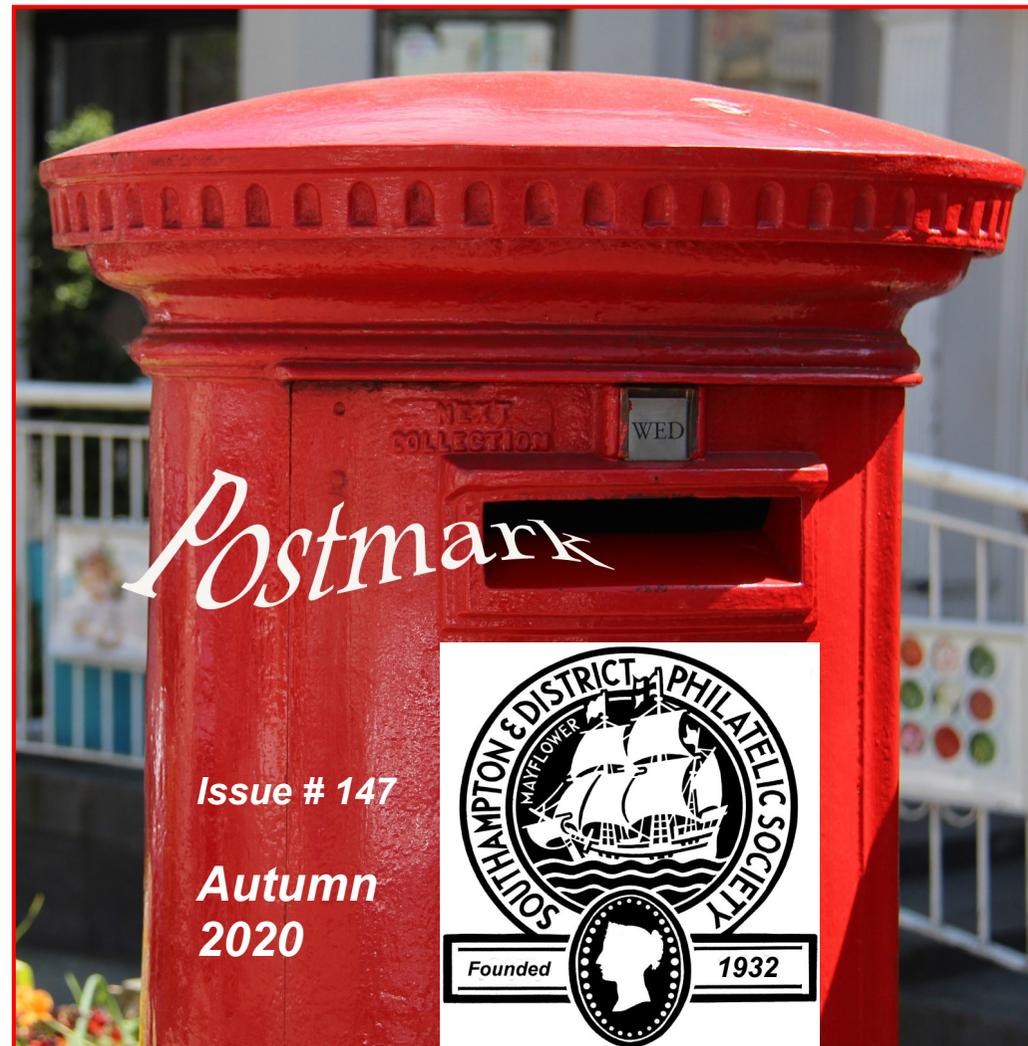


ORIGINAL SKETCH  
by H. E. BRYANT

for the 34th  
PHILATELIC  
CONGRESS  
of  
GREAT BRITAIN

Held in  
SOUTHAMPTON  
20th — 24th MAY  
1952

FINAL VERSION  
used for the  
CONGRESS  
COVERS, Etc.



## LATEST HEADLINES

**Bugle Street meetings cancelled until January 2021**  
**Video Presentations to continue instead**  
**Thursday meetings postponed until further notice**  
**Postal Auction Only in October**

## 2020 / 2021 OFFICERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President:	<b>Julian Jones FRPSL</b>
Vice President & Competitions' Sec.:	<b>Brian Hague</b>
Chairman & Packet Manager:	<b>Dr Mel Bradshaw</b> (02380 785785)
Vice Chairman, Auction Manager & Programme Sec.	<b>Kevin Chard</b> (01489 574834)
Asst Programme Sec.	<b>Patrick Austin</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Mike Watts</b> (02380 454131)
Asst Treasurer:	<b>Debbie Hindson</b> (02380 266431)
Membership Sec. & Chandler's Ford Convener	<b>Mike Vokes</b> (02380 262551)
Librarian:	<b>Patrick Goethals</b> (02380 392735)
Secretary, P. R. O. & Editor 'Postmark' (pro temp)	<b>Eddie Mays</b> (02380 402194)
Members' Representatives :	<b>Jim Rankin &amp; Lorraine Simms</b>
<b>S. &amp; D. P. S. Hampshire P. Federation:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.southamptondps.org.uk">www.southamptondps.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.hantsfederation.org.uk">www.hantsfederation.org.uk</a></b>

My sincere thanks go to all the following members who have contributed to this issue, in alphabetical order (by surname): Patrick Austin, John Berridge, Mel Bradshaw, Kevin Chard, John Dorrington, Steve Gerrard, Patrick Goethals, Julian Jones, Keith Lloyd, Mike Torreggiani, Harry Vincombe, Mike Vokes, Mike Watts (the Speakers & Presenters — Tony Davis, Albert Jackson, Hugh Jeffreys, Bob Small, Alan King, Alan Whittaker, Julian Jones, Malcolm Coe, Tom Anderson, Mike Torreggiani & Brian Hague)

Edited and designed by Eddie Mays

Reproduction of this magazine, in whole or in part, without the written permission of the Southampton & District Philatelic Society is expressly forbidden.

© S. & D. P. S. 2020

## SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE UNSIGNED LETTER

Sherlock Holmes, the fourth, was relaxing at the breakfast table smoking his first pipe of the day as he finished his second cup of Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee. His friend Dr Watson, great grandson of the original Dr Watson, was sat opposite reading the Sun newspaper when Mrs Hudson entered the room carrying the day's post. As was the custom she handed the envelopes to Dr Watson and cleared away the breakfast dishes.

After a few minutes of opening the envelopes and perusing the contents Watson looked up and said "I say Holmes here is one that might interest you. It is unsigned but read it for yourself and tell me what you think?"

Sherlock Holmes took the letter from his friend and quickly scanned the writing. "Pass me the envelope if you would be so kind", he said to the Doctor. With the letter in one hand and the envelope in the other Holmes carefully examined both.

"Watson my dear fellow, book us two seats on the 11:36 from Waterloo to Southampton Central. My old friend Dr Bradshaw is Chairman of the local stamp society and I am sure with his help and from the clues in the letter we will be able to determine the writer".

"But how the devil do you determine that the letter is from Southampton and how can the Doctor help solve the problem?" queried Watson.

