

*The*

# LONDON PHILATELIST

*The Journal of*  
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

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## Royal Breakfast in New Zealand, 4 November 2006

**George Stewart FRPSL**

A Royal Breakfast, hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society New Zealand, was held during Kiwipex 2006 National Stamp Exhibition, Christchurch, New Zealand on 4 November 2006. Present from the Royal Philatelic Society London were: Allan Berry FRPSL, Erica Genge, Robin Gwynn FRPSL, Jeff Long, Charles LaBlonde FRPSL, Don Richardson FRPSL, Barry Scott FRPSL, Stephen Schumann FRPSL and George Stewart FRPSL.

Among the 23 guests present were Fellows and Members of the Royal Philatelic Societies of New Zealand, Canada, Victoria and Sydney in Australia. Brian Vincent, President of the RPS NZ, welcomed the guests to the venue that had a stunning view of the Southern Alps. Jeff Long was the Chairman, Erica Genge, Robin Gwynn, Don Richardson and Barry Scott were among the Jurors.

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# Hong Kong Postmaster General Handstamps

Christopher Norton

WITH REFERENCE TO GREG TODD'S ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER LP (Ref. 1), in my opinion the handstamp illustrated is neither a cancellation nor a postal marking. I believe the oval handstamp described is an internal one for the office of the Hong Kong Postmaster General (PMG). Illustrated are a more recent example for Hong Kong (Fig. 1) and a contemporary example for the Shanghai British PO. In view of the fact that none of these handstamps had a postal function, it is perhaps not surprising that they are not mentioned by Webb (Ref. 2) or Proud (Ref. 3).

*Editor: The handstamp in question from Greg Todd's article has been reproduced as Figure 3.*

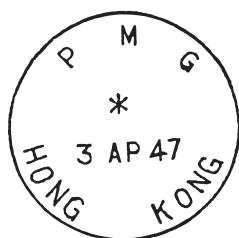


Figure 1.

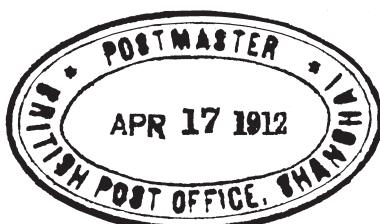


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

## References

1. Todd G., "Hong Kong Cancellation Discovery", *The London Philatelist*, Vol 114, p288, September 2005
2. Webb F.W., *The Philatelic and Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports of China and Japan*, RPSL, London 1961
3. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Hong Kong*, Proud-Bailey Co Ltd, 1989 (Vol I) and 2004 (Vol II)



# Cape Triangulars with Manuscript Specimen

Alan Drysdall RDP FRPSL RDPSA

IT IS A RARE EVENT FOR ANY COLLECTOR TO DISCOVER A PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED POSTAGE STAMP, particularly one of the so-called 'classic' issues, but it does happen. In June 2006 John Taylor described in the correspondence columns of the *Natal & Zululand Post* (Ref. 1) a previously unrecorded specimen of a Cape triangular stamp.

Lots 2 to 11 in Robson Lowe's sale of 17 April 1963, comprised various colonial stamps inscribed 'Specimen' in manuscript. Marcus Samuel in his reference work (Ref. 2) describes Type DMS as:

A very distinctive manuscript 'Specimen' used to cancel ... items from the day books in the De La Rue collection, these comprising De La Rue printings from Perkins Bacon plates on unwatermarked paper and early surface printed on unwatermarked and Crown CC watermarked paper ... including imperforate copies of normally perforated stamps...

In the case of the Cape stamps, Perkins Bacon's plates were used for the first time by De La Rue in January 1863 (Ref. 3). The 6d and 1s stamps (Figs 2 and 3) bearing the Type DMS manuscript inscription in black ink are printed, like the issued stamps, in bright mauve and bright emerald-green respectively (SG 20 and 21); they have been jointly accorded BPA certificate number 67,335. The 1d and 4d duties are also printed in the colours used for the issued stamps, but differ from the 6d and 1s in that they share a single inscription (Fig. 4) and were accorded a single RPSL certificate,



Figure 1. 1d on unwatermarked paper



Figure 2. 6d watermarked anchor



Figure 3. 1s watermarked anchor



Figure 4. 1d on Crown CC watermarked paper and 4d watermarked anchor sharing a Specimen manuscript overprint

number 60154, in July 1966. These two stamps have featured in two outstanding collections, R.S. Wilkins' collection of the Cape of Good Hope and the Marie De La Quellerie (A. Gazel) collection of southern Africa; they later passed through the hands of Ritchie Bodily and John Taylor. With the exception of the 1d duty all these stamps are, like those that were issued, on paper watermarked with an anchor. The 1d, however, is on paper watermarked 'Crown CC'. The new discovery, which, like its 'compatriots', is probably unique, is the 1d duty, again as printed by De La Rue in deep carmine-red (SG 18), but on unwatermarked paper (Fig. 1). It has been accorded a BPA certificate (No. 67,334). As in the case of the 6d and 1s duties, this 1d is described as having traces of original gum.

The unanswered question remains; why were printings of the 1d duty made on papers that were not used for the issued stamps. Was it perhaps to check the plates because one was reported to be worn and possibly needed to be renewed (Ref. 3)? Probably not, though that may have been the reason for the cleaning of the plates. The specimen stamps bearing a similar manuscript inscription sold by Robson Lowe in 1963, as listed by Marcus Samuel, include issues for Ceylon, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Mauritius, Natal, St. Helena, Sierra Leone and Trinidad, and it is evident from his observations quoted above that some of these stamps were also printed on unwatermarked paper and paper watermarked 'Crown CC'. We know that most, if not all, exist only as single copies. Were they then printed from partly inked plates on scraps of paper solely for De La Rue's in-house records?

## References

1. *Natal & Zululand Post*, Vol 10, No. 2, p.ii
2. Samuel M., *Specimen stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, p39, RPSL, London 1976
3. Easton J., *The De La Rue history of British and Foreign Postage Stamps 1855-1901*, p261, Faber & Faber for RPSL, London 1958..

## Building Redecoration Update

Brian Trotter FRPSL

Work on the Meeting Room and the Libraries commenced on 15 December, the day after our last Society meeting for 2006. Work is on schedule, and so we shall have our mostly refurbished Meeting Room available for the first Society meeting of the New Year on 11 January 2007.

The Meeting Room has been rewired and brought up to current fire and safety standards. New lights have been installed and the whole room redecorated. By the time the first Society meeting takes place on 11 January, a new carpet will have been fitted, a new public address system and a new projector system installed. Stand-alone frames have been ordered, but will not be required for the first meeting, as that is a 5 o'clock meeting requiring only the wall frames. New chairs have been ordered and should be in place in time for the first meeting. The wall frames will only be refurbished later in January or February.



The Meeting Room

The Libraries have also been rewired and brought up to current fire and safety standards. Again new lights have been installed. The bookshelves have been varnished and the rooms completely redecorated. The existing carpets are being cleaned and retained. Additional shelving is being installed in the Small Library, along with two work stations. The existing library furniture will mostly be replaced over the next few months.

The hallway and stairwell will be refurbished towards the end

of the project and will remain as a work-in-progress area for some time. Work on the upper floors is well advanced, but work on the basement has not yet commenced. All project work is focused on the main building, with work on the infill (including the lift) and the cottage being part of phase two of the refurbishment project.

The objective throughout has been to carry out the refurbishment with the absolute minimum of disruption to the working of the Society. This is a difficult juggling act, but we believe that we have been as successful as we could have been by doing much of the work on the Meeting Room and the Libraries over the holiday period. The Large Library will be back in full use during January, and the Small Library during February.



The Large Library

# Madagascar Mail sent via Natal in 1895

John Dickson, Gavin Fryer and Keith Klugman

## The British Inland Mail of Madagascar

Between May and September 1895 mail from Madagascar to Britain and, rarely, to other overseas destinations, was carried from the Hova capital, Antananarivo, to the coast by the British Inland Mail service and bears postage stamps of that operation; it was then conveyed via Natal where the international charges were paid in Natal postage stamps cancelled at the Durban post office. That is the service which interests us here.

The early postal history of the island is best described in two articles by Gavin Fryer in *The London Philatelist* (Refs 1 and 2).

The generally chaotic history of 19th century Madagascar is described by Gwyn Campbell (Ref. 3), though, despite a chapter entitled "Transport and Communications", this work contains only rudimentary information on external posts and steamer services to the island.

In 1890 Britain recognised a French protectorate over Madagascar, but the French had difficulty to secure control over the whole of the island. At the end of 1894, in consequence of the Hova people's resistance to a determined invasion by France, the French community withdrew from the capital Antananarivo and the French overseas mail service from the port of Tamatave was suspended.

Then, as described in *Africa Part 2* (Ref. 4):

About 1894 the Malagasy Government made an agreement with a syndicate of British merchants, at Antananarivo, to work the inland mail during the war with France. This agreement included the conveyance of all mail matter between the inland towns and with the ports.

In January 1895 the syndicate published a notice of a mail service by "British post". The text of this notice is given in *Africa Part 2* and the following is an extract covering the correspondence dealt with in this paper:

... the correspondence for the coast must be paid in advance, by means of stamps which may be procured from the Postmaster of the British post, Antananarivo.

Rate of prepayment for Tamatave:

Letters	4d per oz.
Newspapers, printed matter, and patterns	1d per oz.

Graveson (Ref. 5) provides a description of this service based on an interview with Tom Porter, acting vice-consul at Antananarivo at the time of the British Inland Mail service:

The circumstances were as follows: In 1894, following the rejection of the French ultimatum by the Malagasy Government the French residents in the Capital left for the coast or abroad. In the absence of the British Consul Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Porter was acting as Vice Consul in the Capital. There being no longer any French Post Office at Antananarivo the British Mail was entrusted with letters for overseas in addition to coastal correspondence. A mail bag was despatched monthly from the Vice Consulate, at Antananarivo to the Agent of the Porter, Aitken & Co. at Vatomandry, sixty miles south of Tamatave. It was then put on board a British steamer which called monthly bound for Natal, addressed to Messrs. Donald Curie [sic] & Co. who had the letters stamped and posted at Durban, funds being remitted them for this purpose.

At first no local stamp was used, but later Mr. Porter had a supply of the type-set stamps

printed at the London Missionary Society's Printing Works in the Capital which came into use in January, 1895, [he] also arranged with John Haddon & Co. of London to print and supply the picture series which replaced the type-set stamps later in the year. In arranging for these issues Mr. Porter had in mind that people would value them as souvenirs of an interesting period in the history of Madagascar. He claimed that the British Inland Mail thus set up was efficient as he never heard of a single letter miscarrying. The local stamps were usually put at bottom left corner - leaving top right for [the] Natal stamp.

The statement that "at first no local stamp was used" suggests that the arrangement came into effect prior to the printing of the first British Inland Mail stamps, ie probably sometime in 1894. It may also indicate that the first British Inland Mail stamps were not available in January 1895 as commonly supposed. It is possible, therefore, that covers exist originating in Antananarivo but posted at Durban without Madagascar markings.

Graveson continued his summary as follows:

Mr. Porter showed me copy of the official agreement made with the Malagasy Mail for the setting up of this particular mail, which was discontinued on the French taking over the Government.

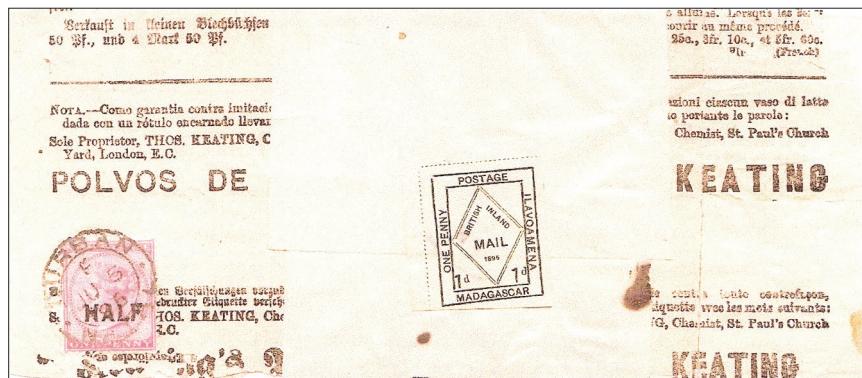
The agreement referred to is reproduced as a whole in Appendix 1 below, but it should be stated now that the agreement seems to impose few obligations on the contracting parties and many more on others, and that, unfortunately, paragraph 4 is not at all clear. We assume that the amounts described in paragraph 4 were to be paid by the British Inland Mail office to the Malagasy Mail, leaving an amount out of which the British Inland Mail office could pay Donald Currie.

From the second paragraph of this document it appears that the Malagasy authorities undertook some sort of censorship of these letters.

