

MEETING REPORTS

Ian Nutley, FRPSL returned to give us the second part of "The Zeppelin Story" from 1932, when a regular flight from Fredrickshaven to Brazil and South America were run and displayed were examples of post cards and letters at the rate of 2 marks and 4 marks respectively, any mail that had been posted on board were taken off at Cape Vedre Island and returned to Germany by air mail, each flight had its own cachet and a number from different flights were shown.

Mail from Britain was carried until July 1932, at the rate of 4/- per ½ ounce. Ian then showed a cover from Luxembourg. As there was no airport, letters had to be sent to France or Germany at normal rates plus the air rate. He told us an amusing story of how he bought a cover from a dealer, who let him have it cheap as it had been scribbled on, the marks turned out to be the signatures of the pilot, the navigator, a director of the company and Zeppelin's daughter who happened to be on that flight.

Next displayed were covers from some of the flights from 1933, the third and fourth flights from around Europe and the ninth flight which went to the World's Fair in Chicago in October. In 1934 a new development—a catapult ship was anchored in mid Atlantic and mail from the Zeppelin was dropped onto it and then taken to its destination by aeroplane. In 1936 the ship was taken for repairs and on show were some covers that had been shuttled from Brazil to the Gambia. Next shown were covers that had been delayed by a revolution in Brazil. Later in 1936 the "Hindenberg LZ127" was brought into service and both ships flew together on a political flight around Germany playing nationalistic music and dropping leaflets. On 1st August, 1936 they flew over the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Berlin. To finish his display Ian showed a number of covers which were saved from the fire of a ship in New York, when 36 people died in that accident.

Charlie Mead, one of our members gave us a display of stamps and postal history of "The Fiji Islands" recently. In his introduction he said that some 320 islands made up the Fiji Islands with Suva as its capital. Only about a hundred of the islands were inhabited and that in the 19th century the natives were cannibalistic and he related that Rev. Tom Baker, a missionary, finished in the pot.

The first stamps issued on the island were on 1st November, 1870, not by the post office but by the "Fiji Times," a newspaper owned by Dr. Freeman and on display were stamps from the first and second printings. These only lasted for about 18 months, when the government issued its first stamps on 3rd December, 1871 with the Kings "C.R" monogram. Charlie showed a number of these stamps including some forgeries by Spiro.

After the American consulate was burnt down during a 4th July celebration, Fiji became a Crown Colony in 1874 and stamps were locally overprinted "V.R." The next part of the display was of stamps issued when Fiji joined the UPU in 1891 and included in this part were some newspaper wrappers and postal stationery.

The display continued with stamps of King George V from 1912, together with the war tax stamps, locally printed postage due stamps and ¼d newspaper rated stamps. The first pictorial definitives were of King George VI in 1938. Sir Harry Luke, the Governor was a keen philatelist and found errors that he had reissued in 1940 and included in this section were stamps from the different dies used and the last postage due stamps to be issued in 1940.

The final section of the display included the two health issues of 1951, 1954 and covers from the first Trans. Pacific flights of 9th and 14th November, 1941. The pre decimal issues of the Queen together with the first decimal issues were followed by the independence issue on 10th October, 1970 and the birds and flowers definitives of 1971 and what was for a time the smallest miniature sheet in 1975. Len Stanway gave a vote of thanks to Charlie for not only a very fine display but also for its presentation on his own computer made sheets.

Thank you for your help and interest.

A. P. HARRIS, Secretary.

OUR MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

MEETING REPORTS

- April 17th **Spring BasPex . . . Stamp Fair.**
- April 20th **Basildon v Billericay Quiz.**
- May 3rd **No meeting.**
- May 18th **Guernsey and Alderney . . . Display by Pat Harris.**
- May 20th **Visit to Enfield P.S.**
- June 7th **Visit from Enfield P.S.**
- June 22nd **Annual General Meeting.**

Next displayed were covers from some of the flights from 1933, the third and fourth flights from around Europe and the fifth flight which went to the World's Fair in Chicago in October. In 1934 a new development—a packet ship was anchored in mid Atlantic and mail from the Zeppelin was dropped onto it and then taken to its destination by aeroplane. In 1938 the ship was taken for repairs and on show were some covers that had been mailed from Brazil to the Gambia. Next shown were covers that had been delayed by a revolution in Brazil. Later in 1938 the "Hindenburg LZ129" was brought into service and both ships flew together on a political flight around Germany playing nationalist music and dropping leaflets. On 1st August 1938 they flew over the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Berlin. To finish the display I showed a number of covers which were saved from the fire of a ship in New York when 36 people died in that accident.

Recently in his introduction he said that some 320 islands made up the Fiji Islands with Suva as its capital. Only about a hundred of the islands were inhabited and that in the 19th century the natives were cannibals and he related that Rev. Tom Baker, a missionary, landed in the port.

The first stamps issued on the island were on 1st November 1870 and by the post office but by the "Fiji Times", a newspaper owned by Dr. Freeman and on display were stamps from the first and second printings. These only lasted for about 18 months when the government issued its first stamps on 2nd December 1871 with the King's "CR" monogram. Charlie showed a number of these stamps including some forged by Spence.

After the American consulate was burnt down during a 4th July celebration, Fiji became a Crown Colony in 1874 and stamps were locally overprinted "V.R.". The next part of the display was of stamps issued when Fiji joined the U.K. in 1874 and included in this part were some newspaper wrappers and postal stationery.

The display continued with stamps of King George V from 1912, together with the war tax stamps, locally printed postage due stamps and 2d newspaper related stamps. The first pictorial definitive was of King George VI in 1938. Sir Harry Luke, the Governor was a keen philatelist and found errors that he had returned in 1940 and included in this section were stamps from the different dies used and the last postage due stamps to be issued in 1940.

The final section of the display included the two health issues of 1951, 1954 and covers from the Pacific Pacific flights of 9th and 14th November 1941. The pre-decimal issues of the Queen together with the decimal issues were followed by the independence issue on 10th October 1970 and the birds and flowers definitives of 1971 and what was for a time the smallest miniature sheet in 1972. Len Stoney gave a word of thanks to Charlie for not only a very fine display but also for his presentation on his own computer made available.

Thank you for your help and interest

A. P. HARRIS, Secretary