

The Basildon Stamp Collector

Volume 3 Number 1

January 1998

Forthcoming Meetings

General Robert E. Lee. The Confederate States of America is the theme of the Rev. W. Parks display on 2 February.



- 5 Jan** An Innocent's Guide to the Packet, talk by A. E. Jones.
- 20 Jan** Mini Fair and informal evening.
- 2 Feb** Confederate States of America, display by Rev. W. Parks.
- 17 Feb** Something beginning with "J or K", part 1, members' displays.
- 2 Mar** Competition night. Thematic and Cinderella classes.
- 6 Apr** Auction night.
- 18 Apr** Home Counties Stamp Day '98.

From Your Secretary

We have had another busy quarter with our auction, autumn BasPex and competitions. Once again we would like to see more of you at these events.

In November Stan Braddick came along at very short notice to stand in as the person done for the evening was unable to attend thank you Stan. The auction when well and we made about £50 but we would like to see more members lots I am certain take you must all have material that you do not want that you could sell to buy something you do want so try and support us with the auction the next one is in April.

Some of you know that my doctor has advised me to step down as Secretary, in a recent committee meeting other members have taken no much of my work to allow me to carry on for the time being but we will need another Secretary in about 18 months so if anyone would like to come forward speak to me or our Chairman, Len Stan-

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The Basildon Stamp Collector

The newsletter of the Basildon Philatelic Society is published quarterly and issued free to all members.

Our next issue, April 1998, will be available at the meeting of Tuesday, 17 March.

Articles, letters and advertisements must reach the editor by Tuesday, 7 February.

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The committee are happy to deal with your questions and receive suggestions for improving the Society.

World Wide Web

Basildon P.S. can be found on the Internet at:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/charles_mead/bps.htm



from front page column 2

way. I would like to on behalf of your committee and myself wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Pat Harris

Dates for your diary

- 4 Jan** Stamp Fair, County Hotel, Aviation Way, Southend.
- 12 Jan** Stamp Fair, Essex C.C.C., Chelmsford.
- 14 Jan** Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1.
- 17 Jan** Stamp Fair, Laindon Community Centre.
- 25 Jan** Stamp Fair, Mayflower School, Billericay.
- 30 Jan — 31 Jan** Westminster Stamp Fair, Central Hall, London SW1.
- 1 Feb** Stamp Fair, Freight House, Rochford.
- 7 Feb** Stamp Fair, North Chingford Methodist Hall, Station Road.
- 8 Feb** Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Ingatestone.

25 Feb — 1 Mar Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1.

1 Mar Stamp Fair, County Hotel, Aviation Way, Southend.

22 Mar Stamp Fair, Mayflower School, Billericay.

Meeting Reports *by Pat Harris*

21 October Recent Acquisitions *members' displays*

The recent acquisitions event was opened by Arthur Hobbs with some early booklet panes and postal history of Canada while Charlie Mead some items from Fiji including stamp forgeries, FDC'S and UPU stamps. Singapore postal stationary and Aerogrammes were Len Stanway's contribution and Pat Harris completed the evening with a display of 1980's First Day Lithoprints of British, Channel Island and Isle of Man stamps. David Church thanked those taking part for an-

other interesting evening.

3 November Competition Night

In other recent events the competitions for stamps, postal history and aerophilately were won by John Pettit, Arthur Hobbs and Len Stanway respectively with Ezra Lutton winning the jounior stamp trophy. Eric Day was the eleventh hour replacement judge for the event.

18 November World War II *display by Stan Braddick*

The events leading up to and the early years of the Second World War were the theme of Stan Brad-



dick's display stepping in at the last minute due to the arranged speaker being unable to attend.

Starting with the imprisonment of Hitler in 1923 and the economic



times in Germany through to the early 1930's with the rise of the Nazi party and the gradual annexation of the areas around Germany up to the invasion of Poland on 1st September 1939 displayed were stamps, photographs and maps of people and events of this time.

The story continued into 1940 in chorological form showing the fall of Denmark, Norway, Holland and Luxemburg with stamps showing these governments setting up in exile in Britain. Stamps showing the damage of France came next with the occupation of the Channel Islands and the evacuation of Dunkirk. The air Battle of Britain and the sinking of the French fleet brought this year to a finish.

