

The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society

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75th Anniversary Year

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New Society website <https://cspsuk.wordpress.com>
Society e-mail: csphilsociety@googlemail.com

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Bulletin. Happy Diamond Anniversary to all our members! Apparently a 75th anniversary is called a diamond anniversary or diamond jubilee in the same way as a 60th anniversary is a diamond anniversary.

The Society is sorry to report the passing of Mr C Mepham and Mr R West. We welcome two new members, Desmond Kent and Edith Knight.

Items for the next Bulletin should be with the Editor by 31st May 2023 please.
Margaret

Royal Mail GB Special Stamp Programme 2023

This is the listing of stamp issues for 2023. Initially your editor thought it was a joke, but apparently this has been seen on a Royal Mail 2023 stamp calendar so should be the real thing. It has been commented on a stamp forum that if you did not stop collecting GB special issues at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, you might now.

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| 12 th January | Iron Maiden |
| 16 th February | X-Men |
| 9 th March | The Flying Scotsman |
| 23 rd March | Flowers |
| 13 th April | Robin Hood |
| 6 th May | His Majesty King Charles III: A new reign |
| 17 th May | Blackadder |
| 8 th June | Warhammer |
| 22 nd June | Windrush 75 years |
| 13 th July | River Wildlife |
| 19 th August | Terry Pratchett's Discworld |
| 5 th September | TBA |
| 21 st September | Dame Shirley Bassey |
| 19 th October | Harry Potter |
| 2 nd November | Christmas |

Jersey Post Special stamp programme for the first half of 2023

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| 5 January | Lunar New Year – Year of the Rabbit |
| 28 January | Jersey from the Air II |

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| 21 March | Traditional Markets |
| 1 April | The History of Jersey's Emergency Services |
| 21 April | Commemorating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II |
| 9 May | EUROPA – Peace: The Highest Value of Humanity |
| 14 June | TBC |

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| 16 February | Jersey Post & Go – Jersey Farm Animals |
| 6 April | Jersey Post & Go – Jersey Crest |

What you missed at recent Zoom meetings...

4th April 2022 The Life and Times of Horatio Nelson

A talk and display by Tony Davis

Tony's display was illustrated with a mixture of stamps, covers and postcards. Tony explained he started collecting this topic seriously when the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar was marked and most of what was shown was put together over a period of about three years. Horatio Nelson was born in 1758 to Catherine and Edward Nelson. Catherine had some good connections, being the Grand Niece of Robert Walpole and was the daughter of Captain Suckling. Horatio was baptised in Burnham Thorpe, shown on a postcard and there was an image of his entry in the records. He attended 3 schools between ages 7 and 12. He joined the Navy at 12 and an image showing his mother aged 18 and his father and others of the young Horatio were shown. Captain Suckling, his uncle, was shown on a stamp from Nevis. A captain could take on board a relation as a privilege midshipman. A postcard allegedly showing him leaving his mother for the Navy was shown, but this cannot be so as she had died two years before and it was most likely Mrs Suckling. He joined Captain Suckling's ship HMS Raisonnable. A card of Nelson at Chatham Dockyard was shown. Tony showed an 1887 map of the Dockyard upon which he had annotated the Elizabethan part Nelson would have known and another from 1900. An engraving of the dockyard was also shown looking much as Nelson would have known.

His first voyage was in 1771 to the Falklands with a fleet of 6 ships as the year before the Spanish had sent 1600 marines and took over the islands and a small fleet of ships was sent, but it was resolved diplomatically before their arrival. Stamps and a map were shown. He joined HMS Cascass which sailed to try and find the northern passage between the Atlantic and Pacific. He went ashore to capture a polar bear and the postcard shows Nelson trying to hit the polar bear with a musket butt, as his musket had failed to fire. The ship's gun was fired to scare it away and the incident is recorded in the ship's log.

In 1777 he passed his examination and became a lieutenant and was appointed to HMS Lowestoffe and he went to the West Indies. They captured a letter-of-marque vessel. The weather was stormy but after two attempts to board Nelson went across. He was appointed Post Captain so was being appointed on board ship and given HMS Hichinbroke, a renamed French ship. A postcard of Port Royal, Jamaica was shown from 1920.

Nelson's failures, if they can be so called, include a failure to take Fort San Juan and he caught dysentery and malaria. He was sent back to England to recover. In 1782 he was given command of the HMS Abermarle, went to Newfoundland and Quebec then to the West Indies and this was marked on Newfoundland stamps. He came under Rear Admiral Hood but the former was at the Battle of the Saints so Nelson joined later in the West Indies. A postcard showing Nelson in Captain's uniform and probably the most used image was shown. He was

under Admiral Howell at the Third Battle of Ushant. He went to the West Indies on HMS Boreas and became aide-de-campe of Prince William Henry and also married Frances Nesbitt, daughter of the Governor of Nevis. An image of the church and a postcard image of the marriage certificate were shown.

Nelson returned to England on half pay as there was peace, briefly. Nelson went to Naples and had his first meeting with Lady Hamilton. Coming under Lord Hood they took Corsica, but during the battle, a cannon ball hit the rocks and a shard hit his eye and effectively he had lost sight in it. The Battle of Genoa was shown on a Dominican stamp and he served under Vice Admiral Hotham. It was said to be victory but not much fighting took place.

Nelson put himself forward at the Battle of Cape St Vincent and under Admiral Jarvis, his flagship being HMS Victory. Nelson took the San Josef and the San Nicholas, which had snagged its rigging with the San Josef. Promotion followed to Rear Admiral and he became Knight of the Bath, shown on an image of the event. Admiral Jarvis became Admiral of the Fleet and a letter from him was shown. An engraving of Cadiz was next and a letter with a Cadiz marking. Next was the Battle of Santa Cruz and he was less fortunate as he lost his arm here, and Josiah Nisbet saved his life. On returning to England Nelson was given the Freedom of City of London and given a gold casket costing 100 guineas. A menu from the Guildhall in 1919 was shown as it had a picture of Nelson at the top.

The Battle of the Nile was his most important battle as the French and Spanish wanted India and cut off revenue to Great Britain. Images of the ships and Admirals were shown on stamps. Tony showed the line-up of the French and British ships. The French anchored well out due to a larger draught in lines fixed by one anchor. Nelson engaged despite darkness falling. This action split the line of French and Spanish ships and the battle was won. He was injured again and received a splinter above his right eye, the blind one. Nelson returned to Naples to recover and again met Lady Hamilton.

Now aboard HMS Foudroyant, Nelson helped remove the French from Naples. He was given the Dukedom of Bronté in Sicily, signing his name as Bronté from then on. Foudroyant was sent to Britain to collect money for the Navy but was driven ashore near Blackpool and wrecked. It was sold to the Germans for seldage and they made trophy medallions to recoup the money. Tony showed a letter from Arthur Conan Doyle and it was he who had written a poem saying how bad we sold our heritage to the Germans, the first line being 'Who says the Nation's purse is lean'.

Nelson was promoted to Vice Admiral and given the ex-Spanish San Josef. His liaison with Lady Hamilton grew and he had a daughter, Horatia and an image of a miniature of her was shown. Nelson brought Merton Place, Surrey for Lady Hamilton in 1801 and it was demolished between 1815 and 1823. He moved his flag to HMS George. He was at the Battle of Copenhagen with his famous saying 'I see no ships' when he put his telescope to his blind eye. An image of the battle line up was shown and stamps from the isle of Man showing the battle.

On 29th October 1801 he became a Viscount. On 16th May 1803 Britain declared war on France. Cards and stamps of Napoleon were shown. Uniforms of the British Navy at the time were displayed on cards, stamps and cigarette cards, Admiral, Captain, Midshipman and boatswain, seamen and Royal Marines and a card of HMS Victory. There were images of the figurehead, upper and lower gun decks, the captain's cabin and showing its use as a training ship after Battle of Trafalgar, issuing the rum ration and a card with the famous signal given by Nelson ahead of the battle.

