



# Halcyon

*The Newsletter of the Redditch Philatelic Society – No. 20: Summer 2013.*

## **From the Chairman**



I hope everyone has enjoyed a good summer and also the hot, sunny weather especially. One of the first days of the hot spell was the Saturday on which MIDPEX 2013 was held. Fortunately, the high ceiling of the halls together with open doors managed to keep the temperatures at reasonably comfortable levels. The event was well attended and the consensus was that the event was a success. So much so, that the dates for the next two Midpex shows, 2015 and 2017, have already been booked. I managed to chat to quite a few people during the day (networking in the modern parlance), but unfortunately this meant I did not get to visit as many of the dealers as I would have liked.

One person I did get to meet was Brian Clayton the President of the Nottinghamshire PS, whom I had only spoken to on the phone, and although he knew I was at the show, he did not know me by sight. After trying the Falkland Islands Study Group stand, he was told I was around and was wearing a blue shirt (this described half the people present at Midpex!). Eventually, someone did point me out to him and we were able to discuss my forthcoming visit to Nottingham. Through Robin, I also got to meet a man interested in Otto Nordenskjold (the Antarctic polar explorer), who invited me to give a talk in Hereford.

Midpex was also the venue for the Midland Philatelic Federation's AGM, at which Robin Jarman and myself represented the society (Bob Harper as MPF General Secretary remained impartial). The principal subject for discussion was whether the MPF competitions should become 16-sheet competitions. I strongly urged the meeting to leave the inter-society competitions as 9-sheet. This seemed to be the view of several other societies and so it was decided to retain the existing 9-sheet spring competitions in which, incidentally, Redditch did extremely well this time with Malcolm receiving a Gold and Best in Show, Robin winning his class with a Gold medal and Lyel also gaining a Gold and second place in his class. A most enjoyable show!

**Alan Godfrey**

## **The President's Piece**

The summer break from our meetings seems to have coincided with a welcome upturn in the weather. Years ago summer used to be quite distinct, in that most activities we practised over the winter months actually ceased and more outdoor activities took over. Recently this distinction has become a bit blurred and many Societies now host their annual Fairs "out of season". Not only does it seem strange to be sweltering in a school hall whilst the sun is shining; it also brings on a guilty conscience for not being out in the garden doing all of those things we complain about not getting done at other times of the year, perhaps because we are out collecting stamps then too!



Clearly a no-win situation; On the one hand we want to do the right thing and support all of our local Stamp Fairs; on the other hand we all have other things to do. Perhaps we should all campaign that Fairs are only held between October and April. We can then spend every winter weekend collecting stamps with a clear conscience and then over the summer help with all of the other necessary home-based tasks! Is that a pig just flew past my window?

I was most pleased to receive a Gold award for my Postal History entry at the MPF Inter-Society competitions recently held at Midpex. However, I find entering competitions quite difficult and it also takes up quite a bit of time and a lot of effort. Nevertheless once the decision to enter is made, it is dogged single-mindedness to produce the best possible effort I can; otherwise there is little point entering. Clearly this time, all of the effort has been worthwhile, even if I do now have something else to polish.

Finally I am looking forward to our next season of meetings immensely. We have our usual array of speakers and home grown topics, and certainly in the first half of the programme we have some visits to other Societies. Do come along to our meetings; do get involved in activities; do participate. "Doing" always brings its own individual rewards.

**Malcolm Allinson**

## EDITORIAL



Welcome to the latest edition of *Halcyon*. It has been a bit of a scramble over the last few weeks to get enough content to fill this newsletter, but eventually members have abandoned their beach huts and provided sufficient material to make it worthwhile. Of

course that does not mean everyone can rest easy. Material is still needed for the next *Halcyon*, which is already in the preparation stages - a couple of paragraphs on the merits of clear stamp mounts and 11½ blank sides of paper at present, so please do get started and write an article of two on your experiences of stamp collecting.

It seems that the Society continues to make the news in national philatelic circles. Alan Godfrey has written in with the latest "member spotting";

*"Those of you who are keen readers of the stamp magazines may have spotted this month that four RPS members feature in two of them. Malcolm's and Robin's gold medal successes in the MPF inter-society competitions were reported in a review of Midpex in the September edition of Gibbons Stamp Monthly. In the same magazine Chris, in his role of Midlands (GB) PHS chairman, gets reported as welcoming the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham to the launch of the Midland (GB) Postal History Society's new book "The British County Catalogue of Postal History: Midland Edition" at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens in June. Meanwhile, Bob Harper has a two-page spread in September's Stamp & Coin Mart entitled "Puffin Post" displaying the more interesting items from his collection of Lundy, together with a brief history of Bob's collecting."*

So there it is; confirmation of our claim to be "**At the Centre of Midlands Philately**". Perhaps we should now set our sights a bit higher!

With a number of references to competitions in this edition of *Halcyon*, perhaps it's a timely reminder of our forthcoming annual 9 sheet competitions in January. "A long way off" is probably your thought, but the time soon passes and a good entry doesn't throw itself together overnight - not in your Editors household anyway. Just so that we are sure of what is required, the marking scheme for our competitions is reproduced here; both for the Traditional, Postal History and Aerophilately classes but also for the Thematic Social and Open classes. Do think about entering and if you are not quite sure about how to go about it, please ask. I'm sure we have amongst us members who will be more than willing to give some good advice.

