

SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tuesday, 2nd July 2019

St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton

STEAM CONQUERS THE WORLD

COLIN TABEART

Present: Julian Jones (President), Mel Bradshaw (Chairman),
Plus 28 Members, as per attached list.

Apologies: Received from THREE members

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and the Guest Speaker.
2. The Chairman regretted to report to the members that he had heard of the passing of two members in the past month:
Laurie Flach was a long-term member but he had not been active in the society for some time. The Chairman had sent Mrs Flach a condolence card on behalf of the society.
The Chairman asked Mike Vokes to say some words about Honorary Life Member John Warren.
Mike said that he had known John since his schooldays and John had been a very prominent member of the society in the past, holding many positions including Chairman and Auctioneer.
The Chairman then asked the members to stand for a minute's silence, which was observed.
3. One new membership application had been received, Mrs Thew. She had been correctly proposed and seconded and the membership attending approved her application.
4. The Minutes from the first June meeting were approved and signed.
5. The Membership Sec reminded members that the social afternoon at Chandler's Ford was on Thursday, 11th July at 2 PM. It will be held in the normal meeting room for Thursday afternoon meetings. Instead of tea a glass of Prosecco would be served.
6. The President, on behalf of the Competitions Sec., reminded members that the next meeting in July would be the competitions evening. There had been some entries already but any members still wishing to enter should send details to him as soon as possible.
7. The Secretary said he had received notification that the AGM for the ABPS would be held at York racecourse on Saturday 20th July at 2 PM during the York stamp fair.
8. The Chairman also mentioned that on the Competitions Evening there would be a bourse and also a silent auction. Material for either of these should be brought along on the evening and be clearly identified, including any reserve prices.
9. The first meeting in August will be a presentation by Peter Pugh entitled "Another Bloody Railway (Pt 1)". That will be the only meeting on Tuesday evening in August.
10. Results from the last society auction show that £3500 plus were sold and that all the postal lots had been dispatched.
11. Preparation work for the October auction is now underway and anyone wishing to sell in that auction needs to send details to the auction manager by mid-August.

The President in introducing the returning guest speaker, Colin Tabeart, spoke of his well-deserved reputation in the matter of Packet Mail. He also thanked Colin for the material that he had donated to the society this evening. In passing he also mentioned that Colin's new book was hot off the presses today.

STEAM CONQUERS the WORLD (Pt 1):

Colin started his PowerPoint presentation at the very beginning by detailing the domestic routes around Great Britain that were the foundation of all packet mail worldwide. He talked briefly of the postal reforms of 1840 that standardised payments to one penny. He supplemented his computer presentation with actual examples from his collection that were not only covers but had detailed write-ups about them on each sheet.

Once the domestic routes had been established it was natural that the first expansion would be across the North Sea and onto the Continent. Again there were good examples of this mail. The advent of reliable steamships enabled the spread of packet mail into the Mediterranean, Malta being a staging post and then even further towards the middle and Far East. Typically a steamer could reach Malta in 4 or 5 days from the UK.

Transatlantic packet services started in the late 1830s but the first mail contract was issued to Cunard in 1840 and was operated out of Liverpool. From America the next expansion was into the West Indies and then central and south America. One of the first shipping companies that operated in this area, if only for a short time, was a small company West Indies and Pacific S. S. Co. They initiated a service to the western side of the American continent by transporting the mail by land from Colon to Panama.

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE BREAK

STEAM CONQUERS the WORLD (Pt 2):

Colin continued his presentation by expanding on the way that packet mail spread through North and Eastern South America. In the early 1800s there had been a sailing ship service from Falmouth to Buenos Aires but it was obviously very unreliable and it wasn't until 1846 that there was a regular steamship service between Rio and Liverpool.

The establishment of packet services to Africa proved to be very complicated. It wasn't until the mid-1850s that any sort of regular service was provided and even then ports on both the East and West seabards suffered with delays. The penultimate expansion to make the service global was from the Far East, mainly Singapore, to Australia and in particular to the east coast ports.

The final link in the chain was the establishment of transpacific routes. The first of these was through the Panama isthmus but yellow fever was a real and present threat. Two further routes were established, one was through San Francisco with overland transport to the east coast of the USA and the other was via Vancouver to the east coast of Canada. One effect of the establishment of this cross continental route was a postal treaty with the United States of America that unified postal rates.

This establishment of a global network of these services took most of the 19th century. One of the factors that slowed the development of many routes was the Crimean War because the army requisitioned many of the available steamships to transport troops to the Mediterranean.

Many of the examples in Colin's display were very rare or even unique examples of Packet Mail and John Berridge in thanking Colin for his presentation acknowledged that before this evening his knowledge of Packet Mail had been minimal but he now felt that his understanding had been considerably enhanced.

The meeting closed at 20:55

Signed:

Date:

Position: