

# The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society

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## Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the July Bulletin in what has been turned out to be an unusual year. This edition contains the reports that would have been presented at the AGM in June. We may not have been meeting in the past few months but our philatelic hobby continues! Please see the important announcement below.

The Society is sorry to record the passing of Michael Cook and also passes on condolences to any Members who have lost loved ones due to Covid 19.

Margaret

## Venue for our meetings and Covid 19

We heard unexpectedly in January that we would have to leave Bush House by the end of the summer and you will see some more about this in the AGM reports further into this Bulletin. Council have been actively looking for a new venue for our monthly meetings, but the Covid 19 lockdown has disrupted this work and some CS offices are unlikely to be fully staffed for another 6 to 9 months due to social distancing.

Using Civil Service premises has its advantages in that we are allowed to attend at no charge and this option was being pursued by a couple of Members. Our Secretary, Margaret, has also been looking at other venues and talking to other societies who hold meetings in London to gauge their thoughts, but these venues incur a charge and most are way out of our league. We have such a small meeting attendance and as we have no annual subscription, we have no way of covering the cost. The cheapest we could find was at the Royal Philatelic Society near Cannon Street station and this would be charged at £90 for 3 hours for an afternoon session ending at 1700 sharp. They would supply us with the boards but no food or drink would be allowed in the meeting room unless purchased there at high cost and travel home would be in rush hour.

At the moment it has not been possible to make a firm decision and in view of social distancing, limits on the number of people on public transport and so forth your Council has taken the decision to suspend our meetings until March 2021. We hope to have news of a new venue or otherwise to announce in the January/February Bulletin.

So, why does the Society not move with the times? We have been considering holding our AGM on Zoom or a similar video platform, which I understand one society has started for its meetings and displays. In the past it has been hard to determine how many would be able to take advantage of this option, but this would potentially open it up to more Members who are unable to be in London, even without a pandemic. Thoughts, as always, are welcome and if enough interest is shown, we might proceed with this in September.

CSPS Council

## **The Exchange Branch needs you..**

The Exchange Branch has over the years contracted considerably, departments closed, were amalgamated with others or moved. Sadly for CSPA when this happened the groups closed and never reformed. By the late 1990s all the London groups had closed down. The postal sections carried on for a while until they too were closed. For a while the Exchange Branch was able to continue with just GB/CW and Foreign / Spacefiller sections. It soon became clear that the remaining Members took packets from both sections. When the GB/CW superintendent retired the two sections were combined into one unit that we have now. However this section is now losing members. The advancing years are taking their toll, members have stopped collecting and sadly some have died.

The Exchange Branch has less than 30 members and we need some more. If you are interested contact the Exchange Branch Superintendent, (EBS) via the Society e-mail address.

Bob van Goethem, EBS

## **GB Special Stamp Programme Second half of 2020**

July 9th	Music Giants: Queen
July 30th	The Palace of Westminster
August 18th	Sherlock
September 3rd	Rupert Bear
October 1st	Brilliant Bugs
November 3rd	Christmas 2020

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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 Postcards and Members' Displays**

Apologies were received from Ron Oughton, Eddie Weeks and Mike Wilkinson.

The society would like to thank the following members, by order of display, who brought in items:

**Paul Harris:** This display was entitled recent acquisitions and Paul displayed a number of covers. These included several with Penny Blacks including one with a very fine red Maltese cross cancel and a number of used Mulready covers. It would not have been Paul's display without some Seahorse stamps. One of particular interest was an airmail cover with a Seahorse posted in 1937 on which the sender had written Airmail via France or Germany.

**Fin O'Donoghue:** Fin's display consisted of a selection of postcards and he started with five which had been sent from a soldier in World War I to the same lady in Newport Pagnell, probably his mother. These cards had various censor marks on them and some interesting comments. Fin commented that a lot of the cards depicted scenes of destruction in France and that probably was not a very cheery thing to send back to your family. He also made the comment that cards were censored but sending a card from a particular location, as depicted by the picture, probably gave away where you were. It was interesting to note that this particular soldier sent cards from Le Havre, France, Egypt, on active service Cologne and then France in May 1918.

The second part of the display consisted of a large selection of cards from Ontario, Canada including Toronto and Ottawa from the 1980s and 1990s. Toronto and Ottawa are the main centres in Canada. Pictures of Ottawa, founded in 1826, included the Changing of the Guard. The parliament buildings were shown by day and night and in the snow. There were two joke cards, one completely white for snow and one black for night. The CN Tower, the baseball stadium and Niagara Falls were shown. A postmark for each town in Ontario is one aim for Fin and he has several including Peterborough, Sudbury and Windsor. There was also a card for White River the coldest spot which has reached a bone chilling minus 72 Celsius.

