

**Editor Pat Harris****From the AGM.**

Firstly a correction the Modern Material competition is for material 30 years or less.

The question re insurance of vendors material held by us we are now to take out further insurance to cover this.

We have made a small profit on the year despite a deficit of £525 .

It was agreed that when a meeting day falls on a Bank holiday that meeting will be held on the next day i.e. the Tuesday May Colvill has presented the Society with two caps one is to be used for the new competition the other to go to the Society personality of the year to be voted on at the **AGM**, and under any other business in was agreed that the first recipient should be Peter Nye for the tremendous amount of work he did to bring our account up to date.

**MEETING OF 5/7/99.**

Our speakers for the evening were unable to get to us due to road flooding, at short notice Pat Harris and Len Stanway stood in.

Pat completed the collection of Guernsey he showed earlier firstly with stamps of Youth and Sports with stamps of the inter islands games, the 75th anniversary of Scouting and the century of the Boys Brigade on the island with the 150 years of football. Next was the Royalty section with stamps of the three weddings and the various anniversaries of the Queen and the story of the 20th century love story the story of the Queen Mother. A selection of views of the island followed including the two "Moss Print" issues. The final section was of Castle Cornet, Started in 1204 by King John it has been added to over the years including during the occupation. During the civil war the royalist castle was under siege from the parliamentary Guernsey for some 9 years finally surrendering with honour. Pat finished off with the story of the Little Chapel and displaying a genuine newspaper of 1945 before the end of the occupation.

Len showed some of the later issues of Malaya starting with an issue of Birds of Prey some four stamps with a miniature sheet that had 37 perfs on three sides and 41 on the other, the stamps were on sale between May and August 1996. They were reissued for the Christmas, Chinese new year another festivals with different colours and the miniature sheet with correct perfs. all round. These were followed by stamps, miniature sheets and covers for a stamp exhibition, stamp weeks and Commonwealth games publicity together with some booklets.

Commemoration of the meeting of Rulers was next these rulers select the Paramount Ruler for the next team of five years. The fifty anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Malaysia miniature sheet with diamond shape stamps was next shown Len completed the evening with stamps and covers of the meeting of the group of 15 similar to the group of 8 leading nations.

**This article has been supplied by Dennis Sales**

**An 1832 convict letter written by John Burgess sentenced**

**to ten years deportation for poaching in June 1829 to his friend James Walter of Bromley of Kent.**

I believe I always promised to write you a letter I now take up my pen to do so to a very dear friend. As we drank many a glass of grog together it may be a pleasure to hear from an old friend, although I have disgraced my home and yourself, my country to wit, I sincerely wish I had disgraced my country many years before I did. Had I have known what this country was as I do now, I would have volunteered to have come here 10 years before I did and that as a convict and now I should have been an independent man-but I must tell you I am very independent at the present.

I shall now give you an account of the country, people etc.

The ship Waterloo was four dull months on the voyage we spent our time very pleasantly in fine weather being entertained by the band of the regiment on board. I have to mention some incidents of the voyage, were provisioned at St. Jagoes and continued our voyage across the South Sea, the Captain was woken up by the duty soldier to tell him there was land ahead. Knowing there was no land within a thousand miles he rushed to the wheel and found himself very close to a tremendous iceberg, this caused great alarm throughout the ship. We anchored in Sidney Harbour on the 15th July

The mountains on each side of the harbour gave the place a delightful appearance-a view of the town, batteries etc. quite enraptured me. We staid on board for 9 days-when we taken taken to the barracks here we were inspected by the Governors Secretary (McLeary) etc. I slept one night in the barracks.

The next morning 30 of us were escorted to Liverpool Barracks again spending one night, and was called with one man and delivered to a Rev. Robert Cartwright and thought that I was sold like a horse at Smithfield market. This gentleman came to this country some 23 years ago and apart from his church he has about 2,000 acres of land and a mansion within a mile of the town.

