

# The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society

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## Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the February edition of the Bulletin. On behalf of your Council may I wish all Members a belated Happy and Peaceful New Year. Items for the July Bulletin should be with the editor by 11<sup>th</sup> May please.

## GB Outline Stamp Programme 2020

The programme was not available by year end for the second year running.

## Jersey Special Stamp Issues - First half of 2020

3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Lunar New Year – Year of the Rat
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Jersey Artists: Claude Cahun
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Jersey Post and Go – Jersey Coastal Flowers
26 <sup>th</sup> March	250 years of Beethoven's Music
7 <sup>th</sup> April	EUROPA – Ancient Postal Routes: Mail ships
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Liberation Day 75
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Charles Dickens 1812-1870

## Other special stamp issues

It has been reported that Guernsey Post will issue a number of stamps in 2020 on the theme of the composer Beethoven and will also issue stamps to mark the 75th anniversary of Liberation Day and the 100th anniversary of Rupert Bear. Alderney stamps pick up on the World War II theme with an issue for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and will mark the 250th birth anniversary of William Wordsworth. Aland's stamp subjects include amongst others another composer, Mozart, and also ancient postal routes, the Europa theme for the year.

## What you missed at recent meetings.....

### 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 Members' Displays

Owing to pressure of space in the July 2019 edition the write up for the displays that were given after the formal part of the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> June had to be held over to this edition. The Society is grateful to the following Members who brought in items to display.

**Margaret Emerson:** Margaret brought in two small displays. First came her thematic competition winning entry from her local philatelic society entitled Captain James Cook and his Voyages of Discovery. This included, not surprisingly, a number of stamps and covers from New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, the Australian Antarctic Territories and Great Britain, depicting Captain Cook and also his ships. The display told the story from the early life of James Cook including the memorial statue at Whitby, as shown on a stamp from Samoa in the set marking the Pacific Ocean voyages. The display went on to describe the three voyages of exploration. The first voyage, 1768 to 1771, was on the face of it to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti, but Cook had been given sealed orders and when opened these revealed the second part of the voyage, to search the South Pacific for the southern continent, Terra Australis. Cook set sail into the largely uncharted ocean to the south of Tahiti. The second voyage starting in 1772 led another scientific expedition on behalf of the Royal Society to resume the search for the southern continent, which was still believed to be further south than Australia. This time Cook commanded HMS Resolution and sailed with HMS Adventure. This voyage circumnavigated the globe at very low latitude and was one of the first to cross the Antarctic Circle on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1773. The return leg of the voyage from Cape Horn allowed more surveying and mapping and Cook took South Georgia for Great Britain. The set from South Georgia issued in 1979 to mark the bi-centenary of Cook's voyages was shown.

The third and final voyage was shrouded in mystery. The public thought the voyage was to Tahiti to return home Omai, who had helped with the second voyage and navigation in the Pacific Ocean. Cook, now promoted to Captain, had volunteered to lead this voyage which was in fact to find the Northwest Passage. Cook sailed north from Tahiti with the second vessel, HMS Discovery, commanded by Captain Clerke. Cook became the first European to make a formal contact with the islands of Hawaii and named the archipelago the Sandwich Islands. In 1777 he discovered and landed on Christmas Island and this event was marked by the Gilbert Islands in 1977 for the bi-centenary. On returning to Hawaii, amidst rising tension and quarrels between the Europeans and locals, one of Cook's small boats was taken. Captain Cook attempted to kidnap and ransom King Kalani'opu'u on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1779. Cook turned his back to launch the boats on reaching the shore and was struck on the head by villagers and stabbed to death. Four marines were killed and two more injured. The most recent stamp issue and final item included by Margaret, as a tribute to Captain Cook, was from Madagascar and celebrated and depicted the ships used in the three voyages.

Margaret's second display consisted of a selection of stamps and covers related to Her Majesty the Queen. These included items for her Silver Jubilee in 1977 and Margaret described these as the good, the bad and the ugly. She went on to say that she felt that stamps depicting events and images of the people involved, in this case the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, should at least show some resemblance to the person being commemorated. Margaret showed her favourite silver jubilee stamps issued by Gibraltar and the associated miniature sheet. The following stamps were from Guernsey, Papua New Guinea and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The bad section consisted of the issues from the Gilbert Islands, Grenada, Lundy and Liberia, and the ugly from Barbuda and Guinea Bissau where the images were pretty terrible.

**Fin O'Donoghue:** Fin brought in items for the Great Patriotic War in Russia from 1941 to 1945. Officers in the army were given the title Marshals of the Soviet Union, for example Sokolovsky Govorov. Stalin appointed five in the early 1930s but they were executed in World War II. There were many more, for example in the Ukraine.

Pictures of the advance of Germany, for example on Kiev, and the scorched earth policy were next. Russia lost 1 million people and withdrew but the troops were told to defend

Moscow at all costs. Supply lines were very poor for the German soldiers and they faced winter in Russia, whereas the Russian soldiers had the advantage of being familiar with the harsh weather conditions. The British were also in Russia and there was an RAF Hurricane wing in the Murmansk area. Fin displayed postcards from the wartime and into the 1950s. Statues were buried by the Russians as they were used as landmarks by the Germans and are depicted by mounds of soil.

Hero of the Soviet Union was a civilian decoration but was also given to the army. These were awarded anywhere between 1934 and World War II, totaling 12,700 to over 11,000 individuals. The decoration was awarded twice to 101 recipients, two recipients received it three times and another two on four occasions. The first two women to receive the decoration, in both cases posthumously, were mentioned, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, who cut the telephone wires to thwart the advancing German army but was caught and executed and the second female was a sniper instructor, Mariya Semomovna Polivanova.

A map of the counteraction was displayed, for example the Battle of Moscow. When a battle was a major event stamps were issued, for example 1944 and 1945 and there were anniversary issues in the 1960s of war heroes and guerilla fighters. Fin also displayed propaganda leaflets and war heroes on the stamps. The Red Army in 1945 committed 4 million men to push the Germans out and marched on Berlin. There were items pertaining to the VE anniversary and the birthday anniversaries of the Marshals and pictures of aircraft including cards and stamps. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soviet Forces set of stamps was shown and in August 1945 for VE Day the overprint on the heroes medal stamp. From between 1941 to 1945 commemorative cards were shown and stamp number one on cover. Finally, items were shown related to the tomb of the unknown soldier, the eternal flame and Russian heroes.

**Bob van Goethem:** Bob brought in a mixture of items and these included postcards from the Post Office, for example a pilot and his aircraft, and some for Imperial Airways and Empire All Up, including a card of the hub. The second items were maximum cards of stagecoaches and then items of Hovermail. Bob then moved on to Wills cigarettes cards and some images of post boxes. One item included a box which had an extra storage compartment at the side and this was used to store four sacks of mail deposited by the postal worker on their delivery round, so they could contain mail for delivery or one or two sacks of outgoing mail. They were left and collected at a later time. Bob then showed a selection of stamp booklets where postboxes were illustrated on the cover and then some amusing and interesting covers, for example one with a minimal address.

### **1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 Members' Displays**

The July meeting, the final of the Society's year, was a mix of philatelic and non-philatelic items as normal and the Society is grateful to the following Members who brought items in to display and as you will see we were treated to a varied mixture.

**Peter Coe:** The theme of Peter's display was 'What is your other hobby?'. This idea came from a similar evening at his local club and his theme was music, so what he was interested in listening to 60 years ago and today. The display started with two records which he remembers as the first he bought aged 14, Elvis, 'Wear my ring around your neck' and Pat Boone, 'A wonderful time up there'. He also likes Frank Sinatra and has his music both on record and latterly on CD. Cliff Richard also featured and The Planets by Holst, both on CD and LP. Other items including the Tijuana Brass with Whipped Cream, and a Peter Sellers 10 inch LP of The Goons. Peter commented that 10 inch records are unusual.

