

Meeting report.

Gary Green opened the first evening of **Something beginning with O or P** with some miniature sheets of the Penny Black centenary issue of the Isle of Man.

Pat Harris followed with a small display of what he called **Officious Orders of the Occupation** and showed some requisitions orders from the Germans during their occupation of the Channel Islands including one for a Mr. Husband for his house, a number for cars and one for a set of scales to weight flour. He showed a photograph of Mr and Mrs Green with a story of how she when a number of German officers in her restaurant gave the salute Heil Hitler, answered with Hail Churchill this earned her 6 months in a Prison in France where she secretly embroidered a small handkerchief with the details. After this she was known as Mrs. Churchill.

Post office "Howlers" was the first part of Dennis Sales evening he produced a number of covers with the slogans upside down to the date stamp and a couple that being addressed correctly went from Canada to Malaysia in stead of Wales yet another Canadian cover that had two one cent coins fixed to the cover to make up the rate. He related the story of a letter delivered to his sister in Ipswich that had Road instead of Avenue, she pointed out the error and put it back in the post. It was again delivered the next day. She gave the letter to Dennis to repost in Billericay but the same thing happened.

The second part of Dennis's display was of the **Pro Juventute** issues of Switzerland. These stamp were first issued in 1913 with a surcharge in aid of children, stamps, covers and anniversary miniature sheet were displayed with some beautiful cachets of the William Tell and Gessler story.

The final part of the evening was of the Kingdom of Perak in Malaysia by Len Stanway he told the story in stamps and covers of their postal history that included problems with other nations of Malaysia and the UPU. Because of a one cent stamp, among the items displayed was a prepaid card of 1881 from the Straights Settlements overprinted Perak and a set of stamps that had been overprinted with the date of 2602 their date for 1942.

Did you know that the first "slogan" postmark was used in London in 1661. It was applied by hand to letters going to Kent and said THE POST FOR ALL KENT GOES EVERY NIGHT FROM THE ROYND HOVSE IN LOVE LANE AND COMES EVERY MORNING. Two types of hand stamp were used until 1663.

A similar slogan was used on mail going to Essex in 1674/5 and read ESSEX POST GOES AND COMS EVERY DAY.

The story of the occupation of the Channel Islands Part 1.

Up until the beginning of June 1940 the war had not touched the islands with the tourist season in full swing the war seemed a long way off, but in the first week in June the Germans crossed the Seine and suddenly the war was much closer.

The Bailiffs of Jersey and Guernsey contacted the Home Office in London to find out what was being done to protect the islands, before the answer came the Admiralty asked the islanders for a second "DunKirk" At St. Malo where allied troops were in danger of being cut off. So on the 17 June a small Armada of Yachts and fishing boats set off and started transfer the troops to bigger ships-

Out at sea, some 24,500 were evacuated the last being the Royal Engineers who blew up the oil storage tanks and other items to stop the enemy from using them.

The war office decided to demilitarise the islands and by 22 June all the armed forces had left the islands, with most of the Jersey Militia becoming the 11th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment (the Guernsey Militia having been disbanded in 1923) most of the men from Guernsey had volunteered for service some with the Free French.

There was considerable confusion with the various government department giving conflicting orders. The evacuation of the civilian population started on 19 June and about a third of them left including all but seven of the population of Alderney. A popular story of the time was that Guernsey farmers collected up the cattle from Alderney and left them to graze on the new Guernsey Airport, when the Germans found out they dropped leaflets warning what would happen if they were not quickly removed.

The Germans had not been told that the islands were demilitarised so that when they flew over and saw lines of lorries waiting to be loaded at the ports of St. Helier and St. Peter Port they took them to be military (they were in fact produce waiting to be loaded) and so at 6 45pm on the 28 June both port areas were bombed with the loss of 44 lives.

The pilots reported back that there had not been and defensive fire on them, so on 30 June leaflets were dropped with the terms for surrender. In the afternoon a plane piloted by Richard Kern landed on Jersey Airport to ask if the terms were accepted and was told they were. Later in the evening troops from the 319 infantry division flew into the Airport and the five years of occupation had begun with the Bailiff Alexander Couthanche taking down the Union Jack at Fort Regent.

