



Redhill Philatelic Society

∞ 75th Anniversary Year ∞

Newsletter January 2012

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Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday Evenings:

(6th February 2012 –
Visit to Epsom & Ewell)

7th February –
+++ Society Auction +++

15th February -
Chairman's Evening

6th March –
Display from Purley Members

20th March –
Society Competitions

3rd April
A Walk around South America
- Miss J Walmsley

Friday Afternoons:

27th January 2012
Display – Mr R Hurst

24th February
Letter 'V' – All Members

30th March
Display – Mr R Wheeler

Editorial:

Jottings from the Secretary

Happy New Year!

Those of you at the Christmas meeting will remember that the fire alarm was somehow set off part way through the evening and as a consequence the meeting had to be abandoned. The Society's liaison point with the Church: Mrs Wren was unable to give a reason why the alarm activated but did say that it was a new and expensive system. In the circumstances I accepted her explanation of teething problems. However the incident should make members aware that emergencies can happen, which result in having to vacate rooms booked by the Society. Please remain vigilant at Society meetings and make yourself aware of the location of Fire Escapes.

On a happier note, this has been a busy year of the Society, with a full programme of gatherings for our 75th Season and the April 14th Redhill Stamp Fair event looming soon. It is to our credit that we are one of only a few Societies in Surrey that embark upon such ventures. I hope that you have already marked the date down in your diary as I will be talking to everybody in the next few weeks as to what help you can provide the Committee on the day. One hour of assistance by each member will help spread the load and will allow time for the organisers to look round. A way you can help right now is by donating items for the Tombola. Please remember any item for the Tombola will need to have a "Use By" date after 14 April 2012.

I have begun to put together the programme for 2012-13. If you have any suggestions regarding speakers or if you would like to give a display (even of just a couple of frames) please get in touch.

Have a great 2012 !

Derek White
Hon. Secretary
(Tel: 01737 246 106)

Up Coming Events:

20-21 January 2012 - **Twickenham Postcard Fair** (Friday & Saturday)
- The Stoop Langhorn Drive Twickenham TW2 7SX

22-25 February 2012 - **Spring Stampex** (Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4:30 pm),
- Business Design Centre, Islington (Closest tube station: Angel)

Reports of Society Meetings:

1 November 2011 – New Zealand Revenues - Prof. D. Diamond

With changing fashions in stamp collecting over the years and times when Revenue stamps and documents have been firmly out of fashion, has resulted in many revenue items being discarded or destroyed. With interest returning to this area of philately collectors are finding some of the material very hard to find.

Derek Diamond is known to many members of the Society in his role with the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies, but he is also the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the New Zealand Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The material displayed was the result of many years collecting and research.

In the course of the evening subjects covered by Derek included the basic designs of New Zealand revenue stamp, and methods by which revenues (acknowledging payment of a tax) were tied to documents to prevent the re-use of the stamp; such as cancellation, embossing, removal of perforations, punching a hole through the stamp and document, and threading through the stamp and document with a thin metal strip. The display then moved to examples of the use of New Zealand revenue stamps on documents and illustrating the ways the Government sought not only to raise funds but also in the case of Estate Duty to retain funds in the country by imposing higher rates of tax for inheritance the more remote a relation the beneficiary was to the deceased. Other examples shown took in land transaction taxes, licence fees and court fees.

“Tonight we have seen how the New Zealand government fed its coffers, however the way the New Zealand government acted will have many similarities to other parts of the Empire, and I am sure will inspire many to look again at this sometimes (previously) neglected area of collecting. The way Derek had put his display together also ensured those present were able to view the detailed information the documents contained” advised our Chairman, Mr Robert Hurst, in giving the vote of thanks for a highly absorbing evenings display.

South Sudan – A New Stamp Issuing Country by Steve Farago

As a young adult, when I began my Kiribati collection, I was sold on the benefits of collecting a country from the first issued stamp. Comparing back to those days I was really shocked that there was not a fanfare for the launch of the new country of South Sudan. How things have changed when a philatelic consultant has not been hired.

Following a referendum on self-determination, the Republic of South Sudan seceded on 9 July 2011, becoming independent from the Republic of Sudan. South Sudan has 8.26 million inhabitants. It is a federation of ten states, subdivided into 86 counties. The new country covers around a third of the area of the former unified Sudan. South Sudan has become a member of the UPU but stamps were not available on Independence Day, however a set of three stamps was released on 13 July 2011 (and from what I can gather they were printed in China). The currency in use in the new country is the South Sudan Pound (SSP).

The three stamps issued were in the following denominations SSP 1 (National Flag), SSP 2.5 (Seal of the Nation – this incorporates an image of a bird), SSP 3.5 (President General Salva Kiir Mayardit – a head and shoulders portrait against a rural background).



The first Post Office was opened in the capital Juba followed by Torit, Kaya and Yambio two weeks later.

After trying several contacts to obtain an example of mail from the new nation, I managed to arrange for a cover to be posted from Torit. Two months after the postmarked date it arrived in South Nutfield. The cover bears 4 x SSP 3.5 stamps. I had asked for it to be sent registered, but there is no indication of the route it took to the UK and I certainly did not have to sign for it.