
* THE NEWSLETTER OF THE *
* EASTBOURNE AND SOUTH DOWNS * No 4
* PHILATELIC SOCIETY *

WINTER 1981/82

SEATED AT THE TYPEWRITER

When I tell philatelic friends outside the district that my local Society meets weekkly throughout the year they generally express much surprise. Many Societies manage only fortnightly or even monthly meetings and most close down for a month or two in the summer. What makes Eastbourne and South Downs unusual (though not quite unique)?

Look at the programme for 1981/2. There are 53 meetings detailed there for our enjoyment. Six of them involving visiting speakers. At all the others we are dependant on our own members. Twelve individuals are showing parts of their collections. On 20 evenings we have the opportunity to bring along our own items which fit in some (however convoluted) way with the title dreamed up by the Secretary. On the remaining evenings we are also responsible for such meetings as auctions, 'bring-and-buys', competitions and so forth.

Our Society's strength lies in its membership - you and I. Some are prevented by distance or infirmity from attending. Others can only attend on the occasional Tuesday. But there are many who are to be found at Bourne Street fairly regularly. It is the presence and participation of many individuals which support and maintain the standard of our Society.

At this time of year most of us are involved in what 1982 has to offer us. Not so our Hon Secretary. The end of the current season and the programme for 1982/3 are much on his mind. Now is an opportunity for you to help in the determining of next year's programme. There are various ways of doing that:

i. Suggest a visiting speaker. But remember that not all collectors have the time or the health to bring their albums to the south coast. (An old colleague of mine, with a wonderful collection and an excellent speaking manner, was last seen at London 1980 hobbling along with a stick and declining all invitations to display). Others have no inclination to show their gems. There are other kinds of speaker to avoid - the one with nothing of general interest to show, and the one who talks so long, reading his pages, mumbling his words, that there is no desire to view the material, not that there is any time to do so.

ii. Volunteer to show some of your own pages. It is not as difficult or as off-putting as it may seem. And do not duck out because you do not have all the really pricey items. A solid collection with the odd unusual or interesting item will entertain a meeting very nicely. And if you feel you do not

have the material (or the self-confidence!) for a full evening Des Watson is still interested in hearing from you; he will try to find another member to share an evening with you.

iii. Are there any topics or subjects you would like to have at a meeting. There are various contacts between Society Secretaries, especially in Sussex, and there is a good chance that a speaker can be found to cover a subject likely to be of interest. (I am visiting a nearby Society shortly to show general thematics after a member there commented that some guidance on thematics would be useful.) So do you have any requests? Guidance on the basics of philately? How to mount a collection? How to put together a competition entry? A philatelic quiz? Particular countries? There are no guarantees that your requests can be met, but please make them; if you say nothing, then you are in no position to complain if the sorts of meeting you would like do not materialise.

But there is one feature to be borne in mind. Variety. Our Secretary works hard to give us as wide a range of topics as he can, in the hope that there will be something for everyone somewhere in the programme. So he tries to avoid two displays on the same subject in the same year, and often in the next year as well.

In particular, if you are willing to put on a display in 1982/3, Des Watson would like to hear from you, as soon as possible.

NEW ISSUES 1982

The Post Office advises of the following new issues planned for 1982:

28th January	New definitive values
10th February	Charles Darwin
24th March	Youth Organisations
28th April	British Theatre
16th June	Maritime Heritage
23rd July	British Textiles
8th September	Information Technology Year
13th October	British Motor Cars
17th November	Christmas

There will also be new regionals and various items of postal stationery. Rumours abound of new postage due labels, but I know of nothing definite as I write.

ASPS AUTUMN CONVENTION 1981 R D WATSON

On Saturday 24th October 1981, the Society acted as host for the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies (ASPS for short) 34th Annual General Meeting and Autumn Convention, held at the St John's Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, Eastbourne.

The official opening was made by the Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Mr C W Aldous, with our President, Mr F Derham, in the Chair.

The displays for the afternoon were provided by members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, namely "Chalon Heads" by Mr S Cross-Rudkin and "The First Pictorials 1898-1907" by Mr M S Burberry.

The ASPS Eastbourne and Classic Cup competitions were also held, but the response was poor. Only one entry was submitted for the Classic Cup (by ourselves) and there were three entries for the Eastbourne Cup, by ourselves, the Brighton and Hove P S and the Worthing P S. 'WE', in capital letters, were awarded both cups, our entries being provided by: Mr K Santer - Victoria, and Mr A Stone - Tasmania (Classic Cup) and Mr W Santer - Turkey, and Mr C Fischel - Israel (Eastbourne Cup).

Our Society also mounted an exhibition of members material in 58 frames; we also filled the empty frames reserved for the competition entries that did not arrive.

The four dealers who attended were kept busy throughout most of the day.

To conclude, I would like to express my thanks to all those members who assisted by providing the displays, carting the frames, mounting the exhibits, clearing up, and last but not least to the staff in the "Cookhouse".

TIES

At a recent meeting Lionel Jones brought along some ties with a philatelic theme. The ties, in 100% polyester, are made by Peter Klinger of Hemel Hempstead and consist of an all-over stamp design. There are three designs/colours:

1d black; 2d blue; 1d red.

