

Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation

Newsletter

March 2023

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter, which is bereft of a Stampex Exhibition again, but this time because the PTS and the ABPS have decided to have only one such gathering a year.

The PTS organises the trade side of the show while the ABPS arranges the competitions. As you have no doubt noticed stamp fairs are struggling, indeed some have been lost including Cambridge, Norwich and King's Lynn. So how do we fill that gap for collectors. Online sales have increased but not everyone is comfortable or capable of working that way. There has certainly been an increase in the circulation of societies' own auctions doing the rounds and this may be one way forward.

The wonderful exhibitions of competitive entries is put together by volunteers from the ABPS which is a complex task as I found out at the even larger event, London 2022. For these displays, the frames used often come from several parts of the country, so transport is a major cost. Add to that the cost of the frames being constructed and then taken down, usually by specially trained teams, then we arrive at the situation where the £25 fee for using the frames for an exhibit, is far outweighed by the costs involved. Someone has to pay for this, the ABPS, which tries to cover as much of this as possible with sponsorship.

Then there is the prohibitive cost of hiring part, or all in the case of London 2022, of all of the Business Design Centre in Islington. They also require full payment up front.

So, it is interesting to note that the European Exhibition of 2025 will be at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham, which is much less expensive to hire, is all on the ground floor – which helps dealers – and has ample parking and easy transport access.

No doubt it will take a while to get used to the idea of these major exhibitions being away from London, but the future is bright.

ABPS, the Association of British Philatelic Societies

This society, founded in 1994, is the only body which actively promotes philately across the nation. As well as its part in Stampex, as described above, it also arranges the annual Philatelic Congresses which move around the country and such events as training for exhibitors and potential judges or re-training them which is required every 5 years. There is also the availability for the award of grants to societies in need, or wanting to pursue a particular project. Then there is the support given for the development of junior and youth philatelists, the future of our hobby.

There is also the quarterly bulletin, ABPS news, which is always a good read, and helps promote the activities of local, national and specialist societies. It also actively promotes junior and youth philately, produces its own publications and most usefully for local societies, has a very comprehensive list of speakers, for both face to face and zoom displays, and a most accessible website at: www.abps.org.uk

The Association has recently increased its subscription which is based on the number of members in a society. This put up the annual fee from £1.50 per member to £2, an increase of just 50p, OR 33%. This has not been received well in some quarters, but more pertinently was not announced in the most obvious way, but on page 50 of the ABPS news.

Despite this example of poor communication, we have to realise that costs have to be covered and the future cannot be seen in a crystal ball. In fact, one has to ask if local society subscriptions are in some cases too low,

given say 15 meetings per year and a sub. of £12. In this case it is philately on the cheap, when compared with paying tens or hundreds of pounds on a single item for a collection.

How are societies doing?

This raises the question of how all our 23 societies are faring, now that the worst of the pandemic seems to be behind us. There are stories of reduced memberships in places and some continued use of zoom displays, which are a different but very welcome addition to philately. If you have yet to take part in a zoom meeting, they come very highly recommended.

Zoom meetings are so easy to organise and join in with, and one can be sitting at home, in warmth and comfort with a cup of tea, or even a glass of wine.

It would be very interesting to hear how all our societies are managing so do please get in touch:

mike.kentzer@gmail.com

Cover of the Quarter – with Winston Williams



This entire from Peru to Bordeaux is dated 18th June 1838. It arrived via the UK at its French destination almost eight months later on 1st February 1839. It was sent entirely unpaid through the UK to its foreign destination. Regardless of the distance travelled in the UK, a British flat rate applied, this being per sheet and not by weight.

The letter was written in Arequipa, the capital of Peru's southern region, and travelled by mule for two days to its seaport Islay (now Matarani) and then carried by the ship 'Judith' – see blue arrow – sailing some 10,000 miles via

Valparaiso (28th July), Cape Horn, Rio de Janeiro (16th October, leaving 22nd November) to Liverpool arriving on 25th or 26th January 1839. This was some two to three months longer than usual, and was the result of the 'Judith' being dis-masted in a storm and having to be towed into Rio for repairs.

Postage was a triple rate initially recorded as 4/9 by distance to London, but corrected to 4/6 (54 pence) at London's Foreign Branch. On arrival in Paris this was converted to 54 decimes plus 28 decimes for onward transmission to from Calais to Bordeaux, for a 10 – 15g letter. In total, 82 decimes. See red arrow.

