

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER: January 2009

Constitutional Reform. As members may know, in Autumn 2008 as part of the preparations for our Centennial Year, an application was made to Awards for All for a grant to assist with the publication of "The History of Aberdeen PS". The application fell at the first hurdle, not being assessed because our constitution did not make it plain that we are a non profit-making body, that we did not have open membership, further that a person whose membership was withdrawn had no right of appeal and that it was not clear what would happen to the Society's assets in the event of it being wound up. At present, constitutional matters can only be dealt with at an AGM. There is no provision for calling an EGM in order to "tweak" the existing constitution. The principal advantages of becoming a "Non Profit-Making Body" are that (a) we will not be liable for tax on bank interest and (b) we can apply for grants for which such bodies are eligible. There is an element of opportunity as well as urgency in this; an opportunity to bring us up to date by way of "openness" and urgency to fund the book which is in draft.

As a result, a working group of four members have been beavering away re-drafting the constitution with two aims; firstly, to make sure the Society runs the way you, the members are used to, and secondly, to take the opportunity to move with the times as above. Since at present, only an AGM can amend the constitution, the proposed sequence of events is that the working group's "final" draft will be shared with the Committee by the end of January and then a copy of the Committee "approved" draft Constitution and Rules arising from it will be sent to all paid up members for consultation of matters of substance by the end of February. The constitution will then be presented to members for approval by majority vote at the April AGM.

Centenary Exhibition in Aberdeen. After an initial contact, the curator of the Maritime Museum, has agreed to a philatelic exhibit in the museum in the summer of 2010 (dates to be announced but likely to be between June and September) to celebrate our societies centenary year. On the 30th November three of the Centenary committee met with the curator and had a very useful meeting. Space for the exhibit is limited to five frames (each holding 16 sheets) and so it has been proposed that we might provide a 'rolling' display where over the four months of the exhibit it might be possible for 20 members to provide a single frame display (only 16 sheets) which would be on display for a month. The museum has a preference for but would not limit the subject matter to philatelic material with a maritime theme. Can we urge members to participate in this exhibition if they have any material that could be included? Ten members have already volunteered so we are only half way there, so please give this your consideration. This is one of three exhibits taking place to celebrate the society's centenary the others being the Congress display in April 2010 and the one to the Royal Philatelic Society London, probably also in 2010. Would the membership please consider participation in these events as well? Any of you who have participated in the club's 'letter night' or other participation evenings have material worthy of being on display at these exhibitions. Please consider this and if you have any questions please contact the relevant representative.

The Aberdeen Philatelic Society **Postal Auction number 23** ends on 30th January 2009. There are 900 lots covering both general and specialised areas throughout the world and there are many recession beating items to be bought, some with no reserve! January is the time to bid. The auction catalogue has been sent to all members and to about 800 non members including

philatelic society secretaries. Note that to keep costs down, anyone with an email address receives an electronic copy only. The catalogue is also available from this website . Our society needs your bids!

It is already time to be looking forward to the annual **ASPS Congress in Perth** on 17 and 18 April 2009, the penultimate event prior to our hosting of the meeting as part of our centenary celebrations. We look for some members of us to assist with the preparations on the ground this year, so that we are aware of what is expected of us in 2010. Another way in which we can prepare for 2010, when we will provide the major part of the exhibits, is to put together a one frame exhibit in the open competition in 2009. The open competition is the ultimately relaxed way to exhibit. There are no rules, other than the maximum number of pages (16) and their size (a normal album page is OK). The judges are all the people attending who chose to view the exhibits. Several of our members have exhibited in the past and one member has already expressed interest for this year so please consider joining in. It can be stamps, postal history, postcards, anything goes. Entry forms will be available from your ASPS delegate at the end of January and the actual exhibit can be taken to Perth on 17 April. For anyone interested in entering any of the classes of the national competition, the deadline for receipt of entry forms is 23 February and 8 March for actual receipt of the entry.

Another event which is deserving of support is the Junior Competition for collectors up to the age of 15 years and resident in Scotland. There is a one-sheet competition for first-timers and then there is the main competition which is divided into four age groups. If you know of a young collector who could be encouraged to participate (perhaps you could assist them), ask your ASPS delegate to let you have more information. The deadline for receipt of entry forms, so that frames can be reserved, is 22 February.

Congress this year is hosted jointly by the Edinburgh Stamp Group and the Lothian Postcard Club. Appropriately, a postcard competition will be introduced for the first time. A cover will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, as well as Peter Williamson, the founder of Edinburgh's Penny Post. The cover is big enough to take the Burns miniature sheet. There will also be a postcard for Congress, illustrating Burns' connection with Edinburgh. The Congress handstamp is based on the handstamp used by Peter Williamson's Edinburgh Penny Post which was functioning during the time of Burns' visit to Edinburgh. Your ASPS Delegate will have blank covers and cards at our Society meetings in advance of Congress and can arrange for them to be serviced for anyone unable to attend Congress. The Rielly Medal display will show extracts from Tom Rielly's collections, including Burnsiana and the speaker at the opening of the display on the Friday evening will be Peter Westwood, a scholar of the Bard.

Booking arrangements for the Congress dinner on the evening of the 17th April at the Dewars Centre will be announced through *Scottish Philately*. Rooms have been reserved at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Perth, for members attending the two days of Congress and are available on a bed and breakfast basis as follows: double/twin room - £42 pppn based on two sharing or £57 pppn based on single occupancy. To reserve a room call the hotel on 01738 628281 and ask to make a reservation under the Association's allocation. Contact a Committee member for the group booking reference number. The block booking will be reviewed on 1 March, so you are advised to book before then.