

YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOUR HELP...

Your Federation badly needs your help because as many of you will know every two years a **Yearbook** is produced with a **Speakers List**, giving details of the many collectors who are prepared to give displays. It also gives a list of **Accredited Judges** who are prepared to help on society competition nights, but don't panic we only want your help to put this list together.

Once this list is put together and published, it is generally then that we find out that so and so does not do displays anymore because of ill health and so and so died six months ago which is also frustrating for the **Yearbook** editor.

The next **Yearbook** is overdue and we would be most grateful if you could let us know now rather than when the update has been published. Come on, help put a little back into this great hobby of ours.

If you can help please contact the Bulletin Editor or the Chairman.

And remember your Federation really does need your help.....

Hampshire Philatelic Federation 2020 dates...

HPF Council meetings at Petersfield...

Hampex: 26th September 2020 - Cancelled.

Dates for 2021.

Zoom Meeting: Sunday 17th January; 2:00 to 4:00.

Zoom Meeting: Sunday 9th May; 2:00 to 4:00.

Sunday 5th September; 2:00 To 4:00.

These may be subject to change as we do not know what 2021 will bring forth with regards to the Coronavirus. Hopefully 2021 will be Coronavirus free.

HAMPSHIRE PHILATELIC FEDERATION



Bulletin

**ISSUE NO. 155
JANUARY 2021**

www.hantsfederation.org.uk



Page 5 answer: It was a Beaver on the Canadian 3d issue of 1851...



Hampshire Philatelic Federation – Officers.

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Year Book Editor	Vacant	

When writing to any of the above, please do not indicate any
philatelic interest on the envelope.

The Hampshire Philatelic Federation Web Site is:
www.hantsfederation.org.uk

Switzerland 19 and 20 November 1918

2. Registered letter from St Gallen, Switzerland dated 23 December 1918 marked ‘via Pontarlier’ (due to Alsace border closure) censored at Belfort with oval censor cachet ‘CONTRÔLÉ 99’ addressed to Rodemachern, Lorraine close to the Luxembourg border.

3. Letter posted on 9 May 1919 at Mannheim in the Neutral Zone to Mulhouse in Alsace where it was ‘seized by the military authorities’. Only two other ‘seized’ letters are known from Alsace Lorraine post war.

4. Postcard posted at Mulhouse 20 December 1918 (still using the German postmark and stamp) addressed to Budapest, Hungary. Marked with **only recorded** ‘service impossible’ cachet at Mulhouse with ‘CONTRÔLÉ 14’ as Hungary was enemy territory.

5. Letter from Homberg, Belgian Zone 2 January 1919 addressed to Forbach, Lorraine about 8km south of Saarbrücken where it was stopped and returned to sender with ‘CONTRÔLÉ 104’, a red bowed octagonal cachet in French saying ‘Service suspended by the military authorities / return to sender’ and the **only known** strikes of a long rectangular cachet in German saying ‘forwarding cancelled by military authority / return to the sender / Private correspondence to Alsace-Lorraine is forbidden’.

6. Postcard written on 3 January 1919 at Kaiserslautern and illegally taken across the Rhine by hand to the Swiss Consulate in Mannheim and then by diplomatic bag to Bern, Switzerland.

7. Postcard posted 24 December 1918 on a train from Bundenthal on the Lorraine border to Hinterweidenthal in the French Zone addressed to Dresden in unoccupied Germany. It was marked in French manuscript at the top saying ‘via the agency of the Cross Rhine Communication Service at Ludwigshafen’. It was returned to sender with the blue abbreviation ‘zk’ for ‘zurück’ (return) who then smuggled the letter across the Rhine to Mannheim where it was posted a second time on 31 December to Dresden arriving on 6 January 1919. It was illegal to hand carry mail across the Rhine.

8. Letter posted 15 April 1920 at Berlin probably routed via Frankfurt aM to Schwarzenfels but censored by the French at Hanau on 16.4.20 – the only item known to have been censored at Hanau.

9. Letter posted at Mainz in February 1923 correctly franked 50M addressed to Frankfurt aM. 7½ months later it is postmarked at Mainz 3 on 9 October 1923 when the postal rate had risen to 2 Million Marks. So a red rectangular ‘postage paid’ cachet was added to prevent any postage due being charged. The other two red cachets explain ‘from the blockade Mainz post office’.

Robin Pizer...

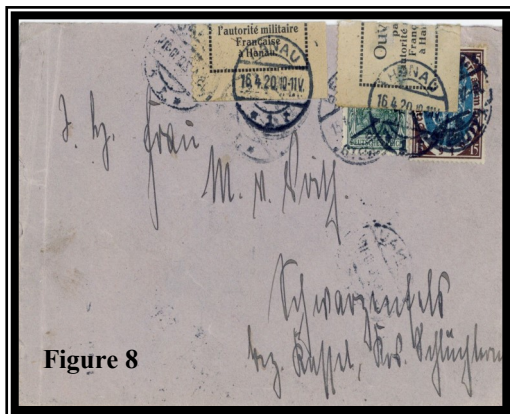


Figure 8

Hanau on 16 April was shown. It had been in transit between Berlin (posted 15 April) probably via Frankfurt to Schwarzenfels. These occupations ended on 17 May 1920.

