

SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tuesday, 1st October 2019

St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton

SOLENT MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

MALCOLM MONTGOMERY

Present: Mel Bradshaw (Chairman),
Plus 24 Members, as per attached list.

Apologies: Received from EIGHT members

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Chairman welcomed the members.
2. The Minutes from the late September Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman
3. The Chairman asked for TWO volunteers for the tea roster. Alan & Pauline "volunteered".
4. HAMPEX had seen one new application for membership from John Humphrey. His application was approved by the members attending.
5. The Librarian, Patrik Goethals, said that there were some new books on display, he had also put out the Society's books on Maritime History. He also asked that books be returned to the cupboard in numerical order.
6. Steve Gerrard, Editor of "Postmark", told the members that, due to a change in his circumstances he was able to continue as editor in 2020.
7. Vice-Chairman Kevin Chard said that there had been very little response to the proposal for a coach to visit Stampex 2020 in London on Wednesday 6th May. He really did need to know how many members might be interested by the social evening in two weeks' time. The cost would be £20 per person or £35 for a couple. It was suggested that this be advertised in the next issue of "Postmark". Steve agreed to do a page advert for this next issue.
It was also mentioned that at the Social would be the Trophy Presentations and the Single Sheet Competition.
8. Members were also reminded that on 28 October we were visiting the Ferndown society. Anyone wishing to go please tell Kevin at the next meeting.
9. The guest speaker, Malcolm Montgomery, said he had the ability to reproduce Southampton postmarks and he was happy to do that for any of the members.
10. Before introducing tonight's Speaker the President, Julian Jones, told the members that the Guest Speaker for his Evening in November would be Birthe King who would be giving a two part presentation on Denmark; Conscience, Conflict and Camps and Refugee Camps post WWII.

In introducing Malcolm Montgomery Julian was delighted to welcome him back to Southampton and was looking forward to his presentation.

Pt. 1 – Solent Maritime Postal History

Malcolm started by explaining that the title was rather a misnomer. The title was appropriate for the original presentation but since his move to North Wales his interest and the emphasis of the collection had shifted more towards the social aspects of postal history. He then told a very amusing and slightly risqué anecdote about farming life in rural Wales that has nothing to do with this evening's presentation.

The first part of the presentation consisted of six frames of material. The first frame, starting with an example from 1570, looked at the pre--postmark era. The second frame contained examples of early postmarks which naturally led into the penny post examples from the early 1800s (Frame 3). With these early pieces of postal history it was often the content that was the most fascinating rather than the actual cancellations. The fourth frame contained examples of the Penny Postmarks whilst the next section looked at material appertaining to both Post Office Packets and Private Ship mail including that from the Hon. India Company. Moving forward in time the final frame continued the theme of packet letters and ships letters.

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE BREAK

Pt. 2 – Solent Maritime Postal History

Again the second half of the evening was divided into six frames of material. Malcolm explained that as the timescale advanced so the material became more colourful. Frame one consisted of examples of Thematic Stationery envelopes, including “Penny Pinks”. The next frame showed how the design of registered envelopes had progressed from the first examples in 1841, when the cost was one shilling, until the more modern examples.

Frames three and four showed many examples of slogan postmarks. Southampton had been one of the first offices to introduce these. Particular mention was made of a 1933 slogan “Shop by Telephone”, a precursor of modern day life perhaps. The real interest in this section of the display was to see how social attitudes had progressed.

The penultimate frame dealt with postcards, from the naive pictures of actresses through to the more liberal but, nowadays, less politically correct (sexist) ones of the mid-20th-century. Malcolm introduced the final frame by saying that he had been asked to give a particular presentation that would contain a thematic theme within a thematic display. His solution to this problem was to produce a number of highly artistic postcards, often by well-known artists, around the theme of seasickness. The examples shown had an international flavour with several countries represented.

John Dorrington in thanking Malcolm for making the long trip south, particularly as he was recovering from a bout of flu, said he felt we had been privileged to see such a fine display (and with one exception Southampton free) that had been both amusing and informative. In particular the section on slogans, which are difficult to collect, had been superb.

In closing the meeting the Chairman, Mel Bradshaw, thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home

The meeting closed at 20.50

Signed:

Date:

Position: