

The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society

Founded 1948

No. 459

July 2021

Society website <http://www.mynetservices.co.uk/csps/>
Society e-mail: csphilsociety@googlemail.com

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the July edition of the Bulletin. The Society is sorry to report the passing of Dr J C Davies, David Robertson and Charlie Williams.

There have been no face to face meetings since the last Bulletin so this edition consists of articles and information supplied by members and some compiled by the Editor. I would like to thank those who sent in some material.

To encourage interaction between members, if any member has a wants list of material or would like information on a topic, item, postmark or stamp, then please send these to the Editor and space permitting, they will be in the next Bulletin. You will see in the AGM reports the current thoughts of your Council.

Margaret

Face to face Society meetings remain suspended

In March last year the Society suspended the Monday monthly evening face to face meetings due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The Society was looking for a new venue for use later in the year and with the restrictions in place, this has proved difficult and venues where a hire fee is payable are too expensive as things stand. Your Council decided in June 2020 to suspend meetings until March 2021, hoping we would have a new venue to announce in the next Bulletin or this edition and that restrictions would be easing or lifted. Sadly, neither of these have come about at present and so our face to face meetings remain suspended until at least March 2022. Please also see other items in the Bulletin.

Zoom for meetings

During the pandemic societies have in some cases gone online, for example on Zoom. So, what is the etiquette? Obviously you're not going to be able to give your speaker a cup of tea, a biscuit or take them for a meal beforehand, otherwise you probably wouldn't be having online meetings.

However, your speaker has joined a whole group of people on Zoom and you're all chatting together, so do acknowledge the guest speaker and don't leave them just sitting there listening to the chitchat going on, not sure what to do and also make sure they are thanked at the end in the normal way. At meetings I've joined the assembled members have given a round of applause and there's been a vote of thanks from the society as well.

One thing I will say about Zoom meetings is that they give the opportunity for societies to invite guest speakers who probably wouldn't travel the length of the country to give you a display. One of my local philatelic societies has been meeting on Zoom this year and we have had guest speakers from Glasgow, Norwich and Devon and I'm pretty sure that the same speakers wouldn't have been at the meeting in Kent had it been face-to-face. So, does that mean the future of a society is a mixture of face-to-face meetings in church halls and other venues with some virtual meetings? How many clubs have said that individual members don't attend because they don't like being out in the dark, are unable to drive in the dark or feel unsafe or that meetings end too late? Then there is the question in the winter months of bad weather perhaps putting people off travelling or meetings having to be cancelled at short notice.

Smaller clubs may have such a dwindling membership that it's really not worthwhile paying for a hall for just a few to turn up. Venues can be lost and speakers may even decline to attend a club if there are only a handful of members likely to be present, as happened with CSPA. A hybrid programme that has the face-to-face interactions for some meetings, auction nights, bourse and competition nights and then on other occasions takes the meetings online, could be the future. This might actually help to save some of the smaller clubs that could be struggling.

I refer back to the comment in the January/February 2021 bulletin that not all people have internet access, not everybody would like to meet online even if they have, but if it means the difference between a club or society carrying on or stopping, why not give it a go? Time and day of the week can also be more flexible, as for instance with CSPA our meetings have been held at 6pm for the past few years, but this was a legacy of members meeting after work, having access to a CS office venue out of hours and so on.

Margaret

GB Special Stamp Programme for the remainder of 2021

A miniature sheet and a set of four stamps was issued by Royal Mail on 24th June in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The stamps are black and white images and the miniature sheet is marked In Memoriam.

22 nd July	Wild coasts
12 th August	Industrial Revolutions
2 nd September	British Army Vehicles
17 th September	Topic tbc
19 th October	Rugby Union
2 nd November	Christmas 2021

Tributes to HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Jersey Post will issue a set of six commemorative stamps on 6 July 2021 celebrating the life and achievements of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip. Britain's longest serving royal consort, The Duke of Edinburgh passed away at Windsor Castle on 9 April at the age of 99. Prince Philip dedicated his life to royal duty and was famously described by Her Majesty The Queen as her "strength and stay". *Information courtesy of Jersey Post.*

Gibraltar will also be issuing a set of four stamps in honour of the late Duke of Edinburgh and I am sure many other countries will follow suit. The stamps will again be black and white images with colour for the name Gibraltar and the stamp value. The top value in the set is £4.

