

The British Society of Australian Philately

Founded 1933



OPEN LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

One down and one to go. I have just returned from what was agreed to be a very enjoyable Convention weekend in Chester. A fuller report is given elsewhere. Those attending had almost universal praise for the Crowne Plaza hotel. The hotel was comfortable, the food was good and the staff were pleasant, friendly and helpful. Our Guest of Honour was particularly impressed with the quality and variety of fare offered for breakfast. In return he entertained and educated us with an account of how he came to do what he does, and what he sees as the challenges facing the world of philately, which has changed so much with the advent of the internet and Ebay. The only disappointment was that there were so few attendees. A number of regulars were missing because of (pre-booked) holidays, and we were a little early in the year (by one or two weeks) because of London 2010. I hope they will return next year to a venue yet to be decided.

By the time you read this, the London 2010 Festival of Stamps will be over. For those of us who are volunteers, it is likely to have been a fortnight of hard but fulfilling work. For the attendees I hope it will have been memorable, as it will be at least 10 years before we see a similar show. I hope you remembered that ALL the exhibits changed in the middle, with Traditional (and others) on the first four days and Postal History (and others) on the fifth to eighth days and you did not miss something you specially wished to see. I hope you visited the stands of our sponsors, Prestige Philately, Michael Eastick and Torsten Weller, and any of our many Australian dealer friends who came over. I hope that you managed to meet some of our Australian friends who came over and put faces to names. I hope the same was true of BSAP members visiting from Europe. It is always enjoyable to meet and talk to fellow collectors.

After the show, the President and I will be turning our attention to the event planned for Autumn Stampex in 2012. But more of that anon.

PGER 3/5/10

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELY IN PRINT #3, 2010.

A list of articles found in Journals & Bulletins held by the Librarian (Periodicals).

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH COLLECTORS CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES, Vol.49, No.1, March 2010.

Club information.

Art.3462: Missing lettering on 2009 50c Christmas P-Stamp, by Lance Skinner.

Art.3463: Modern Philately, by David Collyer.

Art.3464: 2d King George V die 1: some further thoughts on the replacement of electro 9 by electro 2, by Don Landers.

Art.3465: Express Post International products – an update, by Richard Peck.

Art.3466: Several interesting imprints of the 1½d King George V die 2, by Lance Skinner.

Art.3450 (cont): 1½d King George V – new plating discoveries, by Bill Fiora.

Art.3467: An unissued 1½d King George V definitive, by Geoff Kellow.

Art.3468: Registered Post Label for Official Mail, from Richard Peck.

Art.3343 (cont): 1d King George V plate varieties and compartment lines, by Gordon Monk, Bert Wajer & Paul Kaigg.

Meeting Notes for 16 November 2009, 21 December 2009 (AGM), 18 January & 15 February 2010.

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY, No.111, March 2010.

Editorial.
Eastern Suburbs Philatelic Competition.
Cover Story – registered letter from Shanghai to Vichy France, by Michael Barden.
Operation Rimau 1944, by George Speirs.
New Zealand Musings- NZ at War 1939-45, by Tony Lyon.
Information Please to Brian Fuller.
Hand-held Date-stamps and Help from Gazetteers, by John Young.
Miscellaneous Sydney Gateway Facility Markings, by Tom Cowley.
New Reliefs sighted, by Tom Cowley
Hand-Held Date Stamps, co-ordinated by George Vearing.

APF NEWS, Vol.24, No.1, March 2010.

President's view, by David Figg.
APF Frames Sponsorship Programme.
TIMPEX 2009, by Lionel Savins.
Beijing AEROPEX 2009, by Ross Wood.
Italia 2009, by Geoffrey Lewis.
Launpex 2009.
Mandurah 2010 – Prospectus.
Youth Philately, by Linda Lee.
100 years on – a traditional philatelic challenge.
Gaffa – the modern aerophilatelic challenge.
A postal history of the Furneaux Islands
APTA News.
Exhibition Timetable

CAPITAL PHILATELY, Vol.27, No.4, September 2009.

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation and an Australian Mystery Stamp revealed, by Marilyn Ann Gendek.
Book Review: The Stamps of the Territory of New Guinea: 1925-32 Huts Issue, by RAD Heward, Robert Garratt & David Heward.
CA Pitts Pty Ltd: Postcard Publishers from 1952, by Bronte Watts.