I am the shoemaker to this Revd. gentleman. He has a carpenter,, a bricklayer, a tailor and about 20 different men all prisoners sold the same as the horse to do his work. And now I will tell you what he allows us. Every Saturday they are weight out 10lbs. of flour (seconds) 7 lbs of meat salted two oz. tea, one pound of sugar and 1 oz. tobacco. The last three things are an indulgence that he is not compelled to give by the Government-therefore if they offend he stops these. He is likewise compelled to give them 3 shirts per year. 2 pairs of trousers, 3 pairs of shoes or boots-one jacket- one hat or cap, a bed and blanket every three years. On our part of the farm are built huts. Where they live cook and sleep, and work from sunrise to sunset, and if they do not please the master they are taken before the Magistrate and

according to the crime they are punished with 25, 50, 75 or 100 lashes-sent to the tread wheel or to an iron quarry for months to work on the roads. Here hundreds take to the bush-obtain firearms and rob coaches on the roads. Some have been known to be out there for years. They live in caves and are like wild men and shoot all the policemen-but it is seldom they are out long before someone in their party betrays them or they are caught.

I have been very comfortable since I have been in this country-I was sexton to this church 9 months after I arrived. There was £20 a year allowed by the Government. I had all my masters shoemaking to do- His family and about 20 men on the farm. I had the perquisites of the church- weddings, funerals, churchings etc. Here I did very well as I could earn a pound or two a week. While in this situation I found acquaintance with a woman who I respect and intend to have for wife some day- but a prisoner is not allowed to marry. a free man can marry a prisoner woman. I can marry by my masters consent. Now if this woman was a prisoner I should have been allowed long ago. But as she is a free woman if he allows me to marry this woman she would have no trouble in obtaining what is called a letter of exemption for me then my master would lost a good servant. It is some trouble to get tradesmen- perhaps he could not obtain another. I shall beat him before long if he does not consent. This woman has some interest in this country and I have been taken before the magistrate several times by my master respecting this woman, the police magistrate of this town who came to this country some 30 years ago as a ships carpenter now supposed to be worth£100,000 and a very good gentleman has endeavoured to get us married but my master will not consent therefore he cannot help me. We will live together in spite of him, and when they have taken me to count what can they do.

My master sent me up country to his son between 200 and 300 miles , I was there some three months when his shoemaking bill came to £15 while Was away. This did not please my master. Therefore I was sent back as he found out I was going to have the woman up there for I could earn plenty of money.

We always go to church on Sunday or walking into town as any people of the town. I am living about 1/2 a mile from town in a very pleasant spot which my master has given me. I have sand pits,shop and five acres of land-I am no trouble to him when they want shoes they send for them. I have neither rations or clothes from him-all his shoemaking he now gets for nothing and so allows me the indulgence of working and doing the best for myself. I have plenty of fowls, pigs etc.I am very comfortable- can afford the wear superfine clothes of a Sunday, drink my bottle of wine now what more do I want other than my freedom. I have a very pleasant house to myself- everything for my use. I cannot dear friend James tell you more the particulars of my circumstances than I have. I have seen trouble in this country but what can a prisoner expect- we must do the best we can and I flatter myself few Government men are more than myself- I have not seen any more so as yet.

I have no doubt that I shall receive an answer to this letter in time please give my respects to all my enquiring friends and to Mr. Acton who I firmly believe would have given me assistance that was in his power when I was in the "Hulk". I have no doubt that in a few years I Shall be comfortably off dear James. in sincerely hope that my brothers are looking

after their mother I think of them often.  
**I have edited this article** editor.

## **MEETING REPORT "LESS WE FORGET" DENNIS LIVERMORE**

The first part of Dennis's display was of events leading up to the war with stamps, postcards and covers started with the march into Austria, the attack on Czechoslovakia and the invasion of Poland included a cover with Chamberlain's "**no such undertaking has been received**". Also in this section was a German/Finish cover against the Russia in the winter war. Memorial covers for the village of Lidice, totally destroyed in retaliation for the murder of the German governor of Poland was shown with some covers with GV1stamps with Free Czech cachets.

The battle of the river Platte was covered with stamps from various signed covers of the ships taking part including the "Altmark" a German ship used to take the captured seamen back to Germany that was boarded in Norwegian waters freeing the prisoners, bringing Norway into the war. Dennis then displayed some Quisling stamps and covers. The first part was finished off with stamps of Gibraltar and Ascension showing badges of the Ships of the Royal Navy at the outbreak of war with many signed covers of the ships.

Part two started with stories of the three wartime leaders Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt including many Churchill memorial issues including a rare copy of the state funeral service.

