

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2015

Forthcoming meetings: As usual we begin the year with President's night, followed by an evening with the intriguing subject of errors and varieties from East Africa. Then we have the annual alphabet night, this year being letter D. We can surely expect to see some Denmark, Deutsche Post, definitives and double heads but who can produce disinfected mail, double Genevas or die proofs? If desperate, diligently dust down some duplicates.

We remember Dougal Mackintosh, thematic collector of animals on stamps, who passed away on 29th November. Dougal's membership of the Society goes back many years. He was the Permanent Exhibition Superintendent from 1963-68, Superintendent of the Junior Section from 1963-66, Vice-President from 1965-67 and President from 1967-69. He was awarded the Fellowship of the Society in 1984 and in the same year, he presided over the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.

The host society at the **ASPS Congress in Perth** on 17-18th April 2015 will be the Falkirk and District Philatelic Society. The Friday opening time of 10am trialled last year will be repeated. The host society's display will contain a wide range of subjects. A cover depicting Callendar House in Falkirk has been prepared. The Tom Rielly Memorial talk and display will be given by Willie King with Douglas Muir of the British Postal Museum and Archive as the guest of honour. Two Post & Go machines from Royal Mail will again be available at Congress, producing stamps with an overprint specific to the event.

As always, Congress will include the national competition and the open competition. If you would like an entry form, a copy of the rules and advice for exhibitors, please contact our society's delegate to ASPS, Jeff Stone. The deadline for receipt of entry forms is 1 March.

A block booking has been made at the Congress hotel, the Mercure Hotel, Perth, The rates are as follows: £49.00 per person per night sharing a twin / double room for Bed and Breakfast. £69.00 per person per night for sole use for Bed and Breakfast Our reference is ASSO160415. Contact Number – 0844 815 9105 – Option 1. Contact Email – 105rs@jupiterhotels.co.uk. When booking you will need to give a valid credit or debit card number. Our room reservations expire 28 days before the event – so booking need to be made by then. Rooms have been reserved for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You are responsible for settling your own bill directly with the hotel. Payment will be taken at time of booking. The rate should be available for additional nights.

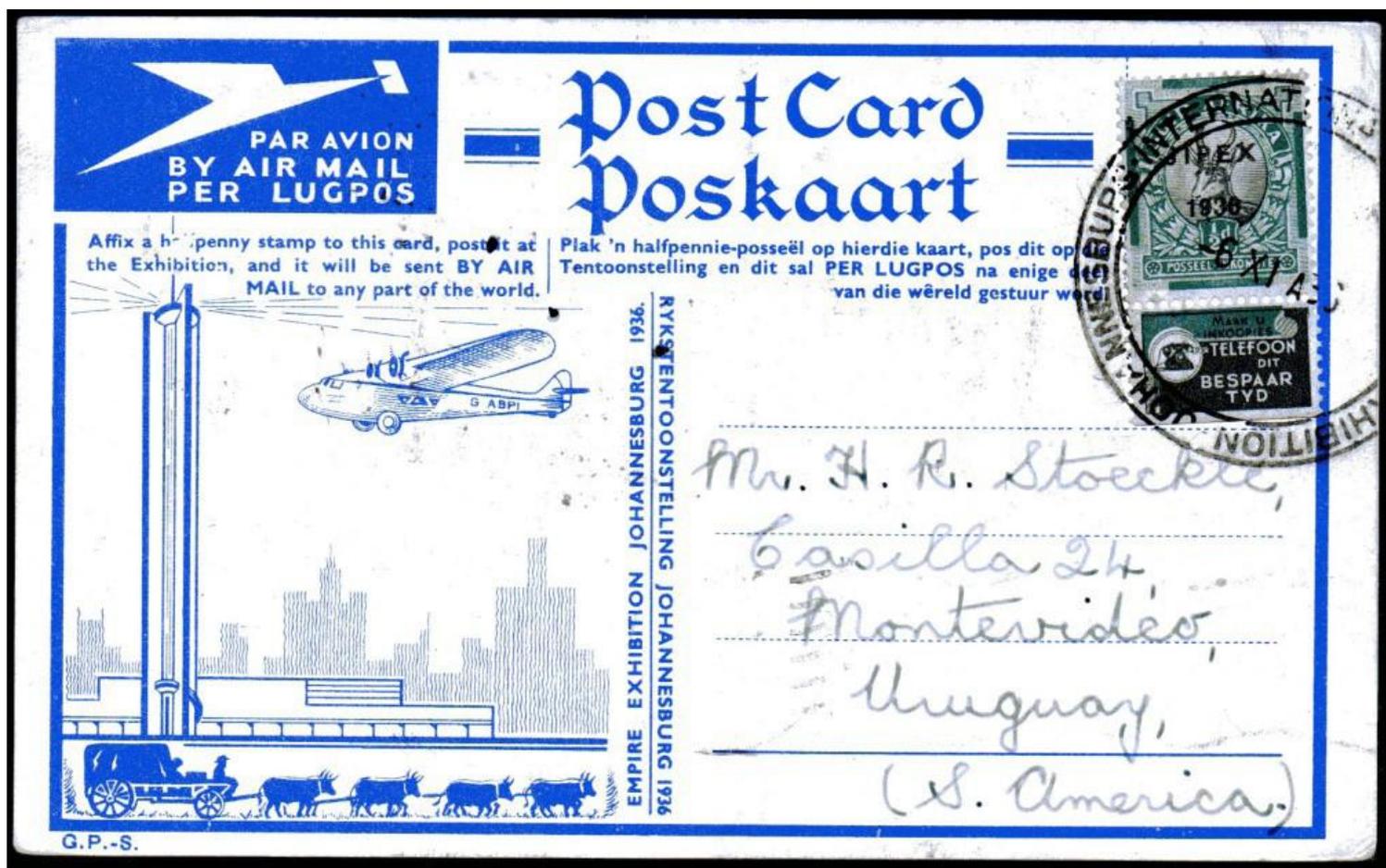
The **Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies**, is conducting a ten year review of structure and practices, with the remit of examining all aspects of the Association's work, to build on the good, to thoroughly examine the frail and to weed out any imbalances that have crept in. A small committee has been appointed to conduct the review and the Chairman, Brian Dow invites contributions. Your delegate to ASPS will be pleased to put you in contact.