95th Birthday of HM The Queen

In celebration of the 95th birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, six commemorative stamps were issued by Jersey Post and they focus on different aspects of her life: Princess, Coronation, Marriage, Leisure, Pageantry and Royal Duties. It is a joint collection with 10 other Crown Dependencies, Commonwealth countries and British Overseas Territories.

Information courtesy of Jersey Post.

Aspects of our hobby

A new Machin but what is it for?



The latest addition to the Machin family is a big Machin. The 2nd class is shown above but 1st class ones are also available. The stamps measure 38 x 30mm with the traditional Machin part of the design coming in at 22.5mm x 28mm. A regular 1st or 2nd class Machin is 18 x 22mm. To the right of the Machin design is a printed 'perforation' line and to the right of this a QR code or what is sometimes called a 2D barcode. At present the stamps are only available as business sheets provided by Viking Direct and the Royal Mail online shop and it is thought there will be about 20 million 2nd Class values initially, but what is this all about? Royal Mail says they are experimental and an attempt to modernize the service, but you can speculate.

The 2D bar code will be unique to each stamp and I have been informed it contains some date details and so could be similar to the old control numbers. The code could be read by a suitable sorting machine and perhaps show if the stamp has been used before, making it invalid. It appears to contain information about the postage rate, so will NVI issues cease to be valid in the future as a current postage rate stamp? Other suggestions are that it could be used by a company or an individual to track mail or for advertising, the advert in the bar code being scanned into a mobile phone.

Royal Mail has stated it is one of the first with the idea but it is not a new concept. In an article in the June 2021 edition of Stamp Lover magazine brought to my attention by John Davies, Richard West states that Jeffrey Matthews a prolific stamp designer for Royal Mail was asked to look at the idea back in August 1990. At that time he was looking at changes in design for the self-adhesive Machins. The concept then was to allow scanning of the barcodes on the stamps to make sure the correct postage had been paid. At a Royal Tunbridge Wells PS meeting I gleaned the following. Back in 2012 Canada used bar codes on computer vended Post and Go type labels, France had bar codes in 2015 and a better version in 2018 and Germany is using them in 2021. As the German bar codes are printed in black, postmarks are in blue. Finally, looking through some old magazines I found a short piece in Stamp Magazine from November 2011 describing the Croatian version, which is a stamp to allow members of the public to track their item of mail by scanning the red QR (quick response) code and here again the number is unique on each one.

The one that did not happen

A booklet of self-adhesive first class stamps in the design of the Penny Black, the 2d Blue and the Penny Red was issued to mark the London 2020 international stamp exhibition and the 180th anniversary of the Penny Black and 2d Blue. The exhibition did not take place because of the pandemic and will be held hopefully in 2022. This booklet is shown below left.

Previous stamps of this type have been issued with a booklet of six Penny Blacks, shown below right, as well as a miniature sheet of the Penny Black and 2d Blue in 2015 to mark the 175th anniversary of the first self-adhesive pre-paid stamps and Europhilex 2015. A booklet of six Penny Reds was issued in 2016 to mark the 175th anniversary of the Penny Red.

Collectors of the line engraved Victorian issues will notice it is the original 2d Blue design issued in 1840 without the white lines, a change in design that came the following year. The Tuppenny Blue in this form was only on sale for a year and it is much rarer than the Penny Black. It was used to cover postage on packages weighing over half an ounce.



Views from the Membership

Stamp survival rates and New Zealand Health Stamps

In the January/February 2021 *Bulletin* John Davies mused about the relationship between the survival rate and catalogue price of stamps. Clearly there must be a logical relationship between (a) how many copies of a stamp are printed, (b) the number issued, (c) the number still extant and (d) the market price, even though some factors will be unquantifiable. (a) and (b) can often be found in Post Office records, at least until “commercial confidentiality” took over, but (c) must involve a large element of conjecture, and (d) will be determined by market forces, on which the effects of points (a) to (c) may be only implicit.

In *Great Britain – numbers issued 1840 to 1910* (Stanley Gibbons, 2008) Rikki Hyde writes “one cannot lay down a set survival rate for every stamp, but about 2% can generally be used as a gauge for calculating possible numbers in existence for this period”. On that basis, using Hyde’s figures for the numbers issued, there could be about 1.4 million 1d Blacks and 270 million perforated 1d Reds still around, probably mostly used copies saved from the mail. The latest (2020) catalogue prices are £12,500 and £27 mint, and £375 and £2.75 used. So, continuing on the back of my shaky envelope, and assuming that survival rates of both stamps are comparable, a 1d Black is 190 times rarer than a 1d Red but 460 times more expensive mint, but only 135 times more used!