Lionel has already done one order. He is taking further orders on the understanding that he will not send off the order until he has sufficient to achieve a respectable discount. Please contact him with orders as soon as possible.

COMPETITION CORNER

Here I sit surrounded by a stockbook which should have gone to the winner of last issue's competition. Unfortunately, although a number of members mentioned that they were coming along well with the questions, none put forward an entry. So, being a kind soul I am keeping the competition open; the prize will go to the first all-correct entry out of the hat (or the best entry if there is no all-correct entry).

Closing date: 31st March 1982.

Competition 1's questions are repeated below, and Competition 2 appears there also. The same closing date applies to both.

COMPETITION 1

1. Name one country which issued stamps denominated in rappen.
2. Which country used turtles (or tortoises) for a watermark?
3. On how many separate issues (not stamps) have flags of foreign countries appeared on stamps of Great Britain?
4. What name was given by philatelists to the issues of New Zealand with advertisements printed on the reverse?
5. For what is Donald McGill remembered?
6. Vatican City regularly issues stamps inscribed 'Sede Vacante'. In what circumstances?
7. By what name do philatelists know Anna Fuhring?
8. On a stamp of which European country does the famous philatelist Philippe de Ferrary appear?
9. For what area were stamps of Cape of Good Hope overprinted G?
10. Which European country had trouble telling its Schubert from its Schumann?

COMPETITION 2

'Famous Victorians'. Each of the following famous Victorians has appeared on a stamp, or more than one. In each case state one stamp (country and SG number is sufficient, some easy description so that I can confirm your answer).

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Prince Albert, the
Prince Consort | 5. W G Grace |
| 2. Prince Alfred, first
Duke of Edinburgh | 6. Rowland Hill |
| 3. Charles Darwin | 7. Joseph Lister |
| 4. Charles Dickens | 8. Florence Nightingale |
| | 9. Charles Sturt |
| | 10. William Thackeray |

Note: The 1982 Charles Darwin issue from GB is NOT acceptable for question 3. All answers must be 1981 or earlier.

All answers to John Griffin no later than 31st March.

COLLECTING POSTCARDS: THEN AND NOW - W E J HANSFORD

The collecting of Picture Postcards which reached 'craze' proportions in Edwardian times declined to be almost forgotten for fifty years, and then interest slowly revived to become a modern collecting phenomenon. The reason for this is worth a closer look than to be dismissed in summary fashion as just one of those things.

Although postcards were accepted by the GPO from 1st October 1870 as being a legitimate form of correspondence, it was not until nearly thirty years later that the picture postcard began to be recognised as a convenient and useful means of communication. The use of picture postcards as a means of communication in continental Europe preceded that in Great Britain by some thirty years; in fact it is probable that greetings cards to Britain from travellers abroad - the 'Gruss aus ...' type - did much to stimulate the postcard sending habit in this country and by the turn of the century postcard collecting had begun - collecting as distinct from communicating. Postcards addressed and with nothing more than: 'Another for your collection', 'This is new; have you seen this one?', 'These are nice. There are six. I will send the other five at intervals' - that from the sender. The recipient frequently replied: 'My album is nearly full' or 'I have 72 postcards' and so on, and the plaintive request 'When are you going to send me another postcard?' Add to this the large number of cards bought for collections and never sent through the post or which were posted under cover, and you have the foundations of the large collections formed during the Edwardian years. The publishing companies also encouraged collecting by organising competitions for the greatest number of cards collected under their insignia.

As in many other things the Great War of 1914-1918 marked a change in the collecting of postcards. Already by 1914 there was a falling off of enthusiasm for sending postcards, which was revived to some extent by the interest in patriotic cards, mostly for communication. Large numbers of cards were sent by the armed forces to relatives and friends. Mostly from continental Europe, they were of a nostalgic or romantic nature plus numbers of pictures of war damage in Belgium and France. After the war and moving in to the 1920s the sending of cards became more of a holiday pastime (dare one say duty!) of the 'Wish you were here' kind of thing.

But what of communicating? In the early years of the century cards were much used by domestic staff at hotels and big houses and meetings were frequently arranged. Posted early in the day and delivered locally a card bearing the message 'Meet you at the station at 6' or 'See you at the usual place this evening' was frequently sent. A large collection of postcards sent and kept by the domestic staffs of country

families can reflect much of the social history of the early twentieth century - the round of holidays, dances, parties, births, weddings, deaths, movement from one large establishment to another, the squabbles and disagreements, often mentioned in guarded fashion. The word fashion here reminds one of the many discussions through the past on costume and dressmaking.

Over very many years of collecting two such accumulations have into the hands of the present writer and fascinating they have been.

Then there was the card from Mary in London to her mother in Willingdon telling of a parcel put in the post. The card was dated from Earl's Court S W 5-30 p.m. 30 October 1907. To be followed by another card half an hour later - 'I am sending a box by post..... I wrote a postcard and lost it in the street, so someone might pick it up and post it. If so then there will be a penny to pay on it. Mary'. Some kind person did pick up the card, post it, and mother did have the penny to pay - a charge mark as Great Britain did not have postage due stamps at the time. The postmark, South Kensington S W 6-00 p.m. 30 October 1907. These two view cards of London posted within half an hour of each other and half a mile apart arrived in Willingdon together, rested in the same album for seventy years, and are still together.

There is no doubt that the increasing use of the telephone after 1920 did much to diminish the volume of cards for short postal communication.

One could go on about collecting cards in card writing and collecting days, but what led to the recent revival in interest? After the Second World War, by 1946, there was an increasing interest in local history, an almost atavistic instinct for seeing places as they used to be, often beyond individual memory. A lead was given by the Essex County Record Office at Chelmsford, who with a display of old estate maps and prints stimulated other countries to follow. Local history societies were formed or revived, and though few could aspire to collecting old tithe maps and plans almost everyone could get old postcards of places they or their parents knew. The interest was slow in the beginning and the reasons - psychological and humanistic - would fill a whole book, but though slow in re-creating public interest (re-creating; reviving it must be because collecting postcards was not new) the hobby had been forgotten for about fifty years. A sequence of events added to the renewed interest.

There had been very little literature on postcards, the excellent Carline book being an exception, when Frank Staff's 'The Picture Postcard and its Origins' made its appearance in 1966 closely followed by 'Discovering Postcards' in the Shire Publications series by C W Hill.

1970 saw the centenary of the issue of the first postal stationery card by the Post Office; not the picture postcard - that was to wait nearly another thirty years - but the stamped postal stationery card. This meant centenary celebrations, a special Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, which later toured the country. This increasing public interest led to a dealers' market and Trade Fairs, postcard clubs, societies, and an avalanche of books and periodicals was to follow.

Types and styles of cards cover such a wide field that nearly everyone's particular interest may be catered for, should you collect locomotives, icons or china pigs, period costumes or comic tit-bits, fantasy heads or cockle-stalls. Postcards have attained catalogue stature - there are three in England - and it is interesting to browse through them to see if any category of card is not included.

A few words about modern cards. Should they be collected? Of course, but be selective. Modern cards fall into two groups: reproductions of old cards and entirely new productions. There are excellent reproductions of classic cards that few collectors can hope to possess in the original. There is little intention to deceive - it would have to be an extremely naive collector to be taken in by them. There are some very good new cards published in the style of classic series of the pre-1914 era. Of new cards there are those showing the art of the Victorian photographers and beautiful colour cards of the works of the lesser known artists. The well-known Victorian photographer Francis Frith built up a huge collection of pictures of topographical interest and millions of them were sold in the picture postcard trade. Frith's artistry and special techniques produced some splendid pictures of local interest all over the country. Great numbers of photographs of places taken in Victorian (pre-postcard) times are being reproduced in excellent style today, thus preserving records of local social history. Many of these are available in the Frith's series.

Modern cards, that is cards published over the last ten years and still appearing, make pleasing collections and apart from the essentially topical cards - Royalty, public events etc - many of them reflect trends in art and developments in transport. There are many postbus cards that have appeared all over the country, for example. The new cards with their pristine appearance will give great pleasure to the devotees of the unmounted mint syndrome.

Whatever is collected it surely will not carry the message of a card posted in 1906, when Father, writing home to his wife and son from a Welsh resort goes on: 'I have left a bag of gold under my pillow; I have taken two. I am no worse for the journey, but no better in health yet'. In the days of the gold sovereign the poor man was torn between his wealth and his health.

Now that picture postcards have achieved the dignity of

exhibition status today's collector will have a wider range than his Edwardian counterpart, but perhaps there will not be the same personal interest as formerly when messages combined with '.....another card for your album'.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Have you moved recently? If so, who knows?

All changes of address should be conveyed to Lionel Jones in his role as Membership Secretary. Members receiving the packet should also contact Bill Parker. Please make sure that both are informed (their addresses are on the programme). Do it yourself and do not leave it to others. And if you find the packet being addressed to someone who does not live there any longer, let Bill Parker know immediately.

Why? The Society has just wasted money on trying to find out the whereabouts of a member, only to discover that he has emigrated! And the packet circulation list has been found to include an address which a member left almost a year ago, which increases the danger of a box going astray.

So, please make sure that your current address is known to the Society. (If this newsletter is wrongly addressed, then that is evidence that you need to contact Lionel Jones immediately.)

28th MARCH 1982

Saturday 28th March is the date of a stamp fair in Eastbourne. Further details later at Society meetings. An invitation to put on a display of members' material has been accepted, and Des Watson will be looking for a few pages from a number of members. Please oblige, and with material that will persuade local collectors that this is a Society well worth joining.

Please support the fair and the dealers who have come sometimes many miles to offer you their wares. I have heard it said that this area does not spend well at fairs. If we want the opportunity of attending fairs, we must make it worth the while of the dealers to come.

COMPETITION NIGHTS

16th February: Postal History and Thematic Competitions (to be judged by a local society)

27th April: Elizabethan and Rous Cup Competitions (to be judged by popular acclaim)

Let us have a good selection of entries for all these. Full rules in the Society rule book.