More cards of Nelson were shown including one showing the boarding of HMS Victory and some stamps of the ship, which had a copper bottom and was faster as a result. A copy of a

letter to Lady Hamilton in 1804, which is in the archives at Maidstone library, was shown where a Mrs Taddy is asking about the prize money for her son. A card showing the last letter to Lady Hamilton from Nelson and an image on a stamp from the Solomon Islands were next. Admirals of the French and Spanish fleets on mini-sheets were displayed, a map of Cadiz harbour and Cape Trafalgar. Cards showing different captains were shown and Admiral Collingwood on stamps, Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, who reached the rank of Vice Admiral, and Captain John Quilliam on an Isle of Man miniature sheet. Other stamps showed other ships and planning for the battle and a card showing the prayer of Nelson before the battle was also shown. Cards and stamps showed scenes from the battle and the flag signal, 'England expects that every man will do his duty'.

An image of the battle lineup of ships was shown with the British ships in Lee and Weather columns. Stamp images for the various ships were shown on a selection of stamps, and a few commemorative covers including HMS Colossus and HMS Polyphemus. Postcards depicting paintings of the battle were shown including Victory and Redoubtable engaging and images for Nelson being taken below decks after being shot. Nelson's body was preserved in a water casket filled with brandy. The Trafalgar medal was approved in 1847 and was awarded for some battles retrospectively.

The funeral took place at St Paul's Cathedral on 9th January 1806. An engraving of the barge used to take the body from Greenwich to Whitehall Stairs and the carriage were shown, which was a representation of Victory, and the tomb and statue. A selection of columns were erected and were displayed on postcards including Dublin, Trafalgar Square, a statue in Norwich cathedral grounds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Barbados, Montreal, and Yarmouth on a column. Barbados stamps of the monument there were shown. Nelson's name lived on in the Navy with HMS Lord Nelson and Victory Barracks, Portsmouth which was renamed Nelson Barracks in 1970 as Victory was still a ship of the line. The Burnham Thorpe House became a pub and a picture of the Nelson Inn, Cirencester and The Lord Nelson in Witham, now a private house, rounded off the display.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Emerson and members gave an onscreen round of applause.

16th May Postcard Evening - Main Talk and Display by Lindy Bosworth and then other Members.

Lindy selected her cards with a jubilee theme as we were marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Emperor Franz Josef was in power for over 60 years. She started her display with the Jubilee Exhibition of Bohemia in 1891 with a copy of exhibition poster work and a card showing the overall view of the industrial palace. The card was in Czech and German but the Czech had been scored out. Another card for the industrial palace was shown, built in the Holesovice district. There were two and a half million visitors and 28 categories of exhibits. A card was shown of the post and telegraph office. An image of the wireless tower was next, one fifth of the size of the Eiffel Tower and a tribute to cultural and political links with France, and an illuminated fountain, which shot water 7 metres into the air. Filters under a glass roof allowed the water to appear different colours.

Emperor or Kaiser Franz Josef of Austria came to power in 1848. A card to benefit the Red Cross featured images of the Emperor from 1848 to 1914 and a card marking his fiftieth anniversary. He was emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia and Hungary, a Dual Monarchy. There was a big jubilee exhibition in 1898 in Vienna and some cards were shown. There are 50 in total in the set. One of the cards was also used as a poster and issued as gummed

labels and there are three examples of the special hand cancel. Each card had an official authorization mark and many were from original artworks. The card showed various aspects of the exhibition and life in Austria. The Rotunda used was built for the 1873 Vienna World Fair. A special jubilee medal was struck and this was featured on some of the cards. The City of Vienna Pavilion and the Pavilion of Welfare Exhibition, the Bakery Exhibition and various views inside the exhibition including the Kaiser's Canopy came next. Some cards had imprinted stamps but Lindy's examples had gummed stamps.

There was a tethered balloon, the Dragon Balloon, and a Ball balloon which visitors could ride in shown on cards and one showing the Printing of the Official Exhibition cards. There was another series of 32 cards Wilhelm Karels, Vienna showing the history of the Austrian Empire, including Albrecht V 1404 to 1439 and Josef II 1765 to 1790, horticulture, transport and trade. There were two cards from exhibitors for advertising, for example a piano maker and the Weighbridge Factory.

The 60th Jubilee of Franz Josef was marked with an embossed card and map of the various provinces that comprised Austria. A postal stationery card with a 1908 portrait and a special cancellation on 2nd December 1908 was issued and used in the 14 main towns of the provinces of the Empire. Lindy described the eight varieties. There was a festive procession and cards were shown which depicted the 600 year reign of the Habsburg Empire. There were 19 sections, 12000 people took part and it lasted 3 hours. There was a Homage Exhibition in Vienna, 21st November to 27th December with special cards and a cancel. The Jubilee Exhibition in Prague was May to October 1908. A postal stationery card and an official card showing the Kaiser, official cards with an authorization stamp, which are either in Czech or German usually, were displayed. A card of the original artwork by Viktor Oliva, with different varieties, such as with a border or no border and different colours was next. A map of the Royal City of Prague followed and of the Jubilee Exhibition including inventions and techniques in various pavilions. There was a chess tournament with 20 grandmasters invited and yet again a special cancel for the exhibition.

A card of The Pavilion of the Royal City of Prague, a photocard and an original artwork image, the pavilions, for example a journey to the Moon and a sea aquarium were on other cards. An Abyssinian Village was setup and there were photocards taken within the village. Lindy does not know why it was there. Cards showed refreshment facilities, such as the Elephant Café, a Czech cottage restaurant and Japanese tea and coffee house. There were amusements, the American Ride and the Helter Skelter (Toboggan) and some humorous cards of people on the rides. A lot of cards were left after the exhibition and they were sold for advertising to large firms. The heading was expunged with a decorative marking. The exhibition was a commercial success and the grounds are still used today and in 1991 some refurbishment took place.

Sue Burn: Sue as a guest to the Society, displayed some aviation postcards and showed how a display and collection can be put together. Aviation is a visual hobby and Sue's first postcard was of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith in his RFC uniform. A couple of cards of the crossing of the Pacific were shown, one a coupon card, with a plane landing surrounded by a massive crowd. There were details about the Southern Cross from a magazine with a map and visual of the aircraft. A commercial card was shown with a real signature, but buyer beware as many are photographic. The First Tasman Flight cards and advertising were shown and a card showing the Tasman Sea and a cover flown, but there were multiple crashes enroute to Australia. There were cards showing the aircraft used on the route, Imperial Airways. Crashed aircraft when unable to return to service had the cards removed from sale. Covers can be very

interesting adding the details of the flights. Sue showed the Rose Bay Flying Boat Base on a cover and cards from 1938. The Barby Pontoon at Southampton was shown with a card and photographs on various cards. On the postal history side, you can depict different rates and show a photograph of the flight. Sue showed India to Auckland to USA. This route was needed as the so called Horseshoe Route was broken at this point, the item of mail taking from 6th June to 25th June to arrive in San Francisco.

Bob van Goethem: Bob displayed various cards made from various materials. The first postcard was issued on 1st October 1870 but Bob showed one from 2nd October, saying he could not find the other! They were reprinted in 1875 and there were two differences, the cards were slightly smaller and the 'To' was removed. A London picture postcard of 1902 was next with the divided back and a small white space to write alongside the image, and here used in 1906. USA illustrated postcards on leather and surcharged 3d were shown. One was on a shoe sole! Then came wooden cards from China and a more recent one on cork from Italy. Cats with glass eyes and cards with a message including birthday greetings were shown. There were so called panel cards, a celluloid example and embroidered cards. Bookmark postcards were smaller and examples often had animals or actresses depicted. Commercial cards, for example a GPO telephone number change and an official card of the same rounded off the display. Bob showed the last items as he worked for GPO.

Mike Wilkinson: Mike displayed railway items related to the Rimutka Incline rail trail, a range of mountains about 50km NE of Wellington, New Zealand. In 1878 the route went over the range, with a 1:15 incline in places and the third rail was gripped by rollers. They needed 3 to 6 engines along the length of the train which travelled at 3 to 5 mph to negotiate the route. Mike showed photographs on postcards, one original and one tinted and there were different formats of the train and different captions. He commented that he did not know how they coordinated the power from each engine to make sure they were all pulling the same. A cigarette card by Churchman, part of Imperial Tobacco, of a train was next and Mike then showed a short video clip of the railway. Cards showing tunnels and cuttings, all of which were cut by hand, followed. It was a windy area and wind breaks were needed as a train could be blown off the rails, and these were shown on more cards. There is a museum which Mike and his wife have visited and one personal photograph was an image of a Fell Locomotive. Mike said that a community built up around the railway but the line is closed now and is used for walking and cycling routes. The new railway goes underground not over the top.

