

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2016

Forthcoming meetings: As usual we begin the year with the annual alphabet night, this year being letter 'E'. We can surely expect to see some Egypt, Eire or Ecuador, but who can produce some essays, errors, etiquettes, exploded booklets or expertised stamps? If desperate, search the exchange packet for some engraved or embossed items, or go for any country which used to be part of the empire. Anything goes! Not more than eight sheets. Come to think of it, perhaps you could qualify by submitting 8 (eight) sheets of anything at all. There is one change to the annual programme. Alan Wishart will visit us on 4th February to present his philatelic evening and the 'Four Members' Night' will be on 17th March.

The Society Postal Auction no. 30 is in preparation with a closing date of 31st March 2016. Many lots have already been received with strength in the auction to British Commonwealth, old "club" books, GB QV and Church postcards. Lighthouse postcards, books and stamps are particularly strong. The final date for lot entry is 4th February 2016. (Note: Fred Jefferies is receiving lots while Mike Longhurst is sunning himself in Oz)

Members will recall the excellent display to the Society in 2012 by **Francis Kiddle** who travelled to us from Southampton, to give a 2-part display of Tasmania Revenues and Goats. Sadly, Francis passed away on 21 October and members will have seen his obituaries in the philatelic press. He was renowned for his knowledge of Cinderella philately and his collections of cinderellas, revenues and other unusual items will be auctioned by Grosvenor in London on 24 February. The sale is advertised as the 'Kiddle Brothers Collection', so it will presumably include at least some of Charles Kiddle's collection. Charles visited us in 2013 and showed a memorable evening of poster stamps and other cinderellas, beginning with a rare Aberdeen item, the George Washington Wilson label. I wonder if it will be offered and if so, will it be sold as a separate lot.

Small ad from Alex Walker. I'm looking for items relating to war time shortages and rationing. I would be willing to purchase a 1940s Ration Book and Clothing coupons (but not petrol coupons). I would also be interested in any covers which have been re-used for economy eg. with a government resealing label and any wartime slogan cancels encouraging "Salvage" or "saving paper". In addition any covers which are clearly marked as undeliverable because of enemy action/ occupation would also be of interest. I have a range of censored items and POW mail so these are NOT what I'm looking for. *[If any other member would like to have a small ad run in the newsletter I would be very happy to receive copy. Do you have a wants list which you think other members may be able to help you with? As long as space is available, it will be included in the next newsletter.]*

Your **committee** met in November and deliberated on several subjects. As has previously been announced, the trustees of the late Mike Ward's estate donated £1150 to the Society in memory of Mike and for the furtherance of philately in Aberdeen. One suggestion put to the committee is to acquire a display frame or cabinet which could be placed in a public place such as library, gallery or museum. Enquiries are to be made as to where and in what form it might be acceptable. Other ideas are sought by the committee. Please respond to the secretary if you have any suggestions.

Mike Longhurst is currently “care-taking” the society web site and is looking for someone else to take over. The view was expressed that the present website is too complex and needs simplification or replacement. The Treasurer will look at the present site to see if it can be simplified and the cost of setting up a new site is to be investigated.

A number of issues were raised in connection with the library, including the frequency of replacement of catalogues and how wide a range of catalogues should be acquired. A library policy document will be drawn up in consultation with the librarian.

A social event in the form of a dinner is under consideration, possibly to be held after the last meeting in April. Venues will be investigated and suggestions will be appreciated.

The recent unfortunate incident when a member was stuck in the lift for some 90 minutes or more before he could be released was reported to the Manager and members are assured that it will not happen again, so feel free to use the lift, if you wish.

The next North-East Postcard, Stamp & Collectables **Fair** in Aberdeen will be on Saturday 30 April at Queen’s Cross Church Halls, Albyn Place, so enter the date in your new 2016 diary now. Before then, postcard enthusiasts have an event within easy reach. Grampian Postcard Club will hold a fair in conjunction with the same fair organisers at West Church Hall, West High Street, Inverurie, on Saturday 5 March, 10-4, with catering available adjacent.

The host society at the **ASPS Congress at the Dewars Centre in Perth** on 15th-16th April 2016 will be the Caledonian Philatelic Society, one of Scotland’s biggest and oldest societies, so we may anticipate an excellent Host Society display. There will also be a special display on the theme of Congress. The cover for this year’s congress will commemorate the 700th Anniversary of the House of Stewart and there will be an appropriately designed cover and also a postcard to celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the birth of King James. There will, of course, be a special commemorative cancellation which can be obtained by posting an item of mail at the event. Any member unable to attend but who would like to obtain the cover or card should let the President know. There will be members present who will be happy to assist. There are pictures of the two items and the postmark on the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies’ website.

The Tom Rielly Memorial talk and display will be given by Ray Welland and the guest of honour who will speak at the annual dinner on the Friday, after the Tom Rielly presentation is Scottish historian Professor Ted Cowan. As always, Congress will include the national competition and the open competition. The rules for both these competition are on the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies web-site. If you need any further information please contact our society’s delegate to ASPS, Jeff Stone. A block booking will be made at the Congress hotel, and I will circulate the details as soon as I have them.

The Packet Secretary reports that sales have been a little down from last year so far, but as it is not a money making service I do not mind. I would like to remind members that the packet is delivered by hand. There is no expense on passing on the packet, so think about putting your name down for the packet. At the moment we have 21 members taking the packet. I do understand that a lot of our members’ collections are so specialised that the chances of getting what they need would be one in a million, So here is something to think about **START A NEW COLLECTION**, ie ‘Every Penny stamp of GB’ or ‘Every second and first class stamp of GB’. Now there is a new collection that would not cost too much, and you could do it for any country. So that’s that settled; put your name down for the packet and start your new collection now. Fred Jefferies looks forward to hearing from you!