French, Belgian and British forces occupied Düsseldorf on 8 March 1921 while French and Belgian forces occupied Duisburg. The British withdrew in May 1921 but the French and Belgians stayed until 28 August 1925. On 9 January 1923 French and Belgian troops entered the Ruhr area to seize coal as payment of reparations. Political prisoners were then taken by the French and Belgians forming another aspect of the postal history.

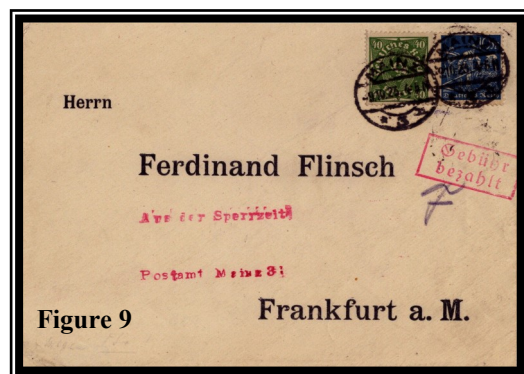


Figure 9

On 20 February 1923 the French occupied the Mainz post office and despite all protests the post office remained closed until 8 October 1923. Mail trapped in the post office was shown along with other mail returned to sender. Some companies arranged for their post to be delivered to nearby places contrary to French instructions.

It was not until 25 August 1925 that the French and Belgians withdrew to the left bank of the Rhine. The occupation of the Rhineland ended on 30 June 1930.

Figures

1 . Parcel card (front and back) dated 18 November 1918 at Strasbourg insured for 180,000 Marks, correctly franked 60.80 Marks to Basel,

Rhineland.

As the Germans fell behind in paying the reparations demanded of them, so the Allies, but particularly the Belgians and French, punished the Germans. Thus on 6 April 1920 French forces occupied Darmstadt, Frankfurt aM, Hanau and the Belgians Duisburg and Homburg. The only known cover censored at

THE CHAIRMAN...

I wish everyone a Happy New Year in the expectation that 2021 cannot be worse than 2020! With the availability of vaccines against COVID19 I sincerely hope that we will be able to start to meet each other again either at our society meetings or at national stamp shows (keep an eye on the events page of our website). I'm sure things will be slow to pick up this year but we should prepare to be back firing on all cylinders by 2022. The Federation is planning to hold HAMPEX at our usual venue in September - but that plan is heavily dependent on our ability to hold it in our accustomed manner without restrictions. Let's hope that will be possible / permitted. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Julian Jones (HPF Chair)...

EDITORIAL...

Times are hard but it seems that philately within the Federation is going from leaps and bounds. We have seen competitions online using Zoom, New Society magazines appearing, Zoom displays and with the possibility of HAMPEX in 2021. As I see it IF the older generation (50+) of the population is vaccinated by August as, to be a bit blunt this is about 90% of philatelic collectors that probably attend HAMPEX, then as long as the hall can open, then it is possible. Plans are under way to get things up and running so hopefully something to look forward to but we will keep you updated through the bulletin. & emails The Federation I feel is in a somewhat strong position with 17 affiliated clubs and societies and following my recent question to secretary's, the Federation has 660 members so we are doing okay (The smallest has a membership of 18 to the largest 166+ members). Clubs are getting new members (Southampton & District Philatelic Society have had a number of new members through its Zoom meetings and displays and some receiving enquiries for when clubs & societies can start having physical meetings again. So everything is not doom and gloom on the philatelic scene, tough yes, BUT we are still growing in areas. Yes, COVID19 is with us in 2021, but hopefully by September there will certainly be a very very bright light at the end of the tunnel.

Steve Gerrard (Editor)...

In the next Bulletin it is worth saying that we have an updated list of Speakers thanks to input from some societies.

THATCHAM & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY POSTMARK.

Welcome to our September News Sheet No 2.

We hope you are all keeping well and safe and have managed to do something with your collections and it now looks like that more restrictions or a “lockdown” will be imposed by the government stopping us from meeting up and with these and longer nights we shall have a bit more time to do something with our collections and perhaps branch out into something new or a bit different. We prepare these news sheets keep members up to date on what is going on in the society and around the stamp world. As we have previously advised, there were no meetings March, April, May, June, July, August & September and it looks like there will be no meetings until the beginning of the next year at the earliest.

