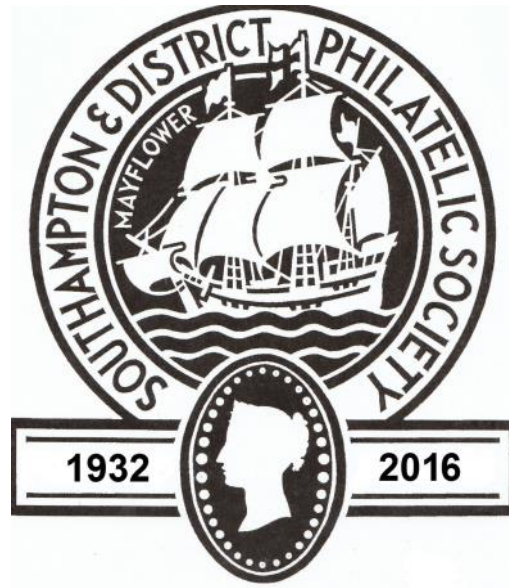


POSTMARK



Number 131

Autumn 2016



Cover from 1853... See Page 13...

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:

1. St Joseph's Church Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton, SO14 2AH: evening meetings on the first and third Tuesday, 7.00 for 7.15pm.

2. Hanover Housing Association Community Room, on the corner of Winchester Road and Hillside Close, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2GL: afternoon meetings on the second Thursday, 1.45 for 2.00pm.

DATES FOR YOUR 2016 DIARY:

September

- Panda Fairs
- 4 Portsmouth Cosham Community Centre, Wootton St. PO6 3AP
 - 6 **Society Collection**
 - 8 **Afternoon Meeting (Chandler's Ford)**
 - 20 **Bourse & Postcard Evening (Postcard Society our Guests)**

October

- 4 **Visit by Ferndown Philatelic Society**
- 13 **Afternoon Meeting (Chandler's Ford)**
- 18 **Members 15 sheets in 5 minutes**
- 22 **Grand Auction**

November

- 1 **Presidents Evening**

Panda Fairs

- 6 Portsmouth Cosham Community Centre, Wootton St. PO6 3AP
- 10 **Afternoon Meeting (Chandler's Ford)**

Panda Fairs

- 12 Southampton Methodist Hall, St James Rd, Shirley, SO15 5HE
- 15 **Members Letter 'O' & Bourse/Silent Auction**
- 27 **Society Lunch at Wellow Golf Club**

December

- 6 **Le Havre (incl. WW1 Items) - Len Yandell**
- 8 **Afternoon Meeting (Chandler's Ford)**

For full list of Panda Fairs go to www.pandfairs.co.uk

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE
SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY...**

President: John Berridge (02380 221925)

Chairman: Mel Bradshaw (80785785)

Secretary: Rev. Paul Arnold (01962 712282)

Packet Manager: Jack Hindson (80266431)

Treasurer: Mike Watts (02380 454131)

PRO: Eddie Mays (80402194)

Auctioneer: Mel Bradshaw (80785785)

Membership: Mike Vokes (80262551)

Competitions: Brian Hague - brian@brianhague.plus.com

Programme Secretary : Kevin Chard (01489 574834)

Postmark Editor: Steve Gerrard (80433820) (Email : stevesstamps@hotmail.co.uk)

Websites: Southampton & District P S – www.southamptondps.org.uk/

Hampshire Philatelic Federation – www.hantsfederation.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES AUGUST 2016...

Last week (as I write this) the second Afternoon Social at Chandler's Ford took place. Over 50 members and guests attended another very successful event. My personal regret was that my grandparent role prevented me from attending (again!). Everyone who was involved in organising the event can again take great pride in the afternoon's success. My thanks to everyone involved, but I would like to mention in particular Debbie Hindson, who was very much instigator and organiser. The success of the Thursday afternoon meeting demonstrates the need for different styles of meetings, which attract a wider group of members.

The 2016 Society Lunch is on Sunday 27 November - NOT October 11. If you are not booked in, check with Jim Rankin as to availability. The 2017 programme is being finalised and will include a number of social events where guests are welcomed. It is important that our programme continues to meet the wide range of interests within the society. With this in mind, the committee is always open to receiving suggestions for new, innovative meetings and activities.

A society such as ours is only successful if it has a good number of members to support planned events, but also it requires volunteers who are willing to serve on the committee and help organise and run events. Although the membership has decreased, we are still one of the larger societies, with over 150 members. However, the tale of societies closing is all too familiar. I learnt last night that the New Forest Society is likely to cease activity in the very near future. Many of you will be aware of the sudden death of Graham Littledale, who lived on the island and was an active member of our society. Before his death, Graham, who was president of Vectis Philatelic Society, was about to approach us with ideas of some closer links between the two societies. This suggestion has been passed on to me by Vectis and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Increasingly it appears that co-operation will be an important way forward to help maintain successful philatelic activities.

At the AGM, Harry Vinecombe stepped down as Treasurer with Mike Watts taking over, who will be supported initially by Harry, acting as Assistant Treasurer. We are indebted to Harry for his dedication and skill over many years. The committee also welcomes Eddie Mays who took over the role of PRO, and he was busy last night taking photographs at the Competitions Evening. This is an increasingly important post as we endeavour to raise the society's profile further. There are still many individuals who work hard on the committee on your behalf, with some taking on multiple roles, thank you to all, but especially at present to Steve Gerrard, working hard for the society despite the accident that has left his right arm in a sling. The society needs more individuals to help where possible—in particular there is a need to identify members who can assist as archivist, librarian and auction manager/auctioneer.

Last night's Competitions Evening attracted a small number of high quality entries. Thank you to all who took part and congratulations to winners Julian Jones, Geoffery Eibl-Kaye and John Berridge. The amount of research and time taken to produce such good quality leaves me in awe.

Some time ago I included a piece about the USA 'Inverted Jenny' 24c stamp. June's Gibbons Stamp Monthly reported that one of a block of four stolen in 1955 from the American Philatelic Society Convention in Norfolk, Virginia had resurfaced. The stamp was offered to Spink Galleries in New York for auction. After careful examination the stamp was shown to be genuine, but from the stolen block. The 'vendor', it is reported, was a man in his 20s who lives in the UK; he was unaware of the stamp's history

and inherited it from his grandfather. In the same issue, there is an excellent article by our former president, Dr Alan Drysdall—Railway perfins of Transvaal and Orange River Colony. The article was co-authored with Fernando Torres.

With autumn around the corner, and then the dark evenings of winter, our collections will, hopefully, get the attention they deserve. To enhance your collections or produce booklets for our Packet Circuit you will need to invest and buy wisely: a good place to start will be the October Grand Auction!

Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...

AUCTION NEWS AUGUST 2016...

The third auction of the year took place in June, which built well on our earlier auctions this year. Again over 55% of lots were sold, with a hammer price of £3140, helped by a large number of China lots, all of which sold. The total sales in 2016 now exceed £10,000, an increase of about 25% over the 2015 figure.

Enclosed with Postmark is the catalogue for the exciting GRAND AUCTION to be held on Saturday, October 22nd. As this is being written, the catalogue has not been finalised, but there should be about 900 lots, with much interesting material in a wide range of collections and a very good range of sets and individual items from a diverse range of countries. As last year, there is some exceptional GB material, with some very interesting postal history, including Bishop's Marks. If you cannot get to the auction, but see lots you might like, put in a postal bid. Remember your bid will be used as though you were in the room, so if no one else bids you get the lot at the reserve price. The only extra cost is postage.

For the third year, the venue for the auction is Peartree Church Village Hall on Peartree Road. There is very good parking available around the hall. For those who have submitted lists of lots, please remember that I require the material by October 4th. It takes quite a bit of time and space to sort and lot the material correctly.

The final silent auction of the year will take place on November 15th. I will bring forms for listing lots to the October and November meetings prior to the auction. Please remember to limit material to small items (individual stamps, sets, sheets) and ensure that your **RESERVE price is clearly displayed on the lot itself**. Bring the material to the meeting on the evening of November 15th and pass it to me so that I can complete the process and display the material. Try to look out some interesting and unusual material. There will be a full evening auction on January 17th, 2017; the deadline for receipt of lot details is November 16th. I will attempt to produce the catalogue for distribution in early December, but with the later date for the October auction this may not be possible. Please make sure your lots are identified with **your reference number/letter** matching that on the list which you submit.

Details of vendors' lots should be given to me at society meetings, OR posted to:

Dr Mel Bradshaw
185 Wilton Road
Upper Shirley
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 5HY

OR by e-mail to: **melvyn.bradshaw1@tesco.net**

If there are any queries please ring me on 023 8078 5785 or 07973 696291.

Mel Bradshaw (Auction Manager)...

STAMPS FOR CASH...

ATM dispenses postage stamps instead of cash!

Stamps have become very expensive! An Atlanta woman tried to draw \$280 cash from a Fifth Third Bank ATM. The machine spat out a sheet of stamps instead of the requested cash. Bernay Brown says that he told her it could be 45 days until she is reunited with the actual cash because she isn't a regular customer of that bank. "We have to do a dispute and it's going to take up to 45 days." She told the bank that she couldn't wait 45 days, or even 45 hours – she needed her money 'Today!'

Bernay says she received a sheet of stamps (a poor print shows a sheet of 18 stamps) when she tried to draw \$280 from the Fifth Third Bank ATM. The ATM does have a stamp buying option, but Bernay insisted that she did not press the wrong button, and her receipt showed that she had made a cash withdrawal.

Investigation caused the bank to admit that a clerk mixed up the stamp and the cash canisters when carrying out the daily duty of loading the machine. Bernay got her money.

Paul Arnold...

Society's Competition 2016

The second evening meeting of July saw the holding of the main competitions for the society. Six members provided input to the competition submitting a total of ten entries, two of which were two-framers and the other eight single frame entries. The newly added Picture Postcard class was popular with three entries and there were also three Aerophilatelic entries; the remaining four entries being all in the Postal History class. So no Traditional class entries again this year and indeed it has now been quite a while since we saw stamps at our competition evening – where are you stamp collectors?

Although the number of entries was perhaps slightly limited there was plenty of quality material on display. This was reflected when John Campbell, our independent, external judge on the evening, had deliberated and decided. It was something of a "blanket finish" with a very narrow spread of marks covering the whole field.

Julian Jones' one-frame entry, "Transatlantic Postal History: Treatment of Newspapers and Prices Current between USA and GB 1840-1875", was judged best overall. This meant that Julian was awarded the Gordon Thorne trophy and we had found the first of the two entries required to represent the society in the Howard White competition at Hampex this year.

Just one-point behind was a clear runner up – Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye's two-frame display of "Mail in Transit via Memel". Geoff accordingly won the Millennium Trophy and the society will sponsor the entry of this exhibit for the Jan Kaluski competition at Hampex.

We still needed to select the second entry to make up the society's Howard White submission and this presented something of a quandary as there was a three-way tie for third place. So the members attending that evening were asked by way of an exit poll as to which should go forward. Their choice was an exhibit entitled "The Airmails of the Dutch East Indies" from John Berridge. However John on reflection thought that the society stood a better chance of winning the Howard White trophy if Geoff's entry "Mails from GB to India 1819 – 1880" was paired with Julian's as the society's representatives. To mark John's generosity of spirit your Committee decided that the society would sponsor his exhibit as an individual entry for the Howard White. The results of the judges at Hampex on 15th October will reveal whether or not the right call was made!

