

Basildon collector

volume 5, Issue 1

April 2000

Meeting reportsa

December/January

For our last meeting at Laindon we had our Festive evening and Tomex quiz. Albert who is still on the sick list could not attend so Dennis Livermore stood in as question master with some very difficult questions David Perry was the eventual winner. After the quiz Len Stanway in his capacity as competitions registrar handed out trophies and certificates to the winners of the various competitions this has become a regular feature of our Festive evening.

We moved to our new venue at the George Hurd Centre for our first meeting in January when we had our 8 pages from my collection informal competition from the several entries the members voted in third place Pat Harris with his Herm Island Cinderella entry, David Church was second with his Faeroes Islands with winner May Colvill with an entry of the Red Cross.

February Meetings

Our first meeting had to have a change of speaker due to the ill health of Mr Waldock (it is hoped to have him come back next year). Arthur Bowles one of our new mem-

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR
SIT AMET, CON-
SECTETUER ADIPISCING
ELIT, SED DIEM NON-
UMMY NIBH EUISMOD
TINCIDUNT UT LACREET
DOLORE MAGNA
ALIGUAM ERAT VOLUT-
PAT. UT WISIS ENIM AD



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,

MINIM VENIAM, QUIS
NOSTRUD EXERCI TU-
TION ULLAMCORPER
SUSCIPIT LOBORTIS NISL
UT ALIQUIP EX EA COM-
MODO CONSEQUAT.
DUIS TE FEUGIFACILISI.
DUIS AUTEM DOLOR IN
HENDRERIT IN VULPU-
TATE VELIT ESSE MO-
LESTIE CONSEQUAT,
VEL ILLUM DOLORE EU
FEUGIAT NULLA FACILI-
SIS AT VERO EROS ET
ACCUMSAN ET IUSTO
ODIO DIGNISSIM QUI
BLANDIT PRAESENT
LUPTATUM ZZRIL DE-

bers who gave a display about the Boer War

He started he display by talking of the the things and names to come out of this war firstly the general use of Khaki in the army the red tunic and brass making soliers un easy target for the Boer marksmen who were mainly farmers, secondly the word Commando this was the name given to small bands of fast moving Boers who raided the British lines and quickly riding away. The 1st name was Concentration camps in which the British put the wives and children of the Boers to stop them hidding and feeding their army. It was also the last charge made by the cavalry of the British army at the battle for Ladysmith.

The display opened with postcards of some of the main people in the conflict for the British were General, Buller, Roberts and Kitchener with Rudgard Kipling, Edgar Wallace and Winston Churchill who were war correspondants, and Mahatma Ghandi who raised a company of streacher bearers ot help with the wounded. On the Boer side were Kruger, Smuts and Hertzhog. Following on were a number of covers including some internally used during the siege of Mafiking with stamps of Baden-Powell and SM. Goodyear and covers bearing regimental crests of various army units. The first section finished with some memorabilia including a tin of chocolate sent to each serving man by Queen Victoria (more of this

later) a number of campaign medals including one won by a Private Smith of the Essex regiment with no less than four battle bars. Copies of a magazine of the day called the Sphere, a number of cap and lapel badges and a copy of a book written by Rudyard Kipling

The second part of the display was of covers sent from around the world including a number from Germany, France and Holland sent to the Boers the section also a number sent to and from internment camps in Colombo, Bombay and St. Helena.

The final section started off with a number of patriotic postcards, on the British side were some from Generals, various regiments and the City Imperial Volunteers some 1500 workers from the City of London who fought as a unit in the early days of the war. At this time the continentals were not aware that chocolate was eaten as a sweet and there were a number of derogatory cards sent to the Boers from their friends in Europe on this subject.

Charlie Mead gave the vote of thanks to Arthur not only for covering at short notice but for a very interesting evening that led to a lot of discussion afterwards.

Some stories taken from the "Raflet Magazine" with thanks to the Editor.

