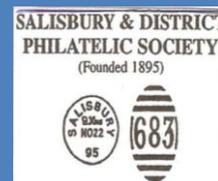


SALISBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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All photographs supplied by the Editor, or otherwise stated.

Editors Introduction

I have just received our new monthly Parish Magazine, what a shock to the mind, amongst the dates they were giving was, yes, you guessed, our Christmas Carol Service for the 9th December, why was it such a shock, I am writing this in the first week of September. Our programme for the year, which as you know is always on the back page, has some really very interesting meetings, such as 'Death by Post' sounds intriguing [*report on page 7*], and what about 'Footsteps through the album'. When you receive this news letter they will have been and gone, sorry if you missed them. But I think our most exciting meetings are the 'Day' meetings, you just never know what you are going to see. Of course plus lunch. Don't forget to keep the 7th March 2012 free in your diaries!

I am always very interested to hear from any of our members, with perhaps something funny that has happened to you whilst collecting, meeting other collectors in the most ridiculous places, or anything you think could be of interest. Did you see our window display in the Library, do you have a comment? Then please let me know your thoughts, I can only see it from my point of view, yours is a valuable addition. Can I be the first to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year .

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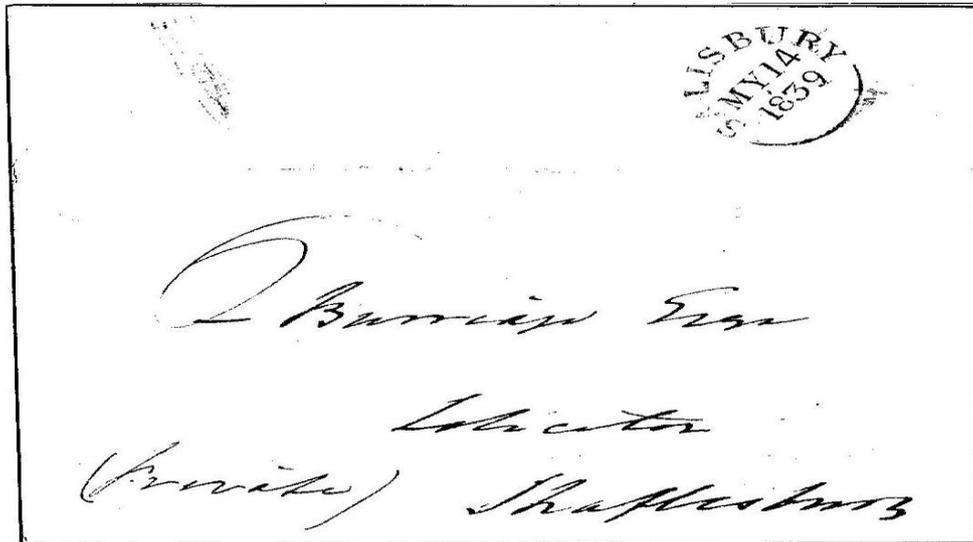
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2011/12

Chairman Paul Latham-Warde
Secretary Mike Moody
Programme Secretary Pat Campbell
Treasurer Ray Harris
News Letter Lindsay Green

Aspects of the Postal Services in Salisbury and District

by
Jeremy Martin



It is the inside of this 1839 entire that is interesting. The letter is headed 'Laverstock 13 May 1839' and was written by a Dr. William Finch [1777 - 1848] who was the medical superintendent at the Laverstock House asylum. He was reporting on the condition of a patient to a solicitor in Shaftesbury. The single sheet entire was rated 6d. Act of 1812, for a distance of 20 - 30 miles.

THE PHILATELIST'S PSALM

Contribution by Ray Harris

Stamp collecting is my hobby; I shall not be bored,
It maketh me to do research on far places,
It causeth me to correspond with odd people,
It keepeth me alert,
It leadeth me into areas of understanding for curiosity's sake,
Yea, though I live through a winter of inclement weather,
I will fear no boredom, for my stamps are with me,
Their beauty and their history intrigue me,

They provideth me a means of escaping from the tensions of my
responsibilities.
They filleth my house with books,
My cash runneth lower,
Surely interest and knowledge shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will be listed in the ranks of the philatelists forever.

Anon.

16 SHEET COMPETITION PRESENTATION



Paul Latham -Warde presenting Silver Salver to David Ashby

Presented by the Chairman Paul Latham-Warde to David Ashby the 'Silver Salver' for best in the 16 sheet competition, titled 'Australian Pioneer Steamship Mail'. Well done for an extremely good display. David's entry was judged the winner at the Wiltshire and District Philatelic Federation A.G.M. It is many years since this was last won by a member of our Society.

Whilst mentioning our Chairman these were his comments on the meeting held on the 12th October, the guest speaker was [John Shaw](#) on '[Forgeries](#)' as follows;

What an amazing evening we had last night. John Shaw, a member of the Royal Philatelic Societies Expert Committee, had us all totally fixated with his wonderful presentation. John used a power point display; a first for our Society and sheets displaying the actual items that we were viewing on the screen. Seeing stamps blown up to approximately 4 foot by 3 foot makes viewing a lot easier! For quite a long first session I didn't see any heads dropping or shuffling of feet or chairs as John teased us with the question of, "would you buy this stamp?" Various gems were shown on screen in perfect condition only for the following slide to reveal a variety of real horrors. These horrors were only detected by the wizardry of the testing equipment at the Royal. Revenue cancellations removed, perfin holes refilled, three separate torn sections of stamps rejoined. On our display boards John showed forgeries from around the world with my favourite, a beautiful section from Haiti. A good number of these sheets were from the Royal's own reference collections which very rarely leave London. Much praise was directed toward one of our members, Brian Cartwright, for his book 'Madame Joseph Revisited' which is considered essential if this period is your collecting area. John Shaw doesn't appear on any speakers lists as he only does a few per year and these are of his choosing. All in all another evening at our Society that will sit in the mind for a very long time and certainly each time you buy any material. Caveat emptor as they say.

