

Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation

Newsletter

March 2021

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter, in what I hope, is about to become a view into a better future. Looking ahead we may be able to get back to having 'proper' meetings by the autumn, even if we have to maintain social distancing.

We would normally have our annual Stamp Day in mid to late October and by then it may be possible to have an event like this, perhaps coupled with an AGM. **WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS.**

Competitions

We will be considering the possibility of running some competitions – entered via photocopies to the competition secretary – as usual – with the entries posted to the judge(s) and feedback given by Zoom, a while later, after the competition secretary has put selected pages from each entry into a power point presentation, as requested by the judge(s). In that way all members of our societies can join in with seeing parts of all the displays and see and hear the feedback from the judges, which would add greater interest.

Subscriptions

Just to reaffirm that **we are NOT asking for subscriptions** from our societies for this year, though we can't guarantee they won't be back next year!!

MAPF Zoom meetings?

It has been suggested that the Federation might offer a few Zoom meetings available to members of all our societies. There are already a number who are running fortnightly or monthly displays this way, but we are aware this is not the case for all. In this way we could offer philatelic 'entertainment' especially for those suffering from withdrawal symptoms.

Stampex International

This virtual event, will again be offered online with the dates being 25th to 27th March. There will be a range of talks and displays as well the opportunity to talk to dealers and, of course, find those items to further enhance your collections. If you look up Stampex International on the computer you will find the opportunity to receive regular updates via email, and in that way, you may get the best from what the show has to offer. Certainly, talking to several dealers who took part in last autumn's Stampex they were delighted with the sales they made, but also getting to know their customers better.

London 2022

This 'world standard' event is scheduled to take place next February at the Design Centre, Islington, replacing the postponed exhibition from last February. Re-organising this show is under way and while some dealers have withdrawn, we are hopeful of a full experience for all those able to come. I say we, because 3 members of the MAPF committee are heavily involved covering the roles of Chief Operating Officer, Floor Manager and Stand Holder Liaison.

Machin watch with Peter Morton

Note: for the self-adhesive issued stamps no account is taken of the orientation of the printed backing paper, where differences can occur by way of Type 2 backing paper with large over Small (L/S) layout. Recent issues have also seen stamps produced with a much thinner type of backing paper.

Walsall sheet printings (self-adhesive)

“20” and “21” date code stamps

<u>Value</u>	<u>Printer</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Comments</u>
£1.70	Walsall	No code	Sheet printing (01.10.20)
£2.25	Walsall	No code	Sheet printing (01.10.20) (date code 20)
£3.25	Walsall	No code	Sheet printing (01.10.20)
£4.20	Walsall	No code	Sheet printing (01.10.20)

All four of the stamps were issued on 1st January 2021; 3 of the 4 had the date code “21”, but not the £2.25 value

Conventionally gummed stamps, “20” date code

2p green Cartor P Ex Star Trek prestige booklet

NVI stamps Further “20” date stamps have now appeared:

2nd bright blue Cartor P Ex Star Trek prestige booklet

Country Issues

New Cartor Litho printed stamps for all four countries with a £1.70 value, using the £1.42 design. There is also a reprint of the Wales 1st with a pale grey dragon from the 10.08.20 printing; the setting for the value tablet is the older version.

Post and Go stamps

From 1st September 3 new values: Europe 100g/world 20g; world zone 1 – 3; world zone 2

Cover of the quarter

The cover comes from India, leaving via Calcutta on 28th September 1833. It was sent by a Sergeant Harding from the Foundry Department at Fort William and is countersigned by Major J Hutchinson. It is marked in manuscript ‘soldier’s letter’ and this is reinforced by the ‘India Soldiers/London “3”’, L 1302b, and is not a commonly seen hand stamp. The letter passed through Edinburgh over 5 months later on 3rd March 1834.

It is to Alexander Crichton Esq. in Perth and should normally therefore have received an **Additional ½ mark**. BUT this is a **soldier’s EXEMPT letter** and so this extra tax is not payable.



Early Use of Perfins to Send Love Letters

The theft of stamps from business premises in the 1860's, either by junior employees or through burglary was sufficient for Joseph Sloper to receive permission from the Post Office to perforate firms' initials through postage stamps. This act of marking stamps in this way rendered them non-negotiable so they could not legally be sold for cash or bartered for goods or services. The perforated initials usually indicated the identity of the owner.