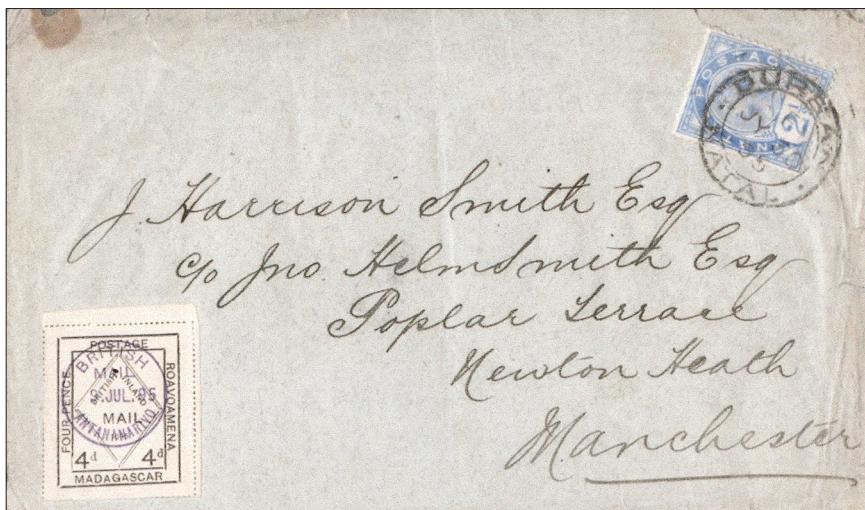
It is commonly held that the first series of typographed postage stamps (1d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 1s, 2s and 4s) date from January 1895 - the date of the notice of a mail service by "British post" mentioned above. Whether that is so or not remains uncertain in that the earliest known covers bearing these stamps of the first issue are dated 15 May 1895. It is of course possible that mail was sent initially via Tamatave and impounded there by the French. We propose that the date of 15 May should be considered as the date of issue of this first series of stamps.



**Figure 1.** 8d stamp of the first series on a double letter to England.  
Cancelled with the large datestamp. Appendix 2, item 2.



**Figure 2.** 1d stamp of the first series on a printed paper addressed to the USA.  
Cancelled with the large datestamp. Appendix 2, item 4.



**Figure 3.** 4d stamp of the first series on a letter to England.  
Cancelled with the small datestamp. Appendix 2, item 20.

The text of this notice as given in *Africa Part 2* may be incomplete and there may have been other notices which have not survived. For instance, the stamps printed included a six pence value while no service at such a rate is provided for in the notice. The 6d, 2s and 4s first series stamps on not recorded on international covers carried via Natal. Furthermore, and this is particularly unfortunate, the notice does not provide any explanation of the method of payment of international charges on mail addressed overseas.

In March 1895 the above postage stamps were replaced by a second series (2d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 2s and 4s) supplied by John Haddon & Co. of London. Again 6d stamps were supplied but, curiously, the 1d rate – the newspaper rate - was not provided for. All of the second series stamps are known used on international covers carried via Natal with the exception of the 4s value which would only have been needed on a letter of over five ounces in weight.

An interesting letter of 18 May 1895 from Anatole Saunier, British Consul at Tamatave, which was published by the Indian Ocean Study Circle (Ref. 6), includes the following:

... I beg to inform you that the British Inland Mail now running between Antananarivo and Vatomandry, a port on the south-east coast of this island, is not an official postal service at all, but a private speculation undertaken by a syndicate of gentlemen residing at Antananarivo, who, in order to facilitate matters, have arranged this mail service...

This letter was addressed to Whitfield King in England in reply to a letter written by that firm on 10 April 1895. It is uncertain how Whitfield King obtained information about these stamps

at that date, or indeed whether their enquiry related to the first or second series. However, from correspondence published in 1903 in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, it seems likely that John Haddon & Co offered remainders of the second series to Whitfield King at about the time that the stamps were shipped to Madagascar.

The earliest known covers bearing these second series stamps carry a date of 9 July 1895 and this is also the last date on covers bearing the first series stamps. We propose that 9 July should be considered the date of issue of the second series.



**Figure 4.** 4d stamp of the second series on a letter to England.  
Cancelled with the small date-stamp. Appendix 2, item 38.

*Africa Part 2* concludes:

These stamps were only in use for a few months, as the post was suppressed when the French troops entered Antananarivo at the end of September, 1895.

General Duchesne marched into Antananarivo on 27 September and the conquest was officially dated from the 30th of that month. The last known dated cover struck by the British Inland Mail office bears the date of 23 September.

### Covers Addressed Overseas

Appendix 2 contains a list of known covers, pieces and wrappers bearing Madagascar British Inland Mail postage stamps and cachets, together with Natal postage stamps cancelled at Durban covering the cost of overseas transmission. All dates are 1895.

This list owes its origin to the list in Fryer's second article (Ref. 2). Of course it has been added to - as the author himself expected. Item numbers from Fryer's list and references to his illustrations are given in square brackets after each description taken from that source.

The covers showing May and June dates and part of those with July dates bear stamps of the first issue and for May and June these are cancelled with a large datestamp. From July onwards stamps are cancelled with a small date-stamp which may have been obtained from London together with the second series of stamps. Covers bearing stamps of the second issue appear first with July dates and continue through August and September.

No British Inland Mail stamps of either series are known in joined pairs on cover, nor are the listed flaws of the first series ("FUOR" for "FOUR" or italic "2") known on cover.

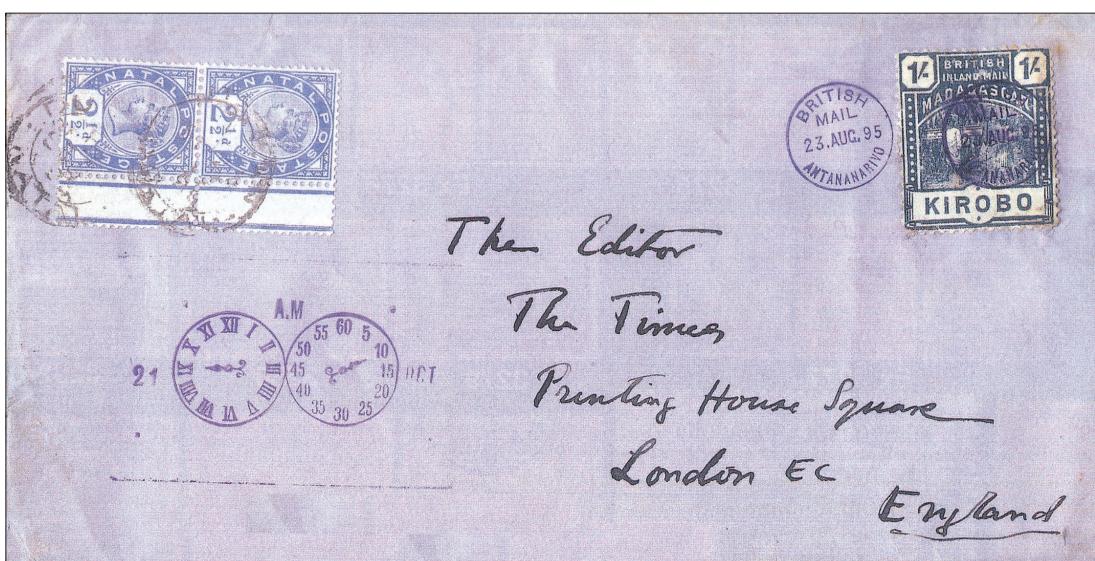
Attention is drawn to the fact that in the Antananarivo notice mentioned above the letter rate of 4d was stated to apply for each one ounce in weight, while the 2½d. rate applicable at Durban was for each half ounce only. It must be assumed that this notice was modified, either generally or specifically in relation to letters addressed overseas, in that it is evident that the single letter rate

applicable to these letters was 4d. British Inland Mail plus 2½d. Natal sea post. Of the 35 ordinary letters listed below 25 were paid at the rate of 4d + 2½d, evidently the rates charged on a single letter; four were paid at the double rate of 8d + 5d; one (No. 12) was at the rate of 1s 4d + 10d; two (Nos 15, 24) at 1s 8d + 12½d; one at 2s 4d + 17½d (No. 41). The only anomalies are Nos 14 and 35 charged at 1s + 5d and one of these (No. 14), unfortunately not seen by the authors, has "interesting due markings" according to the auctioneer's 1953 description.

Included in our list are two registered covers which were not known at the time of Fryer's original paper. Evidently the British Inland Mail system allowed of the payment to Donald Currie not only of the 2½d postage but also of the additional 4d registration fee payable at Durban. Both of these registered covers carried Natal stamps to the value of 7½d for postage plus 4d for registration, appropriate to a triple rate registered letter; one of them (Fig. 5) carried 1s 4d in British Inland Mail stamps suggesting that 4d was collected in Antananarivo to cover the Natal registration fee; the other carried only 1s in British Inland Mail stamps - though 4d additional may have been collected in money. It is doubtful that the British Inland Mail service made strict provision for registered mail, but it is evident that the letters were intended to be registered and they were clearly registered from Durban.



**Figure 5.** 1s and 4d stamps of the second series on a registered letter to England. Cancelled with the small date-stamp. Appendix 2, item 27.



**Figure 6.** 1s stamp of the second series on a letter to England. Cancelled with the small date-stamp. Treated as a double letter in Durban. Appendix 2, item 35. (Reduced).



**Figure 7.** 2s and 4d stamps of the second series on a letter to England weighing between 3 & 3½ ounces. Cancelled with the small datestamp. Treated at the seven-times rate in Durban also. Appx 2, item 41. (Reduced).

The Natal stamps used in combination with British Inland Mail stamps are largely those of the 2½d denomination (SG 113) appropriate to the UPU letter rate on international mail from Natal. Four examples of printed matter are recorded franked with Natal ½d stamps; in three of these cases (Appendix 2 items 9, 18 and 19) the Natal stamp is SG 97a and in one case (Appendix 2 item 4 and Fig. 2) the provisional, SG 125, was used just two months after its issue. The only other Natal stamps recorded on these covers are on the two known registered letters; one of these (Appendix 2 item 27 and Fig. 5) bears a 4d SG 102, while the other has a 6d SG 103 together with another example of the ½d SG 97a (Appendix 2 item 26).

It is evident that, for one reason or another, certain posts from Antananarivo were not carried on promptly to Natal. The problem may lie with the steamers, but we cannot rule out intervention by the French navy, and there will also have been a difficulty for the sender in gauging the best despatch date from Antananarivo in relation to the steamer's arrival at the port.

There are only a limited number of Antananarivo despatch dates stamped on the covers and for all of these consignments a Durban date and a United Kingdom arrival date can be fixed:

Antananarivo datestamp	Durban cancellation	United Kingdom arrival date	Madagascar Stamps used
15 May	5 Jun	28 Jun	1st series
12 Jun	30 Jul	26 Aug	1st series
9 Jul	30 Jul	26 Aug	Both series
24 Jul	23 Sep	21 Oct	2nd series
19 Aug	23 Sep	21 Oct	2nd series
9 Sep	25 Oct	15 Nov	2nd series

### Donald Currie's Castle Line

A cover exists showing a 4d second series stamp cancelled in manuscript together with a Natal 2½d stamp cancelled with the GPO datestamp of Pietermaritzburg on 28 June 1895. Given the way in which this mail was processed at Durban it is impossible that a cover should receive the Pietermaritzburg date stamp; furthermore, the first series of British Inland Mail postage stamps would have been used at this date and, finally, this is the only stamp known cancelled in manuscript. This cover is accompanied by a certificate that the stamp "used on cover with Natal 2½d ... is Genuine", nevertheless this cover is evidently a fabrication and is, therefore, excluded from our list.

Whether or not the British Inland Mail was originally carried from Antananarivo to Tamatave, it is certain that from some point the overseas correspondence by this service was despatched from

Madagascar by Donald Currie's steamers through the port of Vatomandry. Fryer (Ref. 2) states that:

... the vice-consul at Antananarivo ... used to make up a monthly mail bag sent from the consulate office at Antananarivo to ... Vatomandry, a port sixty miles south of Tamatave. Mail took five days to the coast where it was put on board a British steamer bound for Natal, addressed to Donald Currie & Co. The latter used funds sent to them to stamp mail and post it at Durban.

How the cost of Natal postage was settled with Currie is unclear, but it is evident that letters and newspapers addressed overseas were stamped with Natal adhesives and that these were cancelled in Durban. This was no doubt arranged through Donald Currie's agent at Vatomandry, though the mechanism of payment is not documented. The Natal Archives have revealed nothing on the subject.

Certainly, at this period, Donald Currie's Castle Line ran a service from Southampton to Natal and Mauritius calling at Madagascar. An advertisement of 1895 by Donald Currie, reproduced in Fig. 8, includes the statement: "Passengers and cargo are taken ... every four weeks for Madagascar and Mauritius". Again we have only incomplete information but, according to Murray (Ref. 7):

Madagascar was ... visited by the Donald Currie ships employed in the Mauritius service... there were ships such as the Doune Castle and the Lismore Castle ... specially designed for this particular trade... Donald Currie's Castle Line had a goodly share of the island's trade... France declared her protectorate in 1890. Trading conditions became less easy for the Castle ships... The French deposed the native Queen in 1896 and France annexed the island... British trade declined; and by the late 1890's the Madagascar service of the Castle Line had been abandoned.

**CASTLE LINE Royal Mail Service**  
**WEEKLY SAILINGS**  
**FOR THE GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.**

LONDON, SOUTHAMPTON, MADEIRA,  
GRAND CANARY, CAPE COLONY, NATAL, DELAGOA BAY,  
MADAGASCAR AND MAURITIUS.

**THROUGH BOOKINGS from the CONTINENT.**

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS OF

**THE CASTLE MAIL PACKETS COMPANY, LIMITED,**

Leave **London** every alternate Friday, and sail from **Southampton** on the following day, with Mails, Passengers, and Cargo, for **Cape Colony** and **Natal**, calling at **Madeira**.

Intermediate Steamers are despatched every 14 days from **London** and **Southampton**, for **Cape Colony**, **Natal**, **Delagoa Bay**, etc., via **Grand Canary**, thus forming a weekly service from **London** and **Southampton**.

Passengers and Cargo are taken every fortnight for **Delagoa Bay**, and every four weeks for **Madagascar** and **Mauritius**, and at stated intervals for **St. Helena**.

Return Tickets issued for ALL PORTS. Handbook of information for Passengers gratis on application. LOADING BERTH—East India Dock Basin, Blackwall, London. Free Railway Tickets are granted from **London** to **Southampton**. Experienced Surgeons and Stewardesses on every Steamer. Superior Accommodation. Excellent Cuisine.

