



CAMBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER** ISSUE 86

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We have been fortunate in obtaining a sponsor for our newsletter for twelve months from August 2014. Members are encouraged to contact our sponsor for advice as detailed above.

The editor will try to publish newsletters on a four monthly basis, which from the August 2014 edition will also be available as a pdf file from the Society website. A new section "5" on the Society web site has been designed to accommodate this.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the spring 2015 newsletter. We have had an excellent start to the new programme year and hope to repeat the quality and mixture of speakers over the remainder of the programme year. Our thanks are due to Richard Husband, our Programme Secretary, who has organised this for the Society.

From time to time we have to make changes to our published programme on the blue cards. However, the editor tries to keep the programme details on the Society's web site always up to date; this can be found at; - [www.cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk](http://www.cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk)

If any member is on email, and has not received this newsletter by email, but would be happy to receive future newsletters and communications by email then would you please let the secretary know at; [info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk](mailto:info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk) ; this will help save on both postage and paper costs.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

Three of our members, **Adrian Boggust**, **Simon Kelly** and **Richard Husband**, attended the Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation Judging Seminar in Hitchin in November and successfully completed part 1 of the course. They also attended Stampex in London in February 2015 to complete part 2 and have all been signed off as federation level philatelic judges.

**John Pearce** has recently undergone a hip replacement operation and is already well on the way to being fully recovered.

**Brian Downham** continues to make slow progress and he hopes to put in an appearance at the Arbury stamp fair on Saturday 9th May.

The opportunity is also taken to extend a very warm welcome to those new members who have joined the society in recent months; **Justin Curtis**, **Steve Hannath** and **Devlan Kruck**.





## SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

**Stephen Harper Scott** has very generously donated 21 thick binders covering Cambridge Postal History to the Society. These contain much of his father, Norman Harper-Scott's collection and his own detailed village postal history information held in 18 x A4 volumes. It did not include his Histon & Impington Collection on which he is still actively involved. However he has agreed for us to borrow, scan and return these parts of his collection. Each well-filled volume contains details on the village post offices and their locations through time, shown in stamps, envelopes, documents, photographs and maps, and of the postmasters and postmistresses, also including letter boxes and events of postal significance for each village. One volume is a photographic study of Cambridge Letter boxes. A further 2 volumes of notes, photographs and cuttings cover the Town Sub-Offices, with few original postmarks, but a notable exception is a Parcel Post label of Castle End, of which hitherto we have had no original examples of this rare postmark or anything from this office.

Stephen would like this donation to the society to be in memory of his late father, Norman, who had a long history with the society and who passed away ten years ago.

### Message from the Curator

The Cambridge Postal History Collection has been growing at a considerable pace during the last year. While the Curator could happily write up pages at the present rate the collection is growing faster than he can properly cope with!

It would therefore be sensible to build up a team of curatorial assistants to help run the collection more efficiently. This is an opportunity for members both with and without access to a computer to help especially in the writing up and documentation. No experience is necessary, and skills learned may help you to develop your own writing up and perhaps encourage you to enter competitive philately, if you are not already involved. If you are experienced, then you could perhaps help using your existing skills.

It is our collection and it would be good if we can share the load between us and giving others the opportunity of becoming involved.

The curator would love to hear from anyone (with or without a computer) who would like to help with this important regional postal history collection.

### Wednesday 7th January

#### MEMBERS' EVENING: MATERIAL WRITTEN UP IN 2014

**Stafford May** kicked off the evening with various recent covers for Mail Mart-Meter Mail. **Tony Crowther** continued with stamps from British Levant which included some perfins. **Geoffrey Etherington** showed early issues for the Perak Federation which included used overprinted issues, overprinted values and reprints to cover the short supply of stamps. **Geoffrey Datson** put up various covers and stamps all connected with a Benjamin Britten theme including related stamps for the music of Night Mail. **Keith Weston** displayed stamps and sheetlets from Eastern Europe including those with a Karl Marx theme. **Adrian Boggust** showed the first sterling issues of Newfoundland and the Canadian dollar plate proofs and stamps. **Roger Carr** was into scouting and the Mafeking Siege stamp issues, covers and reproductions. **Michael Leveridge** displayed the basic stamp issues of Cyprus from 1938 to 1960. **Ray Revell** showed South West Africa 1918 to 1935 railway cancellations on covers in particular those of Ariamsulei which was linked into the German railway. **Richard Husband** closed the first half with information on and examples of stamps from the different perfin perforator machines from 1919 to 1970's.

