

Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation

Newsletter

December 2017

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS TO YOUR MEMBERS – THEY DO PAY A SUBSCRIPTION FOR THIS

Federation A G M

The annual meeting was held at Arbury on 11th November.

Bill Gibb took the chair for his last meeting as President after an excellent two years in which time he was invited to visit most of our societies including those at the extremities of our region.

The treasurer, Richard Husband, presented his 'inspected' accounts which showed a loss for the year of £427, £241 of which was due to societies having a 9/12 discount in subscriptions with our financial year being changed. He predicted a loss of between £150 and £200 for 2017/8.

The main item of discussion focussed on competitions and particularly, the proposed changes for 2019 onwards. These were passed unanimously.

In a nutshell, the structure of competitions will change thus:

The 9 sheet inter-society classes will continue as now **BUT with only one entry per society**, instead of the current two.

There will be **16 sheet competitions every year for ALL classes** recognised by the ABPS including:
traditional, postal history, thematic, aerophilately, open class, postal stationery, cinderellas, revenues and picture post cards.

The trophies awarded for these competitions and that for the winning society will be retained.

In the 16 sheet classes, a new winner's certificate will be awarded, while all other entrants will receive certificates as now. Completed mark sheets will continue to be produced to help competitors see where more marks may be gained as a result of the judging process.

It is further proposed to alter our mark schemes as it is felt that at Federation level 30 marks for rarity is too many and good presentation and research should be given greater importance.

Decisions on this will be made at the next Federation committee meeting in January prior to the launch of the 2018 competitions at the end of that month.

(Comments should be sent to Mike Kentzer -mike.kentzer@gmail.com.)

At the end of the A G M Bill Gibb handed over the Presidency to Terry Wagg. Mike Kentzer was elected Vice President while all other officers remain the same, a hard working team.



WHEN DID YOU LAST VISIT OUR WEBSITE ? mapf.co.uk

Stamp Day.

Whittlesford 2nd September

An excellent day was enjoyed by only 17 delegates as Terry Wagg FRPSL entertained us with a **PowerPoint display** followed by two fine and different exhibits based on the West Indies' island of Dominica by Simon Richards FRPSL (Oxford P S). As well as the main displays a selection of entries from July's Convention were on show and changed during the day. About two thirds of those present popped out to a local pub/hotel for pre-ordered lunches and with the use of our own room this was a most sociable gathering.

Terry showed us the life story and some of the finest engravings of the **Polish engraver Czelaw Slania** who was born in 1921. From his earliest days he had a reputation for 'mischief' such as when he made his own snack vouchers for use at school and tickets for boxing matches – his favourite sport – to watch!

His early work often featured his humour such as when he used his own image on a Polish stamp fitting a tyre on a car in a factory. He also engraved the names of family and friends into stamp designs. At the height of the Communist period in Poland he was a supporter of opposition parties and this may have been the reason for his 'escape' to Sweden. **But what about exit visas and passports they were unobtainable at the time!!**

Eventually he was able to take over as the Swedish Post Office's main engraver, brought about largely by a series of engraved labels he made of film stars and heavyweight boxers. Over the next 5 decades he was to **engrave 1070 stamps for various countries, including GB. He also engraved major parts of bank notes.**

In all a wonderful presentation, backed up by 90 sheets of his best work, Terry gave us a superb beginning to the day.

He has since been asked to consider entering a four or five frame exhibit of Slania for the 2018 Australian 'Stampex'.



After tea and coffee **Simon Richards FRPSL** took us south and west to **Dominica**, purported to have first been sighted by Columbus on his second voyage.

The early years of mail from the island were continually affected by wars such as the American War of Independence and the problems with France with the Revolution and of course Napoleon's campaigns, particularly as Dominica's two neighbours were Guadeloupe – to the north and Martinique to the south. In fact the island was occupied by the French from 1778 -1782.

The **earliest known letter** from Dominica sent to London in **1763** was shown as were early **ship letters from 1776**. In 1790 a two **line DOMINICA** strike was introduced followed by a single **line** version. Later covers from 1815 included **undated fleuron marks** and (London) additional half strikes together with **rare ship letter marks for Bright/Helm/Stone (Brighton) and Sidmouth**.