He also remembered and displayed the first LP that he purchased with money earned from a Saturday job. Peter's collection includes CDs and records of Elvis, Liszt, Strauss, Mahler and Bruckner to name a few.

**Margaret Emerson:** Margaret brought in two displays, the first consisted of items related to weddings and other events in the Royal Family, most of which she had acquired recently at a local stamp fair. The display started with a number of stamps from Commonwealth countries issued as an omnibus set to mark the 21st birthday of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales. The sets of stamps were issued in threes, the lowest value depicting a past Princess of Wales, the second stamp in the set their coat of arms and finally the top value in the set depicted an image of Diana, Princess of Wales. Margaret went on to explain the history for each of the other Princess of Wales although most of this was written on the sheets and so not actually described to Members. The holder of the title Princess of Wales is not a princess in her own right, although some holders of the title for example Alexandra of Denmark and Mary of Teck, Princess Alexandra and Princess Mary respectively, were already princesses when they married. Although not granted the title, the future Queen Mary I was invested by her father King Henry VIII with many of the rights and properties traditionally given to the Prince of Wales. As for most of her childhood Mary was her father's only legitimate heir, she was often referred to as the Princess of Wales.

Joan Countess of Kent 29th September 1328 to 7th August 1385 can be considered the first Princess of Wales. Known as the Fair Maid of Kent, Joan was mother of King Richard II whom she bore to her third husband Edward, the Black Prince, son and heir to King Edward III. She became Princess of Wales on the 10th October 1361. By 1371, the Black Prince was no longer able to perform his duties as Prince of Aquitaine due to illness, and shortly after burying their elder son, the couple returned to England. On the 7th June 1376, just short of his 46 birthday, the Prince died.

Lady Anne Neville, 11<sup>th</sup> June 1456 to 16<sup>th</sup> March 1485, depicted on stamps from the Grenadines of St Vincent, was the daughter of Richard Neville the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick. She became Princess of Wales as the wife of Edward of Westminster and later became Queen to King Richard II in 1483. Catherine of Aragon, 16<sup>th</sup> December 1485 to 7<sup>th</sup> January 1536, on the set from Montserrat, became Princess of Wales as wife of Henry VIII's elder brother, although she only held this title for five months. Next came Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1683 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 1737 on the set from Tuvalu. Her father was the ruler of the principality of Ansbach. Her guardians were Frederick I and Queen Sophia of Prussia. She married George Augustus, third in line to the throne and was Princess of Wales from 1714 before becoming Queen consort to the then George II in 1721. She was the first Princess of Wales for 200 years, the previous having been Catherine of Aragon.

Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, 30<sup>th</sup> November 1719 to 8<sup>th</sup> February 1772, was depicted on the stamps from St Vincent and she was married to Frederick the Prince of Wales. She is only one of four who have held the title of Princess of Wales not to become the Queen consort. Her husband died in 1751, nine years before her son became George III. One claim to fame is her role in the extension to Kew Gardens, which included in 1761 the Chinese Pagoda, which is still there today. Caroline of Brunswick 17th May 1768 to the 7th August 1821 on the Nevis set was Princess of Wales 1795 to 1820 and this marriage served its role in the allegiance between Brunswick and Britain, as we were at war with France. Alexandra of Denmark, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1844 to the 20th November 1925, St Kitts issue, was Princess of Wales from 1863 to 1901, when she became Queen consort to Edward VII, 1901 to 1910. Finally from Kiribati, came Mary of Teck, 12th May 1867 to the 24th March 1853. Mary was Princess of Wales between 1901 and 1910 and became Queen consort as wife of King George V. Mary of Teck was technically Princess of Teck, in Württemberg.

Margaret then showed a number of stamps and philatelic covers related to royal events starting with a set from Dominica marking the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. The set shows pictures of Prince Charles, the Prince and Princess of

Wales on their wedding day and Princess Diana. It was issued to mark the birth of Prince William on the 21st June 1982. The next items were a selection of blatantly philatelic covers, the first from the Isle of Man marking the marriage of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson on the 23rd July 1986 which depicted images from the announcement of their engagement. Margaret also displayed a special commemorative magazine which contained the stamps issued by some of the Commonwealth islands for the royal wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York, including a family tree. From the Isle of Man came a set of 5 covers for the marriage of Prince Edward to Sophie Rhys Jones. Two of the stamps show images from the wedding day, which means the stamp issue date was the 1st September 1999, the other three were issued in June and show images of the engagement and these were followed by a cover issued by Jersey for the royal wedding itself. A further cover and stamps depicted images of Prince William and Kate Middleton and the announcement of their engagement. Two stamps were issued by the Isle of Man on the 26th November 2010. The last item displayed was a GB issued folder in Welsh and English containing the miniature sheet marking the wedding and opens out to show the Buckingham Palace balcony scene as the backdrop to the folder.

Margaret's second display was railway memorabilia which had been collected by her late uncle. These included a number of tickets and some interesting and more unusual tickets including those for a member of the Armed Forces, which was probably Margaret's great-uncle, a rugby special ticket and a number of third class tickets including weekly season tickets between London Waterloo and Wandsworth, signed and used by her grandfather. Margaret also displayed a railway network map of the southern part of the UK railway system dated 1928 and this attracted quite a bit of interest from the assembled Members. Another map this time of the London Underground system was also shown but not in the form that we are now used to seeing, Henry Beck's map, but an actual true to scale map which Margaret thinks dates from before 1931. An interesting ticket used by Margaret's uncle had stamped across it, issued to a person under the age of 18.

**Mike Wilkinson:** Mike brought in a philatelic display and explained that New Zealand has a lot of overprinted stamps as they do not like to waste material. The first in 1907 was on the tourist scenes set. New Zealand changed from a colony to a Dominion and it took two years to issue the stamps. There was an overprint on postal stationery and this had both commercial use and was employed for official business. From George V the war stamp overprint on the ½ d was shown. The Victory World War I issue amounted to 12 million stamps being printed, but 11 ½ million were leftover due to a postage increase. Items from 1920 and also the 1940 Centennial issue were shown including varieties, for example the joined ff in official. New Zealand reused a lot of stamps and a Queen Elizabeth II decimal overprint was made on the 1sd Lighthouse issue when decimal currency came into force. Overprints in some cases were also used as surcharges and Mike also displayed health stamps and the 5d airmail issue.

The next part of the display could be called flyspeck philately for example the 2 ½ cent magpie moth stamp. There were different overprinting methods so differences occur, for example a missing bar on one stamp or a double bar to the dollar in the margin, so print and overprint errors are possible. There is a similar situation with the flower sets of 1979 and 1980. The Arms issue was used as official stamps but some of the values were overprinted when New Zealand was short of a particular postage stamp class. The Arms were also overprinted for the islands, for example Niue and Western Samoa. George V definitive overprints came next and included pairs and there were also some postal stationery surcharges displayed.

**Mike Thatcher:** Mike's display fell into the non-philatelic category and consisted of items relating to a First World War soldier who lost his life. The display consisted of a bronze

medal which was the grave plaque for the soldier, but in many cases we were told the family would keep these items at home, and his medals, the Victory Medal and the British Medal, complete with the ribbons. The display also included one of the poppies that have been on display for the Centenary of the Great War at the Tower of London and also some silk postcards sent by the soldier, Private Henry Brown, to his mother. His service number was 355112 and he was a private in the Seventh London Regiment. Mike also displayed Henry Brown's Sunday school medal from 1895. Private Brown came from Wales and Mike says that he is trying to research the family as he feels these items should be with them and not just up for sale.