There is no change in the position of our meetings, the Town Council still has not made no decision on reopening of the Council Chambers and as reported in the last news sheet Memorial Hall Trust re-opened as from the middle of July and the they circulated a list of conditions and restrictions which are very onerous on the users of the hall particularly in relation to cleaning and sanitising (understandable in the current conditions) of the Tables, Chairs, Toilets, Door handles etc, etc and no refreshments will be allowed- Possibly as it is a community facility and our meetings are classified as a social activity, I think that the maximum number that could currently attend a meeting would be **Six**, we would be required to wear face masks and of course maintain social distancing. The committee had previously decided to cancel all meeting until the end of November and this will not change. The committee will review the situation in November when we will be aware of the latest restrictions imposed by the government.



Figure 5

Hinterweidenthal in the French Zone addressed to Dresden in unoccupied Germany. It was returned to sender who then smuggled the letter across the Rhine to Mannheim where it was posted a second time on 31 December to Dresden. It was illegal to hand carry mail across the Rhine.

The restrictions on mail services were gradually eased



Figure 6.

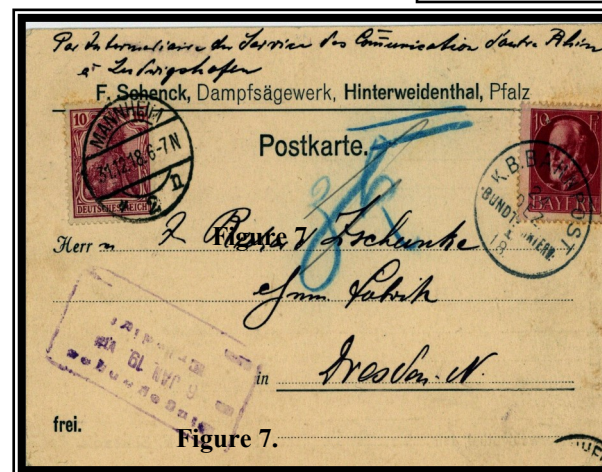


Figure 7.

more severe than in Alsace Lorraine with many return to sender items shown. One item showed a postcard taken across the Rhine by hand on 3 January 1919 illegally to the Swiss consul in Mannheim who then took it to Switzerland by diplomatic bag. Another postcard was posted on 24 December 1918 on a train from Bundenthal on the Lorraine border to

in 1919 especially so after the signing of the Versailles Treaty on 28 June 1919. These changes were illustrated. When the Versailles Treaty came into force on 10 January 1920, the Interallied High Commission for the Rhineland Territories, known by its French initials HCITR, took over from the Armies the task of administering the



Figure 3

Switzerland and Brussels in Belgium via Luxembourg. About this time a censorship office was opened in Luxembourg city. Alsace Lorraine became formally part of France again on 10 January 1920 when the Versailles Treaty came into force.

The second 5 frames

showed the French occupation of the southern Rhineland including the area that was to become the Saar region. The French 10th Army entered Saarbrücken on 21 November 1918 and had occupied the whole of the Saar by 24 November ahead of the agreed date of 1 December. This Army entered the German Palatinate on 1 December

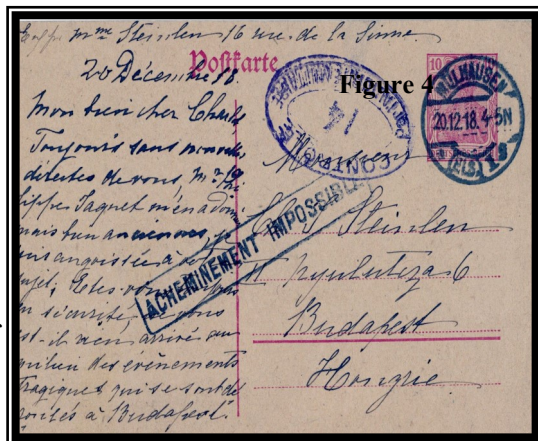


Figure 4

reaching Mainz on 5 December. The French 8th Army also entered the southern Rhineland on 1 December reaching Landau on 4 December. The instructions for the postal services were not co-ordinated between the two Armies in December and there was some confusion initially. The border with the rest of Germany was formed by the Rhine with some 'bridgeheads' east of the Rhine in the 50 km Neutral Zone. This border was closed completely by 14 December after which limited categories of official, banking and essential business mail was permitted.

A Cross Rhine Communication Service was set up at Ludwigshafen by order dated 17 December 1918 to control mail with unoccupied Germany. By 1919 the main censorship offices were at Landau, Ludwigshafen, Mainz, Saarbrücken and Luxembourg.

Generally speaking the restrictions in the occupied Rhineland were

RINGWOOD PHILATELIC SOCIETY...

We did in fact hold one meeting when 12 members turned up and 8 gave small displays, it went very well everyone said we should continue, but that was two days before the new legislation of only six people in a meeting

But you should know that three days after our meeting the new legislation changed to a maximum of 6 people and now the rules have changed even more.

So we thought it best that we cancel our meetings until January 2021 and review it.

So obviously bearing mind the age situation both Ringwood and the BSAP decided to postpone all meetings until the New Year..

Colin Mount, Ringwood.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. That the first system of posts was the Angari of the Persians, founded nearly 2,500 years ago?

