

# The British Society of Australian Philately

*Founded 1933*



## **OPEN LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY**

We are now running in to the 'close season' when there are relatively few Society meetings, although my local Society meets throughout the year. This is the time when philatelic activities compete with gardening, days out, river trips, holidays or simply lounging in the sun with a glass of chilled Chardonnay to hand while the sausages/chops/steaks are cooking on the barbie.

But September will be with us before we know, and Autumn Stampex will be upon us. It may be the last chance in the UK to qualify your exhibit for Australia 2013, so now is the time to be polishing it up to get those few extra marks. If you seek some advice on preparing an exhibit, whether it be for National Competition, or the Society competitions at Convention or just a local competition, I have arranged for some guidance notes, written by Mark Bailey, a member of the Royal, to be posted on the Society Website.

I am currently trying to decide where to hold the next Convention, and can say that it will be north of this year's event, somewhere in the Midlands or near North. Outline details will be in the next Bulletin.

I am encouraged by the offerings that I have had for 'Philatelic Gems' from members' collections, but I am still struggling to get in to double figures, and we need thirty five! We are not necessarily looking for classics, but rather the one item that you consider is the 'special' item in your collection and worthy of a mention in our own Australasian 'Hall of Fame'.

I hope that you all have a relaxed summer (or winter for our antipodean friends) and I look forward to seeing as many as possible at our Autumn meetings.

PGER 4/7/11

## **AUSTRALIAN PHILATELY IN PRINT #4, 2011.**

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

## **GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, June 2011.**

A puzzle from Victoria Colony (Postal Stationery Matters by Peter van Gelder).

The emergence of an Australian Stamp Issue Policy: Stamps for Collectors in the Early 1930s, by Richard Breckon.

**GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY**, July 2011.

David Beech celebrates 20 years as Head of The British Library Philatelic Collections, 1991-2011, by Peter Jennings FRPSL FRGS.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING**, Vol.57, No.2, April 2011.

Membership Notes.

Editorial.

The New Guinea "Huts" stamps, by Roger Lee (UK).

Those were the days..., by Richard Muller (Aus).

R.A.A.F. Censor No.12 – a reappraisal, by Ted Bishop (UK).

New book advert - "Papua 1929-1930 – the 3d "Airmail" overprint varieties" by Ray Kelly.

A 1932 cover to Evan Gill, by Roger Lee (UK).

Modern Matters from Michael Garwood's postbag (UK).

Western New Guinea – Provinces of Papua & West Papua, by Simon Nanson (UK).

"Postage Paid at Rabaul P. and NG" datestamp, by Roger Lee (UK).

The stamps of the Territory of New Guinea "Stamp Duty" overprints of the Huts issue, by Robert Garratt.

**THE QUEENSLAND STAMP COLLECTOR**, Vol.28, No.2, Issue 110, May - July 2011.

Editorial, QPC News, APF News, Club Scene, Dairy Dates and On the Calendar.

Talk Queensland ('As everybody knows'), by Col McNee.

50 years ago, by Jeff Gunston.

The Bollon Mail – 1924 – Postmaster Mitchell WQ 25/3/63.

A risk assessment – Exchange Books.

Registered Post, by Joan Orr.

Sydney Stamp Expo 2011 – Queensland awards.

A new CD "Queensland Datestamps & Postal Markings".

**STAMP NEWS**, Vol.58, No.6, June 2011.

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

Book: "The Ross Smith Stamp & its Postal History" by Tom Frommer.

Woodchip free zone: (Australian cover prices on move, good value still abounds) by Rod Perry.

Market Matters: (How to attract young collectors? by Glen Stephens.

A closer look at Modern Australian Stamps, by Chris de Haer.

Revenue Review, by Dave Elsmore.

Cinderella Corner, by Tony Presgrave.

The Modern Scene, by Sel Pfeffer.

Sydney Stamp Expo 2011. An outstanding success?, By John Sadler.

AEC

**REPORT ON THE LONDON MEETING ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

Some 12 members gathered to see Alan Cross's display of Postage Due. We were pleased to welcome new member Don Hunter for the first time.

The first part of Alan's display began with the NSW Postage Dues issued in 1890 and based on a US design. They are often found in poor condition, with colours ranging from the original green through to brown, but his selected stamps were of good colour. He followed with the 'NSW removed' stamps where there are perforation varieties and the watermark is found both upright and inverted. Finally in this section we saw stamps with the design filled in, including perforation and watermark varieties and the late printing on C over A paper.

