



# Basildon Stamp Collector

Volume 10, Issue 2

Summer 2005

- **Editor:**
- **David Church**
- **87 Worthing Road**
- **Laindon, Basildon**
- **Essex SS15 6JU**
- **Tel : 01268 543371**
- **Or 07973 308219**
- **E**  
**mail:Djcstamps@aol.com**

## Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Meeting Reports Incl. A.G.M.	2&3
Article : Czeslaw Slania	4
Letters to the Editor	4
Future Meetings	5
Members Ad's	5
What's On	5

## Editorial

As some of you may be aware, long time member Dennis Sales recently moved away to Nottinghamshire, following the loss of his wife towards the end of last year. Dennis is now nearer to his son. Dennis was a keen supporter at society meetings, always willing to give a display or enter a competition. He was also a life member and President of Billericay Philatelic Society, holding many posts of office with them.

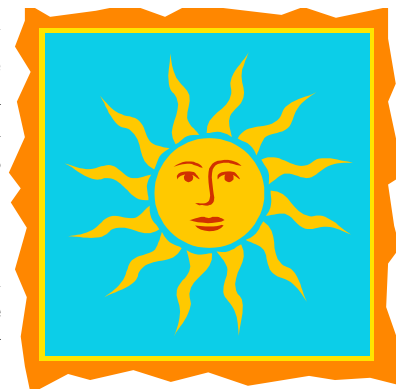
As an appreciation of his support over the years it was decided that both Societies would contribute to a leaving gift and subsequently a watch

was purchased. I saw Dennis the day before he moved. Since then we have spoken on the phone and he is settling in well at his new home.

I will make a special effort to call and see him on one of my trips up the A1.

Dennis has subsequently written to us all (see page 4)

Now that the A.G.M. has taken place, subscriptions are due, (see page 3) so please help the Society by paying as soon as possible. You may receive a separate letter with this newsletter regarding payment. As I have to go to print



## Summer heat wave?

some days before publication, please don't take offence if you have recently paid your subs. Thank you.

And finally my thanks to all those who have contributed to this newsletter.

## New Members

I am pleased to report that we have another 2 new members, Ian McElwain who lives in Chelmsford and James Harris, the son of existing member Alex Harris. We are pleased to welcome you both. Apologies to Ian

who joined at the publication of the last newsletter, but unfortunately just missed the copy deadline for inclusion.

Thanks are due to Ian for his offer of help to the Society (see A.G.M. Re-

port)

Can you persuade any others to become members? Bring them along to one of our meetings as a guest, so they can see what we do. They may like what they see and

## Meeting Report 22nd March 2005

### Aspects of Postal Mechanisation

Ray Downing from Streatham came along and gave us an insight to the postal mechanisation of the post office. He showed examples of experimental graphite lines on the backs of stamps, first used in Southampton and the automatic letter facing machine (A.L.F.)

Did you know that the first letter sorting machine was used in Brighton back in 1935?

He showed us phosphor dots and code letters (idents) on cover and even had an original ident number key from



one of the machines.

Also included in the display were foreign letter which passed through the sorting machines of the British postal system.

We also saw photos and examples of mail which passed through sorting machines at Brighton, Cambridge & Norwich.

Regrettably there was a very poor turn out (I don't think there was any football on telly?)

Please make an effort to attend as many meetings

as possible, particularly when we have a visiting speaker.

*(Those of you who were members in the 1970's may remember the coach trip we had to Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in London, which included a look at the post offices underground railway. Ed.)*

## Auction News

### By Ann Coltman

The April auction came and went without too many hitches. One of these being that Dennis Livermore was not able to be the auctioneer, but Claude Crowder stood in for him on the night and did a fantastic job. Well done Claude!! The tellers and back room team also worked very hard and I would give a vote of thanks to them as well. There were over 250 lots on offer

and more than half of these were sold. My car heaved a sigh of relief when I took home just one box of leftovers instead of the normal three or four. A total of over £100 was made for club funds.

Having a minimum £1 reserve on individual lots worked very well and after a lot of discussion it has been agreed that as from the Octo-

ber auction this figure will be increased to £2.

The next auction is on 18th October and I would like to take this opportunity to ask for help in keeping the auction going. Any offers of help would be gratefully received - please let me know. Dates to remember:- Auction lists AND lots to be in by 16th August 2005.

