



*Postmark*

*Issue*

*# 166*

*Autumn*

*2025*



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## EDITOR'S COLUMN:

by Steve Gerrard. [sdpseditor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sdpseditor@hotmail.co.uk)

August 2025

As I write my final column for 2025 it has been an interesting 12 months with good speakers, some very good auctions and our new venue is working well. Numbers range from as low as 12 up to 25 per meeting but we would like to see this increase in 2026. With Kevin at the helm, the society has been steered in the right direction and the rest of the committee have put their time in to make the society what it is today. Our membership stands at the 140 number with a number of members having passed over the last 12 months meaning the Society has to take some drastic measures.

In 2026 we will start with an increase in membership to £15.00 (Electronic) or £25.00 (Printed) but society subscriptions have not been raised since pre 2005. We will be dropping from 4 Postmarks to 3 being issued in January, April & August. With the loss of 1 publication per year, I envisage that the other 3 issues will increase slightly in the number of pages to accommodate this. The library will be greatly thinned out due to the lack of storage and so we will only keep Society Publications, Local Publications & recent Stanley Gibbons Catalogues and finally there will be no competitions.

So 2026 looks a bit bleak, but we have to look at things in a certain light and this has been simple, subscriptions have not been raised for about 20 years, we no longer have the storage we had in Bugle Street, members no longer want competitions and only borrowed a very few books so we have to do what the members want and look at other things that the committee can do to add value to the Society.

My sincere thanks go to all the following who have contributed to this issue, in alphabetical order: Austin, Patrick / Blundell, Steve / Bradshaw, Mel / Bruce, Peter / Chard, Kevin / Coe, Malcolm / Jones, Julian / Montgomery, Malcolm / Rankin, Jim / Sheppard, Reg / Torreggiani, Mike / Watts, Mike.

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## PACKET MANAGER REPORT :

By Melvyn Bradshaw (Packet Manager).

August 2025

Fifteen boxes have been audited and paid to date. Total sales in these boxes amounted to £6,726, with the Society receiving £724 in commission, non-member levy and donations. At the moment, twenty-two boxes are in circulation or prepared for circulation, including a box supplied by the Isle of Wight Society. Sales in these boxes amount to a little over £4,174.

Four boxes are currently on the Isle of Wight, and four boxes awaiting transfer to the island. The number of boxes being taken to the island has been increased owing to the good sales from recent boxes which have circulated there. The decision to take more boxes to the island does mean that it takes longer for the full circulations to be completed and hence later audit and payment.

There have been several delays in passing on boxes recently, these have now been resolved. But to maintain good turnover it is important that members do not retain boxes for more than 3 days per box, that is 6 days when receiving two boxes. Please ensure boxes received by you are moved on as soon as possible.

Banks are now beginning to charge for cheques that are cashed, and therefore if you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact me for the bank details. If you wish to continue to pay by cheque you may do so but only send one cheque to cover all purchases from the boxes concerned. However, I am having to ask for all packet members to return payment slips to me by Royal Mail, whether you pay by transfer or cheque. Alternatively, slips can be given to me directly at a Society meeting in either Southampton or Chandler's Ford. I have decided to make this change as on several occasions I have received no notification of a payment (until I come to audit the box) and the slip copies sent by email are often of poor quality, have to be printed by me and are difficult to read. There remains no need to send a 'nil purchase' slip to me. As ever, I ask

**IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY IF YOU MOVE OR CHANGE / CANCEL YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE DETAILS ETC. STEVE BLUNDELL - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.**

## PACKET MANAGER REPORT :

By Melvyn Bradshaw (Packet Manager).

(Continued).

August 2025

members to complete slips carefully and ensure all purchases from booklets are entered correctly on the book front and on the slip.

Although we have a reasonable number of booklets ready for future boxes, new booklets are always welcome. Prinz, which supplied us with philatelic material, has ceased trading. However, I do have a new supply of empty club booklets from Dauwalders. If you require booklets, I will bring empty ones to meetings or post them to you. The current cost is now 35p per booklet, or 3 for £1.00, plus postage where relevant. Thank you everyone for your support. If you need to contact me, please use my mobile phone number, 07973 696291, or by my email (melbradshaw44@gmail.com).

## ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY:

By Reg Sheppard (Librarian).

August 2025

This addition to the library is entitled 'The Aviation History and Airmails of Bulawayo to 1940'. The book has been donated by the author, member John Berridge.



Recently published by the Rhodesian Study Circle, this 173-page fully illustrated book provides much in-depth background information of the period from 1896 to the start of WWII. Although a specialised subject, any members interested in the Airmails and Aviation history of South Africa will find this book a well-researched and fascinating read.

Image taken from Postmark No. 130, Summer 2016, Member Profile No.17.