CAPITAL PHILATELY, Vol.28, Nos 1 & 2, December 2009 – March 2010.

Vale: Paul Eric Ralph Magi, 29/07/1927 – 29/10/2009.
Special Australia Post Packs for UPU delegates at the 24th Congress of the UPU held in Geneva 2008., by Darryl Fuller.
100 years of powered flight in Australia, by John Sadler.
Canberra Shows 1980-2010: Exhibiting, innovation and reminiscences, by Dingle Smith.
CA Pitts Pty Ltd: Postcard Publishers from 1952, by Bronte Watts.

CINDERELLAS AUSTRALASIA, Vol.24, No.1, April 2010.

Secretary's Page – Annual General Meeting and subscriptions.
From the Editor's desktop – short news items – Cinderellas Australasia awarded Silver Medal at Canberra Stampshow 2010.
Elizatoria (or it could have been Victeliz) by Derek Pocock.
The Tickey Validation Stamps issued by the State Transport Authority of South Australia, by AD Presgrave.
A Note on the status of Tasmania's so-called postal fiscals, by Bill Lloyd-Smith.
Adelaide Stampex 2010.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, March 2010.

South Australia's stamps in the Commonwealth era, 1901-12, by Richard Breckon.
Postal Stationery Matters (two Australian items) by Peter van Gelder.
2009 Commonwealth Booklets, by Geir Sør-Reime.

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, April 2010.

Australian Songbirds voted the most popular stamp issue of 2009 (in Australia).

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, May 2010.

Western Australia's stamps in the Commonwealth era, 1901 to 1912, by Richard Breckon.

Supplement – London 2010.

THE INFORMER, Vol.74, No.1, January 2010

Tasmania's Embossed Platypus used as Postage: Stamp Duty, or Curiosity or Postal Stationery? by David McNamee

Collecting Numeral Postmarks of the Australian Colonies

Nauru Airmails Part 2: 1945 to 1953 by Robert C Stein

- When Cobb & Co carried Passengers and Mail by William McD. Herr

A new Launceston Postmarker - 1873 by Randall Askeland

Developments in Tuvalu Post by Steven Zirinsky

Solomon Islands: "Officially Closed" - A new PO Label reported by Steven Zirinsky

Member's Bulletin Board

THE INFORMER, Vol.74, No.2, April 2010

Sydney's Mute Cancels by Peter Granfield

New Labels spotted from the Islands by Steven Zirinsky

A Personal Odyssey: An introduction to Australian Postal History and Social Philately by Maurice Mishkel

Tonga Provisional Overprints, Recent Developments by Steven Zirinsky

Tonga Coronation Issue - A Different Approach by Steven Zirinsky

Sir Sandford Fleming and the Pacific cable by Dale White

A Constant Variety of Australian Defence Forces Air Letters? by Robert Shoemaker

Uncommon Cancels of German Micronesia by Frank Ceraso

President's Message from Steven Zirinsky

Member's Bulletin Board

THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol.119, No.1375, May 2010.

Letters to the Editor: Anthony Presgrave FRPSL Australia – Long established Societies (in Australia).

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING, Vol.56, No.1, Jan/April 2010.

Editorial, by Michael J Garwood.

London 2010 Festival of Stamps – Dealer members attending.

The scarcest stamp on commercial cover?, by Michael Garwood (UK).

Modern Matters, from my postbag, by Michael Garwood (UK).

Post WW2 "Catalina" airmail flights in PNG (Pt.2), by Ray Kelly (Aus.)

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA, Vol. LXII, No.1, March 2010

Editorial.

Origins of the Tasmanian Pictorials, by Malcolm Groom FRPSL.

Australian Commonwealth stamps, around 1912.

Air Mail Extracts, from PMG's Department Annual Reports, 1954-62 (Final instalment).

It wouldn't happen today: delivering an 1872 letter in Melbourne.

Vale: Carl Stieg (1916-2010).

Royal News.

Book Review: "Queensland Numeral Cancellations" by Bernard Manning.

The Pre-UPU destination mail of Victoria, by Ben D Palmer.

"Our Society in 1894", by Mac Clarke.

STAMP MAGAZINE, October 2009.

Commonwealth Classics – Papua Jubilee 1934, by John Winchester.

