

## ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER: September 2009

Welcome, not just to another new season, but to the season in which we reach our centennial. The Society came into being on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 1910 when nine philatelists met in a solicitor's office in Union Street. We will celebrate that event to the day at the invitation of the Lord Provost on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010, except it will be a Tuesday, not a Thursday. The event at the Town House will take the form of a drinks reception finger buffet tea/coffee. Invitations will be sent out from the Lord Provost's office to members of the Society and a small number of guests. The total number in attendance will be about seventy but to enable an exact number to be negotiated with the Lord Provost's office, please let our Society Secretary know if you would like your partner to be included in the invitation. It would also be helpful to know if you will be unable to accept the invitation.

The preparations for the other events commemorating our centennial year are progressing. The following are the reports of those in charge of the arrangements for individual events.



The Librarian reports that an adhesive **centenary label** depicting the Merkatt Cross Post Office 1822 has been produced in sheets of 21. Sheets will be available at society meetings or directly from the Librarian. We hope that members will support these by purchasing 5 sheets at £2, or better still, 10 sheets costing only £3. Use them on all your mail.

The Centenary Exhibition coordinator reports that the Society's **exhibition in the Maritime Museum**, Ship Row, is confirmed as from 18 July to 14 November 2010. It will be a six-frame exhibition with the display changed every four weeks. The coordinator thanks all members who have offered material. All the frames are now spoken for and he will be in touch with exhibitors in the autumn to finalise the details. The event will be launched on Sunday 18 July with a 'Cheese and Wine' reception in the Education Room of the Maritime Museum. The event will be recognised as part of London 2010 Festival of Stamps, a year long programme of exhibitions, events and activities to mark the centenary of the accession of George V, the philatelist king, and will be listed on the Festival of Stamps website: <http://www.london2010.org.uk/exhibitions-and-events>.

The Congress Display coordinators report good progress in preparing for our **Host Society display at Congress** in Perth next April. They canvassed all the members who missed the initial request for a 16-sheet (1-frame) entry and wish to thank those who have responded. To date, 45 members have offered one frame. The remaining 15 frames will be filled from the archive and from some members whose initial response included a second frame with a different topic. If you offered five frames and have only been asked for one, why not enter the national competition? We need some entries from our Society in our centennial year.

**Pre-Congress display meetings.** As you will see from our 2009-10 syllabus, two meetings have been allocated to ensure that displays are ready in good time. All participants will be invited to bring their 16 sheets to show to the Society either in December or in January. A letter will be sent confirming the arrangements. We shall probably invite the A-M surnames to show at the first meeting and the N-Y at the second. Please make every effort to ensure that yours is ready by December. We will issue large size standard envelopes to hold each entry. If anyone does not have protective sleeves for their pages, please see the Librarian as these can be provided on loan. They can be purchased from Grampian Stamp Shop.

**The centennial history** entitled 'Aberdeen Philatelic Society 1910-2010 – a history of philately in northeast Scotland' has gone to press. It runs to 165 pages in A5 format with some 80 illustrations. We were eventually successful in a second application for financial assistance from Awards for All Scotland. To my surprise, I received letters from Nicol Stephen MSP and from Anne Begg MP congratulating us on the award. We have already received £1000 from the British Philatelic Trust. As a result of the second award, we anticipate covering the outstanding production costs from sales, with a very substantial discount for members. The publication date will probably be in January 2010, perhaps at the first meeting of the Society in the new year.

The RPSL Display coordinator reports that the quality and quantity of material offered for our **display at the Royal Philatelic Society London** has been overwhelming and is now fully subscribed, all 588 pages. In putting in place the 30+ pieces of the jigsaw it was necessary to scale back some contributions. Apologies to those members affected.

**Congress 2010** in Perth will be a two day event so that we have to be thinking of setting up on Thursday 15 April. A commemorative cover with an Aberdeen maritime theme will be available in time for the special centenary cancellation at Congress. The annual dinner at the Dewars Centre on Friday 16 April will, in effect, be our Society's centenary dinner, with our chosen guest speaker and our President presenting the Tom Reilly Memorial display. Entry forms for the national competitions at Perth will be available in October from the Newsletter Editor. Last year we were tremendously supportive of the open class. Please give serious consideration to an entry in any of the other classes in our centennial year. A sheet of "Advice to Exhibitors" is already available. With 2010 in mind, ASPS is organising another **Exhibitors' Seminar** in Perth at SCOTEX this year, on Friday 16 October at 2pm. There will be an opportunity for potential exhibitors to discuss with judges any sheets which they may have started to compile, or to raise any other questions which they may have.

We are due to make two reciprocal **visits to other societies** this season, on Thursday 12 November 2009 to Dundee and District PS and on Tuesday 16 March 2010 to Arbroath PS. If you are willing to give part of the evening's displays on either of those two occasions, please let our Secretary know.

One of our members' reports: **the late Ron Stables** had very kindly donated his stamps and his non-Scottish postal history to the Aberdeen PS. His Scottish postal history has gone to the Scottish Postal History Society. Yes, Ron did collect stamps! But they are an eclectic mix of what interested him AT THAT MOMENT, polite version: accurate version, a mess. His intention was to sell the collection to collectors for the maximum benefit of the Aberdeen Society. If any paid-up member of the Aberdeen Society wishes to enquire, on a first refusal basis, about any special interest please contact the Secretary in the first instance. Any items not bespoke will be offered in either the Christmas room auction, the winter society postal auction or, for particularly valuable items, a professional auction house.

**Congratulations** to the Librarian who topped the poll in the Open Competition at Congress last April. He was first out of seventeen entries with his one-frame display of 'The Schleswig-Holstein Question'. Congratulations also to the Treasurer on the award of the Jupp Quaich in recognition of his work on the new constitution.

The **next Society postal auction** will close on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Anyone wishing to enter lots please contact the Auction Secretary. Lots should be with the Auction Secretary by 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Congress 2009** is now a thing of the past but the report on the national exhibition is only available after the event. There were twelve competitive entries (one up on last year), with three gold medals awarded. Eight of the eleven available trophies were awarded. An innovation in the form of a picture postcard class attracted five entries, with one judged to be of a particularly high standard. The Junior competition attracted 39 entries, which is very heartening, albeit all of them were from Ayrshire and Aberdeen. The Open competition attracted no less than seventeen entries, mostly from the Aberdeen and Dundee societies.

Members **Subscriptions** to the Society are due in September for the season 2009-2010. The Treasurer will receive subscriptions at the opening night, in cash or by cheque, and it would be helpful if the enclosed form could also accompany your payment. The form is also seeking your address if you have moved house in the last year; and your email address if that has altered. The subscriptions for the coming year are:- Town Members £10.00, and Country Members £5.00.

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**Aberdeen Philatelic Society** **Subscription Renewal – Season 2009-2010**  
I enclose my subscription of - Town Member £10.00.     )  
  Country Member £5.00     ) *Delete as appropriate*

Name(*Print*)..... e-mail:.....

Address (*if changed*).....