"Elementary my dear Watson", said Holmes. "Look at the cancellation and only a philatelist would put so many stamps on a single envelope!"

---

### SUBMISSION DATES FOR POSTMARK

<b>WINTER 2020</b>	<b>15th November</b>
<b>SPRING 2021</b>	<b>15th February</b>
<b>SUMMER 2021</b>	<b>17th May</b>
<b>AUTUMN 2021</b>	<b>22nd August</b>
<b>WINTER 2021</b>	<b>21st November</b>

**Submissions to be received by the Editor by midnight on each date**

# FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Established in 1952, the Forces Postal History Society (FPHS) was formed to bring together the many collectors interested in the postal history of the Armed Forces of all countries, (and United Nations), at all times, whether in war or peacetime, including the study of postmarks, cachets, postage rates, prisoner-of-war mail, stamps and stationery, censorship and the organisation of military postal services.

To both promote the FPHS and help engage with other philatelists during these difficult times the FPHS have made the decision to make their current Journal available to the widest philatelic audience possible, free of charge. With the hope that collectors might enjoy the read and also take some time to view the free displays on their website, all this and more can be found at:

<http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk>

Peter Harvey the FPHS Publicity Secretary writes *'We are delighted that this is another bumper edition of our Journal with contributors with a wide range of philatelic interests'* he goes on to mention that they have an active members discussion forum on the website and as part of the lockdown have promoted a 'Cover of the Day' initiative with member contributing from across the globe. If you would like to find out more about the FPHS please contact Peter Harvey at: [enquiries@militarymail.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@militarymail.co.uk)

## Chairman's Column:

By Dr Mel Bradshaw

This issue of Postmark is being printed and distributed earlier than normal in an effort to keep members as fully informed as possible on how we plan to move forward over the coming months. At this point, I would like to thank Steve Gerrard, who has stepped down as the Postmark Editor after many years, for his enormous contribution to the success of the magazine. The October auction catalogue will be sent in a later mailing. It is also important to check our Website ([www.southamptondps.org.uk](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk)) for up-to-date information if you are able.

The impact of Covid-19 has meant we are living through strange, disturbing and uncertain times. The membership of SDPS is wide, but unfortunately most of our membership is in a vulnerable category. I know of only one member who has contracted Covid-19, and the last I heard was that he was recovering well. Unfortunately we are probably aware of someone who has not survived. Some members may not be aware of the death, early in the pandemic, of John Campbell. He was a valued member of Portsmouth Society, but members who regularly go to Hampex will have seen him at these events. He, together with Julian Jones, was a leading organiser of Hampex and his involvement in the event will be greatly missed. He also visited Southampton regularly, as speaker and Competition Judge.

A small Emergency Committee meeting was held recently and the following recommendations have been approved by the whole committee. At this stage, we are planning to resume evening meetings at Bugle Street in January, 2021. This may have to be reviewed in the light of any resurgence of the virus in the autumn. The October auction, usually the 'Saturday, Grand Auction at Peartree Church Hall' will now be an enhanced Postal Auction, with viewing of lots by arrangement. There will be full details with the catalogue. It is clear that it would be impossible to enforce 'social distancing' in the hall, especially when viewing lots. The current plan is to host two 'Grand Auctions' in 2021, one in March (replacing the evening auction) and one in October.

Despite these reductions in our programme, the Society is making every effort to offer members value for their £10 subscription. An innovation stimulated especially by our Secretary, Eddie Mays, has been the introduction of 'Zoom' displays. These have been a great success and have attracted members who do not normally get to face-to-face meetings, in addition to many 'visitors'. The committee has agreed to purchase a full 12 month 'Zoom licence', which will enable meetings to last longer than the current 40 minutes

limit. My thanks to all those who have displayed, or offered to display in the future. If you wish to join a Zoom meeting please email [sec.sdps@gmail.com](mailto:sec.sdps@gmail.com) to confirm your interest. Mike Vokes, our Chandler's Ford Convenor, is exploring the possibility of restarting the Thursday afternoon meetings in September. More information about this will be available from Mike by emailing him at [mike@vokeshouse.co.uk](mailto:mike@vokeshouse.co.uk). All the Packet Circuits have recommenced, under slightly modified arrangements. Meanwhile, I hope you are all keeping safe and as active and busy as circumstances allow.

## **Auction Update:** by Kevin Chard (Auction Manager)

As I am writing this we have just completed the June Auction – which was postal only and ended up with sales of just over £3k. With March unsold lot sales, postage sales and advance sales from the website lists we realised a further £1,500, so total sales will be around £4.5k and Society earnings should be over £400. My thanks to all our vendors and bidders who made this event a success in what has been very difficult and unusual circumstances.

The October Auction catalogue will be posted separately to Postmark – it will again be a postal only auction, although we are aiming for 500 lots. The date will remain as Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, with bidding closing on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. Viewing of lots is encouraged and will be by appointment only during the week commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Vendors need to get their lists to me by 15<sup>th</sup> August at the latest but the material itself can be delivered up to 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The venue for the October Auction is now no longer available and so the Grand Auction has been delayed until Spring 2021. Full details will be announced as soon as they can be confirmed.

Many have said that the auctions have been a blessing during lockdown – so keep the material and bids coming so that we can continue the success of the auctions. Let us hope that 2021 can be a truly 'normal' auction programme.

**The System:** Members are free to contact other Members bilaterally with details of stamps or other philatelic items that they have to offer. Sterling currency is to be used as the medium for transactions, with the limit for stamp prices set at up to one quarter current SG Catalogue price for used and mounted unused examples, or up to one third for unmounted mint items.

Covers, including First Day Covers, should be offered at reasonable prices (up to one quarter of catalogue price where such detail is available). Other items, such as interesting postmarks, postal stationery, postal history and literature should be offered at reasonable prices, within the spirit of the Club, which is to facilitate transactions between Members at affordable prices, preferably with a bias towards exchange rather than sales.

Where transactions cannot be done by hand (i.e. locally) material should be sent by post. It is suggested that initial contact between individual Members should be by email to establish willingness of Members to accept items offered "on approval" and to identify any exchange possibilities.

Insurance for items despatched by post is the responsibility of the sending Member, if required. No insurance is offered by the Club and it is anticipated that most postal activity will be conducted at "owner's risk". It is recommended that Certificates of Posting are obtained when posting packets, which should be retained by the sender in case of losses in the post, which are extremely unusual within the UK. (If, because of value, an item requires cover by 'Signed For' or 'Special Delivery', the cost should be agreed between the two Members, and incorporated into the agreed price).

The current Secretary is: Mr Mike Carey  
His address is: Maple Cottage  
2, Home Close  
Sutton Road  
Fovant  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire SP3 5LS

Email: mhcarey28@gmail.com

Tel. No.: 01722 714633

Mobile No.: 07979 914624

## VECTOR EXCHANGE CLUB:

At the last full Society Committee meeting, members considered a proposal, from a regular contributor to the packet and postal bidder in our auctions, to promote an exchange club. It was agreed that this should be advertised through 'Postmark', and individuals who are interested in joining the group should contact the Secretary of the Vector Exchange Club (see below).

