

Editors Notes.

Firstly I would like to thank Steve Alpe for completing the last newsletter and for Photocopying it and congratulate him on being elected to the committee.

I would like to thank you for making me the Member of the Year which I did not expect.

David Church has asked me to include this message and I am happy to do so-

I attended the AGM this year expecting it to be fairly uneventful, which was the case until the very end, when to my shock and amazement I was made An Honorary Life Member which was totally unexpected. I would like to thank all concerned for bestowing this Honour on me. As I am sure you know the Society was founded in 1968, and I joined the Junior section the following year. I have grown a little since then and have been a continuous member for the last 33 years holding various posts within the Club. I hope to remain a member for the next 33 years, or even longer.

Thank you once again David Church.

A number of you have send me Emails that I not received, I have now changed to AOL and hope that things will improve.

Len Stanway as Competition Registrar handed out Trophies and certificates to members successful in recent competitions and reminded members that our next formal competitions were to be held in November, all of 8 pages, Stamps, postal history and aerophilately.

Did you know that the only stamp issued for Rocket mail the 10 centavos of Cuba issued on 15 October 1939 with stamps and mini. Sheets Issued in 1964 25 years later.

Meeting Report.

Arthur Hobbs made a return visit to open our new programme, Arthur a founder member of the club has moved to Suffolk. Victorian Canada was his display. The first all Canada stamp were issued in April 1851 it was of the 3d Beaver designed by Stamford Fleming who was later knighted for his Engineering work on the Canadian railways, the other stamps in this set the 6d and 12d followed later, the display continued with items from the 1852 and 1858 issues.

The French Canadians tried to impose their coins and caused great confusion so that Francis Hicks the inspector General for the Province of Canada imposed a policy that led to the decimal currency being imposed in 1859.

On show were mint and used stamps of the first decimal issue of 1859 using the previous designs that included the dual currency 6d and 12 1/2 cents, the stamps were printed by the newly formed American Banknote Company.

The next showing was of the 1868 to 1900 issues for the Dominion of Canada formed the previous year between Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and nova Scotia the other provinces joining on later dates with New Foundland and the North West Territories ally joining in 1949. Arthur showed both the Ottawa and Montreal issued that differed in perforations, papers and water marks.

After items from the 1882 and 1892 issues came the Queens Diamond Jubilee issue of 1897, this was the first commemorative issue of Canada the American Banknote Company was used values were between 1/2 cent and 5 dollars the higher values being used for registered and bulk newspapers.

The Downey issue of 1897-8 was next these proved not to be popular as with Maple Leaves in all corners made it difficult to know the values if was quickly followed in 1898 with the bottom tables giving values. The last stamps in the first half were of the worlds first Christmas stamps of 1898 and the session finished with some postal history items.

The second part of the display was of stamp cancels. It was found to be impossible to provide all postmasters with date stamps for cancelling and permission was granted to allow them to provide their own from what ever materials were available and the 30 members present were treated to literally hundreds of different cancels far to many for me to list but there were corks with a variety of crosses, circles and flower petals and many more including squared circles. One in particular stood out after some investigation it was found that the postmaster had used his stamp so often that he had worn the rubber out and was cancelling on the metal frame. This half was completed with some railway post office cancels, registration labels including covers and some dead letter stamps used when the post office was unable to deliver or return letters. Len Stanway gave a vote of thanks to Arthur for a very interesting evening.

meeting for the next quarter.

7 October Autumn Auction

22 October Visit from Shoeburyness PS.

Note 4th Tuesday

4 November Competition Night

19 November Aspects of Rhodesia by Chris Cooksey.

2 December Christmas a Display by Jean Taylor

17 December Tomex Quiz and Festive evening with Dennis Livermore.

Meeting report The Committee entertains

On a warm July evening three members of the committee showed items from their collections Dennis Livermore started with a section from his "Least we forget" series this was of the wartime President of the United States Franklin D Roosevelt. He told of his life story in stamps of all shapes and sizes together with miniature and covers from many of the worlds countries.

The British Solomon Islands were displayed by Charlie Mead starting with the George VI and Queen Elizabeth silver wedding issue and showing every issue up to 1975 up to the birds stamps of 1975.

Len Stanway chose The Straits Settlements as his contributions to the evening. The three original settlements were Malacca, Penang and Singapore with the Asian Christmas Island, they were formed into a crown colony on 1 April 1867 prior to this the East India Company administered the area. Stamps of India were used and cancelled with a duplex 109 for Malacca, Penang was 147 and Singapore was 172 and stamps for each were displayed. A number of different currencies were used up to 1867 when the Spanish American dollar was introduced. Stamps of Queen Victoria from that year were on display with some of the many currency overprints. Included in the display. Also in the display were a number of covers, letter cards some with reply cards. The Victorian section was completed with the key type issues of 1892 to 99 that included some flaws and Singapore overprints.

These were followed by the Edward VII key type stamps of 1902 and the later issues of 1903, in 1904 the currency was change to the Straits Dollar. (I had to leave at this point).

Wanted I am looking for some covers with a Jersey postmark before 1952 if you can help please phone me.

Meeting report Barry Lobel, Nobel Prize

30+ members attended the early August meeting and those of you who did not missed the treat of the year.