But the proportion of any particular stamp that actually survives is of course more than a matter of simple arithmetic. A stamp widely known to be of major significance, such as the 1d Black, is much more likely to have been kept by recipients, including ones not normally interested in stamps, and be wanted by modern collectors than, say, a later “routine” issue. If you then factor in the number of stamps locked in official archives, in collections that will rarely or never be sold, and those forgotten in safes, shoeboxes or under floorboards, the number actually available to make a market for any given issue becomes even more speculative. But it is that market, and the relative

weight of supply and demand, that determines what buyers will pay and dealers can charge. Moreover, while internet sales are creating more of a single global market, in practice dealers may have a better feel for local material and demand and so price it more highly than material which for them is “foreign”. It should also be remembered that catalogue prices are generally for fine copies, and in most cases the market will discount heavily for poor condition.

Digressing briefly, I suspect that the proportion of modern GB commemorative issues that survive, as mint stamps and on FDCs, is much more than 2% since, with the exception of the Christmas issues, few people other than collectors know about most of them. If my experience is typical, they are available only briefly at post offices and, while dealers and fellow collectors may kindly use them on mail to me, decently franked copies are a rarity.



New Zealand Health stamps
1929-35

John illustrated his article by referring to some of the first New Zealand Health stamps, which have a surcharge of +1d for “charity” from 1929 to 1931 and for “health” thereafter until the advent of decimal currency in New Zealand in 1967. The first Health stamp, with the message “Help Stamp out Tuberculosis”, was issued on 11th December 1929 and raised £2,470 (equal to about £124,000 in 2021). The 1930 stamp, issued on 29th October that year, had the message “Help Promote Health” since the dairy industry had protested that the 1929 message slighted its business. This stamp raised only £898. The 1931 stamps, issued on 31st October, were the famous 1d and 2d “Smiling Boys”, each with +1d for charity. But with New Zealand and many other countries then in financial adversity, these raised just £778. From this low point, sales and sums raised for Children’s Health Camps rose steadily. After 88 years, the last ever Health stamps were issued on 7th September 2016.

At first the New Zealand Post Office proved rather overoptimistic about sales and the number of Health stamps printed far exceeded the number sold. The 1929, 1930 and 1931 issues were demonetised on 31st December 1934 and all remaining copies were *supposed* to be destroyed, though official records tantalisingly leave significant numbers unaccounted for. The records of the Post Office and the New Zealand Government Printing Office, as reported in several Volumes of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (RPSNZ) and, for the early Health stamps, by F H Jackson (*New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Vol.50(4), 1970), contain detailed information about the number of stamps delivered to the Custodian of Stamps (i.e. the total printed less those destroyed as faulty) and the number sold; and Campbell Paterson’s New Zealand catalogue, in which the relevant page was last updated in 2018, naturally gives their prices in NZ dollars (\$NZ1 ~ 50p).

If Hyde's 2% figure for survival applies, then fewer than 5,000 of the 1930, 1931 and 1932 issues survive today and, by John's "rule of thumb", count as scarce. However, I very much doubt that 2% is appropriate here, not least since over many years of collecting it feels that I have seen far more than 2,000 "Smiling Boys" for sale! At the time of writing, just one auction list I have includes 19 of them. There are also at least 45 being offered on e-bay, at prices from a few ££ to over £100, but of course one cannot be sure how many of these are genuine!

New Zealand Health stamp data 1929–1935

date	value	printed	delivered	sold	% sold	CP price 2018	
						mint	used
11/12/1929	1d+1d	4,000,000	3,973,840	592,848	14.9%	\$60	\$30
29/10/1930	1d+1d	1,000,000	991,120	215,543	21.7%	\$120	\$70
31/10/1931	1d+1d	~300,000	297,960	74,802	25.1%	\$525	\$220
31/10/1931	2d+1d	~300,000	295,080	111,929	37.9%	\$525	\$220
18/11/1932	1d+1d	540,000	467,640	237,504	50.8%	\$120	\$50
08/11/1933	1d+1d	420,000	413,160	260,883	63.1%	\$60	\$30
25/10/1934	1d+1d	-	-	279,120	-	\$50	\$25
30/09/1935	1d+1d	-	-	1,250,057	-	\$10	\$5

What, if anything, can we deduce from this very small sample? Clearly the rarest stamps (1931) are the most expensive, the most common (1935) are the cheapest, and overall the rankings by rarity and by price are largely in step. But the relationship is not straightforward and is of no practical use as a tool for predicting price from scarcity, or vice versa. I doubt that taking a larger sample would improve matters and we must conclude that, while rarity inevitably contributes to price, there are many confounding factors that make the relationship too complex to be realistically quantified. In any case, the "value" of an item to a collector, as opposed to an investor, goes way beyond its price.