STAMP NEWS, Vol.57, No.3, March 2010.

Editorial; Editor's Mailbag; Philatelic News; New Issues; Clubs & Societies; Dealers Directory; Calendar.

Woodchip free zone: by Rod Perry.

The Red Devil: Captain Harry Butler AFC, Pioneer Aviator, by Samantha Battams & Leslie Parsons.

Auction News: Headless Roo for sale (Auction Co. Pennyred.com)

Australian Stamp Variations, by David Mallen.

Introducing the Australian Philatelic Federation Pt.2, by John Sadler.

Revenue Review, by Dave Elsmore.

Cinderella Corner, by Tony Presgrave.

De-mystifying the detail, by Andrew McEachern.

The Modern Scene (A focus on Framas, Reprints, Booklets and other Modern Material), by Sel Pfeffer.

STAMP NEWS, Vol.57, No.4, April 2010.

Editorial; Editor's Mailbag; Philatelic News; New Issues; Clubs & Societies; Dealers Directory; Calendar.

Kokoda: Australia & Papua New Guinea remember.

Woodchip free zone: (More newsworthy usage realisations at auction) by Rod Perry.

Market Matters (Red China is Red Hot!, etc.) by Glen Stephens.

Vale: Andrew McEachern.

My (Airbus) A380 Diary – Two years later, by Michael Dodd.

Australian stamp variations, by David Mallen.

Introducing the Australian Philatelic Federation Pt.3, by John Sadler.

Revenue Review, by Dave Elsmore.

Cinderella Corner, by Tony Presgrave.

STAMP NEWS, Vol.57, No.5, May 2010.

Editorial; Editor's Mailbag; Philatelic News; New Issues; Clubs & Societies; Dealers Directory; Calendar.

Woodchip free zone: Suggested model for a Usage Collection) by Rod Perry.

Market Matters (Beta blockers – used blocks of stamps) by Glen Stephens.

Australian Stamp Variations, by David Mallen.

Introducing the Australian Philatelic Federation Pt.4, by John Sadler.

Revenue Review, by Dave Elsmore.

Cinderella Corner, by Tony Presgrave.

The Modern Scene (A focus on Framas, Reprints, Booklets and other Modern Material), by Sel Pfeffer.

SYDNEY VIEWS, No.106, February 2010.

Australian States Study Circle 1960-2010 Golden Jubilee.

Victoria: The 4d "Beaded Oval" of 1860-1863 (Pt.4).

The L'Estrange Collection of Queensland.

Book Review – "Victoria Two Shillings Woodblock Plating Guide" by Les Molnar.

New Discovery: Victoria 8d Laureate mint block of 4.

Book Review – "Letter Mail to and from the Old Italian States 1850-1870" by Mario Mentaschi & Thomas Matha.

"Combination covers of NSW & Victoria: an update" – a query.

NSW – The Penny & Penny Halfpenny View Post Cards (Pt.1).

NSW 1d Registered Envelopes – the date of issue of H&G C10.

The end of an era, cessation of postage stamp printing by NSW Government Printing Office.

Queensland Postmark Varieties.

Index to *Sydney Views* for 2009 (Issues 102 – 105).

Mail robbery on Mount Victoria 1864.

Telegraph cancel on £1 Victoria

AEC.

REPORT ON THE LONDON MEETING IN FEBRUARY 2010

This was a 'Members Entertain' evening and seven members displayed material (an eighth had material, but there was neither space nor time to show it).

The following displayed:

Albert Coles: The Royal Navy in Australia in the 20th Century

Alan Cross: Plate varieties on 2/- and 6d Postage Due stamps

Ian Greig: A study of the Victoria Naish twopenny.

Tony Finlayson: The first WWI convoy of the AIF

John Booker: South Australia squared circle cancels.

Neil Russell: Non-governmental organisations that provided services for Prisoners of War.

Margaret Noack: The struggle for the overseas airline.

Pat Reid, taking the meeting in the absence of Brian Peace, thanked all those who had displayed and noted that once again there was no overlap at all in subjects.

PGER.

REPORT ON THE LONDON MEETING HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2010

Some ten members were present to view material presented by the President, Alan Griffiths. He was brave in that he presented both his London 2010 entries to a potentially critical audience.

