

# **ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

*NEWSLETTER January 2018*

**Forthcoming meetings:** As usual we begin the year with the annual alphabet night on 11<sup>th</sup> January, with everyone invited to participate if they wish. This year it is letter 'G', so we can surely expect to see some GB, Germany and Greece, but who can produce some Graham Land, Griqualand West or Guatemala and if not 'G' by country then perhaps by subject such as graphite lines, gutter, gum, general collection, gone missing or guess what? Anything from one to ten sheets is welcome and nothing is ever rejected, however obscure the connection with the letter G, indeed the more obscure the connection, the better.

**Thank you** to members for supporting the Room Auction last month. Gross sales on the night amounted to £250. With £10 in donated lots the Society benefited by £34.

The host society at the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies' annual **Congress at the Dewars Centre in Perth** on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 will be the Edinburgh-based Scottish Philatelic Society, the oldest society in Scotland. No doubt, we may anticipate an excellent Host Society display. Their theme will be 125 years of philately in Scotland. They have produced a plethora of commemorative items celebrating their anniversary including an appropriately designed cover. The design (approved by Royal Mail) features GB stamps from the six reigns with Scottish thistle and lion stamp motifs together with the Scottish Philatelic Society emblem. There will be special commemorative cancellation which can be obtained by posting an item of mail at the event. There will also be a commemorative postcard. The front of the card features assorted images of GB stamps issued during the six reigns covering the last 125 years, together with the Scottish Philatelic Society emblem. Although the current stamp images are still under copyright, approval has been given by Royal Mail for the design of this postcard. Another philatelic-related item that they have produced is a special sheet of nine labels commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Scottish Philatelic Society based on the 1913 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain (organised by the Scottish Philatelic Society) with an image of the Scott Monument, Edinburgh. Only 50 sheets have been printed. They have also arranged for a Smiler Sheet using the 1st Class Scotland Saltire stamp with first Scottish Philatelic Society emblem of 1902 (10 stamps per sheet). The Smiler Sheet will be available by pre-order only for pick up at Congress. At least the cover and the card will probably be available before the event at one of our society meetings. Any member unable to attend but who would like to obtain the cover, card or label should let your ASPS Delegate know. There will be members present who will be happy to assist. There are pictures of all of these items and the postmark on the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies' website under Congress.

The Tom Reilly presentation and display will be given on the Friday evening of 20<sup>th</sup> April by Steven Weir on the subject of classic British stamps. As usual, there will be a Congress dinner on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Host Society's guest at the annual dinner will be Frank Walton, immediate past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, no doubt an entertaining speaker. A block booking will be made at the Congress hotel for anyone looking for overnight accommodation. I will circulate details of the hotel and the booking form for the dinner as soon as I have them. If you haven't been to Congress before, it is well worth at least a day trip to the Dewar's Centre, Perth – very accessible by train or car. Fifteen or twenty of our members are usually in attendance

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. The national competition is seen as a starting point for competitive exhibiting or for trying out a new exhibit. Exhibitors often go on to exhibit at STAMPEX and then internationally. It is the forum for some of the best philately on display at Congress and exhibitors make a very valuable contribution to Congress. If you need any further information please contact our society's delegate to the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, Jeff Stone..

A seminar on **judging competitive exhibits** is to be held in Scotland next Spring. The plan is to have the event in Falkirk over two days, Saturday and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Local overnight accommodation is available. The event is intended to provide training for new judges and as an update for existing judges but anyone interested in exhibiting will benefit greatly, discovering what the judging criteria are and how exhibits are marked. The event is being organised by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. If you are interested, let your delegate know and he will pass on your name, or contact the Secretary, Alan Watson.

**The Packet Secretary reports** that there are about 20 members currently taking the packet. Sales are running between £50 and £80 per packet which some vendors say is very modest and more buyers are urgently needed if we are not to lose vendors and the quality of the packet is to be sustained. Some members are so specialised that they may feel that they are very unlikely to find anything of interest in the packet but you never know. If you are not currently taking the packet and would like to give it a go, contact Fred Jefferies (01224 705676).

**Book Review.** *Kincardineshire Post Offices and Postmarks*, Brian Dow and Bruce Walker, Scottish Postal History Society, 2017, Pp.173, soft-bound. The latest in the impressive list of publications by the SPHS provides details of 51 Kincardineshire post offices and their postmarks, more than half of them no longer operational. There are numerous illustrations, many in colour, not just of postmarks and postal items, but also of the post offices past and present, accompanied by maps past and present. Essential reference for anyone interested in Scottish postal history and available from Bruce Walker, price £21 to non-members of SPHS.

**Postmarks.** Members interested in postmarks of British Empire/Commonwealth countries may care to look at the website "postmarks.co.za" for information and illustrations. As the web address indicates, the site is in South Africa and currently has a fairly comprehensive selection of Commonwealth countries in the African continent. Additionally, there are countries in Asia, Australia (States) and Europe; some complete and some still being constructed, At the time of writing this note (August) the information on the website has been updated to 22 July 2017. Thanks to David Macdonald for this news item.

**The Grampian Postcard and Stamp Fair** will be held in the Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie, on 10 March 2018, commencing 10.30. This building is part of the old loco works, very tastefully designed and has a cafe in the same building. Several dealers will be in attendance including Peter Miller, Chad Neighbor and possibly postcard dealers from further afield.

Anyone looking for a new on-line auction might like to try Philatelic Services of Finland. Their current auction is at <http://www.stamps.fi/huutokauppa.php?sivu=jatto&setlang=eng>. It closes on 19 January and is an all-world auction with some modestly priced lots.