

The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society

Founded 1948
75th Anniversary Year

No. 463

July 2023

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

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Bulletin. The Society is sorry to report the passing of John Harrison and John Matthews. We welcome a new member, Adrian Pearson.
Margaret

Great Britain Special Stamp Programme for the remainder of 2023

13 th July	River Wildlife
10 th August	Terry Pratchett's - Discworld
5 th September	Paddington
21 st September	Music Giants - Dame Shirley Bassey
19 th October	Harry Potter
2 nd November	Christmas.

What you missed at recent Zoom meetings.....

6th February 2023 The Tower of London A talk and display by Barry Feltham

Barry started his display by giving some history. In the time of William the Conqueror there was a bailey castle on the site of the Tower of London, the aim being to dominate and control the upper pool of London. The first structure was wooden and then a stone keep was built in 1078. The White Tower was completed in 1097 and Barry pointed out that some old Roman parts can still be seen. The Tower of London was a fortress, a palace and a prison and horses were also housed there. The defence was to help repel the Vikings, who got as far as Reading. Various pictures of the Tower were shown over the years from 400 to 1700. The Great Hall was destroyed by fire on the 18th November 1834.

Barry mentioned in addition to the building being a prison, trials, executions and indeed torture were carried out at the Tower. In 1854 John Hewitt wrote the first official guide. The first philatelic item was of a Tower cancel cachet, but this was not official. In 1898 the Treasury regulations came in regarding official mail. Various examples were shown between 1904 and 1906 and blue envelopes, with the Tower of London cachet. A Tower Street cancel of 1823 was shown, a place that no longer exists. There was an official cover from 1908 which arrived the same day in Holloway. The Tower of London cachet was redrawn in 1911 because it was too big. An example from 1950, which is much smaller, was shown.

The Tower of London consists of many towers. The White Tower was completed by William Rufus and was whitewashed and includes the Chapel of Saint John. The Tower was a prison from Henry III's time. There was the Bloody Tower, 1238 to 1272, which faces the Thames. There is a passage on the ground floor and a portcullis. Sir Walter Raleigh was executed there on the 29th October 1618. Another piece of history concerns the so called Princes in the Tower

and two skeletons have been found on the site. Some Bradbury covers were shown marking this event.

The Wakefield Tower from 1220 had a basement prison in the time of Henry VI. The Byward Tower has a mediaeval wall painting, the only one, from 1390. There is gold leaf for the death of Christ but the centre of the painting is missing. The Beauchamp Tower is called after the Earl of Warwick who was held there as its first prisoner. There's graffiti on the walls by the prisoners who became bored. Ambrose Rockwood who was involved with the Gunpowder Plot was held there. There is 16th and 17th century graffiti including that of Lady Jane Grey.

The Bell Tower dates from the late 12th century and is the second oldest after the White Tower and it contains the curfew bell. The bell is used today to say that the Tower is about to close to the public. Elizabeth I was held in the Tower in 1554 and then was placed in house arrest on the 19th May that year.

Traitors Gate is the second entrance and that can only be reached as a maritime entrance, for example by Anne Boleyn and Thomas More when they were held in the Tower. Wellington drained the Moat and it was used for animal grazing. Henry VIII set up the Royal Navy at Deptford and Woolwich. The Mary Rose was launched in 1511 but famously sank in the Solent and was raised again in 1982.

There is also the Chapel of Saint Peter and Vincula and a glass memorial has been erected for those who have been executed there. The burial of famous people executed includes Queens, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, and Lady Jane Grey. There is also Tower Green and the Tower Jewels which were opened as the Crown Jewels by Queen Elizabeth II in 1994. The jewels previously had been held at Westminster Abbey. There is the 3600 carat diamond the Cullinas and the Great Star of Africa, one of the cuts, and it is estimated in value at \$400 million. There's also the Koh-i-Noor diamond in the Queen Mother's Crown which made its last appearance in 2002 at the funeral of the Queen Mother. There is a resident Governor and Keeper and pre-printed covers with official paid marks were shown.

The 2011 GB issue of the Crown Jewels on stamps were displayed and the cover was signed by the Constable of the Tower. The Royal Armouries are in the White Tower and an official cover was shown. There was a cover to the Tower dated 1970 which was redirected to the Imperial War Museum using a label.