As well as thinking about our Annual competitions, another event seemingly a long way off is our annual Auction in March. Again, time goes quickly and in October members will be asked to begin sending in lists of auction items. Again, please start thinking about it early, and when the time arrives, send in your lists.

REDDITCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY	
	FOUNDED 1971
<b>MARKING SCHEME FOR STAMP/POSTAL HISTORY/AEROPHILATELIC COMPETITIONS</b>	
<b>Treatment (20)</b>	
Introductory statement	10
Importance of subject	10
<b>Knowledge &amp; Research (35)</b>	
Subject knowledge	15
Philatelic knowledge	10
Personal research	10
<b>Condition and scarcity (25)</b>	
Condition of material	10
Scarcity	10
Variety	5
<b>Presentation (20)</b>	
General appearance	10
Arrangement	10
October 2008	

REDDITCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY	
	FOUNDED 1971
<b>MARKING SCHEME FOR THEMATIC &amp; SOCIAL COMPETITIONS</b>	
<b>Treatment of Subject (25)</b>	
Plan of exhibit	10
Importance of subject	5
Variety of material	10
<b>Development and Knowledge of Theme (35)</b>	
Originality of development	5
Completeness	10
Subject knowledge	10
Philatelic knowledge	10
<b>Condition and scarcity (20)</b>	
Condition of material	10
Scarcity	10
<b>Presentation (20)</b>	
General appearance	10
Arrangement	10
October 2008	

As is now customary, I would like to thank all of the contributors to this edition of *Halcyon* – **Ralph Richardson, Alan Godfrey, Robin Jarman, Mike Such, Lyel Swingler and Chris Jackson**. Please keep the articles rolling in.

**Malcolm Allinson**

**2013 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

The half year results up to the end of June are given below.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lyel Swingler	151 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pete Elms	127 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alan Godfrey	113 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mick Such	99 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	Robin Jarman	98 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Harper	95 points

If you are not yet on the leader board there are still plenty of meetings to attend, competitions to enter and displays to give, in order to gain those valuable Championship points.

**EVENTS AND REMINDERS****SOCIETY PROGRAMME:**

**The first half of next season's meetings is confirmed as follows:**

Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mini Auction
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Visit from Banbury PS
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Wed)	Visit <b>TO</b> Stroud PS
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Guest Speaker: Dane Garrod – GB Royalty and Other Stories
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Single Sheet Competition
Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Tues)	Visit <b>TO</b> Dudley PS
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker: Peter Pugh – Another Bloody Railway
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Guest Speaker: Colin Searle – Spain and Czeslaw Slania
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Members Show and Tell
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Committee Entertains for Christmas

**Other Philatelic Events for the Diary**

The next few regional and national events are listed together here\*. Please add these events to your diaries, and support them by attending where you can. Only patronage helps ensure these events continue.

**18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013**  
**STAMPEX**  
BDC Islington LONDON N1 0QH

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2013**  
**MPF Autumn Convention**  
Hinckley LE10 1LE

**8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013**  
**Stafford Stamp Fair**  
County Showground ST18 0BD

**17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014**  
**York Stamp Fair**  
York Racecourse YO23 1EX

\* Details may change. Please check with event organiser for confirmation.

**MEETING REPORTS**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013**

**Members Three Sheet Competition:  
Letter D**

This year's three sheet competition produced a fantastic array of subjects and excellent displays. With the title of the competition the "Letter D", members thought processes resulted in some intriguing results.

The seven entries were:

De La Rue Heads	<i>Roger Wood</i>
Dudley Duplexes	<i>Chris Jackson</i>
Deutsch Zensur z. Weltkreig	<i>Lyel Swingler</i>
Dance around the World	<i>Mike Such</i>
David Gentleman – Stamp Designer	<i>Pete Elms</i>
HMS Despatch (1919-1947)	<i>Alan Godfrey</i>

When judged, by David Gillespie and Malcolm Allinson, the winner was Chris Jackson, who it is understood won last year too! Surely an incentive for everyone else to have a go next year?

**Alan Godfrey**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Guest Speaker: Alwyn Peel  
Captain Bligh**



After the talks and displays given by Alwyn in recent years on the subject of Captain Cook, everyone was looking forward with great expectations to his next visit, which did not disappoint. This display was impressive and complete in every way including a comprehensive history of Captain Bligh (*above left*), ending with a picture of the grave stone of Bligh situated in St. Mary-at-Lambeth in London.

Alwyn was first drawn to investigating Captain Bligh when compiling the history of Captain Cook who selected Bligh as sailing Master of HMS Resolution on his (Cook's) 1776 third and fatal voyage. Later in 1787, Bligh was chosen as Commanding Lieutenant of HM Armed Vessel Bounty, to sail to Tahiti to collect breadfruit trees to take to the Caribbean for use as experimental food crops. Before reaching the Caribbean a mutiny broke out on board the Bounty and the then Lieutenant Bligh and eighteen men were set adrift in a 23ft launch by the ring leader Fletcher Christian on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1789. One of Bligh's most exceptional feats was navigating himself and the eighteen loyal crewmen some 3,618 miles across the South Seas to safety.