A Netherlands behind bars cover was followed by a story of a singer on the forbidden "Orange Radio" who sang patriotic songs and people who heard them whistled it when out the next day to let others know they listened to the programme. Dunkirk was next shown with stamps and covers of the little ships including the story of a local ship the "Vanguard" that is on the Thames at Purfleet and was saluted with a salvo from H M S Belfast when she passed down the river earlier this year. There was a special cover commemorating "Lighttower" of the Titanic who was also at the evacuation.

The final part of the evening was entirely devoted to the battle of Britain starting with the buy a Spitfire for £5,000 covers with stamps, booklets, miniature sheets and signed covers including some drawn by Jack Follows and a special one signed by the three Waffs who refused to leave their posts during an air raid on Biggin Hill RAF station and were each awarded the Military Medal, the section finished with the 1990 issue of medal stamps with signed covers by people that had won them.

Charlie Mead gave the vote of thanks for a very interesting evening.

## Meeting report.

**Brian Jones** represented the Pacific Islands Study Group at a recent meeting to talk about the Fiji airmail service.

In the first section he had covers and photographs of a Kingsford-Smith recovery of mails from a flight from Fiji to London that had crashed in Malaya that he recovered and delivered to London. There were also covers from the first two short lived Fiji Airlines.

IN 1939 New Zealand was to open a service from Auckland to Fiji with two planes from Britain who delayed sending the second one. John Burgess used the the first one to survey landing sites on other islands so that when the second plane was put into service the route was extended to include Tonga and other islands covers and other material was displayed for this time

At the outbreak of war New Zealand took over the defence of Fiji until June 1942 when the Americans used the islands as their South Pacific Headquarters. Flying boats of the New Zealand air force remained on station for reconnaissance and postal duties between the islands of the area. Material displayed in this section included a number of aerographs including some with patriotic cartons a series of covers had buy a bomber fund labels. Fiji bought three of these bombers ,two of them were short lived the third a Typhoon flew over 500 missions. After the war America tried to keep the Pacific area as its own and not allow planes from other counties to fly , eventually this was resolved and a route from Australia to London via Fiji, Honolulu and Canada was established with covers etc. displayed of this flight.

The later part of the evening was of people and events were covered with photographs, covers and items of interest, starting with a round the world cover sent from London by Winfred Vaughan Thomas collecting stamps from places on route including India, Australia, Fiji, Canada returning to London. A story of Fred Ladd a man that with some Rapid aircraft of the Kings flight of 1934 started Fiji Airlines in 1954, he did not like officialdom and after many difficulties he lose his licence to fly, after a long battle he regained it and to celebrate he flew a plane under the Sidney Harbour Bridge and promptly lost it again.

There were covers celebrating the visits to Fiji of General Dolittle (he dropped the Atomic bombs) the RAF Comet flight Betty miller's solo flight across the Pacific in 1963. Sheila Scott's North Polar Flight

A cover sent from a soldier in Fiji to his father serving in Egypt a rare example of a cover from one area of war to an other. An other cover that had crossed the international dateline arrived before it was sent and finally a philatelic cover that had been opened by censor on finding it empty he put a note inside saying what had happened.

Charlie Mead a Fiji collector himself gave the vote of thanks.

## Meeting Report

Two members of **Havering Stamp Club** came to visit us recently and treated us to very different displays. Kevin Gracken opened the evening with what he called his Heinz 57 varieties of Commonwealth stamps, displaying many errors and varieties of stamps together with the correct stamps to show the differences. These included the broken main-

mast of the 1924 issue of Ascension, the broken chimney on the 1/-1938 definitive issue of Jamaica.

From the Leeward Islands came the wide "A" Queen Victoria with the broken crown of the 1928 George V. Kevin told the story that as a dealer he sold a part sheet of Nigeria to a friend

at Goodmayes who later returned it to him pointing out the double name in the title tablet that he had missed. There were many many more that I have not mentioned but he finished up with the Cleft Skull flaw of the 1935 Jubilee of South Africa.

Goden Robinson followed with two displays the first being the Straight Settlements who began issuing stamps in 1867, the first item shown was a ships letter from Batavia to London via Singapore. He then went on to show mint and used stamps of the various issues. It was a very regular occurrence for stamps of various rates to run out and for other stamps to be over printed locally, and on show were a number of these over prints with up to three different type faces being used on the same stamp in including the 1880 8 on 8c on 24c dull purple. He finished up this section with the many varieties of the George V issues one of the things that was very noticeable was the progress in the cancelling of stamps from the almost total obliteration of the early days to the circular cancels of the later stamps.

