

Obituary

It is with great regret that we lost one of the Societies most loved members Brenda Nye, she sustained a Brian Haemorrhage late on 5 November from which she did not recover.

She was cremated on 17 November at Pitsea cemetery before a packed congregation of family and friends that included ten members of the Society.

From the President

I am sure that I express the views of all the members of the Society when I extend the Society's deepest condolences to Peter and his family on the untimely death of his wife, Brenda. Peter and Brenda have been members of the Society for some twenty years and have rarely missed a meeting in that time. Brenda was an active collector in her own right with an impressive collection on the theme of Christmas, parts of which she has shown on many occasions to the Society. She was also active in the Society, giving assistance wherever possible, whether it was supporting Peter in his role as Packet Secretary, telling at auctions or making refreshments which she did for several years.

Although not keen on competitions she nevertheless was the first holder of the Post Office Cup for Thematics.

Above all we will remember Brenda for the warmth of her friendship and for her lively personality.

She will be missed and all our thoughts are with Peter and his family at this most difficult time

Best Wishes from Len Stanway.

Meeting Report.

Vic Short made a return visit to us in September with an entertaining evening. He started off saying he had disposed of most of his collection because of a lifetime of collecting he wanted to enjoy the benefits instead of leaving it for others to fight over. The first items he displayed were perforation gauges of various types, apart from the usual flat types there was around one, a revolving one a book of gauges and a hollow rectangle brass unit from Australia dated 1890, after a study of exchange book covers he showed a series of framed fronts from very early one country albums from about 1862 and some early albums.

Next were a variety of watermark detectors and Vic illustrated that some worked and some did not these were followed by a large selection of magnifying glasses, he also showed some framed awards including one to a distinguish Philatelist certificate. Colour guides came text with a number including the Germanic stamp one and one that looked like a sample sheet for paints. Vic went on to speak of the penny black and said that although his collection did have one he showed us the one that normally hung on the wall of his toilet, this was a Mulready cover complete with a penny black and cancelled with a red Maltese cross. One of the last items shown was a 1981 calendar from east Europe with enlarged nude stamps some taken before the first world war.

Vic finished the evening saying that although he had given up serious collecting he was still able to show a very interesting display that for the most part was not valuable but most unusual.

Society News

Alan has told me that we have receive a settlement for the loss of a lot at last years Autumn auction.

During next year the Society is returning visits to other Societies if you would like to help please let Charlie or Alan know.

A number of members still have not renewed there subscriptions please do so as soon as you can.

Can you help

Has any member got covers from the Victory omnibus issue that they would like to sell or exchange. The countries needed are –Aden, Ascension is., Gambia, Gold Coast, Hyderabad, Nigeria, St. Helena, British Solomon Is., and Somaliland.

Please contact Dennis Livermore at meetings or at home 01375 404869

Meeting Report Visit from Braintree Society.

Three of their members gave us very different displays, Peter Woods opened the evening with stamps of Croatia starting from the 1941 King Peter issue of Yugoslavia, later it was declared an independent state and his display continued with many examples of the checkerboard overprints with countless flaws and varieties.

Next was a set for the foundation of the Croatian army. The definitive set with a new currency followed together with surcharged Red Cross stamps and Peter completed his part with a series of miniature sheets.

Dennis Ford was next and showed aspects of the Leeward Islands they cover an area of 750 square miles. There are many islands in the group with Antigua, Montserrat, St. Lucia and until 1939 Dominica when it was transferred to the Windward Islands Dennis said that he has tried to get postmarks from all the village post offices but still was not complete he was able to show many sheets of them.

After these he displayed a number of first flight covers that included the 1929 first flight to America. After a number of forged post marks he completed with a series of covers from Yachts that had called on the island group.

Peter Baker completed the evening with an other unusual display of material about the Free French Forces. They were set up in London by General De Gaulle after the fall of France in 1940, the display opened with photographs of units of men and woman parading in London next came a series of censored mails that also covered the scuttling of the French fleet in France.

North Africa was next covered with stamps and more censored covers including one with that had a school report from 1943 and the display completed with items from the east Mediterranean.

Stamp Issues for the next quarter

Guernsey 30 January

Raymond Evison Clematis 10 self stick stamps and booklets

Hong Kong 2004 miniature sheet

Alderney Fungi 5 stamps.

Jersey

Has only one issue on 22 January Festivals and the year of the Monkey miniature sheet

At present I have no information for the Isle of Man or Great Britain.

Since the change of format for Gibbons Commonwealth part one the Society would like to know what catalogues you would like in the library. Please let Alan or Dave Perry know your choice.

From the Secretary's armchair

We are again coming to the end of yet another year I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a healthy new year. We have this year lost some of our beloved friends who are sadly missed.

We have had a good year with more members taking part in displays and competitions. We have had visits from other Societies and during the next year we shall be visiting five other Societies, and other speakers talk about their favourite topics.