Bligh was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1754 at Tinten Manner in St Tudy, Bodmin Cornwall. Alwyn explained that Bligh first went to sea when he was

only 7 years old, when he was signed on as a "young gentlemen". This was to gain experience at sea as a fast track for promotion. His first appointment was as "able seaman" as there was no vacancy for a midshipman and after a year at the age of 17 he was promoted to midshipman.

During his career he served in both the Merchant and the Royal Navy rising through the ranks to Commodore, Rear Admiral of the white, red, and the blue and eventually Vice Admiral. He was also thanked publicly for his support by Lord Nelson for helping in the battle of Copenhagen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1802 when he was captain of HMS Glatton. He was also the Governor of New South Wales from 1806 to 1808.



Alwyn Peel clearly enjoying his display of Captain Bligh  
(picture: Mike Such)

As a result of his round the world trip with Cook, a reef was named after William Bligh situated in the Prince William Sound in Alaska, and Alwyn showed an extract from a newspaper showing the oil tanker Exxon Valdez spilling its crude oil into the sea when it struck that reef in March 1989. It was estimated that some 250,000 seabirds died as it covered 1,300 miles of coast line.

As for breadfruit trees (right), the operation to transport the breadfruit under the command of Nathaniel Portlock and Bligh was eventually successful, even though in their new home the trees are not as productive as in the South Pacific. Nevertheless they are a popular food to this day in equatorial regions across the world.



The material used by Alwyn was very impressive covering the whole of Bligh's life and adventures. This was one evening to be remembered. More of this please and well done Alwyn on a magnificent presentation.

**Mike Such**

*For a good account of the Mutiny, read "The Bounty" by Caroline Alexander. Publ: by Harper Perennial ISBN 978 0006532460*

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 Visit by Gloucestershire Philatelic Society

I often find that the displays given by visiting societies are often the most interesting meetings. Not only is there usually something to satisfy even the most particular member of our Society, but also the most unusual displays turn up - often the completely unexpected. We were not disappointed with the visit from Gloucestershire PS members, who provided a fascinating evening including stamps, covers and social philately.

Jonathan Smalley kicked off with a comprehensive display of the postage due issues of Kenya, both in sets and used on cover. The display followed the development of the country from the early issues, as part of a united East Africa and through to independence.



Jonathan Smalley with some of his Kenyan Postage Dues  
(picture: Malcolm Allinson)

Martyn Parker came next and gave us a chronicle of the Second World War from its outbreak in 1939 to VJ Day in 1945. Martyn displayed covers, photographs and newspapers, together with other ephemera, such as identity cards. Ray Adlam followed on with his display which he entitled "Odds & Sods of Philately". It proved to be a treasure trove of stamp bits and pieces. I found the display of the 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee omnibus set, which highlighted the various designs adopted by the countries of the Empire, to be particularly interesting.

We had a great evening and a request for us to make a return visit to Gloucester.

**Alan Godfrey**

## Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013 President's Evening: Malcolm Allinson – Something for Everyone

By one of the immutable laws of the Redditch Philatelic Society, the last meeting of the season is occupied by one of our senior officers, who is expected to fill an evening with riches to delight us. This year it was the turn of our President, Malcolm Allinson. Now I think I speak for all of us when I say we have not often seen the highlights of his

collections. We know he acquires things for he may be frequently seen at fairs closeted with some dealer negotiating for some rarity – but what? He promised us “Something for Everyone”, and provided you were interested in GB, largely he was right.

I only became the writer of this article half way through the display. I beat back a large number of others keen to get into print, but I had no pencil; I therefore had to remember all that we saw and Malcolm deserves my apology if I omit any choice item.

The quality of what we saw was first class. So too was its presentation. I doubt there are many Societies of our size who could put on such a feast. We began with Bishop Marks – the earliest postmarks – introduced by Postmaster General Henry Bishop in 1661. Bishop lasted just three years in the job but his postmark lasted well over a century. The highlights of this section of the display were a number of marks from the 1660's

There followed a frame of books from the Allinson library. “Do you have any of these?” said Malcolm to me, and unexpectedly got the answer “No”, there being a number of the titles sadly not in my collection.

I think we always knew that Malcolm collected £1 stamps from GB and other issuing Territories. We saw a display of almost all the £1 issues from Edward VII onwards, many in blocks and all immaculately set out. We finished the first half with a small display of local postcards of Astwood Bank, where Malcolm grew up.

The second half began with the Uniform 4d Post of December to January 1839/40. This was a Post Office trial run for full Uniform Postage at the rate of 1d. We saw a number of examples of the rare handstruck ‘4’ mark from several of the Offices that issued them during this short period.



Our President, Malcolm Allinson, with two boards from his ‘Something for Everyone’ display  
(picture: Alan Godfrey)

We then moved on to Malcolm’s Line Engraved collection of 1d Blacks and 2d Blues, which continues to grow every time it is displayed.