There was an Ordnance Office entire from 1847, the 1995 Ham Street stamp set of Ordnance Survey maps and an 1842 letter from Thomas Haugh. The Yeoman Warders date from 1485 and they guard the Crown Jewels and the prisoners. The first woman Yeoman Warder was appointed in 2007. There is a Yeoman Warders Club which is not open to the public but only to the Warders and their guests.

The Ceremony of the Keys started in the 1300s and a card was shown of the ceremony and a short video. The Constable and Resident Governor lives in Queens House. He's in charge of the Yeoman Warders and is always a Field Marshall. A cover with the constable's cachet was shown. Two covers of the Constable's Office were next, 1955 with a cachet in purple and 1969 with a blue cachet. There was an invitation from Major General GW Field.

The Ravens and the Ravenmaster were discussed next. There are six ravens plus one spare. Only one was left in WWII and we were told that they are the real beefeaters! There was The Menagerie of wild animals. James I first refurbished the lions den and there was a poster depicting it in 1826. On the 1st April 1957 there was a prank for washing of lions.

The Mint was depicted by a limited edition Paddington bear 50 pence piece on cover. The Mint itself was hot and noisy and all the coins were made by hand. An economy envelope from the Constable's Office was shown and the Mint from 1812 and a registered cover from 1957. The latter was asking, 'Where is my husband?'. In World War One the Tower was used for army

training by the Royal Fusiliers. Eleven spies were held there between 1914 and 1916 and they were executed at the Tower, the last one being Carl Lody on the 6th November 1914. Britain went to war again on the 3rd September 1939 and the Crown Jewels were moved. There was a picture of a barrage balloon at the Tower and the White Tower was used by the military. There was a cover from 1940 with the Dig for Victory slogan cancel. Rudolph Hess and other high profile people have been kept in the Tower but Hess was flown to Glasgow on the 10th May 1941. Josef Jahols, a spy, was held there on the 15th August 1941. In 1946 the Tower reopened but had had been affected by bomb damage. In 2014 for the Centenary of World War One, 888,246 ceramic poppies were laid out around the Tower, one for each British military loss, and these were subsequently sold for charity. In November 2018 flames were lit to mark the end of World War One. It took some four hours to light them all.

Margaret Emerson gave the vote of thanks to Barry for a very interesting display which was illustrated with cards and covers. Members gave the usual onscreen round of applause.

6th March 2023 Members' Postcard and Postal History evening

The society is grateful to the following members who displayed material.

Des Kent: Des showed a number of items including Bininga volcanoes, postage dues and those without postage due raised, a philatelic cover and a Stratton cancellation on a postal stationary card. There were also some items from Saint Kitts, a military cover of the cavalry regiment in north Devonshire and a holiday postcard from Amsterdam, on which an image of Delft tiles made up the border.

Rodney Knight: Rodney showed items to do with Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire. He showed postcards and guidebooks, the cards having been produced by the Public Ministry of Works. Kirby Hall was designed in 1570 but by 1828 had fallen into disrepair. In 1900 the ruins were passed to the Office of Works. Rodney showed a set of sepia cards with the entrance to the hall shown. He also showed a copy of the 1937 first guidebook. There were black and white cards in 1947, fourteen in a set showing the main entrance and produced by the then Ministry of Works. There are also cards from the mid-50s, six by four inches, which were also in black and white. The Ministry of Public Buildings and Works became the Department of the Environment in 1970, when the third guide book was issued. In 1983 English Heritage took over and coloured cards and a guidebook were shown. Other pictures on cards and the 2000 guidebook were displayed.

Bob van Goethem: Bob told us that he had been a Post Office engineer and in 1962 was transferred from telephones to the television service. He showed pictures of the Post Office Tower, where he had worked in and around for six years, and cards of the construction phase. We were told some of these are rare. He also showed pictures of the Post Office Tower, some of which can sell on eBay for in excess £200. The stamp and special cancellation were also shown. Then came items referring to Goonhilly.