He then moved on to the bi-coloured issues based on the Victoria design. The frame and value plates of these both had long lives. We saw an extensive collection of imprint blocks from various printers and examples of use on cover. The considerable variations in colour across the printings were notable when seen together for comparison.

Finally in this section we saw the 5d with a study of the flaws, the high values with clear background and scarce sheet numbers that were occasionally left by guillotining.

In the second half we were shown a collection of Victoria Postage Dues. Victoria, after Trinidad, was the second Commonwealth country to issue Postage Dues. The display concentrated on the frame plate varieties. The initial issue was in claret and blue, followed by green and red (with shades in both cases). Because of the printing method used, upright and inverted watermarks are equally common. We saw an example of the 5d value that was prepared but not issued. However some CTO examples escaped. A number of CTO sets of the issues exist. At the end we saw some value plate varieties on the 2d and ½d issues.

Brian Peace, in giving the Vote of Thanks, confessed that Postage Due was his second collection, and buying a strip of the 5d had left him broke on a trip to London, so he had to walk everywhere. He thanked Alan for a thorough display that illustrated that Postage dues are a huge topic to collect.

PGER 12/6/2011

## **REPORT OF THE LONDON MEETING ON 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

At the second attempt (for many people) a total of 15 members and one guest gathered to hear Hugh Jefferies tell us about the 'Life and Times of Stanley Gibbons', the previous occasion having been spoiled by the weather although four intrepid souls did manage to get there.

Edward Stanley Gibbons was born in 1840 (appropriately) in to a Chemist's family and went to work at 16 at the Naval Bank in Plymouth. When his brother died he took over the chemist's shop and started a stamp dealing business in the back. In 1872 he sold the chemist's and in 1874 he moved to Clapham in London. His main business was approval packets, but the constant flow of young ladies (to prepare the stamps) and gentlemen (salesmen) through his house gave the neighbours the wrong idea about his business! In 1876 he moved to Gower Street and concentrated on more valuable stamps. In 1890 he sold his business to Charles Phillips and retired to a house in Twickenham where he entertained friends. From this base he travelled the world, making up a scrapbook as he went along. Pages of this were shown, including material relating to an 1894 crash of the Orient Express.

The personal life of Stanley Gibbons was complicated. There are records of at least five wives, and on his death in 1913 he left money to a sixth lady. It was discovered in 1990 that he died in compromising circumstances at the Savoy.

Despite the apocryphal story of the sailors with a sack of stamps, it is definitely true that he had a large quantity of Cape triangulars. He also had a stock of about 600 early British Guiana, all floated of the original covers. His brother who was in the Navy sent material from overseas to boost his stocks. The first catalogue appeared in 1865.

After buying the business in 1890, Charles Phillips developed it, adding retail premises and publishing the journal. Remaindered stock was bought from overseas (e.g. 1 ton from Cyprus). From 1902 -11 there was a shop in New York, and in 1910 a Buenos Aires branch. Various publications came out, but these ceased for the First World War. Gibbons Stamp Monthly did not reappear until 1927. In 1939 the Administration was moved to St Albans. In 1941 a nearby bomb caused the cellar where the reference collection was housed to flood and the collection was lost.

After the war the company led a campaign to get Pictorial stamps printed, and in 1965 there was Centenary Exhibition of Catalogues at the Festival Hall.

This story was illustrated by Hugh with relevant ephemera and it made a fascinating tale.

The second part of Hugh's display was 'Philatelic Terms Illustrated'. This consists of a collection from the 1950s (the responsibility of the Editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly) that shows examples illustrating the various terms. In 1970 this formed the basis of a book, and the book was rewritten in 2003. The collection is a time capsule of philately of 60 years ago.

Colin Mount gave the vote of thanks, and complimented Hugh on the excellent story and the way in which his fanaticism for the hobby shone through his talk. He reminded us that the 2003 book is still available.

PGER 16/5/11

### **South West Section - Meeting at Ringwood. 9 April 2011**

Members and guests were treated to a wonderful display of "Australian Censored Mail from World War 1" given by the master himself Tony Finlayson. Tony started his first half with the marks and tapes on civilian mail and was introduced with the remark that the "Bible" for this branch of Australian philately was still the monograph by Ken Humphrys and although more items have been discovered since it was written no one has yet published anything more up to date. On display were one or two marks that were not listed but Gary Diffen in Australia had been sending Tony new discoveries on a regular basis.

The display itself was split into the various Military Districts which were more or less along the State boundaries with the Northern territory being combined with Queensland, indeed Tony started the display with a cover to Switzerland that left Darwin in December 1917 and was opened and resealed by the censor in Freiberg. Tony stated he was unable to show a Thursday Island censor but instead showed an item from the radio station on the island that had been censored in Brisbane.