Margaret Emerson: Margaret displayed postcards of HM Queen Elizabeth II issued as Coronation souvenirs. They were all received as a legacy from Derek Rock. The first card was advertising an event on 31st May 1953, church services at Newton Bassett. Then there was a series of cards, but Margaret does not know how many there are, showing images related to the Coronation and the Queen, The first showed the Queen and the Duke and in the margin the state trumpeters. The trumpeters are from the Band of the Household Cavalry. The Trooping of the Colour in 1952 had a surround of flags, including the Royal Standard and flags from the Commonwealth. This series of cards for the Coronation were thin but could be posted. The Queen by Dorothy Wilding was central on another card, with the Royal Coat of Arms and St Edward Throne shown and on another, the heraldic arms of countries of the Commonwealth. Mandated territories are named in the margin. The Queen and Duke were on another card with the State Trumpeter, Union Flag and the Royal Coat of Arms. The Irish harp

in the Arms is a plain Gaelic harp, rather than a winged female, the personal preference of the Queen.

Surrounding the Queen on the next card are arms of previous monarchs. Top left the arms are labelled Henry II and Edward II, bottom right William III with the Dorothy Wilding image of the Queen in the centre. Is there a second one with other arms? These are all Salmon cards. A set of castles, Windsor, Holyrood and Caernarvon, were shown and issued by Tucks cards. Royal residences in black and white, Buckingham Palace, Balmoral, Windsor and Sandringham, were souvenir issues and all are mint. The Cecil Beaton photo of the Queen on Coronation day in her robes, with the orb, sceptre and wearing the crown was next. A selection of cards from the ceremony, again all Tucks, included the enthroning and crowning and then the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II in the Gold State Coach. The coach was completed in 1762, having been commissioned in 1760 by George III. It was built in London at the workshops of Samuel Butler for £7562, £1.6 million today. It has been used for the coronation of every British monarch since George IV. Its use is limited to big state occasions due to its age, weight and lack of maneuverability. Margaret concluded by saying Happy Platinum Jubilee Your Majesty.

6th June The 1953/54 Coronation Tour a Talk and Display by Margaret Emerson
Margaret started by saying that the material in this display had really been collected by her over the last 18 months or so, a lockdown type activity. One of our members, John Davies, had asked Margaret to look for some items and said that she might produce a collection in parallel. As some members will know, Margaret collects material connected with the Royal family anyway but had not focused on the coronation tour before. She is grateful to John for providing facts and figures concerning the stamp issues.

This was the most ambitious royal tour of Commonwealth nations seen, lasting between November 1953 and May 1954 with a total of 13 countries visited. It started with a flight to the Caribbean and a visit to Bermuda and Jamaica. The royal party then boarded the SS Gothic which was to be the base for much of the remainder of the tour. The SS Gothic in 1951 was part of the Shaw Savill line and the ship was chosen by the Admiralty for the Royal Commonwealth tour to be made by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Princess Margaret. Gothic was now a Royal Yacht under the red ensign with her usual crew. In 1952, Gothic was sent to Camel Laird shipyards to be refitted to become the Royal Yacht for a tour of Australia and New Zealand. The ship was subsequently given a white hull for the coronation tour. Due to the king's ill health, it was decided that this tour would be carried out by Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. The Gothic sailed to East Africa in readiness but the tour was cancelled owing to the sudden death of the king. The Queen was told of her father's death in Kenya.

The only Canadian stop on the Coronation Tour was for outbound re-fuelling at Gander, Newfoundland. Arrival was planned for around three in the morning with about 90 minutes on the tarmac, so this is not really a royal visit. Some rowdy Newfoundlanders went to the terminal to see what was going on and when they had confirmed that the Queen's plane was there on the ramp an impromptu celebration began. The Queen decided after being woken at 3:20am by the singing, to address the noisy crowd. The Queen came to Newfoundland and made this short speech in Gander it is true, but was that the royal tour's first stop? An illustrated cover was produced supposedly just 100 copies and all are addressed to H G Fisher at a post office box in Saint Rose and the postmark itself is Gander.

The first proper destination to begin the tour was Bermuda 24th to 25th November 1953. A 6d definitive stamp was issued on the 26th November and some 488,695 are recorded issued.

The stamp was withdrawn on the 3rd December 1953 so it was only on sale for 8 days and as that is a common feature with many of the commemorative stamps for the tour, so commercial covers can be difficult to find. The commemorative cover for Bermuda had a special cachet as well as the Hamilton ring cancelled. The second country visited was Jamaica between the 25th and 27th of November, the royal party making the journey by ship from Bermuda. A 2d definitive stamp was issued on the 25th November with a printed inscription added to the original design, something which was done in many countries. Some 772,601 were issued and it was withdrawn from sale on the 2nd December 1953, so again it was available for just eight days. This time Margaret showed a plain cover with the Kingston Jamaica council for the 25th November and a commemorative slogan, 'Jamaica welcomes Her Majesty'.

After leaving Jamaica the SS Gothic passed through the Panama Canal en route to the Pacific Ocean on the 29th November 1953. A special illustrated cover was produced with the meter frank of the Cristobel Canal Zone 29th November 1953, with a union flag and a folded stars and stripes plus a crown. After passing through the Panama Canal Gothic called at Suva and Tonga and went on from there to Auckland and Wellington. The royal party visited Fiji from the 17th to 19th of December 1953 and attended a royal banquet at the Grand Pacific Hotel. An 8d definitive stamp was issued on the 16th December with the inscription Royal Visit 1953. In total 429,514 stamps were issued and it was withdrawn from sale on the 23rd of December 1953, again after eight days of issue. Margaret showed two philatelic covers dated the 17th and 18th of December.

The royal couple left Fiji for Tonga on a TEAL (Tasman Empire Airways Limited) flying boat the Aeotora for a journey of about 3 hours and they were guests of Queen Salote while on Fiji. Queen Elizabeth II made Queen Salote a Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian order (GCVO). Tonga didn't issue any stamps but some commemorative covers can be found. The Queen and Duke left Tonga on the 20th December aboard the SS Gothic for the voyage to New Zealand. The Gothic arrived in Auckland, New Zealand on the morning of the 23rd December 1953 and the royal couple stayed in the country until the 30th January 1954. The Queen visited 46 towns or cities and attended 110 separate functions in the country. Two stamps were issued, 3d and 4d on the 9th December 1953 showing the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and each stamp had the wording Royal Visit. Some 20 million copies of the 3d were issued and 4 million of the 4d and there was no date of withdrawal, so it seems likely that they were used to exhaustion. This may explain why it is possible to find commercially used covers for the New Zealand issue more easily.

The royals visited the Bell Block dairy factory and there was a civic welcome at New Plymouth on the 9th January 1954. The tour moved on to Wellington where the Queen opened parliament and visited the Hutt Valley before returning to the capital. Margaret showed the back of one commemorative cover which lists the itinerary and dates for the tour of New Zealand. She also went on to show a couple of illustrated covers, one with a machine cancel and the other with a ring cancel. There was also a different design of commemorative cover and here a slogan cancellation was applied to the stamps 'Long live the Queen' dated the 28th December 1953. Another illustrated cover type was shown on an item to Nairobi with a large Napier cancel. Margaret also showed an air letter with Royal Visit stamps plus an additional health stamp sent to Newcastle upon Tyne. It had a Royal Oak cancel for the 11th January 1954.

This royal visit was the first time a reigning British monarch had visited New Zealand. A 50,000 strong crowd gathered in Wellington and the Queen wore her coronation gown for the opening ceremony at the New Zealand parliament on the 12th January 1954. This was a special session of the New Zealand parliament and the first time a reigning monarch had attended.