These postal rates are all under the 1836 Anglo-French Postal Convention which allowed letters from far-flung places to go through the UK and onto France without the sender having to use a UK forwarding agent to pay the onwards postage.

A young champion

At last year's Convention we welcomed our first junior competitor in many years. Maria McLoughlin from Grantham entered her display of Wilding stamps and was awarded 80 marks for a silver gilt. After advice from the judges and others at the 2022 Convention, Maria rewrote her entry and also put in another on the variability of GB FDCs into autumn Stampex 2022. She was awarded 76 marks for the Wildings (small silver) and 83 marks and a gold for the first day covers.



The picture shows Maria in front of her award-winning display of the variability of GB FDCs

Maria's entry was adjudged to worth a gold, and she was also awarded the Stampex Medal.

Annual competitions

All societies should have received the rules, guidelines and entry forms for this year's competitions. As ever, entries will be judged externally, and, as they are all photocopies, we now send them by courier to be judged which is a lot less expensive than their being driven all over the country by road.

The 9 sheet inter-society entries and the 16 sheet individual exhibits should be sent to:

Mike Kentzer, 1, Devon Crescent, North Wootton, King's Lynn. PE30 3QZ, please.

The closing date is 15th May

Literature Class

Martin Lovegrove and I are putting together the information for the literature class and we hope to send these together with this newsletter. The class will be judged on the day.

The **Convention** will be held as part of the Philanglia Stamp Fair, courtesy of Tony Hender of Arun Stamps, on Saturday 24th June at the Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, PE27 6WU.

National Competitions

With there being no competition for collectors at this autumn's Stampex, those hoping to qualify for Europhilex 2025 in Birmingham will have to do so at the York Show in July (21st & 22nd), with entries to be in by 1st June.

Contact Nick Martin at: exhibiting@abps.org.uk for details any advice.

Philatelic Congress 2023

This year Congress is being held at the Imperial Hotel in Torquay from 9th to 11th June. For further information go the Philatelic Congress website or contact Steve Harrison at: sharrison500@btinternet.com.

Another society's centenary.

Following on from Cambridge P S marking their 100 years during the pandemic, they are followed by Grimsby & District P S. A major activity of theirs over the last few decades has been their support of the local St Andrew's Hospice, during which time they have raised over £50,000.

To mark the centenary souvenir sheets of 'stamps' have been produced featuring scenes from the area and artwork by local people.

For further information please contact the society via: home@cdodsworth.plus.com.

Royal Mail – where next with new issues?

If you have not seen this year's list of new issues from Royal Mail, then be prepared to be impressed – or perhaps depressed – by the selection, the 'stars' of which are listed below:

Iron Maiden

X-men

Legend of Robin Hood

Blackadder

Warhammer

Terry Pratchett's Discworld

Dame Shirley Bassey

Harry Potter (again)

These issues are far from the original idea of celebrating the history, culture, major events the natural world of our islands. It has become largely a direct strike at modern culture and history with the aim of making money to compensate for the losses elsewhere in the business. It is no wonder that so many GB collectors have stopped collecting these recent special issues, certainly since the year 2000.

A question. Where can you buy a £2, £3 and a £5 definitive stamp? Well, certainly not your local post office, they are not permitted to stock them. Also, the computer printed labels are preferred by post offices as they are paid more to use these than by applying postage stamps.

We understand also that if handing in a large letter or package, pre-stamped - to your local post office, then the clerk will, as instructed, cancel the stamps with a large black pen and a date stamp applied! Where now for very fine used stamps?