## **2025 PROGRAM ~ SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER.**

**By Patrick Austin (Programme Secretary).**

**August 2025**

### **SEPTEMBER:**

2nd September - The Republic of Venice 1200-1797. Bill Hedley (Speaker).

11th September - Afternoon Meeting at Chandler's Ford.

16th September - Members Evening and 16 Sheets in 5 Minutes.

20th September - HAMPEX.

30th September - Russia. An Introduction to the Postal History of the Zemstovs. Terry Page. (ZOOM).

### **OCTOBER:**

7th October - Alfred Noble, the Peace Prize & Laureates. Grace Davies. (Speaker).

9th October - Afternoon Meeting Chandler's Ford.

14th October - Committee Meeting.

21st October - Auction.

22nd To 25th October - STAMPEX.

28th October - Mails Under London - Len Stanway (ZOOM).

**(Change of Speaker).**

### **NOVEMBER:**

4th November - West Indies. James Podger. (Speaker).

13th November - Afternoon Meeting Chandler's Ford.

18th November - Member's Evening Letter 'F'.

25th November - Speaker to be confirmed. (ZOOM).

### **DECEMBER:**

2nd December - Liberty & All the Colours of the Rainbow. Sue Lambert. (Speaker).

11th December - Afternoon Meeting Chandler's Ford & Christmas refreshments.

16th December - No Meeting.

## CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS: By Kevin Chard (Chairman).

August 2025

The Society continues in a vibrant manner in 2025 – there are changes but equally so many things stay the same, especially the spirit and camaraderie of our members.

Our new venue for Tuesday evening, Holy Saviour at Bitterne, is working out well. Attendances may be very similar to Bursledon but there is a change in the atmosphere – meetings seem to be more casual and more buoyant. An excellent example would be the August meeting when our speaker was unable to attend and we had to send out a last-minute amendment and call for displays for a members' style evening. We ended up with far more material to display than we could cope with, a quiz and an informal and enjoyable evening.

If you have not tried the new venue yet, I would strongly recommend you give this a try and see how it works for you.

Attendances for our Auction evenings have been strong. We have plenty of space and even partial air conditioning – unlikely to need that in October but it helped in June! We have limited storage and that is helping me as Auctioneer.

Storage though remains an issue. See later in Postmark for information about the Library and our need to downsize. If anyone can assist with storage space then please let any Committee member know.

Another downsize / change has been to our Competition programme – we now only hold a Members Competition and the Single Sheet Competition. We held out longer than all other Clubs in Hampshire but this appears to be something that does not appeal to the next generation of stamp collectors.

## CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS:

By Kevin Chard (Chairman). (Continued).

August 2025.

### **Europhilex 2025.**



The Society dropped two meetings in the May programme to allow members to attend Europhilex 2025 in May.

For the first time ever, apparently, the ABPS has decided to move this international exhibition out of London with the event being held at the NEC, Birmingham. This allowed for more space with two exhibition halls being used.

This is the five-yearly British international stamp exhibition with 2,000 frames of exhibits from 40 countries and over 60 dealers and trade stands. Many great rarities were on display including the world's most expensive stamp, the British Guiana 1 cent magenta of 1856.

I attended the event on the first day – this does mean paying to get in but also means that the halls and dealers are quieter making it easier to browse and study.

The NEC is an excellent venue once you have mastered its vast size. It has plenty of facilities in the Halls and nearby, good transport links / parking and a choice of hotels on site.

All good so far. I stayed overnight after Wednesday but did not need to – it was easy to take it all in in the day, especially, I suppose, because it was a quieter day. Two Halls were booked but all the space was not used and the



## CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS:

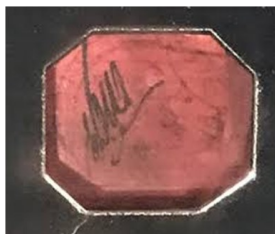
By Kevin Chard (Chairman). (Continued).

August 2025

layout was still spacious.

There was a good range of dealer stands but not sure they reached the advertised 60 and it was probably similar to other large national events – although more than we see at Hampex. What was disappointing was the lack of an international element especially from postal agencies – the Isle of Man stand was not manned and contained only leaflets.

I was able to have a chat with many of the dealers, including a couple that no longer come to Hampex. An interesting aside is that both gave the same reason for not attending – the travel for a single day event, they would come if it were a 2 day event. Something to consider perhaps by us on the South Coast.



It was interesting to see the 1 cent magenta. Security was in evidence and I understand the exhibit attracted a queue on some days. Not so on day 1! Interesting but not overwhelming – it is after all a small piece of paper you can see but not touch.

The highlight was certainly the other exhibits – saw things here that have never seen before or in multiples or studies that would stretch any budget.

So, overall, a good event but not an amazing event – unlikely we will drop our meeting dates in future years.





# SOUTHAMPTON POSTAL HISTORY UPDATE:

By Steve Gerrard (Archivist).

August 2025

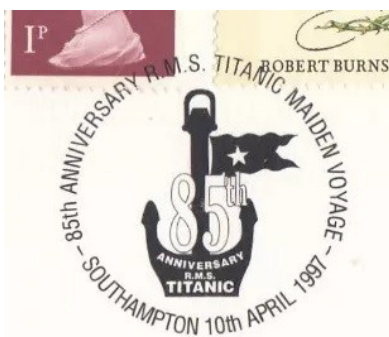
I am currently updating Brian Hunt's work and have been recording and producing a document of updates that brings Brian's work up to date from 1994 to present day. This includes Instruction Marks, Meter Machine Cancells, Philatelic Council Cancellations, Circular Cancellations, Machine Cancells, Southampton Aviation Commemorative Cancells, Maritime Commemorative Cancells, Paquebot, Southampton Branch Offices, Southampton Commemorative Cancells, Miscellaneous, Labels, Slogan Marks, Local Publicity Slogans and new additions to Brian Hunt's catalogue not recorded elsewhere and currently 76 pages and growing.



6.8.2021 - First Person to Sail Non-Stop Westwards Around The World.



10th April 1997 - 85th Anniversary R.M.S. Titanic Maiden Voyage .



15th January 2022 - Formation of HM Coastguard 1822 - 2022.

**TO SEE THE 2025 PROGRAMME & KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS**

*Visit our website [www.southamptondps.org.uk](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk)*

## CLUB MEETINGS MAY To JULY 2025.

By Julian Jones (Society President). August 2025



**Left: Julian Jones S&DPS President and Right :  
Speaker Brian Hague.**

In June the speaker was Brian Hague, our member living in York, who gave us an excellent in person display on *Edwardian Era Pageants*. Brian explained how the idea of pageants was first started in Sherborne, Dorset, in 1905. This was followed by one in Warwick directed by Mr F R Benson in 1906 and by Pageants organised by him in Romsey in 1907 and Winchester in 1908.

Brian then illustrated York's Pageant in 1909 with a cast of thousands made up of the local community. His talk was illustrated by picture postcards recording the Episodes telling the story of York's development. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive evening.

Our speaker in July was David Walker on the topic of the explorer *Richard E Byrd* who became famous as an aviator and leader of American expeditions to Little America in Antarctica. David showed many covers bearing cachets associated with Byrd's expeditions backed by voluminous ephemera of the period providing detailed background to the staffing and logistics of these forays into the then unknown. A fascinating and enjoyable evening's display.

Zoom meetings were held at the end of May: *Postal History of the British Forces in Egypt 1932-1936* by Julian Bagwell and the end of June: *Switzerland - Stamps from 1900, with Special Emphasis on William Tell* by George Henshilwood. The July zoom meeting is *Hurtigruten - 130 years* by Brian Dow.

There was no speaker in early May as our normal meeting date clashed with EuroPhilex. YouTube recordings of the Zoom meetings may be viewed on Southampton Society's website: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html> .

## MINT GB STAMPS FOR POSTAGE.

By Mike Watts (Treasurer).

August 2025

**D**o you use old mint GB stamps for postage?

If you do, the Society has a supply of mint low value (1p, 2p, 5p & a few 10p) bar coded stamps which could be used as “make up” values if you can’t get the stamps you already have to add up exactly to the amounts you need.

Small supplies are offered to members free of charge while stocks last.

Contact Mike Watts phone 023 80454131 or e-mail -  
[mikewatts632@btinternet.com](mailto:mikewatts632@btinternet.com)

If you are a regular attender, Mike will have a supply to give out on request, at Society meetings.

## WORLD STAMP COLLECTION.

By Mike Torreggiani (Society Member).

August 2025

**M**ike Torreggiani has cleared an all world stamp collection of 100+ albums. The collection consists of some good commonwealth including a quantity of Indian states and modern material and a sparser rest of the world. There is a good collection of Israel, Russia after 1960, Yugoslavia and similar. Members are invited to enquire as to what is available. Mike will look through the albums and extract requests! He will advise a price which can be negotiable plus the cost of postage. The Society will receive a percentage of the selling price. Scans for smaller lots can be provided on request. Please contact Mike by email in the first instance – [mtwight@btinternet.com](mailto:mtwight@btinternet.com). All the material is on the Isle of Wight.

## CHANDLER'S FORD MEETINGS.

By Peter Bruce (Convenor).

August 2025

Our May meeting was cancelled this year because it clashed with the EuroPhilex exhibition taking place at the NEC in Birmingham, so only three meetings took place this quarter.

June was a normal "Show and Tell", with displays of 1971 Strike Mail, coins on stamps and Southern Rhodesia issues amongst the items we enjoyed.



