

MID ANGLIA PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Newsletter

December 2014

Welcome to our second newsletter which we hope to keep producing on a quarterly basis.

As the nights draw in it is pleasing to hear that some societies are finding their meetings very well attended. It is also heartening to learn that there are members in our clubs who are prepared to 'have a go' at entering competitions for the first time and so being encouraged to develop their own interests further.

The Federation has been busy with the Federation Day, it's AGM and the two day training seminar for judges – reports below. We are always hoping to hear from member societies as to how we can better help them to offer the best from the Federation. That is not to say that the committee is the fount of knowledge, rather that we can act as a resource to find assistance where required. So do please keep in touch. Mike Kentzer, Editor email: mike.kentzer@gmail.com

Federation Stamp Day at Tempsford

After a welcoming cup tea or coffee, the day got off to a prompt start with our speaker for the day, Michael Pitt-Payne, being introduced and launching straight into the first of three excellent and different displays.

1. UK mail to France - 1727 - 1900

With two covers from the early 18th century it was soon clear how complicated the postal rates were with payments due in both the United Kingdom and France, where charges were made to London, from London to Calais and then to wherever in France. At this time mail was rarely prepaid and so postage due was collected on delivery. This, of course, meant complex accounting was required on both sides of the Channel.

The French Revolution added complications and indeed for a number of years around the turn of the 19th century no mails travelled officially between the two countries. There was a further suspension of mail during the months leading up to Waterloo and for some time thereafter.

Many superb covers were shown showing the routes and rates charged and the changes brought about by various treaties and conventions, particularly those agreed in 1836 and 1843. In the former new arrangements included such aspects as stage payments e.g. prepaid mail, or mail part paid to Calais or monies collected in France by the postman delivering the letter, while the latter provided for a more uniform single rate to France with 5d being charged for each half of the journey. This led, in 1848, to the production of the 10d embossed stamp for fully prepaid mail. The introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in January 1840 had led to the dropping of any charge for letters to France for their carriage to London.

In 1855 the postal charge was reduced to 4d for each part of the journey for ¼ oz letter, a fee for registered mail was introduced at a further 4d and arrangements were put in force to cover underpaid mail.

New times were brought in for the closing of post offices; late mail could be accepted by the post master for an extra 1d 'late fee'. However, many such fees ended up in the post master's pocket and so compulsory marking of late charges was enforced. Again many fine examples of covers and entires were shown to illustrate these changes.

Postage costs were further reduced in 1870, when the 4d rate was cut to 3d, while at the same time the weight of a letter could be increased to 1/3 oz. At a meeting in Berne in 1874, many countries reached agreement on new, simpler charges for international mail, particularly for transit mail. Tax marks were introduced along with regulations for foreign post card rates, printed paper rates and letter cards.

2. Postage Due Mail

The 1812 Post Office Act brought in new postal rates, starting with a charge of 4d for a single sheet for a trip of up to 30 miles, rising to 1/- for up to 300 miles and a 1d extra for each 100 miles thereafter. These rates remained in force until December 1839 with the introduction of the short-lived Uniform 4d Post.

During this period most letters were paid for by the recipient, so charges were handwritten on the covers in black. If prepaid, red ink was used. Where a letter had to be re-directed then a further charge became payable.

From 10th January 1840 when the Uniform Penny Post came in, the charge was to be prepaid, thus saving time for the post man on his round. If the postage was not prepaid, then the post man had to collect the fee which was 2d – i.e. the notion of a double rate was established .

Several 'instructional' marks were introduced such as 'more to pay', 'over ½ oz' and 'postage unpaid'. An additional charge of 1d was introduced as a flat rate re-direction fee, unless this was within the same postal district, when there was no charge and a 'R' in a circle with a crown mark was used.

From 1870 printed papers could be sent at a special rate as long as no letters were included. To ensure this such papers had to be handed in at Post Offices unbound to allow checking for infringements of the regulations. Printed post cards were also permitted from this time as long as certain restrictions were followed, otherwise the cheaper rate was doubled. In 1887 re-direction charges were abolished and a ½d charge was introduced for 'return to sender'. Private post cards were permitted from 1894, subject to regulations, after pressure from printing companies wanting to benefit from tourism. A hand stamp of '1d' plus the use of the town's station number was used for a number of years to indicate wrongful use of post cards.