The early part of 1941 detailed the fights for the Balkans and Greece and the battles of North Africa with the sinkings of the Hood and Bismarck. The infamous attack on the American Pacific fleet in Pearl Harbour by the Japanese brought America into the war and this year to an end.

Stan said at this point that many of the stamps and miniature sheets he used for this display were from the Marshall Islands the stamps having selvages that describe the events shown.

The final part of the display was for 1942 much of the action in the early months was of the Japanese advances in the East In January the Australian forces were mobilised and Port Darwin was bombed. In April Malta was awarded the George Cross for Valour shown and Hitler took over as Supreme Commander of German Forces. June saw the turning point of the war in the far east with the battle of Midway many of the ships and personalities were shown on stamps with a map showing the run of the events. In October the Battle of El Alamein and operation Torch by the Free French began to squeeze the Germans out of North Africa to

close the display.

Denis Livermore gave the vote of thanks to Stan for another marvellous display and hoped that we could see the final years of this time sometime in the future.

1 December

GB Line-engraved 2d Blue
1841-76

*display by Jane Moubray,
RDP, FRPSL*

The members of Basildon and visitors from other Essex societies were privileged to see a display of the 2d Blue line-engraved stamps of 1841 to 1876 by Jane Moubray, President of the Royal Philatelic Society.

Jane opened her display by saying in 1969 she was looking round for something to specialise in and chose the white line 2d Blue which while being produced for some 34 years only came from two dies and eleven plates. The display was enhanced by many of the items on display having been photographed on to transparencies and shown in tandem with the display.

The first stamps and covers were

from the 1841 issues from plates 3 and 4 imperf with stars in the top corners. Problems occurred with the papers and inks and some four colours were produced on more or less blued papers with stars in the top corners and a small crown watermark. Corrosion of the plates became a problem with various methods being used to overcome this producing marks on the stamps that were not intended, the transparencies shown through a projector clearly picked these out. Plate four was ready for use in December 1849 the different lettering from plate 3 helps in the plating of those stamps.

In March 1854 perforations were used on these stamps using a 16 gauge but by early the next year this was changed to 14, in July of the next year plate 5 came on line, and on display was a piece with two blocks one of 6 the other 8 from this plate with perf. 16 and large crown watermark.

Plate 6 was represented with no less than eleven faulty roller impressions and a slightly battered cover from Belfast to Ramsey with the only known 'AF' plate 6 before the re-entry. In 1856 white paper was used and in plate 7 letters were

in all four corners was introduced. Plate 8 started in 1859 and appears to have been insufficiently hardened and persistent wear distorted the figure 8 on both sides and stamps from an early printing against a later one showed this up.

Among the other interesting items in the last part of the display were stamps in Blue and Black colours that came from items that were displayed in the Paris Exhibition of 1867 and a cover from India sent by Officer mail that had been at a cheap rate but this was discontinued before it was delivered incurring a surcharge.

This report only covers part of this marvellous display but has had to be foreshortened so as to not take up too much space

Charlie Mead himself a line engraved collector gave the vote of thanks to Jane on behalf of those present for a truly wonderful display

A Message from the Chairman

It was with deep regret that I recently accepted the resignation of Pat Harris from the post of Secre-

tary on grounds of ill health (doctor's orders!). Pat joined the Society in 1982 and has served in a variety of posts since 1986, including Secretary, Packet Secretary and Publicity Officer. We wish him a very speedy recovery.

After discussion in Committee, Charlie Mead has agreed to take on the role of Programme Secretary until the Annual General Meeting but he is unable, due to other commitments, to take on the "permanent" role of Secretary. Other tasks hitherto undertaken by Pat have been redistributed to other Committee members, after which Pat has offered to stay on as "General Secretary" until the AGM.

