

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2020

Forthcoming meetings: As usual we begin the new year with the annual alphabet night on 16th January, with everyone invited to participate if they wish. This year it is letter 'I', so perhaps we will see some India, Iceland, Ireland, Italy or Israel, or we might even see some Ioni or Ionian Islands. If not 'I' by country then perhaps 'I' by subject. We all have some imperfs and somebody might be able to produce some ivory heads, imprint blocks or inverted surcharges. Anything from one to ten sheets is welcome and nothing is ever rejected, however obscure the connection with the letter I, indeed the more obscure the connection, the better.

Things are on the up? A recent financial report by Stanley Gibbons says that the firm increased its revenue by 34% in the last six months, driven by its philatelic operations with sales doubling. I don't suppose that this is an indication of Gibbons selling its stock cheaply, so does it mean more collectors around, or more collectors anxious to buy before LONDON 2020? I wonder how many of Gibbon's shareholders are also collectors.

Aberdeen Art Gallery. Have you visited the newly refurbished Art Gallery which reopened last November? It is much to be recommended, with major alterations to the exhibition space (22 small galleries) and much improved exhibits – not just rows of pictures. On the entirely new floor 3, there is a very colourful exhibit of 'Aberdeen at Leisure' with many large photos by Martin Parr, including sixteen colour photographs of remote Scottish post boxes.

P J Anderson Scroll; At a recent meeting of the committee, the archivist enquired whether a more permanent home might be sought for an item in the Society's archives, namely, the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists scroll awarded to Peter John Anderson in 1921. P J Anderson was Librarian of Aberdeen University and a founder member of our society. He is also the first signatory on the Roll, after King George V, so it is something of a historic document. It is illustrated on page 129 of your copy of *Aberdeen Philatelic Society 1910-2010* (if you don't have a copy, let the secretary know – there are still a few copies remaining). The certificate is mounted behind glass in a frame and is currently stored in the archivist's loft. It is safe for the time being, but there will inevitably come a time when it will have to be found a new home. The proposal is that it should be offered to the museum of the Royal Philatelic Society London, a professionally run and accredited museum. No decision has been made pending consultation of the membership. Anyone who would like to express a view, please let it be known at the AGM or to any member of the committee.

Fancy buying **the world's oldest post office?** The Sanquhar Post Office, Dumfries & Galloway is on the market together with a 3-bedroom cottage for £275,000. It opened in 1712 and if it does not find a buyer, it will close and the title of the world's post office will go to Sweden where there is an office which opened in 1720. There is currently no stamp club in Sanquhar so the new owner could start one and provide first day facilities for its members.

Parables from Stamps. Our member Graham Perfett has donated a copy of a book entitled *Parables from Stamps for Old and Young* by Christie Innes, no date of publication but possibly going back to c.1938 judging by the illustrations. The intriguing connection is that the author is described as 'Formerly of the Aberdeen and North of Scotland Philatelic Society' and pasted on the inside of the front cover is a newspaper cutting headed 'Exile Returns to

Preach' and a photo of the author. He is described as an Aberdonian who emigrated in 1938 to Toledo, Ohio and has returned to preach in St Machar Cathedral. The society has an excellent membership record up to the 1950s in the form of current lists which were printed in every annual syllabus. However, his name does not appear in the lists. Can anyone shed any light on this ecclesiastical philatelist with Aberdonian origins?

The host society at the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies' annual **Congress at the Dewars Centre in Perth** on 17th and 18th April 2020 will be the Perth Philatelic Society who will provide the Host Society display which always includes a great variety of collecting interests, often presented in novel ways. As usual, the host society is producing a cover and also a miniature sheet. They promise "an abundance of host society exhibits". The Guest of Honour who will be invited to speak at the annual dinner, will be the Earl of Kinnoull. Apparently he is a member of the society so he will be well able to give a pertinent address. The booking form for the annual dinner will be available later and will be circulated.

The entry form for the ASPS competitive exhibition is on the ASPS website, available for down loading. The Rules and Advice to Exhibitors is also on the ASPS website at www.scottishphilately.co.uk and is helpful reading, particularly for first time entrants. The various classes are Traditional non-GB pre-1900, Traditional non-GB post 1900, Traditional GB, Aerophilately, Thematic, Social Philately, Postal History, Scottish Postal History, Literature, Cinderella and Postcards. The social class is an earlier form of open class.

The deadline for the receipt of entry forms for the ASPS exhibition is 2nd March and exhibits must be in the hands of the competition secretary by 16th March, as judging will take place shortly thereafter. Entry forms for the ASPS annual 'Peoples' Choice' open competition, a one-frame competition judged by visitors to Congress without any rules as to content, and not to be confused with the more formal ABPS open class, is also available on the ASPS website. Entry forms for this easy going competition have to be in the hands of the coordinator by 1st March. The entry itself will be required to be with the secretary by 14th April 2020, or, by arrangement, can be delivered to the Bin Room at Congress by noon on 16th April. No doubt there will be someone travelling down to Perth on the morning of the 16th, who could take an entry and hand it in, if there is anyone who would like to contribute but won't be in Perth until the 17th or 18th. It is a fun competition, and worth supporting.

Aberdeen PS to host Congress in 2022? Host societies for future events have been decided for as far ahead as 2028 but so far no society has come forward with an offer to host Congress in 2022. Our society has been approached to see if we would be willing to take it on. The committee has had a preliminary review of what would be involved and will meet again shortly to further consider the question. It is quite a major undertaking and no final decision has been made, but time is already short and a decision must be made soon, preferably in time for the society's delegate to inform ASPS Council of our decision at its next meeting at the end of January. If we do take it on, one of the consequences will be that members will be asked to put together at least one frame of 16 sheets on any subject for the Host's Society display. If any member has views on the subject, please advise the President as soon as possible.

The next postal auction of the Society will be on 19th March 2020. Lots to be submitted by mid January 2020 - please contact Mike Longhurst on aberdeenpsauction@btinternet.com.

Forthcoming Fairs for your diary. *15 February, 2020* Montrose stamp and postcard fair 10am-3pm, Hillside Village Hall, Dubton Road, Hillside DD10 9HB.

7 March 2020 Grampian Postcard Club Fair, 10am-4pm, Garioch Heritage Centre, Loco Works Road (off Harlow Road), Inverurie AB51 4FY. There will probably be at least six dealers for coin, stamp and postcard enthusiasts, including Peter Miller.

25 April 2020 Grampian Stamp and Postcard Fair, 10.30am-3.30pm, Aberdeen, Queen's Cross Parish Church Halls, Albyn Place AB10 1YN.