The 20th April 1914 saw the first use of postage due stamps, charged at double the deficiency rate, however, the post man was required to pay for the monies he was due to collect from his own purse, to ensure that these fees were duly collected.

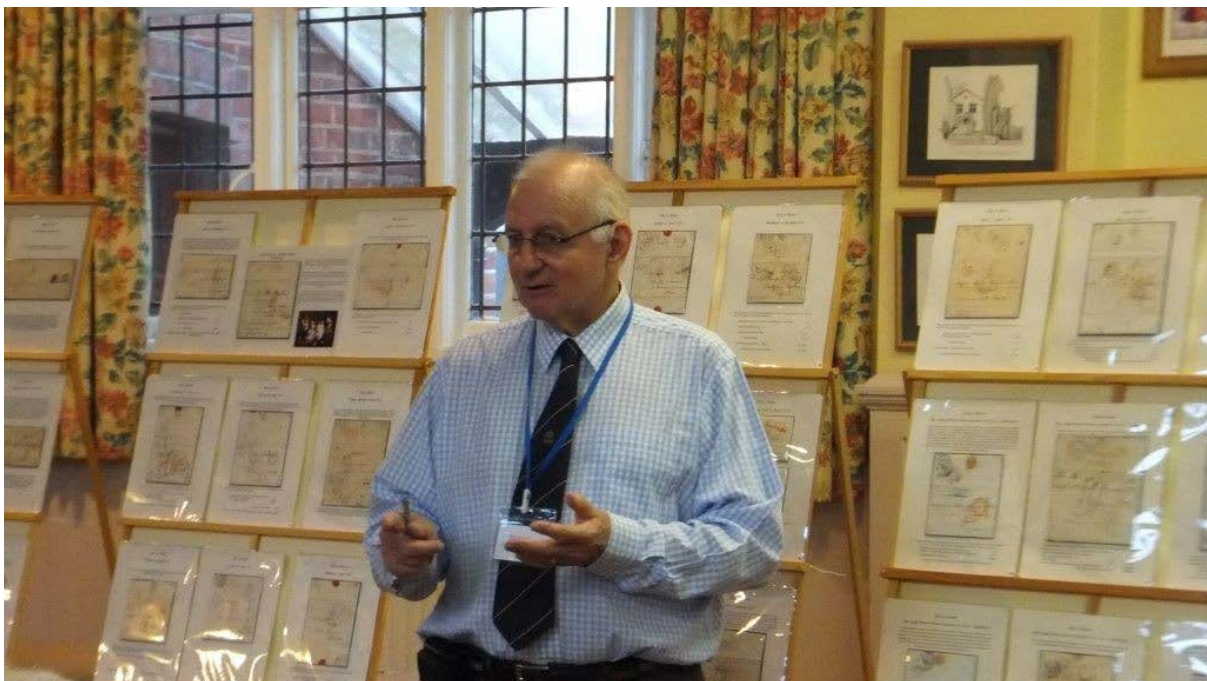
Where there was disallowed writing on the front of a post card, or its illustration was textured, it was charged as a letter and a 'T' mark was applied and postage due stamps affixed. If a letter was marked with blue lines or contained inclusions – such as coins – then it was treated as registered

post and charged 3d. During the first World War there was often a shortage of postage stamps in the conflict area and so incoming mail from the armed forces was only charged 1d.

Travelling Post Offices permitted the collecting of 'late mail' for which an extra charge was made. When this was unpaid then postage due stamps were used. Incomplete meter marks were also subject to postage dues.

The 15th February 1971 saw the decimalisation of our currency and with it new designs of postage due stamp with the new values; these had been released in stages from June 1970. Old currency stamps remained valid until 13th March 1972 and thereafter they were a cause of underpayment. Sadly, by the time the third design of decimal postage dues was launched, plans were already afoot to phase out their use all together. In 1973 the fee charging regime changed. From then on the unpaid postage became due together with a 'handling fee'. Initially this worked out as 13p (postage) plus 10p and, for a while at least, this was cheaper than the previous double rate approach. Handling charges increased so that in 2001 it was 50p, 80p in 2002 and in 2004 it was further increased to £1.

And now you have to go to your local sorting office to collect the item as well!



The photograph shows Michael Pitt-Payne enthraling the audience

3. Social Philately

In the afternoon there followed a wonderful collection of postal history superbly researched and written up with many illustrations. The first part of the display related to Reginald Bray, known as the man who posted himself. He was obsessed with the Post Offices rules and regulations and went out of his way for many years to test and tease the Post Office. For example he used pictograms to create the addresses on letters, used post marks for the same purpose, tried posting a rabbit's skull

with postage stamps attached and many, many more ruses. He sent requests for autographs to thousands of famous people, collecting about 10 000. In all, he sent some 30 000 items between around 1900 and 1935. Examples of these were shown.

A letter was displayed that had been sent 'Free' from Lord Clifford who was the first Catholic member in Parliament (Upper House) and research had provided his life story, that of the recipient a Mr Ambrose, and details of the Manor he was living in at the time.

Another intriguing item was a 1783 letter from a John Campbell who worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland from 1727. It turned out that in 1745 he was a cashier at the Bank when 'notes' were produced to the value of £3 000 requiring that they be honoured in gold, to pay for Bonny Prince Charlie's uprising. Furthermore Mr Campbell married twice; his first wife produced no children but he had 14 children with his second and 13 of his offspring outlived him.

There was also an example of a Queen Anne's Bounty letter. This was a fund which could pay money to priests in poor parishes, which in turn, was paid for by the donation of a priest's first year's stipend and 10% of all further stipends if he were in a wealthy parish or was a retained vicar.

This section showed just what can be derived from a letter and its cover and served as an example of producing superb philately at a modest financial cost.

Those who were unable to attend missed an absolute treat.

Federation AGM

A brief and positive meeting took place at the Arbury Centre on 8th November. The general opinion was that the new Federation's first year had gone well, with the launch of the website – www.mapf.co.uk – the holding of a Convention with the introduction of photocopied entries, the 'Stamp' Day at Tempsford and the arranging of the Judging Training Seminar on the 14/15th November in Hitchin, sponsored by **GROSVENOR AUCTIONS** .

It was noted that there was no Youth Officer and this is an area that ought to be addressed, if possible. The committee invites societies to let it know of any junior members' activities, so that ideas and best practice can be shared. For example, King's Lynn have run several scout and cub meetings – for collectors' badges – with the hope of further activities.

Looking ahead, it was agreed that another Federation Day would be arranged and the next Convention will be organised in conjunction with Philanglia 2015 in St Ives on 27th June.

All officers and committee were returned with the welcome addition of a new Vice Chairman, Bill Gibb, from the Huntingdon society.

The Judging Seminar – Hitchin, 14/15th November – sponsored by Grosvenor Auctions

A most thought provoking and interesting two days were spent with 19 course members and a top quality team of trainers in the persons of Chris King, Birthe King, Francis Kiddle and Brian Trotter. Each day was split into two main areas: in the mornings were sessions on the basic rules of judging, with special emphasis on the open class, assessing the treatment of material in exhibits, research, both one's own personal and from published sources, presentation and the vital nature of introductory page(s). The other sessions were practical with coached judging of exhibits, and later,

pairs of course members marking more exhibits brought in by the group, and then each pair had to give a critique on one example to the 'owner'.

All were then invited to attend Part 2 of the training, which could lead to accreditation to judging at Federation level. This will take the form of marking several exhibits at the spring Stampex in February with comparisons to be made against what the official jurors made of those entries.

The message from the seminar was that: exhibitors should help to lead the judges through the story of their material, and that the judges should seek to encourage exhibitors by their assessments and, particularly, through their feedback.



Above from left to right: Chris King, Francis Kiddle, Birthe King, Brian Trotter, and David Alford (MAPF)

In other words taking part in such a seminar will definitely improve your exhibiting and may make you a judge. There are already 3 or 4 people on the waiting list for another seminar. Could you be interested?

David Alford is to be congratulated for his excellent efforts in staging and managing this event.

This quarter's covers

Four years ago only two covers were known which were carried on the first of two experimental catapult flights from the S. S. Isle de France in September 1928. Now at least 8 are extant.

