

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2023

Syllabus 2022-2023: Our programme of meetings for the second half of the season will be quite substantially altered and a revised syllabus will be circulated by the Secretary. The immediate change to be aware of is that the 'Alphabet Night' scheduled for 12th January will be replaced by the auction which was cancelled on 15th December because of bad weather. Our annual mid-season auction is always a popular meeting and no doubt members had prepared lots which they intended to offer, so let's hope for better weather.

Alphabet Night with the letter 'K' will still be on the syllabus but a little later than originally scheduled so a little more time to prepare a contribution. That will not be a problem for anyone who collects Kenya, Kelantan, Korea or Kuwait, or for GB collectors who have the entire period of KEVII, KE VIII, KGV and KGVI (although KCIII might be a little more of a challenge). Otherwise, there is lots of scope in killer cancellations, key types, kiloware, kangaroos or kopeks, not to mention КОПБЙКА.

The Postal Auction Secretary reports: Our postal auction, number 37, is scheduled for March 16th 2023. Last date for lots is 12th January please, to Mike Longhurst.

The Packet Secretary reports that there are five packets in circulation and another three to go so keep up the good work in passing them along. Get in touch with Fred Jefferies if you would like to be included in the circulation.

Members may have noticed a very unusual auction sale held last month by David Feldman of the artifacts and tools of the trade of the greatest forger of them all, **Jean de Sperati**. This was not a sale of his facsimiles/replicas/forgeries but a sale of the items used by Sperati to create his reproductions. There were 136 lots of clichés, copper plates, matrices, proofs, etc., even the extraordinary pair of binocular spectacles which he wore when at work. The lots are listed by country, some sixty countries in all, including Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, France, Great Britain, India, Mauritius, Persia, Russia, South Africa and US. I have a copy of the well-illustrated hard-bound catalogue. If anyone would like to see, or have a photo-copy/scan of any particular country, let me know which country and if it is on the list, I will try to provide (Ed.). Not all the lots found a buyer but some high prices were realised.

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies annual Congress will take place on 14th-15th April 2023 at the Dewars Centre, Perth where Dundee & District Philatelic Society will be hosts. Twenty-six dealers have so far signed up to attend and more are expected. If you are considering an entry into the ASPS national competition, all the details, including entry forms, are on the ASPS website. There is a new Open Class for the first time this year, with the former Social Philately class now subsumed into the Postal History class. Also, an Association of British Philatelic Societies UK-wide national competition will be held concurrently with the Scottish competitions. Details are on the ABPS website, in case you are minded to enter. It is possible to have a single entry in both competitions, where they will be separately judged. The closing dates for entries into the ASPS competitions is 27th February for receipt of entry forms and 13th March for receipt of entries.

However, you will recall that Aberdeen PS will be hosting Congress in 2024. If you do have a competitive exhibit in mind, you might perhaps consider entering it in 2024. It would be good to have some entries in the national competitions from Aberdeen in our year as hosts. Lots of contributions will be required from our members for the host-Society display but the requirements for entries in the national competition are quite different to the 'anything goes' situation for the host-society displays so it is not a case of one or the other. After all, the only requirement for the host society display is that it fills one frame equivalent to 16 pages.

Who hasn't got a cover which is looking scruffy to the point that you hesitate to display it? There are various tricks used to brighten up badly soiled or damaged covers, but will permanent damage result? It is possible to have stamps and covers professionally restored with the aim of stabilizing their condition and preventing further deterioration whilst also improving their appearance. An article on this subject appeared in the Philatelic Traders' Society Collector Handbook last year which described the work of a conservation studio specialising in the conservation of philatelic material with the work done to professional conservation standards. It is certainly not cheap but the cost might well be justified for a rare item. It might even enhance the value. There are details at www.thestamprestorer.com