemorated the end of the Second World War, 70 years ago. As for television, this was not in use from 1939 to 1946 and the radio or wireless was the only medium for entertainment. It is regrettable that the comedians of radio were not featured in anyway such as Tommy Handley, Tommy Trinder, Will Hay, Nan Kenway and Douglas Young, Elsie and Doris Walters Mother Riley and her daughter Kitty, Jimmy Edwards, Cyril Fletcher, Derek Roy, Fred Yule, Harold Barons, Pearl Hackney, Robb Wilton, the list can go on. As for the resumption of the television service, this took place from Alexandra Palace on 7th June 1946 and a week later John Logie Baird died just aged 58 years. In those days, programmes were viewed in black and white and transmissions were limited to four hours in the evening. So, radio continued to be the main form of entertainment, especially as relatively few members of the public could afford television in those days. Radio comedy continued well into the 1960's and it is a pity that the stars of yesterday are gradually being forgotten.

The Leprosy Mission Stamp and Postcard Fairs

12th September - Clanfield Drift Road Evangelical Church Waterlooville, PO8 0NH

19th September – Norwich St Andrews Hall, Norwich NR3 1AU **Postcards only**

25th - 26th September Woking Woking Leisure Centre Woking GU22 9BA **Postcards only**

3rd October– Maidstone Allington Baptist Church, Leafy Lane, ME16 0QQ

17th October– Maldon United Reformed Church Hall, Market Hill, CM9 4PZ

14th November- Clanfield Drift Road Evangelical Church Waterlooville, PO8 0NH

21st November- Peterborough Park Road Baptist Church, PE1 2TF

6th December – Birmingham Motorcycle Museum Coventry Road Solihull B92 0EJ
Postcards only

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BUSH HOUSE MONDAY 1st June 2015

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Mick Coad, Bob van Goethem, Peter Harris, Derek Rock and Eddie Weeks.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM

Acceptance proposed by Neville Biden, seconded by Roger Clark and agreed nem con.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014/2015

Welcome to the 2014/2015 CSPS AGM.

Another hard testing year for CSPS. We have settled into our new home at Bush House, and this year have welcomed a number of visiting speakers who have brought us a wide range of topics, which have been greatly enjoyed by those present. Special thanks to the Secretary for all the time and effort expended in assembling the programme and for receiving and escorting the speakers into Bush House. The other club nights have been filled by Members' displays. This has proved to be popular, allowing Members to show some of the many varied and interesting subjects that they collect. Thank you to all of you. As you well know our Council has for some years now consisted of just four members plus the Postal Auctioneer. I have the sad duty to report the retirement from Council of Derek Rock. He has reluctantly decided to do this for health reasons. Derek has been a very long serving member of Council, as member, President, Vice-President and Membership Secretary. A great deal of the work involved in the negotiations for the move from Somerset House fell to Derek, as he was the CSPS liaison with the accommodation services and had official access to the buildings. This move was accomplished successfully with the very able and generous support of the Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you very much Derek from all of us at CSPS, we hope that we will see you at some of the club meetings.

That leaves a vacancy on the Council. How to overcome this and perhaps fill the vacancy will be discussed in Council with the intention of putting forward a proposal at the coming AGM.

The other members of Council will be presenting their end of term reports and again you will see the dedication to the benefit of the CSPS shown by those officers. Without their enthusiastic support there would be no CSPS.

My thanks also go to those who help out at club nights, by moving/replacing furniture and setting up the display boards and also to Ron Oughton for his help in keeping record at the auctions.

Robert van Goethem, President

4. CHIEF EXCHANGE BRANCH SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2014/2015

This has been an eventful year for the Exchange Branch. For the first time in many years CSPS suffered a loss of a packet in circulation. As this went missing soon after starting circulation the loss and claim to the insurance fund was considerable. To add to our woes some months later the Exchange Branch incurred a further loss, this time of a packet of returning books. Very unusually this packet contained more than the normal small number of books, and some were of high value. This has resulted in a further charge on the insurance fund. In this case the monies from the circulated books went some way in reducing the final claim. In spite of the care taken by members to not identify our packets with any exterior markings some still go astray, fortunately not many and not that often. This

is also the first packet that I have lost of the many sent from my local Post Office over the past 30 or more years.

