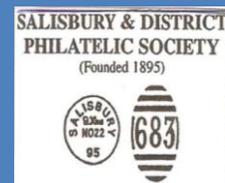


SALISBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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All photographs supplied by the Editor, or otherwise stated.

Editors Introduction

Every time I start to type up for the Ed Comments, I realise that we are heading for another special season, this time its Easter. I hope that you had a good Christmas and have accomplished all those chores you have intended to do. Which brings me to another hobby I have, tracing my Family Tree. I have put in a small article under the heading 'Titanic', it was about now that the ill fated ship set sail from Southampton. Philately and Ancestry can go 'hand in hand'. Another item I have received permission to print is from a magazine whom specializes in 'Your Family Tree'. It will be telling a story of someone who controlled the London Postal Service, see under Colin Firth. Do you have an untold story which can be related to stamps, please do let me know. Here is some of our 'Society News'. In January Gibbons Stamp Monthly produced under the heading 'Salisbury Philatelic Society' on their Society News page a report of our meeting of 9th November 2011, when Mr. Gavin Fryer, FRSP, RDP, displayed censorship in World War II, believe it or not I missed this extremely interesting display. I have heard on the grape vine that one of our members, David Ashby has been elected as a 'Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians'.

On the 22nd February we had the 9 sheet competition. **The Best in Show** was Tony Howgrave-Graham with *The South African King's Head stamps used in South West Africa* he also received 1st with this display in the **Postal History Class**. **General Philately** was Brian Cartwright, with *South Africa 1949: Study of the 'Centenary of the arrival of British Settlers in Natal' 1d Claret*. **Aerophilately** was Ivan Holliday with *Moroccan Air Mails*. **Social Philately**, Mike Moody received 1st with *The Liberation of the Channel Islands*. **Cinderella** Alan Wood with *Norway Local Posts*. Lastly me Ed with *The Reverse Side in Thematics*.

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Aspects of the Postal Services in Salisbury and District

by
Jeremy Martin



This item has been sent to me by Denis Vandervelde. It is a picture post card of St. Anns Gate date stamped at Salisbury 26th May 1918. The red cachet 'WOUNDED/SOLDIER/IN HOSPITAL' indicated that no postage needed to be paid.

A Corner of Empire - Pangkor and the Dindings
By Rob Holley

Item has been put forward by John Glover, an extract from GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY.

POSTMARKS

The earliest postmark that is recorded from Pangkor is dated 6 June 1890, an example of which can be seen on a Straits 2c./3c postal stationery card illustrated [fig 3]. It bears a date of a couple of years later, 10 May 1892, and is typically faint, and so a drawing of the mark is shown as well. Interestingly, it does not cancel the impressed stamp, a not-unusual practice of postal agents in Malaya at this time who seemed to prefer to leave that task to their serving post office.

The reverse bears a transit mark of Penang dated 11 May and so almost certainly the card was carried there direct from Pangkor by steamer. The addressee deserves a mention - he being William Brown of Salisbury, author and publisher of a book on the stamps of the Straits Settlements overprinted for use in the Malay States [1894], founder of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* and a co-founder, I believe, of *Salisbury Philatelic Society*.

Fig 4 is a picture postcard from Pangkor to the UK dated 12 March 1907, once again the postmark is struck off the stamp which, instead, was cancelled the same day at a post office on the mainland of Perak called Lumut, a fishing village tucked just inside the mouth of the Dindings river opposite Pangkor. Mail from Pangkor and the Dindings would now follow this route to take advantage of the newly-established rail link inland between Perak and Penang.

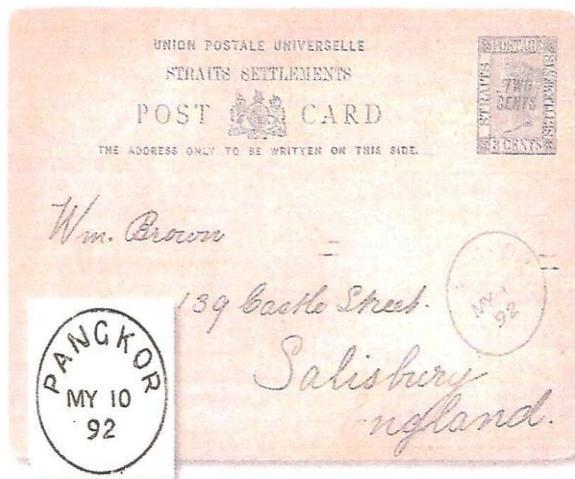


Fig 3 Queen Victoria postal stationery card of the Straits Settlements used from Pangkor on 10 May 1892