By 1799 it had become clear that ship owners and traders were presenting **fraudulent insurance claims** for ships and cargoes that had either already been lost at sea or never sailed. Thus a request went to London for a **dated hand stamp** – known as **the Freeling** – which was received back on the island in record time. Mail was often either lost at sea or to pirates and privateers and still in the 1830s it was common practice to send duplicate letters to ensure their arrival, even though by then the royal navy had taken over responsibility for letters in 1823.

British stamps cancelled with 'A 07' were in use between 1858 and April 1860 when Dominica took control of its posts. The **island's first stamps** the **1d lilac** the **6d green** and **1/- magenta** **did not appear until 1874**. These were present along with several interesting usages. Three years later the same values were reprinted with a **change of perforation** and in 1879 the addition of three **new values for UPU: 2½d red-brown, 4d blue and 1/- magenta**. We saw essays and proofs, overprints and bisects both as stamps and on cover.

In 1890, in order to save money on the production of stamps for five islands: Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Montserrat and St Kitts-Nevis, the **Federal Colony of the Leeward Islands decided that** individual island issues be replaced by Leeward Island stamps the first of which was a **set of 8 stamps from the ½d to 5/-**. These were followed in **1897** by the stamps being specially hand struck to commemorate **Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee** and then by **three 1d overprints on the 4d, 6d and 7d stamps** which were surcharged in Antigua. There was concurrent use of both sets of issues until 1903 and examples of such usages were on show.

In 1903 a new Dominican stamp design was issued featuring the **town and port of Roseau** from the sea. **In 1907/8 the 10 values were re-issued on Crown CA paper, replacing the earlier Crown CC.** The 5/- value differed in that it featured the head of Edward VII. Again we had die proofs and a wonderful pre-printing sheet from De La Rue with manuscript instructions for minute alterations. There were several varied usages of this issue on view. A further issue of the 'Roseau' stamps was produced with a multiple **Crown script CA watermark** and this design remained in use until 1923, albeit with a change to multiple script CA in **1921-22**. The 5/- value featured George V from 1914. In 1918 two values were overprinted '**WAR TAX**' – the 1/2d and 3d. In the following year another War Tax stamp was issued incorporating a new value of 1½d.

1923 saw the introduction of the **21 stamps featuring George V facing a device from the island seal** – the 'twin medallions' - with values to £1.

Again we had not only the stamps as issued but with many usages including early air mails sent first by ship to Antigua, though for a brief period they went via St Lucia. These air mails were carried by the U.S. FAM 6 route.



The afternoon session was quite different in that it offered 6 x 15 sheet displays showing a variety of approaches to collecting a country, in this case Dominica.

George VI definitives – not just the basic values but rejected De La Rue essays, pinhole specimens, blocks of four of several values showing the four different printings with exhibited remarkable consistency despite WW2 and, of course some covers, including sent to Australia and the Falklands during the war.

Leeward Island issues – from 1890 onwards, with die proofs, covering the four reigns from QV to Geo VI, with registered covers, including George VI from the brief period from 1938 to December 1939, before Dominica left that Confederation.

Wars and censorship – here were hand stamps and envelope seals with 3 designs and both red and black printing used.

Postal stationery – QV to Geo V period covered – with specimens, used examples, some uprated and used items to GB and Holland.

Local post marks – a selection of stamps with clear village cancels from the original early 20th century 14 post offices in the island's 12 parishes. Later items into the QEII period traced the spread of post offices into the modern era.

Picture post cards – monochrome examples (30) from 1903 onwards showing a variety of views, harbours, the tropical vegetation and locals were well written up and provided yet another angle on collecting Dominica.



After a vote of thanks from President, Bill Gibb, certificates were awarded to the two speakers followed by a raffle, with Simon Richards shown to the left.

This was a wonderful day, well received by those fortunate enough to attend. It was therefore a shame that only 17 people were able to make it to Whittlesford, and sad to reflect on the poor support from local societies.