Sadly, I have to report yet a further loss, this time of a packet Superintendent. Martin Crofts took over the Great Britain/Commonwealth section some years back but has decided to retire for health reasons. Martin was very well qualified for the post of EBS having been a CSPS Group Leader and Packet Secretary of the MOD stamp club. He has successfully rebuilt the circulations. My sincere thanks to Martin and to Val his wife, for taking on the job of EBS and for running it so well. In spite of the slow circulation time of packets reported last year, due entirely to postal delays, the Exchange Branch has at last been able to remit some monies to the Treasurer.

The implementation of a sales table at club nights has worked out well, and is providing a service to members who are not on the circulation lists, as well as an outlet for any Members wishing to dispose of items other than by way of auction.

My heartfelt thanks to all those who have and still support the Exchange Branch with books, and to Members who see the packets and by so doing support the Society with their purchases.

I believe that the Exchange Branch will be able to serve its members for a good while yet. Best wishes for a happier trading new year 2015/16.

Robert van Goethem and Martin Crofts

Acceptance proposed by Roger Clark, seconded by Cyril White and agreed nem con.

5. MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014/15

Again a year of gradual decline in membership numbers for various reasons, with no new recruits up to the year end (but one since - welcome to Michael Brian!). Inevitably, although some of the reduction is from those giving up philately, for one reason or another, death continues to be the most significant cause. This year, again, amongst others we suffered the loss of a second ex-Council member, George Goodall - in addition to Derek Ward, already mentioned in last year's report.

Ian Briant

Acceptance proposed by Neville Biden, seconded by Ron Oughton and agreed nem con.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014/15

It has been another successful year for the Society as far as our meetings are concerned and numbers are holding up, with even a few new faces joining us. We have settled in at Bush House now and usually have a decent room to meet in, although the basement rooms have served us well where necessary for meetings or Council. There has been a wide range of displays both from our visiting speakers and Members and we are now used to the tannoy security announcement, just after the formal part of the evening begins. Hopefully there has been something of interest for everyone and if you know of somebody, through other clubs and societies, who has an interesting or unusual display and would be willing to come to London, please let me know, although 2016 has now been taken up.

My thanks are due as usual to those who bring material for display at our Members' Evenings, those who help at our meetings re-arranging our room at Bush House, or, helping with the display boards and at the auction table. Your Council tries to make the most of the meetings, with the sales table, auction and displays. If you have material for the sales table, do bring it along and all the Society requests is donation of the commission, although that is not compulsory. My thanks also go to Ron Oughton for producing the certificates for our speakers.

The Society is short of faces on Council, although at this AGM we will be proposing a new initiative, which will bring the Society even further into the 21st Century, as well as addressing the shortage.

I offer myself for re-election as your Secretary for another year.

Margaret Emerson

Acceptance proposed by Neville Biden, seconded by Roger Clark and agreed nem con.

7. TREASURER`S REPORT 2014/15 Year ending 31st January 2015

I am pleased, as your Treasurer, to present the attached accounts with this report for last year.

Although, inevitably costs again rose this year - especially printing and postage - income, particularly from the Postal Auction (£59), also increased to offset these and resulted in a reduction in losses in both Exchange Branch and General Accounts.

Efforts by your Council to make savings where possible, e.g. advance purchase of postage, and maximise commission, e.g. Sales Table at meetings, continue. However, members can assist by buying and selling through the various Society outlets - Exchange Branch, Postal Auction and at meetings - and additionally those who opt to take the Bulletin via e-mail save us over a £1 each per year in postage!

Therefore, despite the further reduction in our Reserves to £4,170, we still have another 8 years of funds in hand.

Ian Briant

The Accounts have been signed by the President and Secretary as an accurate record.

8. EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE COMMITTEE`S REPORT 2014/15

After having no claims against the fund in recent years, we regret to report the apparent loss of a circulating Box. Although, there is a possibility, that it may eventually "turn up", it is prudent to recognise this loss now in the 2014/15 accounts (£470). As a result, the Insurance Fund now stands at £6,586, i.e. below the target figure of £7,000. However, although the reduced activity within the Exchange Branch means that there is less opportunity to grow the fund back to this level, it also means that we may no longer need such high coverage. Your Council will, therefore, review this figure during the coming year and make suitable recommendations to next year's AGM, if required.

Ian Briant

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report and Exchange Branch Insurance Committee Report proposed by Roger Clark, seconded by Ron Oughton and agreed nem con.

