

Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation

Newsletter

September

2020

Welcome to this autumn's edition in these unprecedented times. It's hard to know where to start. What with Philanglia and our Convention **cancelled** and so too the **Stamp Day** in October, along with **our AGM**, there are no stamp Fairs, only a virtual Stampex at the end of this month and the prospect of society meetings being postponed probably into the New Year.

Our webmaster, Martin Lovegrove, has posted several scanned displays on our **website** – www.mapf.co.uk . They are to be found on the left hand column of the front page, the headings are: **online displays and exhibits**, with one of them requiring a password – cucumber –and these displays will be changed and added to over the coming months. These will include our entries for the InterFed competition (see below).

Do please let your members know about these displays.

So let's start with something philatelic. Past President Terry Wagg FRPSL has kindly produced part 2 of his account of the life and times of that extraordinary stamp engraver, Czelaw Slania.

Slania (1921-2005) (Continued)

Slania engraved his first Polish stamp, a portrait of Stalin, which was never released. The engraving took approximately one month, which amazed his fellow employees. It is said that the stamp was never issued because it was a training exercise

Slania was employed by the Polish State printing House for just over 5 years, during that period he engraved 23 stamps, of those he solely designed and engraved 7 stamps and designed 14.

GRAPHIC HUMOUR

Cz Slania has a broad sense of humour; He engraved two stamps for the tenth anniversary of the Polish People's Republic, one being a scene in a library. In this stamp we first see some of Czeslaw Slania's great humour, he engraved the names of mother, family and friend on the spines and covers of the books. The names can be clearly read with a good magnifying glass. He played a similar joke on two friends in Denmark by engraving their names on the pages of a book for the 1965 Danish Commercial School's 100th Anniversary. In 1953 Slania posted two postcards on which he had painted all the details including the stamps, they went through Polish postal system and reached their destinations without the authorities being aware, however if had his painted stamps had been discovered, he would have been in serious trouble. He produced a fictitious newspaper cutting congratulating a friend on passing her exams. He also produced a couple of United States bank notes, on one he incorporated the date of Princess Caroline of Monaco's date of birth in the serial number. On the other note he

sent a message congratulating Dwight D Eisenhower on his second term of office as President of the United States. Now we begin to understand the skill of this great engraver.



Library scene in which he inserted the names of friends & families

LIFE AS AN EMIGRATE

In August 1956 Slania left Poland, he stepped down from the ship “Mazowsze” in Stockholm to start a new life; the beginnings in Sweden were not easy.

Whilst still in Poland Slania had received information of a Swedish engraver Sven Evert from his tutor M.R.Polak. Both Evert and Polak were pupils of the renowned Austrian engraver Ferdynand Schirnbok.

After his arrival he made contact with Evert, unfortunately at that time the Swedish Post office did not require more engravers.so he started as most emigrates do, washing up in restaurants and other menial jobs. His burin and magnifying glass remained mostly in his suitcase for 4 years. In his spare time he practised his engraving skills by engravings of famous people and sports personalities without values or country names.

Slania was also engaged on a temporary basis by the Swedish Post Office to produce 5 duty stamps for Post Office Savings Books, as well as some duty stamps for (passports) between 1956 -58 and in 1957, a 30 kroner Radio License Duty [Stamp for the ministry of Telecom). During the years 1957-58 he also worked in the studio of AB Hultberg in Stockholm retouching snaps and photographs. Slania intended to better himself and applied for a visa to Canada and the U.S.A. In Canada he was offered work and was on the point of leaving when Sven Evert became ill and recommended Slania to complete his project. Slania was interviewed by the Artur Bodin, head of the stamp issuing department. and was given the job, starting October 1st 1959. His first task was to engrave a portrait of Gustaf Froding, Slania liked the motive, but disliked the beard and altered it, giving the whole aspect a different character. The stamp was not issued until 22.8.60. The first stamp of Slania’s to be issued was the engraving of Swedish artist Anders Zorn (1860-1920). This stamp the engraver finished in record time of 14 days, November 28th to December 12th 1959, officially released on 18.2. 1960. His work was very much liked and it was agreed by the Postage Stamp Office-to offer him a permanent job which he started on April 1st 1960.

Orders for engravings flooded in, the Swedish stamps were noted by the Danish Post office and attention was drawn to Slania.

