



The New Midlander



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Chairman's Update

If it's not too late to say it - a happy philatelic new year! I think that 2020, particularly during the spring, is going to be a very good philatelic year. We have **London 2020** taking place, or to give the event its full name the "London 2020 Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition", taking place at the Business

Design Centre in Islington in London between **2nd and 9th May 2020**. An international stamp exhibition is held in London every ten years, and London 2020 is set to attract collectors, enthusiasts and stamp professionals from around the world. The event has philatelic patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and recognition from the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA), whilst Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has granted her patronage to the exhibition.

There will be 2,750 frames of competitive material to see! The event will feature thousands of frames of stamp and postal history exhibits, bringing together some of the rarest and most renowned collections from around the world. As at London 2010, there will be a change-over of material in the frames after four days. There will, of course, be in addition to the displays a range of dealers, auction houses and philatelic societies at the event.

Also in May – **17th May 2020** - we have our own Spring MPF Convention taking place at the Benn Hall in Rugby, an excellent venue we have now got to know.

In the last issue of the New Midlander, I gave the details of a new **small grants scheme** open to all affiliated societies of the MPF. The committee thought that the scheme would be a good idea to help support the development of the hobby in the Midlands. I

asked that if your society had in mind a project or something that would **enhance the development** of our hobby in the region, and a small grant would get the idea off the ground then to apply, in the first instance, directly to me, explaining what the money would be used for. The committee would then consider all applications. I'm afraid to say that I haven't received any applications at all for a small grant. I find this a little disappointing. I do hope that somewhere in the MPF there is an idea just waiting for some support to bring it to life! **Do let me hear from you if a small grant would help!** Going back to the subject of our own MPF conventions, is there a society who would like to act as host for the Autumn 2021 Convention? There could, of course, be financial support from the MPF to the society for the event. Please **DO** consider if your society could help!

As always I would be very pleased to hear from any society or individual collector who has any comments or thoughts on how we can go forward and develop our hobby even further! Email me at sharrison500@btinternet.com or send a letter to 56 Woodberry Drive, Sutton Coldfield B76 2RH. I really do want to hear from you!

Steve Harrison

SOCIETY REPORTS

Banbury Stamp Society

On Wednesday November 27th, Banbury Stamp Society welcomed Gerald Marriner who presented his material on 'Falkland Island: the 1982 Conflict.' Gerald was already a collector of the Falkland Islands before the war, but started this display a few years after when he was offered some material at a stamp fair. For many of us who remember the outbreak of the conflict, it was a surprise to realise that it was 37 years ago and Gerald has built up an impressive collection in that time.

We started with a few postal history items from 1905 up to the 1970's, starting with a 1905 postcard with a picture of an Argentine naval vessel and a message suggesting that Argentina could occupy the islands easily! Mail to the islands routed through Argentina and so was often annotated with the Argentinian name for the islands: Malvinas. By the 1970's there was a permanent marine detachment on the islands and there was some mail from this group.

After the Argentine occupation of the islands, the Swiss consulate in Buenos Aires acted for British nationals in the country and there was an example of consular mail. The task force routed via Ascension Island and we saw an air letter with the Ascension Island forces postmark '777' and a letter with words cut out – mail was censored up to the arrival of the task force on Ascension on April 19th. We then saw letters from the vessels in the task force including the Atlantic Conveyor, later sunk with the helicopters

that would have supported the land war. Much of the mail was personal but Gerald showed commercial mail from HMS Coventry to a company in Guernsey which sent flowers by mail. South Georgia was the first island recaptured and we had one cover from there, and then a moving letter sent from San Carlos Bay at 03.30 just before the landing on the main island.

Mail from the Islanders started with a letter sent the day before the invasion followed by items which had to go through the Argentine post office with Argentine stamps. This was followed by mail to and from the Argentine occupying forces with many of the letters written using paper and envelopes 'liberated' from the Port Stanley post office. The Argentine marine detachment were supplied with writing material, and there was also a series of Air Letters issued by the Argentine post office.