Margaret Emerson: Margaret showed various items of postal history from Maidstone, starting with the mark from 1781, one of the first. There was a 1793 concave mark, from 1817 a Maidstone Penny Post cancel and from the 10th November 1830, a Maidstone double dated circle. Margaret went on to explain this particular cancel was delivered with no year slug, and this example had no year or date. It is known that the 0 from this canceller was missing as well as no year numbers being issued. There was an 1840 fancy Maidstone Penny Post mark and a red Maltese cross cancelling a Penny Black on piece from the 19th December 1840. Margaret then showed an item posted in Maidstone in 1841 with a black Maltese cross for the 2nd March 1841 on a Penny Black. Then items going between Folkestone and Rye were displayed with various

cancels along this route, including skeletons and machine cancels. Margaret also showed some postcards including Folkestone Pier, the old fish market, cards of the harbour, and The Warren, which appears on many cards. Margaret then showed a Hythe cover from the 26th October 1801 which has a free frank and Hythe spelt Hithe in the cancel, from 1822 came a Hythe mileage and from 1832 a Hythe double ring. There were also cancellations for Dymchurch and Seabrook and several from New Romney starting in 1803, and then from 1835, 1844 and 1905.

3rd April 2023 Imperial Airways Experimental Transatlantic Flights

A talk and display by Bill Trower

In 1937 Imperial Airways was travelling to the 'Edges of Empire' but not the North American continent. A flight Bermuda to New York on the 16th June 1937 was flown by Captain N Cummings in a C Class Flying Boat, RMA Cavalier. It was shipped to Bermuda in pieces and reassembled there to make the flight. A red cachet was applied for the Bermuda US service, the cover being 1s 3d for half an ounce.

On the 15th November 1937 Bermuda to Baltimore was flown by Pan Am and passengers were carried on the 17th March 1938, Hamilton to Baltimore, and there was a Cavalier label. Cavalier was lost on the 21st January 1939 and it is thought that ice had affected the carburettors. The route ceased and was passed over to Pan Am. There was no passenger equipment on these planes, as extra fuel was needed, and the aircraft 'Cabot' was refuelled by a 'Harrow' bomber. The refuelling was connected manually and we were told this was quite an experiment.

A 'C' Class Canberra, Cambria, flew on the 31st July 1937 as a test flight but no mail was carried. The Mayo was a composite plane produced by Short Brothers, the lower plane was an S 21 the upper an S 20 Mercury. The Mayo Composite could carry a load and had eight engines. Francis Field suggested news reels for mail. The Daily Telegraph and the Morning Post were shown and a cachet of the first commercial flight Great Britain to USA by Pick a Back Mercury. King George VI travelled to Paris and a special edition of the Daily Mirror on the 20th July 1938 and also of the Daily Herald were shown. The pilot of Mercury pulled the lever to release the second aircraft. They flew together to Ireland and the release was made over the Atlantic and the lower aircraft was refuelled by air. A postcard of the Trans-Atlantic Airbase at Foynes was shown and this was on the opposite side of today's Shannon International Airport.

The S33C had in-flight refuelling and could carry mail. On the 5th August 1939 Caribou took 25,000 letters. This service ended in October 1939 due to the weather and not the War. Covers were shown including a French acceptance UK dispatch on the first flight, a Sweden registered envelope and first flight covers Foynes to Botwood, Newfoundland with a diamond cachet. There was a possible test item Foynes to New York. A Botwood to Montreal item dated 6th August 1939 was next and Francis Field states that only 15 were flown. The charge was 15 cents for a half ounce. A flight from Montreal, Canada to New York was unauthorised and had 11 pounds or five kilogramme of mail. An item from the 10th August 1939 on the return flight New York to Southampton Water was next, but this was actually to Poole Harbour. Then came New York to Switzerland on 10th and 11th August 1939 with a Montreal to Foynes cachet. A New York to Poole item on 10th August 1939 arrived in London on 12th and was re-directed to Hong Kong. A cover, which was an official, was rejected by Canada because it had no Canadian emblem shown. A mint example and one to Stanley Gibbons were also shown.

