

SOCIETY News

I compounded the error wrong dates on the new cards the correct dates for the Tuesday meetings in September & December should read 18th and not 19th. As 4 June is a public holiday the Presidents evening is cancelled and 2 April & 7 May are Tuesday meeting following the Bank Holiday Monday.

Albert Thomas is hoping to return to meetings in the Autumn after having part of his right leg removed. If you have news of members who we have not seen for some time please let me know so I may tell other members.

Meetings for the next Quarter.

- 1 October Auction night
- 16 October Visit from Maidstone PS.
- 5 November Competitions Stamps,
Postal history &
Aerophilately.
- 20 November My favourite theme
members displays
- 3 December Aspects of German Hyper-inflation Jim Thompson
- 18 December Festive evening & Tomex
Quiz

End of an era

For a number of years there has been an annual Quiz between ourselves and Billericay, this year however they have informed us that they are unable to raise a team and would not be hosting the Quiz. We hope that this will be a temporary setback and that we will Resume again shortly.

Meeting Report.

Stewart Henderson of Phillips was our first speaker of the Societies new year and gave a very Interesting display of Cinderella's of the world. As a prelude he told the story of a man who was clearing out his grandfathers house found a package behind a gas meter, when he opened it later it contained some 380 white £5 notes in pristine condition together with a few others.

He went on to show some Hyperinflation bank notes from Germany from August 1923 there was a 100,000 note going on to a 500,000 Million mark in November. He also showed the so called "Vampire" note of early 1923 that was to represent the Allies bleeding the country dry with war reformatations.

He started off the main display with revenue stamps on cheques from 1860 together with these stamps used on stock exchange bills, wines and sprites, playing cards and some USA. Motor vehicle stamps that were gummed on the front. Items from Canada were next that included a licence to weight goods for sale. Then came what he thought were Russian revenues until a Russian gentleman pointed out to him that they were "Mushroom" licences that allowed the holder to pick and sell them

The next section started with a series of "Poster" stamps first were Quaker Oats issues of 1880 and some that popularised dancing, different forms of travel including the Wells Fargo stage coaches of America There were stamps from New Zealand between the wars for tourism publicity, together with items from Great Britain, Australia, Canada and Ireland. Stamps from cites of Germany and Austria were next with items from the Festival of Britain and a selection from the Royal visit to Canada in 1937. A series of stamps from the 1930 appeal by Barts hospital rebuilding fund came before a cover celebrating Plymouth be coming a city

World war 1 propaganda poster stamps followed. Included items from most European countries. With the Lord Roberts memorial stamps and albums and stamps of the German zeppelin issues. The Red Cross and Crescent issued stamps to raise funds in most European countries.

Mourning labels from Germany from 1922 to 1938 for the loss of territories taken after the war completed the second section.

Stuart completed the evening by telling of going shopping he found some car tax discs that started him off collecting an other interest and he showed the yearly discs from 1922 to 1938, some from Belfast for the war time issues 1939 to 45 the labels coming from all types of vehicles and included a Guinness label that could pass for a car disc in 1966. From 1977 he showed monthly discs up to the present date with some in the Welsh language and others from the Irish republic, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Did you Know.

The so called "Maltese Cross" cancel was wrongly named as it was based on the Tudor rose and looks very different to the eight pointed cross of the Knights of Malta. Red ink was first used but from February 1841 black was used, but different colours were used in some Towns.

Meeting Report

John Pettit opened the Committee entertains evening with the Heritage issues of New Zealand issued between 1988 and 99. The first set called "The Land" showing landscape paintings by various artists, other set showed items of Maori culture, life in each decade of the 1990s, famous New Zealanders, the people and a reissue of the 1898 pictorial set among many more. He finished with a miniature sheet called the first to see the new Millennium one of a number of countries in the Pacific that made this claim.

John Church showed Europa stamps and special first day covers from Iceland and Charlie Mead completed the first section with items from his Fiji collection starting with a series of preaddressed covers to dignitaries from 1880

That were from OHMS gazette printed on various recycled papers by the print office. His display continued with some postal stationery from the reigns of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V that contained postcards, reply cards and letter cards and finished with some newspaper wrappers.

Part two was started by Alex Mc Grattan with aspects of the German Hyperinflation in 1923 with stamps, covers, full sheets that had a number of flaws and errors and part sheets with rate overprints. He also told the story of the period between August and November illustrated with stamps and covers showing the rates of increase over that period.

Dennis Livermore started with advice on what not to buy in first day covers and went on to display series of limited edition covers that including the first official post office cover of the Shakespeare from 1964, a Benham woodcut cover and a pen cover from Wessex. He went on to show a Dracula cover postmarked Perfleet saying that he was said to live in the area. This was followed with a number of covers for the Save the Children fund and finished with a Raflet cover that covered the story of the battle of Roukes Drift in the Zulu war one of only 150 issued.

Alan Taylor completed this section with vintage cars from around the world and different forms of transport as shown on British stamps.

David Church who is now a full time dealer opened the last section with a collection he recently bought at auction that showed the Post Offices introduction to decimalization for 15 February 1971. It contained stamps, covers, stationery and booklets. A conversion calculator was followed by a post office savings book opened at a page showing both LSD and decimal entries. 1st, 2nd and official stamps were next and he ended with a cover with LSD stamps Surcharged with to-pay labels as it was posted after the final date allowed. The evening finished with Len Stanway first telling a story that British Rail introduced decimals a day early to avoid chaos on the Monday with season and weekly tickets being changed. His display started with Canadian postal stationery from

Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth including many overprinted Specimen. He continued with many of the stamps issued up to 1967 that included various types of phosphoring.