The last section was of Johore and first shown was a number of turn of the century post cards of the area one of which was of a Mosque and the written message from a father to his son away at school was that this was the place where the faithful prayed to Buddha.

The first stamps show were of India overprinted with Johore with out the final E in a variety of type scripts. It was in 1891 when the first Johore stamps were issued , and shortly after issue the 3c ran out and on show were a number of the 3c overprints together with the Sultans Coronation stamps of 1896 with both the different spelling of the word Coronation.

Talking about this Sultan Aboubaker who was a very astute person realised the potential of being the provider of food and labour to the nearby Singapore began to improve the areas infrastructure in ensure the movement of these things .

The later part of the display was of high value fiscal stamps and a number of stamps cancelled at the various post offices around that area.

Len Stanway gave the vote of thanks to our speakers saying that Malaya was his collecting area but he had not seen a display of such depth as he had seen this evening.

## A story about a Stamp

The 2d of the 1949 issue of Cook Islands prompted Roy Hull to write an artical in the magazine Stamps. This is an edited version of that story. passed on to me by Dennis Sales.

The stamp is inscribed Rarotonga and has a portrait of Rev. John Williams, a two masted schooner named Messinger of Peace and a view of the island.

John Williams was born in Tottenham inon 29 June 1796 at the age of twenty

twenty his Christian upbringing and his lifelong admiration of Captain James Cook led him to offer his services to the Missionary Society. During his training he met and married Mary Chauner who agreed to travel with him to the other side of the world.

The couple let England to arrive on Tahiti in

November 1817. Missionary settlements were established on a number of islands including Huahine and Rarotonga. but John realised that to spread the word of God to the many islands around him he would need a boat. He therefore determined to build a ship of some seventy tons. But he had no tools or materials to achieve this task.

There were trees growing on the island but no saw to cut them down or saw them into planks, no iron in the rocks, no canvas for sails and no rope for the rigging and he had never seen a ship built.

With just a few rudimentary tools and an old chain cable that would make nail and bolts, but to mould the iron a forge and bellows were needed. He was also without an anvil or coal to fire it.

The bellows were made from the skins of the four goats on the island but only the boards were left after the rats that plagued the island ate the leather. He overcame this problem by making box bellows similar to a Flight pump that is used to raise water. He made fuel for the forge by making charcoal from coconut, timona and other trees. The anvil was a very large stone and a pair of carpenters pincers were to become the tongs.

As he had no saw he had to make wedges and split the trees which the islanders using hatchets then split into planks, as it was not possible to bend the planks when one was needed an islander was sent into the woods to find a bamboo that was the shape required and that was then split in two one for each side of the boat.

The keel was laid down and the ribs fixed with hand made timber dowels. To caulk the seams a mixture of coconut husks, dried banana stumps and native cloth was forced into position between the planks. The ropes were the bark of the hibiscus tree fibres twisted together to make strong ropes, for the sails he used native sleeping mats quilted together with cross stitching that would make them strong enough not to give way in strong seas

In 15 weeks the ship was ready to sail the rudder brackets were made from the tools that had

brackets being made from the tools used to build the ship the final fittings, the rudder and bilge pumps were fitted. The anchor was a timber crate filled with large stones. The ship was named Messenger of Peace and its ensign was a dove on a purple field.

The ship was used for some six years sailing between the islands and when the Williams family returned home in 1833 the ship was sold off.

If you have enjoyed these letters other may like to read your stories so please send me any you have.

### **From your Secretary.**

Firstly I have to tell you that Len Stanway has had to resign as Chairman due to his failing health, Len joined the Society back in 1979 and has held many offices his help and knowledge will be sorely missed. He is however not leaving the Society and will continue to oversee our competitions.

### **Please note the change of venue for our auction it will be in the Pitsea Leisure Centre on 4 October from 7 15 to 10 PM.**

Peter tells me that a few of you have still not yet paid your subs shame on you please do so soon as we need these funds.

He also tells me that the boxes are being held to long by some people please try to move them quickly. If you could let the people each side of you on the packet when you can take it in this would help to keep them moving.

Our Programme Secretary has asked for ideas for the next programme starting in July 2000 could you let us have your collecting preferences on the back of your packet returns or by writing to me

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and we will try to get speakers along on your subject.

I hope to produce the next issue by Christmas time it will only be short unless you send me some stories

Good Luck until the next time. Pat.