I am extremely grateful to our Programme Secretaries for continuing to put together such a programme and hope that you will get as much pleasure from our meetings as I do.

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| <p>Apology to Brian Cartwright for the misspelling of his name in the last News Letter no. 13</p> |
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Gavin Fryer displayed 'Censorship in WW2'

Continuing our sequence of outstanding speakers we were entertained by Gavin Fryer on the 9th November. Gavin is not only a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society but he is one of the very few philatelists who have been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The Roll was instigated in 1921 and the first signatory was King George V. Since then only 356 philatelists from 40 countries have signed the Roll with only about 70 still living. Gavin's display looked at the fascinating subject of Censorship. Many lessons had been learnt from WW1 such that we started censorship mail before the outbreak of WW2. Gavin displayed items covering the complexity of censoring the press and censorship of diplomatic mail. The system required fluent readers of all foreign languages and over 10,000 people were employed on censorship duties in the British Empire. Dubious mail of which couldn't be satisfactorily censored was stored in warehouse until the end of the war. This could have led to a delay in your mail of up to 6 years. This puts delays in our current system into perspective! The accompanying photograph [below] was kindly taken by Brian Cartwright.



Gavin Fryer FRPSL. RDP.

Collecting British Postage Dues Part One

By Eric Daffern

Postage Due stamps for Great Britain were relative late-comers (1914), sometime after countries such as New South Wales and Victoria (1890/91) and New Zealand, Australia, Canada and other large Empire countries at the turn of the century. The United States first issued Postage Due stamps in 1879.

In Britain before Postage Due stamps postal clerks used rubber stamps on the envelope or parcel to show how much had to be collected. The rubber stamps vary in size and shape from post office to post office. I have in my GB collection pre-1914 covers for 1d, 1 1/2d, 2d, 2 1/2d, 3d, 3 1/2d and 4d, with several shapes and sizes for each of the lower values. I have seen others but they were too pricy.

Why collect Postage Due, and how much was payable

Collecting Postage Dues is fun, particularly Postage Due covers. They tell the story of letters with the wrong stamps, of redirected mail sent from country to country, and of a very significant number of instances of the post office charging the wrong amount for postage due. Postage Due stamps on revenue documents are also fun. I have mint and used all 110 GB Postage Due stamps. There are also four shades and 64 watermark varieties that I haven't pursued. I also have a comprehensive Postage Due cover collection, and because it is difficult to identify watermark varieties while the stamp is on cover, and with such small colour differences from one Postage Due series to another, only 58 stamps on covers are needed. This count includes identifying two stamps which were a millimetre smaller than the other issues. I confess that for my cover collection I had to resort to a first day cover for the four highest values in the 1994 series.

The methodology for calculating international Postage Due charges has been substantially standardised through the UPU, which seeks to harmonise international mail practices. Mail becomes underpaid when insufficient stamps have been applied, such as on a heavy or large letter or parcel, or when printed paper or newspaper rates have been wrongly assumed. Postage Due charges could readily arise when mail is forwarded from county to country. The standard calculation was for the country in which the item is mailed to indicate the amount of underpayment in their local currency and for this to be doubled and converted into the receiving country's currency using a fixed exchange

rate method (gold centimes). There are exceptions and complications. The doubling has not normally applied to those on active service, nor in situations such as major natural disasters where no stamps have been available.

The design of pre-decimal British Postage Due stamps

For values up to 1/- the same design was used from 1914 to the end of the pre-decimal era in 1970. A slightly different design was used for the higher value (2/6 upwards) "To Pay" labels. The colours were in most cases similar to the definitive issues (except the 2d value coloured agate) and changed in 1951. It is impractical to identify to which series a stamp on cover belongs in the absence of a clear date stamp. Examples exist of bisected GB Postage Due stamps and some trisected, covering most values. Most series of Postage Due stamps in the pre-decimal era included examples of "watermark sideways inverted" and several stamps in the first series also had "watermark sideways inverted and reversed". To be continued;

PROGRAMME 2012

Dates

Meetings 2012

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 11 th January 2012 | Members' Evening including Postcards, Cinderellas and Ephemera (Please return competition cups).** |
| 25 th January 2012 | Guest Speaker- Tony Howgrave-Graham: "WW1 in SW Africa". |
| 8 th February 2012 | Society's Annual Auction. |
| 22 nd February 2012 | Annual Competition 9 sheets (Judge John Campbell) followed by Members' displays.** |
| 7 th March 2012 | Day Meeting same format as 5 th October. Guest Speaker - John Yeomans: "The French in India"*** |
| 13 th March 2012 | Visit to Winchester Philatelic Society |
| 14 th March 2012 | Guest Speaker - Andrew Watton: "Corsica-Postal history, postcards and a few other diversions". |
| 28 th March 2012 | The Committee entertains.** |
| 11 th April 2012 | Guest Speaker Paul Skinner: "Footsteps through the album" |
| 25 th April 2012 | Visit by Winchester Philatelic Society |
| 9 th May 2012 | A.G.M. followed by 16 page competition and Members' display letters ABC. ** |

****Mini auctions and raffles on Members' nights.**

MEETING PLACE

Are held at the SCOUT HUT, HARNHAM.

Evenings 7.15 p.m for 7.30p.m -- Daytime 10.00 a.m for 10.30 a.m
Come and join us.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

22nd - 25th Feb 2012 Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London