Autumn Stampex 2017

Once again the ABPS put on a grand show which included, as usual, plenty of fine displays and competition entries. The largest display was put up by the Sarawak Specialists Society whose 150 frames were rather well supplied by Jon Higgins 31 frames in 9 separate displays, two of which were competitive entries. We also entered the InterFed competition where each Federation could offer 3 entries from 3 different classes.

Individual competition entries

Traditonal:

Philip Waud	(Bedford)	GB: The 4d Jubilee QV stamp	90 Large Gold
Jon Higgins	(King's Lynn)	Queens Head issue of Labuan, 1879-94	87 Gold

Postal History

Mike Kentzer	(King's Lynn)	King's Lynn pre-stamp postal history	77 Vermeil
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Thematic

Wojciech Kierstan	(Grantham)	Mucha, his art on the stamps of Czechoslovakia	68 Silver
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Open Philately

Jon Higgins	(King's Lynn)	The Railway in North Borneo and Sabah	74 Large Silver
Terry Wagg	(King's Lynn)	The life's work of Czelaw Slania	70 Large Silver
Wojciech Kierstan	(Grantham)	Operation Anthropoid	68 Silver

The InterFed competition

John Sims	(Huntingdon)	The mail carrying flights of C T P Ulm	85 Gold
Colin Hepper	(Peterborough)	Nepal: negative postal seals	73 Large Silver
Stuart Ross	(King's Lynn)	Nyasaland: 1953 Revenue overprints	81 Large Vermeil

Our Federation's total points score was 239 which put us 6th out of 8, 14 points behind the winners, Hampshire, and 16 points above Sussex in 8th. A very good first effort and our grateful thanks to our representatives.

It was also pleasing note that immediate past president, **David Belton**, was on one of the panels of judges which assessed the InterFed competitions.

Society Reports

Isle of Ely

Chris North arranged a season of 11 meetings with a wide range of topics. Mike Brindle started in September with a wide variety of material from Belgium which was rather eye opening. Sleaford's Pam Hiscock introduced us to the world's third oldest profession – Pirates – with stamps, covers and ephemera, and not just a few stories!

In November Dr Simon Kelly entertained the society with 'an evening with newspapers' which included newspaper stamps, wrappers and deliveries. The Christmas meeting was most sociable with Terry Wagg putting on a display of Christmas mail and cards. The New Year saw the first society auction run by Terry Wagg and Mike Kentzer, which was run while the society's competitions were being judged.

'Shipping Issues' was the February subject presented by Val Roberts which covered a diverse range of ship related material and stories. March saw the society venturing over to Huntingdon P S, while the month's home fixture was the President's choice and he had invited Bill Gibb, Federation President, to put on a wonderful selection of Commonwealth Fiscals and revenues. In April a fine display of 'Birds of Prey' was given by Richard Page who's enthusiasm for the subject was reflected in his material and its presentation. Later that month the society held its annual dinner at Ely Golf Club. Philip Ilsley from King's Lynn showed QV Jubilees and George V stamps in May with great enthusiasm and the 'year' ended with the AGM and a bourse. **Val Roberts**

Huntingdonshire (first half of the season)

The 2016/17 season began with President John George presenting a wide ranging display of the Sudan starting with overprints of Egyptian stamps, first issues and overprints, TPOs, military FPOs, censor marks, military telegraph stamps and some commemorative issues.

Later that month members displayed items beginning with F and B. Displays included BOAC air mails, fungi, Fiji, Fujeira, Belize, Barbuda and British Honduras and Local postal history.

In October Lorraine Maguire brought a selection of Australia and New Zealand starting with the award of the mail contract to P & O in 1888 and traced the carriage of mail up to World War 1 and the requisitioning of many of the ships, mostly as hospital ships. Later mail included items related to the Assisted Passage Migration scheme. Throughout the display there were many examples of advertising, ships' menus and passenger lists.