9. POSTAL AUCTIONEER`S REPORT 2014/15

We had a very good postal auction during 2014 with an overall profit to the Society of nearly £59. My thanks go out to both vendors and buyers who took part in the auction and for their co-operation when I needed answers to questions. Since I took over the running of the Postal Auction in 2011 we have only had 12 members submitting lots for sale. For the auction to remain viable over the coming years could I please put out a call for more Members to submit lots.

I'm happy to stand for the post of Postal Auctioneer.

Steve Daniels

Acceptance proposed by Margaret Emerson, seconded by Ian Briant and agreed nem con.

10. BULLETIN EDITOR`S REPORT 2014/15

It does not seem possible that I have been your Editor for fifteen years now, or, by the time many will read this in the July 2015 version, for 30 editions. Hopefully it makes for an

interesting read and thank you to those who have passed on their appreciation during the year. I must offer thanks to those who send in articles for inclusion and this past year has seen a steady stream. Articles long or short are most welcome and I will try and include them. The posting team does a speedy job twice a year and the Society is grateful to Michael Whiffin, the late George Goodall's son-in-law, for continuing to upload and maintain our website.

The Catford Print Centre also do a speedy job of printing my offering and it is now uploaded directly to them. Our February edition was turned around in under 3 days and they still offer favourable rates, having held their prices for many years. Ian collects the finished Bulletins from Catford and so thanks are due to him as well, as this saves on the postage of a parcel to the Society.

If there any more Members who would like to receive a colour version of the Bulletin as a PDF by e-mail, please let me know, as this is already done as routine for a small number of Members.

For some time now, your Council has been thinking about an Online Members' Forum and as Bulletin Editor, I have been testing this with our website developer. We would like to offer this as a trial to Members, to see if it is viable, all you need is an Internet connection and we will do the rest. It will be secure with a password and user name. What will be the advantage? There will be no wait between Bulletins to get a reply to a question, or, to share ideas and thoughts. It would enable uploading of JPEG picture images. Rest assured, it will not pose a threat to the Bulletin for those without Internet access and some of the discussion might even form extra material for the regular Bulletin.

I offer myself for re-election as your Bulletin Editor for another year.

Margaret Emerson

Acceptance proposed by Cyril White, seconded by Neville Biden and agreed nem con.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Secretary had a nomination for the current Officers to be re-elected with three changes. Derek Rock (Vice-President and Meetings Organiser) and Martin Crofts (EBS) have both tendered their resignations. Margaret Emerson to assume the role of Meetings Organiser. Nominations proposed by Cyril White and seconded by Paul Harris.

The Council is :-

President: ROBERT VAN GOETHEM

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: MARGARET A EMERSON

Treasurer : IAN BRIANT

Membership Secretary: IAN BRIANT

Chief Exchange Branch Superintendent: ROBERT VAN GOETHEM

Meetings Organiser: MARGARET A EMERSON

Ex-officio Members of Council:

E B Superintendents:- Vacant

Bulletin Editor: MARGARET A EMERSON

Postal Auctioneer: STEVE DANIELS

Speaker's Secretary: MARGARET A EMERSON

Recommendation of acceptance of the nominations was put to Members and the motion was agreed nem con.

CIVIL SERVICE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
31st January 2015

2013/14	<u>Liabilities</u>	2014/15	2013/14	<u>Assets</u>	2014/15
£		£	£		£
5,288	Balance as at 1st February b/f	4691.04	11,143	Bank of Scotland	10,568.73
(597)	Surplus from General Account	(521.38)	78	Treasurer	102.89
	Balance as at 31 January c/f	4169.66	0	Uncashed cheques	(50.00)
			82	Unbanked cheques	141.29
	<u>Creditors</u>				10762.91
7,048	EB Insurance Fund	6585.51		<u>Debtors</u>	
(550)	EB Deposits	(550.00)	Nil	Postal auction startup	0.00
114	Accruals - Printing & Postage	135.82	0	Exchange Branch	48.25
Nil	Council Expenses etc.	0.00	0	Auction errors	0.00
Nil	Exchange Branch	0.00			
Nil	Insurance Fund	470.17			
		6641.50			48.25
11,303	<u>Totals</u>	10811.16	11,303	<u>Totals</u>	10811.16