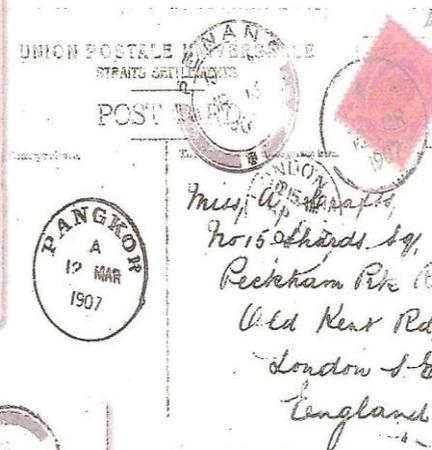


Fig 4 Picture postcard used from Pangkor on 12 March 1907



Fig 5 Registered cover used from Pangkor on 18 October 1941

However, after 1908 Pangkor postmarks, never easy to find at the best of times, disappear completely and do not resurface until 1932, presumably because the agency did not function during this time. This often happened in Malaya when shops closed or changed hands or shopkeepers thought the small allowance paid by the Post & Telegraph Department was not worth the candle. Fig 5 shows the second of the two postmarks in use after the agency reopened circa 1932. The first was exactly the same except that it had 'S.S'. [Straits Settlements] in the space between the rings at the foot, this being removed after responsibility for the administration of Pangkor was handed back to Perak in 1935. This c.d.s remained in use until the Japanese occupation.

May I say a big thank you to *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* for allowing us to reproduce this extract. - From Editor.

Collecting British Postage Dues Final part

By Eric Daffern

George V era

There were three series of GB Postage Due stamps between 1914 and 1936, the first of eight values used a simple cypher watermark, the second (one value) was on thick chalk-surfaced paper, the third was for nine values and used the block cypher watermark. The first series had three recognised shade differences, making a total of 21 George V era Postage Dues (plus watermark varieties). In 1924 an additional value was introduced, 2/6, and marked "To Pay" instead of "Postage Due". The 1 1/2d chestnut from this era is reputed to be the rarest of the regular GB pre-decimal Postage Due stamps.

Edward VIII era

Probably the largest set of stamps with Edward 8 (sideways) watermark is the eight denomination GB Postage Due set of 1936. There were two shades of brown on the 5d value.

George VI era

In 1937/38 the Edward 8 set was replaced by a similar eight value George VI set, using similar colours but a new sideways GVI watermark.

In 1951 when the colours on GB definitives changed the colours on Postage Dues changed to match. There were five values in the 1951 issue and one value (1/2d orange) had two shades. The 1 1/2d value regained its place after an absence of forty years.

Elizabeth II (pre-decimal era)

Five series of GB Postage Due stamps were issued between 1954 and 1969, still using (substantially) the same colours as the last set from the George VI era. Up to 1968 the standard watermark was sideways. The 1954 set had six values and used the Tudor Crown watermark. The 1955 set of ten values used the St Edward's Crown and E2R sideways watermark. This set introduced the 5/- value. The 1959 set used the multiple St Edward's Crown watermark and had thirteen values (the 6d, 10/- and £1 were introduced with this set). There was a six stamp issue in 1968/9 on chalk-surfaced paper, and a two stamp set in 1968/9 (4d blue and 8d red) - also on chalk-surfaced paper- where the stamps are slightly smaller. Neither of these 1968/9 series used watermarked paper.

Elizabeth II (decimal era)

A new set of GB To Pay labels was brought in in 1970, showing a large numeral and *TO PAY* in italics. The thirteen values ranged from 1/2p to £5 and colours for lower values are similar to those used for the definitives. A replacement twelve value TO PAY set was brought in in 1982, also with a large numeral but no longer using italics, and ranging from 1p to £5. Chalk-surfaced paper was used for both of these issues. The final "To Pay" series was brought in in 1994 with nine values ranging from 1p to £5. Following changes in the method of collecting money due on unpaid and underpaid mail the use of Postage Due stamps was restricted from 1995 to mail addressed to business customers and to Customs/VAT charges levied by the Royal Mail on behalf of Customs and Excise. The use of Postage Due stamps in GB ceased in January 2000. Postage Due labels are now used by the Royal Mail and few would regard these as collectible.

Titanic Connection

By Lindsay Green.

My other hobby is tracing my ancestors. I have been quite a keen genealogist since the very early 1970's, I do not presume to know it all but I get by, and have traced both sides of my father's parents to records kept by our village dating to the 1500's. I had a cousin who also was very interested in our ancestors, she was senior to me by at least 40 years, so knew many of the people of 100 years ago, [she is no longer with us]. From her I would regularly receive letters, long pages of information she had remembered, one thing would lead to another, hence the reason for long pages. Her mother and my father's mother were sisters; she wrote one day and told me that my great grandmother, her grandmother was an Emily Hibberd and came from East Dean, she had married James Coleman, but she had nine siblings, one whom was called Elva.