GPO did not backstamp Empire mail bar registered covers or mail, but there was a Montreal cachet. A Montreal to Poole 10th August 1939 cover was shown and this went on to Bangkok. It travelled to Hong Kong, Pan Am to Honolulu and then by Clipper to San Francisco. A cover from the 314 Flying Boat was not an Imperial Airways cover and this went to New Zealand. This route was not viable and ceased on 23rd September 1939.

A record-breaking long distance flight occurred on the 6th October 1938, Dundee to Cape Town but it had no payload and the floats were used as fuel tanks. Mercury was shown at Alexander Bay, a journey of 6045 miles, a seaplane record.

Wing Commander D C Bennett signed a 40th anniversary cover and there was a 50th anniversary clipping from the Scotsman, 30th September 1986 of Bennett's wife unveiling a marble monument of a tailplane. It was in fact painted timber and then covered with aluminium. The artist was Martin Rayner but this memorial only lasted to 1991. The Caithness window still exists. Some pictures and slogan cancels, for example from Perth, were shown.

An Eire stamp was issued for the 50th anniversary, 12th May 1988. 'Maia' the 1937 Flying Boat was on a stamp, showing the pylons for 'Mercury'. There is a bronze plaque on the riverside wall at Tay Discovery Point. Mercury did carry mail on 29th November 1938 with night mail Southampton to Alexandria, the so called Christmas flights. A picture of Captain Bennett from Flight Magazine was displayed and cigarette cards by Lambert and Butler depicted the loading of the mail.

In October 2008, Dundee Philatelic Society had a special hand stamp for the 70th anniversary 'Maia' and Mercury.

Margaret Emerson gave the vote of thanks and members gave an onscreen round of applause in appreciation.

15th May 2023 The Battles of Coronel and the Falklands

A talk and display by Tony Bosworth

The German fleet was ordered to go to the south coast of South America. They were commanded by Vice Admiral von Spee. On 1st November 1914, the SMS Emden was ordered to stay behind and disrupt Allied shipping in the Indian Ocean. The German crews were well trained. The British ships were under Rear Admiral Craddock, HMS Good Hope, which sunk, HMS Monmouth, also sunk, HMS Glasgow, HMS Canopus and SS Otranto. Cards were shown of the vessels. At the Battle of Coronel the British ships were outgunned and being damaged, HMS Glasgow went in to Port Stanley. Canopus did not have enough speed and so was late arriving and took no part. The SS Otranto was an armed merchant cruiser and was ordered to leave the battle and the Good Hope was lost with all hands.

Admiral von Spee was a hero in Germany and a card 'Urfere helden' was shown.

Lord Fisher was the First Sea Lord and Winston Churchill First Lord of the Admiralty. An unprepared fleet was sent under the command of Vice Admiral Doveton Sturdee. Cards of the fleet and a picture of the flagship were shown. The ships sailed for the Falklands, Invincible, Inflexible, Kent, Bristol, Glasgow, Cornwall, Caernarvon, AMC Orama and SS Macedonia. The ship HMS Canopus was on lookout and fired the first shots but stayed in Port Stanley harbour. A card of the AMC Macedonia, Armed Merchant Cruiser, was shown and it sank German colliers. Postcards of all the ships as well as Admiral von Spee and Sturdee were displayed.

The Battle of the Falklands took place on 18th December 1914. SMS Scharnhorst was sunk and von Spee went down with his ship. The tragedy of war can be seen in that both von Spee and his two sons were lost, on the SMS Nurnberg and SMS Gneiserau respectively. There was a card of the Naval flag, captioned 'Der Letzte Mann', 'The Last Man', being waved at the British. SMS Dresden on 8th December 1914 escaped the battle and sailed around for 3 months. Kent, Glasgow and AMC Arama chased the ship across to the Cocos Islands. Surgeon Dixon on HMS Kent treated some sailors from the Dresden and there was a card he sent home, with the message 'Hope to be adding another victory'. SMS Dresden

was scuttled on 14th March 1915 at Mas a Tiera. There is a memorial at Port Stanley and some cards and GVI stamps from the 1938-51 and 1953 issues were shown.