The whole ceremony lasted 20 minutes. The 3d royal visit stamp on a special cover was shown and a parliament buildings New Zealand single ring cancel for the 12th January 1954 had been applied. This item was sent to Miss Hudson and it is doubtful that it passed through the post as such. Margaret also showed another illustrated cover sent to Santa Monica, California. dated the 12th January 1954, marking the opening of the parliament. Also of note was that on the 24th December there was a rail crash at Tangiwai, New Zealand and 151 people lost their lives. The Duke of Edinburgh attended a funeral commemorative service on New Year's Eve. The royal party departed New Zealand on the 30th January 1954 from Bluff aboard SS Gothic to travel to Australia, arriving on the 3rd February.

Queen Elizabeth II was the first reigning British monarch to visit Australia and it is said that when the Queen sailed into Sydney Harbour on the 3rd February 1954, she practically stopped the nation with an estimated 1,000,000 onlookers in a city with a population of 1,863,164. In 1949 planning had started for King George VI to visit Australia and New Zealand. A coded telegram received in October 1951 relayed the news that due to the King's ill health, he would be unable to visit. The then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip would have visited in his place. Stamps of 3½d, 7½d and 2/- value were issued, and 79,877,820, 1,908,640 and 4,611,200 of each value were printed respectively. Margaret showed a couple of two shilling values on commercial covers to the Philadelphia National Bank from Melbourne dated the 1st May 1954, a commercial cover to Michigan and Exeter respectively and a two shilling value to London with the slogan 'Australia celebrates royal visit 1954'. Again, a long period of availability of the stamps allows commercial covers to be found readily.

The Cocos Keeling Islands were the next place to be visited and although there is a royal visit cancellation showing SS Gothic, Margaret has been unable to obtain a copy. However, a mini sheet marking the 50th anniversary in 2004 was displayed and there is a hand stamp with a small yacht and images on the stamps from the royal visit. On departing Cocos Keeling Islands the royal party arrived in Ceylon on the 10th April and stayed until the 24th. In Colombo on the last day of the visit, which was the Queen's 28th birthday, the Monarch reviewed the troops of the three services and an investiture was then held, The Queen and Prince Philip returned to SS Gothic in the evening to set out for Aden. Margaret showed a cover to the Oriental Stamp Service which shows the royal visit 10 cent stamp postmarked 10th April 1954 in Colombo, the day of issue. Some 18,820,637 stamps were issued and they were withdrawn from sale on the 10th August 1954. From Ceylon the royal party sailed for Aden and stayed there on the 27th and 28th of April. A re-issue was made of the 1953 1 shilling stamp on the 27th April 1954, the stamp featuring a dhow with an added inscription. Before reaching Aden the Queen unexpectedly held an investiture aboard SS Gothic and bestowed honours including a knighthood to members of the crew, thus making Merchant Navy history. Some 333,216 Aden stamps are recorded as being printed and they were withdrawn from sale on the 4th May 1954, so again were just available for eight days.

After a garden party on the final day of the visit, the Queen and the Duke returned to Steamer Point made their farewells and retired to the SS Gothic until the early hours of the following morning, before flying to Uganda. At this time Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika issued the same designs and the issue for the royal visit was no exception. Issued on the 28th April 1954 was a 30 cent definitive with an added inscription. There were 954,193 stamps issued and they became invalid on the 1st October 1957. Uganda was one of the last legs on the coronation tour and the royal couple arrived on the 28th April and stayed until the 30th. Margaret illustrated this part of the talk with some images found on the Internet and covers, including one for Uganda and then another for Nairobi. In similar fashion the stamp was issued

in Tanganyika and a different illustrated cover was shown with a Dar es Salaam cancel and addressed to Barton on Humber.

The royal family then visited Tobruk and Margaret showed a photograph from an article in the Radio Times of the 22nd to 28th September 2018. The royal couple are shown with King Idris of Libya during the royal visit. Margaret is grateful to John Davies for providing the image. There was a special cancellation applied to a commemorative cover addressed to Miss Hudson in Edinburgh. Margaret does not have a copy of this cover and so showed a scan. This was followed by a picture of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in a Land Rover driving through the centre of Tobruk. Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the war cemetery to honour the war dead. Margaret showed a picture of the visit. Some 2,282 British Commonwealth forces are buried there. From Tobruk the royal party joined the Royal Yacht Britannia which had now finished sea trials and was used for the last leg of the journey back to England calling at Malta. Her duty over, SS Gothic returned quietly into her cargo passenger role with the rest of the Shaw Savill fleet. A mint commemorative envelope was shown for the stamp issue in Malta with the royal visit stamp attached and is decorated with the Coat of Arms of the Queen. There were also two other covers with the stamps attached, one illustrated and one just a regular envelope. On Malta the royal couple watched at the polo ground the Royal Navy versus Army match.

Gibraltar was next on the 10th and 11th May. Margaret showed two illustrated covers with the 3d stamp, issued on the 10th May. Some 433,925 stamps were issued and they were withdrawn from sale on the 17th May 1954. Margaret also showed a cover to Portugal showing the Gibraltar stamp and a ring cancel and then a picture of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh ahead of an official lunch. Britannia had sailed on her maiden voyage from Portsmouth to Grand Harbour Malta departing on the 14th April and arriving on the 22nd. She carried Princess Anne and Prince Charles to Malta, in order for them to meet the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the end of the Coronation tour. The Queen and Duke embarked on HMY Britannia for the first time on the 1st May 1954 and a picture of Britannia arriving in Malta was shown. The party on their return was joined by the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill who stayed on the yacht as it called in at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. The royal party left Gibraltar on the 11th May and sailed to London, arriving on the 15th and a picture was shown of Britannia at Greenwich Reach with a fast patrol boat escort. A huge red and white banner was hung from Tower Bridge bearing the world's 'Welcome home' and with the arms of the bridge open to their fullest extent, Britannia sailed through with its escort and countless small boats carrying well-wishers. An image of the royal barge was shown with the Queen, Duke and their two children onboard to sail along the Thames to Westminster pier.

But what happened to SS Gothic? During the night of the 1st August 1968, four days after leaving the New Zealand port of Bluff bound for Liverpool, the SS Gothic suffered a fire which killed four passengers and three crew members. There was a lot of wood panelling on the ship still but her best days were over. Margaret showed a picture of SS Gothic battling heavy seas on the way back to New Zealand on the 6th August 1968 and she was scrapped the following year. And what of HMY Britannia? Britannia was the first Royal Yacht to be built with complete oceangoing capacity and designed as a royal residence to entertain guests around the world. She was commissioned in April 1954 and she was decommissioned in December 1997. It marked the end of a long tradition of British royal yachts dating back to 1660 and the reign of Charles II. She is now a tourist attraction in Edinburgh, so a slightly happier ending for her than Gothic.

4th July 2022 Members' Evening Something I collect

This meeting was lightly attended, just 5 members and two guests. Two members displayed items, Lindy Bosworth and Margaret Emerson.

Lindy's display was entitled Erinnophily, coming from two words, Erinnerung (commemoration) and Philos (love). Lindy showed a selection of commemorative labels, starting with labels from France in 1855 and then a selection of labels for the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare in 1864, the Czech Philatelic Club from 1887 and 1939 items for the 50th Anniversary in Prague.

She then went on to show labels from Prague, examples from a set of eight. This included some original artwork of an early flying machine and essays by Josef Leisler and amongst these some unaccepted designs were also shown. The 1950 Prague Philatelic Exhibition was next, but we were told this had not been well attended.

There then followed items related to Karlovy Vary, including postcards and labels for the spa town depicting glassware and porcelain. There was a card of the Hotel Central and the Hotel Pupp, which dates from 1724. There are also various labels for military veterans, water, wine and spirits. From 1920 came Karlsbad views including the colonnades and look out towers. There were some gummed publicity labels from about 1930 which are a dull sepia colour and one of these showed the spring, which has warm water up to 100 Celsius.