We finished with mail from after the liberation including items posted on the QEII which was used as a troop ship, a letter from a soldier in the field hospital with pleurisy and POW mail from an Argentine soldier.

On Wednesday December 10th, Banbury Stamp Society welcomed Bryan A Jones who presented his material on 'Fiji – Stamps and Postal History'. Bryan has been collecting this area for over forty years and started in the 1970's when another collector advised him to specialise. He started collecting both Mauritius and Fiji, but soon dropped Mauritius to focus on Fiji.

We were treated to two very different halves. We started with George VI and the coronation issue, and then went on to the country's first pictorial issue. This had come about because it was felt that the 'key plate' issue was too plain and many other countries were issuing pictorial sets which acted as tourist advertisements. Bryan had photographs of artists' designs and essays that were submitted to the Post Office followed by an in-depth study of the stamps that were issued including plate numbers, different printers and even what is called 'fly speck' philately where tiny constant printing flaws allow the location of the stamp in the original sheet to be identified. We heard that the 5d value, showing sugar cane crops, was originally printed in blue. The public objected and persuaded the post office to change the sugar cane to green when the stamps were reprinted.

Bryan also showed the stamps used on cover – where possible, paying the correct rate. There was an interesting range of first day covers, local mail, registered mail and air mails. Some war time mail was censored and we heard that this occurred particularly when mail was being sent from one theatre of war (in Fiji's case, the Pacific) to another.

The second half was material largely from the past fifteen years and has a collection of the low value definitive set built up by Bryan with the help of the only stamp dealer on the island of Fiji. The story started in the 1990's when Fiji ordered new definitive

stamps from Enschede in Holland, and were persuaded to order several hundred extra sheets as this 'saved' money. Of course, inflation meant that some values became obsolete and so the postmaster came up with the idea of overprinting some of the surplus with new values, and proceeded to do this locally using a standard office computer and printer. This started in 2006 and continues to this day, and with the result that there are a number of errors and varieties in the overprints, including inverted, missing or incorrect values. Bryan had all of these in full sheets along with a range of covers that his Fijian colleague sent to him with the different issues.

On Tuesday January 7th, Banbury Stamp Society met for our New Year Social and members displayed their recent acquisitions. As always this gave an interesting and varied range of material. We started with one of our members who normally collects central Europe, and he had been tempted to buy a collection of Sweden. We saw material bought at the recent Banbury Festival of Stamps: Windmills and a collection of European issues from the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, so we had Hitler's head stamps with defacing overprints as well as Free Czech stamps printed in England. Some members showed where they had filled gaps in their collections so from the Bahamas in 1860 we had proofs of the Queen Victoria 'Chalon Head' followed by some 1917 Bahamas 'Queen's Staircase' issue and first flight covers between the Bahamas and the USA. We finished the first half with some material from Malta, including complete sheets of stamps and a cover sent from a Turkish POW during the Great War. After a break for some refreshment we saw some new material for the 1890 Penny Post Jubilee, postcards from around the world – including some fascinating pictures of the Panama Canal in its early days – and finished with a 1930 Italian stamp picturing Mussolini and issued for use in one town only, on the occasion of a state visit by the man himself.

On Tuesday January 21st, Banbury Stamp Society welcomed David Hutchins who gave a presentation 'A Philatelic History of China'. David set the scene by playing us a recording of 2,000 year old bells that had been excavated in China and restored to working condition. The mini LP had been issued by the Chinese Post Office in the 1980's in conjunction with a miniature sheet depicting the bells. We moved ahead 1900 years to the introduction of postage stamps, mainly at the Treaty ports set up by European states in places such as Shanghai, Chunging (on the Yangtze) and Amoy. Despite their European origin, many of these stamps were designed and printed locally. The first Chinese stamp was produced in 1878, illustrated with a large dragon, and has been prolifically – and profitably – forged.