**Bob van Goethem:** Bob started his display by saying that he can't always find material but knows roughly what is in the boxes of stuff, so called by his wife. The display started with envelopes with mixed reign stamps from Great Britain, for example Edward VIII and George VI or George V and Elizabeth II. The next item was a commercial cover for the Comedy Theatre but on the reverse of the cover was advertising for Rootes and car hire. The next items were envelopes which had been re-used for example 1946 where an envelope had been used twice and the stamps were stuck over one another. There also official Post Office labels, for example those used by Post Office Telephones. From the 1980s and 1990s came envelopes with labels for saving trees. There was an interesting item that had three stamps and three postmarks, so the envelope had actually been used three times and the contents included a St John's Ambulance Brigade certificate from 1947. Bob collects Post Office strike mail and although we normally think of 1971 as the key year, there were also strikes in 1964 and 1985. From 1964 the cancellation had no time or date but just bars in the cancel and there was an unusual item which was cancelled using a franking machine in the same way. The item for 1985 was possibly local, it had a cds dated 30<sup>th</sup> January but no year or time.

Bob then went on to show postage due items and the 11p decimal value, which had the shortest life and was in use for just 13½ weeks. A first day cancellation was displayed. There was an item from Lundy with a delayed by storm cachet. Commemoratives came next on the theme of communication, Hill and Marconi and the Post Office Tower which is relevant to Bob as he had worked for GPO when it was being built. There were also VE and VJ Day special covers and the Victory stamps. The next item was from George V where the stamp machine had dispensed to the right length but the issued stamp was part of two. There was a four penny bisect on a 1971 postal stationery item to make up the 5p rate and the cachet, 'No 4p stamp available'. Bob has one signed and one dated by the postmaster. Bisects from the Channel Islands in WWII were also displayed. Guernsey had bisects of the George VI issues, but so did Jersey, for example a rate of 1½ d by cutting the 3d in half and a 3d cut in in half to make 1½ d with a 2d added and also a field post office cancel. There was also an example of a 2½ d cut in half but it was not clear what rate this was for. The next item was the use of multiple stamps to make a rate, for example a special delivery rate of £4.30 with complete booklet items. There was a Registered Plus item charged at £8.40 but ironically the item had been damaged, so a label had been added. The 1980 miniature sheet was added to other stamps on a parcel. Was the postage charged at the rate of the miniature sheet 59½ p or for the value of the stamps? Bob also showed items where complete greeting sets had been added to the envelope and one, where for good measure, the labels had been attached as well.

The next item was for the Heritage Somerset Railway and then from 1977 a 40th anniversary first flight from Sumburgh with one cover and the return flight, again an item of special interest to Bob as he had worked on Shetland. There was a leaflet about the Post Office Tower from 1965 not seen before by Bob and given to him by one of our Members. A wartime occupied territory permit was shown, a permit to travel or conderausivas and we

were told permits were needed for many things. This one had a Jersey stamp attached. Ambulance covers were next and we were told that the current type does not have the address of the Post Office included. There had been a query from a Member about display of such items and Bob commented that he does not mount them but just displays them as they come.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> September Margaret's Miscellany**

A talk and display by Margaret Emerson

There were apologies from Mick Coad, John and Veronica Dennett, Bob van Goethem, Rob Robson, Guy Neville.

Margaret's display consisted of four different sections and the first of these filling the first half of the evening and was all postal history ranging from 1700 to the early part of the 20th century. She started by explaining that she had been collecting postal history probably for 30 to 35 years, having bought a half crown Edward VII stamp from a dealer who pointed out to her that it had a London hooded cancel. When Margaret started collecting Victorian material there was obviously variety in the postmarks seen and that a purchase of a few free frank covers and a mix of Victorian covers started things off. She's been collecting Kent postal history seriously for 15 to 20 years and he is a member of the Kent Postal History Group. Margaret has displayed a number of postal history items before to the Society but has more time now and the chance to mount them and display them in a more organised and clearer manner.

The display started with some background to Henry Bishop who was made Postmaster General and held the post from June 1660 to April 1663. He devised a dated cancellation, which can be considered as the first postmark, which included a date and month and these are called Bishop Marks. The first item displayed was from 1700, a part letter sent to Tunbridge Wells with a smudgy Bishop Mark but the receiver's mark shows that this was from 1700. A number of different Bishop marks then followed including one from 1723, which was a small red mark as it was applied in Edinburgh, a larger London mark complete with a special Bristol postmark, consisting of a B with the rest of the city name within the arms of the B. A number of other marks followed including from 1777 an item sent to London, receiving a Bishop Mark and one from Stone Crouch to London. Margaret explained that Stone Crouch was only a hamlet but even so was one of the oldest post towns and was superseded by Lamberhurst in 1788. Two more Edinburgh marks followed one which was a letter from Deal with a Deal straight line mark.

We think of the penny post as starting in 1840 and culminating with the issue of the Penny Black. However, on the 1st April 1680 a London local penny post came into operation, the work of William Dockwra and Robert Murray. It was very successful but was against the monopoly of the General Post Office. An item could be sent for one penny within a 10 mile radius of the City of London. The earliest marks, of which only 24 are known, are largely in archives, but Margaret displayed two from a later period, 1765 and 1783. The marks showed that the postage had been paid, where it had been posted and the day. A map of Kent post routes in 1790 was shown and it was obvious that not everywhere by any means had a postal service. After the Post Office Act of 1765 there was a greater emphasis on exact distances and mileage marks came into use at provincial offices when mail coaches were introduced in 1784. Margaret displayed a wrapper from September 1799, cancelled with a Feversham arc, which was only in use for a couple of years so it's relatively rare. This was followed by Feversham 47 mileage cancels, the 47 being the mileage to London. A number of other mileage marks then followed for various Kent locations. An interesting item was a local letter from Maidstone to Charing, Kent rated a penny with the Maidstone 38 mileage mark and By bag, as it would have travelled between Maidstone and Charing on

the Maidstone to Ashford mail cart. There are a number of different designs of the mileage marks and one from Dover dated 1821 with a 72 for the mileage was shown and others from Rochester, Tunbridge Wells and further Maidstone items.

An interesting item was a letter posted from London to Leeds Castle, which is near Maidstone, Kent. It had been incorrectly addressed to Maidenhead, sent there receiving a Maidenhead mileage mark and had various annotations in red on the envelope, missent to Maidenhead and supposed Maidstone in Kent. The letter had been charged at 6d initially, then 7d and a further penny had been added for delivery from Maidstone to Leeds Castle. Margaret also showed a postcard from 1904 of the castle. Details about the mail carts and foot posts that were operating in Kent in 1824 were displayed. Mileage marks we were told were replaced from 1829 with circular cancellations, but the mileage was removed from the straight line cancels and a Dover mark from 1828 shown with the mileage almost worn away came next and then another example where it had been completely removed. There were two examples of a Sheerness straight line cancel with a bar which is the remains of the box mileage marking, showing that this is constant with the cancel. An item from November 1830 with a charge from Maidstone to Chatham at 5d has a Maidstone double ring, but only the month has been placed in the canceller and the previous owner had commented that this happens quite often at Maidstone and to prove a point, Margaret showed another example where the month and the date have been included but not the year. Various other items included a Ramsgate penny post.

The display moved next to the start of postal reform and Margaret showed a picture of Rowland Hill and introduced the Duncannon Commission which came into being in February 1837. Margaret also explained that Members of Parliament were allowed free post and a couple of Free Fronts were shown, one with the signature of Mann Cornwallis, Cornwallis being a significant family in Kent, and another which is signed Sydney and a previous owner had marked it 'rare' and another person 'why?!'.

In 1839 it was agreed that Uniform Postal rate would be set at a penny per half ounce for any distance in the British Isles, but it was considered that this would dramatically increase postal volume so the change was introduced in two stages. On 5th December 1839 the London rate was reduced from 2d to 1d for half an ounce prepaid, but 4d elsewhere. This revised rate applied until the 9th January 1841 when Uniform Penny Post came into force. Margaret showed an item from Faversham to London from the Universal Penny Post era, with a manuscript 1 applied at Faversham. A facsimile copy of the Post Office regulations poster stating the changes from 10th January 1840 followed. A number of Maidstone items were next including a wrapper to Charing from August 1840 with the Maidstone double ring in black, a P1 in red and 1 in manuscript. From September 1840 a Penny Black on piece with a red Maltese Cross was displayed, followed by another Penny Black on cover with a black Maltese Cross from March 1841. Postage did not have to be prepaid until 1852 and stamps were not used on all mail. Margaret showed a cover from September 1841 from Tunbridge to Brighton with a paid 1d cancel in red. Of interest was the spelling of Tunbridge as it is now spelt Tonbridge. Numeral cancels came into use, known as 1844 cancels with postal towns in England and Wales assigned a three digit number. Margaret showed an item from Sittingbourne with a ring cancel on the reverse and a several other 1844 cancels from a number of locations. Another couple of interesting Tunbridge items followed including one with a double ring with Tonbridge Wells and another with a Tonbridge double dated cancel from 1847 and a paid mark. Next came a couple of New Romney cancels and various other 1844 cancels.

At this point a dated cancel had to be applied as well as the numeral cancelling the stamp, in addition to any receiving marks on the reverse, all of which was time consuming. The duplex cancellation which had the post office number as before but also a place name, date

and time even if it was in code, was applied all in one operation. There are a number of different types of these including sideways duplex cancellations and Margaret showed a few of these from Margate, Folkestone, Gravesend and Tunbridge Wells. Compulsory prepayment for letters came into force on 10th February 1859 when a stamp had to be attached and Margaret showed a part wrapper on a local letter within Rochester dated 27th July 1858, with no stamp attached so nearly at the end of the period. Margaret then went on to explain that the duplex cancellations are given classifications by shape. Vertical oval duplexes, VOD for short, with either 3 or 4 bars above and below the numeral, called 3VOD and 4VOD. A number of Maidstone items followed with different styles of duplex cancel, with different sized date rings and a different number of lines in the mark. Amongst these was a newspaper wrapper from 1889 where the sender had written the address within a poem. There was an item to New York from 1891 and an example showing the time in numerals rather than coded letters. An interesting mourning cover from 1877 had the Tunbridge Wells duplex cancelling two halfpenny bantams applied to the cover, which is probably an unusual use. A number was assigned to a post office town but Margaret illustrated the fact that Dover and Dover Station Office had the same number, 238. The cancellation could contain just the town or city name but could also have a sub post office included as well and items from Tunbridge Wells and Calverley Tunbridge Wells were displayed. Duplex marks continued in use into the first part of the 20th century and Margaret showed a couple of Edwardian postcards to illustrate the point. She explained that the three digit numbers in England Wales ran from 001 to 999 but when these had been exhausted, an extra series with a letter and two digits was employed, and these ran from A to L, so A01 to 99, B01 to 99 and so on, with the exception of L, which just ran from L01 to L06. These cancels were also used in post offices abroad. An interesting card then followed where no stamp had been affixed but two copies of the Westgate on Sea duplex have been applied, G07, and a one penny cancellation as a postage due. Part 1 concluded with squared circle cancels, which are quite complex but were not overly successful, as the corners of the mark within the canceller were quite sharp and were easily damaged or gouged out lumps from items of mail. Margaret showed examples on postcards.

### **Part two**

The second part of Margaret's display consisted of three different topics and the first three boards were of birds. As Members will be aware from auctions and sales table purchases, Margaret has been collecting bird stamps for some time, but with the exception of eight sheets on the British Robin, has not really displayed them. The display started with a question, how to classify and display them? Initially Margaret has decided to put them into types and locations and started with a few covers from the Isle of Man showing sea birds, followed by seabirds and waders from Jersey and the RSPB anniversary set from Great Britain in 1989. A number of postcards followed from Guernsey, the RSPB issue again and then a specimen letter sheet of British coastal birds. The display moved on to swans as depicted on the Great Britain issue from 1993 on PHQ cards with the stamps attached and fancy cancels, and the British Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, again with the stamps on PHQ cards. The next section was for British and European birds including covers from Ireland and Norway, a Christmas set from Guernsey with a blue tit, robin and goldfinch and then a Christmas cover from Great Britain with comical robins. No display from Margaret would be complete without Post and Go items so she showed the garden birds Post and Go series 1 issue as a bureau sheet and two strips of Christmas robins. More Christmas robins followed and then a first day cover of UK bird species in recovery and more PHQ cards showing owls and kestrels issued in 2003. Although Margaret has been collecting widely, she has also tried to focus on certain types, so penguins and owls featured quite heavily with cards depicting penguins, including comical advertising cards and one of the 5 shilling Falkland

Islands penguin. A cover from the Scottish Philatelic Society Congress in Perth 2013 followed, with a post and go special stamp. Wildlife including birds were shown on a cover from the Ross Dependency. Margaret then moved on to birds from overseas including a cover from Niue, cards from Barbados and finally blocks from sheets of birds issued by the Republic of Burundi, which had fancy marginal markings.

This led nicely to the next section which was on marginal markings starting with two blocks of four Penny Reds from 1876 showing the sheet marginal inscription, 'careful not to remove the cement' and the plate number. This was followed by a block of six pence Edward VII stamps showing the jubilee lines in the margins which prevented plate wear. A George VI strip of three from 1941 of the 3d pale lilac had an arrow engraved in the margin between column seven and eight, but then it had been crossed through and correctly engraved between columns six and seven. This was to enable the sheet to be divided in the right place for the counter. A number of New Zealand sheets then followed with imprint blocks and blocks with plate numbers and they included from the 1941 issue, overprints. Margaret then showed interpane or intrapreneur markings known as pillars. Some Australian issues then followed including those with Jubilee lines and imprint blocks in different formats, including strips of the 1d Green George V head issue showing the jubilee lines and a constant error and repair on one of the stamps. Control numbers were next and two blocks of George V definitives, with a 1922 Provisional Government of Ireland overprint were shown, and then control blocks from George V and blocks with sheet numbers on George VI and Queen Elizabeth II stamps. Plated blocks of Gold Coast, Grenada and Samoa were next and a selection of miniature sheets from Saint Helena and Great Britain for different occasions with fancy descriptions and wording in the margins. The final item in this section was a miniature sheet issued for the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981 and was part of the omnibus issue, the sheet shown being from St. Kitts. The marginal mark reads The House of Questa.

This led onto Margaret's final sheets and she commented that a display from her needed some Royal Family issues! This time they included a number of 1937 Coronation covers, a cover for the royal visit to Washington in June 1939, the marriage of her Majesty the Queen to Prince Phillip, a number of 1953 coronation covers and a royal visit FDC from November 1953. The Silver Jubilee featured with stamps on cover and special cancellations. The display rounded off with a cover for the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation with the set of GB stamps and an image of a royal coach and Beefeaters. Margaret commented that the Beefeaters looked rather thin and didn't look as if they have been eating their beef! Members showed their appreciation in the normal manner.