**DONALD CURRIE & CO.,**

LONDON—1, 2, 3 & 4, Fenchurch St., E.C.; MANCHESTER—15, Cross St.;  
LIVERPOOL—Castle St.; GLASGOW—40, St. Enoch Square.

Figure 8. Currie' advertisement of 1895

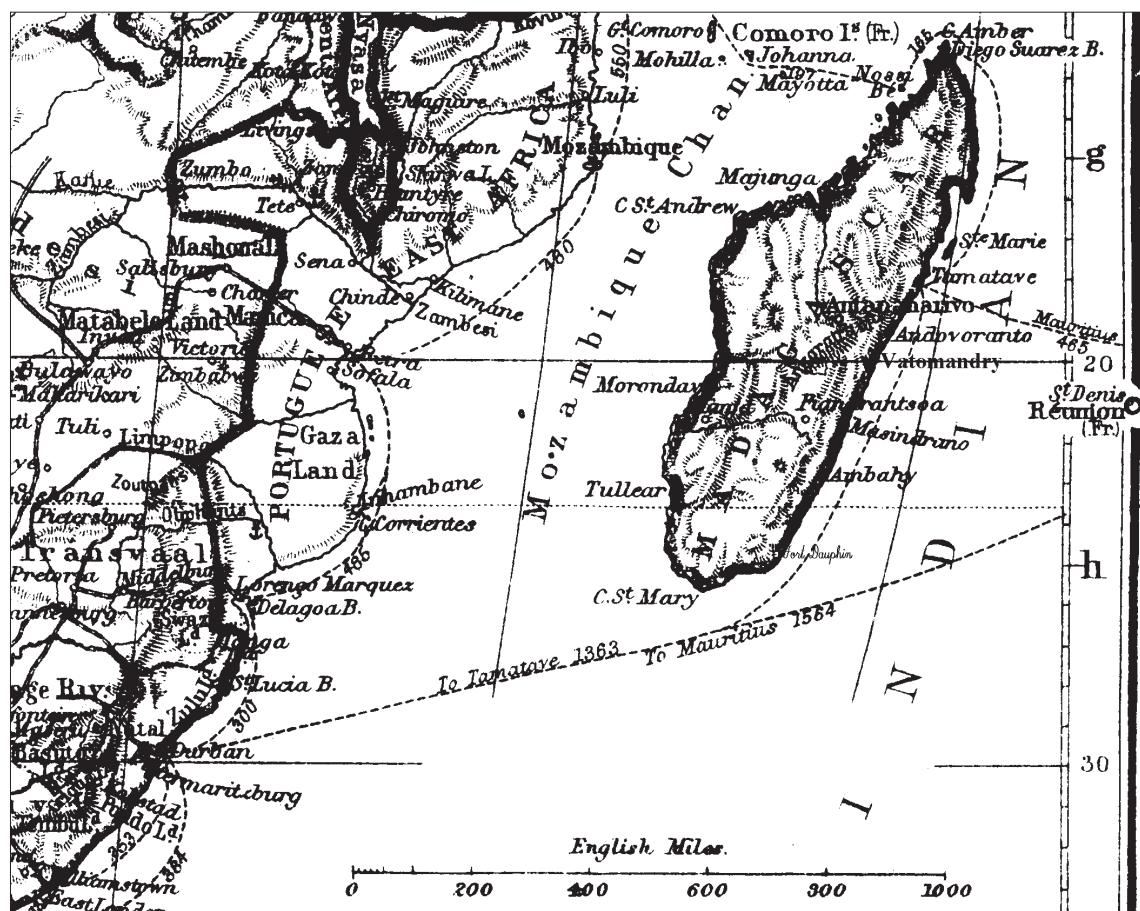
The Castle Line ships which operated the Mauritius service were described by Currie as intermediate steamers and it seems unlikely that they carried mail to and from England. As intermediate steamers they receive little coverage in *The Times* shipping columns. The outward sailing dates from London and Southampton are given in Currie's monthly advertisements.

A special correspondent for *The Times* sailed for Madagascar on the *Dunbar Castle* leaving Southampton on 2 February 1895 and being set down at Point Dauphin in Madagascar on 18 March.

His report of the voyage appeared in *The Times* of 8 August 1895 and the following may be gleaned from his report.

It was understood in Durban (in March 1895) that all the Madagascan east coast ports other than Tamatave were open, though the French expected that all masters of British vessels would sign an undertaking not to land passengers on the island. It was supposed that, for the future the Castle Company would refuse to book any passengers for the Hova ports. Fort Dauphin was the steamer's first landfall in Madagascar and the newspaper's correspondent was landed there in case the French intervened to prevent his disembarking further along the coast. Prior to this the Currie ships had sailed first for Mauritius calling at Tamatave in Madagascar on their return passage. They now decided that, on their outward passage, the *Dunbar Castle* would call at stations on the Madagascar coast south of Tamatave - Fort Dauphin, Mananjara [Masindrano] and Vatomandry.

Subsequently Currie's steamers may have omitted Tamatave altogether since they were not allowed to land passengers or cargo there. It seems likely, therefore that the practice of calling at Vatomandry on the outward passage was initiated by the *Dunbar Castle* and continued throughout the period of the French campaign.



**Figure 9.** Map of Madagascar and the south-east coast of Africa

Although making no systematic report on Currie's intermediate steamers, *The Times* gives the date of arrival at Delagoa Bay (Mozambique) for a few of these steamers, confirming that they called at that port during the return voyage from Mauritius.

Letters from Madagascar were not brought to England by the returning intermediate steamers; they were stamped with Natal adhesives and delivered to the Natal post office at Durban where they were cancelled and sent on to England by the regular mail packets via Cape Town.

The following reconstruction is based on incomplete data: it takes what is known of the sailings

under Currie's intermediate service, together with the Madagascar mail dates and adds the arrival dates of the ships which brought the Madagascar mail to England. For the record, Currie's steamers sailed from Southampton but delivered the homeward mails at Plymouth.

Intermediate Steamer	Southampton departure	Est. date at Vatomandry	Antananarivo mail dates	Delagoa Bay arrival	Durban datestamps	Homeward Packet	Arrived Plymouth
<i>Dunbar Castle</i>	2 Feb	20 Mar					
[omitted?]	2 Mar	?					
<i>Methven Castle</i>	30 Mar	18 May	15 May		5 Jun	<i>Dunottar Castle</i>	28 Jun
<i>Garth Castle</i>	27 Apr	16 Jun					
<i>Warwick Castle</i>	25 May	14 Jul	12 Jun/9 Jul	28 Jul	30 Jul	<i>Drummond Castle</i>	25 Aug
<i>Doune Castle</i>	22 Jun	10 Aug		21 Aug			
<i>Lismore Castle</i>	20 Jul	8 Sep	24 Jul/19 Aug		23 Sep	<i>Hawarden Castle</i>	19 Oct
<i>Methven Castle</i>	17 Aug	6 Oct	9 Sep	22 Oct	25 Oct	<i>Tantallon Castle</i>	15 Nov
<i>Warwick Castle</i>	14 Sept	4 Nov					
<i>Doune Castle</i>	12 Oct	4 Dec					

It is possible that the June mail from Durban to Cape Town was carried by the coasting steamer *Venice*, but the other Durban mails were carried from Natal to England by the listed packets.

### Stamp Catalogue Listing

The focus of this study is not on the British Inland Mail stamps as issued, but on the covers originating in Madagascar bearing Natal stamps and entering the international mail system as sea-post from Durban. Yet some comment on the stamps is called for.

The stamps printed locally by the London Missionary Society (the first series) and those supplied from London by Haddon (the second series) are listed in the *Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue* together with the British Consular stamps of 1884 and 1886. Prices for both used and unused stamps are listed; the British Consular stamps have a high value but those of 1895 are relatively inexpensive.

During 1903 the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* (SCF), under the influence of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, conducted a campaign in relation to these stamps, particularly those of 1895 which were described as "rubbishy local issues" and "worthless locals", to have them delisted. The editor of the SCF claimed that this action had dissuaded dealers from purchasing "parcels of these labels" from John Haddon & Co., the printers of the second series of 1895. The editor of the SCF challenged Stanley Gibbons directly, asking: "What earthly claim have any of the local issues of Madagascar to be included in a catalogue dealing solely with the British Empire?"

The case in favour of listing these stamps was made by H. L'Estrange Ewen (of Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market) and by Herbert W. Baron; Ewen contended that

If these stamps were employed in connection with a genuine mail and that mail the only one by which over-sea letters could be forwarded, surely they are a bona fide issue entitled to their place in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue?

This view appears to have prevailed. It is evident that these stamps of 1895 paid the postage between the Hova capital and the port, that the Hova government insisted on censoring the letters, though they did not make any marks on the covers to indicate that censorship had occurred, and that the overseas letters were delivered to Currie's steamers for onward transmission through the mail service.

There has not been any suggestion that the covers listed below are worthless!

## Appendix 1

CONFIDENTIAL.

ANTANANARIVO, 4th July 1895

Agreement made between the Malagasy Mail which commenced on 2nd, April, 1895 and the British Mail.

1. The inland mail in Madagascar is a business to be conducted by the "Malagasy Mail" only.
2. The mail for overseas is, on the other hand, to be received at the office of the British Mail, where it shall be made up as is customary, but it is to be brought to the Malagasy Foreign Office for reading before being despatched.
3. The transport to the coast of the mail bag containing the mail is to be undertaken by the Malagasy Mail and the Governor at Vatomandry is to deliver it to the Agent of the British Mail there as soon as possible.
4. A sum of twopence is to be paid by the British Mail on every letter for abroad weighing not over two shillings weight, and a halfpenny on each packet of one dollars weight, and the same amount is to be paid on mail from abroad.
5. Every letter for overseas is to be stamped with the British Mail postage stamps.
6. The mail that arrives at Vatomandry from overseas for transmission to Antananarivo is to be delivered by the Agent of the British Mail at that port to the Governor of Vatomandry, who will send it up as soon as possible direct to the Madagascar Foreign Office for delivery to the addressees, and the Governor is to send a telegram announcing the time when it was sent off.
7. The above has for the present been agreed upon with regard to mails until the Malagasy Mail shall be in full operation.

(Signed)

ANDRIAMFIDY  
for the Malagasy Mail

for British Inland Mail  
T. P. PORTER

## Appendix 2

Madagascar      Natal  
date                date

### First Issue (purple dated cancellations, large canceller)

1	15 May	On cover bearing 4d + Natal 2½d to Miss Juliet Ransom at Hitchin. [352]	Robson Lowe (Hunt) 14.3.56 Lot 67 Harmer-Rooke, 28.4.66. Lugdunum 2006.
2	15 May	5 Jun On torn envelope bearing 8d + Natal 2½d x 2 to Miss Alice D. Sibree c/o Rev W. E. Cousins at Oxford arrival 28 June [353]	Harmers (De Queillerie), 22.5.72 Lot 26 Cavendish 31.5.00 Lot 1401 Cavendish 25/26.6.93 (Hart) Lot 531
3	15 May	5 Jun On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d to Chas Finch British & Foreign Bible Soc. at London. [355]	Cavendish 31.5.00 Lot 1398 Cavendish 25/26.6.93 (Hart) Lot 527
4	15? May	5 Jun On Keating's advertising pamphlet with 1d & Natal ½d SG 125 to Indianapolis, USA. [356]	Cavendish 25/26.6.93 (Hart) Lot 526 Klugman collection
5	12? Jun	On envelope bearing 4d + Natal 2½d to 'Mr W. Grace' at London. [357]	Stanley Gibbons - Frankfurt 25-28 October 1978 Lot 2167 Vessey 16.5.79 Lot 678
6	12 Jun	30 Jul On envelope bearing 4d at bottom left + Natal 2½d to Mr W. Grace at London. Arrival 26 August.	Cavendish 8.6.2006 Lot 680 Holcombe certificate 12.4.87
7	12 Jun	30 Jul On envelope bearing 4d (at lower left corner) and Natal 2½d addressed to Canon Mason at London.	Christie's 24.10.95. Lot 766
8	12 Jun	30 Jul On envelope bearing 4d at top left + Natal 2½d to Stephen Peake at Leicester. "Letter dated 30/5 95"	Stanley Gibbons 2003 Investment grade sale, lot 238
9	12 Jun	On piece of newspaper ( <i>Malagasy Times</i> of 15.5.95) bearing 1d + Natal ½d to Rev W. E. Cousins at Oxford. [358 (Fig. 7, in Ref. 1)]	HR Harmer, NY, 27.4-5.1.53 (Col. Lagerloef) Lot 551

10	12 Jun		On envelope bearing 4d (at top left corner) and Natal 2½d addressed to Watson Grace at London. [359]	Stanley Gibbons 3.11.78 Lot 566 Forrester (Argyll Etkin library)
11	12 June	30 Jul	On envelope bearing 4d (at lower left corner) and Natal 2½d addressed to Watson Grace at London. [360, (Fig 8)]	Harmers (De Queillerie), 22.5.72 Lot 27
12	12 June	30 Jul	On FFMA envelope bearing 8d x 2 and Natal 2½d x 4 to Watson Grace at London. [361 (Fig. 8 Fryer 1)]	HR Harmer, 30.3.36 (Ransom) HR Harmer, NY, 27.4-5.1.53 (Col. Lagerloef) Lot 553
13	12 Jun	30 Jul	On FFMA printed envelope bearing 8d & Natal 2½d x2 to Watson Grace, Sec FFMA at London. [362] Arrival 26 August.	Cavendish 25/26.6.93 (Hart) Lot 530 Cavendish 8.6.2006 Lot 681
14	12 Jun?		On envelope bearing 1s and Natal 2½d x 2. Not seen - based on cat. description: "interesting due markings"	HR Harmer, NY, 27.4-5.1.53 (Col. Lagerloef) Lot 554
15	12 Jun		On envelope bearing 8d + 1s & Natal 2½d x3 + 2½d x2 on reverse to J. Harrison Smith at Manchester. [363]	Royal Philatelic Collection
16	12 Jun		On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d to Rev W. E. Cousins at Oxford. [364]	Provenance not cited.

