

February 2009

# ABPS news

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

(Volume 16 Number 1) £1.50



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Centenary Philatelic Congress

Meet Colin Searle

Campaign for the Burns Stamp

Around the Societies

Stamp Artwork of George V Digitised





# Create a piece of philatelic history



**Have you completed your current collection?**  
**Have you finished exhibiting your current display?**  
**Are you looking to finance a new one?**  
**Turn your collection into an auction**

One of our recent single vendor auctions resulted in a 100 per cent sell out with every one of the 378 lots being sold. The auction realised £150,000 against an estimate of £100,000, highlighting the strength of today's auction market. The following lots are just an indication of the great returns achieved at in our single vendor sales:



This item, a 1900 1/4a. violet postal stationery envelope of Bussahir additionally franked with an 1895 imperf 2a. orange-yellow with mauve monogram (SG 4) was featured on the cover of the catalogue for our Indian States Sale (see left) and was knocked down at £6000 against an estimate of £2000/2400.

The lot on the right, from the Pat Larner sale, is a 1840 1d black envelope, stereo A145 (Spec ME2), used with indistinct MC in red and Poulton Penny Post cancel in black on front, with Preston cds for NO 2 1840 on reverse, faults to rear from opening, cat £425 was estimated at £200 and sold for nearly double catalogue for £800.



## Is my collection suitable for an individual sale?

If you have a specialised collection with a quantity of rare items then the answer is probably 'Yes'. Contact us as detailed below to find out. Even if your collection does not go into a single vendor sale, it can still form an important part of our Public Auction. This mean you will still take advantage of the current strong market and collections have sold well in our recent auctions.

## Could my collection be a part of philatelic history?

Yes. Auction catalogues attract strong interest as reference material, especially specialised catalogues. Selling through Stanley Gibbons can create an everlasting record of your collection.

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Leave that to Stanley Gibbons. We have the world's largest philatelic database, reaching over 100,000 potential buyers plus massive worldwide exposure through our website and Gibbons Stamp Monthly. All at no charge to the vendor.

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# ABPS News

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (a company limited by guarantee), published four times a year: February; April; September; December.

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**Volume 16, Number 1. February 2009**

**Editor: Hugh V. Feldman**

## CONTENTS

Editorial . . . . .	4
Society Journal of the Year . . . . .	5
Centenary Philatelic Congress of Great Britain . . . . .	6
Meet Colin Searle - ABPS Secretary . . . . .	7
Want to encourage young collectors? . . . . .	8
The 2008 Campaign for the Burns Stamp by Willie King . . . . .	9
To a Stamp by Colin Campbell . . . . .	12
Around the Societies . . . . .	12
Words from the Wise by Phil Kenton . . . . .	14
Midpex 2009 . . . . .	26
Diary . . . . .	27
Joint N.P.S. / ABPS Seminars on One-Frame Displaying . . . . .	28
Stamp artwork from the reign of George V digitised . . . . .	30

*Cover: Proposed designs for BPMA at Swindon © Royal Mail Ltd.*

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**Copy date for April 2009 ABPS News is 15 February 2009 and  
for September 2009 is 15 July 2009**

**Send copy to Hugh V. Feldman, Juniper House, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, CB10 2HB  
email: [hugh@feldman.f9.co.uk](mailto:hugh@feldman.f9.co.uk) Fax: 01799 584825**

## Editorial

The front cover of this issue carries two artists impressions of the exterior and the exhibition hall of the proposed new British Postal Museum and Archives at Swindon in Wiltshire.

I learnt about the project to move the BPMA establishment in its entirety to Swindon at a meeting at Phoenix House on the 2nd December during a day devoted to The Friends of BPMA, which included their AGM.

Dr. Adrian Steele who is BPMA's Head of Projects & Programmes stated that the move to Swindon would be made over the years 2012 and 2013. The premises will be in what was the the listed, and currently at risk, "Chain Testing Works Building", built for the Great Western Railway in 1874. The property, which will be owned by the BPMA, will be completely restored on the outside and part of the chain testing apparatus left exposed under a glass cover within the floor. The building provides a completely open space that can be configured to suit the needs of the 35 staff currently employed by BPMA.

During the latter part of last year your Editor was approached by a number of readers who expressed concern that the Archive portion of BPMA would move to the site of the new museum. I took the opportunity to raise this matter with Tony Conder, CEO of BPMA during the course of the day. He explained the following key reasons for the move from London.

- 1) The current premises at Phoenix Place is leased from Royal Mail and the availability of the building into the future cannot be guaranteed. The BPMA feels that its future can be best secured by having its own freehold premises.
- 2) Some 80 possible sites in London and around the country were looked at with about 40 investigated in detail. Relocating within London was ruled out because of the very high cost of a suitable building.
- 3) The building at Swindon, being a large open space, would be ideal for the installation of an archive area containing the latest technology for maintaining a suitable environment for long term storage of the irreplaceable material held by the BPMA. The storage area will be maintained to BS 1454 standards.
- 4) A large open museum display area with a mezzanine gallery would allow a large selection of artifacts including uniforms and machinery to be exhibited
- 5) As part of BPMA's articles as a charity, it was charged with taking and keeping securely the more recent records of Royal Mail. The growing need for additional space for this material will be satisfied at Swindon.
- 6) It will be possible to display 10 or 12 of the large objects, such as Post Office vans held by the Museum, at

the new premises. The remainder of the large artifacts will go to the Science Museum store at Wroughton located only 4 miles south of the Museum site at Churchward Village, Swindon.

- 7) The Churchward Village site is the headquarters for both English Heritage and The National Trust with both organisations holding there archives their. The majority of those using the Post Office Archives conduct geneology research, (this represents 85% of all visitors) being on the same site as two other major research resources was considered to be an advantage. Those researching their ancestors however usually only make a single visit whilst those researching postage stamps or postal history tend to make repeated visits.
- 8) It was intended to open the Museum and Archives six days a week, including Sundays.
- 9) For those who need to spend several days researching the archives, the cost of accommodation in Swindon is significantly less than that in London.

Views were expressed by a number of those present that for many Swindon was considerably more difficult to get to than London. A suggestion was made that a reading room should be retained in London and a service be provided where specific records could be sent up to London by prior arrangement. Tony Condon said that this could be considered.