The purpose of the Vector Exchange Club is to maintain and publish a list of Members' philatelic collecting interests and contact details, to enable Members to exchange, buy or sell stamps and other philatelic items with other Members on a bilateral basis.

**Secretary:** The Secretary maintains and publishes a list of Members, their contact details and philatelic interests. The Secretary is responsible for keeping the list up to date in response to details provided by Members of the Exchange Club. The list will be published as required, with an identifying version number and date, as an email attachment. The administrative business between Secretary and Members of the Club will be conducted principally by email. The Secretary has no role in the resolution of disputes between Members, other than to remove a Member's details from the list if appropriate.

**Members:** It is the duty of individual Members to inform the Secretary if any of their details change, in as timely a manner as possible. This should usually be done by email.

### **Details of the List of Members:**

The list of Members will contain the following details, in tabular format:

Name  
Postal Address  
Email Address  
Telephone Number (landline and / or mobile as preferred)  
Summary of Philatelic Interests

## THE PACKET CIRCUITS: by Mel Bradshaw (Packet Manager)

Three Society Packet Circuits recommenced in late June / early July, using slightly modified rules and guidance to take account of the Covid-19 risks. The three circuits cover an area from Barton-on-Sea in the west, Beaulieu in the south, Titchfield in the east and Andover in the north. In addition, a separate circuit is in place on the Isle of Wight, involving members of the Vectis Philatelic Society, with whom we have increasingly close links. If you are not yet a member of one of the circuits but would like to join, please contact me on [melbradshaw44@gmail.com](mailto:melbradshaw44@gmail.com) or ring 023 8078 5785. The circuits are so wide it should be possible to insert you in one of the routes with ease. The material in the booklets might help to fill some of your annoying gaps or supply some higher value items, which are more difficult to obtain. Booklets cover a wide range of countries and incorporate stamps with catalogue values ranging from 10p to many pounds. You never know, booklets might also inspire a new collecting interest!

Additionally, we are always looking for booklets to incorporate in to the boxes. Although GB and Commonwealth tend to be the main interests of many of our members, nearly all countries have someone who has an interest, and, of course, 'Thematic' collecting means 'The World is their Oyster'. If you have not done this before, but would be interested in contributing booklets, please contact me to outline the process and discuss what is involved.

## IN THE COMING MONTHS:

*The BUGLE STREET venue will not meet the necessary COVID-19 requirements and so reluctantly the Committee have decided to cancel all planned events there until the end of 2020. The situation will be reviewed later in the year. In the meantime the Society is planning to continue to hold video presentations on alternate Tuesday evenings at 19:30. These have been very well received so far and are recommended to all Members as a way of keeping in touch and continuing to enjoy your Membership in these difficult times. Contact Eddie Mays to find out more details and how to be invited. PLEASE JOIN US. We would love to see you!*

## SPEAKERS & VIDEO PRESENTATIONS:

by Eddie Mays

Since the last issue and before lockdown was imposed on our activities we welcomed **Tony Davis** as our Guest Speaker in February. Tony introduced his presentation by saying that if it was Victorian, 2d and Blue then it would be on show this evening and he was right. From the initial crude production methods, through the many aspects of postal stationery to a wide range of material from the Commonwealth he gave the audience a real evening's entertainment.

For our first (and only) meeting in March the four visitors from the Ferndown Society arrived with a divergence of subject matter that gave the audience a fascinating insight into the wide range of collecting interests that our hobby inspires. **Albert Jackson** covered the Polish Underground Mail systems of WWII from September 1939, when Poland was invaded, until his last examples were finally delivered in 1946 (Ed. Note: Not much changes). Next **Hugh Jeffreys** talked about his long-standing interest in Commonwealth postmarks. It started when he was living in

Teheran. Then joining Stanley Gibbons in 1977 had enabled him to extend and expand his knowledge base significantly with particular attention to the relationship in Aden between the main Post Office (124) and Steamer Point (131).



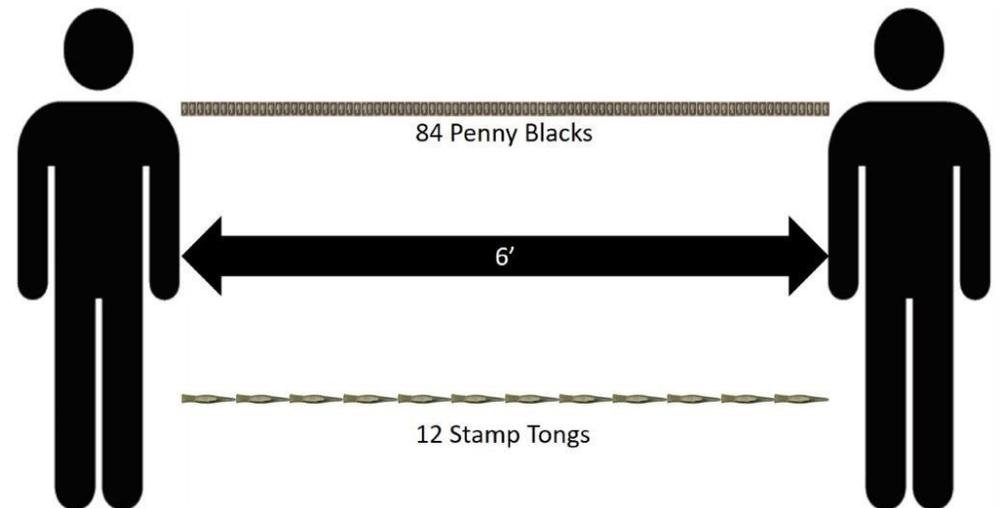
After the interval **Bob Small** entertained the members with his fascinating talk about 'Britain at War'. The English Civil War was of particular interest to me as he had correspondence from Monmouth's landing in June 1685 at Lyme Regis, where I grew up. The final

Burgess departed Auckland for Rose Bay, Sydney, Australia, the first through airmail service from NZ via Australia, originally to Southampton, but since the beginning of World War II, to Poole, England. TEAL itself had been registered as a company only five days before in Wellington.

As for the stamps, they are SGs 613 to 625 inclusive, issued on 2nd January 1940 by the NZ Post Office to mark the Centenary of the Treaty of Waitangi. This is the agreement made in 1840 between representatives of the British Crown and 500 Maori Chiefs, resulting in the declaration of British sovereignty over New Zealand by Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson. It was a set of 13 stamps, yes 13, but there are only 12 on the cover. The sender failed to realize that in addition to those he put on the envelope, a thirteenth was issued on 8th March, an 8d value (SG623) of design and color exactly the same as the 7d (SG622), (probably why it was missed), but with the value tablet changed.

So this 'philatelic' cover, so despised and discarded quickly by the many for that reason, and despite NOT being a first day cover for a complete Centenary set, for the knowledgeable collector tells the story of New Zealand's history as a nation and marks an important date in its postal history making a rare journey by air from New Zealand to the West Indies. An uncommon airmail item indeed and a most welcome addition to the collection.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES for S. & D. P. S.