#### First Issue (small canceller)

17	8 Jul	30 Jul	"Small cancel" on envelope bearing 4d + Natal 2½d to J. Helm Smith at Manchester.	Klugman collection (Ex Draper)
18	9 Jul		"Small cancel" on wrapper bearing 1d + Natal ½d to Watson Grace at London. [365]	HR Harmer, NY, 27.4-5.1.53 (Col. Lagerloef) Lot 552
19	? Jul	30 Jul	On envelope bearing 1d, not cancelled, + Natal ½d to the Editor, <i>Hiago News</i> in Japan. [366]	Robson Lowe, 10.6.81 Lot 195
20	9 Jul	30 Jul	"Small cancel" on envelope bearing 4d + Natal 2½d to J. Harrison Smith at Manchester.	Behr catalogue 2006, Lot 4312

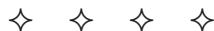
#### Second Issue (small canceller)

21	9 Jul	30 Jul	"Small cancel" on envelope bearing 4d at bottom left + Natal 2½d to Stephen Peake at Leicester. Endorsed "Letter dated 8/7 95"	Stanley Gibbons 2003 Investment grade sale, lot 239
22	9 Jul	30 Jul	On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d to Watson Grace at London. [468]	Robson Lowe (Hunt) 14.3.56 Lot 70 Harmers (De Queillerie), 22.5.72 Lot 28 Robson Lowe 9.11.77 Lot 1159
23	9 Jul	30 Jul	On FFMA envelope bearing 2d + 6d and Natal 2½d x2 to Watson Grace at London. [469]	Robson Lowe (Hunt) 14.3.56 Lot 69 Stanley Gibbons Auction 5.3.81 Lot 418 HR Harmer, 30.3.36 (Ransom) (Illustrated in A Leslie Leon)
24	9 Jul	30 Jul	On envelope bearing 2d+6d+1s [all damaged] & Natal 2½d x5 to Watson Grace at London. [470, (Fig. 9)]	Robson Lowe (Hunt) Lot 68 Klugman collection (Behr)
25	9 Jul	30 Jul	On envelope bearing damaged 4d and Natal 2½d to Mr I. Baron, JP, at Kendal. Arrival August 26. [471]	Cavendish 31.5.00 Lot 1403 Cavendish 25/26.6.93 (Hart) Lot 529
26	9 Jul	30 Jul	On envelope inscribed "Registered" by the sender bearing 1s and Natal ½d + 2½d x 2 + 6d SG 103 addressed to G. D. McKeet, St Louis, USA	Phillips 12.7.90 Lot 399
27	9 Jul	30 Jul	On envelope inscribed "Registered" by the sender bearing 4d + 1s and Natal 2½d x 3 + 4d SG 102 (for registration) sent to J. Harrison Smith, Manchester.	Cavendish 25.6.99 (Willcocks) 1683
28	?	30 Jul	on envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d addressed to Herbert K. Kestew-Cornish (?) at Fresno, USA	In Scheepers article
29	24 Jul	23 Sep	On envelope bearing 2d. + 6d. and Natal 2½d x 2 addressed to The Editor, <i>The Times</i> , London. Arrival October 21.	Christies 24.10.95 Lot 767 Harmers NY, 14.3.91 (Dale-Lichtenstein) Lot 115
30	24 Jul		On envelope bearing 4d 'roughly imperforate at foot, possibly from an imperf "vertically between" pair cut out from envelope and replaced', and Natal 2½d to Cox and Co. at London. [472]	Rigby 5.12.72 Lot 1096
31	24 Jul		On envelope bearing 4d + Natal 2½d to J. Harrison Smith at Manchester. [473]	The Royal Philatelic Collection
32	24 Jul		On piece bearing 4d and Natal 2½d. [475]	[?]

33	19 Aug	23 Sep	On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d sent to 'The Foreign Secretary' LMS at London (printed address). [476]	Robson Lowe, 10.6.81 Lot 198 Cavendish 25/26.6.93 (Hart) Lot 528 Cavendish 31.5.00 Lot 1402 (Illustrated in A Leslie Leon)
34	20 Aug		On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d sent to Ethelbert Woodford, London	Heinrich Köhler
35	23 Aug		On envelope bearing 1s and Natal 2½d x 2 addressed to the Editor, <i>The Times</i> at London. Arrival 21 Oct.	Harmers NY, 14.3.91 (Dale-Lichtenstein) Lot 117 "Status International" 25.5.2006
36	23 Aug	23 Sep	On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d addressed to Mrs A. H. Iron [?] at Penarth.	Porter Collection
37	9 Sep	25 Oct	On envelope bearing 4d & Natal 2½d to C. Moberley Bell, (Editor) <i>The Times</i> at London. [477] Arrival 15 Nov.	Robson Lowe (Danson) 4.5.71 Lot 1298
38	9 Sep		On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d to Mr Briggs at London. Arrival 15 November.	Cavendish 8.6.2006 Lot 679
39	23 Sep	25 Oct	On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d to Rev W. E. Cousins at Oxford. [479]	Harmers (De Queillerie), 22.5.72 Lot 29 Robson Lowe, 13.12.72 Lot 525
40	23 Sep	25 Oct	On envelope bearing 4d and Natal 2½d to Mr Rybert, LMS at London. [480]	Stanley Gibbons-Frankfurt 25-28 October 1978 Lot 2168 Vessey 16.5.79 Lot 677
41	23 Sep	25 Oct	On envelope bearing 4d + 2s and Natal 2½d x 7 to C. Moberley Bell, (Editor) <i>The Times</i> at London. Arrival 15 November.	Harmers NY, 14.3.91 (Dale-Lichtenstein) Lot 116 Klugman Collection

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10. Leon A.L., "The Madagascar-Natal link of 1895", *The South African Philatelist*, pp34-35, February 1977.
11. Articles in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* throughout the period April to July 1903.
12. Scheepers D., "Madagascar Intrigue", *The South African Philatelist*, pp163-165, December 2004.



## Index for the Society's Photograph Archive

For some time, Rosemary Green has been working hard to identify the people featured in our extensive collection of approximately 450 photographs in the archives. This task is ongoing, but we have reached the stage now where an index needs to be constructed for all the identified photographs. Rosemary has housed the actual prints in small folders, and each is fully written up.

We are looking for somebody who could assist with the indexing. This could be done at home, provided the volunteer can collect the folders of photographs from the Royal a few at a time and return them when taking the next ones. Ron Negus, our Archivist, will agree the actual form of the index with the person who will carry out the work.

If you feel you can help, please advise Alan Griffiths, Chairman of the Museum Committee, in the first instance, by leaving your own contact details with Alex or Paul in the office.

# Regional Meeting at Tiverton, 22 October 2006

Peter Chantry FRSPL

A total of 26 members and guests met at the Tiverton Hotel for the 33rd meeting of the South West Fellows & Members of the RPSL. A warm welcome was given to visitors and new members to the South West, which included Richard Saundry, Ralph Scharning, John & Peter Richards and the visiting RPSL representative from South Yorkshire, Philip Robinson.

The main speaker, Bill Colley FRPSL, came all the way from Kirkintilloch, Scotland, and very kindly presented his award-winning collection of *The Air Mails of East Africa from 1926 to the early 1950s*. This included early RAF material and the flights of Cobham and Gladstone plus those of Carberry, Mittelholzer, Caspareuthus, Kidston, Garden, Bonney, Scott and Bernard & Guilbaud etc. Also shown were the early airmail services, wartime mail and some unusual Zeppelin mail. The vote of thanks was given by Peter Chantry who thanked Bill for travelling down from Scotland, which was by far the longest ever travelled by a visiting speaker to the South West, and for presenting such an excellent display.

Following the usual carvery lunch, the afternoon displays were presented:

Philip Robinson FRPSL	GB Line Engraved
Peter Kelly	The development of French postcards 1876
Wilf Vevers	Falkland Islands Privilege Mail FOC British Red Cross
John Richards	Southampton / Isle of Wight 1772
Peter Richards	West African Airmails Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Nigeria
Rolf Scharning	Norway Letter Offices 1890
John Darnell FRPSL	Marshall Islands Atoll Post
Martin Evans FRPSL	The Exeter Post Office Lease Document 1850
Rodney Frost FRPSL	WWII Ceylon Civil Censorship / Return to Sender
Michael Manning FRPSL	India / UK 1920 / 1840 India Soldiers.



## Forthcoming Meetings at No. 41

### **8 Feb 2007 at 5 pm      Brian Moorhouse: Postal History of the Chaco War**

The Chaco War was fought between Bolivia and Paraguay and lasted from June 1932 until a ceasefire was declared in June 1935. This exhibit will show postal history aspects from both sides of the conflict with military mail, censored mail, propaganda postcards and labels, mail to and from prisoners of war on both sides via various agencies and it will include the rare usages on cover of the Bolivian 'Platanillos Provisional' airmail surcharge.

### **1 Mar 2007 at 1 pm      Display by the South East Region**

26 members and fellows will each be showing two frames of material so that a wide representation of interests can be presented. It is anticipated that postal history from many parts of the world will comprise the majority of the exhibits

### **15 Mar 2007 at 1 pm      Charles Freeland: A West Indies Miscellany**

This display of British West Indies will take a largely 'horizontal' approach by presenting several themes of philately in the BWI (broadly defined to include Bermuda, British Guiana and British Honduras) including for example the forwarding agents, intra-Caribbean mail, dues and missent markings. There may also be a couple of 'vertical' frames of single country material.

### **29 Mar 2007 at 5 pm      Mehmet Basaran: First Issues of Turkey**

### **19 Apr 2007 at 5 pm      Steve Schumann: New Zealand Postal Stationery**

## Membership News

### Announcement of New Members as Approved by Council

The following new members, whose membership applications were announced in *The London Philatelist*, have been approved by Council. We wish them a long and enjoyable membership of the Society.

Name	County/Country	Name	County/Country
Brian Bayford	Hampshire	John Campbell	Hampshire
Betrand de Mercy	France	Paul Ecclefield	Hampshire
Ian Hamilton	Glasgow	Tomo Katuric	Montenegro
Linda Lee	Australia	Mark Harvey	Surrey
Emil Minnaar	South Africa	Joanna Williamson	London
Malcolm Sprei	Middlesex	Ota Yasuki	Japan.

### Announcement of Membership Applications

The following applications have been received for membership of The Royal Philatelic Society London. All have been duly proposed and seconded as shown. If a member wishes to express an opinion on any of these applications, they should be communicated to the Honorary Secretary at No. 41 in writing or by email to [secretary@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rpsl.org.uk) by the end of the month of the cover date of this *LP*. The application will thereafter be presented to Council for approval.

Name	County/Country	Proposer	Seconder
Michael Wright	London	Jeremy Martin	Philip Beale
Ron Rakusen	France	Dane Garrod	Allan Boyce
David Wright	Kent	Graham Childs	Richard Ashton
Mark Wrigley	Middlesex	Peter Robinson	Karl Louis
Richard Barnett	Bishop's Stortford	Patrick Ellis	David Armitage
Kiat Siong Low	Malaysia	David Beech	Alan Moorcroft
Paul Curry	Kent	Francis Kiddle	Brian Trotter
John Horsey	Basingstoke	John Lea	Andrew Claridge
Rainer Fuchs	Germany	Harald Krieg	Michael Farrant
Georg Stormer	Norway	Kjell Age Johansen	Ivar Sundsbo
David Griffiths	Reading	Francis Kiddle	Hugh Feldman
Marcelo Korzin	Argentina	Andres Schlichter	Jorge Moscatelli
Stephen Paice	Surrey	Phil Kenton	John Salmon
Anita McCullough	London	Colin Hoffman	Brian Trotter
Steve Boorn	Kent	Christine Earle	Brian Sole
Colin Tobitt	London	Neil Russell	John Shaw.

### Deaths

It is with regret that we report the death of:

Ihan Akant FRPSL of New York on 8 October 2006

Julius Fletcher FRPSL of Middlesex on 19 December 2006

W. Wilson Hulme FRPSL of Washington DC on 10 January 2007. Wilson was the Curator of Philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington.



### Society Web Site

**Barrie Jay RDP FRPSL**

The statistics for the web site are showing that the site is becoming even more popular. For 2006 we averaged 5,000 visitors a month, with a peak in November when we received 6,419 hits. The pages which are the most popular are: Library, News, Experts and Publications.

## Diary of Forthcoming Events

### Regional Meetings of the RPSL

20 Mar 2007	South at Bournemouth	Ashley Lawrence	Tel 01202 766877
24 Mar 2007	North Midlands at Radcliffe on Trent	Mike Siverns	Tel 0115 933 3697
25 Mar 2007	South West at Tiverton	Peter Chantry	Tel 01884 252018
6 Jun 2007	Meeting with SPH and PHS at Taunton	John Dickson	Tel 01460 241534
16 Oct 2007	South at Bournemouth	Ashley Lawrence	Tel 01202 766877

Any member, irrespective of where they live, wishing to attend these meetings should please make contact with the organiser for further details. Ideally members should get in touch with organisers at least seven days beforehand to ensure that any catering arrangements can be finalised.

### Philatelic Events

7 Feb 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
22 - 24 Feb 2007	Philatex, London
28 Feb - 4 Mar 2007	Spring Stampex, Islington, London
14 Mar 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
11 Apr 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
16 May 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
17 May 2007	Kent Federation Day, Beckenham
13 Jun 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
17 Jun 2007	Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention, Hull
19 - 25 Jun 2007	St Petersburg 07, International Exhibition
11 Jul 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
20 - 21 Jul 2007	York Stamp Fair
8 Aug 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
5 Sep 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
19 - 23 Sep 2007	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London *
10 Oct 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
1 - 3 Nov 2007	Philatex, London
14 Nov 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
16 - 17 Nov 2007	Leeds Stamp Fair, Pudsey
23 - 24 Nov 2007	89th Philatelic Congress of GB and 7th National Philatelic Exhibition, Croydon
12 Dec 2007	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
27 Feb - 1 Mar 2008	Spring Stampex, Islington, London
2 - 3 May 2008	90th Philatelic Congress of GB and 8th National Philatelic Exhibition, Harrogate
14 - 22 May 2008	Israel 2008, Tel Aviv
15 - 22 Jun 2008	Efiro 08, Bucharest, Romania
12 - 14 Sep 2008	Praga 2008 International Exhibition, Prague
17 - 20 Sep 2008	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
18 - 21 Sep 2008	WIPA 2008 International Exhibition, Vienna
8 - 15 May 2010	London 2010 International Exhibition, Islington, London
1 - 10 Oct 2010	Portugal 2010, International Exhibition, Lisbon
Oct - Nov 2010	South Africa 2010 International Exhibition. <i>Provisional</i>

The editor would be delighted to hear of forthcoming dates for this section to help advertise major philatelic events. To be included, an event should be an International Exhibition, a National Exhibition in either the UK or Europe, a UK Federation Event, a large fair in London or a multi-day fair elsewhere in the UK.

\* The Stampex organisers have decided that from Autumn 2007 the twice yearly show will reduce to be four days rather than five, running from Wednesday to Saturday.

# Library News

## Improvements to the Library Facilities

A number of improvements to Library facilities are included in the current refurbishment plan for the Society's rooms at No. 41, Devonshire Place.

- In the Small Library, some existing shelves will be replaced and additional shelving installed. This will enable the main A - Z run of books, monographs and pamphlets to be further consolidated.

- Two workstations, with provision for personal laptops, will be built into the window spaces in the Small Library to complement the existing table space.

- New furniture is being considered for the Large Library, including tables at working height in the window spaces, to provide improved areas for research.

- The Council Room and the lower floor of the former tenant's flat will be integrated. This larger area will continue to be used by the Library, while the wider implications for the building as a whole continue to be examined.

- A review is also being undertaken for the optimum use of wall space in the Basement Corridor.

- New cabling is being installed in all areas, which will enable access to the new on-line book catalogue which is nearing completion.

It was felt desirable to remove all material off-site from the Large and Small Libraries earlier than anticipated, to give the contractors free access to these rooms and avoid any danger to their contents. It is appreciated that this has caused some inconvenience to members, and it is regretted that it was not possible to give the normal prior notice of the intended closure. However, the contractors indicated at short notice that they were prepared to continue working throughout the Christmas period, and it was considered preferable to work to this timetable, which minimises the period of inconvenience to members.

By the time this report is published, we hope to have the Large Library reinstated. This should be followed by the re-opening of the Small Library in February and the Council Room in March.

In the meantime, visitors to No. 41 are being accommodated in the Museum, where we have retained current auction catalogues, the latest editions of periodicals, recent book additions and all current Stanley Gibbons catalogues. Members who have taken advantage of the continued availability of other research material housed in the Stack area will have seen the significant amount of work that has been done recently by Library volunteers to make this

material more accessible.

- A new catalogue has been published in hard copy format for the collection of historic bound auction catalogues. More recent sales are in a dedicated area filed by auction house in conservation folders.

- Stamp catalogues have been reorganised, with separate sections for the major publishers. The remainder are now in an alphabetical sequence of publishers, within an A-Z layout of countries.

- A comprehensive catalogue is available in hard copy format for exhibition material, where the collection is also housed in a dedicated area.

Members of the Library Committee and volunteers will be happy to show anyone around this much improved area.

Philip Lindley, Hon. Librarian

## Catalogues Received

*Austria Netto Katalog Briefmarken Österreich Spezialkatalog 2006/2007*, published 2006 by Verlag Christine Steyrer - ASCAT, ISBN 3901678867, hard bound, 480p, ill, 21cm, price hard bound €36, soft bound €32, + p&p, available from Active Intermedia GmbH, Geusaugasse 33, A-1030 Wien, Austria, email bestellung@active-intermedia.at. ID No 11441.

This is the 62nd edition of this specialist catalogue of Austria. As well as listing and illustrating in colour all the issues of Austria, including locals, FDCs, balloon flights, etc., there is a new section on Meine Marke, the personal issues that were made available from November 2003, listing all those of which more than 1,000 appeared. There are also extensive tables of postal rates from 1850.

*Catálogo Especializado de las Estampillas del PERU, Tomo 1;2, Specialised Catalogue of the Stamps of PERU, Volumes 1 & 2* by Juan G Bustamante F, published 1981 by Casa Filatélica Bustamante, no ISBN, soft back, each volume approx. 300p, paginated in sections, ill, 24cm. ID Nos 11529, 11530.

This catalogue, generously donated by a member, of which one thousand copies were printed, provides (in Spanish) a very detailed listing of Peruvian stamps, beginning with pre-stamp material of 1777, and followed by collateral material (including the occupation by Chile and Peru's occupation of Ecuador). Each issue is accompanied by detailed notes, thus creating a very specialised handbook rather than a catalogue.

**Zumstein Katalog Schweiz Liechtenstein 2007, Campione und Vereinte Nationen Genf; Catalogue Suisse Liechtenstein Campione et Nations unies, Genève** published 2006 by Zumstein & Cie, ISBN 3909278299, soft bound; xxi+810p; ill; 20cm, price SFr.25 including CD, available from the publisher, Postfach 3000, Bern 7, Switzerland, email post\_zumstein@briefmarken.ch. ID Nos 11532, 11533.

This new edition, with reduced-size illustrations but in full colour, is accompanied by a CD of the catalogue. Although the text throughout is in German and French, there are two pages at the front in English which explain symbols and abbreviations, and provide an excellent introduction to the catalogue. A full coverage of Swiss postal material is followed by comprehensive listings of the United Nations Geneva and Liechtenstein.

**Real Estate State Revenue Stamps Catalog** by Peter Martin, published 2006 by State Revenue Society, no ISBN, staple bound, 32p, ill, 27cm, price US\$19.95 inc p&p, available from the publisher, SRS Publication Sales, Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629, USA. ID No 11535.

This catalogue is confined to listing USA state revenue stamps which include such wording as Real Estate, Real Estate Transfer, Realty, Realty Transfer, or Property Transfer. The revenue stamps of nine states are listed, as well as city, county and municipal issues, all in full colour, and mostly given a dealer's "buying" valuation. Each section has an introduction, there is a concordance to help identify stamps in other catalogues, and a comprehensive bibliography.

**Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, East Africa with Egypt and Sudan**, published 2006 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., ISBN 0852596278, soft bound; xiv+90; ill; 30cm, price £16.95 + p&p. ID No 11536.

This is the latest of the sectional colour catalogues from Stanley Gibbons. It lists the countries of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, including British East Africa and Zanzibar (listed under Tanzania), British Somaliland (listed alphabetically as Somaliland Protectorate), and the pre-independence issues of Egypt and the Sudan. The catalogue begins with the British Occupation issues of all the occupied Italian colonies during WW2, rather than just those in East Africa, a helpful innovation. A contents page (or even an index) would have added to the usefulness of this catalogue.

## Recent Additions

**3. Symposium zur Postgeschichte Lettlands, Wenden 12. August 2006, 3rd symposium on Latvian postal history** published 2006 by Harry v. Hofmann Verlag,

no ISBN, staple bound, 64p, ill, 24cm, price €9.80 + p&p, available from the publisher, Postfach 56 01 56, D-22551 Hamburg, Germany. ID No 11444.

This booklet contains the papers given at the symposium by six speakers on various aspects of Latvian postal history, in particular that of Cēsis, formerly Wenden. All the papers were interpreted simultaneously at the event and are printed in German and Latvian.

**Notes on Colombian Classic Stamps** by Dieter Bortfeldt, published 2006 by COLOMPHIL, Colombian Philatelic Research Society, no ISBN, hard bound, approx. 40 unnumbered pages, ill, 27cm, price and availability from the publisher, Transversal 12bisA, 125-30, Int 1, Bogotá, Colombia, email colomphil@usa.net. ID No 11538.

In this beautifully produced book, based on his presentation in Washington last year, Dieter Bortfeldt has published the results of 13 years of research into the classic stamps of Colombia. In 35 pages, with illustrations in full colour, he has outlined the fruits of his research, dealing with such subjects as flaws, varieties, forgeries, identification of sheet position and the re-dating of the sixth issue.

**Colombia Correspondencia Oficial Franquicias; Official Mail and correspondence with exemption rate frankings** by Dieter Bortfeldt, published 2006 by COLOMPHIL, Colombian Philatelic Research Society, no ISBN, hard bound, approx. 150 unnumbered pages, ill, 27cm. ID No 11539.

This full-colour copy of over 120 sheets from one of Dieter Bortfeldt's collections, which was recently awarded a gold medal in Chicago, has been specially prepared for the Society's collection of reference works. It illustrates a wide variety of free franking to be found in Colombia, from the pre-Correo Mayor period (pre-1702), where he illustrates a complete folded letter sheet of 6 August 1693 from Honda to Santa Fe (one of about 14 known letters before 1702), through such areas as official certificates, free franking for church authorities, military mail, the Red Cross, SCADIA, diplomatic mail and official certificates.

**The British Society of Australian Philately 1946-2006** by P.G.E. Reid, published 2006 by The British Society of Australian Philately, no ISBN, staple bound, iii+21p, ill, 21cm, price and availability from the Society's Hon. Treasurer, Keith E. Hayes, 3 Bracken Crescent, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 8DU, UK, or email info@bsap.org.uk. ID No 11541.

In 1933 a group of enthusiasts founded a Correspondence Society to study the philately of Australia, but WW2 intervened, and in 1946 it was re-formed, adopting its current name in 1960. This

booklet has been produced to accompany the BSAP's 60th Anniversary display at the Royal. A general introduction is followed by an illustrated account of each of the sections and areas, beginning with New South Wales postal history up to 1850, and ending with some very interesting modern issues.

***Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation 1939-1945, The Wartime Postal History Collector's Answer to a Thousand Questions*** by John Wilson, published 1994 by the author, no ISBN, 117p, 30cm, price and availability from the author, Kerscott, Swimbridge, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 0QA, UK. ID No 11544.

In over 100 pages, the author has produced a great deal of information about civil flights during the war-time years. The first section deals with Empire and trans-oceanic services during these seven years, followed by a second section covering United Kingdom air transport companies. The amount of detail provided will undoubtedly be very helpful to those who have a particular interest in the details of civilian flights during WW2.

***Essays on the Revenue Stamps of Hawaii. Parts 1 & 2, Adhesive Stamps and Stamped Paper; Part 3, Consular and Departmental Seals*** by Randall E. Burt, published 2006 by Clive Akerman, no ISBN, spiral bound, Parts 1 & 2 viii+146p, Part 3 vi+178p continuous numbering, ill, 30cm, price £40 or US\$75 for both volumes inc surface mail, available from the publisher, Bell Hill Cottage, Central Lydbrook, Royal Forest of Dean, Glos. GL17 9SA, UK. ID Nos 11546, 11547.

These two volumes are a further outcome of the author's research in the State Archives, previously published in his book on Hawaiian adhesive revenue stamps in 1986. The chapters, which are almost wholly self-contained, are divided into four groups, bound as two volumes for practical purposes. Volume 1 covers the adhesive revenues and the stamped paper. The purely philatelic information is complemented by extracts from tax legislation showing the various duties on private and business transactions in 1877. Volume 2 covers consular and departmental seals, which were used to validate all manner of documents, for some of which fees were charged. They also appear on consular mail. A group of appendices includes a short history of Hawaii, some biographies and other useful information. There is an extensive index.

***Modern US & Canada Locals, Volume 2*** by Ralph Phillips, CD published 2006 by the author, no ISBN, price and availability from the author, BLPA, PO Box 11930, 61119-Tel-Aviv, Israel, email Phillipo@012.net.il. ID No 11552.

This CD is the fruit of years of painstaking

research, for the author (with no personal knowledge of the areas) had to start from scratch, sending letters to those postmasters mentioned in old catalogues, and corresponding with those who had relevant material. Following the introduction, there is information concerning over 800 posts. Stamps are listed without valuations, as little material has come on the market for a long time. The author comments that this is not a complete work of reference, and asks for users to send in additions, alterations, corrections, and any other relevant information, thus ensuring that the CD can be constantly updated.

***The Bath Philatelic Society 1906-2006*** by Peter Hindley, published 2006 by the Bath Philatelic Society, no ISBN, soft bound, 127p+18p paginated in sections, ill, 21cm, price and availability from the publisher, c/o 24 Springfield, Norton St. Philip, Bath BA2 7NR, UK. ID No 11560.

This is a very comprehensive history of the first 100 years of the Bath Philatelic Society, carefully compiled by the author, who has diligently read through the past minutes of the Society's meetings. A representation of the 'Penny Black' on the cover is a reminder of the subject of the second display at Bath, when its first chairman dealt with the various printings and secret marks. Appendices list the names of those who have served the Society, but perhaps the most important page in the book looks at the future, where the author asks how societies and collectors can encourage new members: "Stamp collecting can be a perfect hobby in retirement".