Other trophies awarded on the evening were as follows – the Basil Owen award and the John Stockley Rose Bowl - both to Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye and the Bob McDonald Aerophilatelic prize to John Berridge. Whether they received prizes or not my heartfelt thanks go to all who participated on the evening.

Brian Hague (Competitions Secretary)...

WEST WELLOW GOLF CLUB SUNDAY LUNCH - 27th NOVEMBER 2016...

Unfortunately the college have cancelled our booking for October. In view of this and the continued difficulty in getting the minimum numbers for a mid-week event I have booked Wellow Golf Club for Sunday Lunch on 27th November. A revised list will be available for interested individuals to enter their names at the next meeting. At this time menu choices will be available for you to enter your meal requirements. Contact Jim Rankin on 023 80841301. If you do not have transport but wish to attend the lunch, then please contact Jim and he may be able to arrange something.

Jim Rankin...

CHANDLER'S FORD 'SOCIABLE' 14th July 2016...

Our second Chandler's Ford 'sociable' took place on the 14th July, 2016, using the same, extremely convenient, venue as the first, namely the Dovetail Centre of the Methodist Church next door to our usual meeting place, the Community Room of the Hanover Housing Association. The meeting was chaired – in the usual informal fashion – by Alan Drysdall, who now proudly boasts the formal title of 'Convenor' and has a place on the Committee in recognition of the important role the Chandler's Ford meetings play in the Society's overall programme. The Convenor opened the meeting by welcoming members and their guests. Just how many were present is always uncertain; but 55 signed the book; a very satisfying turnout. We do not formally record apologies, but on this occasion we will record that Pauline Vinecombe, always a regular attendee at Chandler's Ford meetings when fit – and a conscientious contributor to Ladies Days – was unwell and unable to be present. There were a few house-keeping announcements, the most important relating to future Chandler's Ford meetings. The August meeting will be on the theme of 'What I also collect'. The last such event, held after the AGM meeting in Bugle Street, proved extremely popular with a wide range of surprising interests. So why should they have all the fun? Nevertheless we are hoping that Geoffrey does not bring along anything nuclear. (He began his professional career as a nuclear physicist.) Stamps did not feature at the Bugle Street meeting, but of course there is no reason why, for example, a member well known for his collection of classic early New Zealand should not show his closet collection of nudes on stamps. The following meetings will include a display of the Society's collection of Southampton postal history and a 'Boys' day out' when the ladies will exact revenge for Ladies Day and nominate male members to display and organise the refreshments, the draw and the bring-and-buy table - a lesson in multi-tasking if ever there was one, but the Ladies do it at least once a year.

It was decided when the Committee agreed to hold an afternoon 'sociable' mainly for the benefit of members who attend meetings in Chandler's Ford – together with partners and friends – that this would be an entirely social event and there would be no formal talks and preferably no philatelic displays. There was no talk, but there was a five-frame display of picture postcards relating to the history of Southampton, and particularly buildings that no longer exist, the Woolston/Itchen Ferry and events from the past. This was organised by Colin Bayley, who co-opted the assistance of three other members of the Southampton Postcard Club, namely Alan Leonard, Paul Gosling and Steve Gerrard. Postcards are always popular, and none more so than postcards of 'old' Southampton, and it was not surprising therefore that the display attracted a stream of viewers.

The draw was again munificent, the membership having contributed very generously; the prizes included no less than five bottles of wine. Members and friends were also generous when purchasing tickets; our income totalled £115.50, not a record but nevertheless a very welcome contribution towards the cost of the occasion. The Convenor's wife started the draw, but failed to draw a winning ticket for either herself or her husband just to prove that it really is a draw and not a 'swindle'.

The refreshments were once again first class. The varied and generous selection of sandwiches was much appreciated, as were the cakes, some home-made by Janice Eastlake. (The fruit cake was to die for.) There were 'seconds' for those who wanted to come back, and even doggy bags at the end of the afternoon to distribute the little that was left. Harry, despite his best efforts and the absence of the restraining influence of Pauline, could not finish all the chocolate cake. Paul Arnold provided excellent filter coffee, a welcome upgrade from the usual 'instant'.

The quiz, set as always by Lorraine Simms, proved to be easier than some found it as Harry Vinecombe scored the maximum 24 points, and was able to take home a bottle of wine to drink with the chocolates he had won in the draw. (Unfortunately there is no record of the runner-up, but it would not be surprising if his/her score was considerably lower than Harry's.)

Big 'thank-yous' are due to the many people who helped in one way or another to organise and run this event. Top of the list must be Debbie assisted by her friend Janice, who unfortunately could not be present. A number of members, including Dave and Cora Edwards and Paul Arnold, whose contributions were much appreciated, helped to serve the refreshments. The frames were brought from and returned to our usual venue by Peter Parr and David Lewis; the display was provided by members of the Southampton Postcard Club. Pauline Gittoes organised the draw and Lorraine Simms the quiz. Many others played a role and helped to make this, our second Chandler's Ford 'sociable', as enjoyable and successful as the first. Long may this now established tradition continue.

Alan Drysdall....

Southampton & District Philatelic Society... July 2016 report for ABPS.