In following the theme “Something for Everyone” Malcolm attempted to reflect the Society programme and used some meeting titles around which to weave his display. So we saw “Three sheets”, Postal History, Traditional Stamps and Postcards amongst other subjects. Malcolm completed the evening with a Thematic display of the 1935 Silver Jubilee and finally a “Single Sheet” display of Cape Triangles – surely an area where Malcolm is eventually going to branch further out with his collecting. (*Your Editor is unsure on this point!*)

We had a very good evening with some beautiful material excellently displayed and clearly explained. We also had one of those lines that Postal Historians love- “There are only three of these [pause] and I know where the other two are!” - said with just the right hint of glee. We are all grateful for an excellent evening. If Malcolm is ever President again, can we have some more please?

**Ralph Richardson**

*Members will be relieved to know that the missing page from the Uniform Fourpenny Post display which showed the August 1839 Act of Parliament, giving authority to the Treasury to set postage rates, was later found in a box of stationery – together with a “second day” (7<sup>th</sup> May) Mulready cover. The President’s filing system is now under review!!*

## **MIDPEX 2013** **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

The real headline for this article must be

**“REDDITCH; the most successful Society in the competitions – AGAIN!!!”**

Our four entries to the Midland Federation Inter-Society competitions were the winning entries from our own Annual competitions back in January. We must be doing something right as we came away with no less than THREE Gold awards and a Silver; a “Best in Show”; two Class winners; a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 4<sup>th</sup> in Class. I’m sure that our President will once more be wagging his tail at another Best in Show\* - even if his Certificate is incorrect (again!)

As for the headline of being the most successful Society, only Streetley were our nearest rivals who must be congratulated on their own efforts. They put in five entries – one more than us, but they only achieved two Gold medals and a Class win. In all there were 8 gold awards made out of the total of twenty one entries in the competitions.

The Judge for this years’ competitions was Jeremy Hutchinson from the Wiltshire Federation, who should be congratulated as he had a tough job on his hands due to the overall high standard of the entries.

*(\*Your Editor reports that the President has taken to eating “Winalot”!!!)*

It is interesting to compare the marks awarded by the different Judges for our own entries at both our Annual competition evening back in January and at the Federation Inter-Society competition.

All except Alan's entry have received remarkably consistent scores, and at least have been judged in the same award category. Alan's entry has perhaps suffered from wider interpretation of the rules from the different judges, as the Open Class is relatively new and it will take a while for all judges to benchmark themselves and get to common ground. Malcolm's entry, according to the Midland Federation, also achieved a record highest score for MPF competitions.

Who	Entry	January 2013 Society Annual competition score	July 2013 Midland Fed Inter Society competition score
Malcolm Allinson	Uniform 4d Postage ( <i>PH</i> )	91 Gold	90 Gold
Lyel Swingler	Netherland Colonies Airmail stamps ( <i>Trad</i> )	85 Gold	87 Gold
Robin Jarman	Airmails of Chile ( <i>Aero</i> )	90 Gold	88 Gold
Alan Godfrey	Fire and Pestilence ( <i>Open</i> )	80 Silver Gilt	73 Silver

Midpex itself was well attended. No less than 40% of Redditch Society members went along on a nice hot sunny day. Many went home with real gems to add to their collections as the mix of dealers meant that every aspect of Philately was available. For some dealers it was their only trip to our patch this year so there was plenty of previously unseen material to catch all of our eyes

Easy access, plenty of parking, nice welcoming committee, and a light, airy venue - even if a little on the warm side as the day went on.

During the day the Midland Federation also held its Annual General Meeting. One of the subjects discussed was the question of the Federation annual competitions. Currently the Inter Society competitions held in the spring are nine sheets, and the Individual competitions held in the autumn are sixteen sheets. In the last couple of years there has been a move to making all the competitions sixteen sheets. Many Societies were against this move which was rejected last year; and so it was again this time. Let us hope this subject has been put to bed completely now.

**Chris Jackson**

### The Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-1916

Exactly one hundred years ago, the largest Arctic expedition up to that time assembled to set sail on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1913, sponsored by the Canadian Government. The expedition was split into a

northern party led by the overall expedition leader, Vilhjalmur Stefansson (*right*) aboard the old whaler, *Karluk*, and a southern party led by the American Dr Rudolf Anderson.



The captain of *Karluk* was the veteran polar explorer, Robert Bartlett, (*left*) who had previously travelled with Robert Peary on three Arctic expeditions. With him were ten scientists,

thirteen seamen, four Inuit hunters, one seamstress, her two children and one passenger. After two months *Karluk* was trapped in heavy sea ice and unable to reach its first destination, Herschel Island. When the ice stopped moving Stefansson decided to leave the ship with five other men, fourteen dogs and two sledges to hunt caribou. When they returned the ship had gone and, they presumed, was sunk, so they turned south to Alaska. Stefansson hired two new ships, the *North Star* and the *Polar Bear* and more supplies and carried on with the exploration of the northern part of Canada, from Point Barrow to Herschel Island.

Meanwhile, *Karluk* was drifting towards Siberia and eventually sank off the coast of Wrangel Island on 11 January 1914. Bartlett played the Chopin's Funeral March on his gramophone as the ship went down. He had prepared for the sinking and had the crew build igloos on the ice and transfer stores from the stricken ship. Since a number of the party had no experience of the Arctic, Bartlett's plan was to remain on the ice until the end of the Arctic winter and then strike south for the Russian mainland. Four of his men decided to go off, against Bartlett's wishes, and were not seen again and an advance party also left to reach Wrangel Island and disappeared. Eventually seventeen survivors reached Wrangel Island on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Bartlett and the Inuit hunter, Kataktovik, left the much weakened party and travelled south by dog sledge 150 miles to find land, then completed the perilous 700 mile journey through Russia to the Bering Strait. They finally found a ship, the *Herman*, willing to take them across the strait on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The fourteen remaining survivors were finally rescued on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1914, owing their lives to the knowledge and leadership skills of Bob Bartlett.

The remainder of the northern party, led by Stefansson with George (later Sir Hubert) Wilkins (*right*) as second-in-command, carried out a programme of mapping of undiscovered land masses and conducted soundings of the ocean floor in the western Arctic. Stefansson also set out to prove that survival in the Arctic



could be learned from the Inuit and Wilkins recorded much of the expedition's work in photographs and on movie film.

The southern party's objective was the scientific documentation of the geography, geology, resources, wildlife and people of the Mackenzie River delta. They were equally successful, mapping the coast from Alaska to Bathurst Inlet and collecting thousands of samples and artefacts.

The Canadian press criticised the erratic, self-serving Stefansson for abandoning the *Karluq* and its crew. However he continued to explore the Arctic and write about the Inuit people. Bartlett was later involved in the rescue of members of the Macmillan expedition in 1917. Wilkins left the expedition in 1916 upon hearing that the world had been at war for two years and his father had died. He returned to Australia and was offered a commission in the Australian army. He served in France as an Australian official war photographer on the Western Front, where was awarded the MC and Bar. The experience he gained in survival as part of this expedition served him well in his later explorations in both the Arctic and Antarctic.

**Alan Godfrey**

### **Sunday Express Delivery.**

Some years ago I acquired a cover sent from Redditch to Birmingham on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1949 which is marked in manuscript "Special Sunday Delivery" "Express Post" and posted with a total of 1/8½d in stamps spread over the front and back.

Unable to find a reference to explain the cover I showed it to a couple of eminent 20<sup>th</sup> century Postal Historians and they told me that after the Post Office withdrew Sunday deliveries in the early 1920's that the only way to get something delivered on a Sunday was by using the Express Post system.



Cover front showing 4 x GVI 2d and POST OFFICE EXPRESS DELIVERY label in red.



Cover reverse showing 6 x GVI ½d; 3 x GVI 2½d and 1 x GVI 2d; together with those on the front making up the charge of 1/8½d. (pictures: Chris Jackson)

Pete Elms has recently obtained a copy of a book<sup>(1)</sup> on the Express Post system in which a full explanation is given.

The rules for the service are contained in the 1938 Rules for Express Mail. There was a flat rate fee of 1/6d for the Express and in addition full postage had to be paid (2½d in 1949). The service was only available for mail to the following 18 cities:-

*Belfast Birmingham Bristol\* Cardiff\* Cork Dublin Edinburgh\* Glasgow Hull\* Leeds\* Leicester\* Liverpool London Manchester Newcastle on Tyne\* Nottingham\* Sheffield\* and Southampton\**

The asterisk indicated that the service at these places to and from Dublin and Cork was not in operation, and there was no service between Belfast and Hull.

The rules stated that:-

*Any letter or postal packet, other than a parcel, will be accepted on Saturday at the offices shown above for delivery in any of the towns named, but not elsewhere. The letters will be delivered from the office of destination by Special Messenger during the hours when the office is open for telegraph business.*

*The words 'EXPRESS – Sunday Delivery' must be boldly and legibly written by the sender above the address in the top left hand corner of the cover.*

The author of the book noted that they had never seen a Special Sunday Delivery Express Post item from anywhere other than within London, but concluded that as the rules allowed for such a service it was likely that some examples would exist and at some future date come to light!

**Chris Jackson**

(1) *Express Service 1891-1971* by Hilary A Wellsted, published by the Postal History Society 1986