The 50th anniversary 1914-1964 was marked and there was a letter from the Governor of the Falklands to Commander M Blood from HMS Cornwall. In 1964 there was a commemorative issue sheet and a 70th Anniversary FAGA card was shown. (FAGA stands for Frederick Albert George Amos the designer.) FAGA cards show historical events and this one was for the Battle of the Falklands. For the 90th anniversary in 2004 we saw a set of stamps and a cover.

A postcard of the SMS Emden, 'The Last Corsair', which was disrupting operations in the Indian Ocean was next. The British ships would give chase to the Emden to take it away from the main fleet. There was a card of Captain von Müller, and known as 'The Swan of the East', the aim of the Asian Fleet on 7th August 1914 was to demoralize the British. Cards of the lost SS Chupra with 6000 tons of cargo and the bombing of Madras leading to the loss of 340,000 gallons of fuel oil were shown. Captain J C T Glossop was on HMAS Sydney. In total, 16 British ships and allied merchant ships were sunk. The radio installation links were destroyed, the only way of communicating. Penang Harbour was bombarded and Captain Glossop chased the Emden to North Keeling Islands, and it was badly damaged. Some 50 of the crew were sent to other islands to destroy the radio communication equipment. Their ship sunk in the Deception Islands. First Lieutenant Hellmuth von Mücke had 50 under his command. There was an old sailing ship in the harbour, the Ayesha, a three masted schooner and the men were transferred to it. They escaped for Germany and aimed for the Arabian coast, occupied by Turkey, an ally of Germany in WWI. The men transferred to SS Choising, a collier, and an image on a card showed von Mücke saluting the Ayesha. The men reached Constantinople on 23rd May 1915, but were attacked by Arabs. A card of the arrival was shown. From there they went by train to Germany and just one man was killed and two wounded. Labels were issued for the 'Heroes of the Emden', and a 50pf Weimar Republic bank note was shown. There was £3 million worth of damage to British assets, radio, oil tanks and so on.

Margaret Emerson gave the vote of thanks and members applauded in appreciation.

5th June 2023 The report of this meeting, The Polish in Exile in WWII, given by Jamie Smith, will be in the next edition of the Bulletin.

3rd July 2023 The report of this meeting, Levant, given by Julian Bagwell, will also appear in the next Bulletin.

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

These reports are for the CSPS AGM which will be held on Zoom on Monday 4th September 2023, but this opens them up to all Members and ahead of the meeting. If Members have any queries to raise or comments, either concerning what is written here or other points, then please send them to the Secretary, especially if you will not be online, by 1st September.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The CSPS is run by a team of four council members, the President/CEBS, the secretary, treasurer and postal auctioneer. Each member has a job which demands the expenditure of considerable time and effort and you will read their individual reports which will follow this report. Collectively they have kept CSPS running efficiently. I express my sincere thanks to the council members for their dedication, without which there would be no CSPS.

Robert van Goethem President

(CHIEF) EXCHANGE BRANCH SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2022-2023

I have said before that I'm by nature optimistic and the start of this season's EB confirmed it, no books. After a week or so of wondering what I could do I was surprised and delighted to receive three packets of books for circulation. In total 62 books, most of which appeared to be of high value higher than usual total book value. This proved to be the case and I've been able to make up six packets for Foreign and two GB/Commonwealth packets close to the £700 limit. These are now all on circulation. I'm greatly indebted to Richard, Mike, Bob and Elizabeth for their timely submissions.

It seems to be that with every bit of good news there is always a downside, with the Exchange Branch the downside is once again with the Royal Mail raising their rates. The new rate for the small parcel second class up to two kilogrammes is now £3.49. When I think about this cost I look again at the top corner of my daily newspaper where the cost is shown, £3, and think it is a sign of rising costs. I'm sorry that I cannot compensate by increasing the total value of the packet and which remains at £700. As the CSPS EB is only postal, these expenses have to be accepted.

Robert van Goethem (Chief) Exchange Branch Superintendent.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Whilst overall membership continues to decline, in a welcome change from the recent past, we had 3 new members this year – so welcome to Brian Stonestreet, Desmond Kent and Edith Knight. Which I take as a positive indicator that, coupled with our reasonable financial position above, means the inevitable demise of our hobby (and Society) has been greatly exaggerated – with apologies to Mark Twain!