Members of the Southampton Society have enjoyed a really good mix of events during the late Spring & early Summer. Tuesday evenings have including presentations on subjects as diverse as British Borneo (Jeremy Gaskell), the German Occupation of Austria in 1938 (Tony Hickey) and Joseph Cottrill's fascinating 'View from the Rostrum' (Warwick & Warwick). Interspersed with the more formal evenings there has been everything from the AGM, a club auction as well as a single sheet competition. The Thursday afternoon meetings at Chandlers Ford are proving as popular as ever. Normally there is a slight decrease in numbers as the holiday season approaches but so far this year numbers are holding steady, perhaps because summer hasn't arrived in Hampshire yet.

Looking forward to the Autumn programme we will be welcoming both the local Postcard Society and the Ferndown Philatelic Society in September & October respectively. October in particular is going to be a busy time with the Hampex Show at Wickham as well as the Society's Grand Auction. Our Auctioneer is very pleased with the standard of material being offered for this year's auction. The catalogue will be out in a few weeks' time and it will be worth getting hold of a copy. Postal bidding is allowed and there is no Buyer's Premium.

During the summer the Society website has been overhauled and is well worth a visit, www.southamptondps.org.uk. There you will find full details of the programme for the rest of 2016 and where we meet together with a list of contacts. If you are not sure who you need to contact then please use the PRO as your first approach. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. We hope that you will enjoy it so much that you will think spending a tenner for membership is cheap at twice the price.

Eddie Mays (Public Relations Officer)...

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY...

"At the June meeting of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, during their AGM, two serious complaints were voiced.... *One, that too many of the members were merely 'spectators' at meetings, and too few active exhibitors or readers of papers; the other, that the additions to the Society's collection of stamps of Southern Africa by members were too scanty...*"

The date of the meeting? June 1939! It is interesting to note that certain philatelic habits do not change! From: *Southern Africa Philately; No 3; 2016 June.*

Paul Arnold (Secretary)...

SEEN AT THE ALMA INN, UPHAM...

Post Office at the Alma Inn.

We now have a post office here:

**Monday 12-2
Thursday 10-12**

Offering a range of services including:

- Cash withdrawals and Deposits
 - Postal services
 - Car tax
 - Travel services

Hope to see you soon!

Instead of 'A Pint of Lager and a packet of crisps, please barmaid', I think it is now 'A pint of lager and Two 1st class stamps' please counter or bar staff. (Steve G - Editor)...

On the 1st of August Pauline returned and the sign outside the said 'Post Office open today for stamps, car tax etc etc,' but when we went in, the staff said the post office hadn't turned up!

A POST OFFICE IN A CARVERY....

Pauline Gittoes...

Fraudulent Use of the £5 Orange...

by Dr John Horsey...

The Five Pound Orange is the pride and joy of many a Great Britain collection and a sadly unfilled gap in countless more. It is not especially scarce but its desirability and market forces tend to make it expensive. The stamp is found with a wide range of cancels: some common and others scarce. One seldom seen cancel is shown in **Figure 1** – an Edinburgh Exchequer violet oval and obviously some form of accounting usage.

Many collectors regard violet cancels as undesirable so, at first, it was not surprising to see the example in **Figure 2**. This bears strikes of the Accountant's Office cds, but in addition, there is a very faint central Exchequer Edinburgh double-ring oval struck vertically.



Figure 1: Exchequer Edinburgh



At first glance, it would appear that a dealer or collector must have bleached out the Exchequer cancel to improve the stamp's appearance. This is not the case.

In Victorian times, £5 was a considerable sum and some Post Office employees, handling £5 Oranges as part of their job, would have been tempted to take advantage. The Exchequer cancel is dated 21st November 1891 but the cds is 15th January 1892, almost two months later.

Figure 2: Erased Exchequer

If this was genuine use of two related cancels, the dates would match, or be only a day or so apart. The disparate dates confirm it is fraudulent use. The Exchequer cancel is near complete and therefore firmly struck, but is too faint and dull to be consistent with a firm strike. If lightly struck it would be less complete but any violet ink would still be in a bright shade. The shade of the stamp itself is noticeably bereft of red and under ultraviolet appears brown, unlike any others seen. Evidently the stamp has been bleached in an attempt to remove the Exchequer cancel, reducing the red component of the orange as a result. **Figure 3** shows this same image digitally enhanced which makes the 21st November 1891 date of the Exchequer cancel clear.



Figure 3: Digitally Enhanced Image

How was the Fraud Perpetrated?

It is likely that an employee in the Accountants' Office acquired the £5 Orange with an Exchequer cancel, probably from security scrap, took it home and bleached out the violet cancel. On 15th January 1892, he needed a £5 for an accounting docket. However, instead of using a new £5 Orange from his stock, he could pocket that and affix his cleaned copy. This would keep his stock balanced. He then cancelled his cleaned copy in the usual way. One might think he would have placed the Accountant's Office cancels centrally to hide the erasure better, but that would have appeared suspicious. At that time, the Accountants' Office cancels were always at the sides, to tie the stamp to the docket.

There was little chance of discovery, especially in the winter months. In dim gaslight, the residue of the

earlier cancel would pass unnoticed. Furthermore, all the dockets would normally have gone for destruction soon after they had served their purpose, thereby eliminating all evidence.

However, a small percentage became 'liberated'. To satisfy the demands of collectors, dealers at the time may well have paid a few shillings to those with access to scrap dockets. Very few £5 Oranges were used postally, and almost all used examples existing today fell off the back of a lorry – sorry, horse and cart!

By pocketing a new stamp for redemption elsewhere, the clerk's stock would balance. He had made today's equivalent of around £1,000. When writing my book, *The £5 Orange*, it was thought that this might well be the only surviving example of this particular fraudulent use.