July was our Summer Social afternoon, ably catered for by Cathy and Debbie with sandwiches, cakes and fresh strawberries in place of our normal biscuits. We usually try to encourage bringing along something to our socials other than stamps which our members collect, and we had a varied selection this year. Poole Pirates Speedway programmes, items found by metal detecting, bird ringing records and enamelled pill pots were enthusiastically presented.

The August meeting was a members' auction so no displays were shown. Some lots were enthusiastically bid for and some lots were completely ignored! Such is the way of auctions. Hopefully one or two bargains were found. The list of unsold items is now on the Society website so you have a second chance to obtain items.

# THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY LIBRARY.

By Reg Sheppard (Librarian).

August 2025

Ever since the Society had to leave its meeting venue in Bugle Street, it has been unable to find a permanent storage solution for its library. The temporary storage it is using will come to an end in May 2026.

The committee has reluctantly made the following decision.

The following library items will be retained by the Society:-

- Those relating to the postal history of Southampton and surrounding area;
- Stanley Gibbons (recent) catalogues;
- Publications by society members.

This will require a much smaller storage site and if any members can help with this, please let us know.

Library items not in the categories above are now offered to members free, or for a small discretionary donation. A complete list of titles is on the society website. If any members do not have internet access, hard copy lists can be provided.

Any items not taken by members by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 will be offered to auction houses or other societies. Any items remaining as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 will, very reluctantly, be sent for recycling. This has been a difficult decision for the committee to make but bearing in mind in the last 18 months, only 2 requests to borrow from the library have been received, it was not considered good use of the society's resources to seek a professional storage solution.

**To request any titles from the library Contact Mike Watts phone 023 80454131 e-mail [mikewatts632@btinternet.com](mailto:mikewatts632@btinternet.com)**

**To let us know if you can help with future storage or to request a hard copy list of library titles Contact Reg Sheppard phone 023 80777416 e-mail [reg.sheppard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:reg.sheppard@yahoo.co.uk)**

## NEW BOOK.

Via Peter Bruce (Chandler's Ford Convenor).

August 2025

I have received the following message regarding information for GB, George VI collectors. If this is of interest, please contact Mike Stratford direct.

Hi, may I take this opportunity of introducing you to my recently published book –

A STUDY OF THE CONSTANT FLAWS WITH OTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES OF GEORGE VI 1946 – 1951. 277 pages of research undertaken over the last three years and contains as many of the individual cylinders (dot/no dot) of the issues mentioned above.

A fuller description can be seen on eBay listing number 177202903916

Should any of your members require a copy for their records (providing a valuable source for selling individual, blocks or part sheets) I am able to offer 15% off the retail price when buying directly from myself. Details provided on request.

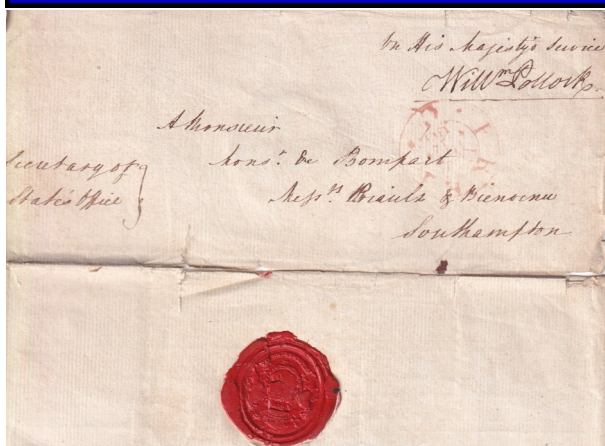
Many thanks and I hope to hear from you soon –

Mike Stratford [georgeviflawsforum@gmail.com](mailto:georgeviflawsforum@gmail.com)

## SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE.

By Steve Gerrard (Curator Postal History).

August 2025



A letter from London to Southampton from William Pollock (Secretary of State's Office) in his Majesty's Service.



## ZOOM SESSIONS May – July 2025.

By Malcolm Coe (ZOOM Co-ordinator).

Malc.coe@gmail.com

August 2025

Since the last issue of Postmark we have enjoyed three excellent Zoom events. Attendance remains good, 25 attended the most recent one. It would be great to have a few more SDPS members attending to encourage our speakers who put so much effort into their presentations. We run an open doors policy so anyone outside of SDPS may request to be put on our Guests List – just contact me at the address at the bottom of this article if you or a friend want to join the mailing list.

In May we had a very entertaining zoom talk from Julian Bagwell. His title was "British Forces in Egypt 1932-36. It was a fascinating presentation in which he showed all the specialist stamps created for the British forces to send their mail back to the UK.

### BFE 1933 ISSUE

There were two changes in 1933. The 1 piastre stamp was reprinted with the same design as the previous year, except that the words 'Postal Seal' had been replaced by 'Letter Seal'. In all other aspects the design remained unaltered; the text was the same, apart from the switch from Postal to Letter, and the main design feature was still the NAAFI logo. The print run was again by Hanbury Tomsett in London and 516,000 stamps were printed.