## History on an Envelope: by John Dorrington May 2020



Plainly 'philatelic', at first sight just someone's clever attempt to construct a first day of issue cover (FDC) using a complete New Zealand stamp issue, either for a fellow collector or to impart geographic and historical interest to a child.

In fact it turned out to be neither complete nor a First Day of Issue Cover. Therefore of no particular value? On the contrary, for to the discerning historian it's not merely a First Flight Cover, but indeed a first in New Zealand airmail history, being carried on the first flight of the Empire Airmail Scheme (EAMS) Stage 3 across the Tasman Sea. This final link hitherto had had to be made by sea from Auckland to Sydney. Just as interestingly, the address is British West Indies; most unusual, particularly now that the world was at war. This letter would have had a long and perilous journey!

In 1940, Tasman Empire Airways (TEAL) had at last taken delivery of two Short Brothers Empire flying boats, the first of which made this flight. It was given the Maori name Aotearoa - 'The Land of the Long White Cloud'. Maoris named places by an event or something memorable about them. Approaching any land by sea, Cape Town for instance, you see the little white cloth of cloud on Table Mountain. In this case approaching New Zealand by sea, as the Maoris had done, the first sign of approaching this land is the cloud above these Pacific Islands, a long white cloud! Thus on 30th April 1940 the TEAL flying boat ZK-AMA 'AOTEAROA' commanded by Captain J.

session of the evening was very different. **Alan King's** extensive display of French philatelic history from 1845 through to modern day stamps was stunning and included examples of forgeries. Those of the famous forger Jean de Sperati were so good that Alan admitted he had examples in his collection of which he was not sure.

The Lockdown in mid-March was a rude awakening. It was particularly disappointing to have to cancel all the meetings until September (initially) because not only was the A.G.M. lost but also the return visit of Michael Sefi in May, as well as the visits of both the Petersfield and Thatcham Societies.

By the middle of April the technophiles in our midst believed that to try and hold a video meeting using the Zoom package might be a feasible way of keeping in touch. **Alan Whittaker** bravely put his head above the parapet and said that he had a presentation that might work. We had a couple of trial meetings and the early indications were good. However our first attempt at a proper presentation went pear-shaped. Alan's microphone system sulked and wouldn't cooperate. As the old song goes 'We went away and had a cup of tea' and, with the microphone sorted out, a week later we were up and running.

Alan's presentation on 'The German Occupation of the Channel Islands' contained a very wide range of material. There was a good selection of philatelic material but it was the ancillary documentation; the identity cards (seen opposite), ration books, et al that brought the talk alive and gave the 12 members attending a real sense of life during the occupation.

In early May our second presentation was given by **Julian Jones** and we had attracted a slightly wider audience, two members from Vectis and a philatelist from Malta joined and they were very welcome. International already!

The evening's subject was 'Early Transatlantic Mail between the US & Europe' and starting with an example from the very first recorded flight on 9th Sept. 1911 (shown on the next page) from Windsor to London he took us through all the stages of air mail development.





How in July 1924 the USA was divided into three postal zones and had their different postal rates. Then onwards to the first German Graf Zeppelin flight with two original documents shown.

As airmail flights increased so did the number of planes

that crashed. Was there a direct correlation? The talk ended in the early 1940s when the regular air service was established between the two continents.

At the beginning of June 'The Early Postal history (1868 – 1920) of the Sudanese port of Suakin' was presented by **Malcolm Coe**. He started with a resume of the history of the port before introducing his first philatelic material, four Interpostal seals from the 1868-1882 era. The earliest Egyptian stamps had Italian inscriptions and cancellations whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of stamps were French produced by De La Rue (1885). During the siege of March – July 1885 when the British Army occupied the port and had their own Post Office using QV 2 1/2d and their own cancellations. An Indian Brigade was stationed there in 1886 and Malcolm's next slide had defeated him so far. It was a postcard written in the Modi script in the Marathi (?) language. So far he had not found an expert who could translate the writing. So if there is anyone reading this that thinks they may be able to help please contact me and I will pass your details on to Malcolm. He ended by summarising the rapid decline of the port in favour of Port Sudan.



By now we had established a regular routine of having fortnightly presentations and the audience had grown as well and was averaging 22 – 23 attendees each time, including a certain Keith Burton from ABPS.

Under the Slave Compensation Act 1837 compensation was paid to estate owners who had slaves. George Lawrence received compensation as owner-in-fee of £5,076 16s 0d for the 263 slaves on the Weston Favell estate in January 1836, under Claim No. 413. (Parliamentary Papers p 77, item T71/874). On 19 May 1841, George and Sarah sold Weston Favell to Lawrence Hislop of St James for £6,540. In December 1836, under Claim No. 705 he was awarded £79 16s 8d for 3 slaves on an estate in the Parish of St Ann.

### CONCLUSION:

I am constantly surprised how a single letter can throw up so many diverse subjects beyond the simply philatelic and lead to other avenues of research that would not otherwise be explored. Slavery, and the compensation that arose from its abolition, is but one example.

### References:

- Caribbeana Volumes III to VI – Jamaican Excerpts.
- Whiteparish Community Website / University of Warwick.
- Online sources for photographs and sugar houses.

## LET'S HELP REBECCA WITH HER BOOK

Dear stamp collectors a few months ago I received an email from Rebecca Clarke asking if I knew more about letters sent from her grandfather. This is totally out of my comfort zone but I hope that there is a member who can help Rebecca to track back the letters. Please read the question from Rebecca.

“My name is Rebecca Clarke and I am currently researching for a book I am writing about my grandfather, Richard Arnold Clarke and his time as an internee in WW1. Much of his mail was sent to his sister in New Milton and I am hoping that some of you might know of his mail or have contact with someone that might. I am looking for mail sent by him from Faaberg, Jorstadmoen, Oppdal or Norway in general to Miss A. V. Clarke at Branksome College, New Milton, Hampshire, England.”

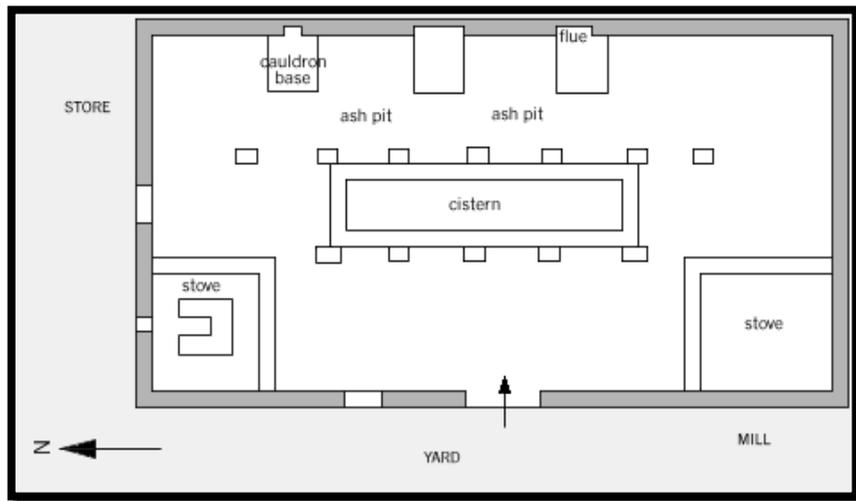
If you know any information about the letters please contact me by email or letter. I will collect all the responses and forward them to Rebecca.