***Icelandic Numeral Cancellation*** by Föreningen Islandssamlarna, published 2006 by Föreningen Islandssamlarna, no ISBN, comb bound, 113p, ill, 30cm, price SEK 250 inc. p&p for Europe, SEK 260 inc. p&p rest of world, available from the publisher, Leif Nilsson, Södersvik 9074, S-761 94 Norrtälje, Sweden, email leif.a.nilsson@telia.com. ID No 11574.

This handbook was originally published in 1992, and this is now its third revision. New information on the use of these numeral cancels, which has been found in official records, has been incorporated, and a number of collectors have added their expertise. There is also new information on the use of these cancels on boats and ships. As well as a very full introduction, there are numerous illustrations and a map.

## Reviews by Members

***100-Året for Pakke-Porto-Mærker I Grønland, 100th Anniversary of Parcel Post Stamps in Greenland*** by Flemming Petersen, published 2005 by POST Greenland Filatelia, ISBN 8798950495, hard bound, 63p, ill, 22cm, price DKK 400, available from

the publisher at Postboks 121, DK-3913 Tasiilaq, Greenland, fax 00299 98 14 32, email hig@tele.gl, or online www.stamps.gl. ID No 11447. Reviewed by Eric Keefe FRPSL.

This well-produced and copiously-illustrated book provides an absorbing introduction to the stamps and postal history of this once remote region.

The first stamps issued for use in Greenland were the Pakke-Porto, ie parcel post, stamps of 1905. Stamps for ordinary letter mail were not needed, as the very limited domestic mail within Greenland was delivered free of charge by the Greenland Trade Department, a Danish version of the Hudson Bay Company. Foreign letter mail was normally taken to Denmark, where Danish stamps were applied. In 1905 the Danish Ministry of the Interior gave permission for charges to be made for parcels weighing no more than 10kg being carried between Denmark and Greenland. The first stamps, which pictured a polar bear standing on its hind legs, were initially regarded as receipts for postal charges. They were not sold to the public, but were affixed to parcels by the staff of the Greenland Trade Department after payment had been made. Although a value was shown, there was no indication of the country's name.

This book gives a short history of Greenland and the development of trade in the area. It explains the origin and development of the design, and how the stamps were printed, and it charts the history of their use. From 1927 they were sold to the public and used as savings stamps, which were cancelled with distinctive cancellations, but by 1937 they had also been made available to the public to frank parcels to and from Greenland. The different printers, postage rates, cancellations, rarities and varieties are all explained. An excellent and interesting book.

**1948-1963 Postschnelldienst Berlin, Rohrpost-Schnelldienst Berlin, Berliner Rohrpost; Express Mail Service/Pneumatic Express Mail Service/Berlin Pneumatic Mail** by Günther Steinbock, published 2006 by Forschungsgemeinschaft Berlin eV, no ISBN, hard bound, 306p, ill, 24cm, price €58 + p&p €2.50 Germany, €5 abroad, available from the publisher, Geschäftsstelle Peter Koegel, Geibelstr. 3A, D-12305 Berlin, Germany, Fax 00 49 30 745 1322. Bank details: Postbank NL Frankfurt aM, BLZ: 500 100 60, account No 553 388-603. ID No 11531. Reviewed by Nigel Chandler FRPSL.

The last time something similar to this book was produced was 1976. Clearly the latest research has been incorporated, and the workings of the service from its inception to its demise are looked at in great detail. With the original work being published during the cold war, access to the East German postal archives was not available. Reunification has opened

many doors, with new paths being trodden in the cause of philatelic research.

The aim of this book is clear: to assist the collector, and, to no lesser extent, dealers, in identifying and valuing the items sent by this service. A method of arriving at the worth of the items was devised according to service used and postal rates, also whether single franking, multiple franking or mixed, supplemented by taking specialities into consideration. Also included are meter marks, Bundespost internal mail and port payé (Gebühr bezahlt). Postal stationery and monetary services are dealt with in their own right.

Being a handbook and catalogue, a great deal of the book is given to illustrations of these items, many of which are extremely rare. However, the illustrations permit the user to find the comparative item with relative ease.

Whether you are a collector of this material or would simply like to include some in your collection or display, this book is a must. It will remain the definitive work for some time to come. It has been a pleasure to read, and I unreservedly recommend it.

**Postal Censoring in Finland 1914-1918** by Juhani Olamo and Roger Quinby, CD published 2006 by The Finnish Philatelist, a study group of the Scandinavian Collectors Club of the USA, no ISBN, price and availability from the publisher, 12425 Dancliff Trace, Alpharetta, GA 30004-8756, USA, email rpquinby@aol.com. ID No 11543. Reviewed by Eric Keefe FRPSL.

Postal censorship started in Finland in August 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War, and ended in January 1918 after Finland became fully independent. During most of this period, Finland was an autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian Empire. The postal censorship arrangements put in place were extensive, with ten different offices located around the country using some 170 different censorship inspection marks, with many sub-types and over 60 different paper re-sealing strips and wax seals, again with numerous sub-types. Both foreign and domestic mail were subject to inspection, and, as a result, the amount of material available to the collector is vast. This publication explains how and where the offices were set up; the types of mail that were subject to inspection; how the offices operated, and the problems many of them faced. The inspections marks applied to the mail are described in detail, as are the numerous types of resealing strips used after inspection to reseal the envelopes. The Cyrillic wording and abbreviations used in many of the inspection marks and seals are translated and explained, and a number of varieties illustrated.

The CD concludes with a list of books and

informative articles on the subject that have appeared in Finnish periodicals. Without doubt, this study provides a full explanation of the system and provides an essential guide to the collector of this type of material.

***Tabaco y Filatelia, Estudio temático; Tobacco and Philately, A Thematic Study*** by Salvador Bofarull, published 2006 by Edifil SA, no ISBN, soft bound, 80p, ill, 24cm, price and availability from the author, Avda Bruselas 70, 28028 Madrid, Spain, email raposa@teleline.es. ID No 11551. Reviewed by David Stirrups.

If you are looking for a different, limited and accessible thematic topic, but would like the research already done for you, then this small book may provide the inspiration. The structure of the book clearly follows a thematic plan, with sections on the plant; the history of tobacco and people associated with it; the ways it is used; tobacco and warfare; the components of tobacco products; legal controls on tobacco; famous smokers, and anti-smoking propaganda. There are lists of stamps for these sub-topics, and most of the colour illustrations are composites of multiple images of tobacco-related items. As revenue items are not allowed in thematic competitions, these and other tobacco-related collectables only receive a mention at the end of the book. Whilst an understanding of Spanish is needed fully to appreciate this high-quality booklet, there is still much that can be understood with no such knowledge, particularly the listings.

***Locally printed Forces Air Mail Letter Cards of East Africa in World War II*** by John Daynes and Bill Colley, published 2005 by John Daynes, no ISBN, comb bound, 37p, ill, 30cm, price £8.60 UK, £14.50 Europe, £16.50 rest of world, available from the publisher, 25A Mill Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8PZ, UK. ID No 11555. Reviewed by Alistair Kennedy.

Lightweight air letters (initially called airmail letter cards, even though printed on thin paper, not card) were produced in 1941 for use by British and Empire forces in the Middle East, on a rationed basis, as a cheaper alternative to the ordinary airmail letter service and, most importantly, to save on valuable aircraft carrying capacity. Use was soon extended to other theatres of war.

The service from East Africa commenced on 11 August 1941, using forms produced in East Africa. The authors have made a detailed study of these forms, identifying more than thirty distinct types, including Christmas issues, privilege (honour) issues not subject to unit censorship, ones specifically for naval use, and some with printed or meter-applied indication of prepayment. Furthermore, there are sub-varieties,

such as watermarked paper and printer's imprints. Also, as some of the forms were printed on large sheets of paper carrying six or more forms before being cut to size, the authors have been able to identify some variations within each printing.

Some examples have been noted as seen in use from East African forces in South East Asia, but no attempt has been made to identify use in individual countries within East Africa Command – presumably, in theory, they could be found from any of the countries within East Africa Command at the time of issue, which included some of the Indian Ocean islands and liberated territories or former enemy territories.

Each type of form is given a catalogue number, and is illustrated in colour. Variations are given a sub-number, and are also illustrated where necessary. Four pages of appendices illustrate some interesting aspects of use of the forms, including Middle-East forms not allowed for airmail transmission from East Africa.

This is a very detailed study, moderately priced, which should be of interest to collectors of the area, of airmail, of stationery or of the war.

**Forces Postal History.** A further four books, ID Nos 11556 to 11559, published in recent years, have been donated to the Library, and are reviewed below by Alistair Kennedy. Current prices and availability may be obtained from John Daynes, 25A Mill Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8PZ, UK.

**Airgraph,** A detailed handbook on the airgraph with indications of the value by E.H. Keeton, published 1987 by Forces Postal History Society, no ISBN, comb bound, 263p, ill, 30cm. ID No 11556.

The airgraph was introduced in the Second World War to save valuable aircraft space by microfilming message forms, a photographic print being produced for delivery. This is a very comprehensive priced catalogue of the original forms, processed airgraphs and delivery envelopes. Countries covered are UK and Empire countries with access to the service; also overseas forces commands such as Middle East Forces, and a few other countries which had access, including Ireland, St Pierre & Miquelon, and Turkey. The American Vmail is outside the scope of the book except for a few used by US forces in the UK. Many types are illustrated (including pictorial ones), and variations are described. Interesting usages, such as Indian forms in Bahrain, are mentioned.

**Wartime Air Mail, An Introduction** by John Daynes, published 2000 by Postal History 2000, ISBN 0951581570, comb bound, 177p, ill, 30cm. ID No 11557.

This is much more than an introduction to this subject, when war circumstances led to the cessation

or alteration of many airmail services. Information is provided route by route. Chapter 1 covers British services (51 routes including UK–USSR and Belgian Congo–Nigeria), using information drawn from British Civil Aviation Authority records. Chapter 2 reproduces relevant pages from British Post Office Circulars (including postage rates). Chapter 3 is based on information extracted by Ian Warn from Swiss PTT Guides, many European and some other services being covered, eg Zurich–Berlin, Rome–Rhodes, Lisbon–New York, and Switzerland to Japan (including surface stages). Chapter 4 deals mainly with various aspects of British Forces airmails, including illustrations of cachets such as naval postage-paid markings and some referring to non-availability of airmail services.

***Wartime Postal Stationery, A priced list of Forces Postal Stationery used by British Empire and Allied Forces*** edited by J.A. Daynes, published 1986 by the Forces Postal History Society, no ISBN, comb bound, 171p, ill, 30cm. ID No 11558.

This book covers three main types of stationery (mostly not stamped) officially supplied to the British and Empire forces in the two world wars – field service postcards, honour envelopes (contents not subject to unit censorship), and registered envelopes. Each main type of card or envelope is identified and, where applicable, different imprints are listed. Other WW1 cards include issues for special purposes, such as advice of hospital admission or change of address, also electoral registration cards. Honour envelopes include provisional issues from Aden in WW2. A few other examples of stationery are included, but air letters are not within the scope of this publication. There are many black and white illustrations, and there is also a valuation guide expressed in points.

***The Forces Postal History of the Falkland Islands & the Task Force*** by John A. Daynes, published 1983 by the Forces Postal History Society, no ISBN, comb bound, 6+162+xviip, ill, 30cm. ID No 11559.

This book provides comprehensive coverage of mail of the forces of both Britain and Argentina during and immediately after the conflict of 1982. With co-operation from British postal officers, movement of the British Field Post Offices is recorded, including use on board the requisitioned liner *Queen Elizabeth II*. The FPO datestamp numbers are identified. Ancillary aspects such as the staging posts in Dakar and Ascension are included. One very unusual feature is fully described and illustrated: for a few days, when the airfield at Stanley was being rebuilt and aircraft could not land, mailbags were picked up (snatched from Ascension) by a Hercules aircraft flying low over the pick-up point.

There are many black and white illustrations of covers, postmarks and cachets (the Royal Navy seems to have been particularly helpful in complying with collectors' requests for cached covers).

Coverage is also given to earlier periods, including First World War (Battle of the Falklands), Second World War (Battle of the River Plate, and the British garrison), and 1945 to 1982 (British garrison, hovercraft trials, and ice patrol vessels Protector and Endurance).

***Ludwig Hessheimer, Licht und Schatten, Liebe und Leidenschaft für Kunst und Philatelie, Light and Shade, Love and Passion for Art and Philately*** by Wolfgang Maaßen, published 2006 by Phil Creativ GmbH, ISBN 103932198719, hard bound, 184p, ill, 28cm, price €75, available from the publisher, Postfach 7, D- 41364 Schalmtal, Germany, email info@phil-creativ.de. ID No 11577. Reviewed by Philip Lindley FRPSL.

This biography gives an account of the life and work of the philatelic artist Ludwig Hessheimer, who is also known for his role as the chairman of WIPA 1933. The book is the product of close co-operation with the artist's daughter and granddaughter.

Hessheimer was born in Kronstadt in the Siebenbürgen, now part of Romania. As a child he showed considerable artistic talent and developed a love of stamps, and particularly of stamp design. He joined the Imperial Austrian army and later acquired Austrian nationality, and it is for his work in Austria that he is best known. He set up a stamp exchange organisation during WWI when he was in the army, and this society (the OTV) was expanded in Vienna after the war under his leadership. Then came the Verband Österreichischer Philatelistenvereine (Society of Austrian Philatelic Clubs), of which he was president. He designed quantities of publicity material, cards and other ephemera for various philatelic events, culminating in the Vienna Exhibition (WIPA) of 1933.