## Meeting Report

### St George by John Snoding

19th April saw a fascinating selection of pages depicting St George. Born in Palestine 270AD and died 303AD by being beheaded!

John started with a brief history of St George and showed many stamps from



St George depicted on PUC £1 stamp of Great Britain

around the world, including St George Cross, Miniature sheets, Flags, Scouting labels, Cigarette cards and Postcards. He also had a copy of Punch Magazine from 1917.

The second half of the

display concentrated on covers and postmarks.

Did you know St George is also the Patron Saint of Portugal?

Thanks John for a very well presented display.

## Meeting Report : 17th May Members Displays X,Y,Z

One of my favourite meetings of the year, as we always get a wide variety of material shown. This evening was no exception. Are letters X,Y & Z difficult letters to show stamps from? No, judging by what we saw. Claude Crowder started with Zimbabwe, commems, defines. and post-



X Y Z

age dues, including a \$1000 stamp. Next was Maggie Thompson with Yemen, Zoo cancellations and Zepelins with triangular cachets. Vivien Holloway showed X rated (nudes), X for 10th anniversary, Yachts, Yugoslavia, Zoo, Zebras, Zepelins. John Snoding used Y for Youth organisations, particularly 1982 stamp cards and publicity material. Ann Stanway gave

us Yorkshire Map cards and Len Stanway Yorkshire Railways and Zingibier (the botanical name for ginger). David Perry showed Xhibitions, covers and labels from around the world starting in 1890. Lastly Ann Coltman showed Zoo's, Zebra's and Young playthings.

In all we had a total showing of 229 pages. A credit to all those who took part. Those who didn't, please try next year (I just realised, that includes me!)

## Meeting Report : 6th June 37th A.G.M.

As with normal procedure the minutes of last years A.G.M. were circulated and approved as being correct. Next followed the usual Officers reports including our balance sheet for year ending 31st March 2005. Concern was voiced about our decline in profit and that our subscriptions only pay half of the hall hire. It was therefore agreed to increase subscriptions to full members £10

and Senior members £8.

There were a few changes to the Officers, namely : Mick Coltman becomes assistant secretary and Ann Coltman Treasurer. Also one of our newer members Ian McElwain agreed to take on the role of Public Relations Officer.

Peter Nye our Packet Secre-

tary decided to stand down, so we are seeking someone to take on this post, which as at the time of writing this still remains vacant. Any offer please? I am please to say that the



meeting did not drag on, finishing at a respectable 9.30pm. Thank you to all those who attended.

## “I have saved you some stamps” they said. By Beth Stevens

Has anyone been promised a load of stamps and when presented with them, found to your horror that every stamp has had its perforations cut off most carefully. There were some very good stamps in this collection but without their perforations.. Well..what can one say. I did try my hardest to say a big “thank you..you are very thoughtful” and all the time I was thinking how tragic it was that all these stamps were wasted.

Another ‘horror’ occurred when some stamps that were on coloured paper..especially red envelopes, were considered ideal for collection purposes, and presented to me for the stamps to be soaked off, there was no knowledge of the disastrous effect of red envelopes. They are always lovely stamps that are lost forever.

Yet again, you are proudly presented with someone’s old album with all the

stamps completely and firmly stuck to the pages. There was a time when a friend, clearly not a stamp collector, rummaged into his pocket proudly and produced a very dirty and crumpled stamp and gave it to me with great glee. He said “I have kept it especially for you”. No comment. All these “horrors” are given most generously by very well meaning people and it is hard to say “Thank you but next time will you please...”

# Czeslaw Slania 1921—2005

## Article By David Church

Czeslaw Slania designed more postage stamps than any other person in history. He died on 17th March at the age of 83 following a long illness. Over 55 years he engraved and designed 1,070 stamps for many postal administrations, including Faroes, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, France, Germany, Australia, Monaco, Poland, United States. Sweden issued a 50 krona miniature sheet in 2000, this was Slania's 1000th design.



**Slania with 1000th engraving**

Czeslaw Slania was born in Poland on 21st October 1921 and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. He engraved more than 20 stamps for Poland before emigrating to Sweden in 1959. In 1986 he was listed in the Guinness Book of

Records as the most prolific stamp engraver. He received numerous awards worldwide. Some collectors only specialise in his work, as their subject or thematic collection.