From 1914 to 1918 there were labels for the war and remembrance of Kaiser Franz Josef, 1848 to 1916. There were labels for war welfare issued for the Austro-Hungarian Navy depicting ships and battleships. Austrian war charities were also covered, some for certain years showing the amount paid and others which were for general war charities. There was a Christmas issue from 1915. Lindy said some labels are more poignant than others. Shopping and trading between 1910 and 1920 were shown for Prague and in 1918 labels showing fabrics and the mustard works, the fashion house, a tea house, and graphics of art and books. Margaret displayed some more unusual items from her collection. She described the first part from her Kent postal history collection as being counter applied postmarks struck on items other than pieces of mail, so this included parcel post labels, certificates of posting and order forms. Margaret started with parcel post counter date stamps from various post offices in Chatham, various other locations including Margate, Pluckley which is near Ashford, Stansted under Sevenoaks, Iden Green, Eythorne and Maxton which are both under Dover, Slade Green, Bryant Road Rochester and Pembury. The next section covered a couple of certificates of posting. There followed a selection of counter stamps on post office order forms, P325.

The second section was on other ways of paying for mail and Margaret included here Meter Franks. There was an example dated 23rd December 1922, which was probably used by Barkers of Kensington, which is quite early as they were only introduced in Great Britain on 5th September 1922. There were other examples with different royal cyphers from George V to George VI. There were some local meter franks for the Kent and Sussex Courier and a Friendly Society with an Edward VIII monogram still being used in 1949. There were different machines and different designs and the most recent examples shown were from 2017.

Margaret went on to describe the changes which are taking place with meter franks and the need for them to be 'smart meter franks' with a QR code from January 2023.

The next part covered other items which you can collect and Margaret had chosen humorous postcards and cards showing heraldry and places. The first card was of a teddy bear on a telephone saying 'What! Come home? Not likely when I'm at Maidstone'. There seemed to be different versions of this for different places. There was a card showing an orange and a caption 'If you've got the pip come to Dover', with the pip meaning somebody being fed up

with somebody or something. Other humorous cards related to the weather concluded with one that had a completely black image and was supposed to be Folkestone at night. The last three items were cards depicting heraldry connected with Chatham, Gillingham and Tunbridge Wells.

The Society is grateful to the two members for displaying.

5th September AGM and Members' Displays

The main part of the evening was taken up by the AGM, the first since June 2019. The reports were in the July Bulletin as usual, but the following notes are recorded here as an addition for those who were unable to attend on Zoom. Apologies had been received from Kathy Byford, Fin O'Donoghue and John Davies.

The 2019 minutes were proposed by Lindy Bosworth and seconded by Mike Wilkinson and agreed nem com.

1. Our President opened by saying this was the first AGM since 2019 and the first held on Zoom and hopefully not the last! The CSPS had survived Covid but had lost its civil service venue. He reiterated the point that the cost of hiring an outside venue is too large and given the low attendance it would be difficult to attract outside speakers but Zoom makes this possible.
2. Bob van Goethem then added to his EBS report by saying that it was stable with 15 addresses for the boxes to go to, which does include some groups and it is split 14 foreign boxes only and 12 recipients of GB and Commonwealth. Space filler material is added into a relevant box. In 2022 he sent out 10 packets and the recent ones had just been returned. Bob does need more books as we've lost three big bookmakers over the last year or two. CSPS has links with other clubs and CSPS members within them have been entering books, which are either remade or pre-circulated. Circulation is about 12 months but better now than it was, with sales amounting to about 25% give or take 5%. Postage is a big expense and it costs £3.35 to send a package out second class on the rounds. In time this could affect the circuit as members may not think the cost is justified. Bob does try to maximise the content of the packets up to the £700 insurance limit. Margaret expressed thanks to Bob for continuing to run the circuit and this was seconded by Mike Wilkinson.
Bob's report was proposed by Mike Thatcher and seconded by Rodney Knight.
3. The Membership Secretary's report was as in the last bulletin and was proposed by Steve Daniels and seconded by Bob van Goethem.
4. Margaret had nothing to add to the Secretary's report. Steve Daniels thanked Margaret for her work with Zoom and during Covid. There was some discussion about reconciling e-mail contacts to try and increase attendance. The report was proposed by Mike Wilkinson and seconded by Lindy Bosworth.
5. The Treasurer's report and Exchange Branch Insurance Fund report were proposed by Mike Thatcher and seconded by Bob van Goethem.
6. Postal Auctioneer. Steve Daniels said that there had been £1000s worth of sales in the last two auctions. He's concerned that the same 8 member vendors submit lots and about 20 members are buying items. Margaret raised the point that members wishing to submit lots might not do so due to the cost of postage, if they subsequently don't sell, but Steve said he would be prepared to operate a system where a list is submitted and then the lots that have sold are the only ones sent to him for dissemination. That would only create a slight delay in lots reaching the buyers. The report was proposed by Margaret Emerson and seconded by Mike Thatcher.
7. Margaret had nothing to add to the Bulletin Editor's report and it was proposed by Lindy Bosworth and seconded by Mike Thatcher.

8. The election of officers followed. There had been no nominations and all current officers and council members agreed to stand again. This was proposed by Chris Burrow and seconded by Lindy Bosworth.
9. There was some discussion about the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Society in 2023 and Margaret proposed that perhaps it would be possible to have a lunch in London and a one-off meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London. Hire of one of their rooms would probably be around £100 for a couple of hours. There was plenty of time to discuss this and members are requested to send in any other ideas.
10. There was one item under AOB as to the start time of Zoom meetings at 7:30pm. It was agreed that they should remain at this time.
11. The AGM closed at 2015 hours and eight members were present.

After the AGM, Mike Wilkinson displayed Postal Stationery cards of New Zealand with many being Victorian. He started with a card from 1876 and a reply card which was similar in style to those issued in Great Britain and in fact were printed here. One card had advertising printed on the back and another was listing the rateable value of a property. Mike had researched the recipient Mr Bishop, who emigrated to New Zealand in 1850 aboard the Charlotte Jane. He became a wine merchant in Christchurch.

In 1976 there was a centenary issue of the first issue. Promotional cards for inland use in New Zealand and Australia were next. One depicted bankruptcy of a business which was possibly a goldmine. There were some cards from 1897 with views on the reverse and a card to an MP in Harwich. There was also a selection of Queen Victoria postal stationery envelopes, both one penny and tuppence. These were produced by William Bosch who was born in 1847 and was an engraver and printer. He became a cricket umpire in 1928 and is also famous for printing the Art Album of New Zealand Flora.

Finally, there was a 1908 item from Great Britain to New Zealand in respect of the Royal College of Surgeons asking if they wished to admit women. This recipient had not voted and replied as the reply portion was still attached. It was commented on that the postie could see how you had voted.

Margaret Emerson was to have displayed South Africa GVI issues but unfortunately when the time came and after running the meeting thus far, her computer decided it was not going to open the display and so this was abandoned after a couple of attempts.

3rd October The 1971 Postal Strike A talk and display by Maurice Buxton
Apologies were received from Steve Daniels, Fin O'Donoghue and Rob Robson.

Maurice began by saying that there had been UK postal strikes in 1962, 1964 and 1969 but the strike which lasted between the 20th January 1971 and the 7th March 1971 was an all-out strike. During the period of the strike Royal Mail's monopoly was suspended. Maurice illustrated his talk with newspaper cuttings as well as items of mail. He started with an image of Tom Jackson the union leader with a photograph and newspaper cutting. Royal Mail workers were asking for 15 per cent pay increase.

At the beginning of the strike Royal Mail sealed all post boxes so they did not become over full. Direct dialling telephone calls and telex was not affected by this dispute and most telephone girls as it were, in London and the Southeast, continued to work. A mail embargo was put into place with overseas countries asked to block the mail for example the USA and Japan.

Hospital and mail from doctors was carried, as this was a free compassionate service, as were Social Security giro cheques. Maurice showed a poster of the UPW union.

The strike amounted to a loss of revenue of £20 million. Sub-Post Offices still worked as they were not in the union and carried on as possible for example with pension payments.

Local postal services were set up and Maurice showed cards for a union demonstration on 21st February, which included a 10 foot high pillar box. There was a drift back to work with time.

In South Devon and southern England there were local postal services set up including some used by Lloyds Bank. There were some local areas where postal officials were not striking, for example Banstead.