Did YOU Know.

The Largest miniature sheet was issued by The German Democratic Republic in 1964 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Republic. It contained 15 different imperforate stamps on a map of the country and measured 210x285 mm.

The Occupation of the Channel ISLANDS PART 2.

The Germans wasted no time in making their presence known, all telephone links with Britain were severed, a black out and curfew enforced and driving on the right was imposed with many accidents happening. Every one had to have an identity card with a photograph and a number endorsed by the German commandant. An order was issued that half of all stocks held in shops were to be handed over to the occupation forces, before this order could be enforced a great deal of these stores were hidden away and brought back under the counter.

Homes, cars and wireless sets were confiscated newspaper censorship was imposed and German became a required subject in schools.

The first philatelic event was an order to the Postmaster Mr. O F Morant from the commandant of Jersey Hauptmann Gussak to send a quantity of the George VI definitive and centenary stamps to Bigwoods the newspaper printers to have a Swastika, Jersey and 1940 over printed on them. The Bailiff of Jersey Alexander Couthanche objected to this as it would deface the image of the reigning monarch. After reference to Berlin these stamps were ordered to be destroyed, only 4 sets were known to survive one is in the Jersey Postal Museum and two are held by British collectors the fate of the other Set is unknown.

By December 1940 the one penny stamps were running out with no means of replacing them. This was more acute in Guernsey than Jersey. It had been decided in the October that local stamps would be needed

The Germans suggested that the two penny values could be bisected to make two penny stamps. This was agreed by the postmaster but the stamps had to be cut diagonally. It was to be issued on Christmas eve but as the post had already been collected the first day of issue was 27 December 1940 and they were valid until 24 February 1941 when the local stamps came on line. The stamps used were the George V 1912-24, The 1934 stamp, the George definitive and the two penny centennial stamp.

Meeting Report. 8 pages from my collection.

Despite a number of members being on holiday a record 15 entries were displayed. Brenda Nye showed a number of Christmas covers each with a different design and posted at different post offices.. The Scout and Baden-Powell were May Colvill,s entry Arthur Bowles had an unusual topic with revenue and postal history items from Turkey. The first of Dennis Livermores two showings was of Winston Churchill (featured in the Evening Echo on 23 August) And included a cover from Germany that featured him.

The postal history of Herm Island from 1949 to 1966 was the first of Pat Harris's two sets with the early "Roes" and George V. heads of Australia being his second. Stamps and covers of the German occupation of the Channel Islands was Dennis Livermores second entry.

Dennis sales had three completely different themes on show firstly the UPU. With anniversary stamps and covers from Switzerland, Australia and Great Britain that included the £1 1929 congress stamp. His second and for my part the best on show was of early postal history of Great Britain including a letter from 1814 with a too late cachet and an 1837

Parliamentary Privilege cover and among the other items were a 1d black and 2d blues also on covers, Dennis's final entry was of Swiss air mail covers including a number of first flight ones.

Gary Green entered stamps of Guernsey and Alderney on stock cards, the Queens 25th anniversary was from Bill Leeds that had a French miniature sheet with the Queens head in gold leaf as a centre piece. Aerogrammes from various Malaya states were our President Len Stanway's entry.

Mr. Cooksey (I do not have his first name sorry) Showed stamps and covers from the former Southern Rhodesia and lastly an unusual entry for Michael Musgrave eight pages of Recorded Delivery labels that showed the various changes since there introduction.

The markings were close with only 25 marks between the first and last Brenda Nye and Dennis Livermore were in joint third place Dennis Sales early GB. Mail was second and the winner was Pat Harris with his Australia entry. Len Stanway as Competition Secretary thanked all those who took part in the evening.

Did You Know

The most worthless stamp ever issued was the 3000 pengo definitive of Hungary issued on 5 February 1946. Originally intended as the top value of a post war series, the stamp was delayed several months after the rest of the series. By the time of its issue however the pengo had plummeted in value in the worst case of hyper-inflation in the last century by 6 February 1946 the value of the pengo had dropped to the equivalent of 150 million, million to 1p in British currency.

Meeting Report Album weeds part two by Lally Lewendon.

Larry returned to give us his second part of his album weeds display of fakes and forgeries

Of stamps and postmarks.

He opened with a number of United States newspaper stamps of 1890 that had a number of fake duplex postmarks and forged high value stamps, next he went on to the 1912 issue of Mauritius with a number of forged stamps based on the Paris reprints some beautiful Spiro forgeries of the 1905 Barcelona issue of Spain followed.

The 1865 of the New South Wales Sidney views were next with a number of postmark forgeries these were followed by a number of Commonwealth stamps that Sperati had forged. A number of photogravure forgeries of the 1 Mark and Rupee stamps of the German East Africa Yacht type stamps were followed by postal forgeries from Turkey and Thailand and some 12 pages of fakes and forgeries of stamps of Saxony.

The second part of the evening opened with a number of Cape of Good Hope triangles in singles, pairs and blocks of four, showing works of Spiro Bros, and Fournier that included some woodblock and a bright blue 1/-. Several pages of the Suez Canal followed with forgeries by the well known exponents.

Kanigata was the next name brought forward with his forgeries of the Shanghai and Dowager stamps that preceded several studies of his work to the stamps of Korea and some Hong Kong fiscals where only two values with some 20 plus forgeries of each with some fake post marks.

Some fakes of Brazil made in 1947 came before some Spiro treatment of the 1855 issue of St. Lucia. Three cover fakes from France by Fournier were shown and the evening was completed with a number of items from Basle and Switzerland.

Charlie Mead gave the vote of thanks.