Modern China is started in 1911 when the Emperor abdicated and the Chinese Republic was formed with Sun Yat-Sen and General Yuan Shikai at the helm. Sun Yat-Sen appeared regularly on stamps thereafter; Yuan Shikai assumed the role of Emperor which did not last for long as China descended into civil war. Sun Yat-Sen then joined

with Chiang Kai Shek to form the Kuo Min Tang (KMT) and we saw membership stamps for the KMT. Japan set up a puppet regime in Manchuria – headed by the ‘last’ Emperor who appeared on their stamps. We were shown a letter from a Japanese sergeant in the occupying army in Manchuria. The KMT eventually defeated the Japanese, but Mao Tse Tung formed the Communist party to challenge the KMT. The Communists were nearly defeated by the KMT, making their escape in what has become known as ‘the Long March’, later commemorated on stamps. The west sided with the KMT and friendship stamps were issued jointly with the USA, raising funds for the fight against both the Communists and the Japanese. After WWII, China was still in a state of civil war and suffering from hyper-inflation and currency devaluation, shown in various stamp issue from this period. Mao eventually drove the KMT to Taiwan, liberating the rest of the country and issuing stamps for each region as he took control. By 1949, Mao had unified China and Republic stamps were issued. Through the 1950’s China’s relationship with the USSR led to a number of Soviet themes on issues, including one of Stalin and Mao signing an accord. There were issues for the five-year plans in 1953 and 1958. By 1961, China and the USSR fell out over Albania and Russia was replaced by a range of more colourful themes until the 1966 Cultural Revolution – during which nearly all stamps included a quote from Chairman Mao’s ‘Little Red Book’.

Gareth Williams

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society

On October 15th, Bill Whitaker gave a display of ‘The Story of Australia on its Stamps’. Bill’s presentation had a thematic approach rather than the more usual chronological sequence of issues. The story began with the first native inhabitants and the story of ‘One Pound Jimmy’, the aboriginal with the tribal name Gwaya Jurgasi who famously sold boomerangs and other goods who when asked the price always said One Pound. Early 17th century explorers were represented on stamps, including William Jansz (the first European to sight Australia in 1606), Dirk Hartog (1616), Abel Tasman (1642), William Dampier (1688) and Cook. Bill told us about the first English settlers in 1788 and the first postmaster of Australia, Issac Nichols himself an ex-convict. The rest of the display consisted of stamps featuring economic development, tribal art, flora and fauna, geology, whaling, the Gold Rush, transport, sport, stamp collecting and entertainment.

On November 12th, two members of Kings Lynn Society entertained with Czeslaw Slania and Seahorses, Terry Wagg started with his display of the work of Slania, a Polish member of the Underground in the Second World War. He left Poland for Sweden in 1956 and found work in a restaurant and engraving labels. This was followed by Mike Kentzer who gave a display of George V Seahorses. As well as

describing the different printers Mike also showed various usages including Zeppelin mail, transatlantic mail, crash and wreck mail and fiscal usage.

Richard Flemming

POSTAGE DUE in CANADA from OSWESTRY in 1859

The cover is franked by a 6d violet, plate 1 cancelled by an OSWESTRY spoon dated 27 May 1859 and addressed to Goderich, Canada West (now Ontario). Located on the shores of Lake Huron, Goderich was first laid out in 1828 and is named after Frederick John Robinson, 1st Viscount Goderich, who was British prime minister at the time.



The only way the cover could have arrived in Goderich by 11th June 1859 was on the Cunard Line *Africa*, which left Liverpool on 28th May and arrived at New York on 9th June 1859 not calling at Halifax, Nova Scotia; that was only for the Cunard Boston service. The Treasury Warrant of 23rd March 1854 stated '*By British....packets (except US packets) a uniform rate of 6d per 1/2oz between the UK and Canada...*'. The Instructions to Postmasters of the same month stated '*Letters to Canada not endorsed 'via Halifax' go via the US and the US transit of 2d must be added, making 8d in all*'. As there is no endorsement the letter was sent by the first ship via the US and was thus 2d underpaid. A further Treasury Warrant of 1st April 1859 stated that '*Between UK and Canada to be prepaid. Unpaid / underpaid to be forwarded charged with the deficiency (2d in this case) plus 6d fine*' making 8d UK owing equal to 10d Canadian currency to be collected, hence the figure **10**; Canada converted to dollars July 1859. The ^δ**5** Liverpool accountancy mark credits 5d to the UK. I hope this explanation is correct, please contact me if it isn't, many thanks.

