



CAMBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 104

The editor will normally try to publish newsletters in mid-December and by the end of April and August, although during the present Covid-19 restrictions dates may well vary. Newsletters since that for the August 2014 edition are also available as a pdf file from the Society website, in section "5" on the web site.

INTRODUCTION

This is a special edition to update members on what has been happening during the Covid-19 pandemic and the various restrictions which have been imposed by the government for the Cambridge area.

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@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk; this will help save on both postage and paper costs.

ACTIONS FROM RECENT CONFERENCE MEETINGS RATIFIED BY COMMITTEE

General;

- (i) Initially the evening meeting scheduled for Friday 20th March was cancelled and both meetings due in April and May 2020.
- (ii) Subsequently, meetings due in June through to August 2020 were all cancelled, not least as a result of the Committee of Oddfellows Hall deciding to close the Hall to all meetings and functions through to 1st September 2020.
- (iii) The CPS Committee were made aware in late August 2020 that the Oddfellows Hall Committee had reluctantly decided to keep the Hall closed to all meetings and functions through to 10th January 2021. The CPS Committee had no option other than to cancel all meetings for the rest of 2020.
- (iv) Bearing in mind this further extension of the closure of Oddfellows Hall with no evening meetings the CPS Committee, who were already using Zoom Conferencing for committee meetings agreed to try evening displays via Zoom Conferencing on dates that would normally be the evening face to face meetings in Oddfellows Hall.

2020 Centenary Celebrations;

- (i) Initially the Committee decided to proceed as if everything would take place as agreed.
- (ii) Special articles regarding the centenary have appeared in both Gibbons Stamp Monthly–November 2020 edition and also in ABPS News–Winter 2020 edition.
- (iii) The special cover franked by a specially designed handstamp did come out in late October 2020. Should any member like to have one they are available at £3.00 each; two types were issued each bearing a different Machin 1st Class stamp. Please contact the secretary for information regarding purchase. It is illustrated at the end of this Newsletter.



- (iv) All face to face events and displays had to be cancelled.
- (v) The scheduled November lunch due to be held in Cambridge at the University Centre was postponed until a suitable date in 2021.
- (vi) The centenary book is still in course of being prepared. It is expected to be available by mid 2021.
- (vii) The President (and designer, and perhaps other society officers) would be happy to sign our centenary covers at the next Oddfellows meeting.

Annual General Meeting

- (i) The Annual General Meeting took place on Friday 19th June 2020 via Zoom Conferencing, with 14 members in attendance.
- (ii) All agenda items were completed as anticipated, with the committee and the different curators elected for a further period of twelve months.
- (iii) Graham Wylde was confirmed as the new President Elect.
- (iv) Though Trophy winners for 2019/20 were advised, the actual presentation of the trophies was deferred.

Midland Bank Trophy (Postal History)	Simon Kelly
Bentley Wood Medal (Commonwealth)	Simon Kelly
Reginald Chater Blows Trophy (Thematics)	Geoffrey Datson
Cambridge Stamp Centre (Cinderella)	Not awarded
35 Year Trophy	Not awarded
Gordon Bennett Trophy (Transportation Mail)	Not awarded
Presidents Trophy (Great Britain)	Peter Morton
Montagu Medal (Foreign)	Simon Kelly
Gordon Bennett Cup (Transportation of Mail)	Not awarded
John Pearce Memorial Trophy (Open Class)	Simon Kelly
Rufus Barnes 16 Sheet Shield (16 sheet competition)	Simon Kelly
Derrick Ray Memorial Award (Federation competition)	Not awarded this year
Jack Simmonds Award of Merit	Peter Morton



EVENING ZOOM MEETINGS

Wednesday 2nd September

TOKELAU ISLANDS

Our former president, **Rufus Barnes**, gave a very interesting talk and display on the stamps and also postal history of the Tokelau Islands.

Friday 18th September

THE ADDITIONAL HALFPENNY ON SCOTTISH COVERS

Our member, **Tony Crowther**, gave an informative talk and display on the history of the additional halfpenny on Scottish mail.

Wednesday 7th October

PHILATELIC MAIL

A London based philatelist, **Maurice Buxton**, gave an informative and quite varied talk and display on philatelic mail.

Friday 16th October

US SPECIAL DESIGN ISSUES FOR CUBA DURING OCCUPATION BY US FORCES

We welcomed **Juan Farah**, an RPSL member who lives in Miami, Florida, who gave an informative talk and interesting display on the history of US Special design issues during the US occupation of Cuba.

Wednesday 4th November

GB MACHIN TRIALS AND ERRORS

A Lincolnshire based philatelist, **Scott Kibby**, gave a very interesting talk and display on Machin varieties which included essays, and colour errors.

Friday 20th November

NEWFOUNDLAND

Our member, **Adrian Boggust**, gave an informative talk and comprehensive display on the early stamps of Newfoundland.

Wednesday 2nd December

ASPECTS OF RAILWAYS OF THE ISLANDS OF FUNEN AND LANGELAND, DENMARK

Our member, **Lillian Swift**, presented a very enjoyable display and commentary on this specialised area of philately.