Mint 1 Piastre Stamp  
1933 Issue



Used 1 Piastre Stamp  
1933 Issue

There was no change to the design of the Xmas seal. Although the stamp was only valid for unsealed mail during the Christmas period, the decision was taken to change the colour from the previous year. Again a local printing used the same die, but the ink colour was changed from black to brown lake.



Mint 3 mls Xmas Seal  
1933 Issue



Used 3 mls Xmas Seal  
1933 Issue



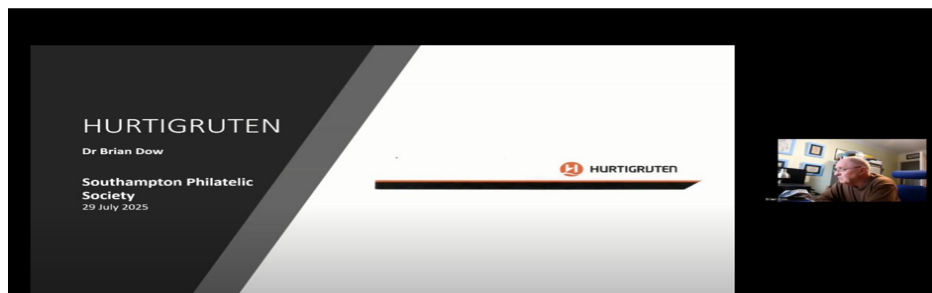
**ZOOM SESSIONS May – July 2025.**  
**By Malcolm Coe (ZOOM Co-ordinator).**  
**(Continued). Malc.coe@gmail.com**

**August 2025**

For our June talk we welcomed George Henshilwood with the title “William Tell on stamps”. Again, another excellent presentation for the stamp collectors amongst us. An entertaining display of the several different designs to be seen on Swiss stamps.



Then finally in July we had another excellent presentation by Brian Dow. He took us into the fascinating story of the mail being carried up and down the Norwegian coast over the last 130 years by the Hurtigruten fleet of ships.



**ZOOM SESSIONS May – July 2025.**  
**By Malcolm Coe (ZOOM Co-ordinator).**  
**(Continued). [Malc.coe@gmail.com](mailto:Malc.coe@gmail.com) August 2025**

Our library of these video talks continues to grow and provides an impressive array of accomplished speakers and their talks. This library may be watched by anyone, all you need is a web browser on any platform (iPad, Mac, Windows PC, Android device etc). You do not need to use Zoom. Just take a look at the list on our web site and click on the title of interest to you:

<http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html>

As I write the zoom sessions are currently enjoying the summer break, but there is a full programme for the rest of 2025. Details of all the forthcoming talks may be found on the SDPS web page under Meetings

Any comments or thoughts on the Zoom session always gladly received. In particular, suggestions for future zoom speakers very much welcomed – what would you like to hear about?

### **Speakers for 2026.**

**D**ear all - this is the time of the year when I start recruiting Zoom speakers for 2026. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics you'd like to hear about then please let me know (email address below).

In addition, I am wondering if any of our SDPS members have something they would like to share via Zoom. This could just be a 10 minute item, or a full 40 minute presentation. If you have any such ideas then please contact me in the next few weeks so I can reserve a slot in the bookings. A couple of years ago we had a members Zoom evening with several people making short contributions, so we could do that again if enough people are happy to contribute. Again, just get in touch please with no obligations.

Hoping to hear from some of you,

(email [malc.coe@gmail.com](mailto:malc.coe@gmail.com))

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

By Steve Blundell (Membership Secretary).

August 2025

We are happy to report that Dennis Irvine has joined the Society. His application form was submitted and accepted at our meeting in early July. Dennis wishes to take advantage of our packet system. His collecting interest are GB and in particular, KGV.

Over the past weeks, I have received a number of messages from members who wish to take advantage of digital membership commencing next year. That is really helpful! And now comes the request!!

I will assume that members wish to continue their present arrangements - so, in particular, receiving Postmark and auction lists on hard copy through the post. Again, it would be really helpful if members wishing to change to digital membership could let me know.

MEMBERS WOULD BE EVEN MORE HELPFUL IF THEY WOULD CONTACT THEIR BANK STRAIGHTAWAY AND CHANGE THE AMOUNT ON A STANDING ORDER TO REFLECT THE NEW SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES. If you do on-line banking, it is very easily done. If not, I can provide the necessary application form that can be either taken or sent to your bank. Please be in touch.

I say all of this because I would be one of the members who would forget all about the change until I received a telephone call from the membership secretary in January 2026!!

### **Obituary - Brian Reeder.**

Sadly, we have to report the recent passing of Brian Reeder. A message of condolence has been sent on behalf of the Society to Brian's family. A number of members have been in contact following a general email notice with memories of Brian. Our records show that Brian joined the Society in February 1987 and remained a member until 2019. That spans 32 years of membership! We also know that he was an active member of the Winchester

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

By Steve Blundell (Membership Secretary).