Decimalisation day was on the 15th February 1971 and you can find genuine first day covers, local services, field post office or a friendly sub postmaster who would cancel your new decimal stamps on the day of issue. Some organisations set up alternative ways of sending documents, for example the Law Society had a document exchange and some of these carriers had cachets. Railway services for letters and parcels continued, for example Red Star. Some HM forces mail went through the civil system but temporary field post offices were set up. RAF Chilwell in Nottinghamshire was one such base and items from this were shown and they even had waybill and labels on packets. This service closed on the 11th March 1971.

Some forces letters were to career and recruiting offices.

There were private strike posts which were concentrated in some areas but cost more money, for example 15 pence. Maurice showed some more newspaper clippings at this point and an advert in the Evening Standard asking GPO postman to go and work for the private companies where they would earn 15% more. Private posts included the Randall Postal Service which had a hub private post and employed 30 people. They delivered in central London and a double Chelsea circle postmark was displayed. There were alternative deliveries in Beckenham to receive mail for onward transmission and cachet marks and cancels were shown and we were told the British press ran with some of the stories. The Association of Mail Services linked several cities and it had an inland charge of three shillings, or 15 pence, compared with 4d or 2½ pence for Royal Mail services. Trunkways was a Coventry haulage firm and a major carrier and they handled 100,000 items of mail per day and made an adequate profit. Very few markings were added to their items and so stamps on cover are rare. Meter marks on reposted items at the end of the strike can be however found. A small scale operation was Foden's Letter Delivery which operated in Moreton-in-the-Marsh and there was also the Biggin Hill Free Post. Another carrier was Rickshaw which was large scale and run by the Earl of Lichfield and some items of mail have wax seals on them. The Earl was an ancestor of the first postmaster general.

Services were much patchier in the north of England and the Midlands but you can find postal stationery from Sheffield and north Derbyshire. Jay Allen exceeded capabilities and spent three years in prison for destroying mail. Further north there were fewer and fewer services especially in Scotland and northern England.

Some carriers operated by delivering mail and then taking items by return, for example between Sussex and Devon with the South Eastern Postal Service. The Wirral and Western Lancashire had a system where items of mail were handed to taxis. Maurice told us that all of this requires negotiation between people. One cover shown had been through several posts, including Dromedary, Worthing and Randall. There were problems with the private postal delivery workers as addresses could be random and were unfamiliar to them, but often helpful notes could be added by the sender. A Saint Valentine's Day card was displayed carried on a Sunday as Valentine's Day fell on a Sunday in 1971.

Dromedary and Randall Postal Services took overseas mail mainly from London. A London to Australia cover was shown and once abroad the mail could go anywhere and this was in effect a special courier mail. An item of mail from Cambridgeshire to Zambia cost 50 pence and London to Canada had a 5 shilling surcharge to North America. Some overseas countries had special arrangements, for example Rhodesia, the Cook Islands, Malawi. A SADS label for the special air delivery service would be attached.

On 4th March 1971 agreement was reached with the union as they were basically out of money. There was a return to work on the 8th March but there was an enormous backlog to clear. Members of the public were requested to only post first class mail and only vital mail at that. For a while a blank line appeared in place of the time in cancellations. Maurice showed an example of a back dated first day cover cancel where the item had been delayed by the strike. It wasn't just Royal Mail dealing with a backlog we were told, as there was a backlog of private post mail too. Some operators stuck a stamp on the mail and then it was posted in a regular box. The private stamps were blacked out and a postage due applied if there was no valid stamp attached.

The strike proved that postal services were still vital. Old mail was found dumped in February 1972 and was given a postage due stamp. Back in 1971 a lot of mail went by post although there was quite a lot of business dealt with over the telephone. It was shown that private posts were not a fit replacement for Royal Mail services especially as the volume of mail they handled was considerably less.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Emerson and members gave an onscreen round of applause.

7th November Andrew Davidson stamp designer and illustrator

A talk and display by Dr Jean Alexander

Andrew Davidson graduated from the Royal College of Arts in 1982. His first design for Royal Mail was for the cover of the Christmas booklet in 1982 showing mummers. Jean showed a cylinder block with number and the blue star, which indicated extra money for charity and a number of booklet labels. Andrew designed a Sherlock Holmes £1 stamp booklet cover in 1986 and a number of signed essays were shown.

The first complete set of stamps designed by Andrew was the transport and mail set in 1988 which was looking at transportation in the 1930s and this section included a signed publicity poster, which had a large stamp on the front of the LNER Mallard and a ticket from the train. On the 9th May 1988 a cover was produced at the press preview and Jean showed an example of this signed by the stoker and driver of the Mallard. An FDC, a signed insert and a Post Office exhibition card followed. This particular cover had been sent to the Royal Mail design department and Jean explained that she had been a member of the stamp advisory committee. They used to have a Christmas lunch and she showed the menu from 1988 and a special stamp album.

The Christmas set in 1988 was designed by Andrew and showed a mantelpiece with Christmas cards and five values were needed to make the whole image, but they were not issued se-tenant. Jean also showed a Christmas card and stamps sent by Andrew to Angela Reeves. In 1990 he illustrated the Christmas scene stamps and a little booklet was given at the Christmas lunch.

In 1993 came the Sherlock Holmes issue marking the 100th anniversary of the Final Problem and there was also an unaccepted design shown here by Chris Wormell.

Cancelled examples of the stamps from the booklets were shown on a maxi card signed

by Andrew Davidson. There was a post code advertisement for the Sherlock Holmes stamp, including one with French and Japanese.

In 1998 Andrew designed five airmail letter cards also known as air cards. In 1999 he designed the Robert the Bruce stamp which formed part of the Millenium issue in October. In 2003 the public house signs on stamps issue was made and although one of the actual pub signs was by Andrew Davidson, he did not design the stamps themselves. There was also a prestige booklet shown from 2004. In 2006 Andrew designed the Ice Age animals set and there was a signed print given to the stamp advisory committee.

In 2010 Andrew designed the business and consumer smilers miniature sheet and the first four stamps were transport and again designed by Andrew. In 2012 his contribution was the equestrian or dressage Olympic stamp. The judo and equestrian stamps on postcards and the stamps in a pack were shown with a strip of five stamps. Pin badges and other stamps were also displayed.

In 2018 Andrew Davidson designed the Christmas stamps, Royal Mail delivering Christmas. There was an Edward VII wall box, a double aperture box, a pedestal box, a Penfold box and an Edward VIII pillar box and one in Oxford Street.

At the end of a very interesting display, Jean answered questions about the stamp advisory committee saying that the topics are decided upon, then the designs are picked and then it goes to the essay stage.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Emerson and members applauded on screen in gratitude for a very interesting evening.

5th December 2022 The Life and Times of Rowland Hill by Alan Godfrey FRPSL

Alan started by explaining that we think about Rowland Hill and his work as just with the Post Office and the penny post. He was born in Kidderminster and a statue has been erected there in his honour. Hill is also known for education, engineering and social reform. He was born on the 3rd December 1795 and Andrew showed the family tree and an engraving of his house. His father was Thomas Wright Hill, a dealer in horse corn but the family moved to Horsehills and he became the manager of a brass foundry. Rowland was a friend of Thomas Payne who was one of the first founders of the United States. In 1819 with Thomas he set up the Society of Literary and Scientific improvement. In 1802 Thomas had bought a school and became headmaster in Birmingham and opened two more. Hilltop School, the third, was for moral training and the Virtues of the Heart, firmness and kindness. Rowland Hill was pupil teacher there in 1807.

Hill studied astronomy and engineering and was also a landscape artist and when Mary Ashford was murdered in 1817, Rowland Hill drew a map of the murder site with his class. Hazelwood School was designed by Rowland Hill, a boarding school with a vast array of subjects. He produced a paper with his son Matthew Davenport Hill. Rowland Hill was married in 1827 to Caroline Pearson. They moved to London and the Bruce Castle School in Tottenham, North London in 1827, which is now a museum. Rowland Hill was not particularly well but he could be an inventor. He tried to make the school unreligious. Rowland Hill had many ideas and inventions including the rotary printing press, patented by him, a pendulum for steam engines, road making machinery and screw propulsion. In 1830 he designed the system for pneumatic dispatch of messages using tubes and this was used for Telegrams in 1870. He was also involved with speeding the mail by sorting and stamping letters and considering mail coaches.