**Margaret Emerson:** The first part of this display was a parallel to the items displayed by Fin from World War I. Margaret had a selection of postcards which had been sent by her maternal grandfather home to her grandmother and also her uncle from France while in the British Expeditionary Force. Some of the cards have not been used but it was noted that none of the

cards had any stamps or postal markings of any sort. When members were looking at the display a comment was made by another member that he had only found them in that form and can only assume that they were put into an envelope for onward transmission. The cards depicted various scenes in France but also some silk cards for the Royal Engineers, which Margaret's grandfather served in, and there were two special birthday cards sent to his wife and 5 year old son. Margaret noted that her grandfather appeared to sign up in the latter part of 1915 and so his medal records show that he was awarded the Victory Medal and the British Medal but was not entitled to the 1914-18 medal. A copy of his record card from the National Archives was shown.

Margaret's grandmother had been born in Rochester in Kent and a number of cards for Rochester followed including interesting examples showing the two different styles of the tower at Rochester Cathedral, having been altered in 1904. A few items of Rochester postal history followed. The final part of Margaret's display was New Zealand health issue stamps on cover, which she had purchased at a local club auction recently. They were a variety of images on the health stamps including birds and members of the Royal family, ranging from Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret back in 1944, to a young Prince Andrew and then a later issue showing Diana, Princess of Wales with Prince William and also Prince Andrew with Sarah Ferguson and Princess Beatrice.

**Rob Robson:** A selection of USA cards formed Rob's display including one from 1898 showing the Masonic Temple in Chicago. There was another card from 1906 showing the aftermath of the earthquake in San Francisco and also from 1906, an early view of New York. There was also a picture of a steamer on Lake Placid, some from New Jersey and buildings in Buffalo.

**Peter Coe:** This display consisted of postcards connected with exhibitions and started with the Franco German Exhibition in 1908 which was held at White City, London and included postally used examples. One card from 1905 depicted the partially completed lattice tower or folly which was being built as a rival to the Eiffel Tower, at Wembley Park. It only went up to the first stage and a later card showed the Wembley sports stadium entrance which was built in its place. The second section was of the 1924 and 1925 British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. There are number of postcards and postal stationery items to be found and some on show Peter had acquired through club packets, with mint and used examples displayed.

**Mike Thatcher:** Mike brought in a selection of different postcard items including The History of Postcards book and a German postcard book from 1910, or Postkarten Album. The book contained images of various sorts including some which he felt were little bit racy for the year. There was also a small album with postcards from the Festival of Britain and Mike explained that the original cards were in sepia, but some were produced and known as silver oxide cards and these images have been cleaned up, for example removing surplus people.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 President's Evening**

Bob started his display by explaining that it was a snapshot of the material he has collected, a total of over 140 subjects. The evening began with postcards and they started in October 1870 and Bob has a considerable collection of churches and castles. He displayed a second issue card from 1877 and commented that these early Victorian postcards are much smaller than later ones. From about 1900 picture postcards started and one was shown from 1897, where the front and back of the card were reversed, meaning the picture was known as the front and the address side and stamp became the back. By 1901 there were illustrations but very little room for writing a message. Divided back cards came into being and examples of an undivided card back from 1903 was shown and then a 1904 version with a divided back. Up to then senders had tried to squeeze their message around the image.

Bob's attention then turned to the materials used to make cards. During World War I the place name would be cut out by the censor and he displayed cards with small children depicted as soldiers. Embroidered cards with regimental badges also appeared at this time and there are five known designs with cats on and Bob showed three. Leather was also used as a material for cards and one was displayed which was shoe shaped. This had been posted and there was extra money payable. Some aluminum and copper cards were also displayed.

The next items were a selection of book cards which are small images on cards which could be used as bookmarks. Attention then turned to what has been added to the cards, including glitter cards, embroidered and velvet. Glitter cards were surcharged and a 1d had to be paid and not the usual halfpenny postcard rate. The velvet cards shown were German from 1899 to 1900.

There were several cards featuring cats, some with moving eyes added, celluloid cards and ones which are small gramophone records and four of these were shown. Japanese cards made of bamboo were next and these had had a paper backing added as a veneer. A number of embossed cards were shown and those with added material attached including real hair and then more modern 3D cards. Castles and railway engines also featured.

The next section consisted of a row per country and it started with Australia and early airmails and items for Captain Cook including miniature sheets. Next up were three New Zealand airmail items from the 1930s, ordinary stamps and health stamps on first day cover and a set from later in the issues. The next items were from the New Zealand pigeon post and then a selection of items from Belgium and France. The Belgian items included the restoration fund for the abbey at Orval and Bob also has miniature sheets and larger sheets which were not shown. There were letter reply cards and some airmails. France has issued lots of miniature sheets and the first was in 1927, but Bob also displayed old letters from 1850 and 1860, items regarding General De Gaulle, airmail stamps and memorial cards. Finally, for France, came Red Cross booklets on cover and Bob told us that miniature sheets are also available.

The next items were from the United States from 1861 to the 1890s and Bob also displayed coil stamps, airmail items and those connected with the Apollo space missions. Airmails and airlines were next with the Empire Flying Boat Canopus including a 1937 stamp exhibition sheet. Bob explained the aircraft was re-fuelled and so there are transit marks. From Bermuda there was a cancellation for a flying boat item and then the next items were from World War II, Airgraphs. To save space letters to the troops were photographed and rolls of film were sent to the destination, printed and then forwarded on from there. The United States had a similar system. There were some different logos and Bob showed two of these and told us that this was not just employed for military items of mail.