## Society Journal of the Year

Once again it is time for affiliated members of ABPS to send in copies of their 2008 society journals so that we can find the ABPS Journal of the Year. The competition is divided into two sections:

- a) affiliated local societies and federations
- b) affiliated specialist societies

In each section the winning society will be presented with a cheque for £100. All winners and runners-up will receive a certificate of commendation.

All that is needed is one copy of each issue of your society journal produced in 2008. When you send them please enclose a note giving the name of the Society, the name of the Editor and the number of copies printed.

The judges will consider both the presentation and content of each journal, and take into account the size of the society and frequency of publication.

Entries should be sent to Bill Robertson, 24 Buckstone Grove, Edinburgh, EH10 6PF during (but not before) March 2009. Entries will close on 31 March 2009. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the ABPS AGM.

In earlier years the standard of entries has been high, and we have seen some remarkable journals. Why not give your publication a try?

# Centenary PHILATELIC CONGRESS of GREAT BRITAIN

Will be held between 16-19<sup>th</sup> July 2009



*FUTURE*'. This will include some rare early Congress material. The RDP ceremony and presentation of the Congress Medal is scheduled to take place at the historic Manchester Town Hall on the Friday afternoon. This will be followed by a reception at the Town Hall. The

Dear Collector,

I am delighted to inform you that following the success of the 2008 Philatelic Congress at Stratford upon Avon, the Centenary Congress will be held at the Copthorne Hotel Manchester, Clippers Quay, Salford Quays, Manchester. The Copthorne Hotel Manchester is situated in the superb Salford Quays area near to the **Lowry Museum, Imperial War Museum and Manchester United's Old Trafford.**

The transport links are superb, just 1 minute from the end of the M602 (Spur off the M62). The MetroLink system also provides an efficient link between Manchester Piccadilly Station and Exchange Quay which is just 100 yards from the Copthorne.

There will be a full programme of displays. The principal Congress lecture will be *'THE EVOLUTION OF CONGRESS FROM THE PAST TO THE*

traditional Congress banquet will be held at the Hotel on the Saturday evening.

The Congress is being hosted by members of the North West Philatelic Federation. Paul Gaywood has accepted the invitation of the ABPS Congress Committee to be Chairman of Congress.

If you are either unable to stay for the whole of Congress or you live locally, Day Delegates will be very welcome to attend on any day of Congress to see the spectacular displays.

For further information, please contact **Colin Searle (Secretary, A.B.P.S. Congress Committee) on 07879 665658 or email – searlec@gmail.com**

**Gerald Marriner**  
(Chairman ABPS Congress Committee)

## Meet Colin Searle - ABPS Secretary



I am aged 58 and was born in Plymouth to parents who were both in the Royal Navy. In 1956 the family moved to Gibraltar for just over 2 years and this formed a lifelong interest in the Rock of Gibraltar. My address at one time was 1 Europa Point, right at the tip of Europe! After Gibraltar came Malta for another 2½ years and again the seeds were sown for a Malta Collection which is currently being beefed up ready for Society presentations.

After meeting my future wife at Sussex University, I entered the fledgling computer industry in 1972 and all interest in philately was put on the back burner until I was 48.

A purchase of an unsold stamp lot of Australian stamps at a local auction prompted me to rekindle my enthusiasm in “stamps”. The Gibraltar collection came down from the loft and the first task was to get every stamp in the catalogue which, apart from the 10 centimos with no value, I managed to do in just over

2 years. During this time I joined my local Societies and the Gibraltar Study Circle and started to develop my ebay skills in buying and selling material,

The Midland Philatelic Federation were looking for a new Convention Officer and my head poked above the parapet and I was duly appointed in 2003. The Newsletter editors role became vacant and I was persuaded to take this on as well. These jobs were not too onerous because they tended to peak at certain times of the philatelic season.

The previous Midpex committee resigned en-bloc and Bryan Jones was appointed the new Chairman and promptly appointed me as the Secretary in late 2006 for the 2007 event. This was very interesting because we started with a bank balance of zero and we had to develop our own thoughts and ideas in a venue at the end of its working life. Fortunately Midpex 2007 was a great success and later that year Gerald Marriner was asked to be the local Chairman of the forthcoming 2008 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain to be held in Stratford. I have know Gerald for many years and my computer skills came in very useful with the design of the hand-book and the reintroduction of congress miniature sheets after an absence over recent years of such material.

I must keep looking out for the parapet that I seem to stick my head over, because the vacant ABPS Secretarial role was discussed with me and I accepted the position.

setting up my own business dealing with the Education and Health Service markets. I am in the process of heading towards semi-retirement so that I can devote time to my philatelic activities.

I live near Stratford-upon-Avon and have 2 children, with my son recently married and now living in the USA. My daughter is between continents after having spent 2 years in Australia and New Zealand and is heading towards Asia in the Spring.

The Centenary Congress in Manchester prompted me to find out more about Congress and I quickly realised that there is no catalogue of Congress material and no book has been written about Congress in recent years. This time, I jumped over the parapet myself and I am busy writing a Book on "100 years of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain" which will be published in March 2009.

## WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG COLLECTORS ??

Now is your chance to do something. At each Stampex the Stamp Active Network runs a **youth corner**, providing a focal point for all young collectors, with activities, competitions and free gifts to show them how to get more out of their collecting. For each event there is a theme to link things together. The themes for 2009 are **USA** – thematically – and **sport** in all its forms. If you have any surplus material which links in to either of these, please send it to-

**Dave Armitage, SAN Stampex Coordinator, 2 Shut Lane, Earls Colne, Colchester, CO6 2RE**

All donations will be gratefully received and put to good use.



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## The 2008 Campaign for Burns Stamps

by Willie King FRPSL

Those of us who have an interest in stamps and philately in general were aware that Royal Mail had included a new Burns Issue in the 2009 programme. This was planned to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759.

However, until Stuart MacKenzie, Honorary President of the Scottish Postal History Society visited us in November I was blissfully unaware that 'no' stamps would be available. There followed initially a very helpful chat to staff in Tallents House, Edinburgh followed by several increasingly strained conversations with more 'senior?' Royal Mail staff in London and Edinburgh on what constituted a 'stamp'. Two 'new' Burns commemorative stamps are indeed included in a 'prestige' sheet containing additionally four standard Scottish definitives, which add a 'premium' of £1.94 to the cost, which I personally consider quite unethical. Of course the result of being included within such a format means that the stamps will NOT receive an individual SG number and therefore will not appear in the simplified catalogue – so much for prestige!