(Continued).

August 2025

Stamp Club and is remembered as very supportive of the Hampshire Philatelic Federation. A number of members have commented that he was a regular attendee at our meetings in Bugle Street. He was an ex-army man. One member reported that he was often seen walking (or is it marching?) between Colden Common and Bishops Waltham.

If any member (not on email) wishes to send a message to the family, please ring Steve Blundell who will.

### Obituary - Dennis Thomson.

Sadly, we have to report the passing of Dennis Thomson on the 5th August. Dennis joined the society relatively recently. However, he was clearly a serious collector of many years. He was 98 years of age - not at all a bad innings! His daughter, Babs, was in contact regarding the funeral arrangements and a general email was sent to inform the membership. A message of condolence has been sent to the family on behalf of the society. (Mr. Thomson had been a member for 5 years from 2020 to 2025 - Archivist)

## PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

By Paul Davidson (Secretary).

September 2025

It is my sad duty to let you know that Mike Bolt, our President, died on 18th August in Q.A. Hospital. This was unexpected as he was due to return home at the time.

He will be greatly missed by our members and myself as a close friend. His funeral was on September 3rd at Havant Crematorium.



**A**t our Tuesday meeting on the 2nd of September our speaker showed a letter sent from Southampton to London dated the 16th October 1794. So my challenge is, do you have anything in your collection that is older? Please send a scan and a few words and let's see who's collection has the oldest postal history or stamp.

### **The Civil Service Philatelic Society...**

Founded in 1948 to Present day.

**J**anuary 2025 Newsletter is 21 pages long and, reading through it, the Society seems to be mainly a group of Great Britain collectors but I may be wrong. No details if you have to be a member of the Civil Service but you can download the current issue from the website below.

**<https://cspsuk.wordpress.com>**

## **DROMODERRY LABEL RESPONSE.**

**By Jim Rankin (Society Member).**

**June 2025**

The Government of the day knew in November 1970 that a strike was going to happen late in January which gave them sufficient time to organise a response to it. This meant relinquishing the Post Office monopoly and allowing local head postmasters to agree local arrangements.

In the case of Dromoderry, they organised one of the largest commercial services handling mail to and from overseas using connections with the association of mail users and using the Ramsgate to Calais hovercraft.

They produce four labels between 21/01/71 and 13/02/71 all of which carried the design of a camel, the first label had a lilac camel printed on yellow paper with black text although it had no price, the next issue had two values 1/- & 2/-, followed by 5p and 10p labels printed on 01/02/71 (i.e. prior to decimalisation), with the final label issue of 5p, 10p & 25p labels occurred prior to D-day. A number of souvenir covers were issued on 15th February showing all three of these labels.

I trust that this satisfies your query and serves to prove that the cover originally came from the UK before entering the European postal system.

### **PANDA FAIRS 2025.**

13th September - Wimbourne Allendale Centre, Hanham Rd, BH21 1AS.

21st September - Upper Hale, Village Hall, Farnham, Wings Road, GU9 0HN.

4th October - Southampton Methodist Hall, St James Road, SO15 5HE.

18th October - Bournemouth St. Edmunds Campion Church, Castle Lane, BH8 9TN.

1st November - Fareham Holy Trinity Church, West Street, PO16 0EL.

6th December - Bournemouth St. Edmunds Campion Church, Castle Lane, BH8 9TN.

29th December - Upper Hale, Village Hall, Farnham, Wings Road, GU9 0HN.

## VIA SOUTHAMPTON.

By Malcolm Montgomery (MBE).

August 2025

For some years I have been gathering letters with handstamps 'Viâ Southampton' (and similar ... not yet a 'collection' ... in fact I don't know of anybody who has a 'collection' of them). Amongst the earliest were two covers with a small, straight-line, red handstamp that I was unable to place ...

The first letter was little more than a wrapper, missing its contents or any clue to its origin, bereft of postal markings, addressed to Messrs. Paine Stricker & Co., Batavia, with a red manuscript '1/4', the pre-payment in the early 1850s for the postage via Southampton and Ceylon to Batavia. There was also a m/s '160' presumably a charge raised on arrival in Batavia. The wrapper is undated and I have been unable to trace its route with any certainty. Nor could I begin to guess where the 'Viâ Southampton' handstamp was applied.