Society Programmes

March

1	Cambridge	Society auction	
1	Spalding	Joyce Boyer entertains	
2	Peterborough	Belgium	Tom Tomalin
2	Fenland	Cantonments of the Imperial Garrison in South Africa The travels of Harry Milner, a trip around South Africa	Steve Hannah
2	Isle of Ely	Bring and buy evening	
2	Northamptonshire	Something from the archives	Tristan Brittain
3	King's Lynn	The space race (zoom)	Barry Feltham
3	Luton	The travels of Harry T Milner	Bob Hill
10	King's Lynn	St Helena and the Boer War	Bernard Mabbett
16	Peterborough	Bourse	
16	Fenland	Airmail/airways with models, covers and anecdotes	Simon Lind
22	Leiston	Invited members' displays	
24	King's Lynn	A German miscellany	Rex Dixon
28	Spalding	Annual Competitions – all categories	
31	Luton	Plymouth Postal History	David Belton

April

2	Spalding	Richard Husband entertains	
5	Cambridge	Competition evening	
6	Peterborough	Joyce Boyer entertains	
6	Fenland	Windward Islands & GB George V	Peter Morton
6	Isle of Ely	GB surface printed on cover	Graham Wylde
6	Northamptonshire	Annual competitions; NW Cup + Whilde Cup; Letters D, E or F	
7	King's Lynn	French India & India in WWI (Zoom)	Peter Webb
14	King's Lynn	Competitions, 16 sheets; Judge	Alan Berrisford
20	Peterborough	Colin Thorpe entertains	
20	Fenland	AGM	
25	Spalding	Quiz	
26	Leiston	Solomon Islands	Alan Martin
28	King's Lynn	GB Penny Post, 1840 – 1852	Don Davies

May

3	Spalding	St Vincent	Terry Harrison
4	Peterborough	Members' afternoon	
4	Isle of Ely	Easter Island, Abu Dhabi, Burma including TPOs	Rufus Barnes
4	Northamptonshire	The Lindleys entertain	

5	King's Lynn	Viaducts (Zoom)	Keith Burton
5	Luton & District	Inter society Quiz night	
12	King's Lynn	AGM; Society auction	
18	Peterborough	Society auction	
23	Spalding	AGM & trophy awards	
28	Leiston	AGM; One sheet competition	

Society Contacts

Bedford	Richard Hart	01234 301 327
Cambridge	Peter Morton	01223 263 946
East Anglian P H S	John Copeland	01277 218 128
Fenland	Richard Lewis	01945 700 594
Grantham	Martin Lodge	01400 282 855
Grimsby & District	David McMann	01472 887 523
Hinckley	Peter Thomas	01455 448 638
Huntingdonshire	Mick Twinn	01480 383 103
Isle of Ely	Chris North	01354 659 358
Kettering	Gordon Tregidgo	01536 746 800
King's Lynn	Dahlia Harrison	01775 423 087
Leighton Buzzard	John Spencer	01525 370 745
Leiston & District	Andy Soutar	01394 460 901
Loughborough	Christine Harris	01509 230 848
Luton & District	Fin O'Donoghue	01582 453 244
Northamptonshire	Paul Boniface	07909 937 366
North Herts.	David Belton	01438 315 040
Peterborough & District	Alan Berrisford	01733 567 527
Rushden & District	Malcolm Whitehead	01933 350 646
Rutland	Details awaited	
Sheringham & District	Jim Farrell	01263 721 043
Sleaford U3A	Lew Patterson	01529 307 220
Spalding	Dahlia Harrison	01775 423 087

Federation Committee

Officers

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

Committee members

David Belton	North Herts.
Terry Wagg	King's Lynn
Jon Higgins	King's Lynn



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LIST 165 GREAT BRITAIN.

1. 1840 1D GREY-BLACK PL.1A (SG3)(IB) CANCELLED
BLACK MALTESE CROSS (SPEC AS3f). Fine used 1840 1d
grey-black pl.1A (SG3) lettered IB with four close to fine margins
and cancelled very fine strike BLACK MALTESE CROSS (Spec
AS3f). (Ref 131987). **£495.00**



2. 1840 1D BLACK PLATE 1A WATERMARK INVERTED
(SG2Wi)(IA). Fine to very fine used 1840 1d black plate 1A
WATERMARK INVERTED (SG2Wi) lettered IA with four close to
large margins and cancelled light strike red Maltese cross.
Stamp clearly shows 5 and 10 o'clock ray flaws and dots in 'A'
square. Inverted watermark (Spec AS2g) on plate 1A is very
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BLOCK OF FOUR WITH 'SPECIMEN' OVERPRINT
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block of four 1848 10d embossed issue (SG57) with
superb original gum, superb colour and margins, each
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exhibition quality. (Ref 132212). **£6500.00**



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ANNUAL CONVENTION

SATURDAY 24th JUNE 2023

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