Ian Briant

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022-2023

The past year has been business as usual as far as my role as secretary is concerned. There's the usual addition and deletion of members from the mailing list, whether it be a physical postal address or an e-mail address. It was certainly a pleasure to add the three new members to our books and another civil servant has joined our ranks in recent weeks.

It is with sadness though when I have to pass on the news of the loss of a member. All members are equal in my eyes, but one member who many people will remember from our monthly

meetings at Somerset House, is John Matthews. John had retired to the Republic of Ireland some 20 years ago now and contacted me in the midst of the pandemic to say he was in good health and still 'compos mentis', but he had just turned 80 years young. Unfortunately, his February Bulletin was returned with an An Post label marked that he was deceased.

In addition to my role as secretary, members will know that I'm also the programme secretary and the Zoom meeting chair. I'm pleased to say that I have been able to fill our online, Zoom, meetings through until March 2024. I know some members are unhappy about us not having physical meetings, but unfortunately the difficulty in obtaining an affordable venue, in London hire would run into £100s per meeting, transport disruption with the rail strikes and the cost of travel, our ageing membership and the lack of people attending, really leaves us with little alternative.

This year we reached the 75th anniversary of our Society and although there was some mention by me at our September AGM of us having a lunch and perhaps a meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London in late summer or the autumn, there was almost no interest expressed by members. At this stage nothing has been done in arranging anything.

I am willing to stand again for a further year as your Secretary.

Margaret Emerson

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 2023

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

Following my enthusiasm (or lack of it) depending how you read last year's report – we now seem to be firmly established as an on-line/postal society, with little prospect of going back to in-person meetings.

In terms of finances, the on-line shift has made my job as Treasurer simpler. Most transactions are now done electronically directly into the bank account with emails replacing expenses forms & invoices. Whilst the need for holding cash has gone, the relatively few cheques now received can be more difficult to bank as the number of branches declines and the opening times of those that remain are restricted.

In theory, therefore, there should be less chance of not balancing the books. However, in preparing these accounts, I have belatedly realised that, in correcting circulating packet figures from 2021 for the Exchange Branch Account, a small discrepancy has arisen, which I missed before the year-end figures became finalised. The result of this makes little overall difference to the accounts, as income is understated by no more than £15, at most.

Although, I have excluded the figure from these accounts, there will need to be an adjustment included next time. However, I apologise for not spotting and resolving the issue earlier.

With this caveat in mind, however, the year on year comparison shows little impact of the "cost of living crisis" so far, with the largest increase coming from the increase in Bulletin printing costs of £30. Inevitably postage costs will hit us eventually, but we have been able to mitigate the effect by advance purchase, at a discount, of non-barcoded Christmas stamps – from which, we will also benefit in the current year. Otherwise, most figures show an improvement, less on Zoom charges (Misc.) and increased income from Library sales and membership fees. NB. I have now amended "Meeting Auction Commission" to "Members Sales Commission" – which is where I have now posted further income from Ron Oughton's sales.

The accounts are shown overleaf.

EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Although, we now have some income from the circulating packets again – Commission & Insurance (plus a Postal Auction profit) – this is partly offset by postage costs but, more significantly, moving Ron Oughton sales to “business as usual” in the General Account. As a result, the EB Balance to the General Account is a more modest £81 and consequently the overall “loss” to the Society has risen to £183.

Ian Briant

POSTAL AUCTIONEER`S REPORT 2022-2023

Last year's Postal Auction was a great success, we had 9 members send in a total of 339 lots for sale, of which 134 lots sold. This gave the society a profit of £113, which is the highest profit since I took over as Postal Auctioneer. Thank you for your continued support. I'm happy to carry on as your Postal Auction should the members wish.

Steve Daniels

BULLETIN EDITOR`S REPORT 2022-2023

As I've mentioned before, the production of the Bulletin for Members is a fairly routine procedure. As always, I am grateful to the Members who have made comments after receiving their Bulletin and to those who send me articles and pieces to include. I am as always grateful to Mike Whiffin who maintains the website for us.