Brian Atkins

Request for Advice

After more years than I care to remember of using standard large-sized album pages for my stamp collection, and hand writing the usual notes on the page, I am now considering using a computer programme which will enable me to layout a page on the laptop screen, including notes, and then print it on a sheet as the album page.

The problem is that I only have an A4-laser printer and my album pages are larger. I use SG Senator Standard pages and I am able to punch the 18 holes along the binder edge so they fit into the Lindner albums which I use. I know that some people print onto A4 sheets (120 gsm) and then put them in standard A4 sized punched pockets, but these do not look the part on an album page and may contain chemicals which could damage the material (stamps and covers) mounted on the page. If anyone has overcome this problem I would be pleased to hear from them so I can consider advice from others on the subject.

I have downloaded off the internet AlbumEasy v. 4.1.0 (free) but I have yet to get into using it. If anyone has experience of this programme please let me know what you think of it before I start using it. If anyone knows of a better programme (preferably free!) I would be pleased to hear from them too.

Many thanks for any forthcoming advice. Richard Camp, Telford. TN = 01952-405458. Email = mail@richardcamp.co.uk.

The **Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs** are held quarterly on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October each year and are held in the Belmont Community Hall, adjacent to the Tan Bank Car Park in Wellington Centre, Telford, TF1 1LU.

The fairs are organised by Telford Stamp and Postcard Club. Entry is free and the fairs are open from 10 am to 3 pm. Free parking is available adjacent to the hall. Both train and bus stations are nearby for those who cannot travel by car.

If there are any dealers out there who wish to have a table at this well-attended fair, contact Bob Pilkington, Tel: 01299-211737. Email: sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

Next Fairs

2020 – April 11th, July 11th, October 10th

Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society
Stamp & Postcard Fair

Saturday 7th March 2020

The Society will be holding its Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition at The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF on Saturday 7th March 2020.

Collingwood Drive is off the A4041 Queslett Road.

The Fair opens at 10.00am and continues until 4.00pm.

Car parking at the Centre is free and the Venue is Disabled Friendly.

Dealers will attend with material including Stamps, Postal History, Covers and Postcards. There will also be a display of material from members of the Society to illustrate the wide variety of interests and will include Stamps, Postal History, and Aerophilatelic items. The display will be colour copies of the originals.

Free Admission and Car Parking and Refreshments of tea, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, and light lunches will be available all day.

Further information ref. this Fair can be obtained from the Event organiser: -

Steven Harrison on 0121 313 0671

MIDLAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION SPRING CONVENTION
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Benn Hall,

Newbold Road, Rugby CV21 2LN on

SUNDAY MAY 17th 2020 10am to 3 pm

There will be the usual Stamp fair with a good number of stamp, postal history, thematics, accessories and postcard dealers catering for all pockets!!

Admission is free. There is free car parking in the large car park and refreshments will be available all day. The Annual Nine-sheet Intersociety Competition will be held at this convention so now is the time to start preparing for this. The entry form will be available in the next New Midlander at the start of April.

KETTERING

Stamp and Philatelic Society

STAMP FAIR

Saturday 18th April 2020

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

ISE LODGE

COMMUNITY CENTRE

St. Vincent's Avenue

KETTERING NN15 5DR

Stamps / Collections / Covers

Postal History / Accessories.

Free Entry, Free Car Parking.

Refreshments

Easy access from the A14.

Junction 10 (A6) to Wicksteed Park then via
Windmill Avenue and Deeble Road to St. Vincent's
Avenue.



