

**Meeting Report** (Held over from last one due to lack of space)

Jim Thompson who is also an internationally known German collector treated us to a display of material about the period of hyperinflation in Germany in 1923.

He opened with a brief history of the lead up to it. After The First World War Germany had to rebuild and pay back reformatations to the allies. France in particular tried to control the output of the Ruhr, this led to strikes that the German Government supported with welfare payments to do so they had to print more paper money that led up to inflation.

The display opened with items of letter mail that was intended to go abroad, as the authorities were anxious that valuables did not leave the country, this war quickly followed by parcels receiving the same treatment and a number of parcel cards and receipts were displayed next the system for posting and delivering parcels is very different to ours. International rates for parcels were fixed to the Gold Franc and there were some 59 changes in the exchange rate during 1923.

The next items displayed were of locally produced labels that had to take the place of stamps as they were in chronic short supply. The labels were made of any scrap paper including printers waste the rate of postage was written in, many of these items were shown as stamps or covers including a composite sheet that showed up some 7 errors or flaws these were highlighted with a great number of covers, these were before a number of part sheets with Photostats of their backs.

The display ended with stamps and covers from the latter end of that period that included one insured cover that an internationally known German Judge tried to buy from Jim Alex McGratten gave the vote of thanks.

**Meeting Report** Although some members got the date wrong the festive evening was well supported and Dennis Livermore set the Tomex Quiz with a couple of real stinkers of Questions. Dave Perry won the cup with 13 points out of 21 with Dave Church and Charlie mead running up with 12 points, the evening finished with the usual Christmas buffet.

I was unwell and unable to stay for the recent Acquisitions meeting so there is no report of the meeting.

**Society News** Alan has successfully obtained a grant from the Arts Forum and hopes to use it towards a photo copier.

**The Occupation of the Channel Islands Pt 4.**  
In this part I would like to write about the restriction made by the Germans for the first day of occupation. All telephone links to Great Britain were immediately cut, black out curfews strictly enforced with severe penalties for breaking them. All radio sets were impounded although some crystal sets were used and one group were sentenced to prison terms when caught. All store keepers were told that half their stock was to be confiscated but they hid most of this away. Virtually every thing was rationed including fish this on islands seems strange but only a few fishing boats were allowed to go to sea at any one time with the threat that if they did not return fishing would be banned. Fuel for lighting, heating and cooking was strictly rationed and heating was not allowed in schools German was a compulsory in schools and all children were to be German citizens. Identity cards with photographs

And numbered. People working in Harbours and within a short distance of the coasts had to have permits to be there this included a farmer who collected seaweed to use as fertiliser. Anyone breaking German rules were brought before a military court as an instance a waitress in a hotel when some officers gave the Heil Hitler salute replied with Hail Churchill and was sentenced to six months in a French prison. All cars and van that were roadworthy were confiscated as with all buildings required for the Germans, even small items were not safe a pair of scales to weight flour is one example.

The victory and other patriotic slogans annoyed the Germans and they made residents patrol at night and they were held responsible if any were found in their area, two sisters were caught with a victory sign and were given prison sentences. The worst event came in 1942 when Hitler ordered that all adults not born on the islands were to be deported to Germany there was to be no exceptions and people were taken aboard ships on stretchers. Many high ranking people were included such as the husband of the Dame of Sark, the deputy Bailiff of Guernsey, and high ranking Church officials and a George Bradshaw more of him next time.

**Did you know** that the first Christmas card was designed in 1843 by John Horsley who sold about 1000 around London since then it has become a worldwide tradition.

**Society News.** Meetings for the next quarter are

2 April Something beginning with Q and R part 2  
**This is a Tuesday as Monday is a bank holiday**  
16 April Informal and Mini fair with dealers

20 April Spring Stamp fair at Laindon

7 May visit from Chelmsford Philatelic Society

21 May Open Forum and Members Bourse

4 June **NO MEETING PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

19 June 34th Annual General Meeting.

### **Meeting Report.**

Two members of the Laytonstone, Wanstead and District P S visited us recently and gave very contrasting displays. John Yorke gave us the story of Bermuda stamps starting with the adhesive stamp of 1848 by the postmaster W B Perot and followed with the 1865 issue that included a number of the diagonal surcharges of 1874. The contemporary issue overprinted Gibraltar in 1886 were shown next leading up to large number of Victorian covers that included a Boar war censored cover, a cover from Canada with a St. Georges postmark that had been posted at sea and an OHMS cover to the USA that was surcharged with a 10 cent postage due label.

Next were the high values of 1918 that included a number of plate flaws and the 1920 tercentenary issue together with a first flight cover to the USA dated 26/3/25.

John finished his part of the evening with the definitive issues of 1938 and 53 together with the high values of 1938.

David Pashby completed the evening with an unusual and interesting display of the French Antarctic islands consisting of Amsterdam, Crozet, St. Paul and Kerguelan, the islands are now used mainly for weather and scientific research and are only inhabited for part of the year. The display started with the early stamp issues before a great number of covers some had cancellation cachet that also showed the time of posting although they could wait weeks before being collecting. It was decided to build an airstrip but all the work carried out one season was washed away before the next so this was abandoned



So contact was maintained by Helicopter and many of the covers had cachets from the supply and Naval ships that serviced the islands, the display ended with some later stamp issues that showed the wildlife and insects of the area.