## **7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

### **Newfoundland Mail Steamer Services and Shano's Shed**

A talk and display by Brian Stalker

The railways came to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia in the 1800s. The first line ran between St John's to the copper mine and there was a branch line. This work started but the company building the railway went bust and so the government continued it. The first part of the talk concerned mail between southwest Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Generally in the winter there was ice to the north but the south remained generally ice free. The line was built between the port of Placentia to North Sydney between October 1897 and July 1898. In 1890 the government contract went to Robert Gillespie Reid. Brian showed a Cabot Strait TPO service mailing card. Before the railway there were no inland townships in Newfoundland. Travelling post offices were set up, for example Notre Dame Bay to Labrador and the railway began to connect outposts. As part of the connection mail steamers of the so called Alphabet Fleet came into use for example Argyll, Dundee and

Glencoe. Connection was made into Canada, Halifax, Quebec and so on and the route North Sydney to Port Aux Basques was critical. These alphabet ships were not icebreakers but had reinforced hulls. In 1897 a twice weekly service was set up St John's to Nova Scotia. A card was displayed asking why the mail had not arrived. It had been delayed firstly because the ship was stuck in the ice and then the train had broken down.

In 1898 the railway was completed and an item showing the SS Bruce at Port Aux Basques came next. It took 27 hours for the 500 mile journey and various items of mail from the SS Bruce were displayed. Brian then said that the remaining part of the display was really the story of 10 postmarks and items were shown again between New Sydney and Port Aux Basques. Snow could block the railways and a record journey took 10 days and the return on this leg was made by the sea route. SS Bruce ran aground with one fatality on the 24th March 1911. The following year the SS Bruce II entered service and this had a Marconi Gram and by this time there were six trains per week connecting for the mail. Pictures were shown of the SS Glencoe and SS Lintrose and verification notes which are in the British Postal Museum and Archive. The alphabet vessels ended up in Archangel Russia. The SS Kyle ran the Labrador service.

During World War I the railway was run into the ground and more money was needed for the railways and the boilers on the ships. The government said this was not part of the contract and in 1923 things were left as they were. The railway was then nationalised and ran steamers, for example the SS Karibou, which was bigger and operated six times a week. In the winter of 1923 the weather was horrendous and seven steamers were icebound in the south and it took 12 weeks for one return trip. In this particular incident 27 passengers were led across the ice and walked 7 miles. There was a vast volume of mail and parcels to handle.

During World War II the USA had a number of military bases around the British Empire and the United Kingdom bought 50 old World War I destroyers in return for giving the USA a 90 year lease for military operations and strategic sites. A US air station item was shown, a letter from the US Navy Department to the Naval Air Station and customs identity and tickets.

SS Karibou was torpedoed on the 14th October 1942 by U Boat 69. There were 137 casualties including the mail officer Mr Cutler, and 101 survivors with a total of 1145 bags of mail lost. The Canadian stamps in World War II had a new post mark, similar to the previous version, and it was in use between 1943 and 1949. In 1949 Newfoundland joined the Canadian Federation and the Canadian National Railway took over. The journey took 25 hours across Newfoundland with trains hauled by two engines. Brian then went on to show new post marks and an item from the first airmail from North Sydney to St John's in 1930 and a mail slip. This service discontinued in the 1960s, but had operated to North Sydney for 100 years.

### **Part two Shano's Shed**

The so called Shano's Shed was operated by the postmaster Arthur Shano. He joined the Postal Service in 1893 and was paid \$250 per year as a postman. In 1898 he was offered a patent for basically presorting mail before it went onto the ships and trains. In 1902 the travelling post office was set up and then in 1905 a Relief Mail Office with SS Bruce, operating Newfoundland to Nova Scotia. A booklet was produced in 1985 by Ron Maguire from material in the Ottawa Archives and is the main source of information and Brian showed some of the photographs. The photographs included one in 1905 of SS Bruce and showed the sheer volume of mail that was coming in. Steamers picked up coal for Nova Scotia and it was suggested that a temporary office was built on the wharf and a 120 square feet shed was built with a rent of \$1 per annum. In 1906 the tender was accepted for the North Sydney Wharf costing \$100. The idea was to pre-sort the incoming mail while

waiting for the SS Bruce, which only operated three days a week. Later on the sorting was taken further being sorted into actual postie walks.

A number of cards from Arthur Shano were shown and a photocard of mail coming in and out, including the Bluenose flight. Date stamps were supplied for the Newfoundland to North Sydney TPO and somebody had saved the cards. There was a registered mark on cover. Arthur Shano was in effect a one man overseas sorting office He was joined by an assistant and a bigger shed was built in 1920, after the first was burnt down, and one of these assistants was Onslow Brown. There was an item signed by Arthur Shano and mail sent on the SS Karibou in 1929. By 1930 slogans had appeared including Shop and Mail, insure parcels. Another verification notice was shown and an airmail item between North Sydney and St John's. There was a story at the time of the presence of gold in Labrador but this was fake news. The office of superintendent was put in place and an official mail envelope to Boston was shown. There were different types of cancellation. Arthur Shano retired on the 31st August 1938 and a cover from a few weeks before sent by him to a stamp dealer was shown. He was awarded the OBE in 1939 and lived to the ripe old age of 102.

From the 1930s to 1940s colour started to appear in cancellations for example registered cancels. Items of mail from Canada and Australia and from the staff in 1946 were displayed. They were covers from the United Kingdom, Canada, a Pan Am cover and the Boxwood Flights. Items from World War II included censored items and Brian mention that mail was censored in the actual shed. In 1949 Canada took over and the Terminal Office North Sydney marks are rare. In 20 years of collecting Brian has collected just 5 covers. The last part of the display consisted of stationery items, for example 1930s waybills Newfoundland to Boston and to North Sydney.

Margaret Emerson gave the vote of thanks for what had been a very interesting talk and display of material that is not very often seen. Members showed their appreciation in the normal manner.

#### **4th November 2019 Bits and pieces**

A Talk and Display by Michael Thompson

Michael started his display by saying that he had brought items along that he likes and started right back in his youth with a comic postcard purchased in Westgate-on-Sea. He then showed two postcards of Her Majesty the Queen and said she was a person he admired and that he knew the Secretary of the CSPS did too. He then went on to describe the next item which was found in a bundle of 250 covers in a dealers' box. The cover was from Tunbridge Wells to West Malling with a penny red attached. Michael bought this item for £5 but the penny red in question is a plate 225, so worth considerably more. The next items were labels between Newfoundland and the USA and then some Malling stamp club covers which had been handstamped, a number of labels for the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Philatelic Society and postal strike labels from Gravesend. These labels included an imperf version.

The next item was the 1940 Olympic cover and the interesting thing here is that it was printed on the back as well, which actually means it's quite rare. An interesting Victorian cover from a bank had been used twice and Michael had added this to his collection because it was sent to Belfast. Michael has also been collecting material from Aden more recently and dropped a subtle hint to the secretary that he could always come back and give a display! The next item was concerning the 1966 World Cup with a Fulham Market cancellation. There are a few forgeries and Michael had known of these when working at Bonhams. He included a newspaper article about the fraudsters when charged. The next

item was of a House of Commons cancel on a winners' version of the 1966 World Cup stamp, which is also unusual. The stamps were issued in Scotland and Michael has the first day of issue, dated 22nd August 1966. Michael helps with the StampActive group, being the auctioneer, and he was given as a gift set of StampActive Labels, akin to Post and Go stamps, with his name included in the design.