Many thanks,

**Patrick V Goethals, 3 Grove Road, Southampton, SO15 3HH**  
 Email: [p.goethals@virginmedia.com](mailto:p.goethals@virginmedia.com)



The sugar house was on the site of the chapel of the Franciscan Friary which itself is under the current modern office block known as Friary House, located on the south side of Briton Street, just to the east of the junction with High Street. There is a plaque on Friary House recording both the friary and the sugar house.



Some sugar from Jamaica was imported through Southampton, although the principal towns were Bristol and Liverpool, hence the possible reason why George Lawrence bought Cowesfield House and for the Murray family owning property in the Southampton area.

### JAMAICA, SLAVERY and COMPENSATION.

The African slave trade was abolished under the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act 1807, effective March 1808. However this did not stop slaves being transported from one colony to another, nor from being sold between estates and an illegal slave trade persisted as other countries continued with the trade, despite patrols and seizures of slave ships by the Royal Navy. A bill was passed in 1815 for the registration of slaves in an attempt to police the problem, but this was not effective, and despite a pledge in 1825 to abolish slavery in the colonies, it was not until the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, effective 1 August 1834, that slaves had limited freedom. They were still indentured under an unpaid apprenticeship scheme working for the same estates, and this was eventually ended, with slaves given full freedom, in 1838. In 1817, notwithstanding the 1807 Act, George sold an unspecified group of enslaved people on Fairfield estate to Richard James Lawrence.

Tom Anderson started his presentation on the 'Forces Mail during the Indonesian Conflict, 1963 - 66' by defining the various B. F. P. O. areas. He then illustrated the differences between Concessionary mail and regular mail, including examples sent to an American lady, Miss Betty Miller. She specialised in writing to British troops in order to get replies for her collection. Included in the 'slide show' were examples of Commonwealth troops' mail and Tom finished with covers of a dubious origin addressed to Mr Hare, who had a liking for bending the rules.



At the end of June Mike Torreggiani gave a presentation on the 'German Allied zones between 1945 - 1948'. He concentrated on the British and American zones this time but has promised to give another presentation about the Russian zone at a later date. It was essential that the postal system worked as it was in fact the lynch pin for many sectors of the economy. There were many obstacles to be overcome; very few stamps



leading to locally printed stamps, incorrect postal stationery, even the vans had to be repainted. Most of the covers that were shown were for local mail and Mike highlighted the fact that both Hitler's image and Reich propaganda messages had to be eradicated, sometimes not successfully as shown by the example alongside. Taken overall the display was a fascinating insight into the complexities of the aftermath of

WWII for the Allied Forces.

Our latest offering has been Brian Hague's illuminating tour of the 'Lighthouses of the Faroe Islands'. It was not just the great selection of material shown but Brian's expert knowledge of the islands and the history of the lighthouse system that brought the

talk alive. In the early 1900s, when many of the lighthouses were built, there were many problems with physically building the lighthouses and there were also instances of members of the same family serving at different locations.

**T**here are two more evenings planned before September. The meetings are on Tuesdays at 19:30. Mike Vokes will be showing a selection from his Malayan collection on 21st July and then John Berridge is talking to us on August 11th on 'The Story of Bulawayo' incorporating 'The Postal History of Bulawayo'.

**A**t present we have some free spaces for more members to attend. So if you would like to come please let me know and I will tell you what is needed to be invited. It is very simple and, whilst it is not like meeting your friends properly, it is a very good way of keeping in touch with fellow enthusiasts.

## FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM: by Eddie Mays (Secretary)

**I**n these unique circumstances the business of the Society still has to go on and so, having missed both the A.G.M. and the latest Full Committee Meeting (due in June), it was decided to hold a Committee Meeting with a restricted agenda to deal with the Society's affairs over the next few months. The following decisions were made at the meeting on 13th July:

1. St Joseph's Hall in Bugle Street is not being maintained at a safe standard of cleanliness to meet current Covid-19 regulations. Therefore it is deemed as unsafe for our members and all meetings have been cancelled for 2020. The situation will be reviewed later in the year.
2. The **Grand Auction** due to be held in October has been postponed until the spring 2021. The Church authorities have cancelled all bookings at the Peartree Church Hall until further notice and no suitable alternative venue is available. Instead there will be a **Postal Auction** on the same day (Saturday 10th October) which will be administered from the Bugle Street clubroom by the Auctioneer. **Viewing of the lots will be available in the preceding week by appointment with the Auctioneer only.**

## WALTER MURRAY – The recipient of the letter.

**W**alter Murray of Dundee, Jamaica was born in 1772 and died in Regency Square, Brighton on 25 May 1826, aged 54. Records show that he was the attorney for a number of the Lawrence and Murray family estates, which suggests the reason for the George Lawrence letter. In All Saints' Church, Southampton (now demolished) there was a white marble tablet on the west wall of the nave which was in the memory of William Murray, Walter's father. Walter Murray was at Latium St James parish in 1825. Presumably the 1823 letter from George Lawrence, addressed St James's was to be delivered to Latium.

**T**he Murray family had a number of estates in Jamaica, including Latium, Garland Grove and Purling Stream in St James, and Hope in Manchester, plus property in Clarendon and Vere.

## THOMAS JOSEPH GRAY – Mentioned in the letter.

**T**homas Joseph Gray, mentioned by name in the George Lawrence 1823 letter, was a planter and owner of Easthams estate. Records show that the Gray family also acted as attorney for the Lawrence family.

## ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON.

**A**ll Saints' Church stood on the north east corner of High Street and East Street. It protruded further west into High Street than the location of the current buildings as may be seen in the 1852 etching. There is a plaque on the corner of the shop adjacent to East Street that records the location of the church.



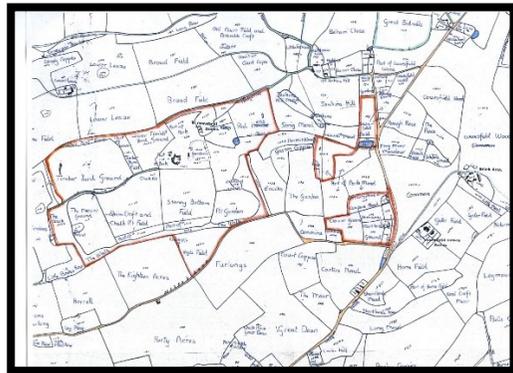
## SUGAR HOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON.