Slania would often incorporate personal references or designs in his engravings. One such image was that of himself as a skier in a 1973 stamp from Sweden which commemorated the annual 90 kilometre Vasa Ski Race.

His last engraving is thought to be the design for 3 miniature sheets issued by the United Nations on 4th February 2005 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the U.N. The United Nations Postal Administration announced in mid march that it had sold out of the New York miniature sheet, so my advise is try to get those from the Geneva and Vienna offices before they are sold out too!

## Meeting Attendance

As at the time of writing we have a membership of 55, however at meetings we only get about a 40% - 45% turnout, and that's on a good night. why?

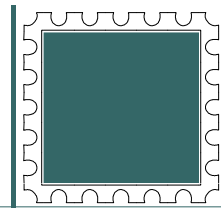
If you do not attend, why is that? What would make you attend our evening meetings? Do you want to see a different content or do the subjects not interest you? If you would like to see a particular

subject or speaker then let the secretary know, or you can approach any committee member with your suggestions. But please let us know what would make you attend.

Do you know anyone who would like to join us, we need new members. Please try to encourage anyone you know or meet, that is interested in stamps, to come along to one or two of our meetings and they may just wish to join.

## Displays by members :

Dennis Livermore will be displaying at Southend on 20th September, the subject "Lest We Forget"



## Letter to the Editor, from Dennis Sales

### To Members of Basildon Philatelic Society.

I wish to thank you for the wonderful surprise gift of a wrist watch received this morning. It came at a time my existing watch had given up the ghost. Lionel Scott of Billericay explained to me it was a joint effort between Basildon & Billericay. It was a wonderful surprise & I wish to thank

you very much for it. I will treasure it in memory of our good times together.

I realise I'm a bit out of reach here in Bingham, but I hope we will meet again sometime in the not too distant future,

Yours faithfully,

Dennis

*(I have Dennis's address and telephone number if anybody wants it. Ed.)*

Newsletter Editor : David Church  
87 Worthing Road, Laindon, Basildon, Essex SS15 6JU  
Tel : 01268 543371 or 07973 308219  
Fax : 01268 543371  
Email : Djcstamps@aol.com

Secretary : Alan Taylor  
Tel : 07899 822881  
Treasurer : Ann Coltman  
Tel : 01268 413952



[www.basildon.aeps.org.uk](http://www.basildon.aeps.org.uk)



## Member's Ad's

Wanted : Great Britain 2004 Classic Locomotives Presentation Pack.  
I will pay **£18.00** each (packs must be complete and are subject to requirements, so please check first)

Contact David Church—Tel: 01268 543371

Wanted : Great Britain 2004 Entente Cordiale Presentation Pack.  
I will pay **£9.00** each (packs must be complete and are subject to requirements, so please check first)

Contact David Church—Tel: 01268 543371

## What's On

### Local Stamp Fairs :

2nd July - Rawreth

3rd July - Southend

9th July - Laindon

6th August - Rawreth

21st August - Billericay

3rd September - Rawreth

4th September -Southend

10th September -Laindon

11th September -  
Ingatstone

1st October - Rawreth

8th October - Wanstead

### Future Meetings :

Mon 4th July : Roses  
by Sheila Foster

Tues 19th July :  
The Committee Entertains

Mon 1st August : King Edward or  
George by Arthur Hobbs

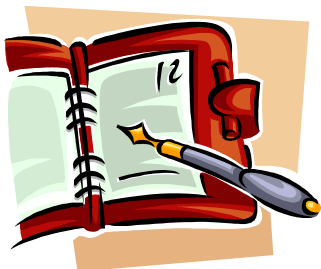
Tues 16th August : 8 Pages from my  
Collection competition.

Mon 5th September : Visit from  
Benfleet

Tues 20th September :  
Display by Geoff  
Miller.

Mon 3rd October :  
Visit from Bishops  
Stortford Philatelic  
Society.

- Tuesday 18th October :  
Auction.
- Don't forget the Laindon  
Stamp Fair is now held at  
**The Methodist Church  
Hall, High Road, Langdon  
Hills.** The next Fair is on 9th  
July.
- 



Make a diary note now!

Advance Notice