However, recently another example has come to light, used on the same date, although the Exchequer



Another
the same
Use

Figure 4:
Example of
Fraudulent

cancel is 4 days later, 25th November. This is shown in **Figure 4** along with its enhanced image. This time he was more effective in reducing the Exchequer cancel but, although less obvious, the letters 'EDIN', part of the ovals and '25 N' of the date are still evident. With this second example, it is now clear that he got away with at least £2000 that day! The fraud was massive.

One could speculate about how often he perpetuated this fraud. There is likely to have been a steady supply of £5 stamps with Exchequer violet oval cancels coming into his office and acquiring a few each week may have been possible. There may have been the opportunity to execute the fraud almost daily. If so, with the high value involved each time, there is the potential for this fraud to eclipse the sums involved in the Stock Exchange forgery. Those were only a shilling a time: the £5 is 100 times greater.

This is far from the only fraud involving the £5 Orange. Other unrelated schemes are included in *The £5 Orange by Dr John Horsey* available from and published by Stanley Gibbons.

1971 BRITISH POSTAL STRIKE...

History...

The Post Office Board and the Union of Post Office Workers had been locked in negotiation for a significant across-the-board salary increase for some considerable time. The union wanted 15% whilst the Board would not move on a proposed 8% increase. In the background the Government were opposed to any unreasonable claims particularly in the public sector. Ultimately these talks broke down leading to the union leader calling for a strike.

The Elected Committee of the Union of Postal Workers (U.P.W.) decided (without consultation with the membership) to instruct all members to withdraw their labour from 20th January 1971. At the same time they were advised that there would be no strike pay, somewhat unusual, as the U.P.W. had reserves at that time and could have asked the T.U.C. to impose a hardship levy on the whole of its affiliated membership of 2/= per week which would have generated approximately £900,000 per week. The response to the order to strike was significant, this despite considerable differences of opinion on the best methods to use in the struggle against both the Government and the Post Office Board.

Continued on page 12

SPEAKERS CORNER...

Tony Hickey - Anschluss (Union) German Occupation of Austria 1938.

7th June 2016...

Tony gave a brief history of the 19th century relationships between the various Germanic and Central European States. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Germany had seen a period of growth in engineering, science and population, as well as expanding its influence overseas into East and West Africa and SE Asia, and culminated in 1891 in the formation of the Pan-Germanic League, which Austria remained outside, preferring to seek alliances with Hungary and Italy. The decision to remain outside the Pan-Germanic League did not please all Austrians. German-speaking Austrians formed political parties in sympathy with German aims. Schonerer, a member of the Austrian Reichsrat with strong anti-Semitic and anti-Bolshevistic leanings, gave more and more support to the German National Party in Austria without much success. Adolf Hitler, who had been born in 1889, and lived close to the Austro-German border, visited Germany and became interested in these ideas, and supported the move to unite Austria with Germany. This group produced propaganda postcards to promote their ideas, and samples of them were displayed.

After the Armistice at the end of WW1 severe sanctions were imposed on Germany by the Allied powers at the Peace Conference where some 30 world powers signed the Treaty of Versailles under which Germany was forced to disarm, give up its colonies, make territorial concessions and pay reparation. Tony had a cover that had been delivered to one of the delegates at Versailles in the famous coach. These sanctions placed a great strain on German finances and led to a period of hyperinflation which saw the value of the mark tumble and the overprinting of stamps almost weekly. A selection of stamps and covers, together with a sheet over overprinted stamps (possibly a forgery!) from this period showed the speed of devaluation of the currency. The end of the war also saw the beginning of the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and uncertainty in Austria with 3 main political parties, Social Democratic Party, Christian Social Party and Great German Union Party, vying for power. After 1921 when Hitler led the German National Party, the drive for closer links surged and much new propaganda material was published. In Austria the 'Sun Swastika' (the 'arms' of the swastika are rounded, so that it forms a circular shape) was used so as to keep it separate from the ideas of Nazism. In the later 1920s the Christian Socialist Party, which was against the idea of *Anschluss*, began to lose power and the Austrian National Party grew. In 1933 Germany permitted Germans living in Austria to vote in the German elections, but the actions of Hitler, ending in the assassination of Dollfuss in 1934, caused the tide of Austrian opinion to swing against the idea. Dollfuss's successor, Schuschnigg continued an anti-German stance, suppressing Nazi supporters and gathering the more vocal into internment camps. Countermeasures by Germany – trade and travel boycott and financial pressures – proved too great for Austria, and in July 1936 Schuschnigg signed an agreement with Germany's von Papen in which Austria agreed to release Nazi prisoners and in return Germany would respect Austria's sovereignty. February 1938 Schuschnigg 'visits' Hitler at Berchtesgaden in an attempt to avoid a 'takeover', but he finally agreed to Hitler's demands. On 9 March 1938 Schuschnigg scheduled a plebiscite on the issue of unification for 13 March, but on 11 March Hitler sent Schuschnigg an ultimatum to hand power to Nazis or be invaded. At 13.00hrs German troops marched into Austria. A variety of Postal History and Postal Stationery, as well a wide range of stamps from this period was shown.

GB KGVI High Values Part 3 - Gavin Fryer.

5th July 2016....

Julian Jones introduced the speaker: Gavin Fryer who spoke on King George VI high value postal history part III.

Gavin showed covers bearing KGVI high value definitive from 1944 onwards, including £1 values. Much of the correspondence was from UK banks to Australia and South America where large multi-weight-step airmail covers necessitated high postage charges. Parcel tags attached originally to large packets of Foreign Office mail were well represented. FPO military mail sent from Egypt to UK also featured. Gavin surmised that these were sent home by army personnel and included partial salaries drawn in Egyptian currency which could be exchanged by their families for pounds sterling at advantageous rates.

