

*The*

# LONDON PHILATELIST

The Journal of THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

**Honorary Editor: Frank Walton FRPSL**

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## Death of Sir John Marriott KCVO RDP FRPSL

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Sir John Marriott, a Past President of our Society. He died peacefully on 3 July 2001. An appreciation of Sir John will appear in the next issue of *The London Philatelist*.

Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this journal, the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information therein or any consequence arising from it. The publishers reserve the right to refuse any advertisement without giving any reason.

# **Editorship of *The London Philatelist***

**Frank Walton FRPSL**

**A**s members will have read in the previous issue, George Barker has retired from the position of Honorary Editor of the *LP* after 18 years of dedicated service to this Society. In this period he has produced 155 editions of the journal. I was delighted to be invited by the President to follow on from George in this role; I consider it an honour to be asked to do so. It is perhaps worthwhile to reflect on the previous editors of this journal, ignoring a few temporary appointments:

Editor	First & Last Issues		Years in Role	Editions Produced
Marcellus Castle	Jan 1892	Feb 1917	25	302
Thomas Hall	Apr 1917	May 1937	20	242
Col. Henry Wood	Jul 1937	Jan 1940	3	19
Rev. Alwin Larmour	Feb 1940	Jun 1946	6	66
Henry 'Bob' Holmes	Jul 1946	Dec 1954	9	97
Arnold Strange	Jan 1955	Dec 1974	20	220
Stuart Rossiter	Jan 1975	Dec 1982	8	53
George Barker	May 1983	Jun 2001	18	155

When studying the above details, the true size of George's contribution can be measured. I am sure all members and fellows will join me in thanking him for his efforts which have been much appreciated.

Although I do attend Royal meetings frequently, it is perhaps worth introducing myself to those members who do not know me. I am a collector of both stamps and postal history with active collections of Sierra Leone, China, Great Britain Line Engraved and also King George V Key Plates from all British Colonies. I would hate to own up to the plethora of sideline collections! For a number of years I have enjoyed philatelic writing; I have produced several books, mostly on Sierra Leone or other aspects of West Africa. My period as editor of *Cameo*, the journal of the West Africa Study Circle, will stand me in good stead for the editorship of the *LP*.

Outside philately, I work for a major international bank as an IT Manager. I live in Dronfield, North Derbyshire, about 170 miles north of London, which does make attendance at No. 41 a challenge on occasions.

Over the next year or so it is planned to review the style of the *LP*. In the first instance I will be focusing on the technical production techniques, using desk top publisher software. This will automate much of the process and hopefully reduce the time between the articles being finalised and the journal landing on your doormats, thus allowing for more up-to-date news about the Society. The question of style is a delicate matter; on one hand the history and tradition of the *LP* is one of its greatest assets - on the other hand some may consider that it has perhaps become staid and the whole journal could stand a revamp. What do you think?

I would like to encourage an active debate through the Letters Page. Please get in touch with me to let me know your views. You can contact me in many ways: letter, email, telephone or fax. The addresses are listed in the banner heading on the previous page.

Finally I would like to encourage all Members and Fellows to send me articles for publication. There is always a need for new material - any research that you have undertaken recently, no matter whether one side or 40 sides, will surely be of interest to others. Please contact me to discuss any ideas that you may have.

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

## Programme for 2001 - 2002

### 2001

19 Sep	6.30 pm	Reception for Fellows & Members at Guildhall, City of London	
20 Sep	1 pm	Her Majesty the Queen	Ceylon
4 Oct	5 pm	Wade E Saadi	United States First Issue
18 Oct	1 pm	Clive Akerman	Taxes and Duties in South America
1 Nov	5 pm	Fortune Wang	China
15 Nov	5 pm	Nino Aquila	Sicily 1859
22 Nov	6.30 pm	Two x 15 minute papers: Michael Pitt-Payne Alex Newall	GB Postage Dues The Sieges of Przemysl 1914-1915
29 Nov	5 pm	Peer Lorentzen	Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture Denmark 2 R.B.S. 1851-1854
13 Dec	1 pm	Our Ladies Entertain	

### 2002

10 Jan	1 pm	Ian Greig & Rod Moreton	Victoria 1839-1912
24 Jan	5 pm	Sven & Anna Lisa Beckeman	Sweden 1855-1872
26 Jan	2 pm	Young Collectors ( <i>Saturday</i> )	
7 Feb	1 pm	Norton Collier	Sudan 1845-1956 Gordon to Self-Government
21 Feb	1 pm	Dr Arthur Woo	Birds on Classic Issues of the World
27 Feb to 3 Mar		Stampex - Display by Fellows & Members of RPSL	
9 Mar	2.30 pm	Members joining since January 1997 ( <i>Saturday</i> )	
21 Mar	1 pm	New Zealand Society of Great Britain 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
11 Apr	5 pm	Raymond Goebel	President's Guest Luxembourg 1851-1866
25 Apr	1 pm	Tarik Alireza	Saudi Arabia and Hejaz from 1916
9 May	1 pm	American Air Mail Society	US Airmails
23 May	5 pm	Thomas Leavey	UPU Adhesives
6 Jun	5 pm	President's Display Gavin Fryer	Latin Monetary Union Europe 1840-1871
20 Jun	1 pm	AGM	Society's Collections in the frames

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at 41 Devonshire Place, London on 21 June 2001 at 5.00 pm

The President, Gavin Fryer, was in the chair and welcomed 92 Fellows and Members to the Annual General Meeting on this Summer Solstice.

He introduced the meeting by announcing that on 8 May 2001 the gift from Alma Lee of her collection of Swiss stamps and postal history was sold on the Society's behalf at public auction in Wil, Switzerland, by Peter Rapp AG realising 1.92m Swiss Francs. A representative selection from Alma's collection was retained prior to the sale for incorporation with the Society's collections in memory of the donor of this most generous gift. Most of the sterling proceeds have been received and the balance is expected shortly. These proceeds, when added to the accumulated gifts of many Fellows and Members of the Society, aggregate almost £1.05m with the response to the 2000 and Beyond Appeal and after certain recent expenditures in building works and computers there will be approximately £1m net on deposit. The Appeal will remain open for the time being for receipt of additional contributions. This financial position will provide a firm base on which to bring forward plans to address the future of the Society.

Meanwhile, an Information Technology Committee has been established, a study has been made of this meeting room and a more extensive review is taking place of the entire building to determine what ought to be done to secure the best use of available space for activities of the Society in the future. I thank those Fellows and Members who have made their technical and professional expertise and time available to address these questions.

The standing of the Society has, I feel sure, been enhanced through participation at the recent international philatelic exhibition Belgica 2001 where the Society held a very successful reception attended by 130 Fellows, Members and guests. Our thanks are due to Past President Jane Moubray and to Claude Delbeke for these arrangements. The conclusion of the judging of competitive entries of high quality showed that over 130 of the awards and special prizes were attained by Fellows and Members of this Society. Ronald Brigham gained the Grand Prix FIP Championship. A prospective member Joseph Van Pamel Luc won the Grand Prix National and our Swiss member Damian Laege had his thematic display, Australian Bird Life, nominated for the Grand Prix International, a singular achievement for thematics. The focus of the Court of Honour was arranged by our Belgian Fellows led by Leo De Clercq in conjunction with Past Presidents Charles Goodwyn and Alan Huggins, Senior Vice President David Beech together with others including Mr Michael Moubray who re-mounted pages for display and arranged the displays of material from the Royal Philatelic Collection, the British Library and loans by Fellows and Members. Altogether this provided a splendid display relating to the development of postage stamps and illustrated the ways in which these entities work together as a team. These Fellows deserve our considerable thanks.

The President concluded his opening comments by confirming that he valued the support of Council members, particularly the Officers, and especially those Fellows and Members who have contributed to development of the Society's future plans. He also recorded his grateful thanks to the staff, Margot and Joanna, for shouldering the administrative arrangements of the Society, to Christine for her keen application to the work of RPSL Limited and our Steward and Housekeeper. Not least the President received very considerable support from Mr David Gurney, Honorary Secretary, a function without which no Society such as ours could run effectively.

The Honorary Secretary then presented his report. Those reports submitted by the House, RPSL 2000 and Beyond Appeal, Library, Membership & Functions, Collections, Museum and

Publications Committees together with that for RPSL Ltd. were tabled.

The Honorary Treasurer then presented the Accounts of the Society and in the absence of any questions the Auditor, Mr Michael J. Elliott of Coulthards MacKenzie read his report. The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mr Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith and seconded by Mr Derek Nathan and carried formally.

The President then announced the re-election of Mr David Beech and Mr Christopher Harman as Vice-Presidents, Mr David Gurney as Honorary Secretary, Mr Alan Moorcroft as Honorary Treasurer and Mr Philip Lindley as Honorary Librarian under Article 40 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The existing members of Council were deemed re-elected under Article 40 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The re-appointment of the Auditor, Mr Michael J. Elliott, was proposed by Mr Michael Farrant, seconded by Past President Alan Huggins and carried. There being no other business for which due notice had been given the President closed the Annual General Meeting.

The President then moved to the informal proceedings to make presentations commencing with our retiring Honorary Editor of *The London Philatelist*, Mr George Barker, in which he took great pleasure in reminding the meeting that the Society has been fortunate to have had nine Editors of *The London Philatelist*, the Society's journal, since it began in January 1892. Mr M.P. Castle held this position for 25 years and wrote that the journal '*... will be a paper written by collectors for collectors, and its sole aim will always be the advancement of scientific and intellectual philately*'. Well, years passed, and Mr Stuart Rossiter succeeded Mr Arnold Strange in January 1975 as Honorary Editor of the journal, known everywhere as the 'LP', from January 1975 until December 1982. There were eleven issues each year to allow the Editor to take a holiday in August until the Society economised on its production costs reducing the number of issues to six. After a short interlude when Past President Alan Huggins acted pending appointment of a new Honorary Editor, Mr George Barker took over for the issue in May 1983 when the journal appeared six times annually, increased to eight in 1990 and to ten in 1991.

President Gavin Fryer emphasised how George has ably served the Society by maintaining the high standard set by Mr Castle for the journal throughout his tenure of this important role for no less than 18 years. He has ensured that Fellows and Members had a feast of philatelic facts, photos and sometimes an occasional fantasy: Philatelic Newslines were added by George from December 1994. The journal has also been augmented from time to time by the addition of colour illustrations for occasional advertisements notably in the May 1990 issue and for the Comments by Sir John Marriott on the display of British West Africa from the Royal Philatelic Collection published in March 1995.

Overall, in recent years, the net outlay to the Society has been the postage and distribution costs to transmit the journal world-wide to our Fellows and Members demonstrating considerable economies and success with advertising. Time has moved on and with George's agreement, a successor was identified 18 months ago to succeed him, namely Mr Frank Walton. We are most grateful to George for all the work he has done during those many years as Editor, not quite equalling the 20-year tenure of Mr Arnold Strange. We wish him well as he lays down his 'red pen' to devote more time to his collections and other philatelic interests. I am sure that he will keep a weather eye on his successor's efforts.

President Gavin Fryer then presented Mr George Barker with a suitably engraved glass paperweight in recognition of his considerable work over the past eighteen years.

Mr George Barker replied in a short speech expressing his gratitude to Past Presidents for guiding him both in developing his philatelic interests and in the role of Honorary Editor. He thanked the Council and staff for their help throughout his tenure in that office.

The President then gave a brief introduction to Frank Walton, known to a number of members already through his work as Editor of *Cameo*, the journal of the West Africa Study Circle. He is well-versed in modern communication methods and preparing material for printing

via on-line computer terminals. Contributors may find that they are encouraged to use such techniques, at the same time applying discipline to their writing and arrangement of material. All of this will facilitate print production and minimise errors. We look forward to Frank assuming the role of Editor, the ninth since *The London Philatelist* began in 1892 and wish him well in his endeavours.

President Gavin Fryer then went on to announce the award by Council of Honorary Fellowship to Mr Harry Sutherland QC RDP and a Fellow since 1967. This is the first such award to an overseas Fellow of the Society for a number of years. Harry carried out extensive research on the philately of local issues of the Chinese Treaty Ports (including Shanghai) as well Montenegro, publishing his researches in *The Canadian Philatelist*. He has exhibited prolifically at all levels, locally, nationally and internationally. His collection of Montenegro was awarded two international gold medals, the first at Philaserdica 79 in Bulgaria. He has been very active in organised philately for very many years, serving the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada for over 50 years. He was its President from 1967 to 1978. He became President of the Interamerican Federation of Philately in 1975. Not long before he signed the Roll in 1991 Harry received the FIAF medal for meritorious service to philately in America. For five years until 1981 he was a Director of FIP and continues to be the Canadian representative on that body. He has been a major influence within FIP, internationally and as an international juror, has contributed to philatelic journalism while serving the Vincent Greene Foundation in supervising the publication of five books and assisting in the creation of their library and has also served as Secretary of their Expert Committee. He is particularly well known internationally as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of CAPEX 78, CANADA 82 and CAPEX 87 and was involved in the organisation of CANADA 92 and CAPEX 96.

President Gavin Fryer then presented the Society's medals:

The Tilleard Medal was awarded to Mr Bernard C. Berkinshaw-Smith for his display: 'Maritime Mail - France and the World' given before the Society on 21st October 1999. The Tapling Medal was then awarded to Mr Rodney Vousden for his paper: 'Hong Kong 1941 - 1945: the effects of World War II on the supply of Postage Stamps and other Postal Material' published in *The London Philatelist*, Volume 108, pp 241-257, September 1999. The Crawford Medal to Mr G. Clive Akerman (and President Gavin Fryer jointly) for their book *The Reform of the Post Office in the Victorian Era and Its Impact on Economic and Social Activity*. Before presenting the Medal the President referred to Clive Akerman's retirement into the woods of Gloucester from where he writes from time to time about the world of mankind seen with a very independent view and about the comings and goings of the wildlife in those woods. He did however find a great deal of time over five years, no less, to analyse and transcribe much material that the President researched and sent to him for entry through his keyboard; to Clive goes much of the recognition for editing and collating the material into their two-volume work. After 1362 pages, including 68 pages of index, Clive Akerman indicated that he would need a new pair of eyes!

The President also took the opportunity to present him with the British Philatelic Trust Initiative Award for Authorship and Research 2000 as part of this year's Rowland Hill Awards which the President had received in Clive Akerman's absence at the Dorchester Hotel on 27 March 2000. This award recognised Clive's considerable efforts on the same work published by the Society, *The Reform of the Post Office in the Victorian Era etc.*

Senior Vice President David Beech then spoke of the research and preparations made by the President to realise the concept of this book over a five year period including writing the historical introduction, and he presented the Crawford Medal to the President.

President Gavin Fryer then referred to the large gold medal awarded to the Society at Belgica 2001 for providing the exhibit of the Donald Gray collection of Netherlands, a part of which was shown in the meeting room display frames. He passed the medal to Mr Alan Griffiths, Chairman of the Museum Committee, for safe custody with the Society's collection of medals.

Finally Past President Alan Huggins, Chairman of the Collections Committee, was thanked

for presenting a selection of postal history of the first three issues of postage stamps of the Netherlands from the Donald Gray collection shown in Frames 1-6 and the Great Britain King George VI issues and Philatelic Congress and Exhibition labels also on display in Frames 7-12.

The President then drew the attention of Fellows and Members to the Society's publications that are on sale inviting support to the Society in this important activity. We were also reminded of the Reception for Fellows and Members to be held at the Guildhall in the City of London on Wednesday 19 September 2001 from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm. This will present an opportunity to view the art collection in the Art Gallery at the Guildhall at the joint invitation of Anthony Eskenzi, Chief Commoner of the Corporation of London, and a Fellow of the Society and the President. Admission will be by invitation card only available on application to the Secretary. No payment will be required.

The President then closed this second part of the proceedings.



## **Report of Hon. Secretary**

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have great pleasure in presenting my report on the work of the Society for the past twelve months. The year has been particularly eventful and members of both Council and Committees have worked very hard on your behalf in dealing with the many burdens of responsibility that have confronted us. I have to thank each and every one for the considerable commitment made which is, as you know, entirely voluntary and honorary. Those involved in the management of this Society put in considerable personal time, carrying out duties to the best of their ability and without reward for the benefit of the Society and you the members. This should be remembered when criticism is made occasionally.

The most momentous event in the Society's year was the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 30 October 2000. Here Council was able to listen to a wide diversity of views from the membership and these have been fully reported subsequently in *The London Philatelist*. Not only that, but the formation of three Working Groups has taken place charged with looking specifically and comprehensively at the Building, the Meeting Room and the most appropriate and beneficial ways in which we can employ modern Information Technology systems. All three Working Groups have taken into account the major views expressed at the EGM and will be making their final reports to Council very

soon. I hope we will be able to inform members of the principal recommendations at the earliest opportunity. The briefs have been wide-ranging and intensive consideration has taken place, consulting expertise where necessary. I can assure you we will not be intending anything like the level of capital expenditure envisaged in the original scheme last year.