The major interest came in the Victorian section, Melbourne was the home of the chief censor office and was where the PASSED censor marks with portions missing originated from, Tony stated there appears to be no chronological order for these and it can be assumed that they are merely indicative of the personnel handling the mail, an item of particular interest here was a cover showing two different variations of the mark on the same piece. The South and Western Australia sections were straight forward but the Tasmanian showed an example of the larger steel mark for CH1 of which very few are known.

The second half was of the military censor marks starting with a run of 'Fancy marks' as Bob Emery dubbed them that were carried by the troopships of the 3<sup>rd</sup> convoy including those with the number of the ship as part of the cachet. Two examples were shown from the Seang Choon one with number 49 and the other with A49 and as far as is known this is the only example showing the letter A and the number.

The final few frames showed different types of censor marks used from Australian internment camps, Gallipoli, Lemnos and Salonika. The last frame showed three oversized sheets of a series of cards from SS Mooltan, a card written as the Grantully Castle left Alexandria carrying the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse to Gallipoli with an unnumbered square censor mark and finally a combined censor mark from the Tasmanian Chaplain J.B. Rentoul.

Pat Reid gave the vote of thanks and said that Tony was to be congratulated on the wonderful display he had given which showed that if you are prepared to do the research, what wonderful true stores can be told. Once again a very enjoyable and entertaining afternoon was had by all.

C.V.M.

#### **FROM THE LIBRARIAN, BOOKS.**

Please add the following new additions to your library list.

- (171) **THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.** By A.D. Presgrave 1997. Contents – Road Mails, Railway Expansion, T.P.O. Rolling Stock, The Postmarkers and other markings, Details of the various routes, Rules and Regulations, The end of services. A4 S/B, 131 pages.
- (329) **POSTAL HISTORY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - THE CECIL WALKLEY COLLECTION.** Prestige Philately catalogue, sale 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Detailed description of the collection, fully illustrated covering the period from pre-stamp 1829 through to 1961, including the Goldfield Cycle express. A4 H/B 108 pages.
- (500) **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA POSTAL HISTORY 1901 – 1941. THE KEVIN NELSON COLLECTION.** Prestige Philately catalogue, sale 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Featuring most types of mail, 1<sup>st</sup> class, commercial papers, book post, Late Fee, Registration COD etc, etc. A4 H/B 104 pages.
- (797) **HAROLD KING COLLECTION.**  
John Cole has donated 24 sheets of the Harold King collection which have now been put into the Harold King Collection. These pages include 20 sheets of Victoria Post Offices, The History of Yallourn P.O. etc.

T. Gillespie.

**FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER.**

**HELP.**

On returning from the Convention and starting to send out postal bids I discovered that

Lot 307 KGV 1½d red die 1 SG77, Electro 23 RP 23-24/29-30/ “23 is AUSTRALIA 89(23)n, 29 is flaw on emu’s leg 89(23)o and 30 has WF under A of RAL Mint” was missing

It is possible this may have been accidentally handed out to someone in error. I would therefore ask everyone at Convention who is interested in KVG 1½d red stamps to look through their purchases to check whether it was given to you. Please let me know if you find it and I will be eternally grateful as will the actual bidder.

Please also note that I have an amount of material in hand which will be put in auctions in the coming months but next year’s Convention will be handled by David Speer, The Mede, Lupitt, Honiton, Devon, EX14 4RT, 01404 892787 to whom all material should be sent following this notification.

LW.

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.**

**LONDON.**

**September 14<sup>th</sup>. Members are invited to give short displays – 12, 24 or 36 sheets.**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> “Australian Internal and External Airmails” John Sussex RDP., and Laurence Kimpton FBSAP.**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> HAMPEX. See further information below.**

London meetings are held at The Royal Philatelic Society, London 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6 JY at 5.00 for 5.30 p.m.

**SOUTH WEST SECTION.**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> HAMPEX at the Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Hants PA17 5AL. Meeting at 2.00 p.m. “Members Mini Displays”**

**Membership Secretary/Treasurer’s list of changes to membership database from 14 May 2011 to 9 July 2011**

**Changes of address:**

1581 Daglish A 3080 Duisburg, Belgium

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

1709 Watson MB

**Reinstated to membership by paying arrears of subscriptions:**

974 Johnston AH

**New members:**

1800 Hunter DH Chipstead, Surrey CR5 3NF

1801 Ashby DW Capt Downton, Salisbury, Wilts SP9 3PD