Another area of interest is the Fourth Philatelic Congress which was held at Margate and items showing the cancellations, the labels including versions with reverse colours which are very rare, and imperf versions formed part of the display. There also included a number of hotel labels for the Queens Highcliffe Hotel and postcards of the hotel. It was back in 1967 that Michael had acquired his first auction item which cost a shilling. When he actually examined the items more closely he found he had two sheets of the Philatelic Conference labels in the two different colours that were available, so quite a bargain. For the first Philatelic Congress in Manchester a photocopy of some items were shown and also a book from 1909 which had a cancelled stamp inside. He was also given a Kent Federation 1972 souvenir folder by a philatelic friend. Michael's first competition was in 1986 at Margate at a Thanet Federation event and he won the class. He soon realised that competition entries could end up being quite expensive.

The next section of the display material was from the Cape of Good Hope including the five shilling value. Very few of these were actually printed and so it was quite a bargain as it worked out at 10p. This part of the display also included examples with plate wear. The next section was of the first issue from Ceylon, which was imperforate. This had formed a 16 page competition entry and included thin, medium and thick paper, with medium paper being four thousandths of an inch thick. The display included a stamp which according to published material was printed by Perkins Bacon but a viewer of the material in the past pointed out to Michael that it had not been printed by them and so he went back and changed his competition entry subsequently. The next 16 pages were of the perforated first issue from Ceylon and included five in a strip, an unusual item. The Ceylon Specialist Society said that had not been known before but Michael is aware that a strip of six has now come to light. Michael is president of the National Philatelic Society and he showed a thematic competition entry entitled, 'The story of frogs' and this is won the Kent Federation competition and brought an end to part one.

## **Part two**

The second section started off with postal history items of Rolvenden which is in the triangle of Maidstone, Ashford and Hastings and we were told this is where Michael's sister was living. This again was a 16 page postal history entry and included straight line mileage marks and one of only two known Penny Black covers. The Penny Black stamp was not on sale at Rolvenden and therefore the sender of the item must have purchased it elsewhere and it was then posted in Rolvenden. There were a number of penny reds with straight line and duplex cancellations.

The next section was of the 1954 Australian Antarctic Territories Exhibition and included stamps and labels, but Michael was disappointed with these as he found that the labels were not tied to the covers and so could have been added at any time. The following section was cinderella material for the British Air Letter Service and BEA railway stamps. Michael commented that say an 11d value would be issued and almost immediately the rate would increase to a shilling and so overprints were needed and were shown here. A selection of double overprints and different labels and rates were shown. The 10th issue was a shilling but by the time the service ended the rate was massive and it was actually cheaper to send your item by Royal Mail and it would in any case be sent by airmail! Belgium featured next and the Achille van Acher issues at the end of World War II, when prices were reduced by 10 per cent to curb inflation. The stamps were altered by

handstamp or pen. Michael noted that there had been three very large collections of this material.

From an album that Michael acquired came a selection of material of airmail items to Chile and there were details of all the routes, for example 1934 Santiago to Buenos Aires. The second half of the display concluded with items from the Summer Isles including a block of four and labels overprinted strike mail. There was also a scarce complete sheet and a cutting from 5th November 1949 from a stamp magazine which stated 'The Shuna this finishes the better'. That brought Michael's display to a comic conclusion, so he started with humour and ended with humour.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Emerson. Michael had been to the Society on least three previous occasions and at the beginning of the evening Margaret commented that some people never learn! Members showed their appreciation for an interesting evening in the normal manner.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 Grand Auction

The December meeting is as always given over to our room auction and this year there were around 150 lots. Membership attendance was low and several lots were unsold. The Society is grateful to those who entered lots and the bidders and also to Bob van Goethem our auctioneer, Steve Daniels and Margaret Emerson who did the accounting and Ian Briant who acted as runner despite a knee injury. Some Festive refreshments were to hand and we have found a hot water supply in a kitchen off the normal meeting room and so on this occasion, Members were also treated to tea and coffee.

## Postal History and Postmarks Packet cancellations

The following items were sent to me by John Davies for inclusion in the Bulletin and all have packet handstamps applied. The Croydon Mail Centre cancel below left from 2017 certainly looks well worn by its shape and it was applied upside down on the item. I have turned the image round so you can read it, the stamps having been affixed to the posted item the correct way round. The Dorset Mail Centre cancel below right is in a different format and is dated 2018.



The image lower left shows a handstamp cancellation applied in Nottingham inscribed Royal Mail Nottingham. The example below right has a Greenford Windsor cancellation with UB6 0GG in the base of the cancellation ring and again this is from 2018.



The final example is from the Jubilee Mail Centre, the name appearing in the base of the ring and the top reads TW KT and GU for Twickenham, Kingston and Guildford. The date portion is too weak to read.



### Lack of postmarks

The images of part of three different pieces of mail all received on the same day by me have in order, the self-inking cancels used by posties, a biro cancellation and unfranked stamps. There is not a lot of consistency here.



Then again each stamp might receive the posties cancellation



but you might get an oddity where the stamps here had received a packet cancellation, clearly cancelling each one but also the posties cancel.



## Christmas Cancellations

The February edition of the Bulletin would not be complete without a look at the Christmas cancellations. Gatwick Mail Centre pressed an old cancellation into service for the Christmas mail, shown below. It is the holly image with 'What will you send this Christmas?' as the slogan and dated 13<sup>th</sup> December.



Last posting dates always feature in the cancellations at this time of year and two examples are shown below. The example bottom left from the Bath, Bristol, Gloucester and Taunton Mail Centre has reading left to right, the Royal Mail indicia, the date and location details, the last posting date slogan and 7 wavy lines cancelling the stamp. The example below right, applied at Medway Mail Centre, has the last posting dates slogan, the date and location and 11 wavy lines but no indicia. I also saw this applied to mail from the Mail Centres at Croydon, Norwich and Swindon.



The slogan reads in both cases: LAST POSTING DATES 2<sup>nd</sup> class - Wed 18<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> class – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Special Delivery – Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>

An item of first class mail posted in London nearer to Christmas had a different Christmas posting slogan, as below.



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
Last chances to post  
1<sup>st</sup> class  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
Special Delivery  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

## **View from the Membership - Online stamp purchases**

I am grateful to one of our Members, Bruce Stewart, for submitting the following article concerning the purchase of stamps online. Some years ago Colin Wright, another of our Members, submitted an article about eBay and this new piece from Bruce makes interesting reading. I have had some success in adding choice items to my 2012 Olympics collection, but no really rare finds. All I can say is well done Bruce!

### **Online auction sites as a source of useful additions to our prized collections**

Recent receipt of a specialist auction catalogue has made me think that undoubtedly members will primarily look to auctions and specialist dealers as the main sources of material for their collections, but how often do they also have a detailed look at the online auction sites such as eBay, etc as a potential source of those elusive printings or rare postmarks that they are missing? In my personal experience online auction sites can be extremely useful sources of philatelic material particularly when the seller really doesn't appreciate the 'worth' of what they are selling. I use the word 'worth' to mean not only items of high catalogue value but also those elusive stamps/printings/postmarks of no particularly great value that have left yawning gaps in my collection for some time.

Collectors do have to be a bit wary about some sellers on these sites however as I have found that a very small minority do not match the standards of integrity or honesty that buyers should expect across the board. I could name names i.e. member identities, but defamation laws prevent that.