Pat's resignation has precipitated what I see as a major problem to which all members of the Society will have to give a lot of thought. It is very easy to go to an annual general meeting and prevail upon the existing committee members to continue in office until they either die or otherwise become ineligible for re-election. It is very difficult to put your head above the parapet and say "I want to volunteer!". Nevertheless, unless some new willing helpers join the committee soon, looking to the not-too-distant

future, I foresee at best stagnation, at worst the steady decline of the Society. In recent years, we have shared out many of the jobs previously done by the Secretary, so that most Committee Members have a specific role which should not be too time-consuming for any individual. However, we are now looking for a new General Secretary and, for a variety of reasons, several other members have indicated their wish to resign their posts as soon as replacements have been found, notably due to pressure of other activities or ill health.

The time has come for EVERY member to say to himself, not "What do I get out of the Society?" but "WHAT CAN I **DO** FOR THE SOCIETY?" (even if it is only to make the tea!). If you want the Society to continue to be the success story it has become in its first 30 years, please speak to me as soon as possible.

Len Stanway

FREE ADVERTS

Members are entitled to free small adverts in the newsletter. See back page for details.

Neighbouring Societies



Thursday, 1 January

No meeting.

Monday, 19 January

Open night with dealers.



Thurrock & District SC

Tuesday, 6 January

Visit from Rayleigh & Dist. P.S..

Tuesday, 20 January

Competitions.

Tuesday, 3 February

Swap & Barter Evening.

Tuesday, 17 February

Malta, display by D. Ward.

Tuesday, 3 March

Officers' display.

Tuesday, 17 March

AGM & Competition.

Tuesday, 7 April

Informal.

Tuesday, 21 April

Auction.

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Last Quarter's Puzzle

Answers to the questions taken from *The Stamp Atlas* by Stuart Rossiter and John Fowler:

- 1. The French overseas département off the Newfoundland coast is St Pierre et Miquelon.
- 2. The postal service in question

was the Pony Express.

- 3. Queensland issued its first stamps on 1 November, 1860. Prior to that stamps of New South Wales were used.
- 4. Bangkok.
- 5. The Urankhai (Wu-Lyang-Hai) area of Russia.
- 6. Vanuatu was formerly known as the New Hebrides.
- 7. Jersey and Guernsey issued their first stamps as independent postal administrations on 1 October, 1969.
- 8. British Honduras is now known as Belize.
- 9. A 'boule de moulin' was a metal cannister to hold letters. They were floated down the Seine in an attempt to smuggle mail out from the Siege of Paris.
- 10. Luxembourg uses Belgian currency.

Members are reminded that the books in the Society's library may be borrowed free of charge. Further details are available from the Librarian, Len Scharde.

This Quarter's Puzzle

How well do you recognise stamp designs? In each illustration the name of the issuing country has been removed. Can you identify the countries?



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

ROBERT SEAMAN

STAMP DEALER



I specialise in British West Africa (Gambia, Gold Coast, The Nigerias and Sierra Leone, plus the South Atlantic Islands off West Africa) and I issue a monthly, illustrated list of my stocks from these areas. May I send you a copy?

But I also stock All British Colonial issues and have particularly good selections of

the rest of British Africa
Malaysia
West Indies
Australia

I can supply all philatelic accessories at discount prices and I attend the Laindon fairs regularly.

- Wants Lists serviced
- Valuations made for Insurance/Probate

COLLECTIONS BOUGHT

COPT HALL, STOCK, ESSEX, CM4 90BA
(Tel/Fax 01277 84077 to 9pm any day)

Advertising Rates

Display advertisement rates are based on an A5 page. Cost per issue:

Full page	£15.00
Half page	£8.00
Quarter page	£5.00

Members small ads are accepted free of charge subject to space being available.

MEMBERS FREE ADS

Maximum 50 words.

Name:

Address:

Advertisement:

Hand your completed advert to the Assistant Secretary at any meeting or post to 70 Gernons, Basildon, Essex, SS16

Small Ads

WANTED

RUSSIA mint SG 131 10K Blue, SG 1833 Stalin.

NORWAY mint SG 330 Quisling without opt.

GUINEA BISSAU SG 631-6 History of Aviation.

Reply to: Stan Braddick, "Eidelweiss", Old Wickford Road, Sth Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5QS.

WANTED

Information on railways and tramways of Malaya and British Borneo for inclusion in a monograph history. Reply to: L.C. Stanway, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon, Essex, SS16 5DD.

**THIS
SPACE
COULD BE
YOURS**