2. That the first public postal service was founded in 1505 by Prince Francis von Taxis in Turin and Taxis, now part of Germany.

And Finally...

3. That in 1892 Gaston Leroux, a wealthy French collector, was killed for a stamp? Leroux would not sell his copy of the rare 2c Hawaiian Missionary issue to a friend, Hector Girou, so Girou killed him and stole the stamp.

What was the first stamp in the world to picture an animal and what was the animal? (Answer on page 24).

VIRTUAL SPRING STAMPEX 2021 25-27th MARCH 2021...

This will be a non-competitive exhibition with the Royal Philatelic Society London taking the lead and providing 100 frames from 100 members. For details contact britishlocals@aol.com. The Postal Stationery Society will also celebrate 150 years of the first British Postal Stationery Card.

PRESS RELEASE...

A magnificent gift for 'Tomorrow's Royal'...

The Royal Philatelic Society London has received an extremely generous gift of £750,000 towards its 'Tomorrow's Royal' appeal. The gift has been made available by the Trustees of the Spear Charitable Trust, and falls within its objectives of providing benefit to educational projects, training, the arts, culture, heritage and conservation.

The Trustees of the Trust have a close connection with the Society through its former Honorary Treasurer, Nigel Gooch.

The Society, in recognition of this wonderful act of generosity, has agreed to name its museum, The Spear Museum of Philatelic History, an act that has been enthusiastically received by the Trustees of the Spear Charitable Trust.

The 'Tomorrow's Royal' on-going appeal follows the Society's move to a new home in the City of London, at 15 Abchurch Lane, from where it plans to enhance both its own public image and of the hobby of philately through its extraordinary and extensive museum, archives and library. The gift will provide an invaluable impetus towards achieving this goal.

(26 September 2020)...

Royal Philatelic Society London
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London
EC4N 7BW
Tel: 020 7486 1044
www.rpsl.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/royalphilsoclondon/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/The_RPSL



23.12.18 routed 'via Pontarlier' then to Belfort where censored with oval cachet 'CONTRÔLÉ 99' addressed to Rodemachern, Lorraine close to the Luxembourg border (in normal times the route via Basel to St Louis would be used). The extent of this border closure between Alsace and Switzerland is still not properly understood but some evidence suggests that it continued until February 1919.

Alsace had three censorship offices at Colmar, Mulhouse and Strasbourg while Lorraine had one at Metz. Colmar and Belfort censorship offices were closed in January 1919.

Another problem was the French desire to replace the German Mark with the French Franc and to get the postal service working again. German stamps and postal rates were valid until 14 December 1918. But French stamps could be used where 1 Franc = 1 Mark compared to 1 Franc = 0.80 Mark prewar. From 15 December French stamps had to be used although German stamps were tolerated for a week or two. The postal rates were then a mixture of French rates for services via France and German rates internally in Alsace Lorraine and eventually to Germany. Some German postal services that had no equivalent in the French system continued in use. One such was the service for delivery of legal documents with a signature on receipt.

The first 5 frames concentrated on mail involving Alsace Lorraine showing rates and routes, censorship and delays with many examples of mail that was returned to sender for infringing one or more regulations. Private mail was severely restricted to start with while commercial mail and official mail (of local government offices) were less restricted. On 14 March 1919 the order was given to re-open the railway service between Basel in

DISPLAY BY ROBIN PIZER TO THE PETERSFIELD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY ON THE 7th DECEMBER 2020...

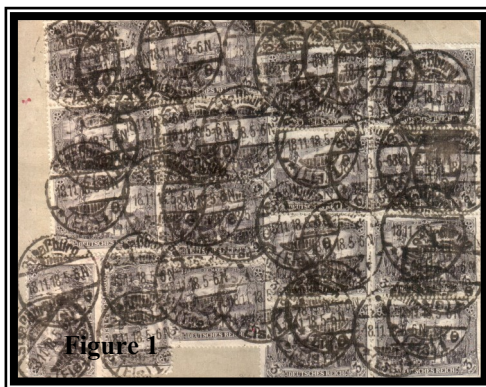
Title 'Restrictions on mail services during the French Recovery of Alsace Lorraine and Occupation of the Rhineland 1918 to 1925'.

The story began with the end of the First World War on 11 November 1918. A German official in the Ministry for Alsace Lorraine Department of the Interior at Strasbourg sent at least two letters insured for 48,000 and 14,400 Marks on 14 Nov and a parcel insured for 180,000 Marks on 18 Nov to Basel in Switzerland. The first letter was intercepted by French troops at Saint Louis on 16 Nov and definitely did not get through, the second was no doubt also intercepted at the same time but it may not have been released until a year later when a manuscript



note on the envelope was dated 2 December 1919 and noted the contents as 3 shares in a Mulhouse company 'Dollfuss-Mieg'. The parcel was sent via Kehl in Germany as French troops were in Mulhouse by 17 November. The parcel went south through Baden arriving in Basel on 19 November. So was the German official completing legitimate transactions or lining his own pocket?

