

## **ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

*NEWSLETTER January 2013*

**Forthcoming meetings:** The society is introducing a presentation night next February where four members will be displaying. This is to encourage members who may not wish to commit to a full 160 frames - sometimes a daunting task!

**The Treasurer** reports that the number of paid-up members has fallen this year, so if you know of anyone who can be invited to come along to a meeting, to see if they would like to join us, please do encourage them to do so.

**The Librarian** reports that a wide range of Sectional SG catalogues, taking us up to date with GB, North America, China, and most of Western Europe, have been added to the library this year, plus an excellent 2010 reprint of the Charles Nissen "Plating of the Penny Black". The librarian, conscious that he has been absent rather frequently in recent seasons, has announced his wish to retire from the post (for the second time!) having been in the post for almost 30 years! Member Barry Richards has volunteered to take over and we are most grateful to him. Apart from more recent philatelic reference books, the library holds a number of early classic items of philatelic literature and is very much part of the heritage of the society.

The Fourteenth **Residential Philatelic Weekend in Dundee** has been arranged for 25-27 October 2013. The usual hotel package has been negotiated and a programme of talks and displays organised. Further information and booking forms will be made available to ASPS society delegates, probably in late January, so let Jeff Stone know if you are interested.

The hosts of the **ASPS Congress in Perth** on 19-20<sup>th</sup> April 2013 will be the Alba Society, the society for collectors of all forms of Scottish philately, so the Host Society display should be full of local interest. The theme will be Edinburgh Zoo which is owned by The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and first opened in July 1913, so that it celebrates its centenary this year. The President of RZSS will be the guest speaker at the awards dinner and the Congress cover will have a penguin theme (not a panda theme, surprisingly), with an appropriate cancellation. The annual Tom Reilly presentation on the Friday evening before the awards dinner will be given by Robin Sherman on the subject of Islands of the Pacific. The national competition will include a Cinderella class for the first time. Entries are invited for all the usual classes including traditional, postal history, thematic, literature and postcards. The entry forms can be downloaded from the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies website or are available from your ASPS Delegate who will be pleased to advise. The deadline for receipt of entry forms is 1<sup>st</sup> March. As usual, there will also be a junior competition and your Newsletter Editor has the details and entry form, so if you know of a young collector who can be encouraged to participate, please do assist them. Dealers will be present as usual.

**Report on Aberdeen Philatelic Society Auction 27.** 1122 lots were auctioned of which 46% sold realising 41% of total reserve. Despite this being a year of austerity it achieved much the same result as the previous auction. There were fewer low priced lots, fewer bidders and of the lots that sold, the selling price averaged 16% above the reserve. As usual lighthouse material sold well and there's still a demand for GB QV. £500 will be forwarded to the Society but the auction assets of low priced postage stamps for posting have now been nearly used up.

**Perth 2012** national philatelic exhibition and Philatelic Congress of GB are now only memories. Press reports were very favourable and people whom I have spoken to since the event seemed to have enjoyed it. It has received good press coverage in Scandinavia, thanks to our visitors from Finland and Sweden. Perhaps because of an international dimension to the exhibition, we were asked to write a report for the newsletter of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) which you will be able to check out on the FEPA website shortly. Aberdeen PS members were forthcoming in response to the call for assistance before, during and after the events. Their help with frame erection and dis-mounting, and being available to help as stewards or elsewhere during the exhibition were much appreciated.

The society was also to the fore in supporting the event by exhibiting. Congratulations to David Kindley, Alex Walker, David Macdonald, John Little, Joe Ritchie and Graham Searle on exhibits of a high standard which were recognised by the jury with the award of excellent medals. The complete list of medals and trophy awards is on the PERTH 2012 website. Also thanks to our members who contributed to a standing display by four Scottish societies staged on the last day of the Congress of GB. Attendance on the last day of the event was unfortunately sparse but the displays were much appreciated by those who saw them.

There was, of course, a special exhibition cancellation, as well as a Congress of GB cancellation, but few of us anticipated what were, in effect, special stamps for the occasion. Quite late on in the organisation of the event, Royal Mail decided to send a Post and Go machine to Perth, which was set up and supervised by an accompanying technician. The stamps which could be purchased in strips of 5 from the dispenser were unique to the two events, as you may see from the exhibition example below:



Despite lack of publicity, they were in demand, perhaps in part by people who realised that they might be marketable. After all, they were only on sale for two days at each venue with no advanced notice in the philatelic press. They have already been seen on eBay. The organisers have a very small number left, as I write, so let me know if you want one and I will try to help. Incidentally, the above illustration is a first for the newsletter and as long as there are no unforeseen problems, it could be a precedent for the future.

Scottish philately acquitted itself very well in organising the two events, one following the other, although it may be some time before we see another UK national exhibition in Scotland. The cost of transporting the additional frames required for the exhibition from several venues in England using commercial hauliers and storage was very high. As far as I am aware, there are no plans to organise another ABPS exhibition in the near future outside the annual STAMPEX in London, which is much to be regretted. However, one consequence of bringing frames together from several different locations is that they are now all in one place where they can be checked and repaired as necessary in preparation for the international exhibition in London in 2015. They were certainly not all in good condition when they arrived in Perth, which caused a lot of problems during the erection of the exhibition.