His other interests were politics and social concern. In 1832 he published a paper concerning sending paupers to remote Scottish islands. He formed the South Australia Association in 1834 with his brother Matthew. Rowland Hill became the secretary of this society and it should be stated that these settlers were not convicts. In total 38 ships and 5000 people went to Australia. They needed a balance of people so there were rules for assisted men, free women, married and single and people with a range of different skills. Cargo for the people and minimum standards of medical accommodation were considered. The money was paid per person landed.

In 1803 the high postage charge was experienced by a Hill family member when a letter was brought by a carrier and the family needed to raise 3 shillings to receive it. Hill knew the history of the Post Office, for example Dockwra, Crossposts and Palmer's mail coaches, as well as the development of Macadam and Telford roads. The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge was founded in 1826. Examples of the Penny Magazine produced were shown and an engraving of Post Office and mail coaches. The Hill family then moved to London, 2 Burton Crescent, now called Cartwright Gardens.

Rowland Hill's reform stated that distance was of little issue when considering the cost of sending a letter, but it was taxed by weight and should be prepaid. Initially it was introduced as 1d per ounce, later reduced to half an ounce. Newspapers were sent by post but no free post was proposed, as it was subject to fraud and abuse. In 1837 he produced a postal reform pamphlet, 'Postal Reform: Its importance and practicability' and in February this was available to the public. Hill called for a parliamentary inquiry. Robert Wallace was the MP for Greenock and he set up a Commission for reform. They needed to keep costs down but increase sales. This had been noted for soap and it was the same for the post! People avoided using two sheets of paper by writing letters using cross writing, this meant 9d not 1/6 was payable and there would be no Free Franks under the new system. The rates and modes of charging were discussed by a Select Committee and it was important that there was no loss in revenue. They recommended on the 17th July 1838 tuppenny postage and the final report was produced in March 1839.

The Mercantile Committee had Henry Cole as its secretary and the 'Post Circular' was published, with the money coming from bankers and merchants. There was a caricature of Cole who invented the first Christmas card. There was a cartoon showing 34 pounds of letters being sent for £93 in the post, but 273 pounds of newspapers travelling for free, there were 484 Free Franks weighing 47 pounds and a parcel of revenue stamps which was also free.

Rowland Hill and his family moved to Bayswater between 1839 and 1842. The Postal Duties Bill in 1839 was passed on 12th July 1839 by the House of Commons. There would be uniform penny post, post sent by weight with stamped paper, envelopes and stamps. A Treasury competition was organised by Hill and Cole for designing the first stamps, which could be a stamp wrapper, an envelope or a label. Whiting and Seiner entries were shown. The competition ended in October 1839 and there were 2600 entries. Four entries tied as winner and they were each awarded £100 pounds but none were actually passed for use.

As a prelude to the postal changes, on the 5th December 1839 a Uniform Four Penny post was introduced for a 6 week trial period, up to half an ounce. Formally a letter York to Edinburgh would have cost 1/6. The Penny Post came into force on the 10th January 1840 and 112,000 letters were sent on the first day, with 98,000 of these prepaid and if unpaid they were charged a double rate. There were penny envelopes for Parliament and no free franks or free newspapers. There was a quotation from midnight on the 9th

January 1840 when Samuel Lines went to the Post Office at midnight and stated. 'It's a penny today I believe.' William Mulready designed sheets and envelopes issued on the 6th May 1840 by the Treasury for a penny and tuppence, although these were lampooned and caricatures produced. They cost a penny farthing and tuppence one farthing to buy. Hill liked them and they were described as 'highly poetic' by Henry Cole

On the 6th May 1840 the Penny Black and Tuppenny blue were issued. The William Wyon medal had been used as the design for the image of Queen Victoria on the stamps. These were a great success and some 68 million of the penny value were issued. An image of the Perkins Bacon printing press was shown and a sketch on an envelope of the stamp design by Rowland Hill from 1839 depicted on a postcard. There was a picture of the original engraved plate, the first cancellations with the cross patteé which became known as the Maltese Cross. The red cancellation could be washed off, the black version was not clear but couldn't be washed off and so the stamp colour was changed to red in 1841 for the 1d and two white lines were added to the 2d.

What were the aftereffects of the change to penny post? In 1839 to 1840 the number of letters doubled to 168.8 million and between 1840 and 1850 the number doubled again. A number of Punch cartoons were shown. In 1843 Rowland Hill's contract was not renewed and he was sacked by Robert Peel. In 1844 he became the director of the London and Brighton Railway Company and in 1845 the chairman. This was a new business opened between 1840 and 1841. Rowland Hill promoted Brighton as a seaside resort with third class rail travel and season tickets. The value of the increase of business was 50 per cent Hill retired, in effect resigned, in 1846 due to the spinal issue which was plaguing him again. The Hill family moved to Brighton between 1844 and 1846. Rowland Hill became the Postmaster General between 1846 and 1854, the second highest job. Frederick, Hill's brother, was his assistant. The Whigs were back in power in government. Rowland Hill was given £13,000 for his work on the Post Office but they wanted him to pay tax on this amount but this was dropped. Colonel Maberley was in the top job up to 1854. In 1852 there was a new Postmaster General and Rowland was made joint secretary.

His achievements also include in 1841 the commencement of registered mail where a shilling was paid on top of the postage, in 1848 the travelling post office (TPO) and also in 1848 the mailbag transfer apparatus on the TPO. Book post, in effect packages, was brought into use in 1848 but there was at this stage no parcel post. The Post Office Savings Bank was set up as workers had increased salary and reduced hours. Post boxes were introduced in 1852, the idea of Anthony Trollope, and the first of these were in Guernsey and Jersey in 1853, in Warwick 1856 and London in 1855. Household letter boxes were the next development. The Marquess of Londonderry complained that 'the Postmaster General expects a cut slit in my mahogany door!'

In 1849 Rowland Hill moved to Hampstead and Bertram House. He was then Secretary of the Post Office from May 1854 and Maberley was head of the move to the audit office. Rowland Hill was described as 'That man from Birmingham'. He earned £2000 per annum and another £3000 from the London and Brighton Railway Company. He was not public school but was appreciated by most Post Office staff.

In 1857 Rowland Hill devised the system of the first postcodes for London, EC, WC, NW and so on. Many streets had the same name so this helped. In 1866 Trollope suggested that there only needed to be eight points, NE and S were therefore removed. An envelope with EC on it was shown, sent to Rowland Hill. In 1863 the pneumatic railway came into being and the full Post Office railway became electric in 1927.

Rowland Hill received many honours, the Freedom of the City of Aberdeen in 1844, in 1857 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society, in 1860 he was knighted, in 1864 Hill became an Honorary Doctor of civil law and he also won the Albert Medal from the RSA. He retired in 1864. Between 1865 and 1867 he was given the Royal Commission on the railways and in 1879 the Freedom of the City of London. Sir Rowland Hill died on the 27th August 1879 and his funeral was held at Westminster Abbey. This was a ticket affair and an envelope which had contained an invitation was shown.

There are numerous memorials to Sir Rowland Hill including a statue in Kidderminster as already mentioned, being his birth town, in Westminster Abbey there is a bust and there are also memorials in Manchester, King Edward St in London and also in Birmingham. The family grave is in Highgate cemetery and a memorial has been added. Alan concluded with various quotations about Hill which had come from a book by Colin G Hey.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Emerson and members showed appreciation for an interesting evening by a round of applause.

Postal History and Postmarks

Recent postmarks

In recent weeks the slogan cancel on mail has been advertising the swap out scheme and using up of non-barcoded stamps. The date for using the non-barcoded stamps has been extended to 31st July 2023, although using them by 31st January is still encouraged. Swap-out forms and freepost envelopes can now be picked up in post offices, whereas they were only available online up to now.

Two formats of the cancel are shown below. The example below left was applied by an IMP machine, standing for Integrated mail processing, and the example below right by an iLSM, Intelligent letter sorting machine, the former marks have a / between the portions of the date and the latter type has a dash.

