

Meeting Report

Eric Waldock gave us a display and talk about Jennifer Toombs the stamp designer and Artist. He said that he starting to collect her material in the late 60's when a set of Picturing Islands stamps featuring local hand-crafts caught his eye at a Chelmsford club meeting, and later to enter an 8 page competition he bought some more of her work and became hooked and now some 35 years later he has some 30 albums, stockbooks and boxes of material.

The display covered all aspects of her work, she has designed to date some 750 stamps for 80 countries and among the first items shown were an omnibus issue of Winston Churchill designed for the Crown Agent in 1966 including variations on the preliminary colour trials and essays together with some of her early issues the Bligh death anniversary of Pitcairn, the Methodist conference of St. Kitts and Nevis, Easter stamps for various countries and sets of the authors J L Stephenson and Charles Dickens.

The second part of the evening started with stamps from Pitcairn Islands between 1969 and 1980 and Royalty issues including the Silver Jubilee and coronation omnibus issues from the West Indies with stamps and covers for the Queens 60th birthday and 40th wedding anniversaries. This section also included Christmas issues from St. Kitts and St. Helena and many of the early issues of Jersey with a set and cover for the last issue of Herm Island from 1969.

In the final section there were many issues of flora, fauna and pets and finally some unaccepted designs the Jennifer had had submitted to the Post Office of Sir Henry Wood and

Thomas Beechan that she had put on to covers and sent them to Eric who said to date she had not had any of her designs on British stamps. Charlie Mead gave the vote of thanks for a very entertaining evening.

Did you know that Winston Churchill appeared on no less than 468 stamps of most of the worlds countries and even on a Nazi field postcard during the second world war.

Switzerland continued

In 1960 some 14 of the lovely old world buildings were put on to a set of stamps and were recess printed on ordinary paper. A second issue of 18 stamps came in 1964 on phosphor coated paper a lovely set of old buildings.

As early as 1850 a number of possible routes for a railway through the Alps was discussed, and an agreement between Switzerland was signed in 1869 and with Germany in 1871. Engineering work started on what was to be the shortest route between the low countries Germany and Italy.

The centenary of the St. Gottard Railway was marked with a se-tenant pair of stamps with a bridging strip and a miniture sheet. The bridging sheet (not valid for postage) shows part of the monument of the 177 workers who lost their lives in building the tunnel. The memorial stands in front of Airolo Station. Before the tunnel was built it took two days in favourable weather to travel from Lucerne to Milan now it can be done in a matter of hours. It is safe to say that no other county in the world is there so many engineering works per mile of track.

I would like to mention one other railway the Riga mountain Railway designed by Niculous Riggerback, Europes first rack and pinion railway. Another magnificent feat of engineering which includes a 781 yard long lattice-

bridge. 4 miles to the summit with gradients of between 1 in 4 and 1 in 8. This early steam Railway was opened to the public in May 1871. The 1983 Europa stamp commemorates this engine and track, this early steam train is now on show in the Swiss Transport Museum.

Electrification of Swiss Railways began before the turn of the century (the 19th) because of the cost of importing coal. World Wars 1 and 2 emphasised the advantages of complete electrification and this was achieved by 1960. One final point about Switzerland is the multi language and religious beliefs of the people and yet all live amicably together, one of the advantages of collecting this country are the wonderful illustrated postmarks that are available.

My thanks to Dennis Sales for this very interesting story I am always willing to print any of **your** stories if you would like to send them to me Pat.

Did you Know that the first country to permit advertising on the back of its stamps was New Zealand in 1893. Nicknamed "Adsons" by collectors a different advert appeared on each stamp on a sheet including Beecham's pills and Sunlight soap.

Meeting report.

With a shortage of petrol and a very wet night some 19 members attended a workshop on collecting by Thematics, the principal speakers were unable to attend and Dennis Sales agreed to be the Guinea pig and put up two 8 sheet examples of collecting this way. Firstly was a study of Charles Dickens that showed picture of the house he was born in and a number of sets of stamps of him and his books from a number of countries there was also a Royal Mail stamp booklet and some beautiful Victorian postcards of his

-characters together with a photograph of the Old Curiosity shop. The second set was of the UPU starting with a picture of Dr. Von Stephen in Berne the stamps included the first German set of the UPU and various stamps from around the world celebrating the 50th and 75th anniversary of its formation. There were early letter cards from South America and one card that was inscribed the longest route bt Europe and Australia that was overprint with the shortest route after the Suez canal was opened.

Alex McGratten led of the debate about this form of collecting with a lively exchange of views but to sum up it was agreed that collectors pleased themselves about collecting but that there was three main aims . To collect for ones own pleasure, to collect to display for others to enjoy and thirdly collecting for competitions and it was only for the last that you had to read the rules and try to comply with them but this was always difficult because Judging was not uniform with one being hot on one area and others in different areas.

The first consciously commemorative stamps issued in the USA were for the centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 the design showing a horse postman and a train representing mail transportation old and new in 1776 and 1876.