These flights were an attempt at speeding up mail to the USA and were carried on this relatively slow French passenger liner which had had a fixed catapult ramp constructed on board facing out over the stern of the vessel. This meant that the ship had to stop in mid-ocean and turn into the wind to assist take off. The Loire et Olivier aircraft was launched some 400 miles off the north American coast landing at St John's, Newfoundland for refuelling and then flying on to Boston where the mail was franked before moving on to New York. The time saved was about 24 hours, but the cost was high. On top of the 1 ½d surface rate, there was an extra 2/6 due as a surcharge – 20 times the original rate - to speed up delivery by a day. After two flights in which British mail was picked up in Plymouth no further use was made of this service.

The first cover was sent from Wokingham to New York and has a back stamp for Boston, Mass. dated 3rd September 1928- indicating that it was carried on the second trip of the Isle de France carrying British mail. Some 60 items of UK mail were carried on this trip.



The second cover, one of a batch of three – note the small 2/3 at the bottom left – was sent from West Yorkshire to Shanghai travelled on the same flight and was carried to San Francisco via the railway hub of Pasco in Washington State prior to being taken to China by sea. Unfortunately, this cover does not have a Shanghai receiver, but the cover – 3/3 – does have such a mark!



Philatelic Society Programmes 2014 – 2015

December

2	Hinckley	Members' night – Colours	
2	N Herts S	Greece	Dr P M G Bavin
3	Spalding	Feeling Blue and monthly competition	
3	Cambridge	Christmas Party	
3	Grimsby	Christmas Auction	
4	Peterborough	Cyprus	Michael Fulford
4	Northants	The Lindleys entertain	
4	Fenland	Christmas Special	John Shaw
5	Ely	Christmas themed displays; social evening	
9	Huntingdon	Members to display – anything with mince pies	
10	Rutland	German Charity Issues	John Barker
10	Bedford	Christmas Social; Egg Cup Competition	
10	Leiston	President's Night and Quiz	
10	N Herts R	Your choice - not necessarily philatelic	
11	Loughborough	Christmas social; the theme colour is RED	
11	Mablethorpe	Bring and Buy evening	
13	King's Lynn	Christmas Special	John Shaw

16	Spalding	Andrew Inkley & Christmas Social	
16	Hinckley	Single sheet & Open Class competitions; Christmas Social	
17	Leighton Buzzard	Christmas Social; LBPS	
17	Grimsby	A to Z of Philately	M. Ward
18	Peterborough	Christmas social and members' displays	
18	N Herts H	Members displays; stolen and mince pies	
19	N Herts L	Members' recent acquisitions; cake and mince pies	

January 2015

6	N Herts S	Stevenage P O Cup; Exchange & Mart	
7	Grimsby	ANYTHING goes	
7	Cambridge	Members' evening – something written up in 2014	
8	Loughborough	Not a quadrilateral	Don Hoult
		Tigers	Ruth Percival
8	Fenland	Unusual deaths	Russell Biggs
8	Ely	Competitions, bourse and packets	
8	Northants	President's evening – something different	
8	Mablethorpe	Auction	
10	King's Lynn	Quiz Night	
13	Huntingdon	Ethiopia	Dr Simon Kelly
13	Hinckley	Members' night – 1 to 9 sheets of anything	
14	Rutland	Indian States	Prof. Sir Alec Jeffreys
14	N Herts R	Marsh Trophy & United Nations Camb. P S collection	
15	Peterborough	President's Choice	
15	N Herts H	An evening of South Africa	
16	Cambridge	Visit by Hitchin P S	
20	Spalding	Auction	
21	Grimsby	Quiz Night	
21	Leighton Buzzard	Members display – 1 or more sheets of landscapes; bourse	
22	Loughborough	What else do you collect?	
22	Mablethorpe	Members' recent acquisitions	
23	King's Lynn	Russia 1914 – 23	Neil Ritchie
27	Huntingdon	Competition Night	
27	Hinckley	My other interests	
28	Bedford	Allsorts – a workshop evening	
28	Leiston	Members display	
29	Fenland	Auto letter sorting	Stafford May
30	N Herts L	G B Revenues	Mr E A Hall

February

3	N Herts S	Annual competitions; Exchange & Mart	
4	Spalding	G' is for....; monthly competition	
4	Grimsby	Hospice presentation	Dave McMann