Guernsey's Bailiff Victor Carey being in ill health vested his authority in the controlling committee with his deputy Ambrose Sherwill at its head and it was him that surrendered the Island on 2 July 1940. Alderney and Sark were occupied on 9 July 1940

Change of address

Please note that John, Ivy and David Church have moved to

87 Worthing Road

Laindon

SS15 6JU

The telephone number remains the same

01268 543371/07973 308219

Meeting Report

Two members of Goodmayes Society visited us recently to give us their displays.

Hammond Kenlin told the story of the Sidney Harbour Bridge it was first thought of in 1850 but the ferry men objected and the scheme got forgotten until a Mr. Bradford became the Sidney Engineer who after extensive travels decided on a "Coat Hanger" type construction.

A contract to supply the steel work was placed with Dorman-Long of England, the value of the Bridge was set at £4 Million but came in at £10 and eight men lost their lives during its construction.

The stamp designs were produced with values of 2d, 3d, and 5/=(the top value having no use at that time), to show the size of the Bridge the RMS. ORFORD was shown passing under it. A story was told that a group of Irish men forged the low value and used the stamps to advertise the lottery giving a return address. A stamp collector who received a letter asked the post office when they issued a new stamp the men were arrested and the plates destroyed.

On the opening day of the Bridge the post office opened an office at each end and on display were a number of full sheets of the lower values. The cachets were changed every hour and Hammond showed a vast number of these timed covers the last one being timed at 11 15 pm. Before continuing he told the story of the Cavalry escort on the Bridge gaining an extra Officer who just as the tape was being cut rode forward and slashed it open with his sabre he was arrested.

The display continued with telegraphs and registered covers bearing the high value stamp one cover having two "Vignettes", a number of covers from the Philatelic Exhibition at the time and an advert for Kingsford-Smith to give trips over the Bridge at 20/= a trip for adults. The Bridge was opened on 19 March 1932.

Jeff Mullet displayed items under the title of "The post office at war" first up were a number of items from the occupation of the Channel Islands including bisects and local stamps on covers, next came reusable envelopes and labels followed by a number of wartime cachets such as grow more food. The German forgeries of the George VI stamps with the Star of David and a skull were next. A number of the reduced size Air letters came next with a number of covers from the Boar War. Active service envelopes and some Russian War charity stamps together with first world war War Tax covers were next and his display ended with items from the third anniversary issue for the Channel Islands from 1948.

Did you know

The first Registered letter was issued in Britain on 1 January 1878. Adhesive stamps covering the postage had to be affixed to the front to the front of the envelope but a special twopenny Registration stamp was embossed on the flap.

Meeting Report

The second part of O&P had no less than 11 members displaying items from their collections

Jenny Perry was first explaining that her disabilities prevented her from collecting stamps went on to display a number of covers from Great Britain with Oak trees, Owls, Olympics, Parliament and Prince Charles. Maggie Thompson was next with items from her Triangle collection that included items from Oman, Pakistan, Panama & Poland, triangular postmarks from Peru and some triangle overprints and a lovely display of Pigeon Post stamps from New Zealand. Michael Musgrave had an unusual display of O.H.M.S mint & used recorded delivery envelopes of the three different types issued since February 1961. Gary Green completed the first session with a selection of GB postage due labels.

Jim Thompson led off the second session with a series of German parcel post cards from early 1923, the package was taken to the post office and the card was sent to the addressee who had to collect the parcel if it was to be delivered it would cost more. Mr Cooksey displayed items of 18th century mail to and from the Sussex town of Petmouth with many entires including one that was offering wet nurses to a London maternity hospital. Postal stationery in the form of aerogrammes from Malaysia & Singapore were Len Stanways contribution to the evening some of the illustrations shown were the unique fishing method, Bamboos and the container port this finished the second part of the evening.

Dennis Livermore started the final session with some photographs telling the story of the life and times of a war time collaborator, Dennis sent the photographs to the town mayor Max Deny who after some time sent them back with photos he had taken in the same places 50 years later this made Dennis

Able to show then and now. Swiss post marks and slogans were shown by Dennis Sales that included some with the Lion of Lucerne. The life of Pablo Picasso was told by Arthur Bowles using stamps, maxi card and covers from around the world and he told of how after the suicide of a friend he went on to paint in what became known as his blue period. The evening ended with Pat Harris showing items from his Channel Islands occupation collection mainly of events following the liberation that had several sets of anniversary stamps and a set of post cards of the Liberation tapestry that each of the parishes of Jersey made for the 50th anniversary of the liberation. Charlie Mead thanked all those who contributed to the evening and said that well over 200 sheets were shown.

Meeting Report

The postal history of Heligoland and Tobago were the displays of Nigel Chandler who visited us lately.

Heligoland an island off the northwest coast of Germany originally Dutch it became British in 1814 after the Napoleonic war. It was ceded back to Germany in 1880 but became British again after each of the two world wars and has been German since 1952. The first items displayed were of the 1867 perforated and rouletted stamps valued in Hanover Shillings included were a number of forgeries some of which were straight line cancellations the official one being a double circle or segmental both of which were shown.

Next were the imperf. Issue of 1875 that were issued in dual currencies pence and phennigs once again these stamps were followed by a number of forgeries from countries like France, Germany and Italy. A gentleman named Goldner

With the agreement of the head postmaster re-printed some of the values in Leipzig in 1888 on a sanitized paper. He also printed some he was not given authority to do selling them to dealers And his permission was withdrawn. A number of items of postal stationery and newspaper wrappers completed this section.

Tobago an island in the West Indies discovered in 1498 by Columbus had no interest in it until the 17th century and until 1805 when the British took over it had changed hands some 35 times with the French, Dutch Spanish and British sometimes being in control. The first items being shown were a number of entires one from 1804 with a French cancellation a number to the Bank of Scotland who administered some of the estates. The first stamps shown were the 1879 issue these stamps had a "crown CA" watermark and were for fiscal use only, later the watermark was changed to "CC" for postal use only examples of both were shown. Included was a 6d orange stamp that due to the 1d stamp running out had been surcharged with one penny vertically surcharged in pen and ink, later that year the word postage was added to the design and re-issued with a number of new values. Some of these stamps were shown with some of the 1883 surcharged stamps. The stamps were withdrawn on 1/1/1899 when stamps of Trinidad came into use. An array of postal stationery including some specimen were shown with registered mail (one of which had been delivered with out any postage paid), newspaper wrappers and covers sent around the world finished off a very pleasant evening.

The AGM.

Most of the Officers and Appointees remain in post the major exception is the treasurer Peter, Having got the Societies books in order felt it was wrong to have all the finances in one person so has resigned as treasurer, this means that a new treasurer is wanted. As no one came forward at the meeting the President gave the extra work to the Secretary until a new treasurer was appointed there is also a vacancy for an Assistant Secretary.

You will be pleased to know that there will not be any increase in subscriptions this so they remain at £2 for juniors, £8 for 18 to 60's and £5 for over 60's and they are now due.

John Pettit was made Society Personality of the year for all his work over the past 30 odd years.

Editors notes.

Please note that there are two wrong dates in your new programme September and December should read 19th and not 18th as shown.

As Easter fall early in April next year the spring Competitions and the Auction have been put back one month

The attendance of members has been very disappointing at the five stamp fairs each year it would be very nice if more of you came along not only to buy stamps etc. but to meet other members for a chinwag. I have printed below the time scales for our auctions to be sure you all know when to be ready should you wish to enter lots, please keep it by as a reference.

AUCTIONS

Some members have told me that they were not able to put lots into the last auction because they were to late.

So I have put together this information sheet to help every body.

Firstly why do we have Auctions, to help members and others to clear out unwanted materials this has a threefold benefit

- 1. You are exchanging unwanted materials for money to spend on your collection.*
- 2. The buyer gets something they want.*
- 3. The Society take 10% of the bid price to help our funds.*

So you can see by supporting the auctions every one can benefit.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO.

Firstly sort out what is surplus to you, then get a lotting sheet from the Auction Secretary or myself. Or use a sheet of paper.

Next get this form back to the Auction Secretary

Michael Musgrave 49 Vowler Road , Lanidon Hills SS15 6AQ TELE. 01268 543025 after 8 pm

E MAIL michael.musgrave@virgin.net. As soon as possible or

They can be handed in at meetings up to the first meeting in FEBRUARY or August. The lots themselves can be put in at this time or not later than the last meeting in March or September.

These dates allow the Auction Secretary to compile the catalogue and to distribute it to other Societies and interested people.

Should you require any other information please contact Michael, Alan our Secretary or myself.

For next spring the Auction has been brought forward one month to March as Easter fall in the first week of April.