For the first part, he showed eight frames of Queensland Registered mail from the earliest usage until 1913. He noted that most of the stamps of Queensland were shown on the various covers. He included examples of the scarce Double Registration (transit to London and then onward travel).

Registration envelopes were unpopular, as they cost ½d. Among them he showed the only recorded used example with "Queensland" pencilled on. He noted that Registration is a service provided to track the postal item. The registration rate was increased from 3d to 4d in 1873, but reduced again to 3d when Queensland joined the UPU in 1891.

Other items of note seen were: stamps on the reverse of a Registered cover; a bisect that went through the post; an Avis de Reception with the correct envelope; returned unclaimed Registered letter envelopes, sometimes paid for by the recipient.

He noted that unpaid Registration was not doubled in Queensland (unlike, say, Tasmania)

Tattersall mail is a good source of Registered material. We also saw Registered Commercial Papers at the correct rate.

Registration labels were introduced in 1908, and two types of Registered envelope in 1909. We saw examples of usage and the display ended with the 1913 experimental envelope for the Commonwealth series.

The second half was a five frame exhibit of Queensland Postal Stationery. Postcards were first issued in 1880 and we saw a proof and a double card.

The chronology for further issues is:

1888 2d and 3d cards. Need to be used in period to be genuine.

1891 Joined UPU., 1½ d cards issued. Genuine used are not seen.

½d Newspaper wrappers – a small selection was shown. There are many varieties in stamps, text, heads and layout.

1895: Envelopes issued. Privately embossed envelopes allowed.

1895/6: Letter cards issued at 2d

1898: 1d wrapper issued

1898: Illustrated Postcards issued. We saw essays and two different series that continued through to 1904/5.

Brian Peace complimented Alan on his bravery in bringing his exhibits for scrutiny. The material has been accumulated over 50 years and much of it is howlingly rare. Overall we had a great show.

PGER 3/5/10

SOUTH WEST METING AT RINGWOOD on the 20th March 2010.

In his introduction the South West Chairman announced that this year at Hampex the Hampshire Federation's Convention at Wickham, Nr. Fareham on October 16th 2010 the BSAP were having a meeting to promote the Society, at which a number of 32 page displays will be shown. Hampex boasts possibly the largest competitive exhibition on the South and has around 28 to 30 dealers in stamps, postal history and post cards and is well worth a visit; why not bring along a few sheets to display, you will be made very welcome.

It was pleasing that fourteen members and guests were treated to a wonderful afternoons entertainment when our President, Alan Griffiths presented an array of material that is very rarely seen. Examples of early pre-stamp Moreton Bay letter sheets including the earliest recorded item of 1841 and others bearing the boxed "PAID AT BRISBANE" in red.

Following on with extracts from the first two frames of the Queensland Registered Mail exhibit to be shown at London 2010 Exhibition, the display then continued with Chalon Head material to 1866 including some interesting philatelic items which have been documented but rarely seen.

The first half of the display concluded with a selection of Bradbury Wilkinson high value denominations including a copy of the Die Proof, examples of the working proofs, colour trials and the issued stamps up to the scarce last issues of 1912.

The second part opened with material from the colony's only commemorative stamps issued, at a premium, in aid of the Boer War Patriotic Fund. Starting with the zincograph essays and showing colour trials and usage on cover this section included a selection of mail from the conflict back to Queensland.

Studies of two single stamp issues – the new ½d. design of 1899 and the proposed universal Federation issue of the 1903 9d. – were comprehensively illustrated, concluding with copies of the rare 1911 issue of the 9d. perforated 11, both mint and used and perforated O.S.

Examples of the Colony's range of postal stationery were exhibited including many items which had been discovered by personal research and the sole example of a ½d. wrapper with the stamp image inverted in relation to the text. After the meeting several members stayed behind and much discussion took place over this material as such a comprehensive selection is so rarely seen.

Dr Patrick Reid gave the vote of thanks to Alan for what was a most enjoyable meeting and then 10 members retired to a local eating house to enjoy an excellent supper.

CVM.