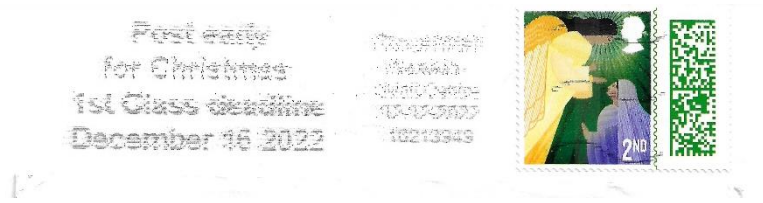


Over the Christmas period almost traditionally, a variety of machines are called into service due to the high volume of mail and 2022 seems to have been no different. The cancel shown below has no date or place of origin and just 7 wavy lines. The item of mail was received on 30th December 2022.



Posting early for Christmas 2022 took on a new meaning with the ongoing postal strikes and last posting dates were pulled forward by a week as a result. Normally last posting dates

feature in cancels for some weeks, but the only type seen by the Editor is shown below. It reads 'Post early for Christmas 1st class deadline December 16 2022'.



Snippets of News Bicycles

The 3rd June is marked annually as World Bicycle Day, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018. The United Nations Postal Administration issued a pane of 10 stamps with labels to mark the day. The U.N. say that the bicycle is 'a simple, affordable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation'.

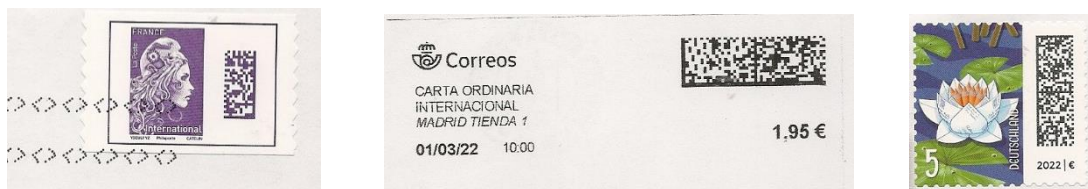
The stamps for use from the U.N. post office at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland show bicycles being used in different ways on the 10 stamps. The designs are based on photographs and the selvage of the pane shows pictures of bicycles, including a penny-farthing.

The US Sunflower Booklet

The United States has issued definitive stamps in booklet format since 1900. One that seems to be of interest to collectors was issued on 15th August 2008 by the U.S. Postal Service and contains a 42¢ Sunflower definitive stamp in booklet panes of 20. The self-adhesive stamp has 11¼ by 10¾ serpentine die cuts on two or three sides. The booklet pane is double-sided with eight stamps, plus a label on the cover side, and 12 stamps on the other. The Scott U.S. Specialized catalogue lists the intact mint booklet at \$17. *Based on a piece in Linn's Stamp News 22nd June 2022.*

Data matrix stamps from France

The image below left is of an international rate Marianne stamp from France and postmarked 4th May 2022. As you can see the stamp is within a rectangular frame and the data matrix is alongside. I am not a fan of the new GB Machins with the matrix slapped on the side of an iconic stamp design and I am not sure the French design is any better.



The Spanish postal stamps or labels also have a matrix code included as shown above centre. These appear to be similar to GB Smart stamps but any more information from members would be welcome. The 2022 stamp from Germany, shown above right, looks smarter I think with its bar code in black beside a colourful water lily stamp design.

Snowed in remote Post Office

The Royal Navy had to give assistance to four UK women working at an isolated Antarctic scientific base, the Port Lockroy site. The buildings were buried in heavy snow, between 2 and 4 metres (6 to 12 feet) of snow had fallen in October 2022 and sailors and Royal Marines from HMS Protector spent two days digging out the site. The roof of the Bransfield Hut damaged by the snow was repaired. The Bransfield Hut houses a museum, gift shop and the world's most remote post office.

Reported on the BBC News website 4th December 2022

An Post digital stamps

Ireland became the first country late last year to launch a digital stamp. Those wishing to send an item of post buy and 'write in' stamps on envelopes. The item will have next working day delivery within Ireland and a text will be sent when an item has been delivered. However, it seems the next day delivery is only a guideline for delivery. The expression half soled and heeled might apply here as you need a pen and then have to write in by hand 12 distinct number at the top of the envelope. It has been commented that this goes against the whole idea of being digital. This type of mail is more expensive and restrictive as only items to 500 grammes can be sent. If your item is overweight you are not able to add an ordinary stamp alongside the digital version to make up the difference. *As reported on Newstalk, Ireland 3rd January 2023*

Stamp issue halted in Spain

A 75c stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the communist party of Spain, due for issue on 12th November 2022, was halted by a judge at a Madrid court just two days before issue. The stamp depicts a hammer and sickle and a red star. The lawsuit was brought by the Spanish Foundation of Christian Lawyers and an injunction was issued pending further enquiry. A member of the Communist Party of Spain (PCE) commented that the decision was 'shameful' and called the court's decision an 'attack by the heirs of the [Franco] dictatorship.'

From an item on the All About Stamps Website 6th December 2022

Looking at Perforations

The ABC of terminology came to an end in the last Bulletin and so this time something a little bit different where I (Editor) take a look at a particular topic, which hopefully members will find interesting, perhaps in some cases surprising and informative. To kick off it is small perforations.

Small perforations

The Malaya definitive stamps depicting King George VI are often known as the coconut definitive, as there are coconut palm trees either side of the King's head. This stamp holds a World Record for the smallest perforation. The 1949 issue of the stamp was made with the World's most closely spaced perforations on the vertical sides of each stamp, 18.2 holes every two centimetres using the normal philatelic notation. The horizontal sides were only slightly larger, 17.6 holes. Why was there a difference between the top and the sides? The answer is not known for certain, but it may have been related to differences in strength of the paper horizontally and vertically due to the layout of the paper fibres. The normal gauge was perf 14 and the change was made in the first batch of printings in 1948. This small type of perforation was described as 'hideous' and 'not stamp like' by some.

Back almost at the beginning of prepaid postage stamps, there were trials conducted and these showed that a gauge finer than perf 15 was too small. The Penny Red did have a gauge of perf 16 for a time, but the sheets fell apart and the perforation was reduced to 14 in 1855. It appears that

the Malaya coconut sheets did not have that problem. The holes forming the perforations are very small, about 0.55mm, compared with a more usual millimetre. One advantage of this is that there's plenty of paper between the holes and that probably helps to hold the sheet together. Research carried out has shown that the perforations are not always in a straight line and there are even variations in size from hole to hole. A single row comb perforator was utilised and the sheet was advanced a row at a time.

Information for this section on small perforations is a summary based on a piece 'Malaya's Timeless Design VIII Crown Colonies' by Lin Yangchen and published in Collectors Club Philatelist Volume 99 Number 2 Pages 99 to 102 March- April 2020.

Perforations on the stamps of France in the Empire 1853 to 1860

British stamps were issued with perforations for the first time in 1854. Some business houses in France were licensed to handle the sale of postage stamps and they used different devices to unofficially separate the stamps without having to resort to scissors. In January of 1861 the Susse Brothers, who were a firm of stationers in Paris, patented a perforating machine. Their device could perforate blocks of 50 stamps of 10 by 5 with a perf gauge of 7. The brothers hoped to obtain an official contract for perforating French stamps but this was unsuccessful. A stationer offered a machine to roulette stamps, rouletting also being known as *perce en ligne*. The device offered for sale consisted of a plate and a steel rule having perpendicular cutting teeth. The sheet of stamps was put on the plate and the ruler on top of the sheet, so that its cutting edge was aligned to the margins of the stamps. When a slight pressure was placed on the ruler, the cutting teeth used to make the cuts pierced the paper and the resulting cuts were hypen shaped. Different teeth gave different types of piercing. The Clamecy Perforation it is said can be described as being similar to the early stamps of Finland, being serpentine shape. Stamps are also said to have been perforated in Alencon, Cheroy, Evreaux and Rouen. There were other types of perforation employed on the Empire stamps including a serrated perforation, *perce en scie* which is a roulette in the form of saw teeth, the Cosne perforation which was fairly rudimentary and triangular in shape and also pin-point perforations.

Gleaned from the details in a section of Billig's Philatelic Handbook Volume 29 1949.