The first Burns issues were actually in Russia and Romania but it was 1966 before Great Britain honoured Robert Burns with an issue of stamps. These finally arrived after a long campaign in the 1950s failed to persuade the post office to issue bicentenary commemorative in 1959. However local Scottish

efforts did manage to arrange for the Alloway Post Office to open on that Sunday. This attracted huge crowds and a very large number of covers were postmarked. Later the belated issue of Burns commemoratives in 1966 did lead to the opening of a special Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh (see the note after the Burns issue in SG Concise). This was so successful that within 6 months all future British commemorative issues had their primary First Day of issue covers postmarked in Edinburgh i.e. as per the SG catalogues.

While trying to determine what had befallen the Burns stamps I contacted a number of collectors and friends. Everyone I contacted was shocked and were under the same misconception as myself that the stamps would be available at normal Post Offices and not just to philatelists or to the collectors reading this column. John Scott the member of the Scottish Parliament representing the constituency where the birthplace of Burns is located was equally dumbfounded. I received a telephone call on the 19<sup>th</sup> November to ask if I could get a group together and put our case to Linda Fabiani, Minister for Europe and Culture in the Scottish Parliament on the following day. In the next few hours a four-part presentation was developed lasting 5-6 minutes.

The team met up at the Parliament Building at Holyrood and met several

other MSPs before meeting Minister Fabiani. Our presentation was very well received and following many questions and observations the Minister decided that she would follow-up on the question of the stamps being made easily and ‘normally’ available to the public at face value in the post offices and, would also refer the matter to Alex Salmond, First Minister. The Minister then delegated the team to follow-up on our secondary suggestion that the stamps be made available to schoolchildren in Scotland to promote Robert Burns and, of course, stamp collecting as a hobby.



The photograph shows the team that made it to Holyrood on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Back Row, David Mekie, President of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies – all 42 of them, Willie King, President of the Scottish Postal History Society and member of the ABPS executive, Ian MacPherson, President Ayr Philatelic Society and ASPS representative to ABPS. Front row - Margaret Morris, President of Glasgow Thematic Society flanked by John Scott MSP Conservative and Unionist Party and Linda Fabiani MSP, a Minister.

Meantime John Scott, MSP had tabled a Parliamentary Motion as follows :

Parliamentary Motion S3M-2927  
Submitted by John Scott MSP on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**Robert Burns 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Stamps**

That the Parliament notes the intention of the Royal Mail to produce a Robert Burns 250th anniversary issue souvenir sheet of stamps; further notes that it is not intended that individual Burns 250th anniversary stamps be produced and that the only way in which the Burns anniversary stamp can therefore be purchased is as part of the souvenir sheet at a cost of £2.66; believes that this represents a huge missed opportunity to promote Burns in the year of Homecoming Scotland 2009, both at home and abroad, and calls on the Royal Mail to reconsider its position and to commission the issue of individual Burns 250th anniversary stamps, to be available for purchase at face value through post office branches.

**Supported by:** *John Lamont, Sir Jamie McGrigor, Kenneth Gibson, Gavin Brown, Rob Gibson, Alex Neil, Bill Aitken, Nanette Milne, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Scanlon, Bill Kidd, Roseanna Cunningham, Hugh O’Donnell, Shirley-Anne Somerville, David McLetchie, Gil Paterson, Brian Adam, Jamie Hepburn, Ted Brocklebank, Margaret Mitchell, Hugh Henry, Stuart McMillan, Annabel Goldie, Angela Constance, Bob Doris, Dr Richard Simpson, John Wilson, Christine Grahame, Robin Harper, Cathy Peattie,*

*Jim Hume, Joe FitzPatrick, Willie Coffey, Dave Thompson, Andrew Welsh, Derek Brownlee, Margo MacDonald*

The supporters who have signed to support the motion include members of all of the political groups represented at Holyrood, which indicates that it is not in anyway a political viewpoint. Note also, although in this case the pressure group is largely Scottish, the team arrived at Holyrood with the full support of the Chairman of the ABPS executive committee - Phil Kenton.

### **Results :**

**The request to provide the Burns Commemorative stamps as individual stamps** at regular Post Offices by Linda Fabiani, Minister of the Scottish Government. Ian D. Smith, Head of External Relations, Royal Mail, Edinburgh has refused this request. He has written similarly to W. King refusing that request.

**Request to Provide A Miniature Sheet to Scottish Schoolchildren :** Following the delegation by the minister to the team to provide ideas for provision of Burns stamps as souvenirs for Scottish schoolchildren I submitted quotation requests for 400,000+ sheets to Royal Mail in Edinburgh.

- Provision of the sheet in 'specimen' format – suggested design attached. Result – Refused by Mr Ian D. Smith, Head of External Relations, Royal Mail Edinburgh
- Provision of the sheet with the setenant definitives removed from the design otherwise identical to original sheet. Result – Refused by Ian D. Smith.

- Provision of the sheet at discount since the sheet would be a souvenir and very few would be used for a service by Royal Mail. Result : Offer by Mr Smith to supply at £2.66 per sheet (ie £1.066 million) less standard trade discount and prepared to discuss the logistics of such a 'large' quantity of stamps.

I would suggest that the first option above was very affordable, the second worth pursuing with several potential sponsors. The team will not be following up Royal Mail's offer to consider logistics.

**Current Situation :** The 'problem' has been escalated to Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland. It is also now to be raised at Westminster, since Royal Mail is an area 'reserved' for Westminster. That is a pity because initially all we thought we had to do was to ask nicely – 'can you take the existing designs and reprint in sheet format'. It does not exactly require space age technology.

Royal Mail will no doubt now cite lack of time as an excuse – however we want these stamps for the people and the children – not just as expensive souvenirs for philatelists. So meeting the time of 'first' issue of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 **IS NOT RELEVANT**. Four or eight weeks delay would be acceptable even with the latter as Burns is the key feature of the ASPS 2009 Congress, one could still afford 'special' covers to mark Congress.

By the way, if any definitive collectors want to buy setenant blocks of Scottish definitives at face value + postage please contact David Mekié or myself.

X

On a lighter note this epic poem, with due respect to Robert Burns, has been supplied by Colin Campbell of Dundee PS. We hope it is yet unfinished and there will be happy outcome to this saga.