Members of the Staffing Committee have spent many days in interviews and discussion in recruiting for Steward and Housekeeper, to find some temporary accommodation, and then to replace the new Steward and Housekeeper last Autumn following their resignation and return to the North East of England. Sue and Keith Adams joined us in November and with some agreed changes to their work routines are bringing a much more friendly and helpful spirit to the benefit of members and visitors to the building. Following discussions this year we are putting in place a Stakeholder Pension Scheme from this October should any member of the staff wish to take up this facility.

Maintenance of the building has continued with the replacement of the slate roof to the main building, the repair and re-decoration of the exterior walls and a refurbishment of the staff flat on the top floor. Changes have been made or are currently in hand to the fire and security systems and you will be aware of the new front door entry system. We have also put in hand a full electrical survey of the building and recommendations from the report are under

consideration and will be implemented where appropriate. Tremendous changes and improvements to the Library holdings have been made in the year and Philip Lindley is energetically continuing to push these initiatives forward. The impetus of change in the Museum continues under Alan Griffiths and we hope soon to appoint a Curator, a new voluntary position that should bring more emphasis and exhibition to our stock of artefacts. Michael Sefi has taken over Chairmanship of the Publications Committee and already initiatives are under way in regard to further marketing of the stock of books. The year has seen the important publication of two major works, *The Reform of the Post Office in the Victorian Era* and *The Work of Jean de Sperati II*. Further changes will continue to be seen in *The London Philatelist*. Our most important Committee, Finance, has had much to consider this year with detailed discussions and decisions. Consideration has been given to the management and investment of the proceeds of the sale of the late Alma Lee collection in Switzerland and as the funds are now arriving with our bankers, the Committee will be meeting again shortly to consider all the implications of this important donation. Our thanks must go to Past President Alan Huggins and President Gavin Fryer for all the detailed preparation, negotiation and arrangements for the sale at the most advantageous terms to the Society. Donations continue to be received to the 2000 and Beyond Appeal and this will remain open for the time being for every donation, no matter how small, goes towards ensuring our future for the collectors of tomorrow. The Membership and Functions Committee under Past President Jane Moubray has had a most active year not only in the usual work of ensuring our continuing representation in countries overseas and counties here at home, but importantly in arrangements for provincial and country meetings and our presence at International Exhibitions.

A first ever initiative this year saw an all-day meeting of County Representatives here at No. 41 in the Spring and this was both well attended and found to be extremely useful,

paving the way for a further meeting next year perhaps further north. The provincial meetings have continued and remain as popular as ever with good support and excellent displays, not to mention the conviviality and standards of luncheon arrangements. Guests are welcomed, the opportunity for recruitment remains and the informality of such occasions is doubtless the key to their continuing success. Our thanks to the County Representatives who work so hard in arranging these meetings.

Your Council has met on seven occasions and much of the business dealt with is reflected in the individual reports presented by Committee Chairmen. The Sub-Committee set up last year to review the terms of the Bye-Law on the Definition of Trade following Council's decision to maintain the status quo of amateur membership is expected to report back to Council shortly. I shall not comment further on the work of the Committees other than to underline the very hard work undertaken by certain key members. It is the commitment and dedication of some that maintains the life of the Society and its assets. Once again we have enjoyed a programme of nineteen interesting and stimulating meetings with a diversity and wealth of material beautifully presented and explained. Next season's programme promises to be of equal standard with some new innovations. We are again honoured that Her Majesty The Queen has graciously permitted sheets of Ceylon from the Royal Philatelic Collection to be displayed and presented by Past President and Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, Charles Goodwyn, on Thursday 20 September 2001 at 1.00 pm. You will see that, in the light of members' comments, we have arranged an evening meeting with two fifteen minutes papers from 6.30 pm, a Saturday afternoon meeting from 2.00 pm for young collectors and a subsequent Saturday afternoon meeting from 2.30 pm for displays by members joining since January 1997. We hope that these meetings will be well supported especially by those members who find the usual Thursday meetings difficult to attend.

Membership of the Society stands at 1516, only a small increase over last year.

Council remains firmly committed to increasing membership and it is important for the future success of the Society that each of you actively try to identify and persuade philatelic friends and colleagues to join and enjoy the facilities we know so well. Whilst the number of new members is not as high as the previous year, sadly there have been twelve deaths to report including Mrs H. Alma Lee and John O. Griffiths, both signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and outstanding in their contribution to this Society. It is also sad to record the recent death of D.N. Jatia RDP, FRPSL. During this year your Council has taken special pleasure in electing Past President and Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection Charles Goodwyn LLB, RDP and Harry Sutherland QC, RDP as Honorary Fellows of the Society.

In concluding I must thank our staff for all their hard work in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of the Society. Conditions in the building were not ideal last summer and autumn with builders in and out, but by the time of the EGM we were virtually back to normal and this was very much due to the extra efforts made by both Margot and Joanna to whom I am most grateful. Finally, President, I must record my grateful thanks to yourself, the Officers and Members of Council for the support I have received in this demanding role. I wish to feel we work as a team to the best of our abilities for the good of the Society which continues in good order. I have the honour to present this, my Report.

David Gurney  
Honorary Secretary

## Report of Hon. Treasurer

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen it is an honour to present my report to you on the Society's finances. The figures contained in the report reflect a busy year.

Income was boosted by the raising of subscription rates and higher interest receipts. In addition a much-appreciated donation of £5,000 was received from RPSL Ltd. These helped to offset the reduction in other donations

and income from listed investments. The net effect is that income increased by some £3,000.

Expenditure increased by almost £21,000 during the year. The bulk of this is due to two factors: the recruitment expenses for the position of Steward and Housekeeper; and for temporary accommodation costs whilst the flat was refurbished. The other factor was the increase in the net cost of *The London Philatelist*, which was the result of the greater use of colour. Your Council considers that this has enhanced the quality of the journal and is worth the additional cost. Library conservation and binding work also increased in line with plans announced last year. In addition the Open Day last May and our stand at London 2000 also incurred additional costs.

The net result is that revenue expenditure exceeded income by some £2,000, which is comfortably covered by our reserves.

The re-launch of the 2000 and Beyond Appeal brought in a further £57,000 in donations boosting the gross receipts to £224,000. During the year the major works to the roof were carried out at a cost of some £35,000. The cost of the external decorating and the refurbishment of the steward's flat cost some £61,000 and this was met from the repairs reserve.

2000 also saw the publication of *The Reform of the Post Office in the Victorian Era*. Financially this is our largest publication ever and although pre-publication sales were excellent we will need to achieve further sales if we are to avoid a large write-off cost in the next few years.

Now turning to the current year's budget and that for next year. These currently indicate that expenditure will exceed income principally because of lower income expected from dividends and interest. It would be prudent therefore for me to be proposing to increase subscriptions next year. However, your Council has decided to defer any increase for a year in which time it is intended that a full review of our long-term financial plans will be concluded.

I would like to thank Michael Farrant for his help and guidance during the year and also for his continuing work to look after the

tax refund claims, which are a major source of income to the Society. Whilst mentioning these it would be remiss of me not to ask again for anyone who has not completed one of the new Gift Aid forms to do so. Forms are available from the office. For each country member who completes a gift aid form the Government gives us £20.87 and for each town member they give us £28.76 so you can see it is very beneficial to do so. As long as the member pays tax of at least that amount then they are eligible to complete the Gift Aid form. My thanks also to Michael Elliott our Auditor

who helps put the accounts together and advises on numerous subjects. I must conclude with special thanks to Margot who carries out all the day to day accountancy work and is the cornerstone of the administration with Joanna's assistance. My thanks to all my fellow Officers for their help and support during the year.

Finally if anyone has questions concerning the accounts whether now or at any time then please ask. I will always endeavour to provide the answer.

Alan Moorcroft  
*Honorary Treasurer*



## Forthcoming Events

15 Aug 2001	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
1 - 9 Sep 2001	Euro-Cuprum Philatelic Exhibition (FEPA), Lubin, Poland
12 Sep 2001	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
14 - 23 Sep 2001	Armenia 01 Philatelic Exhibition, Yerevan
19 - 23 Sep 2001	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
19 - 23 Sep 2001	ASTRO 2001, to be held at Autumn Stampex
10 Oct 2001	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
13 Oct 2001	Association of Sussex PS Autumn Convention, Worthing
16 - 21 Oct 2001	Hafnia 01 Philatelic Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark
20 Oct 2001	Kent Federation Autumn Rally, Frindsbury
25 - 27 Oct 2001	Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, London
26 - 28 Oct 2001	Federation of Surrey PS Convention, Bournemouth
10 - 15 Nov 2001	Kadikoy 2001, Turkey
14 Nov 2001	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
16 - 17 Nov 2001	Leeds PS Annual Fair, Pudsey
17 Nov 2001	Surrey Federation Autumn Event, Collingwood College, Camberley
23 - 24 Nov 2001	Thematica II Exhibition, Carisbrooke Hall, London
12 Dec 2001	Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London
18 - 19 Jan 2002	York Stamp Fair, The Racecourse, York
27 Feb - 3 Mar 2002	Spring Stampex, Islington, London
2 - 11 Aug 2002	Korea 2002, Seoul
30 Aug - 3 Sep 2002	Amphilex 02, Amsterdam
18 - 22 Sep 2002	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
15 - 16 Nov 2002	Leeds PS Annual Fair, Pudsey
29 - 30 Nov 2002	Chester 2002, The Racecourse, Chester

The editor would be delighted to include information on forthcoming dates in this section to help advertise major philatelic events. To be included, an event should be one of: an International Exhibition, a United Kingdom Federation convention, a major London Fair or a multi-day fair elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

# Fellowships

Council has endorsed certain principles by which candidates for Fellowship will be assessed. County and Overseas Representatives of the Society who wish to nominate a candidate for consideration at the next Fellowship Committee meeting to be held in the Autumn of this year should consider incorporating in their submission those aspects of the philatelic career of a candidate that reflect the following criteria.

Fellowship must generally be earned in one or several ways. These may include:

- service to the Society
- presentation of a display or paper before a meeting of the Society
- publication of a major article in *The London Philatelist*
- making a significant contribution to philately in the United Kingdom
- making a significant contribution to philately overseas.

The passage of time or payment of subscriptions to the Society are not in themselves sufficient.

**David Gurney**  
*Hon. Secretary*



## RPSL Receptions

### Guildhall, London: 19 September 2001

Readers are further reminded that on the day before the display of Ceylon from the Royal Collection, there is a reception for members and fellows in the art gallery at Guildhall. This provides members with an opportunity to view the Corporation of London's fabulous art collection.

There will be no charge for this event, but numbers are limited and tickets must be obtained from the office at No. 41 in advance. The reception will be at 6.30 pm to 8 pm on the evening of Wednesday 19 September 2001.

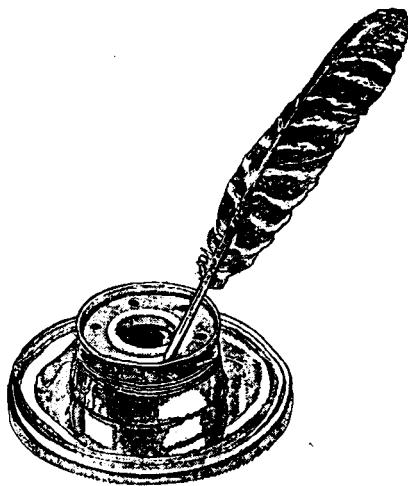
### Hafnia 2001, Copenhagen: 18 October 2001

Members are reminded that a reception will be held at the forthcoming exhibition in Copenhagen at 4 pm on Thursday 18 October 2001. Tickets are £25 each, available from Jane Moubray. A guided tour of the PTT Museum will be available at 3 pm, preceding the reception.



### Académie Européenne de Philatélie Awards

This France-based Society, with which many of our members are connected, has made the first two of its new, special awards to distinguished members for service to philately. The recipients were Raymond Pittier FRPSL (Switzerland) and George Barker FRPSL, who have both received the Mérite Philatélique Européen. Our congratulations to them both.



## Letters to the Editor

Correspondence on any subject is always most appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, 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

### ✉ Virginia City Pony Express

Dear Sirs,

It was with great interest that I read the recent article by John A. Edwards in the April 2001 edition of *The London Philatelist* (pp77-78) on "The Last Run of the Virginia City Pony Express?", not because I have any great knowledge of the area, but rather because I have a friend that does. I therefore showed him a copy of the article. His immediate reaction was that the cover was either a fake or a superfluous waste of a stamp. On further reflection he went over his notes covering that era of American Philately.

To briefly summarize the data on the cover, it has a red 25 cent Pony Express Stamp, tied with a blue Wells Fargo & Co. handstamp dated 11 April, tied to a 3 cent pink on buff 1861 envelope addressed to Virginia City, Nevada. The *APE* annotation at bottom left indicates it was from the Marc Haas collection (*APE* standing for American Philatelic Enterprises) which was sold to Gibbons.

The previous history of the cover was that it was sold by Gene Costales as lot 587 in the Harmer's auction of 8 November 1955 of the Barkhausen collection where it sold for \$380. Later it was auctioned by Harmer's as lot 255 on 21 April 1958, going for \$170. The accepted "last day of usage" for a Pony Express stamp on cover was sold as lot 28 in the Richard Frajola auction sale of 23 October 1981. That lot was a cover used 2 March 1865

from Virginia City, Nevada Territory to San Francisco. The enclosed letter specifically mentioned that the Pony is stopped. This is confirmed by Wells Fargo notices that appeared at the time as discussed by W.T. Jackson in the July 1972 issue *Journal of The West*.

As the red stamp used on the cover illustrated in your article was issued around 1 July 1864, this means it has to be an 1865 usage. As such, it is a usage AFTER the Virginia City Pony Express had stopped running and is properly classified as a superfluous, late usage of the stamp.

The cover will be included in a book on Nevada Expresses written by Jim Garrett, which is to be published by Leonard Hartmann.

J.L. Whitford-Stark  
USA



### ✉ Airmail to Belgium

Dear Sir,

I have naturally read with great interest the letters from H.S. Wilson and Michael Lockton (*LP* June 2001, pp146-148) containing criticism of the conclusions I have reached in my article in the *LP* in April 2001, pp89-90, "How did this card get to Belgium?"

It must be admitted that Mr. Wilson's timetable calculations are correct always

assuming that the postal services were run with maximum efficiency; there was a war on.

Please excuse an aerophilatelist's innocence.

I cannot however accept his assumption that the Belgian cancellation may have been applied in Folkestone. Enclosed photocopy [*not reproduced here, Ed.*] shows the same cancel, of the same date, applied to a letter posted in De Panne for transmission (presumably by 'King Albert' mail) to England. As far as the German activity in the region is concerned, again I admit that the German guns near Nieuport were over 90 km from Boulogne but they were also 18 km from De Panne. Mr. Wilson's sources would also confirm the existence of German armed patrol boats in the region. Would any regular postal service agree to run the risk?

We also cannot disregard the identity of the addressee, one of the King's pilots. Surely his correspondence would be accepted on a King's flight.

Answering Michael Lockton, apart from the arguments above, indeed he may assume that the cancellation on his card was used at any Belgian military establishment but the contents of a number of letters sent from De Panne in 1915 confirm that it was in use in the enclave. A reader would have to apply his own judgement as to how scientific is Michael Lockton's opinion that the card may not have reached Belgium at all.

An aerophilatelist does not consider his hobby to be a science although we spend a lot of time on studying the type and performance of aircraft engines and their capabilities as well as the conditions in which they had to perform.

Investigating an airmail service, we pay more attention to the human aspect involved, the degree of the individual effort and the conditions in which it has been achieved.

Alex Newall  
London



## Binders for *The London Philatelist*

Frank Walton

How do you keep your runs of *LPs*? I'm sure that many members will have their own copies hardbound in a cloth to match their own libraries, but there will perhaps be many more who keep them loose on bookshelves. I have made an arrangement with a specialist high quality binder manufacturer to tailor-make binders for holding *LPs*.

These spine of these binders measures 29.2 cm high and 7.5 cm wide. They are finished in navy blue. On the spine is the Royal coat of arms and 'The London Philatelist' in gold coloured foil. Space is left for the fixing of self-adhesive clear backed gold coloured year and volume numbers, which are supplied.

A binder has 24 cordex strings, so each will hold two-years' worth of *LPs*, including indexes and supplements. For the period around the 1980s, three years can fit into one binder.

These binders cost £5.00 each, including VAT. In the UK, postage and packing is £1.50 each. On orders of more than six binders, p&p will be slightly less and charged at cost. For orders to North America, airmail p&p is £4.50 for one binder or £6.50 for two; surface mail p&p to North America is £2.00 for one or £3.00 for two binders. For orders of larger quantities or to different countries, please ask.

Please send orders with sterling cheques to the office at No. 41; remember to state which volumes / years are to be bound. Note that this offer is mail order only, as the binders are not stored at the society's premises.

# **Report on Belgica 2001 Exhibition, Brussels 9 to 15 June 2001**

**John Geiss**

Belgica is over. The frames and stands have been dismounted and the exhibitors and dealers have returned home, either happy with their achievements, or disappointed. The number of gold and large gold medals awarded indicates either that the jury was too generous or that the standard was high – and that was indeed the case.

The halls where the exhibition was held were large and airy, with plenty of space between the rows of frames. What a pity that more people did not spend more time looking at the wonderful material in them. I missed the only weekend of the exhibition, but I understand that there were approximately 20,000 people through the doors on opening day and on most other days there was a steady flow of visitors. The dealers appeared to be reasonably happy, which is always a good sign!

During the week there were many groups of school children present, from primary age to seniors. The organising committee arranged for over 150 schools to be brought to the exhibition. They could watch and participate in stage shows, have their faces painted and even learn something about stamp collecting! For those youngsters who were also exhibitors, there was an opportunity to discuss their results with the jury. The children certainly enjoyed their visit, but how much most of them learned about stamp collecting is debatable. Since both the thematic and youth exhibits were adjacent to the children's area, it is a shame that no use was made of the opportunity to show the youngsters all the interesting stories that could be told using philatelic items.

The British presence at the exhibition was strong. Three of the sixteen exhibits in the Court of Honour were British. The material from the collection of HM The Queen showed items from the collection formed by her grandfather, King George V, including the original artwork for the 1913 Seahorses issue. The British Library, with the help of material from members of this Society showed material outlining the development of pre-paid mail prior to 1849, when Belgium issued its first postage stamp. The Royal Philatelic Society London was also represented in the Court of Honour with material bequeathed by Donald Gray, which comprised the 1852 and 1864 issues of the Netherlands arranged value by value.

Other Royal members who showed in the Court of Honour were Luc van Pamel and Leo de Clercq of Belgium, Saverio Imperato of Italy, Steven Walske of USA and Hans Paikert of Germany.

Throughout the exhibition the weather was generally warm and sunny. This was lovely for the visitors, but less good for the exhibits. In the first hall in particular, the exhibits were bombarded by sunlight coming in through the skylights in the roof. How the organisers, or the FIP co-ordinator for the exhibition could have allowed this to happen, in spite of repeated warnings, remains a mystery. It is high time that FIP put the interests of the exhibitors to the forefront and not the convenience of the show organisers. I suspect that at times the light levels in the main hall were many times higher than those recommended for the preservation of archival material. The thematic and youth exhibits were housed in this hall and fared the worst. Those with red cachets, such as Zeppelin covers are likely to have suffered the most. Red in particular is notorious for its fugitive inks.

Another jarring note – literally – was the constant level of noise. If it was not coming from the loudspeakers in the youth area, then it was coming from the stage, complete with stereophonic sound equipment, in the dealers' hall. The idea of integrating entertainment with philately was first tried out at IBRA in Nuremberg in 1999 and Belgica adopted the idea. At regular intervals throughout the day, jugglers juggled, drummers drummed or trick cyclists performed a variety of intricate movements, all accompanied by music at a level of decibels that halted all conversation

and hurt the ears. The tannoy system, which too was frequently heard, also appeared to have no soft pedal. Several jurors were heard to complain that all work in the jury room had to be halted when announcements were made or the music blared. For those who were giving seminars, similar problems were experienced.

Royal members did well at Belgica. President Gavin Fryer was showing his "Western Europe 1840 - 1871" in the Championship Class, along with 16 other exhibitors, only three of whom were not members of the Society. Klaus Eitner of Germany and Ron Brigham of Canada were the two contenders for the Grand Prix d' Honneur FIP-Championship. The closely fought contest was won by Ron Brigham with "The Province of Canada, The Pence Issues 1851 - 1868", who told me that this was the first time that a Canadian had won a grand prix, a double cause for celebration.

New member Luc Joseph van Pamel of Belgium was the only contestant for the Grand Prix National with his exhibit of "The One Centime Medallion Issue 1861 - 1863".

For the Grand Prix International, one of the great surprises of the exhibition was that for the first time ever, a thematic exhibit was nominated for the Grand Prix International!

RPSL member, D'amian Laege certainly deserved the honour with his outstanding exhibit of "Australian Bird Life". The other contenders were Ottavio Masi of Italy with "Lombardy - Venetia 1850 - 1866" and Balder of Belgium, for "Norwegian Covers to Foreign Destinations 1855 - 1877". The eventual winner was the Norwegian exhibit. As for the Grand Prix d'Honneur, this was a closely fought contest.

In all, 44 Large Gold medals and 130 Gold were awarded. A high standard indeed! And with the exception of the two bones of contention already mentioned, this was a happy and successful exhibition and much enjoyed by those who were able to attend.



*Including those mentioned above, Royal Philatelic Society London Fellows and Members won a total of 133 awards. A list of those who achieved major awards at Belgica will appear in the next issue.*



# Pioneer U.S. Air Mail Flights 1911-1912

Ian Paton FRPSL

Consulting the Chronological Flight Index in Volume I of the *American Air Mail Catalogue* shows that Pioneer Air Mail Flights, excluding balloons and dirigibles, started in 1908 and grew in number between 1910 and 1912. There is a caveat that much of the material with special cachets never travelled in an aeroplane.

In the US the first official air mail flight was made on 23 September 1911 from an airfield at Garden City, Long Island, N.Y. with the mailbag dropped at nearby Mineola. The local

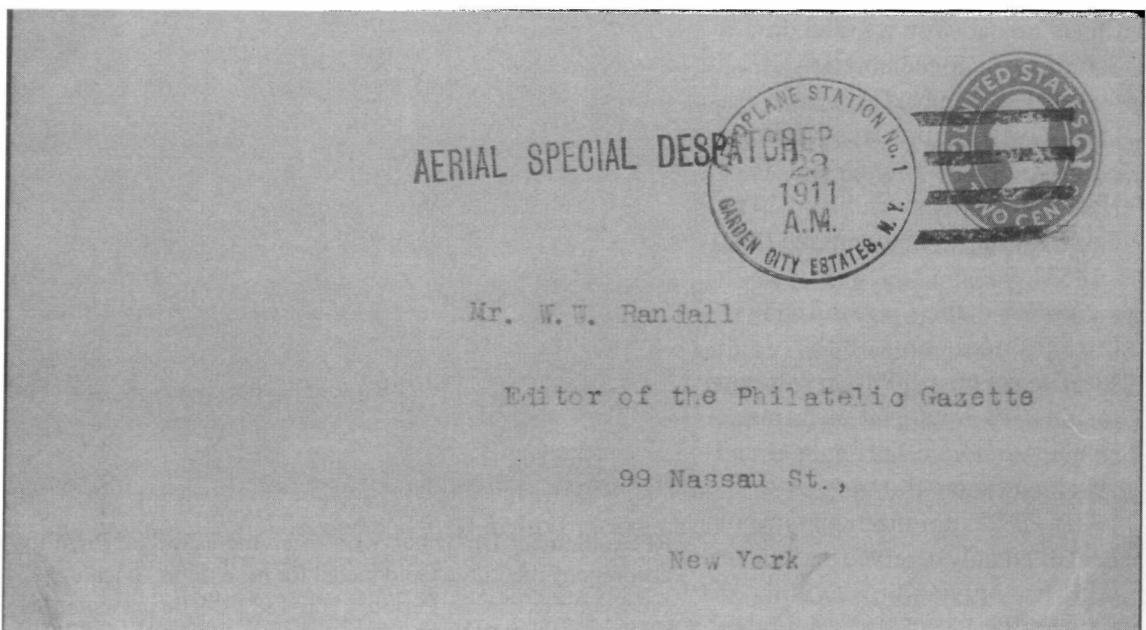


Fig. 1 First Air Mail, Garden City Estates, Long Island, New York (reduced)

postmaster, forewarned of the time of the flight by telephone, was waiting in an open field and took the locked pouch back to his post office where he used a duplicate key to open it, and the mail was then sorted and distributed nationwide in the usual way.

The International Aviation Tournament was conducted by the Nassau Aviation Corporation with the sanction of the Aero Club of America, and lasted for nine days (from 23 September to 1 October 1911), with a programme which included a wide range of competitions and displays, including some for women pilots. Thirty-six aviators flying in over 60 aircraft took part; flying started at 3 pm or 3.30 pm each day. Postmaster-General Hitchcock authorised the introduction of an airmail service with daily flights to Mineola, and the Post Office had a printed leaflet headed *U.S. Aerial Post* which was handed out at the airfield. It explained that Aeroplane Station No. 1 was on the field and that postcards and stamps could be purchased at this sub-station behind the stands. There were 20 aerial mail boxes around the grounds which were emptied twice a day and the mail was taken to the sub-station to have the commemorative circular postmark and

the straight line handstamp 'AERIAL SPECIAL DESPATCH' applied (Fig. 1). The postmark included the date and A.M. or P.M., but only A.M. was used on the first two days and only P.M. thereafter.

Army Captain Paul Beck was scheduled to make the first flight but his biplane proved to be inoperable and so Earle Ovington made this flight in his monoplane. He was sworn in as a postal employee by Warren W. Dickinson the Post Office Inspector in charge. Ovington received the pouch weighing twice the agreed 15 lb and took off at 5.26 pm dropping it six minutes later and landing again at 5.45 pm. A reporter for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* wrote that the pouch contained at least 15,000 items which compares with the usually quoted figures of 640 letters and 1280 postcards; the higher figure does not seem unreasonable with 25,000 spectators present and good access to stamps and postcards. Postmaster-General Hitchcock was unable to be present on the first two days and only on 26 September did he go up in a biplane and personally drop the mailbag at Mineola. Frank Harris Hitchcock was PMG from 1909 to 1913 and as well as introducing the airmail service and establishing a postal savings system he also turned the annual deficit of the POD into a small surplus. Like many of his predecessors his appointment as PMG was a reward for his success in running William H. Taft's Presidential Campaign in 1908.

A number of other Aviation Meetings with air mail drops were held during 1911, but the first to have more than one commemorative postmark took place on the other side of the continent at Los Angeles, California from 20 to 28 January 1912. It was the third International Aviation Meeting to be held at Dominguez Aviation Field, about ten miles south of Los Angeles - the airfield was very large and had permanent hangars and a grandstand. Postmaster Harrison of Los Angeles authorised the carrying of mail twice each day. A tent was set up to serve as a Postal Sub-Station and two clerks worked in it to cancel the mail collected from the mailboxes on the field. As well as the cancellation the mail was handstamped in purple "This piece of mail was carried by Aeroplane from Aviation Field Postal Station to nearest regular Post Office at Compton, California". In all over 16,000 pieces of mail were carried. The mail pouch was given to the authorised pilot who flew it four miles to Compton where he dropped it near the Post Office for pick up and onward transmission by train to the main post office in Los Angeles. Glen Martin was the pilot on the first and last days; this Postal Card has the postmark (Fig. 2) with DOMINGUEZ / FIELD in the bars which was used on 27 and 28 January 1912. The other two markings had either solid bars, or AVIATION FIELD in place of DOMINGUEZ FIELD.

#### References

- O'Sullivan, Thomas J. & Webber, Karl B., *History of the U.S Pioneer & Government-Operated Air Mail Service 1910-1928*, American Air Mail Society, Philadelphia 1973  
Schoendorf, R., *The Pioneer Flights of Garden City Estates*, New York: 1911, Zimmerman, NYC 1982  
Eisendrath, Joseph L. (editor), *American Air Mail Catalogue Vol. I. (5th Edition)*, American Air Mail Society, 1974

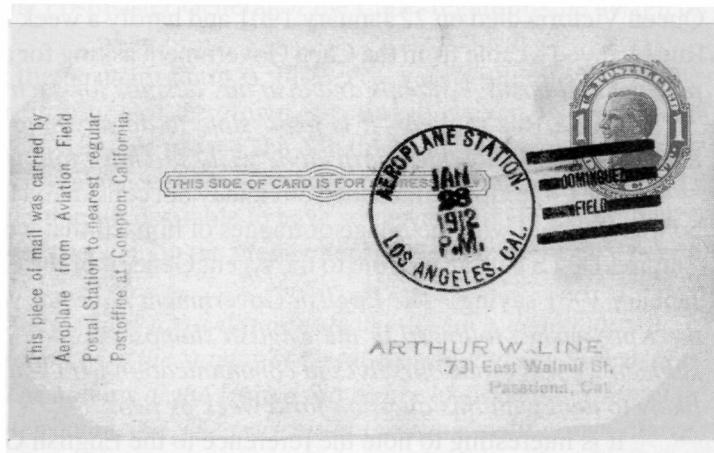


Fig. 2 Card from Dominguez Field, Los Angeles (reduced)

# Cape of Good Hope Edwardian Postage Stamps

Brian Trotter

These are probably the most neglected of the postage stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. Admittedly the competition is tough, especially when competing with classics like the Cape triangulares. Even displays of Cape rectangulaires usually stop before the Edwardian stamp issue is reached. Perhaps it is time they too featured more regularly, so a look at these attractive stamps seems appropriate.

## Early Correspondence

Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901 and hardly a week later, on the 30 January 1901, De La Rue received a cable from the Cape Government asking for a “*Good selection photos of king for revenue and postage stamps and also any designs for such issued or prepared.*”

De La Rue replied “*It is impossible to do anything in the matter until his Majesty the King has intimated which portrait he wishes to have followed.*”

The Cape Government had obviously not considered that the King may want to ensure that he was satisfied with the image or images of himself that would be most proliferated around the Empire. De La Rue also wrote to the Agent General of the Cape of Good Hope in London on 31 January 1901 saying “*The English Government have not yet heard which portrait his Majesty the King wishes followed in the English stamps. As soon as we receive any intimation of the subject, we will place ourselves in communication with you. We hardly think that his Majesty is likely to deal with this question for a week or two.*”

It is interesting to note the reference to the English Government and the English stamps, rather than the British Government and the British stamps. Understandably, the King would have had other things on his mind so soon after his mother’s death, and with the Anglo-Boer War still in progress. So it was some time before things began to progress.

The next piece of relevant correspondence is on 21 May 1901, when De La Rue advised the Agent General for the Cape Colony that “*We have the honour to inform you that His Majesty the King has approved of a classically treated portrait after an original drawing by Mr. Fuchs, a photograph of which we enclose. His Majesty has commanded that all stamps bearing his effigy are to have an Imperial crown in the border.*”

It is not known whether the photograph has survived. The basis of the stamp and stationery design, however, had now been set.

## The First Dies

The initial correspondence was to do with stationery and embossed revenue stamps, for which designs were submitted. The Cape Treasury requested that the proposed postcard die be used for all postage stamps indented from then on, and to substitute the King’s head design in the present revenue stamps, but De La Rue, on 25 July 1901, told them that “*We wish to make it quite clear to you that the Post Card die could not be made available for Postage and Revenue adhesive Stamps. It is necessary to engrave a Post Card die in a much coarser manner than a die which would be required for adhesive Stamps, as a Post Card die has to be used for printing on the rougher surface of cards.*”

## Postage Stamp Development

After the initial correspondence, the Agent General of the Cape of Good Hope wrote to De La Rue on 24 July 1901, saying that the Cape Government enquired as to the cost of substituting the King's head on the Cape adhesive postage stamps. De La Rue responded the next day advising that the cost of producing the King's head design for postage stamps would involve the engraving of an original head die at a cost of £200. Then nine postage working dies (or duty dies), one for each of the anticipated duties, would be £450, that is £50 each. Also, a further £85 for each of the nine postage plates. A considerable outlay at the time.

They promised that a proposed design would be ready in a few days. This design was provided, along with a photographic copy for the Cape Government to retain in their correspondence files, on 31 July 1901. The colours of the various denominations (or duties) were planned to remain unchanged, that is, the same as those in service at the time.

A further letter from the Cape Agent General to De La Rue on 24 September 1901, enclosing a letter from Sir Somerset French, the Postmaster General of the Cape, regarding the design of the postage stamps reads:

"The frame of the design for the postage stamp is, I observe, very similar to that of the current halfpenny denomination, the insertion of the crown effecting, however, a very marked improvement. Under Convention we are unable to vary the colours of these stamps, and as by artificial light there is a considerable resemblance between the colours of the 3d and 6d and the 1s and 5s denominations I am inclined to think it desirable to have some variation in the frames of the 6d and 5s at least, so as to make the check upon the prepayment of postage more easy than it is at present.

*There is in fact a good deal to be said for a different frame to each denomination, a principle which is adopted in connection with the stamps of Great Britain and - to look nearer at hand - with those of Natal also. The stamps of the United States are likewise all different in design as well as those of many other countries. The portrait of the King, with crown above, makes an exceedingly effective centre to the stamps and would of course be retained in every denomination no matter what the design of the surrounding frame might be.*

I attach a set (used) of the postage stamps of the present issue which show the colour difficulty if all the designs are identical. It is assumed that in any case the numerals of value for the shilling and five shilling denominations would be followed by the letter 'S'."

The covering letter from the Cape Agent General, referring to the postage stamp frames, says:

"I take this opportunity of mentioning that the Sugar Bush or Protea is the floral emblem of the Cape Colony; and that, if variations in the designs already submitted should be adopted, you might perhaps take occasion to introduce their emblem. It is very effective and has been introduced in the design for the 'Cape General Service Medal' now being struck at the Royal Mint for the Colonial Government."

This was to determine the fate of the design of the Cape postage stamps, becoming the only South African Edwardian stamps, either postage or revenue, to have a different frame for each denomination. In reality, the UPU colour convention only applied to the low values, and, as the other colonies did, the higher values could have varied colours to avoid the confusion that was the concern of the Cape's Postmaster General.

The story of the Protea continued, as De La Rue were apparently unable to find a suitable picture of a Protea to copy. As a result, the Cape Agent General sent, on the 4 October 1901, a copy of the *Curtis Botanical Magazine* to Sir Evelyn Andros De La Rue. He was now a Director, and one that was very involved with the development and printing of the stamps for South Africa. The note from the Agent General refers to page 346, and asks for the magazine to be returned, as it was borrowed!

On 9 October 1901 De La Rue returned the magazine, and advised that they had “*taken a photograph of the Honey-bearing Protea plant*,” and would incorporate it in one of the stamp designs.

On 7 November 1901, De La Rue wrote to the Cape Agent General as follows:

“With reference to your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> September last, we have the pleasure to hand you a complete set of designs for the nine duties of Postage stamps.

The 1d. has already been approved by you, and you will notice that we have introduced the Sugar Bush into the 2½d. design.

We trust that these designs will meet with approval, and assume that the stamps would be printed in the colours at present employed for the various duties.”

The previously approved 1d design referred to was the one with the frame of the original design submitted on 31 July 1901. It is not clear whether these were coloured designs, or only photographic copies. Certainly, as when the original design was submitted on 31 July, photographic copies were included. These were on glazed cards, dated at the top right, and with the intended colour shown at the bottom left corner.

The next day, 8 November 1901, the Agent General of the Cape confirmed approval of the designs, and authorised De La Rue to proceed with the making of the dies. He also confirmed the colours to be those of the existing stamps for the respective duties. Interestingly, he comments that he is not forwarding the designs to the Colony, so as to avoid any further delay, so it would seem that he had full authority from the Cape Government to act on their behalf in this case. He also offered, and De La Rue immediately accepted, that the designs be returned for the engraver to work to.

The dies were prepared, and completed over the period from 3 April 1902 (½d duty) to 18 November 1902 (6d duty). A proof was taken from each die and checked and approved by a senior person, often Sir Evelyn Andros De La Rue, who then initialled the die proofs, which were cut down and placed in the De La Rue Work Book (Fig. 1). A number of other die proofs were taken in this “Before Hardening” state.

In April 1902 De La Rue confirmed that they could have the ½d and 1d dies and plates ready by 30 June 1902. In June 1902 the indent for the 1902 - 03 financial year was placed, this was for seven of the nine new King Edward VII denominations, the 2d and the 2½d not being required. The surplus of these two denominations of the old design was to continue throughout the Edwardian period. The first Edwardian postage stamps became available to the public in December 1902.



Fig. 1 Cut down die proof initialled

### Material from the De La Rue Records

Much material was preserved in the De La Rue Records, with practically all the Cape (and indeed much other Colonial material) surviving the bombing and resultant devastating fire that destroyed the De La Rue Works and headquarters in London on the night of 29 December 1940. With the material now dispersed (by being auctioned off in the late 1970s), it is worth attempting to record what is still believed to be in existence.

There are three main categories of material: that from the Work Books (sometimes known as Striking Books), which were De La Rue’s internal work records; that from the file records, which were the various die proofs in their various states; and that from the Correspondence Books, which were the proposals sent to the Colony for selection and approval. The Correspondence Book material was often prepared in duplicate, one copy being retained, while the other was sent to the Cape Agent General.

## Work Books

These were single copies of die proofs stuck into the Work Book, with the work instructions written alongside, often dated, sometimes with both the date the job was placed into the work programme, and the date it was completed. Once the job had been completed the die proof usually had a line ruled across it, designating that the job was now done, and had been written up in the Private Day Book. These are among the more scarce items, as there was only one copy in existence for each plate made. They are usually cut down, presumably to not take too much space on the Work Book page (Fig. 2).

The listing of items that were prepared is noted. The two for the ½d with partial information were sold in the 1976 Robson Lowe Auction (Ref. 1), but I have not seen them, so the full manuscript information with these two die proofs is not noted.

- ½d plate 1: April 9 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, May 14 02
- ½d plate 2: Dec 7 (1904)
- ½d plate 3: July 29 (1909)
- 1d plate 1: May 6 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, June 20 02
- 1d plate 2: April 14 (1903), 240 leads, No.2, not charged, first plate (No.1) cracked
- 1d plate 3: Dec 10 (1904), 240 leads and 6 extra, No.3, Jan 24 05
- 1d plate 4: July 27 (1907), 240 leads, No.4, 14 Sep 07
- 2d plate 1: May 15 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, June 20 02
- 2½d plate 1: Aug 27 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, Sep 22 02
- 3d plate 1: Sep 22 (1902), 240 leads plus 6 extra, Oct 28 02
- 4d plate 1: Sep 27 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, Oct 28 02
- 6d plate 1: Nov 21 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, Dec 18 02
- 1s plate 1: Aug 23 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, Sep 22 02
- 5s plate 1: Aug 25 (1902), 240 leads and 6 extra, Sep 22 02

Also noted are some cut down die proofs with the same date as the "Before Hardening" state cards. These are all initialled. Two of the seven noted have a handstamped date, while the other five have the date in manuscript. The two with a handstamped date are initialled by Sir Evelyn Andros De La Rue. These may have been the ones finally approved, then cut down and perhaps stuck in the Work Book, indicating that job had been completed, so they are listed here.

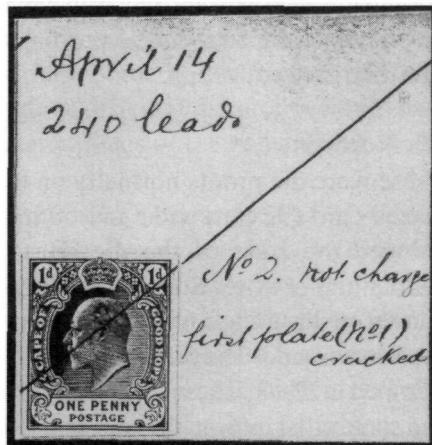


Fig. 2 Work Book die proof of 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1d plate, dated April 14 (1903)  
with instructions for 240 leads to  
be struck to replace, at no charge,  
the first plate that had cracked.



Fig. 3 Uncleared King's  
Head vignette

Uncleared King's head vignette die proof, no date or initials, but part of the "set" (Fig.3)

- 1d Die proof dated April 23 1902 in manuscript and initialled
- 2d Die proof dated May 12 1902 in manuscript and initialled (Fig. 4)
- 2½d Die proof dated 20 Aug 02 by hand stamp and initialled
- 3d Die proof dated Sept 15 1902 in manuscript and initialled
- 4d Die proof dated Sept 19 1902 in manuscript and initialled
- 6d Die proof dated Nov 18 1902 in manuscript and initialled
- 1s Die proof dated 20 Aug 02 by hand stamp and initialled

These items are reported to be survivors from a Work Book that was partially destroyed in the fire of 29 December 1940. If this is correct, then the other two duty values of ½d and 5s, that

presumably also existed, may well have been destroyed. These seven items (the 1d to 1s die proofs) were part of the De La Rue reference collection.

### File Records

These were die proofs normally on the standard De La Rue glazed card (92 mm wide and 60 mm high). They usually showed the state of the die (Before Hardening, After Hardening, or After Striking. No Before Striking states are known on these Cape of Good Hope proofs), and the date the proof was made. The die state, as well as the date, were hand stamped in black. These were sometimes initialled, and some had some other information in manuscript as well. The number of proofs taken in each state and on each date seems to vary, but in all cases only a few were made (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6).



Fig. 4 Dated and initialled 2d die proof

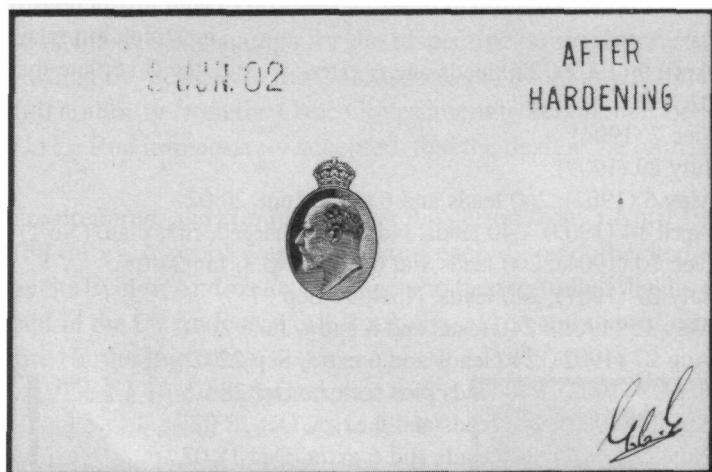


Fig. 5 Die proof of Crowned King's Head vignette in "After Hardening" state

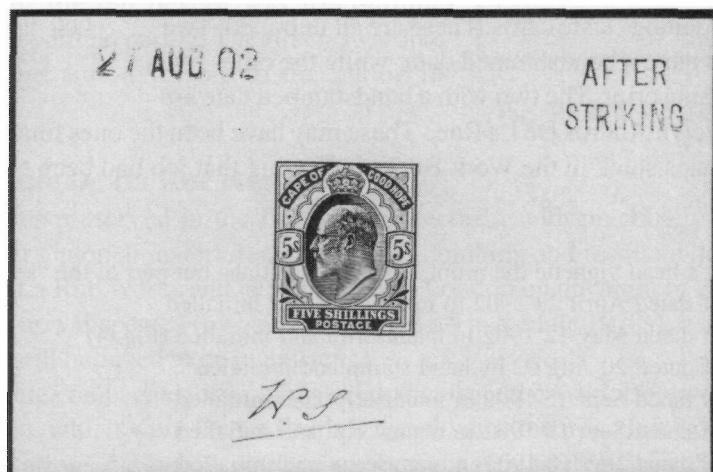


Fig. 6 Die proof of 5s in "After Striking" state

Proofs of each die used for making up the first plate would have been pulled in all the three states. Then for subsequent plates the same hardened die would have been used, so only the "After Striking" state proofs would be pulled, and perhaps some in the "Before Striking" state as well, but none of these have been seen. So at least three different die proofs would have been made for each duty value, and two extra for the two later plates of the ½d, and three extra for the three later plates of the 1d.

The 1961 auction of Huston's Cape collection (Ref. 2) had a lot described as "1902-04, Edward, the complete set of nine different values of the Die Proofs in black on complete glazed cards, all dated and marked BEFORE HARDENING". The next two lots were similar ones for the "After Hardening" and the "After Striking" states of the die. The fourth lot was for a further two ½d and three 1d die proofs marked "After Striking". No mention of initials or dates is made, and the only illustrations are of two Before Hardening state die proofs, but it is probable that the fourth lot was the die proofs for the additional plates of the ½d and the 1d values.

Die proofs in the stages of preparation of the final dies were also made. It is probable that at least one of each has survived, but only those die proofs actually confirmed are listed below.

Uncleared King's Head vignette, Before Hardening, dated 2 Nov. 01, with Cape Original Head D.I.

Crowned King's Head Vignette, After Hardening, dated 5 Jun. 02, initialled

½d Before Hardening, dated

3 Apr. 02

½d After Hardening, dated

4 Apr. 02, initialled

½d After Striking, dated

25 Apr. 02, initialled

½d After Striking, dated

8 Dec. 04, initialled

1d Before Hardening, dated

23 Apr. 02

1d After Hardening, dated

29 Apr. 02, initialled

1d After Striking, 9 May 02,  
initialled

1d After Striking, dated

26 Jul. 07, initialled

2d Before Hardening, dated

12 May 02

2½d Uncleared, with only a  
manuscript date, 11.8.02  
(Fig. 7)

2½d Before Hardening, dated  
20 Aug. 02

2½d After Hardening, dated 21 Aug. 02, initialled

3d Before Hardening, dated 15 Sep. 02

3d After Hardening, dated 19 Sep. 02, initialled

4d Before Hardening, dated 19 Sep. 02

4d After Hardening, dated 24 Sep. 02, initialled

6d Before Hardening, dated 18 Nov. 02

6d After Hardening, dated 19 Nov. 02, initialled

1s Before Hardening, dated 20 Aug. 02

1s After Hardening, dated 21 Aug. 02, initialled

5s Before Hardening, dated 21 Aug. 02

5s After Hardening, dated 23 Aug. 02, initialled

5s After Striking, dated 27 Aug. 02, initialled



Fig. 7 Uncleared die proof of 2½d

It is not known whether all the values had uncleared die proofs taken, but it would seem probable that it was not only the 2½d value. The uncleared King's head die proof was part of the De La Rue reference collection.

De La Rue also usually kept file copies of the issued stamps, stuck into a file book. These were part of the De La Rue reference collection, but their present whereabouts is not known. They also kept file copies of the issued stamps handstamped "Specimen"; these have been noted, and are covered later in the article.

### Correspondence Books

These were the stamp designs that De La Rue prepared. There were no colour trials involved, as the stamps all used the same monocolours for each denomination as the previous issue did. Not all of the designs may have survived. Whatever is known about the material is noted.

31 July 1901: A manuscript dated design proposal mounted on a card 95 mm wide and 129 mm high. The design was for a 1d duty value, so was presumably in red, unless it was a photographic essay. The poor quality photocopy now in the Correspondence Book shows it marked as a duplicate, so two must have been made. Yet on 20 August 1901, De La Rue asked for the design to be returned, which was done the next day, so presumably both designs would have remained in De La Rue's possession. A photographic copy was also submitted. It is not clear if any of these items still exist.

7 November 1901: Manuscript dated design proposals for all nine duties of postage stamps probably on cards 89 mm wide and 104 mm high. These were approved, and returned at De La Rue's request for the engraver to work from. There are no photocopies of these in the Correspondence Books, but we can assume they were again produced in duplicate. Photographic copies were made again, and these have survived for all nine values. These were manuscript dated, with a streak of colour in the lower left hand corner and the manuscript note "Colour of Design", and were part of the De La Rue reference collection.

### The Stamps

In summary, the stamps were issued from December 1902 to March 1904. They were all printed in sheets of 240 stamps (four panes of 60 stamps, in ten rows of six stamps per pane), on paper with the traditional Cape watermark of a Cabled Anchor. The 1d and 2d denominations are known with inverted watermarks, while the 1d is known with the watermark inverted and reversed. The perforation of the stamps was 14. The stamps were all monochrome. The colours of the various denominations were the same as the then current stamps. These were:

½d	green	4d	olive-green
1d	carmine	6d	bright mauve
2d	brown	1s	yellow-ochre
2½d	ultramarine	5s	brown-orange
3d	magenta		

The month of issue of each denomination was:

½d	December 1902	4d	February 1903
1d	December 1902	6d	March 1903
2d	October 1904	1s	December 1902
2½d	March 1904	5s	February 1903
3d	April 1903		

Several printings of each were made, resulting in shades of each duty. The 1d, being the most frequently used, required four different plates, the ½d required three different plates, while all the others required only a single plate. The stamps from the 2<sup>nd</sup> plate of the ½d value were printed in December 1904, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> plate in August 1909. Stamps from the 2<sup>nd</sup> plate of the 1d value were issued soon after those of the 1<sup>st</sup> plate, as this plate cracked, and had to be replaced. The stamps from the 2<sup>nd</sup> plate were printed in April 1903, the 3<sup>rd</sup> plate in January 1905, and the 4<sup>th</sup> plate in September 1907. (Fig. 8)



Fig. 8 The 1d duty from each printing plate

As per the requisitions, several printings were made:

½d	8 Printings, using 3 different plates
1d	7 Printings, using 4 different plates
2d	3 Printings, using 1 plate
2½d	2 Printings, using 1 plate
3d	5 Printings, using 1 plate
6d	5 Printings, using 1 plate
1s	5 Printings, using 1 plate
5s	5 Printings, using 1 plate

Specific details on the requisitions and the numbers printed are available in the De La Rue Private Day Books.