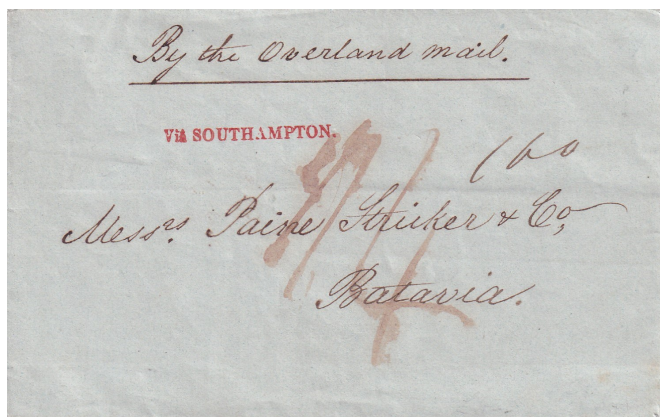


Figure 1: An undated wrapper from an unknown source, approximately 1850, addressed to Batavia

The second example of a 'Viâ Southampton' handstamp appeared on a letter from New York dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 1851; the handstamp was not mentioned in the description (and fortunately, it appears to have been of little interest to the American bidders). The cover proved much easier to trace. It was posted unpaid in New York





## VIA SOUTHAMPTON.

By Malcolm Montgomery (MBE). (Continued)

August 2025

addressed to Canton, China, and directed to 'Atlantic' of the Collins Line, via the Baring Brothers forwarding agents in London. 'Atlantic' sailed from New York on 6<sup>th</sup> August for Liverpool on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1851, and the letter has a '21' (cents) claim for United States' five cents inland and sixteen packet postage. The forwarding agents, 'Messrs Baring Brothers, London', paid the outstanding postage and the two shillings British postage for onward transmission to Canton from Southampton: by 'Pottinger' on 20<sup>th</sup> August for Alexandria on 4<sup>th</sup> September, thence overland to Suez for 'Hindustan' on 7<sup>th</sup> September for Galle on 22<sup>nd</sup>; from Galle on 'Singapore' for Hong Kong on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1851 ... the letter was then carried to Canton by a smaller vessel that I am unable to identify.

1. J. & M. Moubray, 'British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations', 1840-1875, p. 390: via Southampton, from 20<sup>th</sup> June 1845 until 1<sup>st</sup> May 1854, two shillings, weighing over ½ oz., but less than 1 oz.
2. All North Atlantic sailing dates and rates are from W. Hubbard & R.F. Winter, 'North Atlantic Mail Sailings'.
3. All Far East sailing dates are from R. Kirk, 'British Maritime Postal History', Vol.2, 'The P. & O. Lines to the far East'.

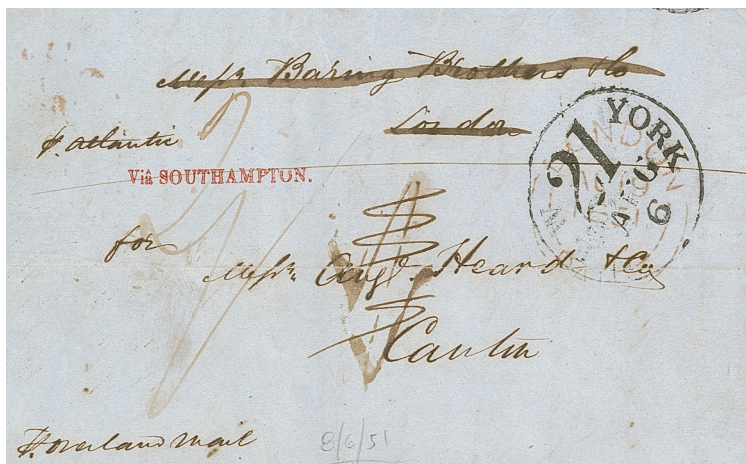


Figure 2: New York to Canton, China, via Liverpool and Hong Kong, 6<sup>th</sup> August 1851.

## VIA SOUTHAMPTON.

By Malcolm Montgomery (MBE). (Continued)

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The third cover, like the second, was sent from New York to China and addressed for forwarding by the Baring Brothers, on this occasion carried by the Cunard Line 'Africa' from New York to Liverpool and posted unpaid, on this occasion weighing more than one but less than two ounces with a '20' cents claim for United States inland postage. The postage from the United States and that to China, '4/-', in red, was settled by the agents. Again directed 'Viâ Southampton', the letter was sent by 'Ripon' to Alexandria, overland to Suez for 'Oriental' to Galle, and by 'Ganges' to Hong Kong, arriving on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1852. The letter was received in Shanghai on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1852, but I have not identified the carrier.



Figure 3: New York to Shanghai, China, via London, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1852.

