

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2011

Centenary Display to the Royal. As part of our centenary year celebrations, the Society gave a display to the Royal Philatelic Society London, on 11 November 2010. Twelve members and spouses made the journey south and assembled at 41 Devonshire Place on the morning of the 11th to erect the displays provided by 30 of our members. The frames were viewed throughout the afternoon by a total of 108 members of the Royal and 26 guests, who were very complimentary. At the end of the afternoon, the President of RPSL gave a vote of thanks, presented the Society with a bronze plaque and presented certificates to all those who had exhibited. Our President responded. Thereafter, drinks and nibbles were enjoyed in the main library before those members who wished to attend were entertained by the RPSL to dinner; altogether a very pleasant social occasion. A commemorative brochure was prepared and edited by Stuart Duncan, for the occasion. The brochure includes a foreword by the Society President and a brief history of the Society followed by a short synopsis for each exhibit and illustrated by a choice item. Exhibitors have received copies but the print run was exhausted by the viewers on the day so that there are none to spare. However, there is a copy in the Society's archive and the brochure can be downloaded as a PDF file on the Aberdeen PS website, where there are also a large number of pictures taken on the day. Check out our website at www.aberdeenphilatelic.org.uk.

Incidentally, you might like to know that there is a meeting of the members of the RPSL who are resident in Scotland every year at the Dewar's Centre in Perth. Guests of members are always very welcome to attend and several of our Society members are also members of the RPSL, so if you would like to attend, let the Newsletter Editor know. Displays at the 2010 meeting included Glasgow Victorian Registered Mail, Expedition Kilimanjaro, Finland postal stationery, British Solomon Islands, The Herschel Dynasty, Russia, Shetland, Malayan Military Mail, South Australia, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Tours of U.K., Singapore Revenues, Zanzibar Revenues, Hejaz: A Question on Proofs. The next meeting is scheduled for 14 May 2011.

Message from the President. A reminder to all members that Sheila Den will demit office as Secretary at the AGM in April. She has indicated that she would be prepared to assist/mentor her replacement in their first year. The committee feels that, subject to the yearly approval of the AGM, the post should only be held for a total of three consecutive years by any one member. Any member who is interested in being nominated for the post at the forthcoming AGM should contact either Sheila or myself. Even a Society as flourishing as ours cannot function without a secretary, so please get in touch!

The Editor is compiling a special file in the Society's archives on our centennial. Any member who has any relevant documentation, ephemera, photos, souvenirs, etc., which they are willing to donate to the archive, please offer to the Editor.

PERTH 2012. Planning continues on the annual ABPS exhibition which will be held in Perth on 19 and 20 October 2012, immediately followed by the other annual national event, the Philatelic Congress of GB. At the last meeting of the Steering Committee, the decision was taken to reduce the ABPS exhibition from a three-day event to two days; also to contain the exhibition frames in the Main Hall of the Dewar's Centre and not to hire the Ice Hall in addition. The decision was

taken on grounds of cost and will probably mean that exhibits will overflow into the Hay Room and the Gallery overlooking the Main Hall.

The **ASPS 2011 annual Congress** in Perth will again be a two-day event, on 15 and 16 April. Entries are invited in the national competitions in all the usual classes, including postcards, with a deadline of 7 February for receipt of entry forms and 1 March for receipt on the exhibit. Further information from your ASPS Delegate, Jeff Stone. Congress will be hosted this year by the Strathclyde Postcard Club who will provide the Host Society display. There will be a commemorative card and special postmark featuring John Rennie and the 200th anniversary of the lighting of the Bell Rock Lighthouse. The Tom Rielly Memorial display and talk will be given by Margaret Morris, who will be giving a power point presentation on an astronomical theme, following the example set last year by our President in the use of visual aids for this event. A civic reception will precede the annual dinner.

During the course of the afternoon, when members of the Royal in London were enjoying our display, a member approached our Secretary with colour photocopies of an airmail letter card bearing a censor mark and addressed quite simply to "Aberdeen & North of Scotland Philatelic Society, Aberdeen, Scotland". The sender was a Pte. D J Middleton writing from 224 Camp Staff, MEF. The letter is franked with a KGVI 3d violet and postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE 154 15 AU 44 which was apparently in Gaza. The letter was delivered, after endorsement in red manuscript "123 Crown St". The writer says that he is a stamp collector and his home is Aberdeen. He hoped to correspond with one or two members. There is a pencil note on the letter in the hand of Albert Smith, the then Secretary, who sent Stamp Magazine and continued to correspond. The photocopies are in the archives and can be examined on request. Can anyone shed any further light on this interesting item, which goes to show that the unexpected can happen when philatelists display their treasures to others?

Options for the **proposed centenary dinner** are still under consideration, as I write. The Secretary circulated everyone who had expressed interest on 15 December, suggesting three venues with menus and requesting members to make a choice. The date has not been finalised but 24 March is a possibility. Do please respond to the Secretary if you are interested.

Report on Aberdeen Philatelic Society Auction 25. Compared with the previous auction more society members participated both in bidding and vending, which is a good trend. There were 204 bidders, 29 vendors and 1180 lots of which nearly 60% sold. Lighthouse material continued to sell well and there was a surprising surge of interest in India. Sales were sufficient to provide funds of £500 to the society.

The Packet Secretary reports that the new system is working well. Two packets are in circulation and another five await circulation. He asks members to return slips to him quickly and to consider opening an account with him by depositing say £3 to £5 pounds in advance. If you are not yet receiving the packet and would like to see it, Fred Jefferies would welcome a call.

Book for sale. *Ships on Stamps* by Rowland Hill – no publication date but an advert for Gibbons Simplified had a price of 5/-! The book belonged to past Fellow of Aberdeen PS, Dr VMM Watson and is in excellent condition. The book is being sold with all proceeds to the British Heart Foundation, price £5. To view or purchase, contact David Macdonald.