Telegrams are another area that Bob has collected for some time and shown before and he explained there are 77 different designs. In 1935 came the first illustrated telegram and envelope and later versions were on card and had different openings. An early one from 1897 was displayed.

The next section was airmail services internal to the United Kingdom, for example on a south only route. Labels were issued and there are two printings of these and Bob showed an example from the West Country Air Service including labels in booklets. GWR are also carried mail and there were special stamps for the services but it was stopped by the Post Office for a time. A new set of labels was subsequently issued. From 20<sup>th</sup> August 1934 some 13 cities and towns were linked by airmail in the UK, but there was bad weather so not all the covers would have been taken on an actual flight. The Railway Airletter Service started and this had three routes but you can find some impossible covers and dates!

Bob then covered the Red Cross with covers including a Belgian miniature sheet, the Great Britain issue, postcards including a WWI issue, hospital ships, a certificate and a postcard of a Red Cross nurse which was amusing. Rounding off part 1 was an Australian air ambulance card.

## **Part two**

This commenced with the Channel Islands and the first airmail items from Jersey Airways and other definitive issues. Bob also displayed some bisects from World War II and he has four for each date. Then came George V definitives and the stamps issued for the hundredth anniversary in 1940 of the first adhesive postage stamps. The 1922 George V issues are rarer and there are variety of dates such as 1945. Items for the hovercraft to Jersey were next and then the de Havilland and DC3 aircraft on cover together with a number of covers from smaller airlines. Bob

then showed some German covers which were for 31st December 1899 and the 1st January 1900. There were also some board and panel cards.

Concorde featured next with first day covers for flights for example to the USA and a TU144 cover, the Russian version of the Concorde and airletters, with Bob commenting that he has collected a lot of these. There was a selection of DC3 cards including turboprop. From 1934 came items for the London to Australia air race in a DC2 and an Air Express item from Rhodesia. The Comet aircraft came into service with five air services in 1952 and one of these was London to Johannesburg, which was routed via Cairo and then there was also a flight route to Colombo and Singapore. Details were given of the prototype with a single wheel undercarriage, callsign G-ALVG which happens to be Bob's wife's initials. Disney items followed and Bob had a lot of Caribbean covers and postcards. Bob rounded off with cards that have picked up on his travels including on the hydrofoil and a ticket to Macau and in the United States of America. There was also a card of Australia House which is near our meeting place at Bush House and various odds and ends from Singapore to New York, the Boston tea party and a panda.

A different collecting interest is car tax discs and the 1934 version is the earliest Bob has in his collection and discs continued up until 2006. Bob also displayed those from 1971, which are in yellow and issued during the Post Office strike that year and continuing on the theme of strikes, he also displayed petrol coupons from strikes in 1957 and another motoring interest, MOT certificates. Staying with vehicles, Bob moved on to post buses and showed various cards and covers and told us that the Crumdale Post Bus was the first. There were other cards of telephone kiosks, a bike for telegram delivery and various GPO vans. One card of an old van was cited by Bob as his reason for joining GPO and he related the tale of having to take numerous driving tests to qualify to drive different vehicles.

The display moved to items connected with the Post Office Tower which was something that was built during Bob's career and he was involved with the London Television Switching Centre. One day he looked behind a door to see what went on there and joined that area of work. This was at the time when there was the development of microwave radio. Bob worked for 18 months at the Post Office Tower on the outside of the structure on a hoist.

He was also involved with satellite communications including the satellite earth station installation at Goonhilly in Cornwall. The 1969 investiture ceremony of the Prince of Wales was relayed to London and there was a service to Japan. Bob appeared in the background on Pathe News. In 1980 BT started services for the North Sea rigs and Bob had involvement with the Frigg gas field. Next came the Telecom logo and this could be placed in different ways and contained errors. It was scrapped after this became widely known. Bob then displayed cards of the Kensington area of London including Harrods, the museums, Victoria, the Cathedral, Bush House and Broadcasting House at Portland Place. In this section Putney Bridge was included being from his local area and a joke cover with 2½ stamps.

Margaret Emerson gave the vote of thanks to our President and members applauded in the normal fashion.

### **April, May and June 2020**

Not long after the March meeting the coronavirus lockdown came into effect, but before the formal announcement, the Council of the Society decided to suspend all meetings until at least September 2020. As you will read elsewhere in the Bulletin this poses a problem, as we were told in January that we would have to leave Bush House in July. Bob, Ian and Margaret went to Bush House on 17th March to remove all the CSPA property, which amounted to the residue of the library books, all Society records, trophy cups and the display boards and stands. The majority of these items have been split between Ian and Margaret for storage and the remaining library books will be disposed of to interested collectors over the coming months and probably years!