**PAGES FROM A COMPETITION**

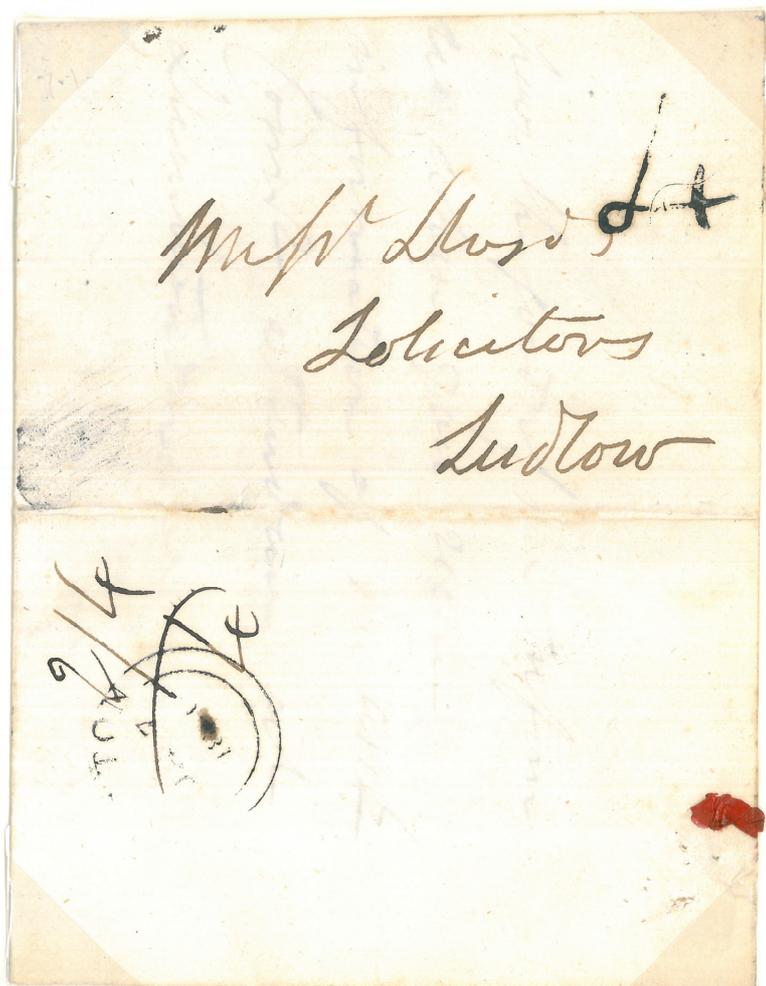
The following page is from our President's Gold Medal winning entry to the Midland Federation Inter-Society Postal History competition at Midpex in June.

**Uniform Fourpenny Postage 1839-1840**

**Kington (Herefordshire) handstruck '4'**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 1840**

Entire letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 1840, from Kington to Ludlow charged single rate of 4d.



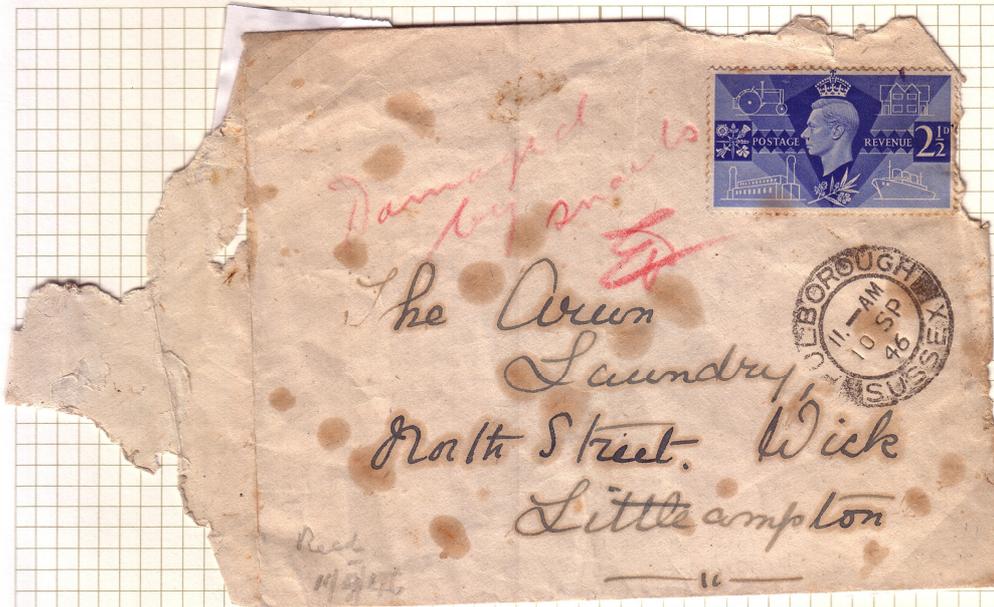
Handstruck '4' of Kington. Backstamped KINGTON / JA 7 / 1840

**One of two known examples.**

*Kington Post Office: Bridge Street  
Kington Postmaster: James Pugh - appointed May 1828.*