Considerable stocks of the stamps of the old designs were still on hand. So, at times, the Edwardian stamps were withdrawn to help use up the old stocks. Much of the time both the old and the new stamps were in concurrent use. This was very much a case of over enthusiasm by the Cape Government, as the old postage stamps were theoretically ageless, depicting the figure of Hope (a more recent 1d. duty issued to commemorate the Imperial Penny Post had a view of Table Mountain). So, unlike the other three colonies, where Natal had the effigy of Queen Victoria, and the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal only had overprinted stamps of the former Boer Republics, there was no urgency to replace the old Cape postage stamps.

As it turned out, some of these old values were still in use at the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. Presentation sets handstamped "Specimen" at the time of Union show some of the old postage stamps instead of the Edwardian issue, presumably because that was all that was still in stock at the time.

Imperforate stamps of all the duty values are known. These are believed to come from plate proofs.

## **Postage Stamp Specimens**

### **Universal Postal Union**

The Cape of Good Hope joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1895. However, it took the unusual step of supplying the UPU with specimen stamps of the Cape, without the precaution of having them overprinted with the word "specimen". They may have served their purpose of being the reference for the countries to which they were intended to be distributed, or they may have ended up being used for free postage somewhere along the way.

It is probable that some Receiving Authority would have marked some of these stamps received as specimens, but none have yet been recorded.

### **Specimen Stamps**

The only currently recorded specimen stamps of this period are the handstamped De La Rue's reference specimens, and two different types of handstamped presentation specimens.

### **De La Rue Reference Specimens**

These were handstamped in violet, with the Samuel type D15 rubber handstamp (Ref. 3). Only one copy of each is believed to exist. According to Samuel, these were in the De La Rue collection, and are incomplete (not all values still exist), as they were taken from an album which was damaged by the fire resulting from the 1940 bombing of the De La Rue premises. Samuel is a little confusing as he refers to them as his type D14 in the text (Ref. 4), but as type D15 in the checklist on the next page. They are in fact type D15 as noted above.

The values known to exist are: ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 1s, and the 5s. The 2½d and the 6d values are missing.

Samuel also reports that a booklet pane with a large violet "CANCELLED" handstamp across each vertical pair of 1d stamps was in the De La Rue reference collection (the De La Rue reference collection actually had all five panes with this "CANCELLED" handstamp, as well as both front and back booklet covers without the handstamp). The present whereabouts of these items is not known; however, a photocopy has been noted.

### **Presentation Specimens**

There were two different types of these handstamps, both applied in South Africa. One is a small italic handstamp (Samuel type SA1), and the other is larger handstamp (Samuel type SA5). The small italic handstamp was the one used by the Cape Colony to handstamp specimens (for the Post Office record book) from other countries and colonies that were received without the word "specimen" either handstamped or printed on them.

A set of the King Edward VII stamps handstamped with Samuel type SA5 was presented to the Royal Empire Society. This is believed to have happened in 1910, and as far as can be ascertained, only one set was made. A similar set of revenue stamps was also presented to the Society. Each of the other three South African Colonies also presented similar sets of both postage and revenue stamps to the Society.

The small italic handstamp was the same as that used to cancel the UPU specimens of the special 2½d stamps issued to commemorate the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. These Cape specimen sets are believed to have been prepared for presentation at the time of the formation of the Union. Why they were prepared and whom they were presented to is still unknown.

What seems to have happened is that examples of the Cape stamps in use at the time of the formation of the Union were prepared as sets for presentation. Due to the surplus of earlier issues that continued to be available and used throughout the Edwardian period, some of these were used to make up the presentation sets. It is not known how many were made, but it is likely to have been very few.

The values recorded with this italic handstamp are the King Edward VII series ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s, and the 5s. The 2d and 2½d values were made up using the earlier Hope Seated issues. This would suggest that no stamps of these values of the King Edward VII issue were available at the place and time these sets were made up. Also, the fact that the Table Bay carmine 1d value is also found with the same italic hand stamp suggests that perhaps not enough of the King Edward VII 1d stamps were at hand to make up the required number of sets, so that the Table Bay 1d stamp was substituted in at least one instance.

## Postage Stamp Booklets

### Development

Postage stamp booklets were an innovation that took place during the reign of King Edward VII, and the Cape of Good Hope was not to be left out.

The first that De La Rue learned of the Cape Government's desire for a stamp booklet was a letter from the Cape's Agent General in London on 12 September 1905, which enclosed a copy of a requisition from the Postmaster General of the Cape for 10,000 booklets. The requisition, dated 7 August 1905, read as follows:

"300,000 Cape 1d postage stamps. These stamps in books of thirty (panes of six) to be interleaved with oiled paper and pinned into the covers ordered below. (Same as supplied to the Transvaal Post Office. Specimen book herewith).

*10,000 Covers printed as per the accompanying specimen. Colour of cover to be red."*

The Robson Lowe auction of 1976 (Ref. 5) included a lot described as "*Booklet: drawing of the lettering and arms on inside and outside back covers of a dummy booklet endorsed 'Colour to be red'.*" This was presumably the specimen booklet referred to in the Cape Government requisition. This is an incomplete description of the lot (which was not illustrated), which actually shows the Colony's proposal for the front cover, back cover, and the inside of both front and back covers. This was printed by hand in black ink on buff card. It was, in fact, made up as a sample booklet, using the card covers, and with interleaving wax paper, and paper representing the stamps. The manuscript notation ("*Colour to be in red.*") was written in red ink.

On 15 September 1905 De La Rue responded saying:

*"We enclose herewith specimen books, numbered 1, 2, and 3. In No.1 the heads fall correctly and the book opens on the right-hand side. In No.2 the heads fall upside down and the book opens on the right-hand side. In No.3 the heads fall correctly, but the book opens on the left-hand side.*

*Owing to our having to use the margin for binding, half the books will be as No.1, and the other half must be either as No.2 or as No.3, unless you are prepared to go to the expense of a new 1d. Postage plate. Will you kindly instruct us in which way they are to be manufactured?*

*The arms of the Cape will be inserted where the square appears on the front cover."*

De La Rue also returned the two specimen books sent by the Cape Postmaster General. It is also not clear whether the three specimen booklets sent by De La Rue have survived. One of these (taken apart) was in the same Robson Lowe auction of 1976 (Ref. 6), described as "*Booklet: proofs of the covers as issued and five blocks of six 1d. booklet panes overprinted vertically across each pair CANCELLED.*" The word CANCELLED is 32mm long and 6mm high.

The tender put out by the Cape Treasury for this requisition was for 10 times as many booklets as that in the postmaster General's requisition, and the larger number of 100,000 booklets became the final number requisitioned.

On 20 September 1905, the Cape confirmed that they would take half the booklets as

specimen book No.1 and half as specimen book No.3. A day later De La Rue confirmed this.

This was not yet the final design of the booklet, as some corrections were still required. On 22 November 1905, a letter from Sir Somerset French, the Postmaster General of the Cape, reports that the booklets requisitioned have arrived, and are not in accordance with the required specification:

*"The specimen book provided for the guidance of the printers has the wording, 'Cape of Good Hope, Thirty 1d stamps', on page 1 of the cover, not page 4; and the other three pages are in reverse order. Two printing errors also appear, on page 1 'Lourenco' is wrongly spelled, and under the foreign postage the newspaper rate is shown as ½d. per 2½ ozs instead of per 2 ozs."*

*The present consignment of books will be worked off, and no doubt Messrs. De La Rue and Company will see that future orders will be accurately executed."*

These two printing errors make for an easy way to identify the first printing, although none have been noted as yet.

It was immediately pointed out by De La Rue that the errors were not theirs. In response to the letter from Sir Somerset French, which was forwarded to them on 14 December 1905, they replied on 18 December 1905:

*"We beg to say that the two errors pointed out, 'Lourenco' being spelled wrong and the foreign newspaper rate being given as ½d for 2½ oz, do not lie at our door, as the printing is in accordance with the copy sent from the Colony, which we enclose for your inspection. We shall of course be prepared to make the necessary corrections before reprinting."*

*With reference to the remarks upon the binding of the books, we beg to remind you that the only method from the present plates was clearly pointed out to you in our letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> September last. The English Government have special plates for printing the stamps for these books, with half of the stamps reversed, so that all the books when bound open up and read the same way. We shall be glad to hear whether the Cape Government are prepared to go to the expense of a special plate for this purpose."*

So it would appear that the Postmaster General did not understand the agreed printing and binding arrangements, and had not properly reviewed the spelling or the rates on the specimen submitted to De La Rue.

On 20 December 1905 De La Rue enclosed proofs showing the required corrections to the cover of the stamp books. These proofs were overlooked, and not taken out of the Correspondence Books for the sale of the De La Rue material by Robson Lowe in 1976. They are now part of the National Postal Museum material presently kept by the Post Office Heritage in London.

W. T. Hood, the Cape's Acting Postmaster General responded on 2 March 1906:

*"The postal and telegraphic information as shown on the accompanying proof is correct and should appear on the books which will be ordered in the annual Indent to be forwarded to you in the month of June next. The slight errors that appeared on the covers of the first supply were corrected before the books were offered for sale to the public."*

Presumably this was done in manuscript by the postal authorities at or before the time of sale to the public. The letter then continues:

*"Now that the reasons for the method of binding adopted by Messrs. De La Rue and Company have been explained, the printing of the Coat of Arms sometimes on the front and sometimes on the back of the books, and the manner in which the stamps are pinned together, are not objected to. The expense of providing a special plate such as has been adopted by the Imperial Post Office is not considered to be warranted at this stage."*

It is interesting to note that De La Rue was still referring to the English Government, while the Cape Colony refers to the Imperial Post Office.

## Material from the De La Rue Records

### Correspondence Books

These were the only records with material from the development of the stamp booklets. These were:

7 August 1905: Specimen booklet sent by the Cape Government to De La Rue on which they were to base their design.

15 September 1905: Three specimen booklets numbered 1, 2 and 3, sent by De La Rue to the Cape's Agent General showing the alternative ways of binding the booklets when using the same printing plate as the regular postage stamps. It is unclear whether these have survived.

20 December 1905: Proofs of the corrected cover pages with the correct spelling of "Lourenco" and the correct foreign newspaper rate. This is part of the National Postal Museum material held by the Post Office Heritage in London.

### The Booklets

In summary, the Cape booklets consisted of thirty 1d stamps, and were priced at 2s 7d, the extra 1d. being to offset the cost of the booklet. They were issued at the end of 1905. Both Stanley Gibbons (Ref. 7) and the South African Colour Catalogue (Ref. 8) erroneously record a booklet of twelve 1d stamps being issued in 1902, and they also both erroneously record the booklet of thirty 1d stamps as being issued in 1902.

The outside of the cover of the booklet was a deep red colour, with the wording and coat of arms on the front. The inside of the front cover had details of Inland Postage Rates. The inside of the back cover had Foreign postage information, while the outside had information on Telegrams. Half the booklets were stapled at the left, and half stapled at the right.

There were three different printings, with the first shipment of the first one being identified by the two errors previously noted. So few booklets have survived, that we have not yet been able to identify any differences that may exist between the rest of the first printing, and second and third printings. Specific details on the requisitions and the number of booklets printed are available in the De La Rue Private Day Books.

### Conclusion

The Cape of Good Hope became part of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910, but the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope continued in use after the formation of the Union. Initially they were used only within the new Cape Province (the old Cape of Good Hope), but subsequently the stamps of all the four former colonies making up the Union were distributed for use throughout the Union. The stamps were only formally demonetised on 31 December 1937.

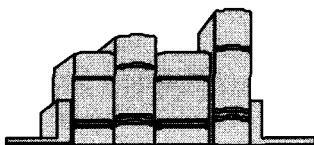
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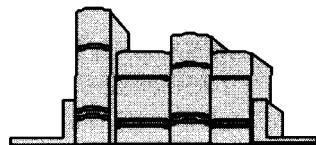
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10. *Government Gazettes, Post Office Guides, and Post Office Circulars of the Cape Colony*
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## Library Notes



## Book Reviews

The following books have all been donated to the Society's library and are available for consultation by members. Any new books that readers wish to have reviewed should be sent to No. 41, addressed to the Hon. Librarian. Please do not send them to the Hon. Editor of the *LP*.



*Napp's Numbers Volume 1 (3rd Edition) or A Study of the Plate Number Combinations created by the Overprinting of U.S. Postage Stamps for use in the United States Possessions and Administrative Areas 1899-1946* by Joseph M. Napp. Limited Edition published in 2000 by Grounds for Divorce Publications. No ISBN. Spiral bound. 270 pages, 28.0 x 22.0 cm. Black and white illustrations. Price \$39.00 Available from 5 Knollwood Drive, West Orange, NJ 07052, USA. Reviewed by Ian Paton.

The secondary name of this book describes its contents and clearly indicates the area of specialist interest for which it is intended. It is an excellent reference book which should be in philatelic society libraries because it provides clear details about the overprinting of U.S. stamps for use in possessions, even for those who do not wish to go into the details of the Plate Block Numbers. The two-page Table of Contents is helpful because it gives the location of entries for Booklets, Postage Dues, Special Delivery and Specimen stamps - the main sections are in area sequence.

Each section starts with an explanation of the circumstances in which the stamps were issued, - most of them as a result of gaining island territories from Spain after the 1898 War. There are also Shipment Data Charts showing Date Shipped, Date Received and Quantities. It is one of these charts for the Canal Zone which explains why the last year in the title is a rather

surprising 1946; a shipment in July 1946 is recorded for the 5th printing of the ½c. The information given about the Plate Blocks covers Plate Numbers, Plate Block Position, Printing Plate Size, Colour, and estimated Plate Block Valuation. There are a large number of black and white illustrations of the Plate Blocks including variations in the overprints. An unusual piece of information to aid future pricing is given; to help judge inflation the author has provided the price status of nine commodities on 1 January 2000 including the Dow Jones Average, gold and gasoline.

The first edition was published in 1988, followed by the second in 1989 to include a number of corrections. The book is organised in eight main sections, covering Canal Zone, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, Shanghai China, Micronesia.



**United States Postal Card Catalogue 2000** edited by John H. Beachboard. Published by United Postal Stationery Society. ISBN 0-9670045-2-7. Hardbound. 416 pages, 23.0 x 15.5 cm. Black and white illustrations. Price \$44.00. Available from PO Box 1116, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-1116, USA. Reviewed by Ian Paton.

This is the 9th Edition of this excellent catalogue which has been published at five year intervals since 1985. It covers the subject with 55 pages of 'facts' (Production, Printing, Card Stock, Surcharges, Usage, etc.), and then has seven sections plus two appendices. The sections are, Single Cards, Message & Reply Cards, Air Mail Postal Cards, Official Cards, Specimens, Postal Buddy Cards and Local Postal Cards. The appendices cover Exposition Postal Cards and Exposition Station & Slogan Postmarks on U.S. Postal Cards Through 1904.

I started by comparing the 365 pages in my 1995 catalogue with the 416 pages in this edition and as expected found that the increases were confined to three sections. The first section on Single Cards required another 45 pages to include all the 125 Postal Cards issued since 1994 - these are Scott UX 200 - 325. Three new Message & Reply Cards increased the next section by two pages. The Exposition Postal Cards section has been enlarged by 13 pages as a result of revision, addition of some new illustrations and the much clearer layout of the details for the 13 Sets of 1893 Worlds Columbian Exposition Cards. Appendices C and D have been dropped.

Much effort has gone into improving and updating information in this edition and the style of the print has become clearer and easier to read. The prices of the earlier material have been revised upwards. The changes have been reflected in improvements to the two-page Table of Contents. The Editor and all concerned with the production of this catalogue are to be congratulated not only on its content but also on the high quality of its binding and presentation.



**Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1999** by George Amick. Published by Linn's Stamp News. ISBN 0-940-403-89-7. Hardbound or softbound. 512 pages, 23.0 x 15.5 cm. 572 black and white illustrations. Price \$35.00 (hardbound) or \$25.00 softbound. Reviewed by Ian Paton.

This annual book contains all the technical information you could want to know about the USA stamps and postal stationery issued in 1999 - Date of Issue, Scott Catalogue Number, Colour, First-Day Cancels, Pane Format, Perforation, Selvage Inscriptions & Markings, Booklet Cover details, Designer, Art Director, Typographer, Engraver, Modeller, Manufacturer, Quantity, Cylinder Numbers and Tagging. Also for each stamp or issue there are lengthy paragraphs headed The Stamp and The Design. The first one gives details of the subject depicted and the second covers all the work which went into production including illustrations of unused preliminary designs.

1999 saw the issue of the 'Celebrate the Century' Panes for the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s which contributed 15 designs each to the total. There were several other Panes of ten and 20, but one particular stamp will serve to illustrate how it had so many formats that it has a 20-page chapter in the book. The 33c Flag Over City stamp was produced in 11 different formats! Four of them had gum and the other seven were self-adhesive; it came in panes of 20 and 100, booklets of ten or 20, coils of 100, 3000 and 10,000, plus self adhesive rolls of 100, 3000 and 10,000.

This edition is the largest ever since, at 215 collectable varieties, the U.S. Postal Service exceeded its 1995 record of 214 issues. If you need this type of information either as a USA. Traditional or Thematic Collector, then this is the book for you.



*Jewish Chess Masters on Stamps* by Felix Berkovich, with chess game annotations by Nathan Divinsky. Published in 2000 by McFarland & Company. ISBN 0-7864-0683-6. Hardbound. 136 pages, plus 32 pages of full colour illustrations. 23.5 x 15.5 cm. Price \$40 plus \$4 postage & packing. Available from Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640, USA. Reviewed by FBS.

A well-written and researched book which goes beyond the words used in the title. Chapter 1, entitled "Judaica Chess Philately", commences with dictionary definitions of "philately" and briefly describes the earliest adhesive stamps and the growth of topical, or thematic, collecting. We are told that the earliest chess stamp was issued by Bulgaria in 1947 but then details of earlier chess related postmarks from 1923 onwards are mentioned. Chapter 2 is devoted to 20 famous Jewish chess players, (15 men and five women) and lists postage stamps, souvenir sheets, covers and postmarks linked to them. Details of some of the matches played by these famous players are included later, in Chapter 4. Some of the mistakes made by designers, with no knowledge of chess, are mentioned. The third chapter is concerned with a history of chess in the Holy Land and related philatelic material. The final chapter is entitled "The Jewish Chess Phenomenon". The conclusion is reached that Jews should be considered the best chess players in the world, rather than the popularly held view that the Russians are the best.

In addition to notes at the end of the book there is a three-page bibliography and an extensive index, also running to three pages. This is a book that should be read by every chess thematic collector.



*Physicians - Naturalists on Stamps* by Adolf W. Schwartz. Published in 2000 by the author. No ISBN. Softbound. 158 pages, 28.0 x 21.5 cm. Price not known. Available from 3252 Mulberry Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93301-1524 USA. Reviewed by FBS.

This book is a labour of love by a true collector. Its origins can be traced to a series of articles published in "Scalpel & Tongs", the journal of the American Topical Association's Medical Subjects Unit, commencing in 1966. In the Introduction the author points out that the book concentrates on physicians who are directly or indirectly connected with plants, animals and minerals and who are postally commemorated.

The book commences with a brief biography of Carl von Linné (1707-1778) who was responsible for the start of the Linnaean classification. Some 250 physicians are listed in alphabetical order, commencing with Clarke Abel (1780-1826) and ending with Juan Bruno Zayas (1867-1896). The book extends to include persons who received an honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine and whose names appear on plants. In addition a few non-physicians are

included who are intricately related to botany e.g. Darwin and Mendel. There is also a short section on "Medical Gods and Mythological Figures"

The book contains numerous black and white illustrations on every page. These illustrations are not limited to stamps but extend to postmarks, postal stationery and seals. No catalogue number is given but the year of issue is provided for every philatelic item illustrated. There is a short Bibliography and an Appendix listing physicians' names closely connected to botany as a guide for collectors to seek further material connected to the theme. The author makes no claim as to completeness and welcomes comments, criticism and, most of all, additions to his listings.



#### *Gli annulli del Veneto, del Friuli e del Mantovano (1866-1879) e loro valutazione*

[The postmarks of the Veneto, of Friuli and the Mantovano (1866-1879) and their valuation] by Paolo Fabrizio. Published in 2000 for the Associazione per lo studio della storia postale di Padua, casella postale 325, 35100 Padua, Italy. No ISBN. Softbound. 180 pages, 24.0 x 17.0 cm. Price not known. Reviewed by RAD.

In 1866, with the support of Louis Napoleon, Prussia made an alliance with Italy and declared war on Austria. The Italian campaign was not successful, but Bismarck handed over the Veneto and surrounding area to Napoleon, who passed it on to Italy, so Italy got back the Veneto, which had been occupied by Austria for some fifty years. As the Italian troops advanced Italian postal regulations followed. Sometimes new postal markings were introduced, at other times old ones were retained. The story of this progress is told in the first 116 pages, which are attractively illustrated in colour by 77 covers. Pages 117-172 contain a catalogue of all the cancellation marks with first and last dates of use and values expressed in points.

The story is interestingly told with a number of philatelic asides, recording difficulties and discoveries. At the end there is a bibliography covering more than 140 references to books and articles. This book is an interesting blend of national and postal history.



#### *Storia postale della Provincia di Piacenza - L'annullamento numerale negli uffici postale del Piacentino (1 maggio 1866 - dicembre 1889); Il servizio di posta rurale nel Piacentino Bolli ed annulli delle collezionistiche (1864-1889)*

[The postal history of the Province of Piacenza - Numeral cancellation in the area (1 May 1866 - December 1889); The rural postal service in the area; postmarks and cancellers of the collecting offices (1864-1889)] by the Circolo culturale filatelico numismatico piacentino. Published in 2001. No ISBN. Softbound. 133 pages, 29.7 x 21.0 cm. Price not known. Reviewed by RAD.

It appears from the introduction written by Guido Scognamiglio, President of the Piacenza Philatelic and Numismatic Society, that this is the fifth volume devoted to the postal history of the area by the society, under the leadership of Guido Maiocchi. The earlier volumes discuss the postal history from 1800 to 1866. The first few pages describe the history of the postal service in the period and its organisation. The post offices are listed with dates of opening and, if appropriate, closure. Each post office is then listed; their postmarks are clearly illustrated with black and white illustrations of contemporary covers. The first part ends with statistical tables and a list of books and articles consulted. The second part, from page 81 to the end, discusses the rural post and its history in similar detail, illustrating the marks of the collecting offices - *collezione*. The typeface is large and very clear as are the illustrations of the marks. The presentation is attractive; one has the impression that one is turning over the pages of a fine collection.



*Le tariffe postali italiane 1862-2000 - Repertorio di fonti legislative e normative nei testi integrali-Regno d'Italia e Repubblica Italiana 1946-1970 Tomo I* [Italian postal tariffs 1862-2000 - Assembly of the legislation and regulations presented in full - Italian Republic 1946-1970] compiled by Giovanni Micheli. Published in 2001 by Vaccari srl. ISBN 88-85335-59-4. Softbound. 294 pages, 24.0 x 17.0 cm. Price Lire 65,000 plus registered postage (Europe and Mediterranean Area Lire 14,200; USA, Africa, Asia Lire 15,700; Oceania Lire 15,200). Available from M. Buonarroti 46, 41058 Vignola (MO) Italy. Reviewed by RAD.

This is Part I of the fourth volume of a series of four volumes devoted to reprinting Italian legislation on postal tariffs. A review of the second volume appeared in the March *LP*. There are two parts of volume 4 still to be published. Part II will cover the period 1971-1985 and Part III 1986-2000. The high standard of printing and presentation is maintained.

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*Volume 6 of the Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately, GB Stamps used in Jamaica.* Published in 2001 by the British West Indies Study Circle. ISBN 0-9506535-4-3 (Encyclopaedia) or ISBN 0-9538804-0-0 (Volume). Spiral bound. Approximately 300 pages, 29.7 x 21.0 cm. Price believed to be about £40.00. Available in the UK from Peter Ford, 22 Tudor Way, Congleton CW12 4AS and in America available from Clary Holt, Post Office Drawer 59, Burlington, NC 27216, USA.

The second volume of the proposed series of 11 volumes covering every aspect of Jamaican philately. A new generation of one-country handbooks made possible by modern technology. The author has brought together so much information gleaned from many sources not available to everybody. He has recorded every example which has been described and sold by auction and, wherever possible, has illustrated each cover with the relevant details. It is thus possible to establish the provenance of known examples and, as the listing is in date sequence, it is quite simple to locate a given example of any GB stamp used in Jamaica in the period 1858-1860.

There is, however, a great deal more to this work than a simple listing. The author has included all the information available and has done a précis of each article published on the subject wherever it has appeared. This has resulted in a very full, factual history of the post office in that period listing, for example, the names of the postmasters in each village if known.

From a practical angle, it would seem to be a most useful reference book for anybody contemplating a purchase in this fascinating field, and a boon to anybody seeking either the provenance or a description in making a disposal.

I was particularly pleased to note that the author has not been guilty of repeating earlier mistakes by other authors, but has done his own research. All too often, a statement made as a supposition becomes fact with the passage of time.

My only criticism must be that often the quality of the reproductions does not do justice to the text. I can understand this problem as some of the illustrations are taken from early catalogues when the quality was not considered important but, having made this point to the author, I can understand the problems he had to contend with. Although this is a book for the specialist, it is also so full of information that it is possible to read it as an adjunct to the main collection.

The author is to be congratulated for his efforts to bring this volume to fruition and I wholeheartedly recommend its purchase.

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***World Railways Philatelic*** by Norman E. Wright, Sr. Published in 2000 by the American Topical Association as ATA Handbook No. 138. ISBN 0-935991-36-0. Not bound. 700 pages, 28.0 x 21.5 cm. Price \$35.00. Available from PO Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181-0820, USA. Reviewed by HD.

The foreword states that this work includes all known postage stamps that show any railway equipment, railway-related items and people. The word railway is here widely interpreted to include bridges, cranes, toy trains, railway company emblems, maps, telegraph and parcel stamps. Rowland Hill appears because he was a director of the London & Brighton Railway Company. Philatelically the scope is also wide-ranging as booklets, booklet panes, postal stationery, fakes and forgeries, miniature and souvenir sheets, overprints, surcharges, perforation and phosphor band errors and varieties are included.

Countries are listed alphabetically with their stamps appearing in chronological sequence, referenced by Scott Standard Catalogue numbers but, where a stamp is not included there, other well-known non-USA catalogues are used.

The design of each stamp is described with enough detail to make the listing really useful and some longer notes give further background information on the issues or about philatelic varieties. I regret that no subject index is included and that only a very few stamps are illustrated; however, Stanley Gibbons *Collect Railways on Stamps* can provide a complementary reference book for these matters. The publisher intends to issue annual supplementary sheets to keep the work up to date.

The review copy arrived in the form of loose un-punched sheets, as mentioned above, so I suppose that purchasers are expected to provide their own loose-leaf binder and to punch the sheets appropriately.

I am sure that this publication (it can't be called a book until the user has bound it into one) will be warmly welcomed both by thematic collectors starting a new transport theme and by those trying to expand still further an already large thematic collection.



***Taxation on Playing-Cards in England from 1711 to 1960*** by John Berry. Published in 2001 by The International Playing-Card Society as Monograph No. 3. ISSN 0305-2133. Card cover. 87 + vi pages, 21.0 x 14.8 cm. Price £8 plus postage & packing. Available from 6 Reynard's Copse, Highwoods, Colchester CO4 4UR. Reviewed by HD.

The range of artefacts collected by revenue philatelists is extensive, going far beyond what are commonly regarded as 'stamps'. Any marks that indicate payment of a government tax or fee can be the subject of study and collection under the heading of revenue philately. Playing cards come into this category which is why a review of this book is not out of place in the London Philatelist.

John Berry has contributed much to playing card history and in this monograph he turns his attention to the rather confused subject of their taxation. The rates of duty are fairly straightforward but how, at various times, the duty was indicated on the wrappers, labels or cards has been a matter of dispute and one of Berry's aims has been to correct the misconceptions that earlier writers have perpetuated.

The subject is covered in three sections. The first is a description of the way in which the various statutory enactments were implemented; the second section is a catalogue listing of aces, labels and wrappers, while the third section provides illustrations of many of them.

The history starts in 1711 when a duty of sixpence a pack was imposed with additional sixpences being added later. There is still a debate on how the duty was indicated, whether it was

by the wrapper, by a label on the outside of the pack or by one of the cards themselves, notably the ace of spades; the author puts his case very convincingly.

Collectors will find the early history only of technical interest due to the small number of cards in private hands, but as the tax was not repealed until 1960 many members will have played with taxed cards (3d a pack from 1862) so the subject is not entirely a remote one.

The book is well produced and clearly laid out and must be regarded as a valuable addition to the literature of revenue stamps.



 **Sierra Leone King George VI Definitive Stamps** by Frank Walton FRPSL. Published in 2001 by the West Africa Study Circle. ISBN 0-9525687-8-0. Hardbound. 90 pages, 29.7 x 21.0 cm. Price £24 plus £3 postage & packing in the UK. Available from Richard Payne, Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead, Saffron Walden CB10 2NU. Reviewed by Peter Fernbank.

This work builds upon the accumulated wisdom of a number of collectors and the King George VI Study Circle. Many of their efforts were completed before the Crown Agents' and Waterlow & Sons' archives became available, and the author has exhaustively researched these records at the British Library in order to supplement and expand on previous knowledge.

A number of printers, including Waterlow and De La Rue, tendered for the printing of this issue, with the contract ultimately being awarded to Waterlow & Sons. A complete listing of the various proofs submitted by them, now in the British Library's Crown Agents' archive, is provided. The sheet format is discussed along with the various marginal markings present on each sheet. The different border, vignette and single working plate numbers are tabulated, and their date of first use recorded. The listing of flaws and varieties, mostly consisting of re-entries which produced doubling of parts of the design, are based on those reported over the years by various contributors, but only one is illustrated. The tables of printings, produced by amalgamating information from the Plate Issue Register and the Requisition books, are tabulated in chronological order of requisition, and also by value, and are clearly set out in an easily digestible format.

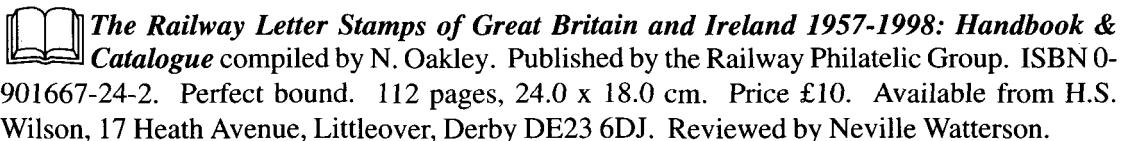
A separate chapter on the Specimens issued during 1938 - 1939 makes fascinating reading. The machine used for perforating "SPECIMEN" appears to have suffered progressive damage as a number of the perforating pins broke off. This resulted in a range of Specimen varieties, and the author has reviewed the King George VI Specimens at the British Library of the 23 countries for which Waterlow printed stamps in order to date the progression and deterioration of the perforator.

The thorny topic of allocating shades and gums to each printing has wisely not been undertaken. During this period, the Crown Agents adopted the practice of retaining a portion of each printing, which were subsequently despatched to the colony with the following printing, hence the uncertainty of any such allocation.

The major shade descriptions from three different sources are listed (not all agreeing with each other), as are contemporary comments on shades from the philatelic press (who were not necessarily aware of all the printings made). A detailed list is provided of the various post offices, TPOs and Military POs, and a large selection of the different postmarks encountered on this issue are illustrated in full colour. The postal rates applicable during this period are fully recorded and a number of examples on cover illustrated.

The author has meticulously researched the various philatelic sources and produced a work that consolidates existing information whilst considerably advancing knowledge of this issue. Indeed, those parts dealing with the practices of Waterlow and the Crown Agents have great relevance to any collector of the King George VI issues.





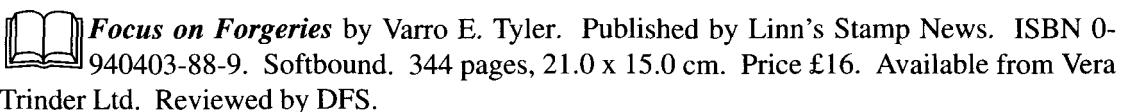
This attractive little book is exactly what it says it is, i.e. a handbook and catalogue, and is welcomed not only for itself but because it is six years since the last edition. It starts with a short history of the Railway Letter Service from its inception in 1891 through to the two later agreements of 1974 and 1998.

There are some 69 railways listed in the table of contents with page numbers at the front of the book, with the railways shown in alphabetical order, so that it is also a checklist. The abbreviations used in the text are set out in detail. Each railway has its own history and a description of the Railway Letter Fee Stamps or publicity labels described in turn, and given a 'calculated' cost on the philatelic market, followed by notes on the printing/overprinting, and the numbers printed. These are annotated in detail throughout. Where appropriate, all one-day cancellations, cachets and post office one-day handstamps are fully listed.

Some railways issued legitimate Railway Letter Fee Stamps and publicity labels, others only publicity labels. These are listed separately and referenced differently so as to avoid confusion. There are also references to bogus stamps of three or four sorts, some 'prepared for use but not issued' stamps, and even some booklets and stationery envelopes listed and described.

There are at least half a dozen railways that issued stamps for the first time since the production of the last catalogue, although of the 96 named railways, about a dozen issue only labels. However, all this and additional details mean a larger version of the handbook.