Mike Wilkinson

Postal History and Postmarks

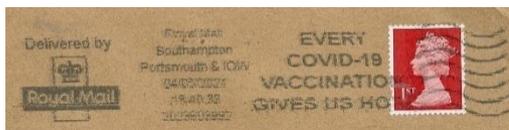
Recent slogan cancellations

Mail that has a postmark will often have a slogan cancel but the number is decreasing with all the postage paid impressions on business mail and unfranked or defaced stamps, by which I mean where a biro or felt pen marker has been used. I display a few recent examples below. The first was applied at the Jubilee Mail Centre and is advertising the census 2021 and the date this was being taken, 21st March and the cancellation was applied on the 16th March. Below right the cancel is for World Autism Awareness 29th March to 4th April and this was applied at Chester and North Wales on 28th March 2021.



Overleaf left the postmark applied in SE Wales is advertising Captain Tom 100 and the website to honour the late Captain Sir Tom Moore and challenges to complete and was applied on 21st April

2021. Below right is a slogan stating that Every Covid-19 vaccination gives us hope and was applied at the Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight sorting office on 4th May 2021.



Receiving hand stamps on GB Express Mail

For those who collect Express Mail whether within the United Kingdom or received from abroad, Express Mail is the last category to go into a bag and the first to come out. In very general terms, the item would immediately be taken to the Express Duty section in the sorting office, recorded and hand stamped on the reverse indicating the time it arrived. The Express item when received was treated like a 'hot potato' and whether day or night a messenger would be found to take it to the addressee if it was a private address.

The dated hand stamps were coded with an alphabetical letter which was changed hourly.

A Midnight to 1 Am	N Noon to 1 Pm
B 1 Am to 2 Am	O 1 Pm to 2 Pm
C 2 Am to 3 Am	P 2 Pm to 3 Pm
D 3 Am to 4 Am	R 3 Pm to 4 Pm
E 4 Am to 5 Am	S 4 Pm to 5 Pm
F 5 Am to 6 Am	T 5 Pm to 6 Pm
G 6 Am to 7 Am	U 6 Pm to 7 Pm
H 7 Am to 8 Am	V 7 Pm to 8 Pm
J 8 Am to 9 Am	W 8 Pm to 9 Pm
K 9 Am to 10 Am	X 9 Pm to 10 Pm
L 10 Am to 11 Am	Y 10pm to 11 Pm
M 11 Am to Noon	Z 11 Pm to Midnight

The letters I and Q were not used.

Of course Express Mail could be used with other Postal Services such as Airmail and registration Mail where extra charges were imposed, but with registered and Express Mail a signature would be required from the householder.

For Mail within the United Kingdom the Express letter fee was 3d from 1st January 1900 to 1st June 1919 when it became 6d. The next Express letter rate came into force on 1st January 1956 when it became one shilling and on 17th May 1965 the rate became 3 shillings. Changes took place on 15th February 1971 when decimal currency was introduced.

John Davies

Editor's addition: The new Express Service in Great Britain was formally introduced by the Post Office on March 25th 1891. Express services did operate before this time for speedy but secure delivery of mail. In Cromwellian times the 'New Post' of 1653 allowed all Government Departments to use Express Messengers. It is thought that the General Post Office started an Express service around 1720. *Haste Poste Haste* letters of the 17th century can be considered precursors of modern Express mail as was the Pony Express, which operated between Missouri and California between April 3rd 1860 and October 26th 1861. Messages travelling from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts took about 10 days, an improvement in time and only bettered by the telegraph system.