As I see it the majority of sellers seem to fall into a number of discrete categories -

- a) Well known reputable dealers trading on the auction sites who know the rarity and/or up to date market/catalogue value of the items that they have for sale and price them appropriately, usually as 'Buy it Now'.
- b) Private individuals who are collectors themselves who are selling, and buying, stamps and other philatelic material on a regular basis in pursuit of their hobby.
- c) Private individuals who know little or nothing about stamps but have some stamps from childhood days, or have acquired or inherited an entire collection, often reputedly amassed by a recently deceased uncle (!), that they are selling in whole or in part. Unfortunately a good many of these sellers fall into that section of the population who think that because a stamp is old it must have monetary value and should be listed at a minimum starting price of 99 pence, plus a similar or greater sum for domestic postage, when in actual fact the catalogue value for a fine used (FU) copy is a mere 20 pence and the price from a dealers stockbook or Stamp Club booklet would be around 4 or 5 pence. Condition of course is everything and far too often that 'FU' stamp is 'average' at best.
- d) Business sellers who are not primarily stamp dealers but have some knowledge of how the stamp market works. Frequently starting prices can range from a ridiculously low amount to astronomical sums far in excess of catalogue or current market value. However larger lots containing lots of used low face value stamps can often yield very interesting finds particularly when it comes to uncommon postmarks which are generally outwith the scope of the standard reference works.
- e) Individuals or business sellers who are primarily out to make money with no regard for their customers and who often put up for sale obviously substandard material that the knowledgeable collector would classify as 'spacefillers', or deliberately mislead buyers with somewhat inaccurate descriptions e.g. no mention of the fact that the 'stamp' is a fake/facsimile such as those produced by the Spiro Brothers in the late 19th Century.
- f) While the foregoing relates to sellers based in the UK, the same no doubt applies

to sellers from outwith the UK where, without a detailed intimate knowledge of British Empire/Commonwealth stamps, great finds can routinely be made. Most of the stamps recorded below were bought from sellers outwith the UK.

Regarding e), my primary collecting interest lies in the Federal issues of the Leeward Islands although overall my stamp collection covers a very much wider field (British Empire/Commonwealth from 1840 to the mid 1960s). Anyway over the years I have been amazed at the number of Leeward Islands George VI £1 stamps for sale that are simply listed as being issued in 1938 when in actual fact it is the 1952 Perf 13 printing of the stamp that is for sale. With a Stanley Gibbons catalogue value of around £375 for the 1938 printing in unmounted mint condition, and around £35 for the 1952 printing in similar condition, it is perhaps not surprising that some potentially unscrupulous sellers are a bit vague. When I first started my attempt to acquire at least one example from all printings of this particular stamp I made a few errors and I think I had to return at least 3 incorrectly described copies where the seller was not prepared to accept their listing error and refund part of the excess price paid. I now have more than 70 copies of this stamp from all of the printings in both mint and used condition and am now much more able to spot the various printings on the computer screen although sometimes the colours are not true to form.

Here are details of some of my better Leeward Islands finds in recent years -  
A large job lot of around 50 or 60 used stamps bought from a US based seller a couple of years ago for a few US Dollars yielded a used copy of SG 3w (Watermark inverted).  
Another similarly priced job lot produced a used copy of SG 109ab (Broken E) and although the stamp is far from FU, it can only have cost me a trifling sum.

A 'Buy it Now' single stamp lot priced at £4 provided me with a copy of SG 17a (Tall '0') used 'on piece' postmarked St Kitts CA (Cayon). There surely can't be many of that particular combination in existence.

One, actually two, of my more extraordinary acquisitions has been two copies of SG 17 obtained at different times from different sources. The two stamps when placed together clearly show that at one time they had undoubtedly been joined as a pair. The left-hand stamp with the postmark 'Virgin' has the tall '0' variety and cost me only £2 plus postage, the right-hand stamp with the postmark 'Islands' came into my possession a couple of years earlier from a source that now eludes me, possibly a club booklet circulated by the Exchange Branch of the Civil Service Philatelic Society!

Two postcards from March 1933 addressed to A W Morley, Rochdale who I see got more than one mention in early editions of the 'Bulletin'. Both postcards are blank on the reverse, apart from the remainders of some old brownish coloured stamp hinges, but on the front they both have 4 x ¼ d stamps. The one postmarked 'Nevis' on 20 March 1933 has one copy of SG 46a and 3 copies of SG81. The other carries the scarce 'St. Kitts – Dieppe Bay' postmark. It is dated 23 March 1933 and has 4 copies of SG81. I bought them 2 or 3 years ago from a seller in Australia for around 15 Australian Dollars plus postage.

Extremely rare 'St Pauls' Antigua postmark on a copy of SG 30. Bought 4 or 5 years ago for only 99 pence plus P & P.

The following stamps were all found in different multi stamp lots bought over the past few years. I probably only paid £10 - £12 per lot.

Antigua M O O (Money Order Office) postmark dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 1908, first day of use, on a copy of SG 48.

Antigua Official Paid dated 10 August 1932, last day of use, on a copy of SG 82 which is unfortunately missing a corner perf or two.

Queen Victoria 1d stamp (SG 2) used at Coulibistrie, Dominica. Unfortunately the stamp has a small thin on the reverse but how easy is it to find a Queen Victoria Leeward Islands stamp with this village postmark?

Queen Victoria 2 ½d stamp (SG 3) clearly postmarked at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. This one of several Leeward Islands stamps that I have that were used in other countries/territories

King George V ½d stamp used in January 1930 with what can only be an Anguilla Forest postmark. Only about 20 examples of this postmark are recorded. It's just a pity that more of the postmark isn't on the stamp, shame on the person who removed it from the envelope/postcard that it must have been on!

My most recent worthwhile find was during February 2016 when I purchased a mixed mint and used set of the George VI Definitive set for 28 Euros. The set, while missing the 5/- value, included a used copy of the 2 ½ d value (SG 105) with a faulty W, and a mint 10/- value (SG 113ca) showing the missing pearl variety. I had actually spotted the latter flaw on the picture accompanying the lot, which was on Delcampe, and although I bid an amount far in excess of what I paid got it, I actually got it for the starting price.

My most spectacular find however, although not from the Leeward Islands, came in February 2012 when I won a mixed lot of around 3 dozen George V stamps from across the Empire. The seller was based outwith the UK and the picture accompanying the lot was clear enough for me to see that it contained at least a couple of stamps that I would like for my collection. The lot was certainly worth what I bid although I got it for the starting price of £3 plus postage. The stamps came a few days later and after putting away the stamps that I didn't have, and destroying a couple of very poor quality low value stamps, I regularly destroy such stamps which I feel is beneficial to our hobby, I was left with one that on first looking at my SG Commonwealth and British Empire catalogue did not appear to exist. It was an 8 cent stamp in carmine from the 1921 definitive, watermark script CA, issue of the Straits Settlements. However, there was no such 8 cent stamp issued. Then I saw a footnote stating that such a stamp had been 'Prepared for use but not issued'. The note went on to say that it had been prepared in 1922 and that "SPECIMEN" examples were distributed through the UPU, and a few unoverprinted examples are known'. So how to find out more? After half an hour or so 'Googling' various terms I discovered that Spink had sold such a stamp for a considerable sum at a Singapore based auction a few years earlier. I therefore contacted Spink about my stamp and yes, they were more than willing to put my stamp into an auction they would be holding in Singapore later that year. My stamp eventually sold for the reserve price of 12,000 Singapore dollars which while a bit less than the earlier copy was still a considerable sum. After handling charges, commission, VAT and currency exchange charges I received a couple of pounds less than £5,000. Not bad for the initial price of £3 plus postage for 3 dozen stamps. My greatest expense was the £8.20 I paid to send the stamp by Royal Mail Special Delivery to Spink. Needless to say I spent some of the proceeds on more stamps although my wife and daughters were delighted with their shares of my once in a lifetime stamp collecting coup!