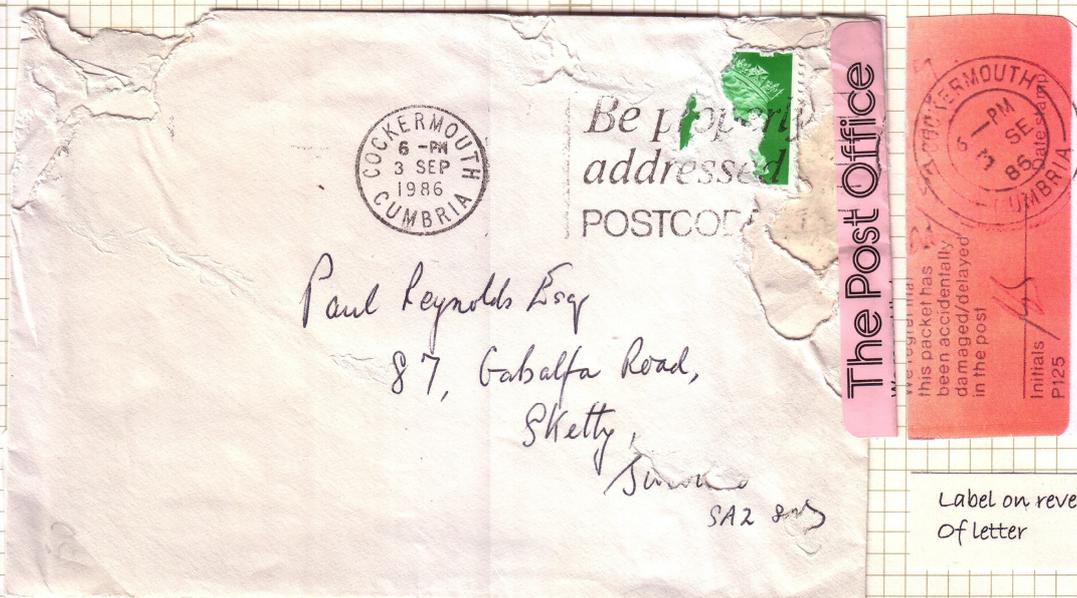
**PAGES FROM A COMPETITION**

The following page is from Alan Godfrey's Silver Medal winning entry to the Midland Federation Inter-Society Open Class competition at Midpex in June.



10 September 1946  
 Letter to Littlehampton showing signs of damage and manuscript "Damage caused by snails" in red.

The P125 Label has been Manually annotated "...BY SNAILS"



3<sup>rd</sup> September 1986  
 This letter was sent from Cockermouth to Swansea. It was posted in a wall box in the village of Pardshaw, 4 miles south of Cockermouth. The post box was surrounded by long grass and the letter remained in the box for almost 24 hours, plenty of time for snails..

Label on reverse of letter

**PAGES FROM A COMPETITION**

The following two pages are from Lyel Swingler's Gold Medal winning entry to the Midland Federation Inter-Society Traditional (Stamps) competition at Midpex in June.

**Netherlands and Colonies Air Mail Stamps  
1921 to 1944**

The first airmail stamps of the Netherlands from a woodblock design was for the payment of air tax.

In 1928 a new set of stamps was produced for the scheduled flights to Batavia commemorating the 1924 and 1927 flights (page 2)

In 1933 a special triangular stamp was made available to the public for the Christmas flight of the 'Postjager' and subsequent flights of the 'Zilvermeeuw' and 'Pelicaan' (page 3). This issue was only valid for airmail use.

Pages 4 to 6 are the airmail issues of the Netherlands Indies.

Page 5 includes a cover of the first flight from Netherlands Indies to Australia.

Named the 'Abel Tasman' flight the 1guilder stamp was designed by the pilot Capt. Pattist.

Pages 7 to 9 are issues of Curacao

Air tax was introduced in 1921. A typical registered airmail letter of 20gram from Amsterdam to Paris would cost foreign tax 20 cent + airtax 15 cent + Ams to Paris 15 cent + registered tax 15 cent = total 50 cents

Air tax prices depended on the length of the flight involved.

**Netherlands**

1921



*A gull flying over the sea*

No watermark. Perf 12½.

These stamps were issued 1st May 1921 and were originally intended to pay the air tax. On 1st June 1922 the plates were decommissioned. This is the only Dutch stamp produced from a wood block design.

In February 1923 they were made available again and the complete printing issue was sold out.

End of validity 31st March 1935

Sources

Luchtvaart en Luchtpost deel 1 by J Tschroots en H Tschroots-Boer

NVPH Postzegelcatalogus

Nederlandse Vereniging van Aero-Philatelisten de Vliegende Hollander

Speciale catalogus van de postzegels van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen

**Netherlands**

**1928**



**G.A Koppen**  
**1st flight Netherlands-  
Netherlands Indies & return 1927**



**A.N.J. Thomassen a Thuessink van der Hoop**  
**1st post flight Netherlands -  
Netherlands Indies in 1924**

**Watermark rings. Perf 12**

**Issued 20th August 1928 in settlement of the air tax. From 29th April 1931 also valid  
for ordinary franking.**

**End of validity 31st March 1944**

**1929**



**Head of Mercury**

**No watermark. Perf 11 1/2.**

**Issued 16th July 1929 to settle the extra air tax. From 29th April 1931 also valid for  
ordinary postage.**

**End of validity 31st March 1944**

**All Airmail stamps printed by Joh. Enschede & Sons**

**PAGES FROM A COMPETITION**

The following pages are from Robin Jarman's Gold Medal winning entry to the Midland Federation Inter-Society Aerophilately Class competition at Midpex in June.

**Linea Aeropostal Santiago-Arica**



**Larger cover**

Airmail surcharge: \$1.20 (Internal airmail per 20g 2/2/29)  
 Surface rate: 25c (UCS-A 1/7/28)  
**Total cost: \$1.45 (actual \$1.15)**

**Smaller cover**

60c (Decree 3665 23/8/29)  
 15c (Interdepartmental rate Law 4402 8/10/28)  
**75c**

UCS-A = Union de los Correos Sud-Americanos: a postal union allowing special postal rates for participants.

The larger cover has the written notation that it is for the first flight from Santiago to Iquique. From the backstamps it was franked on 17<sup>th</sup> May but not received in Iquique until 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no record of the date of this first flight but flights were not on a regular basis at this time. Unfortunately there are no other marks to tell what route it took to Chicago but because of the low postage amount, it would have travelled by surface mail after Iquique. It has been surcharged 40c to pay.