Barry Lobel made a return visit he is the most excellent speaker that does not need a display he keeps you entertained without one. The topic he chose was the Nobel Prize, firstly he spoke of Alfred Nobel he was at the time of his death the richest man in the world with some 700,000,000 Krona when he died in 1895. Dynamite was only one of his inventions, he had factories all over the world including one in Waltham Cross that made the toy caps and his Glasgow factory was used to illustrate the GB first flight cover.

There are five sections to the prizes Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Architecture and Peace. Barry displayed items for each firstly combining Physics and Chemistry In 1901 a German Physicist was the first to win the prize for his invention of X-Ray he and all those to be mentioned were represented with photographs, stamps and covers Marie Currie the only woman to receive two awards but her husband, daughter and son-in law all won prizes. To write about all the people would that many pages so I will pick out the more notable stories.

When he gave a display in Cambridge a member of the audience spoke to him after saying it was unusual for he to hear somebody talking about him and Barry got Anthony Hewish to put his signature against his stamp.

Other great men in medicine completed part one Emil Von Behing the discoverer of blood groups, Robert Koch who found the Tuberculosis Bacillus and Albert Schweitzer missionary and Doctor who was a great organist that played in the Albert Hall.

The second part of the evening was for the Peace and Literature sections An early peace winner was Henri Durant the founder of the international Red Cross and stamps and miniature sheets from most countries of the world were on display.

Many people have won the peace prize but also a number of organisations have been selected such as Amnesty international and Unicef. Picking out one of the writers John B Yates together with stamps and covers was a topical Irish Euro note carrying his portrait.

Charlie Mead gave a well deserved vote of thanks.

Did you know

The Society has three full time dealers and one part time, they all attend on our informal evenings and the formal competition nights.

Dave Perry and Arthur Bowles also attend our stamp fairs and the fairs that David Church runs himself. Dennis Livermore brings along materials to our meetings when his work pattern allows.

Both Jersey and Guernsey have brought out miniature sheets commemorating the life of the Queen Mother if you wish to receive them- Telephone 01481 716486 for Guernsey or 01534 516320 for Jersey.

When Arthur Hobbs came to us in July I asked him if he had any more stories that could be used in the newsletter, he sent me a large number that I will include in future editions.

I am starting part of the first one now When it arrived I started to read it and could not put it down I am going to write it fully as Arthur has written it.

Stanley Gibbons Little Red Book

Whilst on holiday recently in our favourite Suffolk countryside we happened on a small book shop in one of the villages we visited. We had seen the rather tumble-down before on our travels but it had always been closed. This time it was open, the exterior looked much like a tarred weather board shed, but once inside a veritable Aladins cave unfolded with room after room opening out and were packed the rafters with books. We spent some time browsing through ancient tomes and magazines from the early thirties. Continued next page

All the classics were there some in small volumes others in modern paperbacks all heaped on the shelves in glorious confusion.

It was as I was rummaging along a shelf marked "Hobbies" that a familiar magazine caught my eye the title was "The Stamp Magazine" priced at 7 old pence.

I bent down to move some simplified catalogues from 1975 and found a stack of a small pile of red covers of the Gibbons Part 1, stamps of the British Empire, looking closer I found just four volumes dated 1897, 1911, 1926 and 1927.

This story will be continued in the next newsletter.

Meeting Report One page Competition.

This is an informal competition where all the members present mark all the entries up to 10 marks.

This evening was unusual due to there being 45 sheets displayed a record for the event.

All were of a very high standard Steve Alpe and myself checked the marking and although they were very varied very few marks separated the first from last.

Brian Marsh used the Napoleon issues of France, Dennis Livermore had two entries Fighting Fishes and autographed world cup covers while John Church who also showed two sheets an unusual one stamps of Buenos Aires and postmarks from Follur.

Terry Field brought along five High Value charity stamps of Great Britain, Bleriot overprints of Syria, a first day registered cover with a 2d postage due label from April 1914, Blue Derby stamps and cover from Germany and coil stamps of Rhodesia on cover.

Gary Green displayed Christmas stamps and miniature sheet of Guernsey from 2002. David Church put up a Penny Black with two entires dated early 1840 and post office charity stamps from 1950.

Vivian Holaway chose stamps of Ghandi from around the world for her sheet, Bill Leeds two sheets were from Great Britain stamps of Great Britain the first of Queen Victoria's Jubilee and the other Edward VII definitive issue. Ian Tickell (I hope I have spelt this correctly) our newest member had the story of the death of John Brown USA and some hand illustrated covers from Victorian times.

Ann Stanway showed voyages a round the world in stamps, Mick Colman chose the Mallard engine with a photograph and stamps his wife Ann chose stamps of hobbies Teddy Bears, lace making and quilts.

Steve Alpe displayed Queen Victorian stamps of India and some Guernsey booklets Dennis Sales showed some redirected mail from around the world. Pat Harris had stamps of youth services from Jersey with Royalty stamps from Guernsey including the latest memorial sheet for the Queen Mother issued on her birthday 4 August.

As I wrote earlier the marks were very close with only two mark separating the first two runner up was Mike Colham with the Mallard the winner was David Church with his Penny Black.

I hope I have not missed out any one if I have I am sorry.

This edition has been finished early as the next meeting is an informal with dealers and members buying and selling please come along.

I would like to remind you that subs are unchanged and now due also the Autumn Auction is on 7 October and the Autumn stamp fair at Laindon is on 12 October please come along and support your Society.

This area could be used by you to help fill in your gaps.