## Postal History and Postmarks

### Fooling the postie

In the last Bulletin I included some images of stamps without postmarks, where the posties' self-inking canceller had been employed and so forth. The following stamps received on a piece of mail in January made me chuckle. Two of the stamps have been given a biro line but the third is unfranked. This third stamp is from the 1984 GB issue marking the Centenary of the Greenwich Meridian and the stamps in this issue had a red line across them, for the Meridian line. Clearly the postie thought it had been cancelled with a red line already.



But cancelling stamps that have missed a machine or counter stamp cancellation can be done neatly as the example below, received in May 2020, shows.



### Machine cancellations

A few other inkjet cancels are included below.



The first above left was advertising International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and was applied in North and West Yorkshire. I think the punctuation is at fault here as it should be Womens' Day surely? Above right World Book Day is advertised which was on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and the cancel was applied on 5<sup>th</sup>.

From February below left comes a Guernsey Post Office machine cancel saying Don't forget Valentines Day [www.guernseypost.com](http://www.guernseypost.com). The example below right is also from February and states that February is LGBT History Month. It was applied at the Home Counties sorting office.

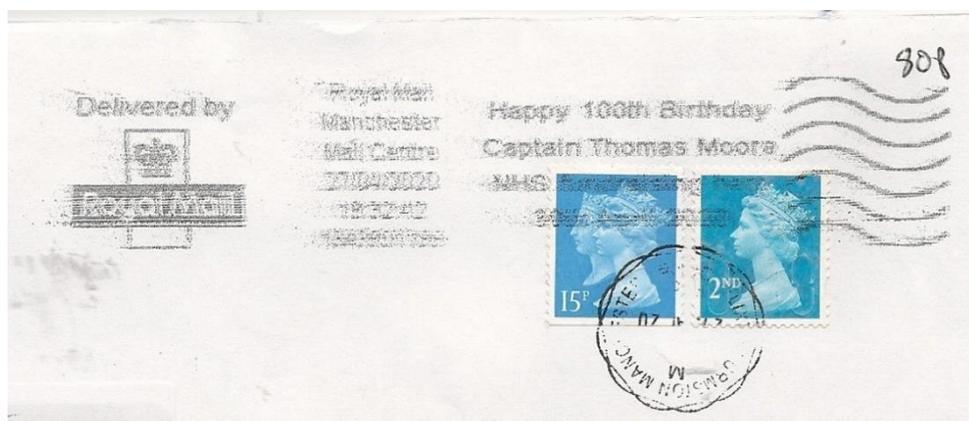


Dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the following cancel reads Royal Mail supporting youth mental health with ACTION FOR CHILDREN.



### Captain Tom Moore

One of the happier and inspirational moments of the coronavirus crisis was the story of Captain Tom Moore and the hundred laps of his garden before he turned 100 task to raise money for the NHS. His original fundraising target was £1000 but he raised almost £33 million in total, at the time of writing, and there is gift aid on top of that figure as well. Royal Mail honoured him with a special cancellation in the week of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as shown below. This example was applied at the Manchester Mail Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> April and reads: Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Captain Thomas Moore NHS Fundraising Hero 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.



Staying with Covid 19 and the cancellation overleaf for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> June also has the coronavirus slogan of Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Safe Lives alongside. It was applied at the Edinburgh Mail Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.



## **Snippets of news related to Covid 19**

### **Postage Due**

In the USA President Trump is facing a postage due bill totalling \$28 million. That is the cost that is owing to the United States Postal Service from the administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to cover the enormous postcard mailing to 138 million addresses in the country with guidance on the COVID-19 outbreak. This price tag includes \$4.6 million for printing the mailed cards.

*Reported in Linn's Stamp News 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020*

### **Autumn Stampex goes virtual**

The Philatelic Traders' Society has announced that Autumn Stampex scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 has been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It will be replaced by an online, virtual Stampex event which will allow online visitors to shop for stamps, meet society members and attend the Stampex talks.

A newsletter is available by signing up at [www.stampexinternational.co.uk/signup.html](http://www.stampexinternational.co.uk/signup.html)

### **Special stamp issues**

The issue of special commemorative stamps in Great Britain has continued despite the pandemic but in other parts of the world some post offices have put their stamp issues on hold. For example, the Spanish post office reported that any issues planned after 30<sup>th</sup> March had been postponed or possibly will not be issued at all. Will this result in the classic case of some stamps escaping to the market although not formally issued? The post office in Ireland, An Post, has taken a similar decision regarding new issues saying the 2020 stamp programme has been deferred for the moment.

The cancellation or postponement of events also means that some commemorative stamps have been issued for events that are no longer taking place at all or are taking place at a later date to those planned. The 2020 Olympic Summer Games have been postponed until July 2021, so the stamps issued are at worst obsolete, or at best a curiosity to collect depending on your point of view. There is a twist here as the Games will still be called Tokyo 2020, so the stamps are technically correct but issued early. The advice is to keep any indication of when they were issued or purchased and first day covers might be worth collecting, as the date on the cover will be different to the actual Games.

Philatelic Leichtenstein issued their Tokyo 2020 stamps in June. They state, 'Stamps in your collection with the date on which the Olympic Games never took place will always remind you later of the memorable year 2020, when a worldwide pandemic went down in history.' Memorable may be a poor choice of words however in this case. Swiss Post have decided to issue the stamps for the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Switzerland, which should have taken place in May. Royal Mail recently confirmed that the London 2020 retail stamp book and the stamp sheet marking the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Penny Black will still be on sale although the London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition is now taking place in 2022.