**Pan American Grace Airways (Panagra)**

The first service through to Santiago left Cristobal in the Canal Zone on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1929 and arrived in the Chilean capital on 21<sup>st</sup> but, because of technical problems in Chile, the mail was carried to Santiago by the Chilean Air Force . The route was via Lima in Peru and stops in Chile included Arica, Antofagasta, Copiapo and Ovalle.



The return flight back to Cristobal was scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> July as shown by the special pictorial cachet on these first flight covers.

Airmail surcharge:	\$3.95( To Canal Zone Circular No.16 6/29)
Surface rate:	25c (Both Chile and USA members of UCS-A)
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$4.20 (note 5c overcharge on smaller letter)</b>

The Panagra plane, a Fairchild FC2, coming to Santiago was delayed at Ovalle in Chile with undercarriage problems and so mail was carried from Santiago to Ovalle by the Chilean Air Force to maintain the schedule. From there Panagra took over and the mail arrived in Cristobal on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

## BOOK REVIEW

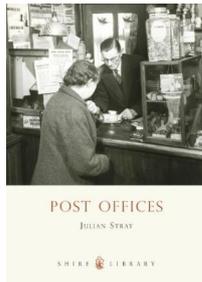
### Post Offices

Julian Stray

Publ. - Shire Publications 2010

ISBN 978 0747807858

RRP£5.99



The local Post Office has for centuries been the social centre of British village life, providing a necessary communication service to everyone. Indeed the reduction of postal charges in 1840 to 1d fuelled an increase in literacy amongst the general population. Post Offices developed from simple receiving houses where you took your letter to be posted, through to a multi-functional "one-stop" shop where customers can undertake any number of financial transactions. This book shows how Post Offices evolved with the steady increase of services, through the Golden years of the 30's 40' and 50's.

This is a very good introduction book to the workings of the Post Office which will appeal perhaps more to the general public than to hardened aficionados. This is not to denigrate the publication however, as it is informative without being too scholarly and is well illustrated with colour pictures throughout. The author is on the staff of the British Postal Museum and Archive and prolific use of those Archives has been made in order to provide information and the illustrations.

It is both historical and modern, showing us what we have lost over the years from the local scene, but also showing how the Post Office has kept up with technology over the years in order to survive in these days of modern, instant communication.

An excellent read and a useful general guide for any philatelist.

MDA

### DISPLAYING TO OTHER SOCIETIES

Many members from time to time receive invitations to display their collections to other Societies. Most of us have visited our neighbouring Societies at some time or other, either as part of our Society Visit programme or as an individual. Invitations tend to be fairly local, but recently I was invited to display my Needlemakers collection to the Welsh Postal History Society, so took a pleasant weekend trip to Tan-y-Bwlch in the Snowdonia National Park near to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Various specialist societies have a weekend meeting once a year (some have more); normally from Friday afternoon until Sunday lunch. The

Welsh Society along with the Society of Postal Historians uses an old mansion in Snowdonia. As a venue it is ideal, being set up the hillside overlooking the valley with Snowdon off to the left and views towards Porthmadog to the right. Facilities are very good with a substantial number of bedrooms and large meeting rooms. Dining is in a large room with big old fashioned kitchen tables for 8 or 10 meaning that you soon get to know people. The food is excellent and the portions enormous. A bar facility is in what were the cellars, which has the effect of making it difficult for those with walking problems as the lift does not go there.

The format for the weekend is to have formal meetings such as the AGM and committee meetings interspersed with an auction, displays and talks, and yet leave time for going through the stock of one or two invited dealers. There is provision for an inter-denominational service on the Sunday morning for those that wish it.

On this occasion, understandably, the dealer had a specialized Welsh stock and did steady trade - most people managed to find a few items. The auction was highly competitive, with many items going well above estimate, but gave everyone a chance to improve their collections. At least one vendor who had entered 40 lots sold every item and the overall number lots sold exceeded 80%.

Talks were well attended, the majority with a Welsh theme. Being the only invited (i.e. non Welsh) speaker, I was given the prime slot on the Saturday afternoon - between the auction and the evening dinner. Despite reservations about taking the display

so far from 'home' it was extremely well received with the Chairman giving what I think were effusive thanks. I cannot be certain as part of it was delivered in Welsh! (*I do hope it was "Diolch yn fawr". Ed.*)



◀◀ A needle case from A. Shrimpton and Sons, 'Britannia' Works, William Street, Redditch. From Chris' Needlemakers display to the Welsh Postal History Society.

Such weekend meetings can be great fun and give an opportunity to talk and learn from others who specialize in the same areas of philately. I would encourage members to join a specialist society and share in the benefits such as these weekend meetings.

Chris Jackson

*Halcyon* is produced for members of the Redditch Philatelic Society and anyone else with an interest in stamp collecting. If you are not a member of the Society and are interested in joining, please come along to one of our meetings, on the first and third Thursday of the month (September to June) at St. Luke's Memorial Hall, Headless Cross, Redditch B97 4JX. Visitors are also welcome to any of our meetings.

You are welcome to visit our website [www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk](http://www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk) for our programme, news and other Society activities. Articles and statements made in this Newsletter are by individuals and are not necessarily the views or policies of the Society.