His first engraving for the Danish Kingdom was of the protected windmill "Borkop", which was issued

10.5.1962. The peak of his work for the Danish post office was in the late 60's and mid 70's.

The Greenland post office asked Slania to engrave stamps for them and the first stamp issued was of Frederik IX, King of Denmark on 25.2.63. Poland and Sweden played an important part in Slania's life, as did Monaco. In 1972 Monaco started to issue stamps in honour of its famous leaders. Slania designed and engraved nine of them. The later stamps showed Prince Rainier III's, Princess Grace and the view of Monaco. His work with the Monaco post led to warm and close relationships with the royal family. Slania has a house in Monaco but prefers to work in Stockholm.

HONOURS and AWARDS

The fame of this greatest miniature engraver followed him everywhere. His engravings in Sweden, Denmark and Monaco were done so masterly that Czeslaw Slania was given several stately honours and titles for his works. King Gustav VI Adolf awarded the honour "Engraver to the Court" in 1972. The postal authorities in Greenland recommended him to receive the Danish order "Knight of the Dannebrog" which was presented by Queen Margreth II of Denmark December 4th 1973. The present Swedish King Carl XVI Gustav awarded him the medal "Engraver to the Court with Blue Ribbon" on January 28th 1984 Robert Stolz the composer, and keen philatelist awarded him the "Prize of Honour" a trophy for 'Music Philately' September 29th 1984 for his engravings "(Music in Sweden Issued October 1st 1983)" Prince Rainier of Monaco awarded him "The Cavalier Order of St Carol" on November 18th 1984. The Guinness Book of Records honoured him November 8th 1986 by presenting him with a certificate which reads "The World's Most Prolific Stamp Engraver, by then Slania has engraved 720 postage stamps issued by 13 countries belonging to the Universal Postal Union". Count Lennart Bernadette honoured him in 1989 by exhibiting Czeslaw Slania's works at his Palace on the Island of Mainau to celebrate his own 80th birthday. He also edited a book (with the help of Slania) entitled "Count Lennart Bernadotte presents Czeslaw Slania's Life's Work" which was published in 1991. The book has photographs of Slania's drawings, engravings and details of all of his works up to that date. On May 18th 1991 Slania received from the emigration Institute in Boras (Sweden) a Cultural Award for "Spreading Swedish Culture in the World". On Slania's 70th Birthday the Polish Ambassador in Stockholm Mrs Tuga Erecinska decorated him with the "Silver Service medal.

(To be continued)

Virtual Stampex

This 'event' is being promoted by the ABPS and the PTS so that we collectors have something to enjoy. Part of this is a second holding of an InterFed competition. Two years ago this was held and dominated by a few federations entering exhibits which had

previously won large gold medals. This time no exhibits having previously been awarded above a large vermeil are permitted. There will also be extra marks for entries from 'virgin' exhibitors at national level.

We are submitting three entries:

| | | |
|--|----|-------------------|
| Airmails within and from British Borneo, 1926 – 39 | | Aerophilately |
| A trip through Scarborough and Whitby and the railway in between | | Picture post Card |
| Pence issues of Newfoundland, 1857 – 1929, | OR | Traditional |
| GB: McCorquodale tender issues, 1869 | | |

Machin Watch, with Peter Morton

Note: for the self-adhesive issued stamps no account has been 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) or Small over large (S/L) layout. Recent issues have also seen the stamps produced with a much thinner type of backing paper.

Walsall sheet stamp printings (self-adhesive)

New '20' date code stamps have now appeared

| Value | Printer | Code | Comments |
|-------|---------|------|---------------------------|
| 10p | Walsall | None | Sheet printing (14.05.20) |
| 20p | Walsall | None | Sheet printing (06.05.20) |

Note: sheet printings of £1.42 have been found in a much paler garnet red shade from the 11.05.20 sheet printings and also £1.63 from the 12.05.002 has a much brighter flour.