*Basic story reported in the June issue of Stamp Collector magazine and on the website*

### **Keep calm and philately carries on or should that be stay alert?**

We have restrictions on movement and gatherings but that doesn't mean that our hobby has to completely stop. For some it may have been a time to look at the sheets, sort stamps and prepare

displays by thinking of the future. There have been a number of initiatives by societies and stamp companies. The team of people who are involved with Stamp Collector magazine have launched a stamp podcast. These podcasts are interviews and stamp updates and last around 15 minutes in length each. You can listen to the podcast at [www.allaboutstamp.co.uk](http://www.allaboutstamp.co.uk)

Other societies have turned to Facebook groups or posted more content on their websites.

Perhaps not is all lost with our hobby as we hear a lot of reports stating that as memberships age, officers to run societies do not come forward and clubs close for various reasons, our hobby is declining. However, it was reported in Stamp Collector magazine in June in the editorial that according to a recent report in the Observer newspaper, millennials, defined as people born between 1981 and 1996, are turning to philately as an escape from a life that is purely based on computer and mobile device screens.

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

### **Rainbow proofs**

These proofs in the style of the Penny Black were produced in Great Britain between May and December 1840 and again in March and May 1841. The purpose was to test coloured inks, cancellations and types of paper. The top north-east corner of the stamp was voided by the omission of the security feature in the corner.

### **Recorded message stamps**

Argentina Issued stamps in 1939 to pay the fees for the postage on gramophone records which were used to send recorded messages.

### **Spandrel**

This term is used for the space or decorative portion of the stamp design between the outer border or frame and the central portion of the stamp, be it round or oval, but not rectangular, and therefore encloses the main portion of the design.

### **Split stamps**

Stamps which are either designed to be subdivided or that have been bisected for use are called split stamps. For example, the 19<sup>th</sup> century quarters issue of Brunswick and Mecklenburg-Schwerin or stamps bisected usually as an emergency measure if supplies of a particular value are running short. The value of the stamp is a proportion of the original face value or it may be surcharged to indicate the new value. They are best collected used on cover or piece and tied with a postmark.

### **Stamp currency**

This has nothing to do with validity or the currency depicted, but at certain times unused postage stamps have been employed as coins during shortages. This happened during the American Civil War and in Russia 1915-1918. In Russia the stamps were printed on card and had additional printing on the reverse stating they had the same value as coins. In Belgium and France in WWI stamps so used were known as counters or jetons.

### **Syllabic characters**

These short-lived small characters represented the plate number on Japanese stamps and postal stationery in the years 1874 and 1875.

### **Stereotype**

This refers to a solid metallic plate used for printing and cast from a movable type of mould. The Cape of Good Hope woodblock stamps were printed from such plates.

## REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Normally these reports would form the main part of the AGM Minutes and would have been read by Members at the AGM with proposers and seconders as appropriate. As we do not know when our AGM will be held, see elsewhere in the Bulletin, the reports are included here. If we have our AGM online or wait until 2021 at least you can see what has been happening this past year.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019/2020**

We duly resumed as normal after the January break and the February meeting took place with members' displays. A few weeks earlier the honorary secretary had been contacted by the Accommodation Services of Bush House and they informed CSPA that a decision had been taken to remove HMRC from Bush House with an anticipated date of September for completion. In the meantime, some preparation work involving the non-office areas would be carried out. Although this would include the area in which CSPA stores the library and the display boards, we would not be required to move out straight away. Knowing that CSPA had a respite until perhaps July, the March meeting which happened to be a postponed President's night, was held as usual.

The President and Secretary were invited to attend a meeting with Accommodation services in March to bring us up to date with progress on the move. Before the due date a Government announcement regarding the intended precautions to be taken to reduce and prevent the spread of the coronavirus was made. We went at the appointed time to Bush House and had a friendly meeting with accommodation. We were advised on how these restrictions would affect our use and access to Bush House. Although only in the early stages of implementation of the restrictions, it was clear that CSPA would have to comply. In view of the ban proposed on gatherings CSPA agreed that our meetings would cease with immediate effect. We would also expedite the removal of the library and display boards. We took a sad but cordial exit from the meeting.

CSPA Council met to discuss how to proceed. It was very evident that our time at Bush House was at an end but as it was planned to be the end of July to coincide with the August break, we decided to move quickly within the next week. Accommodation helped us by speeding our entry to the building at an abnormal time. Over the course of a long day with three council members we were able to sort and account for all the books in the library. A notice that the library would be displaced and disposed of was placed in the February Bulletin, asking for offers for any of the books in the library list. Books requested were put aside for posting later. Due to the generosity of the treasurer who was able to park his car close to Bush House, we were able to remove everything in this one visit.