**Mike Bavin** commenced the second half with a selection of stamps and covers depicting





modern Greece especially Epirus Ikaria. **Alistair Kennedy** then displayed a series of covers depicting British and Empire Forces on the western front in WWI. **John George** brought us more up to date with stamps and booklets from the 1967 Machin issues. **David Stirrups** then displayed packet mail from Gibraltar to Portugal with examples of covers from missing and damaged ships, plus modern proofs for Gibraltar. **Peter Morton** put up sheets for GB Army and Admiralty Officials and also seahorses. **Simon Kelly** finished the evening off with a series of cuttings and covers from the Penryn area of Cornwall from 1767 to the 1840's.

### Friday 16th January

#### VISIT BY HITCHIN STAMP CLUB

We welcomed both Brian Thurstance and Bob Hill from Hitchin Stamp Club.

Brian Thurstance commenced with an excellent thematic display of cricket. It included the very first stamps covering cricket from both Cape Verde Islands and also Fiji, and also covers and information surrounding the Cradle of Cricket from Hambledon. The display was strong in Don Bradman and also Australian covers, stamps and photographs. His display included items from around the world including letters and signed covers.

Bob Hill's display covered South Africa in three areas. The first topic was apartheid which was a social history of what took place in the 1800's. This was depicted by covers with postmarks showing the different markings for "location", "lok" "indo native office", "NE" [non European] and "NW" [non white]. He continued with shipping postmarks from Cape Town including several scarce covers and concluded with covers from Cape of Good Hope, which included a rare cancellation for the Table Mountain Post Office.

### Wednesday 4th February

#### PRESIDENT'S EVENING

**Simon Kelly's** theme this evening was Ethiopia, also known as Abyssinia. The map of 1796 showed the country isolated from the sea but the subsequent merger of Eritrea into Ethiopia after World War II enabled for a short time direct marine access. He commenced with envelopes from a tinsmith on board HMS Octavia, a frigate bound for the India Station in the late 1860s. For a short time it was the flagship of General Napier who was sent from India as leader of the British Field Force in the military campaign of 1868-1869 which successfully liberated the British Consul and other being held hostage by Emperor Theodore. Early letters and covers, together with maps and contemporary newspaper illustrations and also a Punchcartoon showed the history of the campaign. This was followed by mail from Egypt's military activity on the north coast followed by Italian entry into Eritrea with military mail and colonial Italian stamp issues of the early 1890's. Italy got severely beaten by the Ethiopians at the battle of Adowa in 1896 and an important piece was shown - a postcard from a released Italian POW. 1894 saw the first Ethiopian stamp issues with Menelik II issues which continued with various overprints to the UPU entry in 1908.

The second half continued with the proper UPU issues and including censored mails from the First World War era. The Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 by Mussolini's forces led to the temporary removal of Emperor Haile Selassie, who escaped to British protection. Ethiopian mail was censored by Belgian officers. Italian Posta Militare issues followed the campaign, before colonial issues were introduced. Italian Eritrean and Somalian stamps were valid in conquered Ethiopia. A short lived Italian issue was inscribed Etiopia, but with boundary changes and the formation of Italian East Africa in 1936 the name Ethiopia disappeared until restored in 1941. With the 2nd World War minor Italian advances into British Territory were soon reversed. The British East Africa Force, with South African and Indian forces, each with their own postal facilities soon swept the Italians out of Ethiopia, restoring Haile Selassie to the throne, and resulting in a huge POW system being set up.





These events were demonstrated by a wide variety of civilian, army, airforce and hospital mail with censorship being shown. The restoration mails had to use British stamps initially, but the first issue was of stamps printed in India and the value added in Sudan for use in Ethiopia. Large stocks of Red Cross issues, intended for release in 1936 spent the war stored in French Somaliland. They were eventually released and overprinted for events from Victory in 1945 to the Emperor's Jubilee in 1960! Ethiopia's dramatic post WW2 history will have to await another occasion!