The borders of Alsace Lorraine were sealed with Germany on 23 November with no mail permitted which was not surprising. What was surprising is that the Alsace border with Switzerland was also sealed as evidenced by a French remark on a postcard dated 30 November which in translation said: 'Now the Swiss border is completely closed, entry



UK STAMPS SHOWS IN 2021...

Some recent news on UK stamp shows:

York 22-23 January has been cancelled due to local restrictions on large events.

Stampex 17-20 February is still planned but dependent on the BDC Islington reopening (it was ready to reopen on 1 October but then London was moved into Tier 2)

Russell Square London monthly shows have been postponed until 12 March.

(As of 27th October 2020).

Julian Jones (Chairman)...

COMPETITION CORNER...

More and more philately is appearing via the internet. While some societies are meeting via videoconferencing, national and international philatelic organisations are organizing online lectures – sometimes called "Webinars".

In the autumn of 2020 Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) organised a series of lectures on judging and competitive exhibiting. These lectures are now available to play back if you missed the original live lecture. The details and the links are as follows.

The main FIP page is <https://www.f-i-p.ch/> from which are linked the following:

'Rarity and Condition' by Henrik Mouritsen

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/postal-history-seminar-16-august/>

'Presentation' by Chris King

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/postal-history-seminar-6-september-presentation/>

'Treatment' by Dan Walker

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/postal-history-seminar-20-september-treatment/>

'Importance' by Henrik Mouritsen

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/postal-history-seminar-4-october-importance/>

'Knowledge and Research' by Andrew Cheung
<https://www.f-i-p.ch/postal-history-seminar-18-october-knowledge-research/>

Each lecture addresses an aspect by which exhibits are judged and illustrates how the competitor can improve their exhibit in that area. I found them very helpful and I hope that you do too.

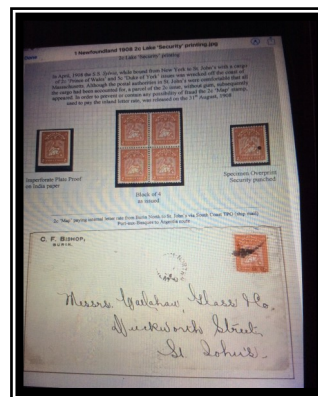
Julian H Jones (HPF Competition Secretary)...

THATCHAM & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY...

October News Sheet.

Reflections on Virtual Stampex 1-3 October 2020.

I have never attended Stampex before and would probably not have attended the Autumn Stampex which was of course cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The weather has been awful and so being stuck indoors I decided to visit the Virtual Stampex which replaced the live event on the Internet. Entry was free and all that was needed was an e mail address. On arrival I found myself in a spectacular lobby with links to the Spink Auditorium where live lectures were held, to the Museum of Philately where there are displays of important collections which have been preserved digitally and to the Booth Hall which contained individual stands for a large number of dealers, auction houses and Philatelic organisations. It was very impressive and the organisers deserve great credit for creating the impression that you were attending a live event. I can highly recommend the lectures which used the now familiar Zoom platform and which have all been recorded and I believe are available to watch until 28th October. There were 3 lectures each day by some very high profile speakers. I won't list them all but they included: Sebastian Delcampe on how he set up his company with a live demonstration of how to buy something on Delcampe. Several excellent contributions from the Royal Philatelic Society of London including one on the Expert Committee and how they expose forgeries. How to auction your stamps by the head of Spink. The Museum of



Third was Howard Morgan Newfoundland 1908 2c Lake Security Printing.

Other entrants submitted Isle of Man Man Railway Douglas to Port Erin Line (Raymond Butler), Cyprus Correspondence (Christopher Podger), The Wonder of Postal History (Michael Asteris) and the Palm Cockatoo (Heather Lawn).

Our November 2020 AGM has been shelved until it is safe to meet in 2021. All officers and committee members are continuing in their posts.

Howard Morgan, our Treasurer, picked up a treasured Vermeil at the Virtual STAMPEX 2020. His display was in the single frame competition and his display was entitled Newfoundland Aero-philately 1919-39.

Martha Brown...

NEWS FROM THE FRONT CONTINUED... From Page 11...

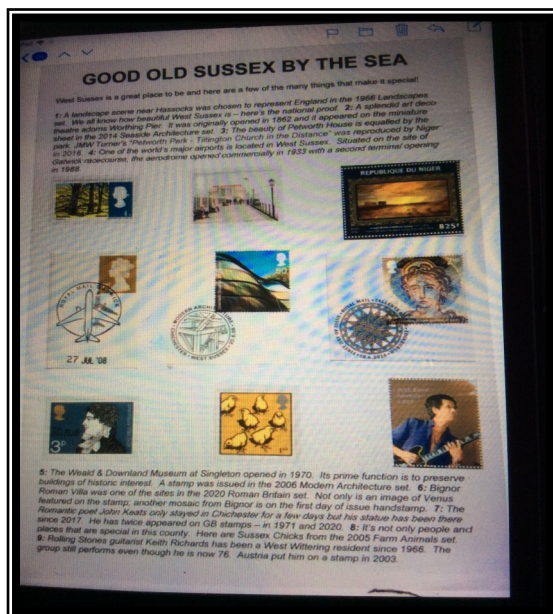
Portsmouth P.S. - The majority are updated by Email. At present we are of course in a state of limbo but hope things will improve in the new year. We do expect to lose some members but not the ones that attended our meetings regularly. When we start back it will take time to build our numbers up, as many are in the at risk group.