The Gentleman Convict by Reg Clements

Francis Howard Greenway (1777 1837) was born in Bristol into a family of stone masons and builders. He showed great aptitude for this work and became a pupil of John Nash. In 1805 he began to practise as an architect but was a poor business man and was bankrupted in 1809. He reopened his work in 1812 but was convicted of forging a document and was sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to transportation to New South Wales for fourteen years.

He arrived on the "General Hewitt" in February 1814 and the Governor Lachlan Macquarie (Aus. sg 480) was so impressed that he granted Greenway a "Ticket of Leave" almost immediately, appointing him as an unpaid adviser to the Government. Greenway gave such stringent reports about the methods and capabilities of various builders that he soon earned their enmity.

In 1816 he was appointed Civil Architect and Assistant Engineer at a salary of three shillings a day. One of his first buildings was the lighthouse at Port Jackson. Macquarie was so pleased with it that he granted Greenway emancipation.

When in 1817 Greenway inspected the work on a new church he decided that it was unsafe as well as unsuitable. So he completely redesigned the church which now stands today as St Matthews church- he also designed St Luke's Church, St James Church (sg 559) and the Convicts Barracks. The Governor was so pleased he granted Greenway full citizenship.

Greenway's strength was his ability to adapt designs to the purpose needed and to suit local conditions and climate, so that his buildings were the first truly Australian in character.

The expenditure through, started to ring alarm bells in Whitehall and Commissioner George Bigge was sent out to investigate. He described Greenway's work as "too grand for an infant colony."

Macquarie withdrew his patronage and Greenway drifted into penury- a very sad end for so talented a man.

Geologist Extraordinaire by Reg Clements

Tannatt William Edgeworth David was born near Cardiff in 1858. He was educated at Magdalen College school and New College Oxford obtaining his B.A. degree in 1881. In 1882 he commenced courses in Geology at the Royal College of Science and in the same year accepted a position as Assistant Geological Surveyor with the New South Wales Department of Mines.

From 1891 he spent 25 years at the University of Sidney in various posts from Chairman of Geology to Fellow of the Senate. He spent much of his time researching Australian geographical features and during an expedition to Funafuti in the Ellice Group, he confirmed Darwin's theory regarding the growth of coral atolls. He appears on Aus 432 5 cent coil stamp

David accompanied Shackleton to the Antarctic in 1907 and in 1908 led a party on the ascent of Mount Erebus and later in 1909 with Douglas Mawson and Cecil Madigan sledged to the South Magnetic Pole they all appear on A A T stamp sg.7.

On the outbreak of World War 1 he raised a Mining Battalion and became Chief Geologic Surveyor for the British Army on the western front becoming a Lt. Colonel with the DSO.

He returned to Australia in 1919 to resume his University and research work receiving many honours including C.M.G. and K.B. on his death in 1934 he was accorded a Funeral

I Would like to thank the Editor of Raflet Sean.A Brady for allowing me to use these stories I Hope to include more in later issues.

A cutting from Tit Bits of November 1912. A regrettable incident

Diplomatic rupture between Spain and the South American Republic of Colombia arose out of the design of one of its stamps issued in 1910 to mark the centenary of her freedom from Spain. On the 10 centavos registration stamp of this series was depicted an incident in the country's history, when a number of citizens were publicly executed by order of the Spanish Governor, under circumstances of the deepest treachery. A number of the inhabitants having made their escape to the hills when the Spaniards finally occupied Cathagena, after a prolonged siege, Morillo the Spanish leader enticed them back into the town under promise of a general amnesty, when they were immediately seized and shot in a body on 24 February 1816. Naturally the Spanish Government did not relish this raking up of past grievances and threatened to recall the Spanish Minister from Bogota unless the issue was suppressed. This was done the remained of the stamps being officially destroyed.

Stamps of the Chinese Revolution.

During the recent political upheaval in China the postal service was, by mutual consent treated as neutral by both combatants and permitted to excise its functions unmolested. But the overprinting of the current Chinese postage stamps -

with syllabic characters signifying "Provisional Neutrality" at the insistence of the Imperial Government, pending the granting of a Constitution was at once resented by the leaders of the Military Republic of China, who demanded their instant withdrawal, on the grounds that the wording of the overprint was "prejudicial to the national repute". Accordingly the stamps were at once called in, after being on sale at a single post office for a period of three days only.

Meeting Report A touch of Blarney by Ray How

Ray paid a return visit to us with his updated display, he said that he had been collecting Irish stamps etc. since a visit to the Island when he was 7 years old and started off with some family photographs of that visit with him kissing the Blarney Stone. These were followed by a number of postcards some recalling the Easter rising of 1916.

A provisional Government was declared in January 1922 and on display were the February issue of British George V stamps with the "Dollard" overprints, sections of the public were not happy with these stamps including the postmen who did not want to deliver them. On 6 December that year the Irish Free state came into being and further stamps were overprinted with the "Thorn" 1922.

Also on this day the first Eire stamps were issued, these were on display with many of following issues including the 1949 issue when the State became a Republic and the change to decimal currency in 1971. The first section finished with a collection of postcards with a Guinness theme.

The second section was entirely of Maritime mails carried on the Waterford to Milford Haven or the Dublin to Holyhead ferries. In the first part were covers and letters from all parts of the world including Europe, Australia and the United States. The later part was of covers between England and Ireland and among them were two superb covers tied with 1d blacks cancelled with "Cork" Maltese crosses.

The final part of the evening was of mail carried by air. Ray said that when presenting this display at a other Society he was informed that there was no such thing as Irish airmails as there was no airline until 1931 and airmail cachets were never used.

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The first cover shown was of Balloon mail that left France at 4 30 one morning in 1871 and arrived in Belfast only 5 days later, this was followed by a number of covers flown on experimental flights from various places in Ireland to different places in England and a 1925 cover from London to Berlin.

In 1928 the Mayor of Liverpool declared a civic week with Belfast with mail going in both directions every day, this was extended for a second week and although Ray had some on display he said that he could fill an entire evening with this one event.

To end the display a cover was shown that was taken from Galway to London Croydon that was then flown to France to be put on a ship going to Canada where it was put a flying boat and taken to the U.S.A.

John Pettit gave the vote of thanks to Ray for very enjoyable evening.

A message from your editor

I would like to hear from you your views on the newsletter, would you like different articles, more news of other events, any thing you do not like, would you like information about new issues or even if you think it is a complete waste of time please let me know either on club nights or write to me at

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Pitsea, Basildon

ESSEX SS13 2AQ.

or e mail at pat700@tinyonline.co.uk

ps. Sory about page 1 I will get it right some day.

meetings for the next quarter.

3 April Auction night nearly 400 lots you have the list if you can not attend please make a postal bid either to me or Michael

8 April Spring Stamp fair at the Community centre Laindon

18 April Something beginning with M or N Part 1

15 May Basildon/Billericay Quiz at Billericay come along to support your team.

16 May Part 2 of something beginning with M or N part 2.

20 May David,s stamp Fair at Laindon

5 June Visit from Harlow PS.

20 June Annual general meeting.

Spring Competitions

There were a record breaking 19 entries for the three competitions. Arthur Jones who with Margaret Browning judged them said that he was pleased to see the number of entries and the very high standard of effort made by all the entrants, one word he had to say that if you are entering please read the rules first and that the work should flow with a beging a middle and an end.

In the Thematic competition Dennis Sales came third with U P U, Dennis Livermore was Second with The Few and the winner was Len Stanway with Railways.

The Cinderella section had Dennis Livermore in second place with Lest we Forget and in first place one of our new members Arthur Bowles with Forgeries.

Charlie Mead came first and third in Modern Material with Mail Sort and Fiji with Dennis Livermore in the middle with Winston Churchill.

From your Secretary.

We have now settled in our new venue which we think is an improvement to Laindon and we have got some new members since moving.

This will be the last newsletter before the AGM when a new Chairman and Secretary will be required together with one new committee member if you would like to fill these posts please come along to the meeting.

If anyone who is on the appointment list wishes to change please let me know.

If you have not yet paid your subs this is the last news letter you will receive.

Peter has asked me to ask for more members to go on the packet so that we can put more material in ciucuit. This is all for now best wishes to every one and please let me have your views on this letter