



MACCLESFIELD AND PRESTBURY
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Welcome to the first edition of our new newsletter! February 2008

Hopefully this will be a monthly production and we plan to carry a range of items including news, a "What's On" section and reports (with photos!) from our monthly meetings plus members contributions.

A message from our President

Writing this first editorial for our Newsletter I think of the enjoyment I have had over more than 70 years from the wonderful hobby of stamp collecting.

A short time ago a daily newspaper ran an article on a survey, which showed, that stamp collectors as a group did better than average in the "business and earnings" league.

Stamps can be useful in the financial world. Way back in the Wilson-Labour era strict limits were imposed on taking money abroad, stamps were brought at auction, sent abroad, sold for cash and often found a way back to Auction.

A sorry tale appeared in the latest Canadian Journal. A U.S.A. stamp not on cover catalogued at \$75, brought over \$10,000 at Auction. Why? Because it was rated at the highest possible grade under the P.S. E. system for grading the condition of stamps it was not brought by a stamp collector" I hope! Sometimes I despair but still live in hope for us humble stamp collectors who enjoy our hobby and each other's company.

Fred Mountford

Members Interests

We would like to put out an updated list of members interests as soon as possible. People's tastes change and new areas are found to be explored. You may find a home for that obscure piece of postal history or collection you have been stuck with for years!

Latest News

There will be a Presentation by Giovanni Palazzo of the Republic of Italy at Stockport on Feb 22. Any support would be most welcome.

Two big shows in London are coming at the end of February, Philatex and Stampex, so get your skates on!

We have just had the Working Dogs new issue come out and can look forward to a "local" scrap (I mean issue!) with "The Houses of Lancaster and York" on Feb 28. No doubt there will be some interesting postmarks for this!

We are delighted to report 2 new members this month, and would like to extend a hearty welcome to John Simmons and Paul Wreglesworth.

Computers and the Internet!

If any member would like some help with computers generally or just in using the Internet I would be happy to give a hand.

For the more computer minded our website is updated regularly by Alan Dinnis: http://www.maccweb.org.uk/news/article_142.shtml

Comments Welcome

Any articles, letters & suggestions gratefully received! Please feel free to let me know you comments, either by email or by letter and I will endeavour to include them in the next edition.

I can be contacted at:
ralphmelville@hotmail.com or on 07970 636667

Ralph Melville

Peter's Prose

The Macclesfield and Prestbury Philatelic Society have continued to enjoy another successful year, and after the successes of our 40th Anniversary in Oct 2006, it was with great sadness that we lost five of our members. That is a tremendous loss to our Society, as well as to the families involved.

However our attendances have held up extremely well and as always we are very appreciative of our loyal members whom turn out on the first Monday of each month.

However we are aware that we have a few members who are unable to join us at our meetings and the introduction of our first newsletter is an ideal way for us to keep in touch, and to let them know what is happening in the philatelic world.

We hope by introducing a brief newsletter that all members will feel that they can join in, and in time we can develop this in different formats, including members "wants", or items they might like to dispose.

At the end of last season the Society took a major step in investing in new frames for our displays. The display boards which we had been using for a long time actually belong to myself and were made for me many years ago by a local joiner, but by being oblong and only taking ten sheets in two horizontal rows only allowed us a maximum of six frames or sixty sheets. This was clearly not adequate for the majority of speakers and we had a chance to purchase boxed lightweight frames, which allow us to get ten frames with ninety sheets on display. This has been welcomed by our speakers and certainly keeps us down to two rounds in the evenings.

The cost of these frames certainly stretched our resources and I am pleased to say that following the deaths of two of our members, Tony Mills and Bryan Stewart that I was asked to help dispose of their collections through Cavendish Auctions and as a result was able to arrange an introductory commission from Cavendish for the Society and I am sure that this will more than

offset the cost of this welcome improvement. Our treasurer will be reporting the final amounts at the forthcoming AGM.

The season has once more produced some first class displays, with Alan Randall Jones giving us a great insight into Nobel Prize winners, many of which were featured on Scandinavian stamps.

In December Philip Longbottom, gave us an amazing insight into Nineteenth Century Turkey and the various routes, which the mail took.

Unfortunately in January our scheduled speaker John Crowther was unable to be with us, owing to illness and I spoke on Great Britain Postage Dues, a subject that I have recently become quite fascinated. There is some compensation waiting at the sorting office to pay £1.06 or £1.16 for letters deemed to exceed either the weight or size of current guidelines.

In November we clashed with Bonfire night, and our Society evening on Postcards brought a wide variety of material that sparkled alongside any at a bonfire.

It is clear that postcards are very much on the up as far as collecting is concerned, probably brought about through E-Bay, and more and more fairs seem to have equal representations. In the North West there is one Society, which is styled "Stamp and Postcard Club" and it may be that in future clubs will need to evolve to include both interests.

At the AGM in 2007 (Jan) the society was presented with a Cup for Competitions and matched this by purchasing another. Myself won the first Nine-sheet competition with display of Registered Mail which in turn went on represent the Society in the North West Competitions in the Rose Bowl. In a very strong field this entry came second, behind a colleague from the Insurance and Banking Society.

