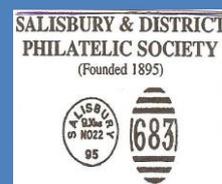


SALISBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Website address www.salisburyphilately.org.uk

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All photographs supplied by the Editor, or otherwise stated.

Chairman's Introduction

One of the problems with writing an introduction to the Newsletter is that today's news is often overtaken by the news of tomorrow. It only seems like a few days ago that we could have been offering advice on storing and preserving your collection against extremely hot temperatures. Now we are back to normal service where advice on preserving your collection against flood risks would be more appropriate. News that we hope that

will have improved before you get this will be hopefully that Ray Harris will be out of Hospital and back home. I will keep the Treasurers books ticking over until we start the new season but I fear that the Packet Circuit will have folded as we had no volunteers to keep it going. It's been busy so far this Summer with more than enough for stamp collectors to keep themselves very active. We had a first place with Brian Cartwright at the Wiltshire and District Federation annual 9 sheet competitions in the Aerophilatelic class as well as winning the Thematic class and the Best in Show. Thank you to our Membership for keeping our profile and involvement with the Federation so active. Very active with the Federation was Cdr George Gibson who sadly passed away. George was also an active supporter of our day meetings and in fact produced the standing display at our last day meeting. Since our last newsletter we have also lost Jim Thornton a long standing Member of our Society.

I suspect that the man ultimately responsible for our hobby, Sir Rowland Hill, will probably be turning in his grave at the news over the last few weeks. It is proposed to privatise the Royal Mail. Writers in the Readers Letters section of the daily papers have certainly felt passionate both for and against. Whilst we as a Society remain

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apolitical, the possible loss of a 'uniform postal rate' seems to undo nearly 175 years of good.

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It has been suggested that the BFPO concessions might go and that the Queens head will be lost on stamps. This of course is already the case with TNT stamps with an example being illustrated. Yes this is a perforated 'stamp' that provides 1st class postage and perhaps a sign of the future. The bold capital S is the Royal Mail indicium which has now been changed to read 'Royal Mail' and the C9 refers to Condition 9 of the Royal Mail's licence for TNT to operate elements of the postal system.

Finally last time I showed you an illustration of a Post and Go label that had just arrived on my mail. As it was unusual I looked on eBay to see if could see another. In fact another sold for £51.25! Subsequently prices seemed to have stabilised at around £25. Not bad for a 'label' off today's mail. Hope that you continue to enjoy the remained of the Summer and I shall look forward to seeing your recent acquisitions in September.

From your Chairman



Melville James Fletcher THORNTON

"Jim"

by Trevor Buckell

Jim was born in the north east in 1926 and spent nearly all his years as a merchant seaman. Upon retirement he lived at Downton but continued his work supporting the Sidmouth Lifeboat. Jim was a collector of any stamps to do with shipping and amassed a large collection over the years. He was a member of Salisbury & District Philatelic Society for over 25 years and during that time for many years was the "box" or packet secretary, only retiring from the post when ill health by way of a heart attack made it impossible to continue.

Jim died on the 13th of April 2013, his funeral service being held at Downton Baptist Church.

Aspects of the Postal Services in Salisbury and District

by
Jeremy Martin

Fern House can be found about one mile west of Berwick St. John. In 1828 this entire, *fig 1* was sent from Ostende in Belgium and addressed to Fern House, near Salisbury, Wilts.

Fern House is actually nearer Shaftesbury. The Post Office applied this brown label to advise that the correct address would have meant arrival a day earlier.

To the best of my knowledge this label is the only one so far recorded.