CONTACT:

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my-stampclub.co.uk

Society Meeting Diary

Feb 3 rd	Fiji – Stamps and Postal History	Bryan Jones	Evesham
Feb 4 th	Letter ‘I’	Members	Banbury
Feb 4 th	Anniversaries and Celebrations	Members	Coventry
Feb 4 th	Visit from Rugby & District P.S		Hinckley
Feb 4 th	Letter “I” or “J”	Members	Solihull
Feb 4 th	Postcard Evening – Flowers / Plants	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 4 th	Stratford-upon-Avon Postal History	Bryan Jones	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
Feb 5 th	Grand Auction	Members	Hereford
Feb 5 th	Competition Evening Quiz Night	Members John Gledhill	Leamington
Feb 6 th	Visit by Banbury Stamp Society		Redditch

Feb 6 th	President's Evening		Northampton
Feb 6 th	Stroud Postcards	Howard Beard	Stroud
Feb 6 th	Origins of the Picture Postcard	Richard Farman	Wombourne
Feb 7 th	Cinderella Miscellany A Moment with Mickey	Sandra Poole Maddie Tennant	Nottingham
Feb 8 th	Skeletons	Members	Midlands PH Society (afternoon)
Feb 10 th	Visit from Leamington and Warwick P. S.		Rugby
Feb 10 th	Annual General Meeting / Meal	Members	Telford
Feb 11 th	US Forces Invasion of Czechslovakia	Bob Hill	Dudley
Feb 11 th	Channel Islands Occupation - Revisited	Gerald Marriner	Solihull
Feb 11 th	South Birmingham Cup	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 11 th	Competitions	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Feb 12 th	The Zeppelin Era	Brian Hyner	Shropshire (afternoon)
Feb 12 th	Competition Night	Members	Matlock
Feb 12 th	Annual Competition Evening and Quiz	Members	Stratford
Feb 13 th	New Zealand 1d Universal Post	Brian Clayton	Radcliffe on Trent
Feb 13 th	Committee Entertain		Derby
Feb 13 th	Garth Taylor and David Gabe Entertain		Loughborough
Feb 13 th	"Who Cares?"	Members	Solihull (morning)
Feb 17 th	Chairman's Evening	Richard Ellis	Evesham
Feb 17 th	Wild Animals	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
Feb 18 th	50 Years of Machins	John Dixon	Coventry
Feb 18 th	The Letter "V"	Members	Hinckley
Feb 18 th	Danzig – The Propaganda War	Giles du Boulay	Banbury
Feb 18 th	Annual General Meeting	Members	Solihull
Feb 18 th	Auction	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 19 th	Diamonds	Theo Schilderman	Leamington
Feb 20 th	The Fall of the Indian Princely States French Departments	Paul Fowler David Greensweig	Stroud
Feb 20 th	Annual General Meeting / One-Sheet Display	Members	Redditch
Feb 20 th	Annual Dinner	Members	Coleshill
Feb 20 th	Auction	Members	Wombourne
Feb 21 st	Animal, Vegetable or Mineral	Members	Nottingham
Feb 24 th	Confederate States of America	John Walker	Rugby
Feb 25 th	Danzig - The Propaganda War	Giles du Boulay	Solihull
Feb 25 th	Flying Objects	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 25 th	Competitions	Members	Dudley
Feb 25 th	Cyprus - Its History and Stamps	Ken Flint	Sutton Coldfield
Feb 26 th	Shade Determination – techniques and examples	Members	Shropshire (afternoon)
Feb 26 th	Czechoslovakia (T.G. Masaryk - the 1st President, and Newspaper Stamps)	Les Percy	Stratford