Our first meeting in the new year is anything but stamps and this in the past has been very entertaining seeing the other things members collect.

The program for next year will be available at the festive evening if you would like to receive it by post a stamped address envelope would save the Society cost of postage.

Best Wishes to You all

Alan.

Meeting report Barry Cook Morocco Agencies

For our early December meeting Barry Cook gave us a display of material from the British Post offices in Morocco and Tangier. Control of these offices passed from Gibraltar to the Postmaster General in London in 1907.

Tangier was the head post office in Morocco, at its height there were 14 agencies in 12 towns two of which had separate post offices for the Jewish quarters.

In 1912 Morocco was divided into the French and Spanish zones and in 1914 Tangier was made into an International zone. First shown were stamps of Great Britain overprinted Morocco Agencies only retaining the sterling denominations. From 1907 to 1937 these were mainly used for parcels and airmail, a fine selection of stamps, covers and photographs was shown and Barry said that most of the covers were philatelic as commercial covers are hard to come by.

At the beginning of the reign of George VI there were only

nine post offices open. there was only two open at the close of his reign-Tetuan and Tangier.

In the French zone only two stamps were issued

a 5 centimes on a 1/2d and 15 centimes on the 1 1/2d coronation both with the Morocco Agencies overprint, a good display of covers etc. were shown including some with stamps from previous kings.

Material from the Spanish zone was next the overprinted range was more extensive and included stamps from the century of stamps, the Royal Silver wedding and the 1948 Olympic set all overprinted in centimes, pesetas and Morocco Agencies.

The final showing was of Tangier with stamps overprinted Tangier these extended into the Queens commemoratives issues up to 1953, and included covers from ships mail, air mail, postal stationery and covers sent to America under OAT cachets.

Meeting for the next quarter.

Monday 5 Jan anything but stamps

Tues. 20 Jan Malta by Doug Ward

Mon 2 Feb Falkland islands by Geoff Miller

Tues. 17 Feb Basildon Billericay quiz

Mon 1 March Competition night

Tues. 16 March Quarantine mail by V D Vandervelde.

Autumn Competition night.

Ann Croft and Eric Day were the judges for these competitions.

With only one entry Len Stanway won the Aerophilately section with Airmails to and from Singapore 1931 to 1936.

Only 2 1/2 points separated the three entries in the Postal History section.

The British military administration of Malaya by Len Stanway was placed third, with Arthur Bowles entry of prisoner of War mails of the Boer war was runner up to Chris Cooksey with his RAF camps of Southern Rhodesia.

In the stamps competition (renamed Traditional for some reason) there were six entries. Christmas stamps of Guernsey was Gary Greens colourful entry, Ann Colman used the miniature sheets of the Republic of South Africa for her 8 sheets. War tax overprints from Commonwealth countries during the first world war was an entry from Geoff Miller. The definitive issue of 1990 from Singapore came from Len Stanway. Pat Harris showed the Occupation issues of the Channel Islands, with the 1940 issue from Southern Rhodesia being from Chris Cooksey. Again very few points divided the top for entries with Geoff Miller winning and Chris Cooksey being runner up.

At the AEPS Autumn rally competitions it was a day of runners up for the Society— Chris Cooksey was runner up in the modern material Postal History section Len Stanway was second in the Literature, we had two entries in the Cinderella section and our team was runner up in the Quiz. Congratulations to all those who entered all the competitions.

Meeting Report Portugal under the Monarchy By John Dahi

He started of recalling that Portugal was Britain's oldest ally going back to the reformation when Charles the 11 married into the Baganza family the then rulers of Portugal.

In 1979 a series of post offices were established through the country but it was not until 1853 that stamps were first issued.

The stamps were produced on a hand press one stamp at a time with the sheet being fed into the machine they were also embossed stamps and covers of this issue were shown.

Royalty stamps were issued up to 1910 when the last King was deposed and exiled to London where he eventually died.

There were four monarchs that appeared on Portuguese stamps Maria, to 1855 Pedro to 1862, Lous to 1893 and Manuel to 1910 stamps from all reigns were displayed. John said that he has been able to collect all the stamps in the 1880 to 1887 with postmarks from most of the post offices. Next shown were stamps of 1892-3 overprinted Provisional until the Stamps of King Manuel were ready.

Portugal was one of the early countries to issue commemorative stamps in 1894 a set was issued for the 500th birth centenary of Henry the Navigator and in 1895 the 700th birth anniversary of St. Anthony the patron Saint of Portugal each stamp having a prayer in Latin on the back. In 1898 a set of stamps marking 400 years of Vasco de Gamma's discovery of a route to India all these sets were shown with covers and postal stationary and with the Vasco de Gamma issue some full and part sheet were shown.

Early in 1910 the last Royalty stamps were issued all were later overprinted Republica and these completed Johns presentation.