When the 1½d Empire rate was suspended, only the 1/3d per ½oz rate by air to commonwealth countries remained. Much bank airmail correspondence weighed in at 7 or more rates! Many covers bore large blocks of 2/6d, 5/- and 10/- adhesives as a result.

Gavin also showed difficult items such as the 11d stamp issued initially for the 2nd weight-step parcel

rate also used as payment for 5d airmail plus 6d express fees, then ending up as paying the parcel post 1st rate-step. He showed messenger forms, telegraph forms and parcel forms with high value stamps – most of which should never have left the post office. Also shown was early NHS prescription payment forms used by doctors to remit charges to the Treasury by means of stamps as receipts for payments via the Post Office.

Covers bearing KGVI £1 stamps were said by Gavin to be quite scarce and treasured by him and fellow collectors of this speciality.

Society Competition & Letter ‘N’...

19th July 2016...

Brian Hague introduced John Campbell who had judged the entries. John reviewed the wide range of material exhibited and praised the research demonstrated by the items on show. He remarked that such attention to detail was “a labour of love”.

The results were very close. Geoff suggested that the members vote to break the tie. John Berridge and Julian Jones will represent the society in the HPF Howard White Competition with their single frame entries. Geoff Eibl-Kaye will represent the society in the HPF Jan Kaluski Competition.

Trophies were awarded as follows: Gordon Thorne trophy to Julian Jones, Millennium Trophy to Geoff Eibl-Kaye, Basil Owen award and the John Stockley Rose Bowl both to Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye and the Bob McDonald Aerophilatelic prize to John Berridge.

Members “Letter N”...

John Berridge showed “Niue” (administered by New Zealand); Len Yandell showed Churches from locations commencing with “N”; Keith Lloyd showed “ ChiNese MoNgolia”; Eddie Mays showed “Nonsense”; Lorraine Simms showed “Norman Rockwell”; Mike Watts showed “New Issues” and Julian Jones showed “Newspapers”.

Fiji - Aviation & Airmail History (Early years to 1960) - Bryan Jones..

2nd August 2016...

John Berridge introduced the evening’s speaker Bryan Jones (of Solihull) on the *Aviation and Airmail History of Fiji 1930 to 1950*.

Bryan introduced Pacific Study Circle books available, with some on show. Some books include searchable CDs.

The first Fiji inter-island aircraft flight carried mail which went straight into the hands of philatelists – some unique single items were shown. Bryan showed covers flown by Kingsford-Smith’s airline via Australia to Croydon in 1934. Regular mail services then used surface (ship) mail and then airmail from the first opportunity (New Zealand or San Francisco). Trans-Pacific clipper service was suspended during WWII. Nandi airstrip was initiated by NZ forces in mid-1942. From the end of 1942 the American forces made Fiji their base using Nandi. Resulting early wartime air graphs were shown. Members were told about the competition between PAA and BCPA across the Pacific. PAA flights terminated in San Francisco, while BCPA flights ended in Vancouver. The British Commonwealth Pacific Airline was eventually absorbed by Qantas. Flying boats operated post WWII from 1947 until 1956 alongside land planes using Nandi. WWII covers showing Bomber Fund labels on inbound and outbound mail.

Bryan told a very interesting story of early airmail in the Pacific illustrated by many unique covers and some original photographs.

Julian Jones...

Society Coach Trips...

There were no planned coach trips this year, partly because the main events - Spring and Autumn Stampex - were in London, and could be reached easily by public transport. Next year’s programme includes a planned coach trip to Midpex on July 8th. Any coach trips require organising and managing, and if any member of the Society wishes to assist in this role please contact Mel Bradshaw by email at melvyn.bradshaw1@tesco.net or in person at one of our meetings. **Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...**

Members’ News...

The committee has recently discussed including a section in future issues of Postmark entitled “Members’ News”. This will include information about new members, those who are no longer members, for whatever reason and material supplied by you our membership. Please share anything with a philatelic connection which others might find interesting, such as new collecting interests or recent finds. Information you wish to include should be emailed to Mike Vokes at mike@vokeshouse.co.uk . **Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...**

Continued from page 9...

Emergency Post...

The Royal Mail was obliged to relinquish its monopoly of the Postal Systems. This allowed a significant number of entrepreneurial individuals to set up companies to operate postal systems. Many of these were provided by local taxi companies or Stamp Dealers - most of the services were at a considerable premium. There were in excess of 180 distributors set-up, each of which had to seek the permission of the area postmaster to provide such a service. At the same time they had to provide proof of identification i.e. the stamps needed to show the company providing the service and the charge rate. The introduction of decimalisation mid-way through this dispute gave many of these companies the opportunity to review and in many cases increase their charges.

Government & Strikers...

Trade Union leaders were saying that this was not a political strike, or a strike against the government, more an industrial dispute. Talks followed between Mr Carr (for the government) and a union delegation led by Mr Jackson at which Mr Carr is reported to have been fair in seeking to get views from both sides. Mr Jackson is reported to have said that he thought Mr Carr was being fair.

It took the full seven weeks of the strike for Mr Jackson to admit his naivety and accept that it was possible that the government was not necessarily neutral in this dispute. The solidarity of its members was certainly giving the Post Office and Government something to consider. Money and support was there for the strikers, with a number of unions contributing to hardship funds. The public continued to support what was thought to be a modest claim in view of the low wage rate in the postal sector.

Resolution...

At the beginning of the seventh week the Executive Committee of the U.P.W. met Mr Carr with a proposal which it felt would resolve the deadlock (this was done without reference to the Union membership). Following 14 hours of discussion the Committee decided to recommend accepting the decision of a 3 man 'Committee of Enquiry', with the membership being asked to vote by branch. This proposal was put before the membership and grudgingly accepted.