Wisely, the compiler has avoided attempting to list any FDC or other covers; the copious information provided is set out in a consistent, clear style. For anyone who has even only a little interest in modern railway letters, this book is well worth the 'tenner'. Thoroughly recommended.



Varro Tyler is one of the world's leading authorities on philatelic forgery and has, for many years, produced a forgery column for Linn's Stamp News every fortnight. In 1993, 150 of these features were published in book form and the whole edition is sold out. Now we have a revised and expanded edition with 321 forgeries featured; these do include the original 150. Where necessary, the original writings have been revised, thanks to additional information supplied by readers.

Owners of the first edition will know exactly what to expect. For the uninitiated, each forgery is allocated one page that features clear photographs of the forgery and the genuine article, with enlargements of critical areas, supplemented by a succinct comparison of the main points of difference. The first edition was notable for the preponderance of 'rest of the world' items as opposed to British Commonwealth. This may or may not reflect the relative scarcity of the one against the other, but the new edition features about 12% past and present Commonwealth items against only about 4% previously.

The sub-title to the book is 'A Guide to Forgeries of Common Stamps' and this must be kept firmly in mind. Tyler does not set out to be a latter-day Earée or Serrane; he seeks here to draw attention to stamps of which one might not expect to find forgeries. As he rightly says, stamps which are catalogued at less than \$20 are not worth the expense of securing a certificate, so the collector is left to his or her own devices. The book should help to make collectors more

aware of the darker side of philately.

With the increasing interest in the collection of forgeries for its own sake, the book serves a double purpose; as well as warning the unsuspecting collector, it provides a wonderful source of information for the student of forgeries. Indeed, to quote Mr Tyler, "If you, too, enjoy the thrill of the hunt and wish to avoid the disappointment felt when the forgery turns out to be genuine, I believe this volume will be helpful to you". The statement is not so perverse as it sounds; many forgeries of modestly priced stamps are substantially more expensive than the genuine items - I speak from experience!

This latest edition is printed on good quality paper and the photographic illustrations are excellent, as indeed are the helpful enlargements that accompany them. The original edition has graced my shelves for many years; it is about to be replaced.



*The Work of Jean De Sperati II* by Robson Lowe and Carl Walske FRPSL. Published in 2001 by the Royal Philatelic Society London. ISBN 0-900631-51-1. Hardbound. 218 pages, 26.8 x 21.5 cm. Retail price £60, RPSL members' price £54, plus postage & packing of £4.52 in the UK, £4.91 to Europe or £9.99 to North America by airmail. Available from RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Reviewed by Chris Harman.

I have always been surprised at the degree of fascination in forgers and forgeries that exists in virtually all philatelists. None more so than in the forgeries made by Jean de Sperati, which rank to this day as among the most deceptive ever made. Today, Sperati seems to have become an almost cult figure, with his forgeries having huge appeal and sometimes fetching significant amounts of money, some even more than the stamps that they imitate. Of course Sperati is one of the very few forgers who actually produced his wares with the stated goal of fooling the expert, whereas most forgeries are cheap imitations to fill spaces in the old printed albums. Thus he does indeed deserve a special place in the history of philatelic deception.

This new book is divided into five sections: the previously unlisted forgeries, corrigenda to Sperati I, Sperati the man and his affairs, the BPA purchase of the Sperati stock, and Sperati's technique. It is bound in green rexine compatible with the original edition and will fit snugly beside it on the library shelf.

Sperati II brings together much additional information on Sperati and his forgeries, including listing over 80 new items, overprints or proofs from which stamps may or may not have been made. Revelations include finished stamps or material related to the Canada 12d black, the double Geneva and the Basle dove. As the reader will soon appreciate when reading the book, there are still many mysteries surrounding Sperati. There is also the intriguing possibility that there are still more forgeries that remain to be identified.

The book is also strong on the background social and family history of Sperati and his relationships with various dealers and collectors. He is described as an eccentric and a genius in his ability to use his knowledge of chemistry and photography to create his wares. Both are certainly true. His own writings show him scathing on the abilities of the so-called philatelic experts, whom he could fool with his productions. However, he was hurt by any suggestion that he might cheat on the agreement that he made with Robson Lowe and the BPA when they bought out his stock.

In selecting material for this book there must have been a real difficulty in choosing just what information to include, what to omit, and what to repeat from Sperati I. In practice the authors have achieved a very good balance. A knowledge of Sperati I is assumed and the reader will need a copy of this to understand some of the areas covered but, as this has been recently republished by James Bendon, this is still easily obtainable. If it had been necessary to rely on the

original 1955 edition, the majority of readers would have been struggling with the references back to that book.

The most unexpected section of this book is the last section, which quotes from or paraphrases Sperati's unpublished manuscript *La Technique Complète de la Philatélie d'Art*, which describes how he made his forgeries. The detailed formulae in the original are omitted but the whole gives a fascinating insight into every stage of production; from the preparation of the paper, to the perfecting of the image, to the techniques for ensuring the correct colour and the "ageing" of the final product.

This book is an important addition to Sperati I and is a fitting memorial to that giant of philately Robson Lowe, who had so much to do with the final negotiations to buy out Sperati and contributed so much to the early part of the production of this book. Carl Walske is to be congratulated on an excellent book of which I for one will need two copies; one for working with and putting notes in, and one for show.



## **Additions to the Library**

The following titles have been added recently. Unless otherwise indicated, they have been donated by the author or publisher:

- Linn's Focus on Forgeries - A Guide to Forgeries of Common Stamps* by V.E. Tyler  
*Handbuch Werbedatumstempel Schweiz / Catalogue timbres-réclame postaux de Suisse*  
*Stamps & Postal History of Seychelles* by Leslie Harris donated by Keith Fitton  
*The Svenska Järnvägsfraktmärken* by Stig Reidmar & Christer Wahlbom donated by Albert Megginson  
*SG Simplified Catalogue 1941* donated by David Jennings-Bramly  
*General FIP Regulations for Exhibitions - Their Interpretation* by Dr E.R. Otero donated by A. Brander  
*Post Mechanisation in the Holy Land 1925 - 1981* by W.Y. Loebl donated by Ron Negus  
*Isle of Man Postal Slogans, Machine and FDI Cancellations* by P.R.F. Britnell donated by Ron Negus  
*Great Britain & Ireland Railway Letter Stamps 1957 - 1998* by Neill Oakley  
*North Borneo Postal Cards (Exhibit)* by Stephen Schumann  
*L'Histoire de la Poste Aerienne Franco Japonaise 1870 - 1986* by Jun Ichi Matsumoto (two copies, one donated by author, the other by Japan Philatelic Co. Ltd.)  
*Postcards of Antarctic Expeditions* by Margery Wharton  
*British Private Posts 1680 - 1980* by Clive Smith  
*Irish Airmail Back of Book Items* by William J. Murphy donated by Eire Philatelic Association  
*Automatenmarken Spezialkatalog Südafrika/Südwestafrika 1986 - 1994* by H. Rosenbaum & T. Dohren  
*The Postal History of Bahamas* by Edward B. Proud  
*SG Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps*  
*French Colonies Revenues (and former colonies) North Africa and Middle East Colonies* by D.L. Duston  
*India 2000 Colour Catalogue - Indian Philately 1852 - 1998*  
*Finland Reference Manual of Forgeries - Release Number 6* by Juhani V. Olamo  
*Opus 1 - 2001 Académie Européenne de Philatélie*  
*Graf Zeppelin Flights to England* by John Duggan  
*Olympia-Fahrt 1936* by John Duggan  
*Reunion Mundial de Escritores - Espana Oct. 2000* donated by Argentine Society for Philatelic Writers  
*The Work of Jean de Sperati II* by Robson Lowe and Carl Walske  
*IPCS Papers - Taxation on Playing Cards in England from 1711 - 1960* by John Berry  
*Peruvian Civil Aviation* by Herbert H. Moll  
*Postal Stationery of Pakistan 1947 - 1995* by F. Aleem Sundal and Rafiq Kasbati  
*Les Services Ambulants et Les Convoyeurs Francais* by Guy Raynal and Bernard Bougue  
*The Royal Air Force Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail Service 1921 - 1927* by William C. Andrews donated by British Philatelic Trust

*Die Funknachrichtenkarten der eingeschlossenen Kanal und Atlantikfestungen 1944 - 45* by Karl Heimann  
*Briefstempel der deutschen Militärmision in der Turkei und der deutschen Feldpost der Heeresgruppe "Jildrim"* by Karl Heimann  
*Kriegsausgaben unter deutscher Besetzung 1940 - 1945, Bedarf oder philatelistische Mache?* by Karl Heimann  
*Spanien 1936 - 39 ein philatelistischer Beitrag zur Postgeschichte des Bürgerkrieges* by Karl Heimann  
*Die Funknachrichtenkarten der eingeschlossenen Besatzungen der Agaïs Inseln und von Breslau 1944 - 1945* by Karl Heimann  
*A Philatelic Bibliography for Columbia and Panama 1865-1999* by Robert L. Mitchell Jr and Robert A. D'Elia  
*Ceres Catalogues x 2 - Andorre, Monaco, Polynésie Française, Terres Australes, Colonies Françaises - Mayotte, Nouvelle Calédonie, St Pierre & Miquelon, Wallis & Futuna Porteos y Cartografía en la prefilatelia Espanola* by Fernando A. Garcia donated by Federation of Spanish Philatelic Societies  
*Deutsche Lufthansa - South Atlantic Airmail Service 1934-1939* by James W. Graie and John Duggan  
*Scotland Local Stamps Private Post* by Jacques B. Calmeyn  
*Napp's Numbers Volume One - Third Edition 2000* by Joseph M. Napp  
*Linn's US Stamp Yearbook 1999*  
*United States Postal Card Catalogue 2000*  
*Far East Mail Ship Itineraries Volume I* by Lee C. Scamp  
*Airmail Operations During World War II* by Thomas H. Boyle Jr  
*Nevis* by Federico Borromeo donated by British West Indies Study Circle  
*The Postal History of Nord Deutscher Lloyd Sea Post Services on the Bremen - New York Run 1919 - 1939* by John Rawlings donated by Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society  
*Jewish Chess Masters on Stamps* by Felix Berkovich  
*Physicians - Naturalists on Stamps 2000* by Adolf W. Schwartz  
*World Railways Philatelic* by Norman E. Wright Sr  
*The Encyclopedia of Jamaican Philately* by Steve Jarvis  
*Gli annuli del Veneto, del Friuli e del Mantovano 1866 - 1879* by Paulo Fabrizio  
*Storia Postale della Provincia di Piacenza* donated by Circolo Culturale Filatelico Numismatico Piacentino  
*Le Tariffe Postali Italiane 1862 - 2000 Repubblica Italiana 1946 - 1970* by Giovanni Micheli  
*Le Tariffe Postali Italiane 1862 - 2000 Repubblica Italiana 1971 - 1985* by Giovanni Micheli  
*Postal History of the Spanish Philippines 1565 - 1898* by Don Peterson and Geoffrey Lewis  
*Manual de la Filatelia Espanola* by Oswald Schier  
*The Control Numbers and the Classificator of the Stamps of The Large Hermes Heads* by John G. Coundouros  
*Commemorative Postage Stamps of Great Britain* by L.N. & M. Williams  
*Stamps and Covers from The Royal Philatelic Collection* donated by Spink  
*Joh. Enschede Amsterdam - Handbook April 2001*  
*Spink Stamps - British Empire 2000*  
*Spink Stamps - Hong Kong 2000*  
*Spink Stamps - Great Britain 2000*  
*Spink Stamps - New York 2000*  
*Spink Stamps - Singapore 2000*  
*Espace Lollini - catalogue de la collection Concorde*  
*Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue 2001 Edition*  
*Colour illustrated Stamp Catalogue of China 1878 - 1949*  
*Postimerkkivuosi 2000* donated by Albert Megginson  
*Regno Lombardo Veneto Carta Bolata e Marche da Bollo 1813 - 1870* by Fortunato Marchetto

In this section in the LP of May 2001 (page 109) an inaccuracy crept in relating to Webb's book on Hong Kong. The entry should have read:

*The Philatelic & Postal History of Hong Kong & Treaty Ports of China & Japan (Chinese Edition)*, originally by Col. Webb (1961), translated by T.M. Chan.

# Library News

## Change in Status of Periodicals

A change in the classification of all periodicals to "non-borrowing" status has been agreed by the Council, as it is considered that they should be available on demand at all times. Under this classification, all periodicals continue to remain available for general consultation by members, but this access is now restricted to use in the building only.

## New Bindings

Two books published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle have recently been bound for the Society through the generosity of one of our Members. The volumes, *A Study of the New Hebrides Official Cachets 1908 - 1980*, and the earlier *Cancellation Study 1892 - 1980*, have been placed for a limited period on the New Acquisitions Shelf in the Large Library, prior to their permanent location in the Small Library with other volumes on this territory.

## Members' Donations

The Society's run of the *Postal History Journal* is now complete, thanks to the generosity of one of our overseas fellows, who has located the previously missing numbers in recent months, and donated them to the Library.

The set, covering the period from the first issue in May 1957 to October 1999, is now available for study in the Large Library. Current issues continue to be received and will be bound as volumes are completed.

The Society's collection of historic stamp catalogues has recently been enhanced by generous donations from fellows, including:

- *Whitfield King's Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps of the World*, 1931 edition;
- *Musson's Airmail Catalogue - Part 1 - Europe*, 1946 edition; and
- *Thiaude* 1961 edition;

They will be integrated with other holdings of stamp catalogues in the Stack, all of which may be consulted in the building on application to the Steward or a member of the Library Committee.

Philip Lindley  
Hon. Librarian



## Hire of Society's Rooms

We are able to accommodate a meeting for up to 60 people on weekday evenings from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am (or 1.00 pm) until 5.00 pm. The charges are: Weekday evening £75; Saturday afternoon £110; and Saturday all day £180. Tea / coffee and biscuits are offered at a flat charge of £15 per serving. The above charges are subject to VAT.

Please note that it is a requirement of council that at least two members of the Society are present at the meeting.

Alan Moorcroft  
Hon. Treasurer

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

## Accounts of Meetings : Season 2000 - 2001

**No. 13: Thursday, 8 March 2001 at 5 pm**  
***The President, Gavin Fryer: European Monetary Unions 1840-1871***

David Beech, Senior Vice-President welcomed 88 Fellows and Members, together with seven guests and three overseas visiting Members.

In introducing the President, Vice-President Beech commented that Gavin had displayed twice before to the Society in 1970 and 1976 and, memorably, had addressed Congress in the more recent past on the subject of the "Higlett Papers", with beard and all!

This display was enhanced (fortunately!) by a series of electronic visual aids; his objective, President Fryer stated, was to show evidence of organised postal tariffs in the form of a comparative study, exemplified by stamps available in Europe during the years 1840 to 1871 in use on covers, prior to the establishment of the Universal Postal Union. There had been 63 stamp issuing authorities in total at various times during the period under review and Gavin's study attempted to identify which postal systems or routes were more economical than others.

The visual aids, both on screen and in the handout, helped in an understanding of some very complex relationships between currencies and thus the cost of postage in the different monetary unions which existed at the time – there were Austro-German, Scandinavian, Russian Empire and Latin Unions, the latter covering other European countries that eventually aligned their currencies with the French franc.

In devising a comparative measure (he had described his propositions in the *LP* in 1994), Gavin had used silver as the basis; postal tariffs were based upon money payment and thus stamps had a specific denomination in the currency of the issuing authority – relating these prices to coin minted from silver of a standard weight and fineness allowed for comparison between countries. He had

conducted studies of commodity market prices during the period under review and had established that while most commodities had varied considerably, silver had remained relatively stable, despite factors such as the Crimean War, the American Civil War, increased silver production after 1861 and, indeed, inflation. However, the hoarding of silver particularly in the Far East and India had, Gavin suggested, a stabilising influence on the price of silver during the period. Indeed, it was only after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 when reparations by France in silver had been demanded, leading to sales of bullion by Germany in the mid 1870s, that the price of silver was depressed, since when, he suggested, the market price of silver had never fully recovered. But that was after the period covered in the display.

As an example of the differences in the cost of postage, on a silver comparison, Gavin showed that the Russian internal rate of 10 kopeks was more than three times the uniform 1d rate in Great Britain. On the other hand, German states charged about one-third that price for carrying printed matter.

He then went on to describe a most eclectic collection of covers, all of which were of outstanding quality and many of great rarity from places as diverse as the Ionian Islands, Netherlands, Portugal, Luxembourg, many (possibly all?) German states, Scandinavia, Russia, and, of course Great Britain, relating all these to a silver comparison.

It has to be said that there was some scepticism in the room that such a study had much meaning *per se* – and that the exercise was more of an attempt (and a very successful attempt at that) to display some extraordinarily rare and lovely early European covers – some of the questions following the paper showed that. One questioner enquired how the collection had started – to which the reply was “to baffle the judges”! More seriously, one questioner wanted to know where Gavin had

acquired some of the detailed information used in his study, and was referred to the Bank of England Library.