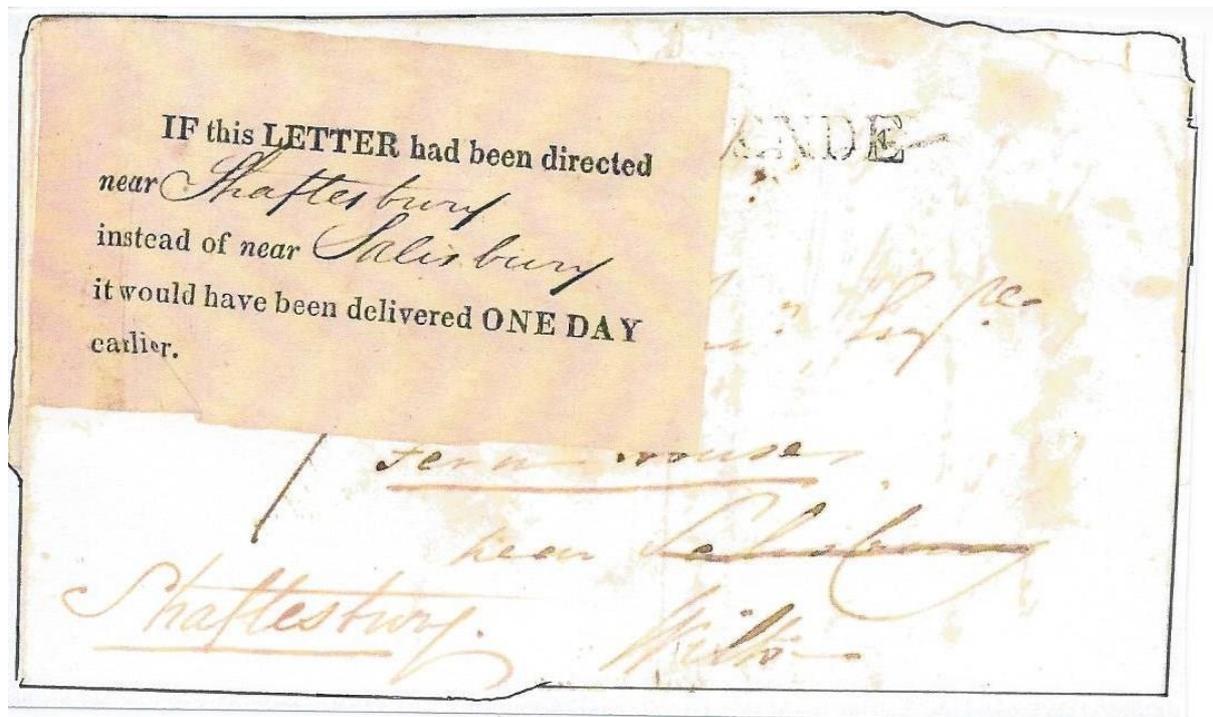


Fig 1

16 Sheet Competition

I am very pleased to announce the winners of our 16 Sheet Competition on the 8th May.

- 1st Alan Wood - "France Registration 1792 -1828"
- 2nd David Ashby - "The Torres Strait Route"

Well done to you both.

Last 12 months or so

What a year we have had. I have just been thinking of all the events and anniversaries we have had over the last 12 months or so. Most of them commemorated with fantastic stamps. Let's start with 'Her Majesty' reigning for the last 60 years. The day proved very English, with the normal rain sitting in.

The Olympics, could we have done better, I don't think so, everyone did their very best and that is all you can expect. But I loved the Post Boxes in villages and towns being painted gold, to recognise that this is where a Gold Medalist came from. What about us winning the Tour de France again. Hopefully there will be a stamp. One of my interests, the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of R.M.S Titanic, but mine is very personal.

Having just returned from Belgium only to hear on the Ferry we have retained the Ashes.

The Summer has also been brilliant, so I hope you have all had a great time. My time, has been sitting in the garden listening to the birds, and rescuing my flowers that got sun burnt. Now its back to looking towards the Winter and Christmas, oh! What a thought! Back to collecting and sorting

What is Postal History

Prior to the fifteenth century most letters were royal or government communications carried by state messengers. The Post Office had its early beginnings around this time. An ability to write letters was confined to those who were educated and able to read and write, thus most of the early letters that survive today come from the archives of merchants, the clergy, the legal professions and the aristocracy.

By the end of the seventeenth century a very good postal service existed throughout Europe and charges for letters were based on the weight and distance travelled. By today's standards the postal charges were very high and it was the recipient who paid. The first postmarks were introduced during this period and developed rapidly in the eighteenth century. These handstamps showed where the letters originated and thus enabled the post office calculate the charges. This system remained in Britain until the postal reforms of 1839/40. These reforms were steered through

Parliament by Rowland Hill and introduced two fundamental charges.

- 1] A uniform charge of one penny was charged for any distance in Great Britain for a letter weighing up to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
- 2] Letters could be pre-paid by the sender by means of an adhesive postage stamp which could be bought at the Post Office and stuck on a letter.

These ideas were taken up by all the other Post Offices in the world and the international postal system flourished. The

cost of posting a letter in Great Britain was not raised above 1d. until the second World War.

Over the past three hundred years a vast number of letters, documents, postcards and other items connected with the writing and transport of letters, have survived for those who like to collect them. Stamp collections were being made twenty years after the introduction of the penny black in 1840, and by the 1930s most areas of stamp collecting had been studied and catalogued. By the mid twentieth collectors began to look for other aspects to study that just the adhesive postage stamps. They turned their attention to the postal markings and began to collect and research the handstamps and manuscript postal markings which had appeared on letters prior to the introduction of postage stamps in 1840. The term POSTAL HISTORY was used to describe this new collecting concept which primarily concerns study of the postage rates and routes of the mail. There is a vast quantity of material from the eighteenth century, right up to the present day, and now the term POSTAL HISTORY embraces letter from all periods.

How to start? Is in the next News Letter.

These details are from the ABPS, c/o RPSL,
41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY or
www.postalhistory.org.uk

PROGRAMME 2013/14

Dates

Meetings 2013 - 2014

25th September 2013

Members' recent acquisitions.

2nd October 2013

DAY MEETING.

8th October 2013

Visit to Ringwood.

9 th October 2013	GUEST SPEAKER - Hugh Feldman - US Waterways.
23 rd October 2013 Post.	GUEST SPEAKER - John Baron - Lotteries in the
6 th November 2013	Members' displays - Monarchies.
20 th November 2013 Sarawak.	GUEST SPEAKER - Simon Martin-Redman -
11 th December 2013	Single Sheet Competition & Social Evening with Partners.
22 nd January 2014 caricatures.	GUEST SPEAKER - Robin Cassell - Mulreadies and
19 th February 2014	Annual Competition 9 sheets.
5 th March 2014	DAY MEETING .
12 March 2014	GUEST SPEAKER - Ashley Lawrence, Palestine and Pigeon Post.
26 March 2014	Members' single frame evening
09 April 2014	GUEST SPEAKER - Margaret Morris, Observatories.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

13 September	Strand Stamp Fair London
14 September	Poole Stamp and Postcard fair
15 September	Warminster Stamp and Postcard Fair
18 - 21 September	Autumn Stampex London
11 October	Strand Stamp Fair London
19 October	HAMPEX Wickham
9 November	Salisbury Fair United Reform Church
15 November	Strand Stamp Fair London
16 November	Solent Stamp and Postcard Fair Southampton
13 December	Strand Stamp Fair London

MEETING PLACE

Held at the SCOUT HUT, HARNHAM.
Evenings 7.15p.m for 7.30p.m - Daytime 10.00a.m for 10.30a.m

COME AND JOIN US