The Society **Postal Auction** will be held on March 12th 2015 and last date for lots entry is 31/01/2015. Mike Longhurst tel 01224 861629 or email aberdeenpsauction@btinternet.com .

Why join a specialist society? By David Macdonald

Being a member of a specialist society usually means that you received a quarterly newsletter, which to a widespread membership is the only way to keep regular contact. The advantage to a member can be varied, information can be gleaned from articles, information submitted to extend what is already known, and information can be requested for new subjects to be explored. Advice on items can be sought for other members and material exchanged.

Earlier this year I read a newsletter (*The Springbok*) from a specialist society (South Africa Collectors Society); a member was trying to make a list of known used postcards – South Africa 1/2d All-up Air Mail Cards. For a number of years I have had some of these cards in my collection and yes they were, in 1936/1937 flew anywhere in the world provided an Air Service existed. I duly sent a record of all cards in my possession thinking that would be all I would hear until a list of cards was published. Not so! I was asked to send a scan of one particular card (see below) posted at the Empire Exhibition, Johannesburg on 6 November 1936 to the addressee resident in Montevideo, Uruguay; on the face of it a bog standard card.



This card was sent from Johannesburg on the Imperial Airways service to Croydon arriving two days late on 17 November. Wednesday 18 Nov. Croydon to Frankfurt on the Deutsche Lufthansa (DLH) night service, thence on Thursday 19 Nov. by DLH from Frankfurt to Bathurst, Gambia, arriving 20 November. Suspension of fixed wing flights across the South Atlantic was occasionally necessary to maintain the planes (Dornier Wal flying boats) and the service station boats. To maintain the mail service Deutsche Luftschiff Zepppelin Reederei ('DLZ') flew the Graff Zepellin (LZ-127) and the Hindenburg (LZ-29) crossing being shared. The card was carried on the Hindenburg (LZ-129) from Bathurst on Sunday 22 Nov. arriving Natal, Brazil on 23 Nov. and went onward to Montevideo by the Sindicato Condor service to Montevideo arriving 24 November 1936.

The evidence of the card having been carried on the Hindenburg is the arrival cancel applied at Montevideo, on the picture side of the card. Without being a member of SACS, and a member's request for information, I might never have appreciated the significance of the card which is, I believe at present, the only known (recorded) "All-up" card, with conclusive proof, by the receiving cancel, to have been carried on the Hindenburg airship!