### **To A Stamp**

By Colin Campbell courtesy of  
Robert Burns

When Royal Mail billies meet about  
A new issue o' stamps  
What thoughts are going through their  
minds  
As they begin tae rant?

“What of Burns?” quoth one of them  
The rest look up and smile  
“Just give the Scots a mini-sheet  
It’s really not worth while”

“But what if they begin to grouse?  
Says another o’ the pack  
“We’ll tell them that they are out of luck  
And let them pout and sulk”

Now let’s get to another issue  
Like that motor-racing chappy  
These we’ll sell as single stamps  
And then we’ll all be happy

But in the north oor Willie stirs  
And rakes up quite a stushie  
E’en Alex S. has heard his grief  
And disnae like the story

So will auld Rabbie’s stamps be used  
To grace oor letters fulsome  
Or will they just fill a wee space  
In some collector’s album?

## **Around the Societies**

Society Secretaries and Publicity Officers should note that because of pressure of time the reports in this issue have been transcribed from electronic formats only. The time involved in transcribing hand written copy is onerous and can only be done if the Editor’s time is not under pressure. Copy received in typed format can usually be used, but again for this issue time was not available to scan such material through my OCR software..

### **Local Societies**

#### **Burnley and District Philatelic Society**

The New Year started with Presidents night 8th January and members showing displays related to the “Letter V” on the 22nd. February speakers included a welcome visit from Richard and Yvonne Wheatley showing “Forgeries and Fakes” from the Leeds PS collection and “Czechoslovakia”. Roger Oakley concluded our February meetings with “Landmarks of British Postal History”. In March we welcome Howard Hughes with his Gold medal display won at Harrogate on “The Maltese Cross Part 1” and a visit from our neighbours Rochdale PS. Our season in April and May continues with our own members displays and our AGM in May. The Society meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month September to May at the Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves St Burnley. New members always welcome.

## **Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society**

Tom Butlin gave a display in two parts to the Society. The first half devoted to Honduras, one of the original “Banana” republics. Tom showed stamps, letters, postcards etc, concentrating mainly on the early issues, the Nicolas Seebeck issues, and the myriad of overprinted and surcharged issues. He included not only the early essays, colour trials and proofs, but many blocks, and a wide range of errors, especially typesetting and printing errors of the overprinted issues.

The second half was Sierra Leone, where Tom concentrated on the Queen Victoria issues, showing all the printings, many in blocks, and a wide range of the various overprinted stamps including some unique items due to the method of printing.

The Society meets in the Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent. Full details may be obtained from the Secretary, David Rennie on 020 8778 7001,



*Tom Butlin on left with Charles Newson, the Society's President*

## **Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society**

At a recent meeting, our visitor, Mrs Lindy Bosworth gave us a comprehensive display of the stamps and postal history of Czechoslovakia from the days when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire to 1993.

Lindy's grandfather came from Karlovy Vary, also known as Karlsbad, and her display started with picture postcards from this famous spa town. She continued with some of the postal history of Prague, starting with an official document of 1686. Being part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, the official language was German, but, gradually, postmarks worded in both German and Czech came into use.

Czechoslovakia only became a separate country after the First World War and her first stamps were those of Austria or Hungary, overprinted POSTA CESHOSLOVENSKA 1919, together with the famous stamps designed by Mucha, showing a view of Hradcany Castle.

The second part of the evening started with a selection of commercial advertising covers, slogan postmarks in various colours, and trials of three-colour postmarks. Finally, in 1993 the country split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and each country issued its own stamps.

A recent visitor was Jennifer Toombs, the well known stamp designer. Although she has yet to design a stamp for the UK, she has produced many envelopes for British First Day Covers. Her first

philatelic commission was for the Crown Agents in 1966, commemorating the life of Winston Churchill. Her four designs were used in 33 countries. Since then hundreds of her designs have appeared in many Commonwealth countries.

Appropriately, she brought along examples of some of her Christmas stamps, showing the varied styles that she has employed.



*Jennifer Toombs and her stamp designs*

We were interested to learn that Jennifer prepares the initial design stamp size and only later is it enlarged for the printers. This avoids the common mistake of including too much detail, which is then lost in the issued stamp.

For more details of the Society please phone John Rawlins 01245 420196.

## **Ferndown & West Moors Philatelic & Postcard Club**

Our year got off to a flying start with an all evening auction, this was followed by visits from both the Walton & Weybridge and Poole clubs. Another visitor was Cliff Wheatley with his display of Greece and The Ionian Islands. Our own members contributed displays using the letter I & “Three more of my favourite things” which broke our record when 27 members showed material. Finally our members have had success in the wider field John Davis picked up two trophies at Hampex & Geoff Hood collected a vermeil at Vienna WIPA 08 for his exhibit of Heraldry.

## **Kingston & District Philatelic Society**

The Society was saddened to learn of the death of one of our honorary members, Derek Nathan, in November.

An entertaining view on some of the philatelic items which can pass through an auctioneer's hands, was given by Joe Cottreal, of Warwick & Warwick at our meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. On 6<sup>th</sup> November, Brian Asquith displayed his excellent Concorde Story – “Faster than a Bullet” which successfully combines aerophilately and social philately. These meetings were interspersed with other members meetings where a variety of philatelic material is displayed. We also had a visit from Jack Davey who, on 4<sup>th</sup> December, talked to us about International Registered Mail.

# The Aurelius Collection

To be sold by auction Winter/Spring 2009, the magnificent Aurelius collection of Great Britain King Edward VII and King George V.

Complimentary copies of the catalogues for these auctions will be available on request. They will also be available to view on our website [www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com)



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*Joe Cottreal of Warwick & Warwick*

Our next visiting speaker, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009, will be Tom Fowler with his display of Civil Aviation material.

Details of these, and other meetings of the Society can be found on our website [www.ukphilately.org.uk/societies/sites\\_we\\_host/kingstononthames.html](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/societies/sites_we_host/kingstononthames.html) or by contacting the Hon Secretary, Brian Sole, FRPSL on 01372 467652 or on [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com).

## **Southampton & District Philatelic Society.**

In November for the President's evening, the guest speaker was Mr Bob Viney who displayed 'The Postal History of Rutland'.

Two Society members gave displays at the main December meeting. Jon Manning presented early Siam whilst Julian Jones gave a display entitled 'Speeding up Transatlantic Mails'. For the final Thursday afternoon meeting of the year, the Society provided traditional mince pies and sausage rolls after a series of informal displays.