Competition News

In the Autumn AEPS Len Stanway gained a second place with his book Rails under London about the various railways that run under the Capital (copies are available from Len). In the Cinderella competitions Charlie Mead came second with his MailSort entry and Maggie Thompson Gained Third place.

In the societies Autumn competitions the Judges Alan Moorcroft and Bill Orrin from Colchester said that the entries were of a very high standard and that all had the right things their only criticism was that some of the entries would have been helped with a little more information. In the Postal History Arthur Bowles had two entries, Essex from bygone days a study mainly from the North of the County and the Japanese Postal service. Len Stanway used eight pages from his excellent Postal History of Richmond Yorkshire and Dennis Livermore put in the early Postal History of Great Britain 1814 to 1905.

The stamp competition was very close with only a few marks between all the entries. Charlie Mead had two sets the first was 8 pages from his study of the 1870 GB 1/2d newspaper stamp and the George VI definitive issues of Fiji. Arthur Bowles used the stamps of Japanese events between 1916 and 1935 John Pettit showed some of his 1d universal issues of New Zealand and Len Stanway had the Key types of Malaya as his entry.

In Aerophilately there were five entries two from Dennis Sales both from Switzerland Swiss Air Mails and Aerographs John Pettit also had two sets both from New Zealand First Flight Covers and Christmas Airmails, Len Stanway displayed items of Singapore Airmail.

Before the winners were announced Len Stanway as Competitions Registrar said that the rules laid down that a person could not win a competition two years in a row and so the winners were for Postal History Arthur Bowles with his Essex in Bygone days

Charlie Mead won the Stamps with the 1/2d newspaper and Len Stanway the Aerophilately with Singapore Airmails.

Did you know the first Christmas stamp was issued by Canada on 7 December 1898

Any Thing But Stamps this evening brought back after some years had a marvellous response that needed four sessions to show the last having to be rushed to finish on time.

John Pettit led the evening off with a series of postcards of the Thames Barges small craft that with a man and a boy traded between London and the East Coast. David Church was next with various views of the Faroe islands including an interior of the Catholic Church in Klaksvik. Charlie Nicolson completed the first session with biographies of famous people in the stamp world on postcards including Roland Hill, Charles Heath the engraver of early stamps and Jacob Perkins the first printer of stamps together with some essays of early stamps with blocks of stamps from the Lord Mayor of London's appeal on behalf of the Red Cross and St. John's Fund and the stamp Centennial exhibition of 1940.

John Church was first of the second set with photographs taken on landing in Iceland's main airport with many views of that country including its many volcanoes together with a number of airmail letter forms.

Anne Stanway had Peacocks as her contribution to the evening with some full tail brasses, a wall tapestry two beautiful brooches and a book detailing them.

Vivian Holiday showed a number of illustrated stories including the Christmas story, the Dunmow Flitch, the Glastonbury Thorn, the wedding of Tom Thumb and many more

.Dennis Livermore had a number of celebrity autographs on covers that included Tessa Sanderson, Roger black, many of the 1966 world cup winners, Denis Thatcher and many more including Ian Wright on a Martin Luther King cover. For the last session Len Stanway showed a number of London underground route maps from 1900 to the present day that included a District line map from 1931 that showed that line running to Southend and Shoeburyness. Charlie Mead showed a number of postcard produced by the Postal Museum and by the Friends of the postal Museum including several ways of delivering the mail in the 18 century.

Steve Apse concluded the evening with a series of Beer Mats and Matchbox labels that included some of his collection in display cabinets.

Time did not allow for a vote of thanks so I would like to say well done to all those who displayed for a very entertaining evening and I am sorry space did not allow for a more detailed report of the night.

Michael has told me that he has a lot left over from the last auction, if you are missing one please telephone him on 01268 543025 and he will return it to you.

He has also asked me to say that the very last date for receiving your list for the April Auction will be Monday 5 February with the lots by 20 march

Sir William Mulock postal reformer
This story was sent in by Arthur Hobbs who is enjoying a busy retirement in Suffolk.

Sir William was born in Upper Canada on 19 January 1844 and died in Toronto on 1 October 1944 in his 101th year.

He was appointed Canada's Postmaster General in 1896. Under his administration the Canadian Post Office immediately reduced postal rates for domestic mail within the Confederation, and at the Imperial Postal Conference in London in 1898, Mulock strongly supported the introduction of imperial Penny post.

His proposal was for a uniform one penny rate (2 cents in Canada) throughout the empire and the United States. The idea was not adopted universally throughout the Empire largely due to British opposition, but a number of the Dominions and several colonies agreed.

To introduce the new rate Canada issued the 2 cent Map stamp on 7 December 1898 which became valid for postage on Christmas day 1898 in those day post offices remained open on Christmas day, stamps were bought and the mail delivered.

In 1902 Mulock entered into negotiations with other interested postal authorities which resulted in the laying of the Pacific Telegraph cable.