4	Cambridge	President's evening	
5	Peterborough	An evening with newspapers	
5	Ely	Ausipex; Australian Philatelic Exhibitions	A Hall
5	Mablethorpe	Anything Lincolnshire	
5	Northants	'War Tax'	P Boniface
10	Huntingdon	Members displays – beginning with 'G'	
10	Hinckley	Members display ...beginning with 'O'	
11	Bedford	Competition evening; Ransby Display	
11	Rutland	British Post Offices in the Americas	Bill Gibb
11	N Herts R	Postcards (stationery or picture/postal)	
12	Loughborough	Auction and bourse	
12	Fenland	Aerophilately	John & Len
13	King's Lynn	Perkins Bacon	Chris Harman
18	Spalding	Annual competitions and bring and buy	
18	Grimsby	Definitives (members)	
18	Leighton Buzzard	9 sheets, judged competition; LBPS 'no reserve' auction	
19	Peterborough	Something new	
19	Mablethorpe	Wildings and Machins	
19	N Herts H	Cannon Trophy	
20	Cambridge	Competitions evening - Judging by Huntingdon; display by Stafford May	
24	Huntingdon	T B A	
24	Hinckley	Visit from Northampton P S	
25	Bedford	Members' evening	
26	Loughborough	Another Bloody Railway	M Pugh
26	Fenland	Competitions Day	
27	Leiston	Competitions' night – letter 'X'	
27	King's Lynn	Aspects of G B Regionals	Richard Moss
27	N Herts L	Channel Islands, World War Two	Mr G Marriner

(N Herts: S = Stevenage; R = Royston; H = Hitchin; L = Letchworth)

Society contacts

Bedford	Julie Barnard	01234 465092
Cambridge	Richard Husband	01223 210848
East Anglia P H S	John Copeland	01277 218128
Fenland	Bill Quirk	01945 585308
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
King's Lynn	Terry Wagg	01483 544743
Leighton Buzzard	John Spencer	01525 370745
Leiston	Andrew Soutar	(andy.soutar@btinternet.com)
Loughborough	Rowland Tatton	01509 268073

Luton	Fin O'Donohue	01582 453244
Mablethorpe	John Cowell	01507 339818
Northamptonshire	Gwyn Hughes	01280 823937
North Herts	David Belton	01438 315040
Peterborough	Alan Berrisford	01733 567527
Rutland	Dave Lucas	01664 474596
Sheringham	Jim Farrell	01263 721043
Sleaford	David & Pam Hiscock	01529 303355
Spalding	Michelle Burton	01775 767464

Stamp Fairs and **Auctions**

December

2	Alliance Auctions	01279 758854
5	Diss	01328 855003
6	Lincoln	07549 176119
7	Bedford	01159 474747/01623 621143
7	Potters Bar	01303 238807
13	King's Lynn	01603 419307
13	Northampton	01283 820151
13	Alliance Auctions	01279 758854
13	Norwich	01328 855003
14	Hemel Hempstead	01702 217582
20	Redbourn	07710 683122
28	Hatfield	07710 683122
31	Rickmansworth	07957 158299

2015

January

4	Milton Keynes	07710 683122
6	Alliance Auctions	01279 758854
10	Cambridge	01223 355004
18	Norwich	01328 829318
24	Northampton	01283 820151
25	Peterborough	01945 700594
25	Stevenage	07710 683122
31	Bedford	01327 876438
31	Northampton	0115 961 4528

February

1	Bedford	01159 474747
1	Hopton	01502 563759
3	Alliance Auctions	01279 758854
10	Cambridge	01223 355004

13	Luton	07710 683122
14	King's Lynn	01603 419307
18-21	Stampex	023 9283 2289
21	Ely	01353 663919
22	Hatfield	07710 683122
28	St Ives	01480 468037

Federation Committee

President	David Belton	North Herts.
Vice President	Bill Gibb	Huntingdon
Secretary	Peter Morton	Cambridge
Treasurer	Richard Husband	Cambridge
Competitions' Secretary	Mike Kentzer	King's Lynn
Web master	David Alford	North Herts.
Committee members	Bill Clarey	King's Lynn
	Jon Higgins	King's Lynn
	John Spencer	Leighton Buzzard

Finally, my thanks to Terry Wagg for putting in the colour to this newsletter.