PLANNED ZOOM MEETINGS

Friday 18th December

SAMPLE REVENUE STAMPS 1694-1902

A philatelist who is based in Norfolk, **David Leatheart** will present this display.

Wednesday 6th January 2021

LEVANT 19TH CENTURY

Our member, **Tony Crowther**, will present this display.

Friday 15th January

VIRTUAL VISIT FROM LEEDS P.S.

A possible display from members of Leeds Philatelic Society; still to be confirmed

FUTURE MEETINGS

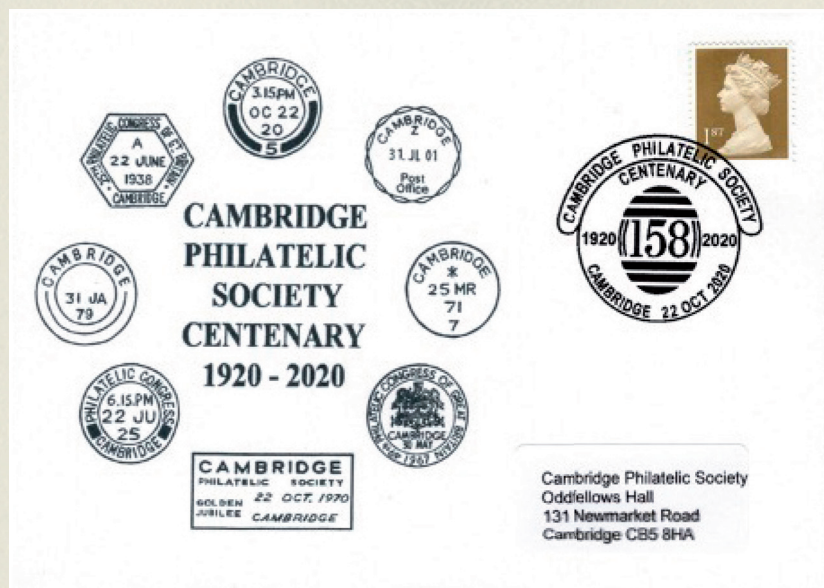
As things stand at present it is highly likely that evening Zoom meetings will continue for at least the first three to four months of 2021.

OTHER MATTERS

MID ANGLIA PHILATELIC FEDERATION

For the time being all meetings and events have been suspended.

2020 CENTENARY SPECIAL COVER. See page 1 for details.





THE CAMBRIDGE POSTAL COLLECTION

For some years the Cambridge Postal History Collection has been scattered around my household. The main collection was in a cupboard in the cloakroom and on a shelf in my bedroom; the large documents, Post Box plates and odd boxes in my study, etc. Because of major household reorganisation almost all has now been moved to a new room with much better security and placed in recently acquired steel cabinets. The room is not exclusively for the collection but will also contain much paperwork relating to my own personal researches in geology and postal history. It has no ground floor access and could only be accessed by ladder until recently. There is now a staircase, but it arrived too late for the move – everything mentioned below was hand carried up the ladder! The cabinets had to be lifted as high as possible on the ladder and tied to it. Then they were stretched on the ladder up to a scaffolding balcony before manoeuvring into the room. Much family help was given to get these heavy items up (Figs 1, 2)! Some years ago I acquired for the society a set of 8 steel herbarium cabinets from the Botany Department of the University. These had been temporarily housed at my work place off the Huntingdon Road. For the more 3-dimensional items there is a tall steel cabinet which I had been using for garden equipment – this was cleaned and stripped and repainted. There is also a smaller steel cabinet with drawers.

The collection is now housed as follows:

1. Eight steel herbarium cabinets with ten shelves each (2 x 5) (Figs 3, 5, 6). These hold 2 full A4 binders on each shelf. There also hold flat boxes and packages of material to be sorted. Albums, documents and unsorted etc.
2. Steel cupboard, painted buff with 5 moveable shelves (Figs 3, 4). Large 3D items, PO sign, boxes of Postbox plates; meter machine etc.
3. Grey steel cabinet with 6 drawers and top compartment (Figs 3, 7). PO handstamps and weights etc.
4. Map drawer. Large flat items (A3 documents, maps etc) to be moved into one drawer of a 10 drawer chest. Fuller information will be contained in detailed report at the AGM.

Attached Images on pages 6-8

May I take this opportunity to say that the Society President and Committee trust that all members will stay free of the COVID-19 virus. We wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year, and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year when we hope normal service will be resumed as soon as possible!

PJM 3rd December 2020

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Figs 1, 2. Moving heavy cabinets up ladder.



Fig. 3. Arranged steel cabinets in new location. L- R: Tall cupboard with shelves; herbarium cabinets (x8); grey cabinet with 6 drawers.



Fig. 4. Tall cupboard contents – large 3-D items



Fig. 5. Herbarium cabinet shelves.
Typical A3 Album storage



Fig. 6. Herbarium cabinet shelves. Unsorted albums and boxes.



Fig. 7. Drawers from small cabinet



Fig. 8. Large items from the collection. PO stamp vending machines, weights, postbox plates and Pitney Bowes meter machine.