Catford Print Centre continue to provide us with excellent service regarding the printing of the Bulletin twice per year. We still receive a discount for paying with our order. Their prices have increased, but name something that hasn't increased in cost over the last year or two, but I feel that they still give us excellent value for money and good service, so it is a case of sticking with what we know.

I am willing to stand again this year as your Bulletin Editor.

Margaret Emerson

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - The following are willing to stand for another year in post and will be put forward for election at the AGM in September.

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

CIVIL SERVICE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
31-Jan-2023

2021/22	<u>Liabilities</u>	2022/23	2021/22	<u>Assets</u>	2022/23
£		£	£		£
3,224	Balance as at 1st February b/f	3094.76	7,442	Bank of Scotland	7,398.28
(129)	Surplus from General Account	(183.45)	232	Treasurer	41.69
	Balance as at 31 January c/f	2911.31	(50)	Uncashed cheques	(50.00)
			1,843	Unbanked cheques	1,864.55
	<u>Creditors</u>				9254.52
6,967	EB Insurance Fund	7063.19		<u>Debtors</u>	
(550)	EB Deposits	(550.00)	Nil	Postal auction startup	Nil
0	Accruals - Printing & Postage	(125.00)			
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			
		6343.21			
9,467	<u>Totals</u>	9254.52	9,467	<u>Totals</u>	9254.52

<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>					
2021/22	<u>Expenditure</u>	2022/23	2021/22	<u>Income</u>	2022/23
£		£	£		£
376	Bulletin inc. postage	427.76	Nil	Bank Interest	0.00
Nil	Council expenses	0.00	10	Subscriptions	30.00
Nil	Library	Nil	Nil	Member Sales Commission	97.92
44	Postage, telephone & stationery	0.96	Nil	Donations	0.00
Nil	Affiliation fees	Nil	Nil	Miscellaneous - Gains/(Losses)	0.00
Nil	Corporation Tax	Nil	67	Library Sales	83.99
94	Miscellaneous	47.96			
			308	Balance from Exchange Branch	81.32
(129)	Surplus (Loss) of Income over Expenditure	(183.45)			
385	<u>Totals</u>	293.23	385	<u>Totals</u>	293.23

<u>EXCHANGE BRANCH ACCOUNT</u>					
2021/22	<u>Expenditure</u>	2022/23	2021/22	<u>Income</u>	2022/23
£		£	£		£
Nil	Printing & Stationery	0.00	323	Commission on Sales	117.57
Nil	Postage & Telephone	49.25	Nil	Sale of approval books & hinges	0.00
100	Postal Auction Printing, Postage & Stationery	100.00	Nil	Bank Interest	0.00
			85	Postal Auction	113.00
308	Balance to General Account	81.32			
408	<u>Totals</u>	230.57	408	<u>Totals</u>	230.57

<u>EXCHANGE BRANCH INSURANCE FUND</u>					
2021/22	<u>Expenditure</u>	2022/23	2021/22	<u>Income</u>	2022/23
£		£	£		£
2	Exchange Branch Sundry Losses	3.74	6,948	Balance as at 1 February b/f	6967.17
Nil	Transfer to General Account	0.00	21	Exchange Branch premiums	99.76
0	Insurance Fund claims paid	0.00			
6,967	Balance of Fund as at 31 January c/f	7063.19	0	Exchange Branch sundry gains	0.00
6,969	<u>Totals</u>	7066.93	6,969	<u>Totals</u>	7066.93

The Council of the CSPS have examined these accounts and are satisfied that are a true reflection of the finances of the Society.

Snippets of News

Cash at the Post Office

It was reported in the Daily Mail on 12th June that £3.33 billion of notes and coins were handled at Post Office counters in May 2023, an eighth month high. Personal cash withdrawals amounted to £817 million, up 7.5 per cent on the previous month. The Post Office says this shows the branches are important to the leisure and hospitality sectors for banking money, as they see a peak in their trade at this time of year. The article reported that the Post Office is in partnership with 30 banks, building societies and credit unions. Despite bank branch closures, leaving some communities with no banks at all, this still means around 99 per cent of bank customers can complete their banking business at a Post Office.

Guatemala stamps

A free online catalogue 'The Stamps and Postal Stationery of Guatemala' is available on <https://www.guatemalstamps.com/> , maintained by the International Society of Guatemala Collectors.