M and V were the subject of the next gathering with such areas as Victoria State, the Mallard locomotive, Mogul and Marshall tractor advertising and 'mail for free'. Adrian Boggust entertained in November with a fine display of Newfoundland, Britain's oldest colony. Starting with their own first issue in 1857 Adrian showed a wide range of later issues with air mail overprints (1919) through the reign of George V and VI together with TPOs and first flight covers, up to 1949 when Newfoundland joined the confederation of Canada.

Peter Pugh showed his impolitely display of the early years of the Trans-Siberian Railway giving an entertaining display showing the construction of the line from China to Siberia and the motive power used. An early start to the carrying of mail in 1903, including to the UK, was halted by the Japanese-Russian War, but started up again in 1907. December saw the Christmas meeting with members invited to display anything to go with mince pies.

Society Programmes

December

5	Hinckley	Members' night – Christmas theme	
5	N Herts (S)	Ethiopia	Simon Kelly

6	Spalding	Egg Cup Christmas social	
6	Cambridge	Christmas party	
6	Grantham	Kirk Hillard Cup – annual club competition; Christmas social	
6	Grimsby	GRAND CHARITY AUCTION	
7	Fenland	Bring & Buy	
7	Isle of Ely	Christmas social; members to display 9 sheets	
7	Peterborough	Christmas social and members displays	
7	Northamptonshire	Warren Trophy – ‘Instructional Marks’; 10 sheets	
7	Kettering	Christmas Fun Night	
8	King’s Lynn	Christmas Special	John Shaw
11	Sheringham	Annual competition and Christmas buffet	
12	Huntingdon	Members display anything to go with mince pies	
13	Leiston	Quiz; a guest’s display	
13	Bedford	Christmas social & Egg Cup	
13	N Herts (R)	Anything – not necessarily philatelic	
15	N Herts (L)	Members’ recent acquisitions + cake and mince pies	
19	Hinckley	Christmas party; single sheet & open class competitions	
20	Leighton Buzzard	‘starting with A,B or C	(afternoon)
20	Leighton Buzzard	Christmas social at Milton Keynes P S	(evening)
20	Grimsby	Ships	Chris Carter
21	N Herts (H)	Members’ displays with mince pies and stollen	

January

2	N Herts (S)	Stevenage P.O. Cup/Exchange and Mart	
3	Spalding	Members’ recent acquisitions	
3	Cambridge	Members’ evening: letters N, O and P	
3	Grimsby	Members’ evening: new additions	
4	Peterborough	President’s choice	
4	Northamptonshire	Tristan Brittan entertains	
4	Fenland	Norfolk and Lynn Squit	Paul Lascelles
4	Isle of Ely	Competitions; Packets & bourse	
8	Sheringham	Members’ exchange evening	
9	Hinckley	Members’ night : Connections with the Pacific	
9	Huntingdon	British West Africa	Bill Gibb
10	Bedford	Members’ evening	
10	N Herts (R)	Isle of Man	David Belton
12	King’s Lynn	Seahorses on cover	Mike Kentzer
		GB: George VI postal history	Terry Wagg
17	Leighton Buzzard	Visit from St Albans & Harpenden P S	
17	Grimsby	Rodger Johnson & John Lacey entertain	
18	Peterborough	Members’ afternoon: material from the ‘back of the book’	
18	N Herts (H)	Europe - members	
19	Cambridge	GB: line engraved	Graham Wylde
23	Hinckley	East Germany, 1945-1965	Tony Strelitz
23	Spalding	Society auction	

23	Huntingdon	Competition night; committee's displays
24	Leiston	Members' display evening
26	King's Lynn	Members' evening: recent acquisitions; bring & buy
26	N Herts (L)	T is for? Ron Sax Trophy – 9 sheet local competition Exchange & Mart