Council having debated our ability to hold any further evening meetings in the light of the restrictions then looked at proposals to continue with future evening meetings. A list of possible venues was drawn up. These included HM and non-HM buildings, the possible cost of any non-government venue, the number of members that would or could attend, as this would determine the affordability of any venue, ease of transport, bus routes, railway stations etc, any time constraints with the booking, entry requirements, security passes and storage space for the display boards.

Each option was carefully considered and at the present time we have not been able to find an HM building that would offer us the facilities that we need. Other venues, such as social clubs, mostly wanted upfront higher fees which were out of our range, offered specific time slots, or two hours for a price. No option offered space for our boards. Council will keep a watch for any opportunity, but it seems that the precautions that prohibit gatherings and require social spacing will continue for some time, so we are unable to make a firm decision at this time.

I am willing to stand for re-election as President for another year.

**Robert (Bob) van Goethem, President**

## **CHIEF EXCHANGE BRANCH SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2019/2020**

Exchange Branch is not affected by the coronavirus restrictions, as it is entirely postal. Eight packets most up to a maximum value of £700, were sent out, seven have now returned and been closed up with books returned to the vendors. The remaining packet is with a member with a very wide collecting range. It will return shortly and be closed. I'm pleased to say the usual errors with no signature or initials on the cover, small errors due to sticking pages etc were less this time. Well done everybody. The sales were up by a small margin and was able to cover the ever increasing postage costs, a big part being the small parcel cost.

I have enough books to make up another six packets for certain, but two at least will be foreign only. I hope to get packing over the weekend and in the post on Monday (4<sup>th</sup>) as it's not a bank holiday, in which case it is Tuesday for posting.

Best wishes for your safety with the virus, which reminds me I was made aware that some packet members, not from CSPA, had expressed concern about the amount of handling a packet would receive on its way through the post. Whilst accepting that concern, I've not met any problems with the delivery of mail of any sort. I usually leave it on the mat or in the mailbox for a few hours before collecting and processing it. I'm told that that should be long enough for the virus to become inactive.

My thanks as always go to the loyal band of book makers for the considerable efforts and patience in making up the books for us. Also to you the members who seem able to find something of interest in at least one book in every packet.

I'm willing to stand as a EBS for another year.

**Robert (Bob) van Goethem**

## **5. MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2019/2020**

With one new member (welcome Jonjo Robb) this year, the gradual natural decline in membership continues.

**Ian Briant**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2019/2020**

It is true to say it has been a strange year for the Society and us all in many ways as we have all been affected by the lockdown. It started before then as in January I received an email, out of the blue, from the accommodation services team at Bush House informing me that all HMRC staff would be leaving late in 2020 and therefore we would be unable to meet there after July. Those Members who attended the meeting in February will have been told this information and that your Council were actively seeking a new venue. In March, just before the lockdown was announced, Bob, our president, Ian, our treasurer, and myself went to Bush House and removed all of the library books, the display boards and other CSPA property to solve any issues later in the year. This turned out to be a very wise move as at that point we did not know all that was around the corner. The residue of the library books is currently sitting in a spare bedroom at my house, the display boards are with Ian as are all the old trophy cups. I would like to thank those who have purchased books from the Society library and all but one member who requested something has now received their books.

Our Society programme for 2020 was completed about a year ago and by now I would normally have a programme in place for 2021, but as you will have seen elsewhere in the Bulletin, the Council has decided to suspend our meetings until March 2021. I've already had an offer from one of the guest speakers to return to us next year, when hopefully matters around social distancing and a new venue will have been resolved. I'm sure the other three guest speakers who were

scheduled, will return to us at a later date. As you will see, the programme for the rest of 2020 is blank and only in skeleton form for 2021. At the time of writing I have just received news that Autumn Stampex has been cancelled and various other local clubs and societies have been cancelling fairs and meetings.

As always I would like to thank those Members who help at the meetings with erecting and dismantling our display boards, rearranging the chairs and tables. As has been said elsewhere in this Bulletin, your council is still actively pursuing a new venue although the lockdown has made this extremely difficult. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year for the Society, that we will be able to meet up with our friends at our monthly meetings and return to some sort of normality but in the meantime, stay safe.

I offer myself for re-election as your Secretary for another year.

**Margaret Emerson**

#### **TREASURER`S REPORT For year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

I am pleased, as your Treasurer, to present the attached accounts with this report for last year. As predicted in the previous year's report, the coming to the end of income from the two legacies we were fortunate to receive (especially Derek Rock's) has brought our accounts back to the reality of the underlying trend of recent years - increased costs and a declining membership to provide ongoing income. This is particularly notable with the General Account showing a net loss of nearly £700.

Although there was a marked increase in both Exchange Branch commission and the Insurance Fund premiums these were largely offset by additional postage costs but still giving an overall surplus of £60. So, whilst the extra membership activity this represents is welcome (together with a small increase in income from the Postal Auction) it must be remembered that these amounts are driven by the irregular return of circulating boxes, rather than a steady flow. As a result, figures vary significantly from one year to the next.