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Normally these reports would form the main part of the CSPS AGM Minutes and would have been read by Members at the AGM meeting with proposers and seconders as appropriate. As we have not been able to hold an AGM since June 2019 and do not know when our next will be held, the reports for the past year are included here. If Members have any queries or comments please refer them to the appropriate officer or the President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020/2021

You will all have read the very detailed article headed 'Society meetings remain suspended' from the pen of the secretary in the January/February bulletin. The suspension still remains. The possibility of a venue is just that there has been no indication that any Civil Service building would be available to us. Commercial or private venues are not possible for a number of reasons but most importantly cost. One of the many conditions to be considered was touched on in the article is that of ageing. No one has yet been able to roll back time, we're all getting older and it continues to reduce the membership numbers. I think the Treasurer will probably comment upon this as he also holds the role of Membership Secretary. I will certainly remark upon the effect it is having on the Exchange Branch. The council will keep a watch for any possibility of a venue within the Civil Service.

The members of the Council have accepted additional jobs that have been vacated by former post holders, everyone has at least two and the Secretary has three other job titles. Without the dedication of the Secretary, Treasurer and Postal Auctioneer in all their adoptive roles, we would be without a viable society. I voice my sincere thanks to the council members for their effort throughout these difficult times.

There will be no formal election of officers this year as all post holders have agreed to continue in their roles.

Robert (Bob) van Goethem, President

CHIEF EXCHANGE BRANCH SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2020/2021

To counter the effects of the lockdowns and other restrictions, the members of the Exchange Branch have made great efforts to keep the packets flowing. The efforts of ageing have impacted the Exchange Branch with the loss of several members, sadly through natural causes. There were two resignations from long-time members who had taken the decision to stop collecting. After many years, your collections approach completion, leaving only the scare, rare or indeed the most expensive items to be found, none of which are normally to be found in any packet. I accept that there are many specialist clubs with a much narrower field of collecting to which this observation may not apply. CSPS is in many cases a worldwide collectors club.

The Exchange Branch has two main parts, the sellers and the buyers. A reduction in one side or both, reduces the reason to continue as a member. Over the past 12 to 18 months the Exchange Branch has lost two of its main contributors, those that sent in a constant stream of books for the packets. This of course will increasingly affect the number of packets that can be sent out. For the moment I think that we will be able to continue for a while.

For my part I shall make every effort to keep the Exchange Branch viable for as long as possible.

Robert (Bob) van Goethem (C)EBS

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020/2021

Again, just the one new member this year - welcome to Keith Harman - otherwise, overall membership continues to shrink.

Ian Briant

SECRETARY`S REPORT 2020/2021

During the past year things have been relatively quiet for me as your secretary. I've had the usual task of adjusting mailing address labels and dealing with returned bulletins and last summer, once we had decided that meetings would remain suspended during 2020 and into 2021, I had to cancel down our guest speakers, wearing my alternative hat of Programme Secretary. As we have not had any guest speakers or indeed meetings in the past 12 months, I have not been fumbling around trying to understand the notes taken at meetings to produce write-ups for the Bulletin. Twelve months ago we had no idea that we would still be facing restrictions and as you will have read elsewhere our face-to-face meetings remain suspended. Restrictions aside, we've been unable to secure another venue at this point. As you will read in the Treasurer's report, finances are not in our favour if we had to pay for a venue, especially given the very small turnout that we have at our monthly meetings, for perfectly valid reasons. The cost of a venue in central London is very high and it is hard to justify.

This time last year I muted the idea of us holding online meetings on Zoom. At that point I didn't know very much about Zoom, but after a little bit of hesitancy, a couple of my local societies have fully embraced it and we have had more interaction with other societies as a result. On the plus side for instance you can invite guest speakers from any location in the UK and I suppose it would be possible to have overseas speakers too and there is no turning out on a dark, wet or snowy evening at the mercy of public transport. We are of course a national society and most of the attendees at face-to-face meetings were relatively local to London, perhaps an hour away by train, however that means that a very significant proportion of the membership do not have an opportunity to attend a meeting or engage with other members, unless they are in the Exchange Branch or have interactions following a piece in the Bulletin.

I fully appreciate that not everybody has a computer but I'm sure there are plenty of members out there who may have tried online meetings for other activities during the past 12 to 15 months or would like to join together with other CSPS members this way. When I posed this question last year I had minimal response from members, in fact I could count the number of responses on the fingers of one hand, which was disappointing. If we had perhaps 15 or 20 members joining this way I think we would have very successful meetings. Online meetings I know don't replace face-to-face ones in terms of the social aspect, but as I've already mentioned very few people were attending our face-to-face meetings anyway, around 10 on average. Please do let me know what you think.