February

1	Fenland	GB: surface printed postal history	Graham Wylde
1	Peterborough	Something old and new	Alan Berrisford
1	Isle of Ely	Society auction	
1	Northamptonshire	President's evening	
6	Hinckley	Visit from Stratford on Avon P S	
6	N Herts (S)	Devonport	David Belton
7	Spalding	'J' is for ...; monthly competition	
7	Cambridge	Gold Coast	John Powell
7	Grimsby	Hospice Presentation and Bring & Buy``	Dave McMann
9	King's Lynn	5 frames by 4 members	
10	King's Lynn	Society's 80 th anniversary celebration	
12	Sheringham	Annual General Meeting followed by silent auction	
14	Bedford	Competition evening + allsorts + bourse	
14	N Herts (R)	Stephenson Trophy; members' one frame displays	
15	Peterborough	More thematics	Colin Hepper
15	N Herts (H)	Canada	Mr D Scoot
16	Cambridge	Competition evening; display by Ray Revell	
20	Hinckley	Members' night – my other interests	
21	Leighton Buzzard	Nine sheets judged competition; society auction	
21	Grimsby	Bernard Hall and Dave McMann entertain	
22	Fenland	Art in miniature	Chris Nursey
23	King's Lynn	Commonwealth in the Antarctic, 1945-65	Brian Clayton
23	N Herts (L)	Canadian air mails	Mr D Scoot
27	Spalding	Annual competitions, monthly competition & bring & buy	
27	Huntingdon	Cape of Good Hope	Peter Hannath
		Classic stamps	Adrian Boggust
28	Leiston	Competition evening; the letter 'O'; bourse	

Stamp Fairs

December

2	Redbourn Village Hall (St Albans)	AL3 7LW	07710 683122
3	Bedford, St Marks Church Hall	MK41 7UY	01623 621143
3	Hopton Village Hall (Norfolk)	NR31 9BE	01502 563759
3	Potters Bar (Mount Grace School)	EN6 1EZ	01303 238807
9	King's Lynn (Gaywood Church Rooms)	PE30 4DZ	01328 829318
9	Northampton The Abbey Centre	NN4 0RZ	01283 820151
17	Slip End Village Hall (Luton)	LU1 4BU	07710 683122

January

21	Norwich (Brook Hotel)	NR5 9JB	01328 829318
21	Peterborough (Holiday Inn)	PE3 6SG	01945 700594

February

4	Bedford (St Marks Church Hall)	MK41 7UY	01623 621143
4	Hopton Village Hall (Norfolk)	NR31 9BE	01502 563759
10	King's Lynn (Gaywood Church Rooms)	PE30 4DZ	01328 829318
13	Cambridge (Arbury Centre)	CB4 2LD	01223 355004

Society Contacts

Bedford	Julie Barnard	01234 765092
Cambridge	Peter Morton	01223 263946
East Anglian P H S	John Copeland	01277 218128
Fenland	Richard Lewis	01945 700594
Grantham	Martin Lodge	01400 282855
Grimsby	David McMann	01472 887523
Hinckley	Bob Mason	01455 250745
Huntingdonshire	Mick Twinn	01480 383103
Isle of Ely	Chris North	01354 659358
Kettering	Gordon Tregidgo	01536 746800
King's Lynn	Terry Wagg	01485 544743
Leighton Buzzard	John Spencer	01525 370745
Leiston	Andy Soutar	01394 460901
Loughborough	Rowland Tatton	01509 268073
Luton	Fin O'Donoghue	01582 453244
Northamptonshire	Paul Boniface	01604 452128
Peterborough	Alan Berrisford	01733 567527
Rushden	Malcolm Whitehead	01933 350646
Rutland	Dave Lucas	01664 474596
Sheringham	Jim Farrell	01263 721043
Sleaford U3A	Lew Patterson	01529 307220
Spalding	Frank Wilson	01775 766117

MAPF Committee - Officers

President	Terry Wagg	King's Lynn
Vice President	Mike Kentzer	King's Lynn
Secretary	Peter Morton	Cambridge
Treasurer	Richard Husband	Cambridge
Competitions' secretary	Mike Kentzer	King's Lynn
Webmaster	David Alford	North Hetrs

Committee members

Bill Gibb (Past President)

David Belton

Jon Higgins

John Spencer

Huntingdonshire

North Herts

King's Lynn

Leighton Buzzard

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