**U**p to 1786, sugar was refined and processed at the sugar house, built by John Brissault in about 1743 on the site of the chapel of the medieval Franciscan Friary, to the east, and at the south end of the High Street, (now Briton Street) close to the town quay, and a ready supply of fresh water. It was a 7 storey building, and around 26m by 14m in plan. (See the plan on Page 24). John Brissault owned a 90 acre plantation in St Andrew parish, Jamaica.

milestone in White Parish. It was built in 1767, demolished in 1949 and a modern property now stands on the site. George Lawrence owned 160 acres of land in White Parish, principally around Cowesfield House. Other land was leased to others, whilst six cottages and gardens were rented to local residents. There are four Memorial Tablets in All Saints' church, Whiteparish, erected in memory of George Lawrence, his wife Sarah Brissett, William Frederic Lawrence and Mary Lewis.



Left: All Saint's Church Whiteparish  
 Below Left: Tablet to George Lawrence  
 Below Right: Tablet to Sarah Lawrence (nee Bissett)



Left: White Parish in 1810 showing Cowesfield House  
 Right: Map showing Cowesfield House and land owned by George Lawrence

## A VOTE of THANKS to STEVE GERRARD From MEL BRADSHAW (Chairman)

It had already been Steve's intention to stand down at the 2020 A. G. M. from his various roles within the Society. However Covid-19 put a stop to that but due to changing personal circumstances Steve has asked to be relieved of his duties with immediate effect. We are very grateful for all the hard work he has done on our behalf over many years.

As Editor of 'Postmark' he has significantly improved the quality of our quarterly magazine and made it one of the best magazines around.

The same is true of the immense amount of work that he has done in fulfilling his duties as both Curator of the Society's collection and Archivist of the Society's history, including his work in cataloguing and scanning much of the Society's material.



### Southampton & District Philatelic Society POSTAL AUCTION OF PHILATELIC MATERIAL



Saturday, 10th October 2020

St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street  
 SOUTHAMPTON SO14 2AH

For more Information, Catalogues, or Assistance or for Postal Bids please contact the Auctioneer **KEVIN CHARD 01489 574834**

Viewing of all lots by Appointment ONLY during the week 5th October

500 Lots  
 NO Buyer's Premium NO vat  
 Postal Bidding (Ends 9/10/20)

27, Battle Close  
 Sarisbury Green  
 Southampton  
 SO31 7ZF

ON-line catalogue available at [www.southamptondps.org.uk](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk)  
[k.chard@ntlworld.com](mailto:k.chard@ntlworld.com)

RELEVANT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES will be observed. See our website for the latest information

The Grand Auction has been postponed until MARCH 2021

Full details will be on the website and published as soon as they are available

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS — OBITUARIES

by Mike Vokes (Membership Secretary)

### Donald Waters

It was with great sadness that early in May the Society was advised of the passing of Donald Waters. On 10th May Don lost a long battle against prostate cancer. Originally from Scotland Don moved late in life to live in Chandler's Ford with his invalid wife and he joined S.D.P.S. in January 2018. Don's daughter was already living in the area and more recently the Waters had moved into her house. Don had been a lecturer at Strathclyde University before taking up a translator position in Brussels with Euro Control. He spoke an amazing six languages. Don was well known to the Thursday meeting members, initially being brought in his wheelchair by Paul Arnold and then latterly by Vania McCleod, whom as a result joined the Society as a member in her own right. Donald was a quiet compassionate gentleman for whom philately and membership of the Society meant a great deal. He had been collecting stamps since the age of fourteen when he had been given a Penny Black for his birthday. We offer sincere condolences to Don's wife and daughter Liz and to her brother and younger sister, who both live abroad.

### John Pritchard

Very sadly in May we were also notified of the death of John Pritchard. John was a long-standing member, having joined the Society in 1986 and was well known to members in the Chandler's Ford area. He supported the Packet and the Thursday afternoon meetings regularly until illness prevented his attendance. John was a native of Essex but his work brought him to Mullards ( subsequently Phillips ) in Redbridge. Apart from his philatelic interests in GB and aviation, John was a keen allotment holder in Chandler's Ford. We offer our sincere condolences to Elizabeth and the family.

## VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

With Steve Gerrard's withdrawal from his posts as Archivist of the Society's History and Curator of the Society's Collection the Committee is looking for a member(s) who might be able to help with either or both of these roles. Anyone who is interested in either position should contact the Chairman (Mel Bradshaw) in the first instance. Tel: 02380 785785 / melbradshaw44@gmail.com

have been collected from Montego Bay, the closest post office to Latium, the Murray estate. The letter has a split, possibly for disinfection purposes, but this appears strange for a letter going to Jamaica, rather than coming from the island. A manuscript 4s 4d in red has been applied. It has been suggested that this is an insurance charge, but the single sheet letter contains no clue as to a possible reason for this.

### **GEORGE LAWRENCE – The sender of the letter.**

George Lawrence was born in Dover Street, London on 29 May 1775. His parents were Richard James Lawrence and Mary Hall. His brothers were Charles (d 1853), James Henry (d 1840) and Frederic Augustus, and he had an uncle called Thomas Hill. His father, his brother Frederic and his uncle are all mentioned in the 1823 letter. Charles owned Mossley Hall, Liverpool and was the local MP. He was at Eton from 1782 to 1791.

He married Sarah Brissett, daughter of Dr Patrick Spence of Hanover, Jamaica in 1809. They had no children. They spent their time between their country property, Cowesfield House, and their London house in Montagu Place. Both Sarah and Cowesfield are mentioned in the 1823 letter.

The family had a number of holdings in Jamaica, including Weston Favell (formerly called St James's), Running Gut, Hazelymph and Fairfield in the parish of St James and Tripoli, Hilton Park and Lawrence Park in St Ann. Weston Favell and Fairfield are mentioned in the 1823 letter. Williamsfield was owned by George Lawrence's uncle Thomas Hill, and this estate is also mentioned in the 1823 letter. George was in Jamaica and managing the estates in the early 1800's, according to letters written by him and sent to London at that time.

In 1816 George and Sarah sold their 1/7<sup>th</sup> revisionary interest in Belvidere estate in Hanover and right under the wills of Thomas Reid the younger (d 1798) and his wife Elizabeth (d 1804) to George Reid the younger of London for £800. On 19 May 1841 George and Sarah sold Weston Favell to Lawrence Hislop of St James for £6,540.

George Lawrence died on 27 February 1861, aged 85 at 4 Cavendish Square, London. Cowesfield House passed to George Lawrence's great-nephew William Frederic Lawrence who was the MP for Liverpool Abercromby. Sarah Brissett continued to live at Cowesfield House until her death on 19 December 1868.