He finally retired from Federal Service to become Chief Justice of the Ontario Exchequer Court in 1905

My thanks to Arthur for this story another Story of Canadian stamps will be in the next issue.

A message from your Secretary.

It's that time of the year again when Christmas is upon us. My I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy year on behalf of myself and the committee. I Have been your secretary for some six months and I will do my best to keep up the good work that Pat has done for the last eight years . I would like to thank every body that has helped me over the last six months. So far this year we have had some splendid displays and competitions. that every one has enjoyed and during the next six months we have more displays, talks and competitions. If you and subject you would like to see in future programmes please let Charlie Mead know and he will try to fit them in. I have enjoyed being your Secretary and if you have any queries please let me know you can reach me on 07899 822881.

Our membership is increasing partly due to efforts at our stamp fairs, at the last fair we had some nine requests for application forms if any of you know of collectors get them to come along to see us.

God bless you all

Alan Taylor

Did you know that the longest running charity stamp is the Pro Juventute (youth) stamps of Switzerland issued annually since 1913. Great Britain has only issued one in 1975 for health and disabled charities is was a 41/2p plus 1 1/2p surcharge.

Programme for the next Quarter

1 January No meeting bank holiday

16 January Mails under London by Len Stanway.

5 February China by David Sibley

programme continued

20 February Basildon/ Billericay annual quiz(volunteers wanted)

5 March Competition night Thematic, Cinderella and Modern material. time for you to get your entries ready

20 March Informal evening with dealers.

2 April Auction night get your lots in early

as you know all our evening meetings are at the George Hurd Centre in Fauners.

on 20 January David will hold a Stamp fair at the community Centre Aston Road Laindon between 10am and 4 30pm come along for all your stamps etc.

Did you known an automatic post office was erected experimentally in Bath in 1924. It consisted of a telephone kiosk (pay phone) integrated with a post-box and a stamp vending machine.

From this prototype was developed Telephone Kiosk no 4 introduced generally in England in 1929 and having stamp-vending machines built into the back of the kiosk.

Meeting Report.

Ian Nutley FRPSL revisited us to give his display of the Mermoz Line. An airline that ran between France and South America between the wars. The line was started by Pierre Latecocre who had previously been connected with trains. He knew that some 2,000 tons of mail was sent annually between South America and Europe and though that a lot of this could be carried by air. He began to start setting up the various continued over

stages it would require. On show was a cover from the first stage France to Barcelona on Christmas day 1918, and Ian produced a number of covers from the various stages to final jumping of point in Africa.

The name Mermoz came from the first pilot who was something of a ladies man and it was said that at least one lady committed suicide when he left Argentina to start flying. By 1920 some 182,000 letters were to use this route and many covers from both Europe and South America were on display.

The route proved to be so popular that the surcharge was reduced from 75p to 50p. In 1926 a Captain Royce took three plane in crates to South America and reconstructed them to carry out trail runs between the various countries and Ian showed a number of covers of this period including one from the first complete run on 4 October 1927.

In 1929 Mermoz made the first run between Argentina and Peru and because of the low ceiling of the plane had to fly through the Andes because the peaks were higher which made it a very hazardous journey.

In the comparative short life of the line some 120 crew members lost their lives and Ian showed a great number of covers from some of the crashes with some of their stories. In 1925 a plane took off from Alicante but developed engine trouble immediately and came down in the main street of the town in flames killing the crew, a charred letter from this flight was shown. In 1928 the first flight from Paris to Brazil took some 72 hours and a cover from Great Britain cost £5 60p plus a registration fee. An interesting story was told with the next covers with a flight down the west coast of Africa not all the people were friendly to France so that when a plane was forced down in Mauritania the crew were held for ransom and some of the mail was open and thrown about.

When the ransom was paid and the mail recovered a special cachet was put on the covers telling the story. Sea planes were brought in to use in 1930 and one plane crashed into the-

river Platte and some of the recovered mail had a cachet saying that they were still damp when forwarded on.

In April 1936 Mermoz was lost on a flight and France issued two stamps on the anniversary of his death in 1937 commemorating his achievements.

The last British letters were sent on the 500th trip on 2 June 1940.

The last cover shown was sent from Brazil to Fenchurch Street on 8 June 1940 with a cachet saying that it was delayed due to the occupation of France and was delivered on 16 April 1945. Charlie Mead gave Ian a vote of thanks for a most excellent display and said that he had not seen so many crash covers at one time before.

From your Editor.

It is good to see Albert back at meetings after his long illness thanks to those members who bring him and take him home.

I hear that Stan Chrisp has had a fall get well soon Stan

Arthur Hobbs has asked me to remember him to all his friends at Basildon.

About this issue I had to change my printer part way through so the later pages have got the holly border and Sir William Mulock was born in 1844 not 1944 as written.

I would like to thank those members who have given me stories to use and I would like to see more if you have them. As you can see there is a blank space at the bottom of this page you could use it with your wants or information that other members may have so it is yours to use.

I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy new year. God Bless.