In 2009 four auctions have been arranged for the 17th March, 19th May, 21st July and the Grand Saturday Auction on 3rd October. Excursions have also been arranged to Spring Stampex in February, Swinpex in June, Midpex in July and Philatex in November.

Details regarding membership may be obtained from Stuart Gaiger (Membership Secretary) on 023 8078 4761.

### **THE COMMONWEALTH**

Please ask for whichever of the following lists are of interest to you:

- Victoria to King George V     King George VI - Mint     King George VI - Used  
Some stock of Queen Elizabeth also available

For more specialised material, including Postal History and Great Britain, please let me know your interests

---

**Michael Hale (PTS)**

**44 North Road, Midsomer Norton, RADSTOCK, BA3 2QQ**

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## Ringwood Philatelic Society



In November, club members heard some of the tricks of the trade from Blandford stamp dealer, Frank Spencer. He came into the trade in 1973 by chance, starting out with David Fields of Mayfair, a dealership on hard times and was able to dictate his own terms as their new stamp issues man. In the evenings he wrote up new issues ( at £40 per page!) for “Stamp Collecting” magazine. In 1980/81 a huge escalation in stamp prices was followed by collapse of the market. He could then set up on his own, buying David Fields’ new issue clients and later doing the new issue listings and half the editorials for “Stamp Magazine”. These tasks were never easy but in the 1980s there was no internet, no reference books and clients often collected the A-Z of Commonwealth stamps involving big purchases and wide knowledge. Even now it is difficult to decipher accurately what is portrayed on new stamps e.g. the recent Russian

Karsh portraits, and that is why Stanley Gibbons’ and others’ listings are so far behind. To be successful as a dealer you have to be on the mailing list of hundreds of countries, know your clients’ wants, have good links to a trade journal for samples, contacts and information, encourage people into thematic collecting, not over-buy “popular” issues (e.g. Vatican New Pope, Charles/Diana Wedding) and set your price right. Stamp Fairs are always a gamble.

Club Chairman, Colin Mount also presented the major trophies won by the club at the 2008 Hampex Stamp Fair - the photo shows (from the left) Bert Burton winner of the Hiscock Trophy for most promising thematic entry, John Davis winner of the Jan Kaluski Trophy for best 32 page entry in the show and Hampshire Hog Trophy for best Traditional Class entry,

## West London Philatelic Society

This Society meets in Acton on the 1st Tuesday of every month between September and June. Details of these can be found on our website [www.ukphilately.org.uk/societies/sites\\_we\\_host/west\\_london.html](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/societies/sites_we_host/west_london.html) or contact Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary on 020 8940 9833 or on [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net) for other details of the Society.

At our November meeting we were delighted to be given an excellent display of French West Africa by Barbara Priddy. This dwelt largely on the pioneers of airmail and other difficulties of mail transport between France and her colonies during the war years. Barbara's enthusiasm for this display was evident to see in this interesting and informative display.

We will be holding our traditional December banquet and we look forward to a display from our President, Susan Oliver, in January and from Roger Partridge, on a Scandinavian miscellany,

in February. Visitors are most welcome to attend our meetings.



*Barbara Priddy presenting her display*

## Winchester & District Stamp Society

This was John Lea's 4th visit to the Society. The first half covered Egypt from the first issue designed in Italy through the various designs depicting the King, issues made in the 1960s to various items of postal stationery. This part included a block of six of the rare Suez Canal stamp of 1868. The second half began with with the

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'NAAFI' seals, followed by stamps of Sudan which initially used overprinted Egyptian stamps before the first of the Camel issues in 1898. The display ended with a few examples from Ethiopia and the typed stamps of Uganda.

Nov. 26th: 60th Anniversary Dinner. Keith Gilmour (Chairman) welcomed everybody to our 60th anniversary dinner. Keith Gilmour made a short speech after dinner commenting on previous displays and talks and then invited the President to say a few words. Gillian Mills made a request for Society Publicity to try and attract new and perhaps younger members to the Society.

## **York Philatelic Society.**

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month throughout the year apart from August. Extra meetings will take place in April and in September. The meetings are held at the Priory Street Centre, Priory Street, York in the Denham Room and start at 7.15 p.m.

10th February Annual Competition judging and presentations. Members' bourse and Auction viewing.

10th March Annual Club Auction - viewing from 7 p.m.

14th April Visit from Harrogate P.S.

28th April Members' displays

12th May Ken Walker "American Early History up to Independence"

9th June President and Vice President's evening

14th July Visit of Scarborough P.S.

8th September Val Beeken "40th Anniversary of the first Concorde flight"  
22nd September Mini-Auction

13th October Malcolm Stockhill "Poland ever decreasing circles".

10th November 61st Annual General Meeting. Mini-Auction.

8th December Members' evening, with mince pies "Mini-displays of stamps on any subject".

Further information can be obtained by accessing the Society website at:-

<http://sites.google.com/site/yorkps/> which lists details of contacts, location etc.

Alternatively details can be obtained from Captain P. Hyde, Publicity Secretary, at 01904-490603 or e-mail at:-

[yogyork@ic24.net](mailto:yogyork@ic24.net)

## **Federations**

### **Cornwall Philatelic Federation**

CORNEX 2008 was held at the Liskeard Community School on 25th October 2008

The day commenced at 8.15 am with the dealers and organisers arriving at the new venue, and by 8.30 am the main hall was an absolute hive of activity with the dealers arriving with their stock coupled with the setting-up of the exhibition frames for the competition displays.

By mid morning over sixty had signed in, and at one stage a considerable queue had formed at the door. Someone was overheard saying "I've never seen that at CORNEX before" As usual, after lunch the numbers arriving had slowed down but there was still a steady trickle. At the final count well over 100 had signed in,

excluding those who passed unchecked in the rush. It was pleasing to note that all the Cornwall clubs were represented together with 6 clubs from Devon and the West of England Thematic Society.

The competition exhibits were judged by Martin Evans FRPSL, from the Devon Federation, and at 3.00 pm the trophies and cups were presented by Mrs. Evelyn Sandercock to the following worthy winners:

General Philately - Mr. Vivian Sandercock with his Large Quetzal Provisional Surcharges 1886-1903 of Guatemala.

Postal History - Dr. Richard Saundry with his U.S.A. aerophilatelic display entitled NYRBA.

Thematic - Mr. Mike Whyte with his display entitled Propaganda & the Post.