GENERAL ACCOUNT

2013/14	<u>Expenditure</u>	2014/15	2013/14	<u>Income</u>	2014/15
£		£	£		£
414	Bulletin inc. postage	435.82	Nil	Bank Interest	0.00
Nil	Council expenses	0.00	Nil	Subscriptions	0.00
Nil	Library	Nil	24	Meeting Auction Commission	24.60
38	Postage, telephone & stationery	0.00	10	Donations	21.33
Nil	Affiliation fees	Nil	0	Miscellaneous - Gains/(Losses)	(0.20)
Nil	Corporation Tax		Nil	Library Sales	5.00
95	Miscellaneous	75.25			
			(84)	Balance from Exchange Branch	(61.04)
(597)	Surplus (Loss) of Income over Expenditure	(521.38)			
(50)	<u>Totals</u>	(10.31)	(50)	<u>Totals</u>	(10.31)

EXCHANGE BRANCH ACCOUNT

2013/14	<u>Expenditure</u>	2014/15	2013/14	<u>Income</u>	2014/15
£		£	£		£
Nil	Printing & Stationery	0.00	44	Commission on Sales	40.22
14	Postage & Telephone	0.00	Nil	Sale of approval books & hinges	0.00
130	Postal Auction Printing, Postage & Stationery	160.19	Nil	Bank Interest	0.00
			16	Postal Auction	58.93
(84)	Balance to General Account	(61.04)			
60	<u>Totals</u>	99.15	60	<u>Totals</u>	99.15

EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE FUND

2013/14	<u>Expenditure</u>	2014/15	2013/14	<u>Income</u>	2014/15
£		£	£		£
Nil	Exchange Branch Sundry Losses	0.00	7,012	Balance as at 1 February b/f	7047.65
Nil	Transfer to General Account	0.00	36	Exchange Branch premiums	8.03
Nil	Insurance Fund claims paid	470.17			
7,048	Balance of Fund as at 31 January c/f	6585.51	0	Exchange Branch sundry gains	0.00
7,048	<u>Totals</u>	7055.68	7,048	<u>Totals</u>	7055.68

Your Council has verified the figures in the financial statements for the period 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2015 and is satisfied that the statements accurately reflect the state of the finances of the Civil Service Philatelic Society for the period

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Roger Clark asked that a formal record be made of the Members' appreciation of all the hard work done by the Council for the Society.

13.2 The meeting closed at 1853 hrs.

13.2 8 members were present.

BOB Van GOETHEM
President

MARGARET EMERSON
Secretary

GB Special Stamp Issues 2015

16 July - Battle of Britain
18 August - Bees
16 September - Post and Go: Sea Travel
18 September - Rugby World Cup
6 October - *details awaited*
3 November - Christmas
16 November - Post and Go: Winter Fur and Feathers

Society Meetings, Exhibitions and Fairs

17th to 18th July

York Stamp and Coin Fair
The Grandstand York Race Course
YO23 1EX

7th August 2015

Strand Stamp Fair
Royal National Hotel

4th September 2015

Strand Stamp Fair
Royal National Hotel

7th September 2015
President's Evening

16th to 19th September 2015

Autumn Stampex
BDC Islington

5th October 2015

Aspects of Malaya
A Talk and Display by Len Stanway

9th October 2015

Strand Stamp Fair
Royal National Hotel

2nd November 2015

Anglo-Boer War
A Talk and Display by Tony Stanford

6th to 7th November 2015

Stafford Stamp Show
County Showground, ST18 0BD

20th November 2015

Strand Stamp Fair
Royal National Hotel

7th December 2015

Grand Auction

11th December 2015

Strand Stamp Fair
Royal National Hotel

January 2016

No Meeting

January 2016

York Stamp and Coin Fair
The Grandstand York Race Course
Dates to be confirmed

1st February 2016

Members' Evening and Postcard Displays

17th to 20th February 2016

Spring Stampex
BDC Islington

7th March 2016

Umbrellas
A Talk and Display by Mike Blackman

4th April 2016

Lovely Little Liechtenstein
A Talk and Display by Fin O'Donoghue

9th May 2016 NB. The date

Members' Evening

6th June 2016

AGM

4th July 2016

Members' Displays

Does not have to be philatelic items

Details for non-CSPS events correct at time of going to press.

Council meets on the third working Monday of February, April, June, September and November.

Items for the next Bulletin should be with the Editor no later than 9th May 2016.

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