John Whiteside proposed the vote of thanks, and clearly was very familiar with the subject; he suggested that while the comparative view of rates appeared to him to be valid, he had difficulty with the comparison with Great Britain where made as this country had not been on a silver standard, and Gavin's estimate of the equivalent silver weight to 1d (0.47gm) was a guess, in his view. He went on to refer to the very high quality and range of material on display and drew attention particularly to a Mecklenburg item and to the Finnish covers.

In seconding the vote of thanks, Alan Huggins (who is of course a prominent international judge, not necessarily baffled!) paid tribute to the President's ability to explain his theory – which in academic terms is what it is. He described the material shown as astonishing, and drew attention to the GB embossed cover and other items, including covers sent in bulk to Norway from London and then posted internally.

Your reporter, while deeply impressed by the knowledge and research involved and while not a postal historian, was equally struck by the range and quality of material shown. Nevertheless he was left wondering whether the silver basis in fact had any validity – other determinants of local postage rates he feels have to do *inter alia* with size of territory and thus service costs, political decisions and local living standards. For example, the Russian rate quoted earlier in this review would be a function of all those determinants, and in particular of the state of Russian society during the period; one would expect the Russian rate to be necessarily higher as a matter of Government policy in the then very feudal society. However, he concluded that it did not matter – but wondered whether he should offer those present 0.47gm for their thoughts!



## No. 17: Thursday 3 May 2001 at 5 pm *Carl Walske FRPSL: New Sperati Discoveries*

The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed 57 Fellows and Members including new member R. John Harding, Overseas Fellows Bill Topping from Canada and Richard C. Knight from South Africa together with seven guests to a fascinating display of some of the more recently discovered Sperati forgeries given by Fellow Carl Walske.

The President, Gavin Fryer, opened the meeting by first announcing details of the Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship which are displayed on the notice board in the main entrance hall. He then introduced the speaker, the extra-ordinary items in the twelve wall frames and drew attention to the printing press used by Sperati which had been cleaned and brought up from the Museum for the benefit of those attending.

Carl Walske related how his grandfather had been a great collector and he had himself become interested in and had begun to investigate the Sperati forgeries more than 40 years ago. Following publication of *The Work of Jean de Sperati* by the BPA in 1955, he had begun to acquire specimens of Sperati's work hitherto unknown and having traced Sperati's daughter in Paris in 1961, was from then on able to purchase further unlisted specimens. With help from Robbie Lowe more was learnt and further enquiries led to the finding of several hundred clichés and negatives at the French Postal Museum in Paris from which photographic enlargements were made.

The twelve-frame display commenced with some early photographs of Sperati and family taken at various stages in his life together with the three houses in which Sperati lived in Aix-les-Bains, France from 1931 to 1957. The display was also enhanced with the projection of some slides highlighting in magnified detail some items from the frames and the intricacies of some of the forged stamp designs and proofs. It was particularly interesting to see Sperati's notes for the Basle dove, the black and white prints of the full dove and the tests of embossing. Clichés were

shown of the 1850 Saxony 3 pfg, 1849 French 1 franc and the 1860 Naples Cross of Savoy. Working proofs of the 1856 60 centavos Uruguay, 1853 Madrid 3 cuartos in vermillion and the 1883 24 cents Ceylon values. Sheets were also displayed showing the five types of the 1869 five franc French Napoleon issue all copied from a proof of a stamp without value, with some clichés and a copy of Sperati's letter dated February 1955 to Jacques Guiraud-Darmais offering two copies of this forgery obliterated for Monaco. In addition eight of the actual models to forge the 1853 French one franc Empire value were shown along with the hand-written notes planning the work. Other interesting correspondence shown included a postcard from Sperati's stamp dealer brother Massimo offering stock at very low prices.

The complex techniques used by Sperati were also explained briefly covering the contact exposure using glass or celluloid film making the originals transparent, the use of colour filters and colour enhanced film, the careful control of exposure times, the reversal of the negative, retouches and multiple impressions and chemical treatment for ultra-violet exposure. Sperati always found it difficult to get models of good stamps for his work, but the complex procedures he employed mostly produced forgeries to a very high standard.

President Gavin Fryer thanked Carl Walske for his paper and emphasised the importance of the work he has carried out. The display has given the Society the opportunity to publish his important work which was available for purchase following the meeting. The publication of this book with the photographic plates forms an important contribution to philately. Various questions were then invited covering several topics which were answered in some detail. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by David F. Sessions FRPSL who felt the scholarship and work of Carl was phenomenal with the interest and study undertaken over some 40 years. David felt it was our privilege to listen to Carl and to see some of the results of his work. Larry Lewendon seconded the motion complimenting

Carl on the very positive efforts he had made to track down all the pieces of Sperati's work and to share his knowledge. This was an enormously interesting and stunning display.

President Gavin Fryer took very great pleasure in presenting the speaker with the Society's Plaque in commemoration of his paper and display. Carl Walske thanked the President for his kind comments and those members in the room who have supported the new book in so many ways.



#### No. 18: Thursday 17 May 2001 at 1 pm

*Jim Thompson: German Hyper-Inflation 1923*

The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed 65 Fellows and Members together with 25 Guests, new member John Smart from Lymington and two overseas members, Richard Maisel and James Pullin from the USA to a most interesting display given by Jim Thompson FRPSL. The President also drew our attention to the attractive 1850s English movement clock now occupying the gap on the mantelpiece in the Large Library where the previous clock had rested until its theft last year.

Jim Thompson is well known as a frequent attender at No. 41 meetings and has built up an incredible collection over a period longer than his 25-year membership of this Society. The theme of this superb display occupied a fascinating twelve months of recent German history and a small colour illustrated eight-page booklet provided a helpful guide to the display. The newspaper reports of the time and particularly the bold headlines starkly represent the difficulties such inflation caused to everyone at that time. The President Gavin Fryer described how the display evidenced those reports with the first pages showing amounts with just a few noughts and by the end of the year one becomes intoxicated with the almost endless groups of noughts.

The 52 frames were filled to capacity and commenced with an examination of the six different postal rate periods from January

to the end of August 1923 showing Inland Printed Matter, Local Postcards, Inland letters, Foreign Mail incorporating Express, Registration and Insurance services. An interesting frame explained the Rohrpost pneumatic tube post systems in Berlin and Munich with special rates published for local letters and cards sent by the public. The following six frames in this Section illustrated the services of Cash on Delivery, Inland Parcels, Exchange Control & Official Mail and finally Meter Marks on commercial mail where initially an 'M' was added where figures represented Marks instead of Pfennigs, but as the digits increased more room was used in place of the 'M'. By the end of August the noughts were reduced in size to accommodate the rate within the standard frame!

The second Section of five frames looked at the local issues that became necessary with shortages of stamps, with cash often taken over the counters acknowledging this either with a *Gebühr bezahlt* handstamp or using locally produced *Gebühr bezahlt* labels. A variety of such labels were produced by Postmasters and examples of these and OPD Halle labels were shown.

The next 27 frames were devoted to the last three months of inflation between September and November 1923 and here were shown examples of the most amazing rates with endless noughts. The ten different postal rate periods that operated within this short time were represented by cash frankings, overprints, overprinted reprinted stamps and lastly new 'Rosette' stamps with a common background design and values printed in a second operation in millions and milliards suitable for immediate use. Examples were displayed of the work of the Exchange Control authorities and the more difficult to recognise Official Mails, the impact of such inflation on meter marks with ever decreasing sizes of noughts until six noughts were either omitted or symbols used for millions of marks. Two frames were devoted to Foreign Parcels and the parcel cards and although the rate for a foreign parcel had remained unchanged during the year, the fee was fixed in Gold Francs and there were 59 changes in the exchange rate

between the Mark and the Gold franc during 1923!

The final five frames dealt with the events of December 1923 when the new currency of the Rentenmark was introduced viz 1 Rentenmark = 1,000,000,000,000 Marks. The two currencies were permitted to run together for one month and examples were shown of various mixed frankings.

In commenting on such a magnificent display President Gavin Fryer said it was amazing how some items survived and thanked Jim for providing such a fantastic, entertaining, colourful and meaningful study of so many rates and stamps with ever-increasing numbers. Gavin took very great pleasure in presenting Jim Thompson with the Society's plaque in recognition of his display. In response Jim indicated his pleasure that so many present were members of the Germany and Colonies Society, but most of all he emphasised and appreciated how much preparation had been done by his wife, Maggie who also has an interest in the Gold Mark stamps of 1923.



**No. 19: Thursday 7 June 2001 at 5 pm**  
***The President's Guest: Zbigniew Mikulski,  
The Kingdom of Poland 1858 - 1870***

The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed his guest Zbigniew Mikulski together with 46 Fellows and Members, new member John L. Kelion, Overseas Members Jamie P. Gough and Edwin Lavitt from the USA together with five guests.

Gavin Fryer introduced the speaker by indicating that stamp collecting had been a life-long interest culminating in his recognition as an expert in the stamps and postal history of both Imperial Russia and the Kingdom of Poland. He has written extensively in several languages on Polish and Russian philately and his fine collection of Poland has achieved six large gold medals and was shown in the Court of Honour at Poznan in 1993 and Moscow in 1997. His other collecting interests extend to 19th century paintings by Polish artists active

in Munich and 17th / 18th century silk wall hangings and colourful belts worn by noblemen.

Twelve frames were filled with quite spectacular items, some of the utmost rarity. The talk was also enhanced with a display of projected colour images of many of the important items in the frames. In briefly looking at the immediate history, Zbigniew Mikulski referred to the dismantling of Napoleon's Principality of Warsaw following the Vienna Congress in 1815 which led to the creation of the Kingdom of Poland with the Tsar of Russia as King of Poland. The armed anti-Russian uprising of 1831 caused a curtailment of the independence of Polish services and in 1851 the postal service became subordinated to the Russian postal department in St. Petersburg. From 1851 Russian stamped envelopes in the values of 10, 20 and 30 kopeks were issued for use throughout Poland. These were very unpopular and very few have survived. An example was shown of a letter from Lomza to Nizhny-Novgorod with a rare example of the red Lomza town cancel and an arrival datestamp of 23 December 1857. On 1 January 1858 postage stamps of 10, 20 and 30 kopeks were introduced in Poland in line with the rest of the Russian Empire and these were first cancelled by pen strokes until March 1858.

From 1 September 1858 all the postal services were placed under the direction of the Tsar's representative in Warsaw and the Polish Administrative Council and this led to the introduction of a Polish stamp of 10 kopeks and the printing of two stamped envelopes of 10 kopeks for weights up to 1 Lut and 3 kopeks for local town mail. On 27 March 1858 special cancellers with four concentric circles and numerals in the centre were introduced and examples of these and the earlier stamps were prominent in the frames and well explained with projection. In 1859 two provisional City of Warsaw Post stationery envelopes were issued in values of 1.5 kopeks for the visit cards and 3 kopeks for normal letters. Two unique cards from the first provisional issue were displayed, one being an extremely important usage on the first day of issue. On

1 January 1860, according to the Gregorian Calendar, Polish 3 kopeks stamped envelopes and 10 kopeks stamps were issued for local use and to Russia and the Principality of Finland. Letters to foreign countries had to be pre-paid in cash. The stamps were printed in a sheet of four panes of 5 x 5 stamps separated by gutters. A block of six stamps and a pair still attached to the same gutter and corner margin were shown, these being the most important piece in Polish philately and of the greatest rarity. A number of errors of printing were also shown. The cancellations used by the main Post Office in Warsaw were displayed in particular that with four rings and a figure 1 for stamps and from 1864 the new canceller with four squares and the figure 1. A very rare and important example of the 10 kopeks postal stationery envelope with additional franking of a pair of the 10 kopeks stamps to pay the triple rate displayed in the frames is the only known cover with such a franking. In September 1864 two new cancellers were issued and only three examples are known. Various other types of cancellation were shown including the Russian postal carriage canceller used on letters posted on the train to Russia and a very fine example of a cover with a red canceller from Chmielnik franked with Poland No 1. Russian stamps and postal stationery were re-introduced from 13 February 1865 until 13 April 1865 and some superb examples of use during this period were shown. Of very great rarity and a classic in European philately was a unique cover from Zarki to Wroclau (Breslau) on 13 January 1869 with a bisected 20 kopeks for a 10 kopeks rate - a beautifully clean and well marked item.

Finally the display included examples of postal fraud with in particular one outstanding cover used twice in Russia and then again in Poland in the town of Ostrleka.

Various questions came from the floor and were dealt with in great detail by the speaker. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Miller McGrath who expressed the view that this had been a truly remarkable afternoon with a wonderful display of material and slides. Only twelve years from a long and

turbulent history, but so enriched with a quality collection containing so many gems. Miller could not praise the display more highly and found it a joy to see such exceptional items. Past President John Levett seconded the Vote of Thanks with his usual humour and enthusiasm. He had first met Zbigniew Mikulski in Lucerne with Alex Newell in 1981 when our speaker had won the Grand Prix. In John's view we had had the privilege to listen

to a great philatelist in his own right and he was to be sincerely thanked for not only bringing his sheets of stamps and covers, but also for having prepared the slides for our enjoyment.

President Gavin Fryer presented the Society's bronze plaque and extended his own thanks to Zbigniew Mikulski for coming to London as his guest and for the pleasure of seeing such important philatelic material.



## **RPSL Country Meeting at Radcliffe-on-Trent 17 March 2001**

**Norton Collier FRPSL**

This Nottinghamshire Country Meeting of the Royal was a most enjoyable and philatelically instructive day, with 20 fellows, members and guests present. It started after morning coffee with a display of the South Africa 1d ship stamp by John Shaw FRPSL. John showed us a fascinating study with a wide mixture of trials, essays, issued and non-issued stamps. Following John, there was a series of displays from those present; after which, lunch, prepared by member Alan Wood, was enjoyed by all. The afternoon provided a fascinating range of displays and this superb day ended with afternoon tea & cakes again prepared by Alan. Thank you to all those who took part.



## **RPSL Country Meeting at Bournemouth 20 March 2001**

**Jeremy Martin FRPSL**

The regional meeting for members from Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire was held on Tuesday 20 March 2001 at the usual venue, the Durley Hall Hotel in Bournemouth, and was attended by 22 members and guests. Displays were given by the following:

Tony Belfield FRPSL	George Roberts and the Falkland Islands
Dave Boakes	King George VI booklets
Dr Michael Clarke-Williams	GB surface printed stamps
Alan Wood FRPSL	Letter & packet post in France 1759-1791 and inflation period 1791-1799
Colin Faers	Stamps of Mecklenburg, 1945
Peter Owden	German POs in Morocco
Ivan Holliday	British POs in Morocco
David Allen	Panama Canal Zone

Eric Goffe	Royal 'Frees'
Jeremy Martin FRPSL	Nigerian definitives 1973-1974
John Dight	Sudan - Desert Railway
Ian McQueen	Airmail route markings
Greg Todd	China - Sven Hedin issue
Ashley Lawrence	Franco-Prussian War - Pigeon Post
John Smith FRPSL	New Zealand 1935-1947 Pictorial issue
Wilf Vevers	One Man's Story, Falkland Islands Defence Force 1942-1944

The meeting was organised by the county representatives of Dorset (John Smith), Hampshire (Ian Greig and Tony Farmer) and Wiltshire (Jeremy Martin). The autumn meeting will be held at the same venue on Tuesday 30 October 2001.



## Membership Changes

The following were elected members at the council meeting of 17 May 2001, and are welcomed to the society:

Sheikh M.A. Alireza, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
 Mr R.R. Barracano, Ceret, France  
 Capt. J. Hallstrom, Skovde, Sweden  
 Mr S-S. Lu, Jiangsu, China  
 Mrs S.M. Pearse, Downham Market, Norfolk  
 Mr G. Schenk, Münster, Germany  
 Mr R.P. Thompson, Kelowna, Canada  
 Mr K.C.D. Wong, Beijing, China.

Elected on 21 June 2001:

Mr M.C. Lovegrove, King's Lynn, Norfolk  
 Mr Z. Mikulski, St Gallen, Switzerland  
 Mr M.J.Y. Roberts, Ilkley, West Yorkshire  
 Mr F.N. Soutar, Larbert, Scotland

The following deaths have been notified:

Zeev Barak  
 John Griffiths RDP (13 April 2001)  
 Jose Antonio Hernan-Seijas (9 March 2001)  
 Sir John Marriott KCVO RDP (3 July 2001)

Resignations have been received from:

Giulio Manganoni  
 Gary Granzow  
 Gerald Elliott  
 Hansgeorg Grothuesmann  
 Stefan Petriuk



## Representatives

**Ajeet Singee** and **Dilip Shah** have both been appointed as Indian Special Representatives.

**Margaret Morris** has been appointed as Representative for Glasgow.