### ***Did you know***

The only country with two entirely separate postal administrations is Andorra, ruled jointly by France and Spain since 1288 it has two heads of state the President of France and the Bishop of Urgel. The Spanish post office was set up in Andorra La Vieja on 1 January 1928 and issued its first stamps the following March. A rival French post office was opened in the same place on 16 June 1931 and similarly commenced issuing its own stamps. Up until this year stamps were issued with values in Pesetas or Francs but now are in Euros but used only for external mail.

### ***Spring Competitions.***

The evening turned out to be a disappointment, the Cinderella competition had no entries, the Modern Material only one and the Thematic only had two.

Lynn and Malcolm Roberts came from Rayleigh to do the judging and said that the entries were of a very high standard, both the Thematic told the theme story very well but the modern material could have benefited with from an introduction. Dennis Livermore was the modern material entry and displayed recent issues of Great Britain well written up and laid out.

Dennis Sales entered both the Thematic entries, the story of the Universal Postal Union was the first telling the story of its early days and its founder Heinrich von Stephan. His winning entry was of the life and times of Charles Dickens his early days with stamps, covers and post cards.

### ***Personal Postage.***

#### ***The story of the first human parcel delivered by the Post Office.***

In 1905 the post office guide said that "Postmasters may arrange for the conduct of a person to an address by an express messenger".

This was presumably publicised in Guernsey because as the Smith Street Post Office opened on Wednesday 5 July 1905 a Mr Henry Turner walked in and asked to be sent to Sark.

The Postmaster was perplexed and amused by this and after consulting the guide he priced the parcel at 5/10d (29p), how this price was reached is not known he was not weighed and as it would incur three fares to Sark by boat it would seem to be cheap.

A messenger boy Bill Gurney was detailed to take charge of the human parcel and escorted him to the Albert Pier where the "Alert" was waiting. They boarded the vessel and sailed to Sark.

On landing bill took his charge to the Postmaster and handed the documents to him and after checking he received his receipt.

Later both Mr Turner and Bill Gurney returned to Guernsey where a large crowd had gathered to see this unusual site. It is not known whose idea it was to introduce this service but it stayed in place until the second world war.

My thanks go to Steve Alpe for supplying this story and I would like to receive more for any member and I will include them in a latter newsletter.

***Meeting Report.*** The Spring Auction was very well attended by members and people form other Societies. Bidding was fast and furious to start with but cut back a little later overall the Society made in excess of £50 on the night. And thanks go to all those who helped out.

## ***Meeting Report.***

*In the first part of Something beginning with Q or R we had a good mixture of entries, David Church opened with GB revenues saying that since 1670 revenue was required on legal documents and displayed a number of items that had stamps attached and written over one of which had the first stamp to be for postage and revenue the 1d lilac of 1881 and a number of receipts with overprinted stamps with company names on them.*

*Chris Cooksey who spent part of his life in Rhodesia showed a number of quit claim land grants that carried British South Africa Company stamps. He started with a copy of a land grant and a map outlining the area. The duty and rent were both paid to the company and a number of receipts. The rent for each area was between 3d and 7/6d, the 7/6d stamp was issued for these receipts, it was possible to paid up to three years in advance and included were some receipts with three stamps. Railways and specifically the Gotthard tunnel in Switzerland were Dennis Sales contribution to the evening telling of a visit he made to the area with photographs, stamps and covers including full sheets of the tunnels centenary stamps showing the missing spoke flaw.*

*Gary Green chose Royalty as his theme with the Queens head regional stamps from Guernsey and the Isle of Man together with the Isle of Man issues for the Royal wedding of 1981 and the Queens Golden Wedding.*

*Michael Musgrave started of the second part of the evening with GB redirected mail, the earliest item displayed was from 1932 in which an army officer had his mail redirected for a box number with a total cost of £5, he went on to show a number of items from abroad that had been redirected. He followed these up with incoming registered mail from overseas that had to have a GB registration certificate and showed eight different types that were attached to the backs of the covers.*

*Pat Harris completed the evening with Royalty starting with a section of King George V heads of Australia from 1913 to 1931 that included some Official issues, a coin cover commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Prince of Wales investiture with a number of anniversary issues for the Queen and Queen Mother.*

*John Pettit gave a vote of thanks for those who took part.*

## ***News of members.***

*It is with regret that a long time member Will Hay died on 12th March he had been a member for over 20 years and although he had not been able to attend meeting in recent years he did keep in touch.*

*Jim Thompson is making slow progress since his illness in hospital with Pneumonia but is now able to take short walks.*

*Albert Thomas is getting used to walking with his artificial leg and hopes to be see us soon.*

*Charlie Nicolson is to go into hospital at Easter for an operation. I have on your behalf wished them all back to full health soon.*

## ***Reminders.***

***Our next meeting is on the Tuesday after Easter Monday. The AGM will be before the next newsletter we would like you all to attend to have your say about the Societies future.***

***Ron Richards has started he own Album making single or multi countries to your specification with heading and spaces for all stamps and miniature sheets. Produced in a loose leaf format. I have two of these albums and am well satisfied as are others that have them.***

***You can ring Ron on 01375 670808 for more information.***

***Should any member wish to get or give information please let me know and I will try to include it in future newsletters.***