Given the above overall loss, our Reserves are now down to £3,000. Under different circumstances, I might have stated that, even this reduced level, would support the continuation of the Society for several more years. However, as many of you are aware, we were already unlikely to be able to return to Bush House for our monthly meetings after the summer break and your Council had been seeking alternative venues - some of which would have added to our outgoings. Clearly, the Coronavirus problem means that resuming physical meetings may not be possible or welcomed by members. If, as has been suggested (and already in place for some other groups), we move into the world of virtual on-line meetings, then our costs would be very different.

Therefore, I am, at present, unable to express an opinion as to our future finances.

**Ian Briant**

#### **EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE COMMITTEE`S REPORT 2019/2020**

Again, I am pleased to report there have been no material losses this year, so that additional premiums paid (as noted above) have pushed the Fund balance back to almost £7000. Whilst I am, again, not recommending any change to the Insurance Fund balance this year, your Council will keep the matter under review - especially in the light of the pressures on the General Account, already mentioned.

**Ian Briant**

The accounts for the year are shown overleaf. Your council has verified the figures in the financial statements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and is satisfied that the statements accurately reflect the state of the finances of the Civil Service Philatelic Society for the period. These accounts will be formally signed by the President and Secretary of the Civil Service Philatelic Society in due course.

## POSTAL AUCTIONEER'S REPORT 2019/2020

We had an excellent Postal Auction with 11 vendors sending in 277 lots for auction. Sixty per cent of the lots were sold and over £1000 was taken in sales. After expenses the Society made a profit of £78. There were no major problems with any minor issues soon sorted out.

Steve Daniels

### Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

<u>CIVIL SERVICE PHILATELIC SOCIETY</u>							
<u>31-Jan-2020</u>							
2018/19	<u>Liabilities</u>	2019/20		2018/19	<u>Assets</u>	2019/20	
£		£	£	£		£	£
3,955	Balance as at 1st February b/f	3770.30		8,655	Bank of Scotland	7,726.43	
(184)	Surplus from General Account	(675.47)		230	Treasurer	204.69	
	Balance as at 31 January c/f		3094.83	(50)	Uncashed cheques	(50.00)	
				1,501	Unbanked cheques	1,776.35	
							9657.47
	<u>Creditors</u>				<u>Debtors</u>		
6,833	EB Insurance Fund	6947.96			Postal auction startup		Nil
(550)	EB Deposits	(550.00)		Nil	Exchange Branch		Nil
327	Accruals - Printing & Postage	209.66		Nil	Insurance Fund		Nil
0	Council Expenses etc	0.00		0			
(393)	Exchange Branch	(393.42)					
348	Insurance Fund	348.44					
0	Donations	0.00					
			6562.64				
10,336	<u>Totals</u>		9657.47	10,336	<u>Totals</u>		9657.47
<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>							
2018/19	<u>Expenditure</u>	2019/20		2018/19	<u>Income</u>	2019/20	
£		£	£	£		£	£
692	Bulletin inc. postage	663.20		Nil	Bank Interest		0.00
Nil	Council expenses	0.00		10	Subscriptions		10.00
Nil	Library	Nil		12	Meeting Auction Commission		13.40
16	Postage, telephone & stationery	45.98		587	Donations		13.86
Nil	Affiliation fees	Nil		0	Miscellaneous - Gains/(Losses)		(1.60)
Nil	Corporation Tax	Nil		Nil	Library Sales		6.10
48	Miscellaneous	68.20			Balance from Exchange Branch		60.15
(184)	Surplus (Loss) of Income over Expenditure	(675.47)		(37)			
572	<u>Totals</u>		101.91	572	<u>Totals</u>		101.91
<u>EXCHANGE BRANCH ACCOUNT</u>							
2018/19	<u>Expenditure</u>	2019/20		2018/19	<u>Income</u>	2019/20	
£		£	£	£		£	£
Nil	Printing & Stationery	0.00		50	Commission on Sales		159.03
18	Postage & Telephone	77.65		Nil	Sale of approval books & hinges		0.00
140	Postal Auction Printing, Postage & Stationery	100.00		Nil	Bank Interest		0.00
				71	Postal Auction		78.77
(37)	Balance to General Account		60.15				
121	<u>Totals</u>		237.80	121	<u>Totals</u>		237.80
<u>EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE FUND</u>							
2018/19	<u>Expenditure</u>	2019/20		2018/19	<u>Income</u>	2019/20	
£		£	£	£		£	£
2	Exchange Branch Sundry Losses	3.80		6,789	Balance as at 1 February b/f		6832.89
Nil	Transfer to General Account	0.00		45	Exchange Branch premiums		117.49
0	Insurance Fund claims paid	0.00			Exchange Branch sundry gains		1.38
6,833	Balance of Fund as at 31 January c/f	6947.96		1			
6,835	<u>Totals</u>		6951.76	6,835	<u>Totals</u>		6951.76

## **BULLETIN EDITOR`S REPORT 2019/2020**

The production of the two Bulletins per year is a generally routine process and I hope Members still find items of interest included. A sizeable proportion of the Bulletin is taken up with reports on our talks and displays, and in addition in the July edition, the AGM minutes and the postal auction catalogue. The February bulletin was as normal but of course we've now been without our monthly meetings since the beginning of March, so there are only two reports included this time. I have received some material which I will be able to include in the next Bulletin, but if anybody would like to write a short article for inclusion, or has a topic they would like some information about from the wider membership, they will be gratefully received.