Poole and Bournemouth Club - have been unable to meet since March, and have no plans to do so until Spring 2021. The Committee have kept in regular touch with members via emails outlining what events have been available online. Members have also been contributing scans of their pages, and a monthly compilation of these is being circulated to those interested. This has proved very popular with some members.

Ringwood Philatelic Society - has just published our first Edition of UNHINGED'... a philatelic Newsletter for Members. This is one of our ways of keeping in touch in a very difficult time. We propose to publish a smaller Newsletter quarterly, with a monthly reduced one. As you will know, it is hugely time consuming to produce, so we are hoping a good contribution will spring from the Membership, so it becomes *our* Newsletter, rather than the Committee's.

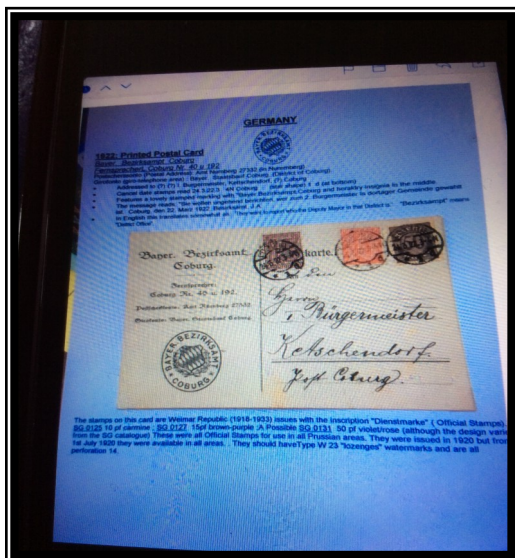
CHICHESTER & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY...

Virtual One Page Wonder Competition we recently held in September/October 2020.



First place was Bob Tebbitt Sussex By The Sea.

Second was Martha Brown
Germany 1922 Printed Postal
Card.



Philately and how it is evolving. Postcrossing - if you don't know what this is check it out. The dealer Bill Barrel on Line Engraved Stamps - I was a bit out of my depth here but it was an excellent lecture. Displays from three highly specialised members of the New York based Collectors Club. The Museum of Philately is an on line venture sponsored by the dealer David Feldman. The fate of many important collections is that they often get broken up when the collector dies or when they are sold. The aim of the Museum of Philately is to preserve important collections in their original form so that they can be studied or enjoyed after they cease to exist. You can see the collections at www.museumofphilately.com where there are also biographies of some famous collectors. The curators of this project have some great ideas for the future so watch this space. I particularly enjoyed the collection of David Feldman himself which he called the Emerald Collection (he is Irish). It is a collection of imperforate stamps issued in the colour green from 1843 to 1870. The Booth Hall took you to all of the dealers and enabled you to buy items if you wished. There were links to their web sites and social media and you could chat to them. In summary I was very impressed with Virtual Stampex. We all hope to see the back of COVID-19 and to see things get back to normal but there is a part of me that hopes Virtual Stampex carry on in some form. The pandemic has had the effect of forcing us all to find new ways to buy, sell and communicate and has accelerated the use of applications available through information technology. Philately has risen to the challenge in style with Virtual Stampex and there may be lessons to learn at a local level. For those wishing to further explore the area of digital philately I can recommend two You Tube channels: Exploring Stamps-presented by a very dynamic young philatelist. Conversations with Philatelists-what it says on the tin and presented by two enthusiastic dealers based in the US. The hobby is not dying.

Colin West 4.10.2020...

FARNBOROUGH STAMP & POSTCARD CLUB.

I have just received the first 2 copies of the clubs new publication and it is good to see clubs using this format to communicate and keep their embers up to date. We all have teething problems when starting a magazine, but I hope the Federation can help with this in some way. Hopefully members will give their full support to this.

Steve Gerrard (Editor)...

GILLIAN MILLS OBITUARY...

We were sorry to learn that Gillian Mills passed away on 22nd November 2020 at her home in Devon. Members will remember Gillian and Peter Mills holding the fort at HAMPEX from opening time: taking your money and giving you a programme with raffle ticket. Gillian had been President of Winchester & District Stamp Society for about 12 years up to its recent closure. She was an active current committee member of Hampshire Postal History Society.

On behalf of the Hampshire Federation I offer Peter our deepest sympathies. We all will miss Gillian's contribution to local philatelic societies and the smooth operation of HAMPEX.

