

Congratulations to the Librarian on the award of vermeil at the ABPS exhibition in Harrogate in May, for his exhibit in the traditional philately class of “The Square Stamps of Denmark 1851-1864”. Congratulations also to the retiring Treasurer who received the Society’s Jupp award for 2008, in recognition of his service to the Society as its Treasurer for many years.

The **exchange packet** is a familiar feature of every meeting and the Packet Secretary is now considering the possibility of introducing a new and additional packet which will allow members to sell stamps without spending time mounting each one in a booklet. It will be called something like the “Penny Packet” in which contributors submit stamps in envelopes supplied by the Packet Secretary, with one selling price for the stamps in each envelope, perhaps 1p, 2p, 3p or 5p. The hope is that packets can be passed by hand between members, so that they can be viewed at home. Please let the Packet Secretary have your views on this proposal.

For those with on-line facilities, the philatelic collections webpages of the **British Library** have been re-launched and make interesting browsing. The BL is shortly to publish a set of four philatelic postcards illustrating items from the collections including the 1d black, the USA 1918 flying Jenny inverted and spectacular 1933 high value stamps from Sierra Leone and Falkland Islands. These will only be available to callers at the BL shop. Perhaps any visitor from the Society can take orders.

Congress 2008 is now a thing of the past but the report on the national exhibition is only available after the event. There were eleven competitive entries and medals were awarded ranging from gold to bronze. Seven of the eleven available trophies were awarded. Whereas aerophilately and social philately were strongly supported, surprisingly, there were no entries in the thematic or postal history classes. Looking ahead to next year, we will see an innovation in the form of a picture postcard class. Guidelines have been compiled and I already have a copy together with an entry form. The postcard competition secretary has deliberately made the documentation available early, to allow plenty of time for aspiring entrants to prepare entries. If you would like a copy, please let me know. Still looking ahead, ASPS hopes to organise a seminar for people interested in exhibiting, to offer advice and assistance in preparing exhibits. The intention is to hold this event during SCOTEX in October, in Perth. I don’t have details of date and time as I write, but these will be announced in Scottish Philately, closer to the time.

A further call for your assistance in preparing **the centennial history**. If you have ever contributed to a society journal, however modestly, please let me have a note of the title of the journal. I would like to include a list of the journals which members have contributed to.

Postal Auction – Towards the end of last season the Auction Secretary resigned, but undertook to complete the then current auction. The Society thanks this member for their work in running the last three auctions. The vacant post was ‘advertised’ but no member came forward, however, before the end of last season some members had indicated they would be willing to help with an auction. At a subsequent committee meeting the new Treasurer undertook to see if a team of volunteers could be assembled from members who had shown interest in helping with future auctions. Progress is being made and at this stage it appears that a team will be assembled. Previously a date for the next auction had been set at 25 October 2008; it is not certain if that date is achievable. Those members who have contributed lots in the past, and those who have not but may wish to submit lots, are welcome to contact the Treasurer to ascertain the up to date situation. It is hoped that help and advice can be given to members who have not submitted lots for previous auctions.

The e-mail address for the postal auction is : auc@aberdeenphilatelic.org.uk