I am willing to stand again as your Honorary Secretary.

Margaret Emerson

TREASURER`S REPORT For year ending 31st January 2021

I am pleased, as your Treasurer, to present the attached accounts with this report for last year.

Although the last year has curtailed the activity of the Society - notably with no monthly meetings since last March - we were still able to issue the Bulletin and run the Postal Auction (thank you Steve). Therefore, expenditure has not been significantly reduced, whereas the impending loss of our regular venue for meetings, due to the closure of Bush House, has produced a windfall boost to funds through the necessary disposal of our Library - almost £800.

As mentioned last year both Exchange Branch commission and the Insurance Fund premiums are driven by the irregular return of circulating boxes, rather than a steady flow. It is, therefore, unsurprising that, apart from the Postal Auction, there has been no financial activity to report this year.

Although at this time last year we might have expected to have returned by now to a more "normal" existence, the ongoing Coronavirus means that our future activities and finances still remain uncertain. Therefore, I am again, at present, unable to express an opinion as to whether the modest increase in reserves can guarantee the Society's survival for more than the next few years.

Ian Briant

EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE COMMITTEE`S REPORT 2020/2021

With no financial transactions arising from the Exchange Branch core function, there is nothing to report.

Ian Briant

The accounts for the year are shown on page 11. Your council has verified the figures in the financial statements for the period 1st February 2020 to 31st January 2021 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 2020/2021

We had another successful auction with no major problems encountered. It did however seem a bit strange queuing up at the Post Office with social distancing and masks after several months of only leaving the house for a walk.

We had 170 lots sent in from members and of those 104 sold for almost £800. After the auction finished the club made a profit of £62.

I will be prepared to stand again for the post of Postal Auctioneer.

Steve Daniels

BULLETIN EDITOR`S REPORT 2020/2021

One aspect of the CSPA which has really not been affected by the pandemic during the last year has been our Bulletin. The Catford Print Centre have been operating although with restrictions in place of course and were able to produce both the July 2020 and February 2021 Bulletins in the usual swift manner. There were some postal delays in the early part of 2021 which I know delayed receipt of the Bulletin by some members, but that has generally been resolved as far as I can tell. I'm grateful to those members who have submitted articles during the past year and there has been some contact between members as a result of things written or responses to pieces or requests that have been included. Obviously with the suspension of our meetings in March 2020, which is ongoing, there have been no meeting reports for me to include, but I seem to have managed to fill the Bulletin with other material including the submitted items and I hope members have enjoyed the content.

I once again thank Michael Whiffin for updating our website which will have to change in the next 12 months or so.

I am willing to continue as your Bulletin Editor.

Margaret Emerson

CIVIL SERVICE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
31-Jan-2021

2019/20	<u>Liabilities</u>	2020/21	2019/20	<u>Assets</u>	2020/21
£		£	£		£
3,770	Balance as at 1st February b/f	3094.83	7,727	Bank of Scotland	8,168.90
(675)	Surplus from General Account	129.05	205	Treasurer	231.69
	Balance as at 31 January c/f	3223.88	(50)	Uncashed cheques	(216.79)
			1,776	Unbanked cheques	1,393.06
	<u>Creditors</u>				9576.86
6,948	EB Insurance Fund	6947.96		<u>Debtors</u>	
(550)	EB Deposits	(550.00)	Nil	Postal auction startup	Nil
210	Accruals - Printing & Postage	0.00			
0	Council Expenses etc	0.00	Nil	Exchange Branch	Nil
(393)	Exchange Branch	(393.42)	0	Insurance Fund	Nil
348	Insurance Fund	348.44			
0	Donations	0.00			
		6352.98			
9,658	<u>Totals</u>	9576.86	9,658	<u>Totals</u>	9576.86

GENERAL ACCOUNT

2019/20	<u>Expenditure</u>	2020/21	2019/20	<u>Income</u>	2020/21
£		£	£		£
663	Bulletin inc. postage	566.50	Nil	Bank Interest	0.00
Nil	Council expenses	0.00	10	Subscriptions	10.00
Nil	Library	Nil	14	Meeting Auction Commission	0.00
46	Postage, telephone & stationery	22.58	14	Donations	0.00
Nil	Affiliation fees	Nil	(2)	Miscellaneous - Gains/(Losses)	(12.09)
Nil	Corporation Tax	Nil	6	Library Sales	763.48
68	Miscellaneous	5.83			
			60	Balance from Exchange Branch	(37.43)
(675)	Surplus (Loss) of Income over Expenditure	129.05			
102	<u>Totals</u>	723.96	102	<u>Totals</u>	723.96