### **COWESFIELD – The White Parish Property.**

Cowesfield House, Cowesfield Green is to the east of White Parish (now Whiteparish) in Wiltshire, 7 miles outside Romsey and after the turnpike located at the 8m

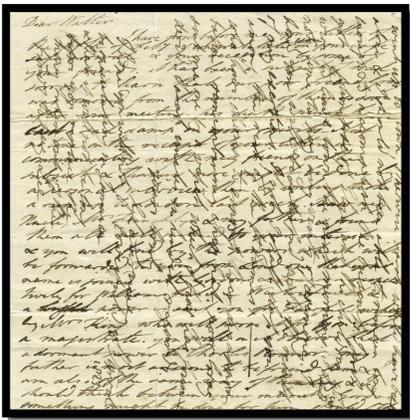
## ROMSEY AND AN ASPECT OF SLAVERY IN JAMAICA

by Patrick Austin

In the light of recent events at the time that this article is being written, that is retrospection concerning this country's association with the slave trade, I thought that it would be of interest to resurrect, and provide more information upon, a Rumsey letter written in 1823 that touches upon slavery in Jamaica and that has been previously presented in brief to SPS.

### THE LETTER:

To briefly recap the philatelic part, the five sided, including cross-written, letter dated 8 April 1823 was sent by George Lawrence at Cowesfield to Walter Murray at St James's in Jamaica. The letter is endorsed "packet" and "single" indicating that it would have been sent by a Post Office packet boat from Falmouth (the post office port for mail across the Atlantic) and comprised a single sheet of paper under 1oz in weight. The letter would have been taken by a servant, or given to a carrier, to be transported from Cowesfield House to the Romsey post receiver house and a RUMSEY 79 29mm x 11mm two lined mileage cancel applied. A 2s 9d manuscript charge has been applied, comprising the inland postage Rumsey to Falmouth of 11d for 230 to 300 miles, less 1d as the letter went via Falmouth, 1s 3d single letter rate from Falmouth to Kingston, Jamaica and the 8d inland rate for over 100 miles from Kingston to Montego Bay via the Northside Road route to Green Island. The letter would



Letter, Page 1 showing cross writing



Front of Letter

## POSTAL HISTORY of the SOLENT

By Michael Torreggiani

### Mail Not Collected



Sadly only the reverse of an envelope, however it contains a number of marks that suggest that the original envelope was addressed to 'Southampton Post Restante'. On arrival the envelope received a single ring Southampton cancellation dated 26 Ju 65. The envelope was not collected and eventually received two strikes of the step type 'Not called for 723' instructional mark.

The envelope went back into the system and received a Southampton machine 'SHOW' slogan on the 7th July 1965. On the 8th July 1965 the envelope received a Registered oval Above Bar cancellation and Above Bar B.O. purple rubber stamp. On the 2nd of August 1965 the envelope once again returned to the postal system where it received a further machine cancellation.

Did the envelope ever reach the recipient? - who knows but it eventually ended up in a collector's hands.

## DR OTTO NICODEMUS: AN INTERESTING ADDRESSEE

By Michael Torreggiani

Having purchased a quantity of allied occupation covers, two envelopes stood out. Both were addressed to a Dr Otto Nicodemus. Neither was special as postal history but the name seemed worthy of research. On Googling the name, an interesting character appeared. So, who was Dr Otto Nicodemus? Research revealed a pharmacist, international football player and an eminent German philatelist.



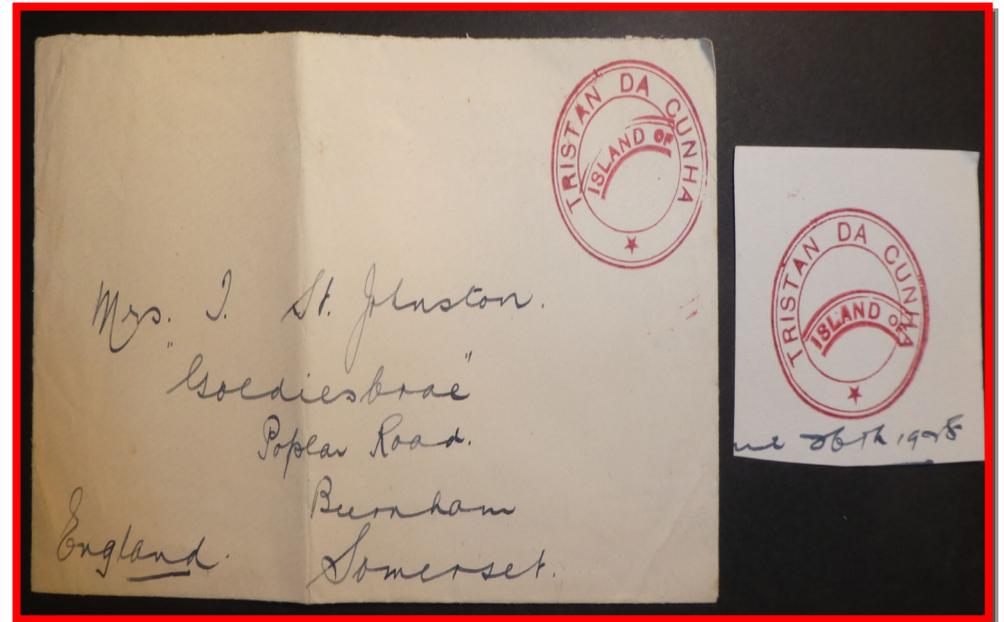
Born in 1886 in Biebrich, Dr Nicodemus was educated at Freiburg University, graduating as a pharmacist and conducting research in organic chemicals for IG Farben, where he registered a number of patents for various chemical compounds and processes. He was a keen footballer and played for clubs in Wiesbaden and Freiburg. He was selected to play in Germany's second international football match, against

Switzerland in 1909, where he scored the only goal and thus contributed to Germany's first win.

Later on in life, Dr Nicodemus became an eminent philatelist. He won a gold medal for his display of Turkey at the 1951 German Philatelic Exhibition at Wuppertal. Later he received a gold pin for services to philately at the 1953 German Philatelic Exhibition held at Frankfurt am Main and the Hans Wagner Medal for outstanding philatelic research. In 1956 he was awarded the Renner Richard Medal for outstanding contributions to German philately. Dr Nicodemus died in 1966.



What of the covers? The first cover was an ordinary distance letter franked at the rate of 24pf. Sent in April 1946 from Erkheim über Memmingen to Frankfurt am Main, the postage was paid using two values of the of the joint Allied issue and the 8pf German printing of the Anglo-



prior to 1952 mail from Tristan da Cunha was, from 1908, cacheted often by the Anglican (sic) priest, prior to despatch on a calling ship. The 'issue' date shown in Stanley Gibbons is the date when the collecting vessel departed from Tristan. The particular cachet (IVa) used on the cover displayed is very rarely found and it is believed the separate 'piece' dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 1928 was from the letter within the cover. There is an interesting mystery as to who, Mrs Johnston, the recipient of the letter was in Burnham on Sea. The name of the house in Burnham where Mrs Johnston was residing was called *Goldies Brae*. The only reference on the internet to the name *Goldies Brae* refers to a house built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Wellington, New Zealand by a Dr Johnston. What was the connection, if any, between Dr Johnston and the Mrs Johnston living in 1928 in Burnham on Sea ?