The Society was well represented at the Convention this year with the Society entry for the John Crowther Cup of three disciplines coming a very creditable fourth. Our thanks to Giovanni Palazzo, Norton Wragg, and Philip Longbottom, for putting on these

displays for Society. In the various sixteen sheet competitions the Society was well represented by Giovanni and Peter, but were trumped by Godfrey Mellor who won the Cinderella competition on behalf of Stockport. We shall certainly make sure Godfrey is on the Macclesfield team next time round.

The North Western Federation presents certificates to Societies celebrating anniversaries, an innovation which was suggested by us, and as our Society was the prototype the certificate got lost on the day. However this will be presented to the Society when Adrian Jones visits us On April 7.

The event was particularly special for myself as I received the Award of Merit from the A. B. P. S. a great thrill and honour. However I echo very much the sentiments of our chairman when I say the greatest pleasure I have had in philately is meeting so many interesting and thoughtful people that make up our world of philately.

Peter Kirk

February Meeting

For our February meeting we welcomed two guests from our neighbouring Poynton Philatelic Society who gave us impressive displays on the post offices operated by the United Kingdom in Morocco.

The first office was established in Tangier in 1857, with mail being forwarded to Gibraltar where it received their "A26" postmark. Stamps of Great Britain were originally used, but in 1886 a change was made to those of Gibraltar. Additional post offices were opened in various Moroccan seaports during the 1880's as well as inland at Fez and Meknes.

From 1898 the stamps used were overprinted "Morocco Agencies". The overprint was first applied to those of Gibraltar and then, from 1907 when the British Government took greater control of the postal services, to stamps of Great Britain. This continued until Moroccan independence in 1956.

Early material from some of the British Post Offices in Morocco is difficult to find and we were very fortunate to view some quite rare items, while our speakers gave a fascinating insight into the problems of sending a letter in a country where France, Spain and Germany were all competing to influence the local population.

Alan Dinnis

Future Programme

2008

Our next Meeting will be on 3rd March. This will be our Annual General Meeting followed by 16- and 9-Sheet Competitions (for Autumn 2008 entries to the North West Federation).

Other events will be:

3rd March:

25th Mar (Tues): Visit to Northwich Philatelic Society.

7th Apr: Guest speaker who will present a display on Errors and Varieties.

17th Apr (Thurs): Visit to Buxton Philatelic Society.

12th May: Visit from Buxton Philatelic Society.

2nd Jun: Guest speaker who will present a display on 1940 Stamp Centenaries.

Following the summer break, the 2008/9 season will begin with the following:

1st Sep: Guest speaker who will present a display on New Zealand.

6th Oct: Guest speaker who will present a display on GB Pre Machin Decimal Coils.

3rd Nov: Guest speaker who will present a display on Canada 1927-1937.

1st Dec: Guest speaker who will present a display on the New Hebrides.

What's On

Please confirm all event dates and venues with the vendor before travelling!

February 2008

Tue 5	G.B. New Issue	Working Dogs
Fri 8 / Sat 9	Liverpool Stamp Fair	Liner Hotel, Liverpool
Sat 9	Stockport Postcard Fair	Town Hall, Stockport
Sun 10	Altrincham Stamp Fair	Quality Hotel, Altrincham
Thu 21 to Sat 23	Philatex Giovanni Palazzo with Republic of Italy	Royal Horticultural Hall, London
Fri 22	Postcard Fair	Stockport Philatelic Society Masonic Hall, Stockport 10-3.
Tues 26 Wed 27 to Sat 1	Stampex	Business Design Ctr, Islington, London
Thu 28	G.B. New Issue	The Houses of Lancaster and York

March 2008

Tue 11	G.B. New Issue	Celebrating Northern Ireland
Thurs 13	G.B. New Issue	Rescue at Sea Community Centre,
Sat 15	Middlewich Stamp Fair	Middlewich

April 2008

Fri 4/Sat 5	York Postcard Fair	York Racecourse
Sat 12	Sale Grammar School	Fair & AGM NWest Fed.
Tue 15	G.B. New Issue	Insects

About Our Society

The Macclesfield and Prestbury Philatelic Society was formed in 1966 to promote stamp collecting in the Macclesfield area of East Cheshire.

The Society is very friendly and informal, with a varied programme of speakers, displays and society evenings.

Anybody may join. The annual subscription is currently £8 (payable in September), which includes the cost of coffee and biscuits at meetings.

The Society runs its own internal packet scheme and also participates in the packet scheme of the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies, allowing members to look at a wide choice of stamps and philatelic items in their own homes.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of age and from beginner to expert, as all members benefit from the experiences of fellow collectors.

MEETING PLACE: The Heritage Centre, Roe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Meetings are held upstairs (first floor) but a lift is available. The Heritage Centre has a strictly no smoking policy.

TIME OF MEETINGS: 7.45pm

DATES OF MEETINGS: Mainly the first Monday of each month from September to June.

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