Jeffery Matthews MBE

Jeffery Matthews, the designer of British stamps, has died aged 95. His name will always be recalled regarding the Machin definitives. Jeffery also designed the photogravure-printed high values of 1977, choosing a combination of two colours for each value.

Jeffery was first invited by the Post Office to submit design ideas for the General Letter Office 300th anniversary set in 1960, but it was not until 1965 that the first stamps he designed were issued. His other work included designing the logo and the large 50p stamp for the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition, Christmas stamps in 1980, and the Flower Photographs of Alfred Lammer in 1987.

Looking at Perforations

Perforations big and small and some notes

Brazil has issued a stamp with a perforation of just 5.5 on a 300 Reis stamp, which was one of the perforations used on their postal stationery. This was probably a guideline rather than for separation of the stamps. The smallest gauge perforation on a Brazilian stamp is perf 48, which can only be measured using a magnifying glass! In either case, a standard perforation gauge will be useless.

The number of perforations is measured over a length of 2 centimetres. When considering perforations, if the holes are too far apart, the stamps will not separate easily and can be torn in the process, but if the holes are too close together, the stamp in a pane or sheet can separate and fall apart after some handling. A stamp that is perforated 11 by 10 will have 11 perforation holes per 2 centimetres at the top and bottom of the stamp and 10 perforations per 2 centimetres at the sides. Stamps can have perforations of a different gauge top and bottom from those at the sides and these are termed "compound perforations."

Most perforations are round holes, but some stamps have been perforated with oblong or rectangular holes and these are called "hyphen-hole perforations." Self-adhesive stamps are manufactured on what is known as release paper, the backing paper, so they are not attached to each other in the pane. Each die-cut stamp is therefore separated from adjoining stamps and any selvage, so all that has to be done is to peel it from the release or backing paper for it to be used.

Postal History and Postmarks

Recent postmarks – The Coronation 6th May 2023

This £2.20 Worldwide rate King Charles III definitive has been cancelled on 5th May by the 'Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla 6th May 2023' machine cancellation. A nice addition to a Royal collection!



Royal Mail chosen charity cancellation

When a special cancellation is not being used the default this year is the 'British Heart Foundation Royal Mail supporting heart health with BHF bhf.org.uk', the chosen charity of Royal Mail.



CSPS Zoom meetings

Each meeting formally starts at 1930 but the Zoom host will be online from 1915. Those who have expressed an interest in joining will receive an email from the Secretary 5 to 7 days ahead of the meeting with the joining instructions. More members are always welcome so do get in touch if you would like to join. Meeting dates for the next few months are as follows:

4th September 2023 AGM and Members' Displays

2nd October The Life and Times of the 1f 50 Pertain Issue of WWII Mick Bister

6th November Mail between the Netherlands and Great Britain Philip Longbottom

4th December 2023 King Charles III Margaret Emerson

January 2024 – No meeting

5th February 2024 Nineteenth Century Illustrated Postcards Adrian Pearson

4th March 2024 Paris Pneumatic Post Andy Soutar

Subsequent meetings will be on 8th April, 13th May, 3rd June and 1st July 2024. If anyone would like to display or knows of a speaker, then please let the Secretary know.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Members are strongly advised to confirm the dates and venues with the event organisers.

21st to 22nd July 2023 York Stamp and Coin Fair The Grandstand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX, England

23rd September 2023 HAMPEX 2023 Wickham Centre, Mill Lane Wickham PO17 5AL
10am to 4.30pm

27th September to 30th September 2023 Autumn Stampex BDC Islington

30th September 2023 Grampian Stamp and Postcard Fair
Queens Cross Parish Church, Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN

East Malling Stamp Fairs 2023

29th July, 30th September and 25th November 9.30am to 3pm.
East Malling Village hall, New Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6DD. Free admission.

Maidstone and Mid-Kent PS Stamp Fair

11th November 2023 9.30am to 3pm, also 14th April and 10th November 2024. Free admission.
Grove Green Community Centre, Penhurst Close, Grove Green, Maidstone, ME14 5BT.

This Bulletin is printed by Catford Print Centre