EXCHANGE BRANCH ACCOUNT

2019/20	<u>Expenditure</u>	2020/21	2019/20	<u>Income</u>	2020/21
£		£	£		£
Nil	Printing & Stationery	0.00	159	Commission on Sales	0.00
78	Postage & Telephone	0.00	Nil	Sale of approval books & hinges	0.00
100	Postal Auction Printing, Postage & Stationery	100.00	Nil	Bank Interest	0.00
			79	Postal Auction	62.57
60	Balance to General Account	(37.43)			
238	<u>Totals</u>	62.57	238	<u>Totals</u>	62.57

EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE FUND

2019/20	<u>Expenditure</u>	2020/21	2019/20	<u>Income</u>	2020/21
£		£	£		£
4	Exchange Branch Sundry Losses	0.00	6,833	Balance as at 1 February b/f	6947.96
Nil	Transfer to General Account	0.00	118	Exchange Branch premiums	0.00
0	Insurance Fund claims paid	0.00			
6,948	Balance of Fund as at 31 January c/f	6947.96	1	Exchange Branch sundry gains	0.00
6,952	<u>Totals</u>	6947.96	6,952	<u>Totals</u>	6947.96

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As no AGM has been held, the following are willing to stand for another year in post.

The 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

Snippets of News

Rarities sell at auction

The 1856 British Guiana One Cent Magenta was sold at auction on 8th June and was purchased by Stanley Gibbons. The hammer price was \$8,307,000 (approximately £5.87 million). This is \$1 million less than it realised when it was last in an auction in 2014, selling for \$9.5 million, and this time it had an estimate of \$10 to \$15 million. Stanley Gibbons have said that it will be made available for viewing at their store at 399 Strand and they intend to make it available for everybody to enjoy by owning a piece of this stamp by the concept of fractional ownership and digital collections.

The auction at Sotheby's New York included what was called the 'Three Treasures – Collected by Stuart Weitzman'. The second stamp lot was an Inverted Jenny positional plate block which sold for \$4,860,000 (approximately £3.43 million) which was below the pre-sale estimate of \$5 million to \$7 million, but above the price it realized in 2005, \$2.97 million. Weitzman was reported to have purchased it for \$4.5 to \$5 million. The last of the trio, although actually the first lot in the sale of the three items was a coin, a 1933 \$20 Double Eagle which at one time had been owned by King Farouk, former ruler of Egypt. It realised \$18.87 million, against an estimate of \$7 million so that means Weitzman did make money overall.

Royal Mail in the news - Horizon system dispute

The convictions of 39 sub-postmasters, who were shamed, punished and even in some cases jailed, for crimes they had not committed, were quashed in late April at the High Court in London. The problem which was discussed in the previous edition of the Bulletin was caused by a computer issue on the so called Horizon system. The Post Office had for a long time claimed and accepted the fact that the many sub-post office staff had decided to in effect steal from themselves, while at the same time relying on income from the post offices they ran.

A New ABC of Terminology (Continued)

Value converted: In 1916-1918 Mexican money depreciated and a number of stamps were overprinted to raise the face value to bring them into line with the new paper money.

Varnish line or bars (continued): Between 1901 and 1907 Austria applied varnish bars to stamp paper before printing the design to deter re-use. A similar concept was used by Russia between 1909 and 1915. The Russian varnish was applied in a pattern of lozenges. It was stated that the ink of the printed design of the stamp would not soak into the varnish, so if the stamp was washed the design would come away to some extent. At the turn of the 20th century the United States coated a few of their \$1 revenue stamps with varnish.

Wallpaper covers: Philatelists will be used to the term wallpaper to describe dubious issues of stamps that are probably well in excess of postal needs or not available to buy for use as postage. Wallpaper covers however, is the term used to describe envelopes made from wallpaper during the American Civil War in parts of the south when paper was very scarce. The covers themselves are scarce.