Membership Secretary/Treasurer's list of changes to membership database from 15 March 2010 to 16 May 2010

Changes of address

1709 Watson M P O Box 160, Ashburton, Victoria 3147, Australia

Correction of address:

1659 Cox B Luton, Beds LU2 7YP

Resignations:

1254 Brown J Mrs

1751 Wawrukiewicz AS

Removed from membership for non-payment of subscriptions (rule 3(e))

1318 Murgatroyd HB
1774 Williams N
1778 Knight RJ

Deceased:

1413 Rose AWP (correction to April 2010 Bulletin)
1747 Cornwallis, Lord (6 March 2010)

New members:

1784 Israelsohn H P O Box 4, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 4AU
1785 Diffen GP O Box 239, Prahran, Victoria 3181, Australia

PUBLICATIONS STOCKHOLDER.

Please welcome Stewart Milner who has taken over from Colin Clark-Hutchison in this role. Contact details are on the List of Officers page elsewhere in these notes.

Due to space considerations reports of the SOUTHERN SECTION MEETING held on 13TH March 2010 and the LONDON MEETING held on 14TH April 2020 will not appear until the August Bulletin.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN PHILATELY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chester on 1st May 2010.

Those present: Bill Burt; Mike Culverhouse; Colin Mount; Tony Finlayson; Dave Speer; Patrick Williams; Neil Russell; Keith Hayes; Alan Cross; Les Wallis; Tom McCarthy; John Crowe; Brian Peace; Andrew Mortlock; Alan Griffiths; Tom Gillespie; Laurence Kimpton; Dick Ashdown; John Sims; David Plant; Colin Clark-Hutchison; Alan Edwards; Graham Keates; Ian Perry; Ken Hack; Patrick Reid.

Apologies: Dee Pullan; John Cole; Ian Greig; Brian Sullman.

1. Minutes of the 2009 AGM

These had been published in the Bulletin. A motion to accept as a true record was proposed by Colin Mount, seconded by Dick Ashdown and carried unanimously.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. President's Address

Our president, Alan Griffiths, commented that this had been a troublesome year, with the membership having fallen to around 270, the lowest for many years. Efforts are in hand to stimulate membership, but many other Societies face similar problems.

The new Bulletin is considered a great improvement, but we shall need to review our advertising rates

He outlined the proposals for Autumn Stampex 2012, with provision for automatic qualification for Melbourne 2013.

We need to make every effort to retain new members and provide for their needs.

After feedback from the members, the intention is to retain this style of weekend for Convention.

Commenting, Colin Mount said that the hotel is very good, and staff service is excellent. He also suggested that existing members should make an effort to contact any new members that are fairly local to them.

For Convention, it is accepted that the cost of travel has now become a significant factor. This raises the importance of having a location accessible by rail, so that full advantage can be taken of early purchase cheap fares.

A number of non-renewals this year have been because of age and declining health.

An effort needs to be made to cater for the collector of more modern material in the Bulletin.

4. Secretary's Report

This had been published in the Convention Brochure. No questions were raised and the report was accepted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Our benefaction has now been completely realised, and the outturn is around £22,000.

This year the booking fee for Convention was raised to be more representative of actual costs. This will provide a better outcome for the Society, and allow such events to continue. The Packet and Auction are doing less well, and this too has affected our finances, along with the major effect of the huge drop in interest rates. There is no criticism of Brian Sullman and Les Wallis. They can only offer what is provided to them. The Packet is not really making any money when insurance costs are taken in to account.

Patrick Reid announced that the Society has invested £100 in a collection of material from the collection of the late David Watson that can be used to promote Australian philately in general. It will be available to members on loan for display to local societies.

Ian Perry questioned the cost of the insurance. Keith Hayes responded that it is a minimum premium.

6. Auction Manager's Report

Les Wallis reported that this has been a fair year, and there are extra lots in today's auction (470+ as against the usual 400). He would like to see more material being offered, and if sufficient is available, he will run an extra auction this year. Les offered thanks to Tony Finlayson for his assistance with sorting lots in to order.

Following discussion it was agreed that Les would revert to the original system and number lots as they came to him. This would lessen the workload considerably.

7. Librarian's Report

Tom Gillespie reported that twelve books have been added to the library (notified in the Bulletin). The Library List is available in hard copy for £2 from the Librarian.

Additional protectors are required for the Harold King collection. Patrick Reid will endeavour to supply from the used protectors that he has.

8. Report of the Bulletin Editor

In the absence of the Editor, the Secretary read his report.

The big event in the 'Bulletin' year has been the change to colour and I have been encouraged by the messages of appreciation from members. The transformation exceeded my expectations with even the black and white material taking on an added dimension.