This permission was given on 13 March 1868 and Joseph Sloper, by reason of a perforating patent he had been granted in 1858, was able to enjoy a monopoly for producing perfins until 31 August 1872. After this date J Sloper & Co experienced considerable competition from others. The word perfin is an acronym for "Stamps **PER**forated with Firms' **INI**tials" or put more simply, "**PER**forated **INI**tials".

There was also a much smaller risk of stamps being used by employees on their personal mail. The knowledge to be gleaned by the recipient that the stamp on the envelope had been stolen should have been a sufficient deterrent. However, in these very early days the young man who wrote the letter sent in the first cover postmarked High Wycombe on 28 June 1869 may well have been completely unaware of the significance of '533/T.H' perforated through the stamp he had used belonging to Thomas Holloway, a patent medicine seller of 533 Oxford Street, London WC. The Post Office failed to instruct their postmasters not to buy back perfins until 1 March 1869. This cover was addressed to a Mr Fraser and marked for Miss Little. Perhaps Hettie Little was in service. From the letter left inside the cover, it is clear it is one of a series of love letters which were written every Sunday. The cover is the 25th earliest reported perfin cover or piece and almost certainly the first of these to have contained a love letter. The writer's signature is illegible.



The remaining two covers illustrated come from a series of 39 covers, assumed to contain love letters, written between 11 November 1872 and his marriage in 1876 by William Arthur Smith, a clerk at Luchtenberg & Schmits initially of 52 Mark Lane, London EC. This firm, like that of Thomas Holloway, incorporated part of its address in its perfin which is 'L&S/52'. The next cover is number 6 in this series and postmarked London EC on 28 April 1873.



Towards the end of 1875, Luchtenberg & Schmits moved down the road to 66 Mark Lane. The perfin was then amended to read 'L&S/66'. The last cover illustrated, number 38 in this series, has the replacement perfin.



Mr William Arthur Smith and Miss Annie Kendall were married at Lambeth on 22 June 1876. A further 5 covers are reported between then and 3 August 1880. The firm ceased in 1881.

If you wish to find out more about the "Miss Kendall" covers and William and Annie's lives together after their marriage, please go to The Perfin Society's website, www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinco, then click on to the Home Page and then click on to The "Miss Kendall" covers".

To join The Perfin Society, please click on "Join Us" on the lefthand side of the Home Page. You will be very welcome.

Richard Husband

Society Contacts

The list, below, may be subject to changes; if so may I ask you to let Peter Moron and myself know, please.

Bedford	Richard Hart	01234 301327
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East Anglian P H S	John Copeland	01277 218128
Fenland	Richard Lewis	01945 700594
Grantham	Martin Lodge	01400 282855
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Kettering	Gordon Tregidgo	01536 746800
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Federation Committee

President	Mike Kentzer	King's Lynn
Vice President	John Spencer	Leighton Buzzard
Secretary	Peter Morton	Cambridge
Treasurer	Richard Husband	Cambridge
Competition Secretary	Mike Kentzer	
Webmaster	Martin Lovegrove	King's Lynn

Committee Members

Terry Wagg (Past President)	King's Lynn
David Alford	North Herts
David Belton	North Herts
Jon Higgins	King's Lynn

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WWW.mapf.co.uk

And scroll down the first page!!!



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SPECIALISTS IN THE POSTAL HISTORY AND
POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.



LIST 159 GREAT BRITAIN.

1. 1841 1D RED PL.12 (SG8)(IF) CANCELLED RED MALTESE CROSS (SPEC B1sb). A fine used 1841 1d red pl.12 (SG8) lettered IF with four close to good margins and cancelled fine to very fine strike of a RED MALTESE CROSS (spec B1sb). RPS cert. 202756. Rare. (Ref 124785). £2250.00



2. 1840 'HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT' ENVELOPE (SPEC PE1b) FROM LONDON TO PONTYPOOL.

A good used example of the printed 'Houses of Parliament' envelope, issued to supercede free franking from London to 'Mr Llewellyn, Mineral Surveyor, Pontypool' and signed at lower left 'Robert Price' M.P. for Hereford city. Slight creasing and soiling, on front good strike 'Crown/PAID' date stamp 28 JA 1840. Unusually with letter and on paper watermarked 'J RUMP 1839' (spec PE1b). Rare, fine example £18,000. (Ref 124839). £3850.00



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LATE NEWS!

We are having a Zoom committee meeting on Wednesday, 17th March to look ahead to the autumn and consider Zoom meetings