### Friday 20th February

#### COMPETITION EVENING

{35 YEAR TROPHY, TRANSPORT OF MAIL, THEMATICS, FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND OPEN}

We gave a warm welcome to our two judges from Huntingdon, Bill Gibb and Alan Becker. They were extremely helpful and professional in the way in which they carried out the judging, and commenting afterwards on the various entries.

Overall twelve entries were received for the six listed competitions, up from ten entries the previous year. Congratulations are due to the winners of the competitions as follows;

35 Year Trophy;	Rufus Barnes	Mandalay division of Myanmar registration markings
Transport of Mail;	No entry	
Thematics;	David Stirrups	Orienteering
Foreign;	Simon Kelly	Second Restoration issue Emperor Haile Selassie
Commonwealth;	David Stirrups	Gibraltar- Spanish Currency Issue
Open class;	Ray Revell	Not awarded as mark was lower than 65

During the judging **Stafford May** gave us a detailed display of GB surcharged mail, which included some 15 covers from 1800 to 1840 insufficiently prepaid followed by further covers with 1d red stamps, mainly postmarked at London offices. An example of a glitter card and novelty card were displayed followed by several examples of unpaid mail. Insufficiently prepaid frank labels were also evident and many examples of late 1900's mail with marking of surcharge fee increase.

Our thanks are due to Stafford and for all those members who entered the various competitions.

### Wednesday 4th March

#### SOCIETY AUCTION

The Society Auction was held on this evening. Our thanks are due to **Rufus Barnes**, who not only collated all the auction lots and produced a printed sheetlet, but also acted as auctioneer. Thanks are due to **John Pearce** and **Peter Morton** for keeping detailed records, and to those members who helped in finding the lots and sorting them. We are grateful for all those members who submitted lots and also bid in the auction. Compared to the previous year's auction the value of lots sold was slightly lower, but nevertheless a good contribution was made to Society funds.

### Friday 20th March

#### VISIT BY PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

We welcomed Alan Berrisford, Gordon Stirman, Colin Hepper and Angela Cooper from Peterborough & District Philatelic Society.

Alan Berrisford kicked off with a selection of stamps and documents which had been stamped all from Austria/Poland law charges from the late 18th century up to 1937, and Court Justice delivery stamps. Gordon Stirman then showed a whole series of USA first





flight mail from the 1949 to 1951 period, typically from the Dallas, Fort Worth, Tulsa and Kansas City areas.

In the second half Colin Hepper showed Nepalese postal stationery items with a mixture of thin and thick papers as well as different dies. This was followed by Angela Cooper with a display of Greek pictorial issues, Olympic stamps, mini sheets sports and scenic issues.

### **Wednesday 1st April**

#### **THE ISLAND OF REUNION – MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY**

We welcomed Peter Kelly. He started by showing very early postal history with a letter from 1742, then 1805 blockade mail followed by many examples of early to mid 19th century covers. After the Suez Canal opened in 1871 then this gave rise to new routes with a large selection of different covers from the late 19th century.

### **Friday 17th April**

#### **3 KINGS – PART 3**

We welcomed John Shaw for the third in his series of the 3 Kings in 1937. He started with the 45 colonies and the different issues including flaws, varieties and booklets. In the second half he covered Australia and dependencies, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South West Africa,

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The 2014-2015 programme continues with the following meetings; please note that both 15th May and 19th June are changes to the original programme.

### **Friday 15th May**

#### **JOHN PEARCE; AN EVENING OF WILDINGS**

### **Wednesday 3rd June**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Friday 19th June**

#### **MEMBERS' EVENING; SHOW WHAT YOU LIKE**

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

##### **SOCIETY DINNER**

The 2015 Society Dinner originally scheduled for Friday 15th May will now take place on Wednesday 24th June at the Robin Hood in Cherry Hinton. This was brought about by the public house changing its menu and delaying the date by which it would be produced. A menu choice is attached to this Newsletter for those who receive this Newsletter by post. Any member wishing to come is asked to contact John George direct with their choice and also arrange payment.

#### **MID ANGLIA PHILATELIC FEDERATION**

Full details of events, contacts and recent newsletters appear on the federation website; [www.mapf.co.uk](http://www.mapf.co.uk)