Julian Jones, HPF Chairman...

HAMPEX 2021

The news about vaccines against the COVID-19 virus gives us some hope for 2021, at least as I pen this in late November 2020! So I'm pleased to tell you all that Colin Mount has already signed up 21 dealers for HAMPEX 2021 at our usual location in Wickham on Saturday September 25th 2021.

Of course, there is still some way to go, but if there are no distancing regulations in force in September which would prohibit our normal format then we should be able to go ahead with the show, so put this putative date in your diaries. In the meantime, stay safe and distanced.

Julian Jones, HPF Chairman...

SPRING 2021 STAMPEX CANCELLED...

Today's President's newsletter from RPSL says that the PTS Council have decided to cancel Spring 2021 Stampex due to be held at the Business Design Centre.

The PTS have also stated that they will hold a second Virtual Stampex from 25-27th March 2021.

Julian Jones, Chairman...

Munich when Keith Burton described the Torch Run for the 1972 Olympics. One of the most interesting aspects was to see how much or how little philatelic material each country produced. Earlier in the year Mike Torreggiani gave a presentation concerning the British stamp; American War Zones in Berlin after WWII. In November he returned to give the 2nd part of his display covering the more extensive Russian Zone and then ultimate talk was given by John Wills from the Milford Society on the Postal History of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The season ended with a Members' Christmas show with 16 guests showing their favourite Christmas items.

The Society maintains an open house approach to these presentations so if anyone reading this column would like to join us then please get in touch with the Secretary, Eddie Mays, at sec.sdps@gmail.com for an invitation. The program for the next few months is shown below. The meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 19:30. Away from the Tuesday evenings the Society magazine 'Postmark' continues to be printed and we are holding Postal Auctions, the next of which takes place in February with the catalogue now available from the Auctioneer Kevin Chard, 01489 574834 or k.chard@ntlworld.com. Our Society website www.southamptondps.org.uk has the latest information.

Program of Video Presentations for Jan – April 2021...

Jan. 19th PETER COCKBURN - MALAYASIAN PERFINs

Feb. 2nd Pt. 1 – JULIAN JONES - OCEAN LETTERS

Pt. 2 – Members show & tell

(This part requires members / guests to show items of interest, a frame or two. It can be anything. It needs supporting!)

Feb. 16th JOHN HIGGINS - LABUAN PICTORIALS (1894 – 1906)

(This is a philatelic presentation)

Mar. 2nd SUE LAMBERT - WOMEN ON USA STAMPS

Mar. 16th RICHARD WHEATLEY - EGYPT: HOTEL POST OFFICES

Apr. 6th GRAHAM WINTERS 12 FRAMES 12 CLASSES

Apr. 20th A.G.M. (by Zoom if necessary) or Guest Speaker.

All Meetings are by Zoom Video Conferencing on Alternate Tuesday evenings at 19:30. Visitors are always welcome. Contact sec.sdps@gmail.com for invitation. NOTE: If Covid-19 restrictions are still in force in April we do have plans and speakers for further presentations into the summer.

Eddie Mays (Secretary)....

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY...

Winter 2020 - Spring 2021 Report...

Since the last issue of this magazine in September the Society has continued to hold fortnightly video presentation evenings using the Zoom Conferencing package. These are continuing to prove popular and we now have several visitors from other societies and average over 30 attendees at each meeting.

The autumn program started with the return of Julian Jones who gave a fascinating talk on the Anglo-US Postal Treaty 1849 – 1867. As always Julian was meticulous in his analysis of the financial breakdown of how both countries allocated the postal fees due to each other. Balances were paid monthly in silver bullion. The next presentation had a very strong local connection when Peter Wingent told us about the Imperial Airways Empire Flying Boats and their time at Southampton. There were many examples of press cuttings as well as the picture below of the flying boats berthed at Berth 108.



Our next talk was of a far more technical but no less fascinating subject when Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye took us through the development of stamp printing processes from the beginning up to the latest technical advances. This talk provoked the most response so far from the audience and Geoffrey was able to answer a wide range of questions with ease, 'cos he knows wot he is talking about. At the end of October the speaker was Malcolm Coe and although the subject was small, just eleven stamps, he provided a detailed insight into the British Military Postal Services in Egypt in the 1930's.

Our next presentation was a Pan-European tour from Greece to

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

Chichester & District Philatelic Society - A busy year despite all this Covid around. Our society managed two online competitions organized by Alan Bush, Competition Secretary, and overseen by myself and Frank Griffiths, Secretary. The first was Lockdown Challenge, I believe 2/3 sheets. Then we held a One Page Wonder in September. Why a "wonder" no one knows! Perhaps it was more a case of "I wonder what I can display!"

Entries for these included birds on stamps, cricket, ship letters, third Reich Germany, Cyprus, local postal history items, and more! It was great to see members participating! It's all up on our website if you want to see items.