Stamps and Covers...

Collecting these has shown significant variation in charges and routes used. One or two of the companies established to distribute postal material found that providing this service was uneconomic. However the sale of associated philatelic material offered an additional source of income which they were quick to exploit. Examples can be found where stamps have been produced at the same rate but in different colours, thereby extending the range of material available - whether this was deliberate is not known. The strike lasted from the 20th January until the 8th of March. In the middle of this was the change-over to decimal currency, which in turn led to a reprinting of stamps. Collecting this material has been both interesting and educational in that I have had to investigate various routes across continents.

Jim Rankin...

Membership News – August 2016...

We have welcomed new members, **Mrs Sylvia Leyton**, who will be well known to a number of members for her work selling stamps for charity and **Mr Martin Petchey**, from Swanmore, whose late father was a member some time ago.

Following the note in *Postmark*, **Miss Bennett** from West Wellow has written to me again advising that **Mr Colin Townsend**, who had introduced her to the Society, passed away in 2002. He left his library of shipping books and ships' postcards to Southampton City Maritime Museum – to be known as '*The Townsend Collection*'; his collection of postcards of Southampton and Hampshire & Isle of Wight to the City's Museum Department. Miss Bennett thought this information might be of interest to members.

Messrs Hall (Calmore) Nicholson (Fareham), Phillips (Chandler's Ford) and Mrs Spratley (Wales) resigned at the end of 2015. **Mr and Mrs Robinson** from the Isle of Wight have found the cost of travel to society meetings prohibitive and have also resigned. **Jim Gordon (Lordshill)** very sadly passed away in June 2016. The Society was represented at the funeral.

Mike Vokes (Membership Secretary)...

Jim Gordon

Members were saddened to learn of Jim's death in June. In common with many members, Jim was simply a stamp collector. Not for him the mysteries of postal history, varieties of watermark, perfs and shades, just a keen collector of GB and Australia commemoratives.

For many years until his recent ill health he looked forward to "The Packet" and Society auctions and eagerly anticipated every issue of Postmark.

The Society was represented at his funeral by our Chairman, Dr Melvyn Bradshaw accompanied by Harry and Pauline Vinecombe.

Harry Vinecombe...

Congratulations to Alan Drysdall...

At the 2016 Annual Conference of the Rhodesian Study Circle (RSC) it was announced that Alan had been awarded the *Simpson Salver* for outstanding service to the RSC for his work in developing and producing the *Memoir Series* over the last 20 years, which now total some 30 issues. He has been author or co-author of 16 issues. Each Memoir covers a specific area of Rhodesian philately from postal history to specific issues of postage stamps etc. Several run to well over 100 pages in A4 format and all but the earliest are illustrated in colour. Alan has been responsible for much of the printing and distribution of the Memoirs.

There are almost 400 members of the RSC around the world and, having served for many years on the Council and a recent spell as President, Alan is now a Life Vice-President. This is in fact the second occasion on which he has won the *Simpson Salver*, the RSC's top award, the first being in 1996.

John Berridge (President)...

2017 Programme...

The 2017 programme is now complete and approved by the committee meeting in July. 2017 is a special year for the Society as we celebrate 85 years in existence in May. A series of special events has been organised to mark the anniversary using the theme of 85 and 1932:

- January – Eighty Five – speaker Mike Batty
Also in January, John Dorrington will display aspects of his Southampton postal history collection (which he will be offering for sale through the Society later in the year) see 1853 cover on page 1.
- To mark the anniversary itself in May, Michael Sefi, the keeper of the Queen's Stamp Collection, will give a presentation on the Queen's collection at the first Tuesday meeting
- The second Tuesday May meeting will be a celebration / social evening
- In May there will also be a Saturday event with the Aero-Philatelic Society on the theme of 1932
- Our traditional joint evening with the postcard society (September) will also pick up the 1932 / 85 theme
- The November meetings will continue the theme for the President's evening and on the second Tuesday with 17 members displaying 5 sheets (85 in total for those struggling with the concept or the maths!)

For those not caught up in all this celebratory excitement, there will be the usual favourites of auctions, member's displays and competitions plus a good variety of first Tuesday speakers.

Southampton as the centre of the World (Malcolm Montgomery) does pick up the theme but we will also have Latvia (Wendy Buckle), Finland at War (Michael Elliott) British East Africa (Colin Baker) to take us further afield. Themed evenings of the 1936 Olympics (Tony Bosworth), German Catapult Mail (Eddie Spicer), 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee (John Davies), Pages from Peace (Grace Davies) and 19th century Australia / New Zealand mails (Colin Tabcart) complete the line up.

With the 2017 programme complete, my thoughts will shortly be turning to the 2018 programme – ideas for speakers and events are always appreciated.

Kevin Chard (Programme Secretary)...

COVER STORY...

The cover on the front is taken from the William Moore Collection Vol. 2 which is part of the Society collection.

Seven Penny Reds, Imperforate Die I, Alphabet II on mourning cover, Shirley Common, Southampton to Bristol. 1844 cancellation, the number 723 in barred oval denoting Southampton. Also on front a town date stamp for Southampton, dated 27th June 1853, and a manuscript "Missent" with the district of Clifton "Struck Out", and Whiteladies inserted. Backstamps for Shirley Common (Blue), London (Red), Bristol

H&K Packet – Interesting Transatlantic Usage...

Recently I was asked to confirm the direction of travel of this cover. While not particularly out of the ordinary, it tells an interesting mail processing story and I would have been happy to add it to my transatlantic collection.