I hope that from all the foregoing that I have adequately made my case for checking out the online auction sites. No doubt the downside for me will be a bit more competition in future when bidding on lots!

**Bruce Stewart**

## **A New ABC of Terminology (Continued)**

**Palindromic postmark:** This applies to a place name that is the same spelt backwards or forwards, for example Glenelg in Scotland.

**Palms:** This term is used by collectors to describe the French colonial key type used in West Africa from 1906 to 1913. It was used again for the Sudanese definitive issue of 1941 and not surprisingly, both the issues feature palm trees as the main image of the design.

**Pane:** This is the correct term to use when referring to a sheet of stamps sold at a post office. Most will include a plate number or other markings in the selvedge or margin.

**Pillars:** This term is used for the typeset or engraved ornament that appears in columns of short horizontal lines in the gutters and margins of some stamps produced by the letterpress process. This additional feature takes the pressure off the printing plates but also serves as a security feature, preventing fraudsters using blank pieces of watermarked security paper.

**Porte de mar:** This is Spanish for 'carried by sea' and appears as an inscription on Mexican stamps between 1875 and 1879. The stamps were used on European mail taken by sea to show that the fees were due the mailboats run by Britain and France for the purpose. Once Mexico had joined the UPU the stamps were withdrawn.

**Postal Telegraphs:** Stamps originally issued for use on telegrams are so called but they were also permitted for use either on a provisional or permanent basis as postage stamps. The similarity between telegraph cancellations and the normal postmark poses a problem to collectors as it is not always possible to be certain whether a stamp has been used postally.

**Postcard Tax Stamp:** The 1904 issue of Persian stamps was overprinted Controle and were used to levy a tax on picture postcards when they were posted. The tax stamp was affixed to the postcards in addition to the actual stamp paying the regular postage rate.

**Propaganda stamps:** The stamps convey a message and may be used to further a campaign or cause by making use of an inscription or the design or indeed both.

**Quadripartition:** Quad suggests four and this term does indeed refer to four stamps which are in a block or strip which together complete a single stamp design.

## **A Glossary of Postcard Terms (Continued)**

**White Border:** This type of postcard followed the Golden Age (roughly 1898 to 1920) and are so called because of the white border around the card. It is rumoured that this saved on ink but it could equally be a new look for a different time.

**Wood postcards:** These cards made of thin wood were produced and sold in the USA as a keepsake, for example at the 1904 St Louis World's Fair and they often included wood themed puns. The idea of wooden card souvenirs continued at the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905 and the Jamestown Exposition of 1907.

**Write-Away:** This describes a card with the opening line of a sentence printed which the sender then completed. They are often printed on early comic cards.

That brings the postcard glossary to an end as I have been unable to find any terms starting with x, y or z, unless Members know differently.

## **Snippets of news**

### **Supporting the next generation of collectors**

If you have surplus stamps that you do not wish to sell in our auctions or via the Exchange Branch or indeed elsewhere, donations of stamps will be gratefully received by StampActive, the childrens' stamp club. Items can be sent to Peter Barham, Donations & Auction Manager, Stamp Active Network, 2E Broomwood Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JH. You can find out more details via the website: [www.stampactive.co.uk/](http://www.stampactive.co.uk/)

### **Portugal's Christmas souvenir sheet stamp**

The 2019 issue from Portugal features a light-emitting diode which is activated by mobile phone. This is the first postage stamp containing an LED and it forms part of the Star of Bethlehem at the top of the €3.50 stamp in the sheet.

*From Linn's Stamp News 22 November 2019*

### **Austrian Christmas stamp contains an embedded crystal**

Not to be outdone the €2.70 Christmas stamp value from Austria has an embedded crystal on the top of a symbolic Christmas tree.

*From Linn's Stamp News 22 November 2019*

### **Christmas machine vended stamp or labels**

There were no new pictorial Post and Go designs issued last year by Royal Mail, but the four winter greenery stamps, two for Second Class and two for the First Class and overseas values, were issued presumably for Christmas and have a 19 in the background security printing. This was a bit of surprise for me when purchasing some of the stamps from one of the Post and Go machines in the Maidstone Main Post Office, which is now located in W H Smith.

On the other side of the pond, the United States Postal Service did not issue a self-service kiosk postage label with a holiday theme for the Christmas mailing period. This is the first time in 7 years that a special issue has not been made. The US kiosks vend illustrated non-denominated forever postage labels for letters and larger plain labels for some classes of parcel.

*USA details from Linn's Stamp News 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019*

### **Parcel Postboxes**

Royal Mail will be converting existing meter boxes, a total of around 1400 boxes, to accept parcels posted in the same way as letters with pre-paid postage in stamps or labels. The postboxes will have a wider aperture with additional security. Trials started in 2018 and the first such box went live in Loughborough, Leicestershire in August 2019 with others following over a 6 month rollout period. This will be the first time parcel postboxes have been widely introduced across the UK and is the first major change of use for our postboxes in their 160 year history. The Parcel Post service was introduced in 1883 and this is the biggest innovation in the service. Head of Campaigns at Royal Mail stated that the new boxes 'provide added flexibility to online sellers who might be running a business in their spare time and not keeping regular office hours.'

### **Post vans are red and so are pillar boxes unless....**

The GB Olympic and Paralympic Gold medal winners in 2012 were honoured in their home towns with a postbox painted in gold. In 2019 ten postboxes were painted blue by Royal Mail in towns and cities across England and Wales to mark the Cricket World Cup, with the boxes so painted being selected near host venues but as a temporary feature. The World Cup boxes were decorated with local facts about the game and players. Blue post boxes were introduced in some locations in 1930 and were used for posting airmail items. There is still one near Windsor Castle which is very appropriate as it is where the first UK airmail flight landed, having taken off from Hendon on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1911.

It was reported in Stamp Magazine in December 2019 that Royal Mail had placed an order for 190 more electric delivery vans. They will be painted green and not red.

### **Whoops!**

It has been reported that four Irish stamps issued by An Post to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first moon landing, when Apollo 11 took three astronauts to the moon and back with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin being the first men to walk on the moon, feature a small spelling error. The stamps spell the Irish word for 'moon' as 'gaelach' rather than the correct 'gealach'. The mis-spelt word actually means Irish and so the caption reads in English '50th anniversary of the first Irish landing' and not 'moon landing'.

### **USA Special Stamps Issues in the first half of 2020**

The following stamp issues are being made in the USA up to May 2020. On February 14<sup>th</sup> a Let's Celebrate, 55c forever special stamp will be issued followed on 21<sup>st</sup> February by Wild Orchids, which will be a 10 stamp issue of forever definitive stamps. On 14<sup>th</sup> March Maine Statehood will be marked with a forever commemorative stamp, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April Contemporary Boutonniere, again a forever stamp issue and also Garden Corsage, a 70c 2 ounce rate stamp. On 18<sup>th</sup> April comes Earth Day, a forever commemorative stamp issue and on 13<sup>th</sup> May, American Gardens, another 10 stamp issue of forever commemorative stamps. Four stamps are due to be issued on 21<sup>st</sup> May on the theme of Voices of the Harlem Renaissance. An Arnold Palmer forever stamp is expected in the spring and Whistling Ducks for June, issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

*Details from Linn's Stamp News 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019*

### **Express Mail Cooperative**

It was reported in December that at least 20 postal administrations participated in a joint issue marking the 20th anniversary of the Express Mail Service (EMS) Cooperative, with many of the stamps issued on the anniversary date. The Universal Postal Union created this cooperative on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1999 to develop express delivery worldwide.