His designs for stamps were accepted by Iceland, Colombia and Liechtenstein, but never by the Austrian postal authorities. He was a staunch believer in German-Austrian identity, and wholeheartedly supported the Anschluss. He emigrated to Brazil in 1950, where he died in 1956.

The book is illustrated on nearly every page in black and white and colour, with contemporary photographs and examples of his work at all stages of production. The quality of reproduction is excellent. Although the text is in German, anyone with a limited knowledge and a good dictionary should be able to obtain a considerable amount of information on the work of an outstanding artist and designer from the illustrations and their captions.

## Letters to the Editor



Correspondence on any subject is always much appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, fax, telephone or email. My addresses are listed on the front page of all *London Philatelist* issues.

Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the editor.

Any correspondence received will be assumed to be for publication unless specifically stated to the contrary.

Frank Walton

### Mail to Italian States

In response to the request placed in the Letters to the Editor page in the *LP* July-August 2006 from Mario Mentaschi and Thomas Matha.

With the assistance of Geoff Kellow FRPSL I can report just one cover in the period to 1870 from the Cape of Good Hope bearing a 1s value addressed to Genoa and routed via London from the Major Beaumont collection sold by H.R.Harmer (London) Sale 4760 (25 Nov 1965) Lot 185

Further, I can report that up to and including 1870 I record 31 examples of letter-rate mail (plus a few printed matter rates) from the Australian States to Italian States or Kingdom of Italy. These are auction catalogue references dating from the 1970s to date.

Ben Palmer  
Sydney, Australia

### Barnett Freedman - 1

Neil Donen's excellent article on Barnett Freedman, the stamp designer, published in the December *London Philatelist* illustrates the fine research that can be done under the auspices of the Julian Chapman scholarship. Neil has put together a superb account of the artist's career and his philatelic impact.

Among his sources, however, he does not mention the documentary film *The King's Stamp* which was one of the earliest productions of the famous GPO Film Unit created by Stephen Tallents from the Empire Marketing Board film team led by the legendary producer John Grierson. Although commissioned by the GPO, the film is actually an 'EMPO' (Empire Marketing Board) production. In this innovative 20 minute film, directed by William Coldstream and with music by Benjamin Britten (his first film score), Freedman himself plays 'the artist' in a bravura

performance that he clearly relished. Among its sequences are included the sketching out of the initial design in the back of a taxi which Neil mentions and the freehand drawing and proofing of the design without the King's head from a lithographic stone.

The essay illustrated by Neil as Figure 4 makes a starring appearance in the film. I suspect that Freedman himself narrated the opening sequence and Tallents and Mrs Freedman also make rather stilted appearances. The remainder of the film shows the stamps being printed at Harrison's works at High Wycombe and a dramatised and highly entertaining account of the introduction of penny postage in 1840. Film historians regard *The King's Stamp* as a landmark in the development of the documentary that led directly to the famous and immortal Night Mail of 1936 that combined the talents of Britten, Auden and Grierson. The King's Stamp is available in the compilation The Post Office in the 1930s on VHS.

Iain Stevenson FRPSL  
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire

### Barnett Freedman - 2

I was very interested in Neil Donen's article on Barnett Freedman, designer of the 1935 GB Silver Jubilee stamps, in particular the information provided about his background (*London Philatelist* December 2006).

However, when it came to the Silver Jubilee stamps there was one important aspect not mentioned. In 1935 a GPO film was shot (lasting 20 minutes and directed by William Coldstream) telling the story of how the stamps were designed and printed. Called *The King's Stamp* it reconstructed how Freedman created the design (the source of the taxi story) and with some

remarkably wooden acting also told the story of postal reform from 1840. The film is also notable for colour filming of the stamps being printed at Harrisons' works in High Wycombe.

Douglas Muir FRPSL  
London

### Barnett Freedman - Response

Iain Stevenson and Douglas Muir are absolutely correct that the Post Office made a film called *The King's Stamps*. It was part of a collection of eight films made by the GPO in the 1930s. They are all very interesting and of value to history buffs.

I purchased a copy of the film from MovieMail-UK (see links below). To the best of my knowledge it is only place where it is commercially available for sale; price £12.95.

[http://www.movie-mail-online.co.uk/films/9192/The\\_Post\\_Office\\_In\\_The\\_Thirties](http://www.movie-mail-online.co.uk/films/9192/The_Post_Office_In_The_Thirties)  
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0026574>.

Neil Donen  
Victoria, Vancouver Island  
Canada

### Postal History of Versailles

A small correction is needed to David Trapnell's excellent article about Versailles (*LP*, November 2006 pp363-374).

In the background paragraph (p363), the date which the peace plan was put to the USA Congress was 8 January 1919, not 1918.

George Barker FRPSL  
Bradford, West Yorkshire

### King Carol's Moldavian Bulls

I would like to comment on some aspects of Fritz Heimbüchler's appeal to have the fog lifted surrounding the King's legendary array of Moldavian items (*London Philatelist*, June 2006, pp175-179).

In December 2005 Leonard Paşcanu, the president of the Romanian Philatelic Federation, writing in *Filatelia*, Bucharest, tells us for the first time that Carol's collection was stolen from his widow's residence in Portugal; Paşcanu indicates the intention to have matters followed up through official channels, by an approach to be made to the source of this information, Monique Urdăreanu, the widow of Ernest Urdăreanu, an important person in Carol's entourage, who accompanied the King

into exile.

Carol's collection was unfortunately not shown at the Royal. The *London Philatelist* for July 1950, pp152-153, when reporting the 27 April 1950 meeting, states "The Hon Secretary ... referred to His Majesty King Carol of Roumania who had fully intended to be present this evening to read his paper and make his display of the circular Moldavian stamps, but unfortunately had been delayed. His stamps had not arrived in time for this meeting, but they would be available for the Exhibition opening on May 6th. His Majesty's paper had been received and the President was reading it on behalf of King Carol. The Hon Secretary knew all would greatly regret the absence of His Majesty." However, Carol II was present on 11 May 1950, during the Exhibition: "The sixteenth meeting of the session 1949-50 ... took the form of a Soirée and Cocktail Party at which some 500 members and guests were present. The reception was graciously attended by His Majesty King Carol ..." This subject was mentioned in the March 2004 *London Philatelist* No. 1313, pp56-57. Cohen's stated co-authorship of the King's paper mentioned above is at variance with the details printed in the July 1950 *LP*.

Carol II died in 1953 and not 1952. According to the King's grandson, death did not occur in Lisbon, but at his home in Estoril, a seaside resort about 15 miles west of the Portuguese capital.

It is perhaps worth clarifying for those not familiar with the language that 'Fratii' means 'brothers'. Hence the Romanian stamp dealer Fratii Saraga of Jassy is not one person.

'Herman' Bloch is mentioned; this should refer to Herbert Bloch.

The Tapling collection is, of course, in the British Library and not in the British Museum.

Gabriel Sassower FRPSL  
London

### Success at Washington

At the Washington show last year I was awarded a Large Gold Medal and special prize for my exhibit "Principauté de Monaco 1704-1900". It would be appreciated if this could be added to the listings as it has so far been overlooked.

Nicola Posteraro  
Aubergenville, France

# The Gambia 1953 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Issue

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

THE BRITISH LIBRARY PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS contain a wealth of material which I have been listing in preparation for publishing an index covering the West African countries.

The following imperforate colour proofs of the 1953-1959 issue of The Gambia can be found under the title *Proofs from 1913*. The proofs are attached to sheets of paper and have either a tick (✓) for approved or a cross (✗) for not approved marked against each one.

## Sheet 1

- ½d olive-green and blue-green ✓ but not as issued
  - 1d darker colours than the issued stamp, same frame as the issued ½d ✗
  - 1½d darker colours than the issued stamp, same frame as the issued ½d ✗
  - 6d paler colours than the issued stamp, same frame as the issued 1d value ✗
  - 1s paler yellow-brown than the issued stamp, same frame as the issued 1d value ✗
  - 2s 6d colour and frame as issued ✓
  - 5s head darker than issued, frame as for the issued stamp ✓
- All approved or not approved on 3 September 1952.

## Sheet 2

- 2½d darker colours than the issued stamp, frame as issued ✓
  - 3d slight variations in colour, frame as issued stamp ✗
  - 4d colour and frame as issued ✓
- These were also approved or not approved on 3 September 1952.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

## Sheet 3

- 1s 3d colour and frame as issued stamp ✓
  - 2s more blue than the issued stamp, frame as the issued 1d value (Fig. 1) ✗
  - 4s slight variations in colour, frame as the issued 1½d value (Fig. 2) ✗
  - 10s colours slightly lighter than the issued stamp, frame as the issued 1½d value ✗
  - £1 colours similar to the issued stamp, frame as for the issued 1½d value ✗
- Again, these were also approved or not approved on 3 September 1952.

## Sheet 4

A smaller piece of paper: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 4s, 5s, 10s and £1 values were all approved on 11 December 1952 (Fig. 3). The 2½d, 4d, 1s 3d and 2s 6d values had been approved previously.



Figure 3.

These proofs show how carefully the Crown Agents worked to ensure that stamps were issued in suitable colours and that the frames balanced the designs. The stamps were recess printed by De La Rue & Co Ltd and first issued on 2 November 1953.

My thanks go to Paul Skinner, Curator of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library for his help, and to John Powell who is working on the recording with me.

# The Royal Centenary Exhibition

## 7th to 9th December 2006

THE CENTENARY EXHIBITION WAS AN OPPORTUNITY to show to a wider audience the wonderful treasures that we possess within The Royal Philatelic Society London. We were also privileged to be able to show material from the collection of Her Majesty The Queen, which helped to underline the special relationship that the Society has had over many years with its Patron. Thursday 7 December was the day reserved for Fellows and Members and concluded with the President's reception. On Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December the exhibition was open free of charge to members of the public who had applied for tickets.

During the three days we had



almost 500 visitors in total, with the pleasing statistic that over 180 of these were not members of the Society. It was interesting that the main reaction of those who were not familiar with No. 41 Devonshire Place was amazement at the sheer scale of the Society. They had no idea of the magnificent building, the Society's library, its museum and its collections. Of the exhibition itself, the highlights for most seemed to be the beautiful display in the meeting room and

the visit to the Expert Committee. Perhaps the real compliments come from the non-collectors. One, who had brought his father-in-law who is a keen collector but has no interest himself, came with the expectation of having a thoroughly boring morning but confessed that he had found it much more interesting than expected and had not had a dull moment between his arrival and his retiring to the pub for lunch.

The exhibition brochure, a 40-page



production in full colour, was sent to all Fellows and Members with their December edition of *The London Philatelist*. In addition, every visitor to the exhibition was given a copy of the brochure. It acted as a guide to the items on display as well as providing a history of the Society, its relationship with the Royal Family, its role as an educational charity and the facilities it has to offer. Copies will remain treasured possessions for many years.

The display in the main meeting room of material from the collection of Her Majesty The Queen, from the Society's own collections and from members by invitation was one of the key focuses. The first frame, containing the 'Sandeman Port' letter bearing a 1d black tied by a complete red Maltese Cross and a Lombard Street datestamp for 6 May 1840 from the Holyoake Collection, set the tone. The theme was the evolution of stamp design and the use of the Royal portrait in British, foreign and colonial stamp design.



Items from the Royal Philatelic Collection included the large hand drawn essays by Bertram Mackennal for the 1913 Seahorse design of high values of Great Britain, which complemented the wonderful array of proofs of the King George V issues of Great Britain from the H.C.V. Adams collection owned by the Society. The essays for the 1940 centenary of the first adhesive postage stamp, came from the Royal Philatelic Collection, as did essays incorporating the photograph of The Queen by Dorothy Wilding and the later head by Arnold Machin. The Royal Philatelic Collection also provided some beautiful stamp sized hand painted essays of colonial pictorial issues using the heads of King Edward VIII, King George VI and The Queen. The items on display from the Society's own collections gave visitors an appreciation of the wealth of material, which they contain. Among these were the first issues of the Netherlands from the D.C. Gray collection, Saxony and Hannover from the A.F. Riesco collection, examples of the work by Perkins Bacon and De La Rue from the E.W. Mann collection of Natal and the Louis Bradbury collection of Bahamas. Items from the Perkins, Bacon archives, owned by the Society, included some unusual proof material. Canada also featured, with items from the Jones collection, as well as some modern stamps of Great Britain from the Cummings collection.



Some of the Museum's artefacts were brought from the museum display cabinets and exhibited in the small library in a large display cabinet. It was an exhibition of dies, lithographic printing stones and engraved plates showing the stages of die production and lithographic transfers from intaglio plates. The library had the chance to show to good effect some of the rare books that are normally kept under lock and key.

There was a rare opportunity for members of the Society and for the public to gain an insight into the activities of the Expert Committee. As space was limited, parties were restricted to small groups, with each tour lasting approximately half an hour. Jane Moubray explained the administrative process and then visitors were shown under the guidance of John Shaw how the committee is able to use modern technology to examine stamps in minute detail to detect repairs, forged overprints and the removal of postmarks.

There was a display of Society publications past and present in the Large Library and visitors had an opportunity to purchase current publications. One of the most ambitious projects undertaken recently by the Society was the scanning of each and every page of *The London Philatelist*. This fully searchable database, which gives access to information contained



in the journal from its start in January 1892 to the end of 2005, is available to both members and non-members. Published as *The London Philatelist Archival Edition*, the 12 CDs contain over 30,000 pages of information on philatelic and related subjects. Access to the *Archival Edition* was made available on a computer so that visitors could appreciate the advantages to be gained by being able to search 114 years of collective knowledge at the click of a mouse. Additional CDs will be produced for further volumes.