Why would a letter from Dublin to Philadelphia not be sent to Queenstown to be put on board a liner going from Liverpool to New York? The answer lies in the adjacent clip from The Times digital archive of the Shipping & Mails page on Monday 20th October 1890 showing the planned foreign letter despatches for the forthcoming week.

The next mail sailing for New York is not until Friday on board HAPAG's *Columbia*. Thus the letter was sent via the Holyhead and Kingstown packet to London to be made up for the US mails via Southampton.

The following mail steamers are intended to leave Southampton during the ensuing week :—The DRENTHE (Rotterdam Lloyd) to-morrow, with mails for Batavia and other ports in Java, *via* Marseilles ; the ALLER (Norddeutscher Lloyd) on Thursday, with mails for New York ; the PRETORIA (Union Company) on Thursday, for Hamburg and Rotterdam ; the CLYDE (Royal Mail Company) on Thursday, with the Brazil and River Plate mails ; the COLUMBIA (Hamburg-American Company) on Friday, with mails for New York ; the ANGLIAN (Union Company) on Friday, for the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, *via* Madeira and Teneriffe, in the intermediate service ; and the FULDA (Norddeutscher Lloyd) on Sunday, with mails for New York. The following are expected :—The SPARTAN (Union Company) to-day, with the Natal and Cape of Good Hope mails ; the ANGLIAN (same company) to-day, from Hamburg and Antwerp ; the ROMAN (same company) on Wednesday, from Cape Town, *via* St. Helena, Ascension, and Teneriffe ; the WERBA (Norddeutscher Lloyd) on Wednesday, the SAALE (same line) and the AUGUSTA VICTORIA (Hamburg-American Company) on Thursday, all three with mails from New York ; the ELBE (Royal Mail Company) on Thursday, from the West Indies ; the MAGDALENA (same company) on Saturday, with the River Plate and Brazil mails ; and the EMS (Norddeutscher Lloyd) on Sunday, with mails from New York.



The H&K handstamp is listed by Kidd as type IIIb. The handstamp with index 9 at the bottom was re-issued in 1890 having previously been withdrawn around 1882/1883.

More usually one may see the H&K Packet handstamp on the reverse of incoming mail for Ireland from the USA via Southampton or other countries which have been forwarded from the London Foreign office.

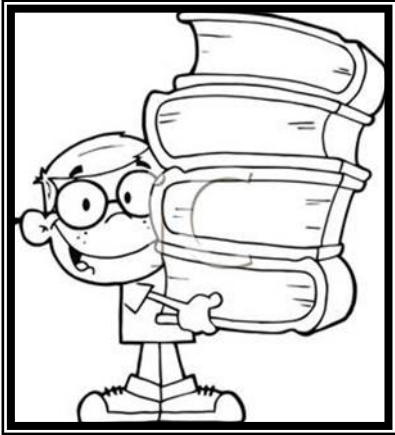
The Times snippet is interesting in itself: all mails to and from the USA for Britain were being carried that week by German vessels via Southampton. This should have generated a few overseas covers addressed to/from Ireland with H&K Packet marks!

(1) Kidd, C: *The Irish Mail, TPO & Seapost Society*, 2nd Edition, February 1996.

Julian Jones....

Article from Librarian for Postmark.

News from the library



The updated catalogue for 2016 is on the website; please have a look. A paper copy is available on Tuesday club evenings. If you can't find it, please ask the librarian. If you only go to the Thursday meetings, please ask a committee member to bring the catalogue to the meeting.

The 9 subjects in the catalogue are:

000	General		
100	UK		
200	Europe		
300	Asia		
400	Africa		
500	Australasia		
600	America		
700	Thematic		
		800	World
900	Miscellaneous		

I try at each meeting to put books connected with the subject of the evening on display. This is not always possible but I noticed that there are always members interesting in what is on display.

Also new books in the library are on display on Tuesday evening meetings before they have their place on the shelf.

Don't forget, the library is there for you; if you need information, have a look and I hope you find what you are looking for. If not, ask me, maybe I can help and if we can't find it in our library, that means, I have to look further. Also, any suggestions for new books are always welcome. If in our budget, I'm happy to extend the library with interesting new material.

I noticed that catalogues are in huge demand, so please if you have an old specialised catalogue and you don't know what to do with it, donate it to the library for other members to use. Other books are of course also welcome.

But for now, happy lending, happy reading.

Patrik V Goethals (Librarian)...

Interaction with South Hampshire Postal Historians...

Past Southampton Society member, Malcolm Montgomery, who now lives in North Wales, would like to keep in contact with collectors of local south Hampshire postal history. Malcolm has a keen interest in Southampton and Portsmouth and the area. If you would like to get in contact then Kevin Chard has the details.

Julian Jones...

Traditional Class Exhibit...

In December 2014 I gave a presentation to Southampton Society about how to put together a competition exhibit. Some of the items I used in the Power-Point presentation came from the **traditional class** exhibit of the US 5c and 10c stamps of 1847 by William Gross. The whole exhibition - 8 frames - is now available on-line at the website of the US Postal Classics Society. If you are interested in seeing this internationally acclaimed exhibit in detail I cannot rate it highly enough - and it is here: <http://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/philatelic-exhibits/1847-period-exhibits/united-states-the-1847-issue/>

Julian Jones....



**Chandler's Ford 2016
'Sociable'**

A photographic record of the occasion, which Debbie Hindson, as the photographer, has entitled, 'The view from the kitchen'



Competition Evening - 19th July.

This years competition entries being judged by John Campbell...

5th July...

Speaker Gavin Fryer being thanked after his talk on GB KGVI High Values - Part 3....