Conventionally gummed stamps, '20' date code

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|---|---------------------------|
| 1p maroon | Cartor | P | Ex Queen prestige booklet |
|-----------|--------|---|---------------------------|

NVI stamps

New '20' date stamps have appeared as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|------|-----------------------------|
| 2 nd bright blue | Walsall | B | Ex 05.05.20 sheet printing |
| 2 nd Deep bright blue | Walsall | None | Ex type 15E business sheets |
| 2 nd Large, bright blue | Walsall | None | Ex 12.05.20 sheet printing |
| 1 st Royal Mail red | Walsall | None | Ex 04.05.20 sheet printing |
| 1 st Large, Royal Mail red | Walsall | None | Ex 07.05.20 sheet printing |

Note: during the Covid outbreak a number of '19' dated 1st Large and 2nd Large stamps have been found with very bright yellowish tinted flour.

High Values

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|------|----------------------------|
| Special Delivery 500g | Walsall | None | Ex 04.02.20 sheet printing |
|-----------------------|---------|------|----------------------------|

Country Issues

Cartor Litho printed stamps have been found as follows:

Scotland 2nd Saltire in very deep blue shade and dark grey Queen's head
Ex 16.04.20 sheet printing

Wales 2nd Leek in a yellowish brown shade; Ex 16.04.20 printing

Note: the above detailed country issues are shade varieties from basic stamps already issued.

The single stamps as listed by the **Connoisseur Catalogue** online are in the course of being fully updated. Each section will be split into three main sections; namely basic, (A) stamps with security features and (B) stamps with improved security features, namely some form of iridescent security overprint.

In conjunction with James Skinner of B. Alan Ltd., I have recently waded through draft proofs of Redrawn Harrison/De La Rue printings (3A and 3B), other printers (4A and 4B), high values (8A and 8B), and also the country issues. James is currently undertaking the largish 6A and 6B with the 1st and 2nd class NVI issues, 5A and 5B, to hopefully follow in the autumn.

If any collector who specialises in **Machins** wishes to know more details as to what is available then please feel free to contact me by email

Looking ahead

Not all our societies are members of the **ABPS**, so I am reproducing their recent advice on as to when 'normal' meetings start up again.

Points to consider:

Is the venue you use open for business?

Does the venue you use comply with COVID-19 secure guidelines?

Has your society undertaken a full risk assessment and prepared an action plan?

Has your society determined how many members can attend the venue you use in a socially distanced way?

Will you put in place a booking system for your meetings so that you know beforehand how many members will be attending?

What is the general feeling of your membership as to when society meetings might start again?

If you do meet, what are going to be the arrangements for viewing material on display and maintaining social distancing?

If refreshments are normally served in a break, what are going to be the arrangements for their preparation? Are facilities going to be available at your venue or will kitchens be closed?

What is your venue's policy on the use of toilets?

What are you going to do about face coverings?

What are going to be your arrangements for the cleaning, disinfecting, provision of hand sanitising material and hand drying materials etc. at your venue?

Is there adequate accessible parking at your venue?

The latest Government guidelines for meeting people from outside your household can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from4-july>

Society Contacts

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

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Bedford | Richard Hart | 01234 301327 |
| 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 & District | David McMann | 01472 887523 |
| Hinckley | Peter Thomas | 01455 448638 |
| Huntingdonshire | Mick Twinn | 01480 383103 |
| Isle of Ely | Chris North | 01354 659358 |
| Kettering | Gordon Tregidgo | 01536 746800 |
| King's Lynn | Terry Wagg | 01553 617291 |
| Leighton Buzzard | John Spencer | 01525 370745 |
| Leiston & District | Andy Soutar | 01394 460901 |
| Loughborough | Rowland Tatton | 01509 268073 |
| Luton & District | Fin O'Donoghue | 01582 453244 |
| Northamptonshire | Gwyn Hughes | 07913 503927 |
| North Herts. | David Belton | 01438 315040 |
| Peterborough & District | Alan Berrisford | 01733 567527 |
| Rushden & District | Malcolm Whitehead | 01933 350646 |
| Rutland | Dave Lucas | 01664 474596 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Sheringham & District | Jim Farrell | 01263 721043 |
| Sleaford U3A | Lew Patterson | 01529 307220 |
| Spalding | Derek Pollard | 01778 462904 |

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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2. 1884 2½D ERROR IMPERFORATE (SG189a). A superb 1884 2½d
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BILL BARRELL LTD
PO BOX 10494, GRANTHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE, NG31 0HS
UNITED KINGDOM

TEL: (+44) 01476 594698



E-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk Website: www.barrell.co.uk