A fourth appeared earlier this summer, described as '... similar to one in the Richard Winter sale'. The letter, like the first, was addressed to Messrs. Paine Stricker & Co., Batavia. and has only a manuscript direction 'Via Southampton and Ceylon'. It was carried by the Collins Line 'Pacific' sailing on 6<sup>th</sup> July for Liverpool on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1850 and was passed to London bereft of any post office markings. At some stage it was marked with the 'Viâ Southampton' handstamp and a red manuscript '2/8', pre-paid rating to Batavia and, presumably much later, with a manuscript '320' Dutch Indies due rating (twice

## VIA SOUTHAMPTON.

By Malcolm Montgomery (MBE). (Continued)

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that on the first cover). Placed in the post on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1850 in time for 'Indus' sailing from Southampton on 20<sup>th</sup> July for Alexandria on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1850, thence Suez for 'Haddington' on 8<sup>th</sup> August and made Galle on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1850. It has no other transit markings, suggesting that a various stages of its journey, like the first-mentioned letter to Batavia, it may have been parcelled-up with other letters.

Pending the discovery of other examples of the 'Via SOUTHAMPTON' handstamp, I am suggesting that it was very likely applied by a forwarding agent, probably the Baring Brothers in London.

4. Schuyler Rumsey Auction, 'Richard Winter Trans-Atlantic Mails', 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

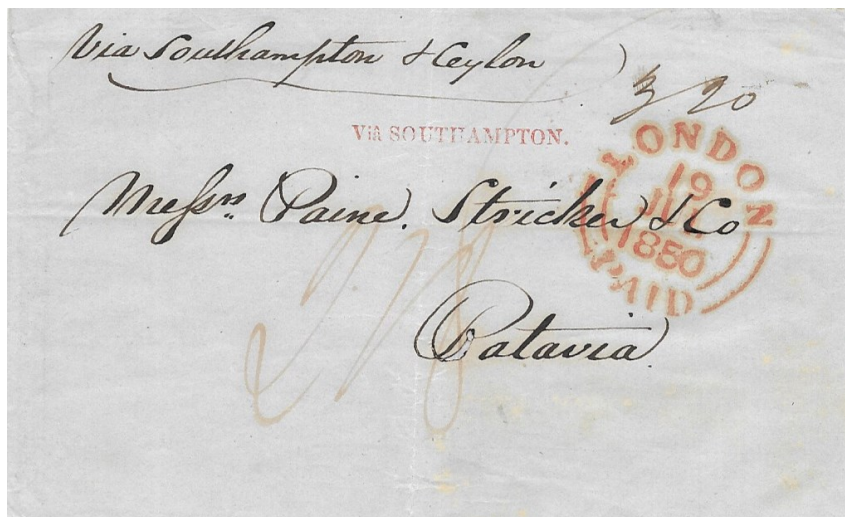


Figure 4: New York to Batavia, via London, 19<sup>th</sup> July 1850.

# **HAMPEX 2025**

**Hampshire Philatelic Federation**

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(Hotlines: 01489 582673)

**DEALERS IN STAMPS, CINDERELLAS,  
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Refreshments and Free on-site Parking.

The Stagecoach 69 bus runs from Fareham Railway Station to Wickham Sq.

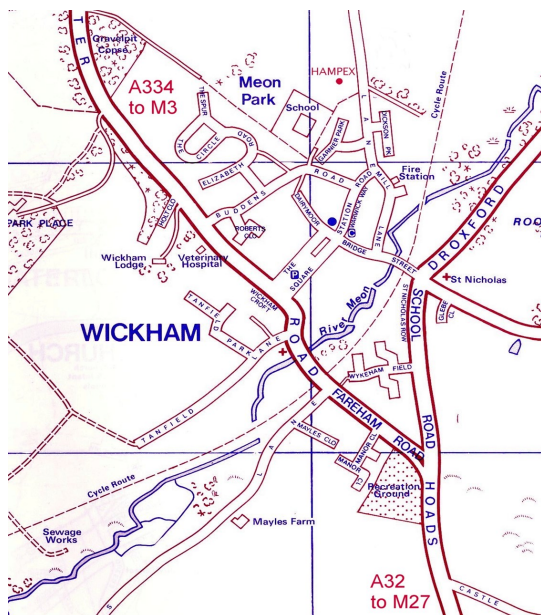
The Centre is a short walk from Wickham

Market Square served by buses from  
Winchester and Fareham. Wickham to Fareham  
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# HAMPEX 2025.

20th September 10.00 am to 4.30 pm



**From the North:** drive via the A31 and A272 onto the A32 southbound turning right into Wickham. Drive to the Square and into Station Road and then into Mill Lane. The Wickham Centre is on the left. **From the M3:** exit at J11 and follow the B3354 and A334 to the Square. **From the South West:** exit M27 at J7 and follow the A334 to Wickham Square. **From the South East:** exit M27 at J10 and follow the A32 northbound bearing left onto the A334 and turning right into the Square. **Proceed via Station Road to Mill Lane. The Wickham Centre is on the left.**

**The Stagecoach 69 bus runs from Fareham Railway Station to Wickham Sq.**

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### **SUBMISSION DATES FOR POSTMARK (2025/2026).**

**15th DECEMBER.**

**15th MARCH.**

**15th JULY.**

**Submissions to be received by the Editor by midnight of the 15th.**