The Bulletin is still printed by the Catford Print Centre, although they have temporarily relocated to New Addington. The posting operation has continued to be done by the Bulletin Editor at home this past year, with the parcel of bulletins dispatched from the printers by Parcel Force.

I'm grateful to those who have made comments concerning the content, those who provided articles for inclusion and those who provided a hand written copy or an electronic version of their display notes. Finally, as always, I must thank Michael Whiffin who updates our website with the Bulletin but also for the extra work that he put in to include a coronavirus statement and the notice about cancellation of our meetings.

I am willing to stand for re-election as your Bulletin Editor for another year.

**Margaret Emerson**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Secretary had a nomination for the current Officers to be re-elected. Nominations proposed by Mike Wilkinson and seconded by Mike Thatcher.

The proposed Council is:

*President:* ROBERT VAN GOETHEM

*Vice-President:* Vacant

*Secretary:* MARGARET A EMERSON

*Treasurer :* IAN BRIANT

*Membership Secretary:* IAN BRIANT

*Chief Exchange Branch Superintendent:* ROBERT VAN GOETHEM

*Meetings Organiser:* MARGARET A EMERSON

*Ex-officio Members of Council:*

*E B Superintendents:-* Vacant

*Bulletin Editor:* MARGARET A EMERSON

*Postal Auctioneer:* STEVE DANIELS

*Speaker's Secretary:* MARGARET A EMERSON

There is no change to the above from last year, but this matter will be voted on by Members at the AGM when this takes place.

## **Jersey Special Stamp Issues**

This year marks the 150th birth anniversary of world-renowned Jersey golfer, Harry Vardon. He became Champion Golfer of the Year in The Open on 6 occasions, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1903, 1911 and 1914. He also became USGA U.S. Open Champion in 1900 and so was one of golf's greatest ever players. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of golfer Ted Ray's victory at the US Open in 1920 and he is another man from Jersey. The issued set of six stamps show photographs of Harry Vardon and the Miniature Sheet shows Harry Vardon and Ted Ray with their respective Open and US Open victories. They will be issued on 9<sup>th</sup> July. *Details from Jersey Post.*

## More snippets of news

### Postboxes turning blue

In addition to the special cancellation mentioned earlier, Royal Mail has also honoured Captain Tom Moore by decorating a postbox. The box has been painted blue with a golden balloon in a location near his home in Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire and the slogan reads Happy 100th birthday Captain Tom. Other blue boxes can be found to celebrate the NHS and have been placed outside some hospitals in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast and also one to mark the launch of the NHS in 1948, which is outside Trafford General Hospital in Manchester.

Blue postboxes are nothing new as they were introduced into some cities and a few other locations in 1930 for the posting of airmail service items. This service ran between Great Britain and Europe. There is still a blue postbox at Windsor Castle which is close to the site of the old Windsor Post Office and this commemorates the first UK mail service.

### Member's wants list

One of our Members is looking for used stamps or examples on cover of the 1952 to 1956 Libyan stamp issue and this is for postmark study. The stamps feature King Idris and there are 12 stamps in the set, 8 are the same size as GB definitives and the remaining 4 higher values are larger. There is also an additional stamp where the 4m grey value has been surcharged 5m and this stamp was issued in 1955. If you can help at all with this then please contact the Secretary/Bulletin Editor in the first instance and she will pass your details on to the Member concerned.

### Library books

As you know the CSPA Library is in the process of being disbanded and thank you to those Members who contacted the Secretary earlier this year and purchased books. A number of books remain, so if you have a specific interest it is not too late to contact the Secretary, via the Society e-mail, to see if any books that match your collecting interests or philatelic curiosity are available. The books are generally old editions, as nothing of note in terms of books was added to the library much after 1990, as the concentration of work was on folders of articles from philatelic magazines. These folders were disposed of to members some time ago.

A few books on a first come first served basis are below with suggested prices:

**Catalogue des cachets Courriers-Convoyeurs-Lignes 1877 to 1966** by Jean Pothion printed in 1976 Soft back and about 80 pages. £2 plus p and p estimated at £1.40 second class.

**The Early Stamps of Venezuela** by Lt Gen Cornelius W Wickersham and printed in 1958. The dust jacket is torn, but the hardback book is in good condition. £5 plus p and p estimated at £2.48 second class.

**The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Volume 5 North America** Published 1973. The dust jacket of this hardback book is stained and the page edges are yellowed but overall it is in good condition. These volumes sell for a high price online and it is offered at a reasonable price of £10 plus p and p estimated at £3.10 second class, small parcel.

**The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet** by H D S Haverbeck published 1952. Softback and 52 pages. Fair condition. £1 plus p and p estimated at £1.40 second class.

**The Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies** by A M Tracey Woodward 1928 Hardback and in good condition. £5 plus p and p estimated at £3.10 second class.