The first day ended with the President's reception at which the fellows and members were generously entertained with wine and light refreshments. This was the President's opportunity to thank all those who had worked so hard to prepare for the Exhibition and those who had provided sponsorship for the production of the Exhibition catalogue and the cost of the reception. Brian Trotter, the Hon. Secretary, read the text of a letter thanking Her Majesty The Queen for allowing the Society to see items from her collection and it was agreed unanimously that he should send this letter of thanks to Her Majesty on behalf of the Society.

There were some special guests who had been invited to the members only day and the President welcomed Alan Reid, Her Majesty's Keeper of the Privy Purse and his assistant Ian McGregor, Tony Conder from the British Postal Museum & Archives and Stephen Bury, Head of the European and American collections at The British Library and Nicholas Courtney, author of the recent book on The Royal Philatelic Collection.

Our President, Chris Harman said that while he wished to thank all those who had helped in the planning and preparation of the Exhibition there were a few people in particular to whom he

wished to give special recognition. The first was Alan Holyoake who was responsible for the loan of the material in the first frame and had generously sponsored the production of the Exhibition brochure. The second person was Alan Huggins who had conceived and put together the exhibition of philatelic material which had given everyone so much pleasure and included material from his own collection. Chris then presented Society plaquettes to each of them. The fact that the whole exhibition had run so smoothly and effortlessly was proof of the amount of planning and thought that had gone into the organisation. In this the prime movers were undoubtedly Ian Crane, Brian Trotter, David Milsted (who had also sponsored the magnificent display cases in the small library) and Geoff Eibl-Kaye. The brochure itself had been edited by Frank Walton, to whom every member owed a debt of gratitude.

The President also reported that the wine and food at the President's reception had been sponsored by Hiscox Insurance plc, represented by Charles Dupplin, and by the American Air Mail Society, represented by Derrick Pillage, for which all present were duly appreciative. It was at this point that John Sacher, the vice-president stepped forward. John said that the real inspiration behind the success of the exhibition was Chris Harman, and it was his pleasant duty to thank Chris for all he had done to make the Centenary Exhibition come to life. John then presented a Society plaque to Chris in recognition of the loan of pages of the first issues of Luxembourg shown in the frames amid a round of applause.

In summary, we believe that all members of The Royal Philatelic Society can be justly proud of such a successful venture. The Centenary Exhibition was a worthy way of celebrating the Society's "Royal" centenary. The only regret was that Her Majesty The Queen was unable to grace the Society with her presence at the Exhibition, but a delegation had been invited to Buckingham Palace in November when the President was able to present The Royal Philatelic Society Exhibition Medal to Her Majesty on behalf of all the membership as a token of their gratitude for the many years of enjoyment given to them from seeing items from her collection at meetings of the Society.



## Obituary: Graeme Webster FRPSL 1949-2006

**Alan Moorcroft FRPSL**

I first met Graeme in the stack room at No. 41 looking at past auction catalogues of George V stamps. Having a similar collecting interest, introductions were made and our friendship was formed. He ran a cheese making business in Perth and managed to visit the Royal on his regular business trips

to London. He was a qualified chemist and accountant, skills that helped him greatly in his business

He was a regional representative for Scotland and was joint organiser of the first and several subsequent meetings in Perth. He was elected to Council in 2003 and became a valuable member of the Finance Committee always having a sharp eye for accuracy, figures and prudence. A man with a 'wicked sense of humour' and love of philately.

Graeme formed a magnificent collection of Great Britain King George V Seahorse high values which he was due to show to the Society in January 2005. Unfortunately he had to withdraw for unforeseen circumstances. He was diagnosed with a brain tumour later in 2005 and despite an initially successful operation in the summer of that year a further inoperable tumour developed. He

passed away on 5 November 2006 and leaves a wife, Christina, and a son and daughter.

The Society was represented at a well attended family funeral by the junior Vice President. We tender our condolences to Christina, David and Kirsty.

## Accounts of Meetings: Season 2006-07

### No. 4: Thursday 2 November 2006 at 1 pm

#### Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the British Society of Australian Philately

In a year of celebrations the meeting of 2 November saw 93 members and guests appreciate an afternoon display by members of the British Society of Australian Philately who had been invited to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the reformation of their Society.

The Society's 52 frames were filled with a wide range of material from nineteen members of the BSAP which covered many aspects of Australian collecting. Each subject chosen was limited to no more than three frames and this provided the opportunity to show not only the stamps and postal history of the Australian Colonies but also an amazing array of material across the spectrum of Commonwealth collecting.

The display was accompanied by a splendid full colour brochure illustrating items from each of the displays together with a description of that element of the display, which was presented in chronological order. The scope extended from the early material of New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria, mail from Australian contingents in both World Wars, a study of the George V heads, development of air mail services both within the country and internationally, including the horseshoe route, studies of the early commemorative issues, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Flying Doctor service, post war food parcel labels and concluding with a study of the modern issues and their printings.

The BSAP President, Sandy Forbes, presented our President with a copy of his latest publication, a study of the 1½d George V issue, for the Library and initiated probably another first for both Societies. Both the President and Assistant Secretary of the Royal were elected



to membership of the BSAP on the spot; the President admitting that he was a lapsed member of the Society and was pleased to be back.

In accordance with recent tradition the BSAP cordially invited all present to join them in a modest reception to celebrate the event with samples of Australian wine which brought a very successful afternoon's display to a fine conclusion.

### No. 5: Thursday 16 November 2006 at 5 pm

#### Wolfgang Hellrigl: Jammu and Kashmir



A total of 53 members and fellows of the Royal were present along with 2 guests. A new member, Klaus Schöpfer from Austria attended for the first time. Three members attended from Italy: Lorenzo Carra, Thomas Mathà and Mario Mentashi. It was a pleasure for all to share their surprise when they were made Fellows.

Only one month after we had had the pleasure of reading Wolfgang's excellent paper on the Tête-Bêche and Semi Tête-Bêches of Jammu and Kashmir (*London Philatelist* Vol. 115 p304) those of us fortunate to be at this meeting were able to view part of a remarkable collection of these Indian States and to hear him share his scholarship on this subject in an excellent illustrated lecture.

It was considered an essential sign of statehood, especially by the Indian Princes, to issue postage stamps. Jammu and Kashmir were no exception being one of the first Asian states to issue adhesive postage stamps in 1866. The early stamps have the distinction, along with those of Poonch and Bhor, of being individually hand struck in small sheets. These were followed by stamps printed from small plates with multiple impressions to form a sheet. Both watercolour and oil based inks were used. Many fine examples of the use of these stamps were illustrated on cover. The stamps were valid only for use within the state and to its extra-territorial post office at Amritsar. If letters were to enter the British Imperial postal service then double postage had to be paid both in Jammu & Kashmir and British India stamps of identical face value. Within Kashmir mail entered the British-India postal system at the Imperial post office at Srinagar. There was no Imperial post office in Jammu so the interchange post office was at Sealkot in British India. Consequently, all doubly paid letters have the British India stamps cancelled at one of these towns. Fine examples of covers travelling through both postal systems were displayed.

Rectangular stamps for Jammu were issued in 1867 printed from a plate of four stamps, three were for ½ anna and the fourth 1 anna. Composite plates of ½ anna and 1 anna were used for rectangular stamps of Kashmir from 1866. The plate was five rows of five stamps with four rows of ½ anna and 1 row of 1 anna stamps. Each stamp was individually engraved with no gap between them

for separation. The only known complete proof plate was on display.

In May 1878 a common design was issued for use in both provinces. Again the plate was of individually engraved stamps. There were five rows of four stamps with gaps between the stamps to allow for the perforation. When first issued the stamps were perforated. It would appear that the perforating machines had a very short life. Later printings were issued unperforated. On display were perforated proof sheets printed in watercolour and examples on cover printed in oil based ink. Printings were done in a wide range of colours. Between 1881 and 1883 composite plates were used with a pane of eight 4 annas and one of eight 8 annas separated by a row of four blank stamps. In the absence of a perforating machine the perforations are simulated by drawing them on the plate. This is one of the most endearing features of the stamps of Jammu and Kashmir.

This was a display of material of exceptional rarity which few of those present will have the opportunity ever to view again. We are fortunate that Wolfgang produced an outstanding 54 page lavishly illustrated handout. Copies may be obtained from the office at No. 41.

#### No. 6: Thursday 30 November 2006 at 1 pm

#### *Celebration of the Centenary of the Caledonian Philatelic Society*

On St Valentine's Day in 1906 a group of stamp collectors met in Glasgow to consider the formation of a philatelic society. Two weeks later on 28 February 1906 the first General Meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland was held when a President, Officers and a Committee were elected. The first President was Sir John Ure Primrose, Lord Provost of Glasgow. In 1930 the Society changed its name to The Caledonian Philatelic Society.

The Society has played an active role in the philatelic world during the past 100 years and its centenary year has been one of outstanding activity. In July 2006 the Society hosted the 88th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew as part of its centenary celebrations. This was only the fourth time that this prestigious stamp collecting event had been held in Scotland, the previous occasions were Edinburgh in 1913 and 1993 and Glasgow in 1924.

On St Andrews Day 2006 the members of the Caledonian Philatelic Society completed the celebration of their centenary year by giving a display to the Fellows and Members of The Royal. A total of 31 members of the Caledonian Society had contributed to a 52-frame display, which covered 35 different themes. The society produced a simple catalogue of the items displayed on which a Scottish Regional First Class Stamp had been cancelled by a special Saint Andrews Day postmark.

The displays included postal history, stamps, theatics, postal stationery, airmails, forgeries and correspondence from well-known historic figures in the world of philately. They covered periods from 1700 up to the current time and included a wide range of countries. While a third of the displays related to subjects connected with Scotland,

there was a good representation of material from other countries, which included Greece, Russia, Malawi, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Zanzibar. There were excellent displays on Irish Bishop marks, covers and cards from the Crimea, the use of India stamps in Penang and Singapore up to 1867 and an amusing thematic display on the origins of golf.

The importance of maintaining an archive documenting significant events in the history of a philatelic society was demonstrated by a display of items from the early years of the Caledonian Society's existence. These included invitation cards with foreign stamps on them which had been sent out inviting collectors to attend the 1924 GB Congress Exhibition, which was held in Glasgow.

In all, 75 fellows and members of the Royal and six guests attended the meeting and nine members of the Caledonian Society came from Glasgow to support their display. The Caledonian Society was represented by Ian Hamilton, their President, who wore a chain of office to which a silver medal produced for the 1890 Jubilee Celebration of the Uniform Penny Post was attached.

Chris Harman welcomed Ian Hamilton and his team and commended them on their excellent display. Ian Hamilton said that it was a privilege and pleasure to be able to finish the celebration of the Caledonian Society's centenary year by giving a display to the Royal and he concluded by donating a copy of the Caledonian centenary DVD to the Library.

#### No. 5: Thursday 14 December 2006 at 5 pm

#### *Jean Alexander: Waterfalls of the World*

An attendance of 60 Fellows, Members and six guests enjoyed an entertaining and delightful paper delivered by Jean Alexander on her extensive thematic collection entitled Waterfalls of the World.

Jean began her paper by giving a short description on the background to thematic collecting in this country, which, she explained, is attributed to a Captain Philip Durand who started the first thematic society, in Glasgow in 1948. This inspired Jean who, although primarily a traditional GB collector, thought she would like to try this new concept of collecting. After experimenting with various themes eg flowers, birds etc, she decided that these subjects were far too extensive, and that she would be better off forming a collection on a subject that had not been depicted on too many stamps. Thus she chose waterfalls, a decision she has never regretted, but is still constantly amazed at just how many stamps have been issued portraying a form of waterfall.

Jean explained that the display was divided into two parts. The first part contained material to form a conventional thematic type display. The outstanding material in the opening frame included one of only two known copies of the essays for the St Columba Falls design for the 1899 Tasmania issue. The following frames contained more exquisite material set out in the accepted thematic method of using the philatelic material to tell a story. Hence we had a section on the definition of a waterfall followed by a section on Statistics which included a die proof, vignette and frame proofs of the Southern

Rhodesian 1932 issue illustrating the Kaieteur Falls, one of the highest falls in the world. Waterfall Geology was followed by a section called Disappearing Waterfalls, where we learned that the Pink and White Terraces, portrayed on the 1898 NZ Pictorials issue, and again on the 1d 1900 value, were actually lost, due to volcanic action, in 1886. Further sections completed the storyline with Waterfalls and Bridges; Waterfall and the Arts; and Natural Boundaries formed by waterfalls. Finally we were brought right up-to-date with falls being harnessed to supply hydro-electric power.

Jean then went on to explain that although she started her collection with Waterfalls on Stamps she soon discovered waterfalls were often portrayed on various other philatelic elements, particularly postal stationery. This led some years ago to an unexpected purchase of a large (very large) collection of South American illustrated postal stationery, housed in two very large boxes, which had to be dragged home on public transport from a well-known London auction house. The following frames displayed many of these items including envelopes, postcards, and letter sheets, plus unusual items from Australia, Rhodesia, South Africa, USA and a rare telegraph card from New Zealand.

In the final frame Jean had gathered together postcards depicting several waterfalls in New South Wales, all of which were dedicated to Christmas and New Year Greetings. This appropriate selection of seasonal philatelic



material brought the very informative and entertaining display to an end.

Ian Crane gave the traditional vote of thanks, which in itself was highly entertaining and amusing, if not a wee bit tongue-in-cheek. It was left to Brian Sole to finish off the evening by seconding the vote of thanks. Brian thanked Jean and reiterated the well-held conviction that thematic collecting is, above all else, FUN, a point that had been aptly demonstrated to the gathered audience by this evening's eloquent speaker. The President presented Dr Alexander with the Society's plaquette to commemorate the occasion and the meeting concluded with wine, taken in the Library, to celebrate the occasion.

