

ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER: September 2008

The group who have been charged with carrying the **Centenary celebrations** forward, including Scottish Congress 2010, convened on 19 June when good progress was made. Turning first to our commitments as Host Society at Congress, the encouraging range of offers to provide one-frame exhibits was reviewed. A few more participants would widen the variety of exhibits, so please volunteer if you can offer 16 pages on any country or theme of your choice, including postcards, if you wish. Our Librarian has agreed to act as co-ordinator of the display, so have a word if you have not yet indicated your participation. Our Guest of Honour and speaker at the Congress dinner will be Susan Oliver, a professional philatelist now retired whose career included many years with the auction firm of Robson Lowe, currently an ABPS executive committee member who has displayed to our Society. The Tom Rielly Memorial 10-frame display and talk will be given by one of our members, probably deploying some topical items from Afghanistan. Our Librarian, who volunteered to produce a commemorative cover, has been ably assisted by another member, and they will organise both the cover and the hand-stamp. It would be very helpful if some members would travel to Perth early on the Friday of the 2009 Congress to assist in erecting frames, so that several of us are familiar with what is required of us in 2010.

Turning to other aspects of our centennial celebrations, we await a response to our offer of a display to the Royal Philatelic Society London, but in anticipation of a favourable response, enquiries to the committee please. Our Secretary has made preliminary enquiries with Aberdeen Art Gallery about a public centennial display by the Society and a meeting with the Exhibitions Officer is being arranged. If this can be arranged it will amount to a significant contribution to the nation-wide Festival of Stamps in 2010. There will be a civic reception hosted by the Lord Provost to mark our centennial. After much discussion, it was agreed that we should not proceed with an offer to host the Philatelic Congress of GB in Aberdeen in 2010, nor to hold a celebratory dinner in Aberdeen in addition to the Scottish Congress dinner in Perth, which will be very much our show. An illustrated centennial history of the Society is in draft. The publishing costs for a 200 print-run amount to approximately £2400. We have received a grant of £1000 from the British Philatelic Trust and will be applying to Awards for All Scotland for further financial assistance. The Society has received a very generous donation to the centenary fund from a member of long standing, which will undoubtedly help to ensure the success of the various events.

Your committee, meeting in May, considered the proposal made at the AGM in April, that we investigate **alternative premises** for our fortnightly meetings, in an effort to reduce costs. The committee decided not to follow up this proposal, following numerous representations from members who did not wish to remove to a more inaccessible location.

The **centenary-fund raffle** introduced last season raised £179, thanks to its organisation by one of the members. It will continue in the coming season and donations of prizes are sought.

Members **Subscriptions** to the Society are due in September for the season 2008-09. 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 you have one, with a view to issuing future Newsletters by this means where possible, to keep your Society's costs down. 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 2008-09**

I enclose my subscription of - Town Member £10.00.)
 Country Member £5.00) *Delete as appropriate*

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

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

Congratulations to the Librarian on the award of vermeil at the ABPS exhibition in Harrogate in May, for his exhibit in the traditional philately class of “The Square Stamps of Denmark 1851-1864”. Congratulations also to the retiring Treasurer who received the Society’s Jupp award for 2008, in recognition of his service to the Society as its Treasurer for many years.

The **exchange packet** is a familiar feature of every meeting and the Packet Secretary is now considering the possibility of introducing a new and additional packet which will allow members to sell stamps without spending time mounting each one in a booklet. It will be called something like the “Penny Packet” in which contributors submit stamps in envelopes supplied by the Packet Secretary, with one selling price for the stamps in each envelope, perhaps 1p, 2p, 3p or 5p. The hope is that packets can be passed by hand between members, so that they can be viewed at home. Please let the Packet Secretary have your views on this proposal.

For those with on-line facilities, the philatelic collections webpages of the **British Library** have been re-launched and make interesting browsing. The BL is shortly to publish a set of four philatelic postcards illustrating items from the collections including the 1d black, the USA 1918 flying Jenny inverted and spectacular 1933 high value stamps from Sierra Leone and Falkland Islands. These will only be available to callers at the BL shop. Perhaps any visitor from the Society can take orders.

Congress 2008 is now a thing of the past but the report on the national exhibition is only available after the event. There were eleven competitive entries and medals were awarded ranging from gold to bronze. Seven of the eleven available trophies were awarded. Whereas aerophilately and social philately were strongly supported, surprisingly, there were no entries in the thematic or postal history classes. Looking ahead to next year, we will see an innovation in the form of a picture postcard class. Guidelines have been compiled and I already have a copy together with an entry form. The postcard competition secretary has deliberately made the documentation available early, to allow plenty of time for aspiring entrants to prepare entries. If you would like a copy, please let me know. Still looking ahead, ASPS hopes to organise a seminar for people interested in exhibiting, to offer advice and assistance in preparing exhibits. The intention is to hold this event during SCOTEX in October, in Perth. I don’t have details of date and time as I write, but these will be announced in Scottish Philately, closer to the time.

A further call for your assistance in preparing **the centennial history**. If you have ever contributed to a society journal, however modestly, please let me have a note of the title of the journal. I would like to include a list of the journals which members have contributed to.

Postal Auction – Towards the end of last season the Auction Secretary resigned, but undertook to complete the then current auction. The Society thanks this member for their work in running the last three auctions. The vacant post was ‘advertised’ but no member came forward, however, before the end of last season some members had indicated they would be willing to help with an auction. At a subsequent committee meeting the new Treasurer undertook to see if a team of volunteers could be assembled from members who had shown interest in helping with future auctions. Progress is being made and at this stage it appears that a team will be assembled. Previously a date for the next auction had been set at 25 October 2008; it is not certain if that date is achievable. Those members who have contributed lots in the past, and those who have not but may wish to submit lots, are welcome to contact the Treasurer to ascertain the up to date situation. It is hoped that help and advice can be given to members who have not submitted lots for previous auctions.

The e-mail address for the postal auction is : auc@aberdeenphilatelic.org.uk