I've written articles for the local paper. Back in the Spring we even had a "Stamp Corner" but it seems to have been totally bumped in favor of advertising! All articles written since then haven't been published despite my efforts.

We look forward to meeting in person one day... one day when it's safe and secure and sound and sensible. Lots of alliteration intended, but I held the last "S" for last:- Stamps!

Farnborough Stamp & Postcard Club - Our members have not shown too much interest in using Zoom or MS Team etc. I do circulate information by email, and I recently suggested that a newsletter might be a good way of keeping in touch. This idea was well received and a good few members volunteered to contribute. So, I am now putting together the first ever issue, called.....you might have guessed.....Keeping in Touch Nothing fancy, just a simple Word based document at the moment. It will go out to our 38 members as an email attachment. If it is successful it may well become a permanent feature!!

Ferndown & West Moors Philatelic and Postcard Club - We are not aware of folk wishing to leave but it is likely that links via Zoom will be crucial. As Secretary, I keep in touch with Members via e-mail/post. I am aware that Committee and individuals do link up quite a lot, if not in person.

Hayling Island Stamp Club - Two enquiries about joining once lockdown finishes, and we can meet normally again, have been received recently. We are not meeting virtually, but keep in touch through the packet.

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PREPARING MATERIAL FOR A ZOOM PRESENTATION...

ZOOM is the video conferencing product used by Southampton DPS (and the RPSL) for its online meetings and presentations. It is free to install on almost any platform you may choose, but perhaps best used on a tablet (eg iPad) or a desktop or laptop (eg Windows, Macbook etc). It offers high level encryption of all communications so it is believed to be safe to use.

STEP 1 – you need to acquire an electronic image of what you want to show on ZOOM. The simplest way to do that is to take a photo with your phone. If you have a desktop scanner, then that will produce a better result, but most modern phone cameras will do a decent job. The main thing to watch out for is to make sure your image is bright & in focus – this may take a little practice with your phone camera.

STEP 2 – Image manipulation. Sadly for philatelists, it is often not quite as simple as scanning (or photographing) an album page and then sharing the resultant image via ZOOM. Most ZOOM viewers are using computer or laptop screens in landscape format while an album page is in portrait format. To see a postage stamp well one has to zoom in on the image and this can be fiddly while also talking to the audience.

One way around this is to crop the portrait image into its upper and lower halves using free software such as FOTOR (but many other photo/image managing applications for this may already be installed on your machine). This will give you two images (usually referred to as “jay-pegs” because their file type is “.jpg”). Each will now be in landscape format. When displayed on the ZOOM screen they will appear at their correct size without the need to fiddle with the zoom controls of the application you use to share the image with ZOOM (yes, an unfortunate pairing of a function name and a product name, bear with us on this). Ideally your album page is arranged so that careful use of the crop function will give suitable results. For postal historians the same problem arises, but usually there are only two covers on an album page!

STEP 3 – improving what you want to show beforehand. Better results for the audience may be achieved with more work on the part of the presenter. By further cropping to have just images of the stamps or covers you wish to show, you can use your favourite software to create a new landscape page with the images suitably inserted and arranged on

the page with minimum text – as you are going to talk and the audience will listen and view – but not read as well. It is a much better experience that way?

STEP 4 - So what software will you use? Ideally something you are already familiar with, which may well be what you use to create your original album pages – just adjust ‘Page Layout->Orientation’ to be ‘Landscape’. Others may immediately tell you to use PowerPoint because that is what many business people use to create presentations for work – so it comes naturally to them. The (free) Open Office suite has a presentation creation facility as well as one for writing letters / album pages. When you are satisfied with the presentation you have created, save it away as a file that you can find again when you are ready to give the presentation.

STEP 5 - Displaying the result during a ZOOM session. When sharing your final landscape presentation you open the application used to prepare it, open the file then SHARE the application in ZOOM, and page through the presentation as you speak. However, that shows the audience the application’s menu bars and reduces the viewing area. Many applications, such as PowerPoint have a full screen viewing option. If, after SHAREing you select that viewing option then the ZOOM audience sees the whole page as large as their viewing screen, and you may still just page through.

An alternative is to SAVE or EXPORT your finished presentation document as a PDF (.pdf) file which may be subsequently viewed by means of Adobe Acrobat Reader which is available on almost all machines and is independent of the Apple, Microsoft or Android underpinnings of your favourite machine. You SHARE the Adobe Reader application, open your .pdf document and expand to full screen via ‘View->Full Screen Mode’. Use the left mouse key to page forward and the right mouse key to page backward. Press the ESCape key to exit at the end.

STEP 6 – as always, preparation & practice are everything. The key to preparing a good presentation is to do a little extra work to create a new document from your album pages / collection. Find by experiment the application which gives you the best results and is easiest for you to work with. Practice full screen viewing on your own to see the results for yourself. Be prepared to try a new application.

Any questions please contact Julian Jones (HPF Chairman)
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Malcolm Coe (SDPS and Julian Jones (HPF)...