I have tried to make each issue as varied as possible, but as before my in-tray is dominated by stamp research material. Inevitably this influences the composition of each issue and I would renew my appeal for articles on other topics. My grateful thanks to those members who have sent articles, queries etc for publication; without this small band of dedicated researchers there would be no Bulletin.

9. Packet Secretary's Report

In the absence of the Packet Secretary on holiday, the Secretary read his report.

I have been trying to work out the actual overall net income to the Society from the Packet operation for 2009, allowing for commission/insurances charges brought forward and the sums carried forward to 2010; also some £30 identified as donations could be attributed to the Packet as they arose from sales prior to booklets being entered into the system. The expenses include a "bad debt" of £40 from 2008.

At best the excess income could be stated as c£300.

An adjustment to insurance costs for the b/fwd - c/fwd elements seems to give a reduction of £60 in the shortfall (£381). This shortfall seems to flow from booklets being circulated numerous times, so while the gross value of packets in circulation for insurance purposes remains fairly constant, the actual insurance reimbursements, being one-off charges related to the initial value of each booklet, are curtailed. This is a snapshot of a rolling situation and may be somewhat misleading but begs the question: do we as a Society wish to continue to offer the Packet service, at least until it is actually running at a loss?

10. Publicity Officer's Report

Dick Ashdown stated that he regularly sent reports to Stamp Lover, but that these were not published. We occasionally get a mention in ABPS News.

Colin Mount recommended that reports should be brief and sent to organisations by email. This means that they can publish using 'cut & paste' rather than having to transcribe.

Neil Russell noted that the Society does not advertise (except in Australia as noted by Brian Peace).

Ian Perry does publicise the Society on his stand at fairs.

Patrick Reid said that Society flyers were being printed and should be available shortly.

The acceptance of the reports was proposed by Neil Russell, seconded by John Sims and carried unanimously.

11. Election of Officers

The President, Secretary and Treasurer have indicated their willingness to continue to serve, and no alternative candidates have been proposed.

12. Election of Council

The members offering themselves for re-election were not opposed. Following the resignation of Bill Cochrane, who is thanked for his service, John Crowe has been proposed by Patrick Reid and seconded by Keith Hayes to join Council.

13. Election of Hon. Auditor

Steve Irwin has indicated his willingness to continue.

The elections in sections 11-13 were proposed for adoption by Brian Peace, seconded by Colin Mount and carried unanimously.

14. Society Programme and the Bulletin

Colin Mount thanked all those who had volunteered to give displays. He encouraged those who had 30-40 sheets to display to offer to do part of an evening (or afternoon).

It was agreed that the Bulletin would continue in colour.

15. Any Other Business

The Secretary tabled the Society Constitution for acceptance, and then read out a series of minor amendments.

Subject to the following further amendments:

Rewrite of Section 7(c) to reflect actual practice; addition of a section on subsidiary parts (e.g. Auction Rules, Packet Rules) being changed by Council.

Acceptance of the revised Constitution was proposed by Bill Burt, seconded by Dick Ashdown and carried unanimously.

Tom Gillespie explained that he was closing the Southern Section because the low attendance at meetings made it no longer economically viable.

The Society offered thanks to Colin Clark Hutchison for his work as Publications Stockholder, and wished Stuart Milner good luck as his successor.

The meeting offered thanks to Council for organising the weekend Convention.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.25.

P G E Reid
Hon. Secretary 5/5/10.

REPORT OF THE 2010 BSAP CONVENTION HELD IN CHESTER

Following check-in on Friday and a reception kindly sponsored by members Michael Eastick and Torsten Weller we had an informal dinner in our dedicated room which was enjoyed by all. The informal proceedings continued with the now traditional quiz, set by the Hon. Secretary. This year the format was different, in that each table made a team, and the questions were passed round until someone (or no-one) got it right, with a diminishing score as the question was passed on. The questions included General Knowledge as well as Philately. As luck would have it, the dealer members were on one table, and they won fairly convincingly, but were generous enough to contribute their prize to the raffle.

The formal proceedings opened on the Saturday morning with a minute's silence in memory of the seven members known to have passed away during the past year.

The Eric Ash Memorial Display followed, given by Colin Mount on a topic dear to Eric's heart – the George V Penny Red.

