

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2012

The New Year is with us and philately will be a welcome relief from the festive season when the President entertains us on the 5th of January. Thereafter, we have the twenty-eighth consecutive alphabet night. Can anyone recall what they displayed twenty-eight years ago? If so, it might be interesting to put up the same sheets. If several were to do that, would it be apparent that the hobby had evolved and changed? Later this session, I am greatly looking forward to seeing Joe Ritchie's India, whilst the Belgian Congo is an unusual subject. Don't miss Francis Kiddle's display on 15th March. He is a well known author, international judge and a past-President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, who accepted our invitation to travel to us from the south of England, perhaps a response to our memorable centennial display to the Royal.

Report on Aberdeen Philatelic Society Auction 26. This years auction was the biggest yet with over 1400 lots. However this was on the limit of second class mailing for the catalogue and involved elaborate pressing to keep the width within 5mm - so next auction will be limited to about 1200 lots maximum. Bidders were down, vendors were up and fortunately sales were up on auction 25. As usual lighthouse material sold well and there's still a demand for GB QV. £500 will be forwarded to the Society and the auction assets hold about £100 of stamps for postage following a small purchase from Hamish Anderson's estate for mailing purposes.

The diary dates in the current syllabus contains an error which only came to light after it was prepared. The **2012 ASPS annual Congress** in Perth will be on 11th and 12th May, not 13th and 14th April. The reason for the late change is that the Dewar's Centre took a double booking and the other half of the double booking was for an entire week, so ASPS felt obliged to give way, particularly as the management of the Centre have always been very helpful with our annual event, as they also are with lots other philatelic meetings that take place there. We have certainly retained their good will. The host society in May is the Kirkcudbright PS, one of the smaller societies but with an enthusiastic membership and well able to provide an interesting Host-Society display. The Tom Rielly Memorial display and talk on the 11th May will be given by the President of the Kirkcudbright PS, Alex McCullough. The speaker at the Congress dinner on the Friday will be Alex Fergusson MSP, formerly Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. THEMATICA, the annual UK national thematic competition will also be part of the event and the displays will include four frames from the Hodson collection of India, held by the National Museum of Scotland and rarely seen outside the Museum. The usual number of dealers are expected to take tables.

The Congress cover and postmark will celebrate the bicentenary of the founding of the Red River Settlement as an agricultural colony in present Manitoba, North Dakota and Minnesota. It was the undertaking of Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk and a son of Kirkcudbright. He sought to relieve the dispossessed and impoverished in Scotland and Northern Ireland and secured enough control of the Hudson's Bay Company to obtain a grant of land. A colourful cover has been designed incorporating a relevant Canadian stamp. Blank covers will probably be available at our own society meetings in February and arrangements can be made to have them serviced. Further details of the timetable of events, hotel

accommodation in Perth and reservations for the annual dinner at the Dewar's Centre will be circulated in the Scottish Philatelist nearer the time. Incidentally, the annual Scottish regional meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London will be held on the Saturday of Congress and all will be welcome to attend, or to drop in for a while.

There is still plenty of time to enter an exhibit in one of the various classes. The Congress competitions are intended to provide an opportunity for collectors in Scotland to have a go at exhibiting, before perhaps going on to exhibit at UK national level if they find the experience satisfying. If you would like to learn more, go to the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies website and click on "national competition" or speak to your ASPS Delegate, Jeff Stone. The deadline for receipt of entry forms is 25 March and first time entries are free.

The Scottish Congress competitions are particularly relevant this year as planning is well ahead for the first UK national exhibition to be held in Scotland for twelve years. There will be no SCOTEX in 2012. It is replaced by PERTH 2012, an Association of British Philatelic Societies exhibition to be held in the Dewar's Centre, Perth, on 19th and 20th October. A local committee is meeting regularly in Perth, working in consultation with ABPS officials who are formally responsible. It is likely to be a much bigger exhibition than our annual Scottish Congress, with exhibitors and visitors from all over the UK and also from abroad. The event has been advertised in the Scandinavian countries and exhibits from the Nordic countries are anticipated, with possibly one or two members of the jury from Scandinavia. However, exhibits of subject matter other than Scandinavia will be equally welcome. A larger trade attendance than is usual for Scottish Congress can be anticipated for what is a UK national event, so there should be new dealers whom you may not have seen before. The exhibition is part of a larger event including the annual Philatelic Congress of GB which returns to Scotland after a long time and will be based in the Queens Hotel, Perth, over the period 20th to 22nd October. Congress of GB is more of a listening-to-papers-and-socialising event than looking at stamps in frames – for example, Hugh Jefferies, Editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly will give a talk on the usefulness of catalogue prices; there will also be two or three speakers from Scotland. For more information on both the exhibition and the Congress of GB, go to the PERTH 2012 website. Jeff Stone is the Competition Secretary for the exhibition and is happy to talk about both the exhibition and the Congress of GB.

EUROPHILEX 2015 is the designation of an international exhibition which has been announced for the Business Design Centre, Islington, London, from 13 to 16 May 2015 under the auspices of the Federation of European Philatelic Societies. This certainly fills the long ten year gap between international exhibitions in the UK and builds on the successful experiment of locating an international exhibition in the BDC, rather than more prestigious but costly venues like Olympia. I guess some will wonder whether it should have been located outside London but at least they know it is feasible in the same venue as LONDON 2010. There will be some 1200 frames, so only one round of frames by comparison with LONDON 2010 and no doubt lots more entries than can be accepted from all over Europe, so the standard of displays should be very high. A wide range of stand-holders is promised.

Apologies that the subject matter of this newsletter has been largely about exhibitions, which may not be of interest to everyone, but there doesn't seem to be much society news to report this time. A reminder, if I may, that the Newsletter is open to all contributors and even if not inclined to write yourself, you might like to suggest a topic for discussion in future issues.