Open Class - Mr. Jim Parsons with his display of New Zealand

The Lion Trophy was won by Mr. Martin Hopkinson for his display of "Canada - The small Queens" and the Royal Mail Cup was awarded to Mr. Mike Whyte for the best first time entrant.

### **Middlesex Philatelic Federation**

The Federation Stamp Day Stampersham 50, held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, was a great success. This was mainly due to the members of the host Society, Amersham & District P.S. who celebrated the golden jubilee of that society. Other members of the Federation rallied round and put in a lot of work. Dr. Paul Stanley master-minded the Grand Draw; Bridget Robinson organised the Youth Area, ably assisted by Ganesh Shanmuganathan and

others from the local Society; Brian Coates organised the competitions and the judging thereof, by two friends from the Kent Federation. My thanks to all who organised, those who helped and those who came to the show.

The 16 page competition awards were made at Stampersham 50. The Thematic class was won by Ganesh Shanmuganathan (from Pinner P.S.) and both Traditional and Postal History awards went to Watford P.S.

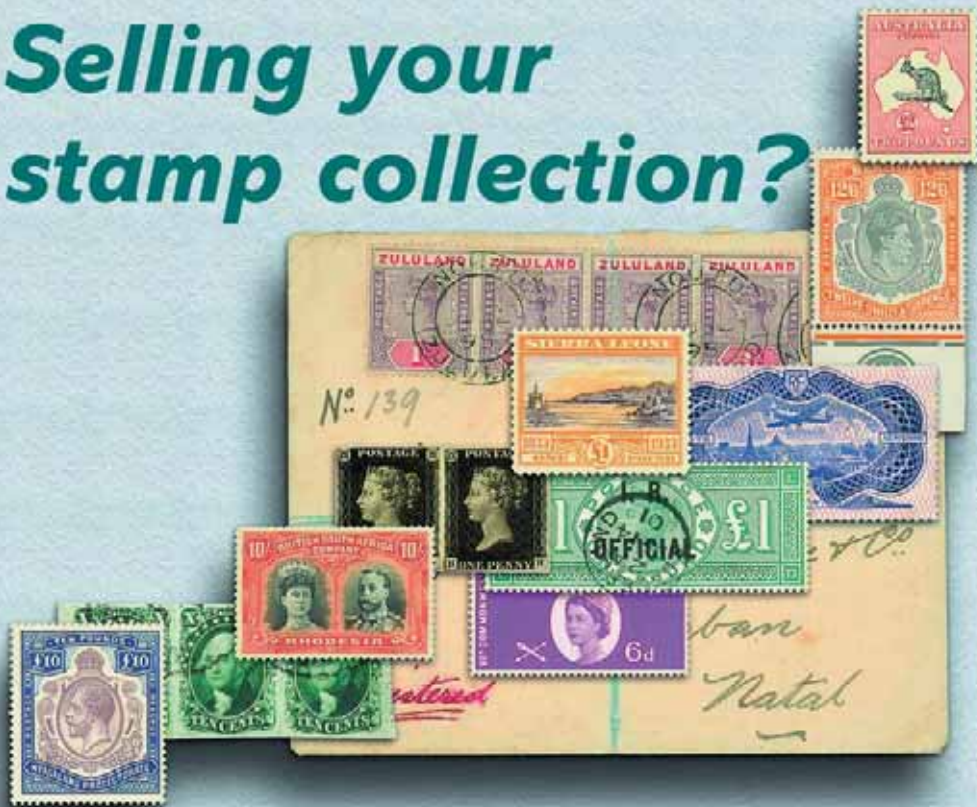


*Chris Oliver presenting the Thematic Class Shield to Ganesh Shanmuganathan.*

### **The North East of England Philatelic Association**

NEPA will hold its 60th Annual Convention at Ryehills School Redcar on Saturday 25th April 2009. It is also the 40th year of the Redcar Philatelic Society which hosts the event. To mark these milestones a commemorative cover and 'Smiler' will be available. Both feature the Zetland Lifeboat (the oldest in the world) which has served the Redcar section of

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the NE coast with distinction. The Convention will display the season's regional competition entries, and award several prizes for children's stamp design competitions. The guest speaker will be Tony Bosworth, an Hon. Vice President ABPS of Maidstone, who will display 'Berlin 1936 Olympics'. Ryehills School is well served by bus and rail and has ample free on site car parking and good facilities for refreshments. For further information and a map visit the NEPA Website ([www.nepa.me.uk](http://www.nepa.me.uk)) or contact G.Reynolds (01642 478229).

## Specialist Societies

### **British Thematic Association**

All future Thematica events have been cancelled due to the organiser, Maurice Gale, retiring. The Friends of Thematica competitions, including the BTA Cup and the Inter-Fed Competition, will be staged at Midpex on 11th July 2009.

ThematiX is a new thematic dealers show (no competitions/displays). It will be held on 26th and 27th June 2009 at the Harlequin's Rugby Ground at Twickenham. One of the organisers is Bob Lee - 0208 397 2332 or [sgscboble@aol.com](mailto:sgscboble@aol.com)

The next meeting of the BTA will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at the Waterside United Reform Church Hall, Bath Road, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7EP. It will include twelve sheet displays from members, guest speaker David Hunter and a thematic workshop. The workshop

will concentrate on offering advice on starting and building a thematic collection as well as showing the full range of thematic material available to collectors. The day will start at 10:30 and finish around 16:45.

There is no charge for the day and tea and coffee will be provided. However lunch will not be provided and those attending are asked to bring their own refreshments or make use of the nearby food outlets and hostelrys. Parking is not allocated at the hall but is available in the adjacent road and at three large car parks within walking distance of the venue. The day will concentrate on the fun side of thematic collecting and will not include advice on exhibiting. The meeting is open to everyone and all are encouraged to attend. If you would like further information or would like to attend the event please contact John Hayward: tel. 01276 29246 or email [ssasman@btinternet.com](mailto:ssasman@btinternet.com)

For further details about the BTA please write to Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM23 2BY or see our website [www.brit-thematic-assoc.com](http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com)

### **The Malaya Study Group.**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup>. November, visiting Singapore member Richard Hale gave a truly superb, well illustrated two round display of Plate Flaws, Retouches, and what were described as a few 'Fly Specks' to the group in London. The principles followed to determine that a Plate Flaw was 'constant' were explained to the audience with clues on how to find them, aided by chance, serendipity and lots of

material. The display gained the attention and interest of the audience present, and was an enjoyable afternoon for all. In addition to the display, a bourse was held.

A meeting was held in London on the 13<sup>th</sup>. December 2008, following the usual end of year format of Wine, Cheese and Members Displays, the theme this year being 'Trains, Planes and Automobiles', which was a fitting end to 2008.

The committee have been busy organising events for 2009, this being the Malaya Study Group's 50<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary, commencing with Stampex where some members will exhibit single frame exhibits of 16 sheets.

In March, the Leicester meeting will be held as usual, with a celebratory buffet lunch being served during the proceedings. The April edition of Gibbons Stamp Monthly is to feature the group, with four members producing articles on a wide range of subjects. June will see a London meeting followed by a reception hosted by the Directors of Spink and Sons in the evening on their premises.

During October, the Malaya Study Group has been invited to display to the Royal Philatelic Society, all non-displaying members being invited as guests. In addition to events being held in the United Kingdom, festivities are also being organised by the respective overseas representatives. For more information, visit the Malaya Study Group website at '<http://www.malayastudygroup.com>'.

## **Netherlands Philatelic Circle**

Following the successful Annual Congress held in 2008 near Stratford-on-Avon, the Circle will be returning to the same venue in 2009 over the weekend of 20-22 March. There will be the same programme of activities as has served well for several years, which includes displays by members, an auction and bourse, and the much enjoyed Annual Dinner. As always, these activities will be preceded by the necessary formality of the AGM, reporting to members on the running of the Circle during the previous year and planning for the year ahead. A new website has recently been set up, so to find out all about the Circle visit [www.netherlandsphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.netherlandsphilatelic.org.uk) or, alternatively, contact Paul McGowan on 01698 426289.

## **South African Collectors' Society**

We attended the weekend conference of Southern Africa Societies in the U.K., which was, again, a great success thanks to the organising abilities of Brian Trotter and Eddie Bridges ably assisted by Tony Howgrave-Graham, our conference auctioneer. The Society is now making plans to hold an exhibition of the philately of the Union of South Africa, at Spring Stampex 2010, in recognition of the centennial of the founding of the Union in 1910. Contact Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary on 020 8940 9833 or on [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net) for further information regarding the Society, or view our website on [www.ukphilately.org.uk/Societies/sites\\_we\\_host/SAfrica.html](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/Societies/sites_we_host/SAfrica.html).

## **Pacific Islands Study Circle (PISC)**

Twelve members and three guests attended our first ever meeting at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, Sussex on 11th October 2008. This was organised by **Peter Phillips** and was held in conjunction with the Federation of Sussex Philatelic Societies' annual convention.

**David Murray Brown** opened the proceedings with a comprehensive display of Pitcairn. A variety of handstamps from the concession period were shown, followed by examples of mail from the NZ Postal Agency and a 1937 Coronation first day cover, one of only 100 which were prepared. Among the other postal history items which caught my eye were inward and outward WW2 censored covers, official covers from the 1950s, a 1955 QSL card from Floyd McCoy and a 1965 cover with a "Missent Pitcairn Island" cachet.

**Chris Clifford** continued with a display of Norfolk Island to 2002, saying that his interest in Norfolk was sparked by the receipt of letters from his uncle, who was the island's doctor. **Bryan Dowler** then showed Gilbert and Ellice, 1895 to 1939, recounting the history of the Colony from its annexation by Great Britain in 1892. Notable early items included Paul Dolsch covers from 1895 with New South Wales or German adhesives and a 1905 missionary cover from Abaiang. The first stamps, overprinted on those of Fiji, were well represented on covers and were also shown in blocks of four with Type 1 cancellations.

A well attended and organised meeting, courtesy of a lot of hard work by **Martin Davies**, had a most enjoyable day in central Manchester, with some excellent material on show. The feature speaker, **Robin Sherman**, who had travelled down from Edinburgh, entertained the meeting throughout the morning session with an astonishing display of British Solomon Islands material from the World War II period. Considering that, at best, there were only a maximum of four post offices open in the Solomons during this period, and that this number reduced to two for part of that time, and indeed during part of 1942 there was not a single post office open, the range of material shown was exceptional.



*Robin Sherman at his exhibit*

The afternoon was filled to capacity with short displays given by many of those attending, as follows:-

**Peter Kirk** – Pitcairn Island 1920 to 1940

leading up to the establishment of the NZ Agency, and a wide variety of Agency period covers.

The PISC covers the smaller countries of the Pacific plus Christmas Island and Cocos Islands. For details of the society, please contact the Hon. Secretary, John Ray, 24 Woodvale Avenue, London SE25 4AE. Please also see our website: [www.pisc.org.uk](http://www.pisc.org.uk)

## MIDPEX 2009

We are delighted to announce that MidPex 2009 will be held in the brand new Xcel Leisure Centre in Canley in Coventry. This is a “State of the Art” building just off the A45 on the South West side of Coventry. Bryan Jones (Chairman of the MPF and MidPex) said “this is the first National Event that has been booked at the centre. We have also been honoured to host the Annual “Friends of Thematica” Competitions and the AGM of the ABPS.

Everyone is looking forward to a superb event which will provide better facilities for Dealers, Specialist Societies and Philatelists and the new competitions”

for further details, including directions please contact Colin Searle, The Old Post Office, 1 Wellesbourne Rd, Barford, WARWICK, CV35 8EL  
[searlec@gmail.com](mailto:searlec@gmail.com)

## Words from the Wise

Everything seems to be now in place for 2009 - 10 and its just a case of watching this space and being prepared to support the ABPS during the next two years. Elsewhere in this edition you will find news of events and dates of meetings and the 100th. Congress in Manchester, together with Midpex and the 2009 Annual Competitions to be held at Autumn Stampex later this year. All of these in the run up to London 2010 and the Festival of Stamps.

I just repeat my grateful thanks to you all who support the ABPS and say to those local clubs and Specialist Societies please come and support us and our work for British Philately, you are needed from the smallest club to the largest Specialist Society.

**Phil Kenton**

### **Joint N.P.S. / A.B.P.S. Seminars on One-Frame Displaying**

The first of the seminars, admirably led by Dr. Alan Huggins, MBE, RDP, Hon. FRPSL, on 4<sup>th</sup> December, was well attended with useful interaction between all. Christine Earle assisted by fielding the Thematic queries with usual adeptness. A further such seminar was scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009 to help satisfy demand. This was again held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, and we thank them for providing hospitality for the seminars to take place, well in advance of the one-frame competitions to be held at Spring Stampex 2009.