## From the Society's Collection



This lovely example of the QV Orange £5 with a very clear 'Southampton B.O' postmark was obtained on behalf of the Society, by Harry Vinecombe, from the estate of "Danny" Daniels, a long-standing member.

## CHARITY COLLECTIONS FOR I.C.S.

by Mike Vokes

For several years I have been processing stamps collected by fellow S.D.P.S. member, Sylvia Leyton, for the Christian charity I.C.S. Stamps collected in group collections in I.C.S. churches abroad, or by individuals, are sent either to the I.C.S. HQ or to Sylvia direct. Purchasers of stamps sold as kiloware only require trimmed copies and unfortunately a considerable amount material received has a substantial amount of the envelope around the stamp; nevertheless, better to have the surplus paper than the stamps damaged by having the perforations cut off!

Sylvia spends a considerable amount of her time in winter evenings preparing and sorting the stamps, which I then sell, either directly to our contacts, or through the Society auctions. Sylvia also makes up club booklets for our Packet and other Societies. In the case of GB material, as a lot of it comes from abroad, the kiloware is reasonably good quality, having a fair number of the higher denomination Machins & Christmas issues. Regrettably GB commemoratives are in very short supply. Annually, we receive a package of used low value stamps from the Cathedral church in Stanley, Falkland Islands. Whilst there was originally a reasonable amount of variety in the collections, unfortunately in recent times the Falkland Islands Postal authorities have issued a self-adhesive NVI stamp in booklets, which is clearly very popular with the islanders and is now very widely used for internal island mail.



Philatelic material received by the charity is not restricted exclusively to kiloware and from time to time for instance FDC albums and collections of mint stamps have been received. Over the years we have taken delivery of a very fine collection containing Central African material which was sent to a commercial auction house; similarly, a very specialist collection of stamps issued in Yugoslavia and other Balkan states. However our prize coup this year has been the cover pictured opposite from Tristan da Cunha. The introductory page in Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue indicates that

American occupation issue. Whether philatelically contrived it is impossible to tell, but it's nice to see a properly used 1pf stamp albeit for making up the rate.



Postage was paid using four values of the joint Allied occupation issue.

**Ed. Note** This Article first printed in GERMANIA in August 2012

## METER MARKS:

by Keith Lloyd

I have chanced upon a reference which I had forgotten that I had. It is the work of Alastair Nixon and contains much information on meters; the home page is titled "Postal Mechanisation for Philatelists". The website is [www.meterfranking.co.uk/](http://www.meterfranking.co.uk/)

Some sections appear not to have been updated for years, but right at the end there is a section "Postal Mechanisation Display to WDPS" (Wokingham & District Philatelic Society) given on 11th October 2016.

Very near the end in "Part 2 Section 6 - Coding Marks (2)" there is a sheet headed "Decoding the Matrix Block in a Meter Frank". This decodes a barcode produced by a Mailmark franking machine (although the term Mailmark is not used).

The second cover, a letter weighing 22g with a declared value of 1,500 RM, was sent from Karlsruhe to Frankfurt am Main on 18 November 1946. The total paid was 2.08 RM. This covered postage of 48pf for a second tier letter (20g to 250g), the insurance and handling fees of 1.20 RM for the first 500 RM of insured value, plus an extra 40pf Insurance for the next 1,000 RM (20pf per 500RM).

## POSTMARK PROFILE No. 31 – PETER PARR

Over the years Peter's collecting habits have changed from stamps to antique Toby Jugs and back again to stamps, which was lucky for the Society as he has become an active and enthusiastic member.

Born in 1942, in Southampton, Peter was brought up by his Mum single-handed, having been divorced when Peter was only a baby. After Primary school he went to the Deanery School to study seamanship. However he decided on a career in catering and trained at the Southampton Technical College. This was followed by an apprenticeship with Catering Houses Ltd. After his apprenticeship he joined the Army and after initial training was posted to Surrey. He was private chef to Lieutenant General Sir Roderick McLeod and his family for two years until the General retired. General McLeod was the first commander of the Special Air Service in 1944 and had a distinguished war record. He and his wife were both very supportive of young Peter especially when he married during this period - Pam was 17 and he was 20.

In 1964 he was posted to Malaysia for two years including six months on active service in Borneo with the 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Regiment. Pam was with him for much of the time and they had started a family. The Regiment then moved to Germany and re-equipped with Chieftain tanks. Pam and their growing family lived in married quarters. He worked in the Officers and Sergeants' messes as well as the main cookhouse.

In 1970 Peter decided to take his discharge and returned to civvy street in Southampton. He had married Pam in 1962 and now had a wife and three children; Julie, Tony and Trudy. Eventually they had four grandchildren and two great grandchildren all of whom he keeps in touch with as they live in the Southampton area.

Peter's first grandchild was born prematurely and had complications due to poorly developed lungs. On three occasions during the first few months of her life she very nearly died and only survived due to Peter's prompt action in dealing with the problem administering mouth to mouth resuscitation and CPR. The first occasion was during her christening and on another she developed whooping-cough. However Peter identified the problem on each occasion and she survived to grow into a strong adult.

Like many ex-servicemen he found it difficult to adjust to his new life and had various businesses over the next few years. These included light haulage, antique dealer and restorer, manufacturer of reproduction furniture and care-home owner. He particularly enjoyed his years restoring antique furniture. As a youngster he had excelled in wood working and this together with French polishing appealed to him and

for six years he enjoyed restoration work as he found the end results most satisfying. He also enjoyed eleven years working with Pam as a care-home owner. They kept the residents happy – Peter providing a high standard of cooking – but eventually with new Government regulations, they like many other care-home operators, were forced to give up due to escalating costs.

Peter's collecting started in 1970 and was a scattering of countries from around the world including a fair collection of GB. However, this was sold in the 80s to help finance his business. About this time his main collecting passion was early Toby Jugs and the best of his collection was sold in 2010 to finance the purchase of a car and to assist his daughter with home improvements.

His interest in collecting stamps was revived when he joined the Southampton Society just over five years ago. His main collections are GB and the stamps of India. The revenue stamps of both countries became a special area of interest together with a few minor collections of Eire, Ceylon, Malta, Pakistan and Cyprus. His main reason for joining was to meet people and to make new friends. Peter has not been disappointed in this respect and he has found many like-minded collectors who are happy to chat and be friendly. Peter's natural charm, helpfulness and sunny disposition have seen to that. Peter does not display competitively but has often shown parts of his collection at the afternoon meetings in Chandler's Ford. He enjoys both the more formal evening in Southampton as well as the afternoon meetings where members are encouraged to give informal displays.

The loss of his wife Pam in February 2019 after 57 years of marriage was a great



*A recent photo of Peter by Eddie Mays*

blow to Peter. Since then he has kept fit by taking plenty of regular exercise, long walks with his dogs and gym workouts. Besides being a member of this Society he is an active member of the Southampton Veterans Walk-in centre and breakfast club, all of which keeps him in touch with friends.

We look forward to the day when Peter and the rest of the Society will be able to resume meetings of some sort both in Chandler's Ford and Southampton.

**John Berridge**