Feb 27 th	Postal History of Oundle	Richard Capon	Radcliffe on Trent
Feb 27 th	Bring, Buy, Sell & Five Sheets of Covers, One Sheet of Stamps	Members	Loughborough
March 2 nd	Quiz	Members	Evesham
March 3 rd	Competition	Members	Banbury
March 3 rd	Ottoman Empire and Albania	Nick Bridgwater	Coventry
March 3 rd	Annual Competitions and Auction	Members	Hinckley
March 3 rd	U.S.A. - Garfield Issue & Pan Pacific	L. Hogg	Solihull
March 3 rd	Antwerp Part 2	Bill Pile	South Birmingham
March 3 rd	Did I really mean to collect this?	Members	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
March 4 th	Visit from Rugby and District Philatelic Society		Leamington
March 4 th	The Siege of Paris 1870 - 1871	Ashley Lawrence	Hereford
March 5 th	Quiz Night	Members	Redditch
March 5 th	Postal History of Suffolk	Judith Bradshaw	Northampton
March 5 th	Danish Open Sandwiches	Brian Hague	Stroud
March 5 th	Womborne Stampex	Members	Wombourne
March 6 th	New Zealand	Andrew Dove	Nottingham
March 9 th	Member's Displays	Members	Telford
March 9 th	Cup Competitions	Members	Rugby
March 10 th	TBA		Dudley
March 10 th	Ethiopia	A. Wood	Solihull
March 10 th	WW2 Shuttle Mail	Tony Greaves	South Birmingham
March 10 th	Early Gibraltar	Brian Hyner	Sutton Coldfield
March 11 th	President's Evening		Shropshire
March 11 th	Great Britain Castles	Michael Roberts	Matlock
March 11 th	Red	Members	Stratford
March 12 th	USA Confederate States Patriotic Covers	John Walker	Derby
March 12 th	Great Britain KGV Sea Horses Slania's Engraving	Mike Kentzer Terry Wragg	Radcliffe on Trent
March 12 th	Five Sheets	Members	Loughborough
March 12 th	"Something Unusual"	Members	Solihull (morning)
March 14 th	TBA		Midlands PH Society (afternoon)
March 16 th	Auction	Members	Evesham
March 16 th	Mail by Air and Sea	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
March 17 th	Annual Dinner	Members	Banbury
March 17 th	China	David Hutchins	Coventry
March 17 th	Kingdom of Italy	Tony Clayton	Hinckley
March 17 th	Great Britain - Part 1 1883 Lilac & Greens Part 2 London Postal History	J. Roe	Solihull
March 17 th	BHS Trophy - One Board of Postcards	Members	South Birmingham
March 18 th	Belgian Congo WWII Postal History	Gerald Marriner	Leamington
March 19 th	Fiji	Bryan Jones	Coleshill

March 19 th	Auction Preview	Members	Redditch
March 19 th	Visit by Evesham and District P.S		Stroud
March 19 th	Railways	Peter Pugh	Wombourne
March 20 th	The Boxer Rebellion	Mick Britton	Nottingham
March 23 rd	Spain - Railways	Edyth Knight	Rugby
March 24 th	The World of Postal Stationery	Peter Barnett	Dudley
March 24 th	Great Britain Royalty	I. Shapiro	Solihull
March 24 th	The 1927 Gladstone Flights	Jonathan Smalley	South Birmingham
March 24 th	Letters 'V', 'W' and 'X'	Members	Sutton Coldfield
March 25 th	Aerophilately	Members	Shropshire
March 25 th	Annual Society Auction	Members	Stratford
March 26 th	TBA		Radcliffe on Trent
March 26 th	Military India	Mike Siversns	Loughborough
March 31 st	Canadian Expeditionary Force	Alan Spencer	Coventry
March 31 st	Members' Night: Favourite parts of my collections	Members	Hinckley
March 31 st	Rhodesia	C. Hoffman	Solihull
March 31 st	Members' Evening - Any Subject	Members	South Birmingham
March 31 st	Antwerp - A Postal History	Bill Pile	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
April 1 st	Aspects of Philately	Nick Nelson and Members	Hereford
April 1 st	Sport on Stamps	Michael Chapling	Leamington
April 2 nd	Annual Competitions	Members	Northampton
April 2 nd	Winter Finds	Members	Stroud
April 2 nd	More Bloody Railways	Peter Pugh	Wombourne
April 2 nd	From Tonga to Togo	David Hutchins	Redditch
April 3 rd	Trains, Boats or Planes	Members	Nottingham
April 6 th	Canada – Postal Stationery / QEII Definitives	Ken Flint	Evesham

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

If you want to see your favourite items shown in the New Midlander then please send me a short article which I can include. It doesn't take long to write a few words and to send a scan of the item(s).