Colin began with a brief history of Eric (born Ian, but always known as Eric) before moving on to the serious business of the stamps. We learned that Recess printing would have been too expensive, needing 70 men to produce the required volume of stamps in a day, so a decision was made to move to Surface printing. The layout of the plates was described, together with relevant technical factors, and the so-called Die II was clearly explained. Only a line perforator was available originally, with a comb machine becoming available later.

He explained how the various watermarks were aligned on the stamp and showed us examples of monograms and paper variations. We saw a brief study of the correlation between shades and paper thickness, followed by flaws caused by technical problems including: ink clogging; dry ink; repairs and 'Tin Shed' flaws.

He noted that Plate 5 was 12 x 10, not the usual 6 x 10 which gave rise to problems with perforation alignment.

A selection of shades was followed by some perfins (including Officials), and he also showed use of the same dies for Postal Stationery.

The pane 4 rusted clichés, caused by rats, were shown and he explained that they were replaced by copper clichés that wore quickly. Finally he showed a study of the 'Ferns' flaw and a few 'unusual' dates in cancellations.

The President, in giving his vote of thanks, complimented Colin on the thoroughness and lucidity of his display and presented him with the Society's Certificate.

The Annual General Meeting followed a break for coffee. Full details are elsewhere in this issue.

After lunch, the Auction comprised over 470 lots, and prices realised were good, although a worrying number of lots remained unsold. However, a useful contribution to Society funds resulted. During the Auction, the Competitions were judged, and they were available for viewing later in the afternoon. Results are reported later.

The pre-dinner reception this year was special, as we were fortunate enough to have our sponsor, Gary Watson of Prestige Philately, present as our guest of honour. He was able to circulate and meet members who had previously just been names to him.

The dinner went off smoothly, with excellent service from the hotel staff. When all had dined, Mr Colin Mount, the Master of Ceremonies invited your President to propose the Loyal Toast before a short break. John Crowe proposed the Ladies and Guests with a response from Gary Watson that was both interesting and thought-provoking, addressing the challenges that face the future of our hobby, in particular the need to connect with the unseen collectors on the Internet. In closing Gary proposed the toast to the Society, and the speeches closed with a response from our President.

The President then presented the Society Awards. The President's Trophy for research was awarded to Colin Salt for his work on researching, publishing and updating 'T' for Tax and 'U' for Underpaid. The Tony Brander Trophy for services to the Society was awarded to Keith Hayes for his sterling work as Treasurer, keeping us on the straight and narrow. Colin Mount was awarded the Society's medal for the Eric Ash Display. Finally, as he was the only new Fellow present, Gary Watson was awarded his BSAP Fellowship. The other two new Fellows are Michael Eastick and Keld Anders Jess.

On then to the presentation of the Competition Awards. Andrew Mortlock won the Alan Davidson Trophy (again) for his entry on the Victoria 'Reading' Penny and the Bob Emery Tankard for a display of Victoria Letter cards. The J B Williamson Rosebowl was won by John Crowe for his entry 'Trailblazers England-Australia' – a fine Airmail display. The Open Competition was won by Tony Finlayson with a display on the First AIF Convoy. The proceedings concluded with the Raffle draw, expertly managed by Colin and Margaret Mount

Because he had not attended the dinner, Andrew Mortlock was presented with his trophies on the Sunday morning. This brief ceremony was followed by a critique of the exhibits given by Gary Watson. Feedback was both general and individual, and it was viewed as being both constructive and helpful. After the break for coffee, we had a series of short display, time-limited by the Secretary (but no sanctions were required). The following members displayed:

Dick Ashdown: Postage Due handstamps 1943-81

Tom Gillespie: The usual old rubbish (!)

John Sims: Aircraft Crash material

John Crowe: First Day Covers by different producers of the 1956 Olympics 2/- stamp

Keith Hayes: The 3d Airmail stamp and its usages

Neil Russell: The Tasmania Courier reprints (colour and black)

Andrew Mortlock: A range of scarce items from Victoria

Tony Finlayson: The First AIF Convoy

Patrick Reid: A range of Tattersall-related material illustrating the collecting opportunities

Following a time for viewing, the President formally closed the Convention at about 12.30pm, giving plenty of time for lunch and journeys home.

A Footnote: Colin Salt was presented with his Trophy at London 2010 and Michael Eastick was told of his Fellowship at the same event.

PGER 21/5/2010