# Diary

## Local events 2009

**February 21 - Huntingdon Philatelic Society Stamp Fair** - Parish Church Hall, St. Ramsey Road, St. Ives.

**March 22 - Warminster Philatelic Society** - Stamp & Postcard Fair, Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wilts, 10am to 4pm.

**March 28 - WestBex 09** - Kennet School, Stony Lane, Thatcham, Berks. 10am to 4pm

**April 19 - Enfield Philatelic Society** - Stamp Fair at St. Luke's Hall, Morley Hill, Enfield - from 10 am to 4 pm.

**April 25 - North East England Philatelic Association (NEPA) 60th Annual Convention** - Ryehills School, Redcar, Cleveland - from 10 am to 4 pm.

**May 9 - WORPEX 09 - Worcester Philatelic & Postcard Society** - Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St. John's, Worcester - 10 am - 4 pm

**June 20 - Yorkshire Philatelic Association** - Sheffield

**October 10 - Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies - The South of England Stamp Fair** - South of England Showground at Ardingly, Sussex

**October 17 - Enfield Philatelic Society** - Stamp Fair at St. Luke's Hall, Morley Hill, Enfield - from 10 am to 4 pm.

**October 23- 25 - Philatelic Weekend** - Dundee

## National events 2009

**February 25 to 28 - Spring Stampex** - Business Design Centre, Islington, London

**February 26 to 28 - Philatex** - Royal Horticultural Lawrence Hall, Greycoat St. London.

**July 11 - Midpex** - Xcel Centre, Tile Hill, Canley, Warwickshire - 10 am - 5 pm.

**September 16 to 19 - Autumn Stampex & ABPS National Competition** - Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

**November 5 to 7 - Philatex** - Royal Horticultural Lawrence Hall, Greycoat St. London.

## International events

**April 10 to 16 - China 2009**, Luoyang City, Henan Province, Peoples Republic of China. (UK Commissioner Richard West)

**May 6 to 10 - Essen 2009** with IBRA, Essen, Germany (UK Commissioner Brian Sole)

**October 21 to 25 - Italia 2009 (FEPA)**, Rome, Italy (UK Commissioner Richard West)

**December 4 to 6 - Monacophil 2009** - Monte Carlo

**April 8 to 12 - Antwerpen 2010**, Antwerp, Belgium

**May 5 to 6, 2010 - Philatex Extra** - London

**May 8 to 15 - London 2010** - Festival of Stamps (UK Commissioner John Hayward)

**October 1 to 10 - Portugal 2010**, Lisbon, Portugal (UK Commissioner Chris King contact at [chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net) or phone 020 8346 1366)

**October 27 to 31 - Jo'burg 2010**, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Stamp artwork from the reign of George V digitised

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) is pleased to announce the release of the first catalogues of stamp artwork and registration sheets from the reign of King George V.

From Monday 8 January 2009, it has been possible to view nearly 800 records describing the issue of commemorative stamps in the reign of King George V via our online catalogue. For the first time, people will be able to search for and see the original artwork submitted by artists alongside the final, approved stamp issue. Registration sheets for all George V commemoratives and the first Downey Head definitives as well as the Seahorse high value will also be online.

The overall project aims to give wider access to a range of stamp artwork and encompasses stamp issues from the reigns of George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II. It covers the entire process of each issue, from submitted artwork, through essays to the issued stamps.

This first phase of catalogues includes all the submitted artwork for the competition to design Britain's first commemorative stamp for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition. Commemorative issues for the 1929 Postal Union Congress and 1935 Silver Jubilee followed, as well as a proposed memorial issue following the death of George V.

The BPMA hold a number of objects such as metal dies and rollers that were used in

the production of the commemorative issues of George V. These were engraved by JAC Harrison, arguably the finest engraver of the day.

The project will make widely accessible the work of notable artists and designers, such as Eric Gill, Edmund Dulac, Eric Ravilious and Tom Eckersley. The artwork shows how each artist reconciled the problem of achieving a satisfying artistic design within the constraints of a stamp displaying the King's portrait. At times this led to artists abandoning the King's head altogether, as in the case of Edmund Dulac who submitted a King-less design for the Stamp Centenary Issue, commenting 'I don't suppose [it] will be considered for a moment'.

Douglas Muir, Curator of Philately at the BPMA commented:

"This is the first phase of an exciting project to make our unique collection of philatelic material available to everybody. More artwork and registration sheets will be added to our catalogue in the coming year. Look out for announcements on our website".

The BPMA will be releasing further catalogues through the course of 2009 and 2010, taking the cataloguing of Stamp Artwork into the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.



**Have you completed your current collection?**  
**Have you finished exhibiting your current display?**  
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**Turn your collection into an auction**

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This item, a 1900 14a violet postal stationery envelope of Bussahir additionally franked with an 1895 imperf 2a orange-yellow with mauve monogram (SG 4) was featured on the cover of the catalogue for our Indian States Sale (see left) and was knocked down at £6000 against an estimate of £2000/2400.

The lot on the right, from the Pat Larner sale, is a 1840 1d black envelope, stereo A145 (Spec ME2), used with indistinct MC in red and Poulton Penny Post cancel in black on front, with Preston cds for NO 2 1840 on reverse, faults to rear from opening, cat £425 was estimated at £200 and sold for nearly double catalogue for £800.



## Is my collection suitable for an individual sale?

If you have a specialised collection with a quantity of rare items then the answer is probably 'Yes'. Contact us as detailed below to find out. Even if your collection does not go into a single vendor sale, it can still form an important part of our Public Auction. This means you will still take advantage of the current strong market and collections have sold well in our recent auctions.

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## When do I need to contact you?

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**ABPS News is published four times a year  
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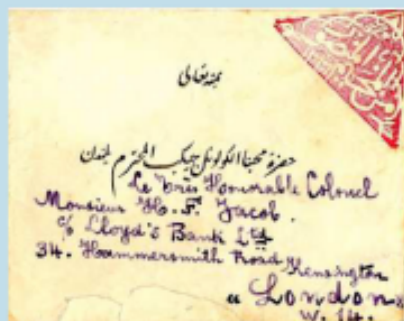


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The Drs. Harper Collections of  
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