Wheatley Bond paper: This is a brand of paper with this name impressed as a watermark and it was used for the printing of the Argentinian official postage stamps of 1918

Wilding: The Wilding stamp of Great Britain is so called as the image of HM The Queen was from a photograph taken by Dorothy Frances Elizabeth Wilding during a photo shoot in February 1952. The series of definitive stamps bearing this image were the first definitive issued of the new reign and were the first and only stamps to include graphite lines on the reverse. The purpose of the lines was to help the Automatic Letter Facing (ALF for short) sorting machines to automatically orientate a letter for postmarking. The Wilding was replaced by the Machin series still in use today.

Worn plate: This term describes the printed stamps in which the plate used has become worn and so the printing quality will be degraded. Right back at the start of the production of pre-paid adhesive stamps this problem was encountered. Plate 1 used for the Penny Black was not hardened before being used and so wore as a result and the image of the stamp became grey and the engraved lines of Queen Victoria's head became very faint. All 240 stamp impressions on the plate had to be restored. Printings are known as Plate 1a before the restoration and Plate 1b after the process and can be identified as such. The first repair probably took place on 23rd May 1840.

Ysabel canoe: This is the name for the native canoe which is depicted on British Solomon Islands stamps issued in 1956.

X Label: This label bears the saltire of St Andrew's cross and was attached to the stamp issues of Austria in 1850 to prevent the blank areas of stamp paper being used by forgers. A similar idea was used on stamp booklets in Great Britain during 1904.

X List: Each Post Office between 1886 and 1915 was required to keep a record of all parcels that for part of their journey were conveyed by rail and this record is the X List. A payment had to be made to the railway companies for the service and on parcel labels from 1888 there will often be a reference to the X List.

Xylography: This term is used for the process of engraving on wood. Woodblocks were used for some stamps in the State of Victoria between 1854 and 1859. Each stamp impression in the plate of 50 was individually engraved.

Zegelregt: This word appears on revenue stamps, also known as fiscals, of the South African Republic. In 1895 the overprint Postzegel was applied to the fiscal stamps to enable them to be used for postage in Transvaal.

Zinchography: When an engraving or etching is made on a zinc plate it is termed zincography and sometimes photozincography which is an early type of photogravure. Zincography is often confused with modern zinc-plate lithographic printing.

Library books

As Members know the CSPS Library was put up for sale a couple of years ago and the Treasurer has updated members on the amount received by CSPS for the sale of the books so far. Thank you to those members who contacted me concerning the books listed in the last two Bulletins. Here is another selection with suggested prices and estimated postage. First come, first served and please contact the Honorary Secretary if you are interested.

1. An Introduction to the Postal History of the British West Indies by L E Britnor
Published by The British West Indies Study Circle 1959. Softback, typed, 43 printed pages.
Some useful maps of routes are included. Fair condition. £1.50 plus £3.20 postage
2. Swaziland and New Republic Their Stamps and Postal Histories by J H Harvey Pine
Published circa 1957. Softback, 68 pages. Fair to poor condition, with damaged cover and some page creasing but still perfectly readable and good illustrations. £1 plus £3.20 postage
3. The British Solomon Islands by Harold G D Gisburn
Published by J Sanders in 1956. Hardback, 111 pages. The book has suffered slight staining damage at the extreme top of a few pages but overall the book is in good condition.
£3 plus £2.39 postage
4. The Departmental Stamps of South Australia by A R Butler
Published 1978 by the Royal Philatelic Society London. Hardback, 176 pages. The dust jacket is tatty but the book is in good condition. £6 plus £3.20 postage
5. The History and Postage Stamps of Ascension Island by Eric H Ford.
Reprint of 1971 edition. Softback, 66 pages and in good condition.
£2 plus £1.83 postage
6. The Postage Stamps and Postal History of the Bahamas by Harold G D Gisburn.
Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd in 1950. Hardback, 144 pages. Good condition but paper has yellowed.
£2 plus £1.99 postage
7. The Post Offices and Postal Cancellations of Fiji by H M Campbell
Published in 1957 by The Hawthorn Press. Soft back, 56 pages. Fair condition.
£1.50 plus £1.83 postage

Exhibitions and Fairs Members are advised to confirm the dates and venues with the organisers of any of these events especially due to any Covid-19 limitations.

25th September 2021
East Malling Grand Stamp Fair
East Malling Village Hall, ME19 6DD

4th and 5th February 2022
Liverpool Stamp Fair

Liner Hotel, Lord Nelson Street,
Liverpool L3 5QB

London 2022
19th to 26th February 2022
Business Design Centre, Islington
Rescheduled 2020 event.