Elva married a Henry Robinson, one of their children called Hilda married a Harold Prior, it is Harold who I shall write about. He took a job on board the R.M.S Titanic, a Steward, he was just 21 according to the records, and survived in life boat no 11. Other than that my details are scarce, but what amazed me was, as the ship was sinking his pay was stopped, and the documents relating to this can normally be seen in the Maritime Museum in Southampton. At this time all records of Titanic have been moved to Sea City, for the Titanic Centenary. At a special occasion I had the privilege to meet Elizabeth Gladys Dean, known to most of us as 'Millvina'. Millvina was the last survivor of the Titanic and passed away in 2009



Cover from Gibraltar for the centenary 1912 - 2012.

Do you have someone in your family history that we could write about? If so please contact the Editor

Colin Frith

by

Nick Barratt

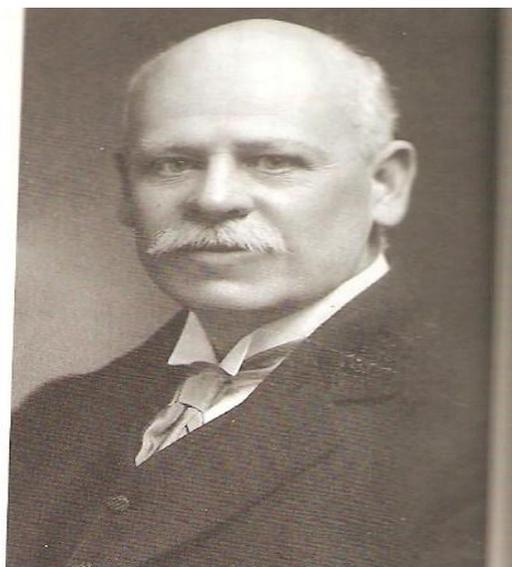
From Editor-in-Chief, 'Your Family History' Magazine

As I have said earlier in this edition, Ancestry goes hand in hand with Philately.

One of the magazines I often purchase is Your Family History, although this was published in February 2011, I found it interesting because of the connection with the Philately side of the story. Colin Frith, a name you will know of as taking the part of King George VI, in 'The Kings Speech'. The story of his family up to the date of 1840 and is headed '**A more luxurious lifestyle**', and I copy what I read. A David Bruce married one Alice Briggs, daughter of James Briggs, who died in 1840, 'his daughters all received financial support. According to the 1851 census the eldest Elizabeth was a proprietor of houses, whilst Alice and her sisters were 'fund holders. This sounds like a northern version of *Pride and Prejudice*', with wealthy spinsters attracting the attention of local suitors. Yet one sister, Emma, did not marry and when she died in 1909 she left a sizable amount of money to her nephew, Robert BRUCE - Helen's oldest brother.

Robert Bruce seems to have made a conscious decision to leave Huddersfield and a life in his father's church at an early age, heading south to London to train as a civil servant. He clearly enjoyed the trappings of a more luxurious lifestyle along the way. Although he started his career as a humble clerk in the General Post Office, he nevertheless decided to base himself at the expensive Spa Hotel in Speldhurst, Kent. After marrying Yorkshire lass Annie Elizabeth Keighley in 1889, he moved to Bromley, permitting himself to employ a cook and general servant to help maintain his new family.

Robert gradually climbed the ladder within the Post Office, ending up as one of the most important people in the organization when he was appointed Controller of the London Postal Service. Some of his papers survive at the British Postal Museum and Archive [sometimes referred to as the Royal Mail Archive or Post Office Archive] in series POST 73, including



the text of a lecture delivered to the International Society for the Promotion of Commercial Education.

Eventually, he was knighted for his services to the postal service, dying in 1931 a wealthy man worth £12,600. It is perhaps a touch ironic that Colin Frith should play the role of a reluctant king who had such trouble communicating with the world, whilst his **great, great uncle** did so much to encourage people to talk to one another on a regular basis via the postal service that he ran.

Inf; David Bruce married Alice Briggs, their daughter Helen married Norman K Firth, their son Cyril Bruce Firth had a son, David N L Firth who is Colin's father. May I thank Nick Barratt for allowing me to take this extract from his article on Colin Frith. From the Magazine 'Your Family History'. Ed

PROGRAMME 2012

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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. ** |

PROGRAMME 2012/13

Always on a Wednesday evening, Sept. 26th October 10th/24th.
Nov. 7th/21st. Dec 12th. Jan 9th/23rd. Feb. 6th/20th March 13th/27th.
April 10th/24th. May 8th.

Day meetings are Oct. 3rd and March 6th.

**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.

NATIONAL EVENTS

- 4TH APRIL - STRAND STAMP FAIR, LONDON
- 19TH-21ST APRIL - PHILATEX ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALLS
- 9TH MAY - STRAND STAMP FAIR, LONDON
- 13TH JUNE - STRAND STAMP FAIR, LONDON
- 4TH JULY - STRAND STAMP FAIR, LONDON
- 20TH-21ST JULY - YORK STAMP FAIR, YORK RACE COURSE
- 8TH AUG - STRAND STAMP FAIR, LONDON
- 12TH SEPT - STRAND STAMP FAIR, LONDON
- 26TH-29TH SEPT - AUTUMN STAMPEX BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE LONDON.