



Redhill Philatelic Society

∞ 75th Anniversary Year ∞

Newsletter April 2012

Volume 15 No.2



Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday Evenings:

17th April -

- Great Britain (Queen Victoria)
- Mr E Walker
- Austria - Mr G Richardson

1st May - Annual General Meeting

5th June - Visit from Epsom & Ewell

3rd July - Europe - All Members

Friday Afternoons:

The Programme of afternoon meetings
has now concluded for the 2011/12
season

Editorial:

After a great deal of planning and hard work the *Redhill Philatelic Society's 75th Anniversary Stamp Fair* is now only a few days away. Please make sure you have the date marked in your diary and plan to come along. It should be a great day (including the opportunity to win a Penny Black) and an enjoyable way of supporting the Society to which you belong. After the show has closed and the Hall cleared it is intended that members (and their families / friends) if they wish attend, will meet for a meal at the Calvary in the Lakers Hotel, Redstone Hill (close to Redhill Railway Station) to round off the day.

It is not only the stamp fair that is almost upon us, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is now less than a month away. Members should be aware there is **NO** "Any Other Business" included on the agenda for the AGM. If you want a matter discussed at the AGM please contact our Secretary: Derek White (Tel: 01737 246 106) as soon as possible, so that the topic can be included within the proceedings.

Robert Hurst
3 Bletchingley Road,
Merstham. RH1 3HT

Up Coming Events:

9 April 2012

Tolworth Postcard & Ephemera Fair (Bank Holiday Monday)

- Tolworth Recreation Centre, Fullers Way, Tolworth. KT6 7LQ

14 April 2012

Redhill Philatelic Society – 75th Anniversary Stamp Fair

19 -21 April 2012

Philatex (Thursday to Saturday) - See also page 3

- Lawrence Hall, The Royal Horticultural Halls, London. SW1P 2QD

25-26 May 2012

Woking Postcard Fair (Friday and Saturday)

- Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey. GU22 9BA

9 June 2012

SWINPEX 2012 (Saturday 10:00 – 16:30)

- St Joseph's Catholic College, Octal Way, Swindon. SN3 3LR

Marvis Bidmead

It is my sad duty to advise the membership of the recent passing at the age of 94 of Mavis Bidmead, who had suffered in recent years with poor health.

Mavis and Stan Bidmead were members of the Redhill Philatelic Society for many years, attending meetings regularly and keen to display their collections. Both were to serve the Society as Chairman. Mavis specialised in Switzerland and became an acknowledged authority on Swiss philately.

Derek White
Hon. Secretary

Reports of Society Meetings:

6 December 2011 – Polar Postal History (Part II) Mr Trevor Cornford

A year after his previous display on the Second Antarctic Expedition of Robert Falcon Scott, Mr Trevor Cornford made a welcome return to show material relating to Scott's contemporary Ernest Shackleton.

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton was born on 15 February 1874 of Anglo-Irish parentage and became one of the principal figures of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. His first experience of Polar Regions was as third officer on Captain Robert Falcon Scott's Discovery Expedition, 1901–04, from which he was sent home early on health grounds.

Determined to make amends for this perceived personal failure, he returned to Antarctica in 1907 as leader of the Nimrod Expedition. In January 1909 he and three companions made a journey which established record farthest south only 112 miles from the South Pole. For this achievement, Shackleton was knighted by King Edward VII on his return home. Shackleton had been appointed postmaster for the expedition in New Zealand and was issued with penny stamps overprinted King Edward VII Land. Trevor displayed the stamp and its use, together with correspondence to and from the expedition.

After the race to the South Pole ended in 1912 with Roald Amundsen's conquest, Shackleton turned his attention to what he saw as the one remaining great object of Antarctic exploration: the crossing of the continent from sea to sea, via the pole, and set about making preparations for what became the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914–17. Disaster struck this expedition when its ship, *Endurance*, became trapped in pack ice and was slowly crushed before the shore parties could be landed. There followed a sequence of exploits, and an ultimate escape with no lives lost, that would eventually assure Shackleton's heroic status.

In 1921 he went back to the Antarctic with the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition, intending to carry out a programme of scientific and survey activities. For the expedition the British Post Office agreed for Shackleton to be sworn in as postmaster, and he was provided with a stock of stamps and a cancel. However before the expedition could begin the main part of its work Shackleton died of a heart attack on 5 January 1922 while his ship, *Quest*, was moored at South Georgia.

Trevor guided his audience through Ernest Shackleton's Expeditions illustrating each with contemporary letters from the participants in the story, stamps, photographs, postal history, postcards and other paper ephemera. Much of the material relating to Shackleton's expeditions is scarce, and that gathered by Trevor Cornford represents perhaps the finest collection in private hands.

In giving the vote of thanks Mr Robert Hurst commented "I suspected that it was going to be another good evening and it turned out to be so. A wonderful range of items has been displayed and short of inviting Trevor back, it is a display which we are very unlikely to see in such a comprehensive form ever again".

20 December 2011 - Christmas Meeting

An evening with a Christmas flavour was provided by Mr Bob Wheeler, firstly with a display of Scout Post Mail from the 10 known areas of Surrey to have operated such a service and secondly with a fascinating selection of essays for Christmas Aerogrammes designed by Michael Goaman.

Unfortunately (as described in the previous Newsletter) the fire alarm went off, forcing the abandonment of the meeting and bringing to an earlier than expected end to the displays of 2011.

3 January 2012 - The Secretary's Evening

Our Secretary Mr Derek White pointed out that this was at least the seventh consecutive year that he has shown items as part of the Secretary's evening (*Ed. This is quite a feat and Derek is to be congratulated! The amount of work required to bring together a new display was brought home when in my guise as Chairman I provided the display a couple of meetings later*).

For the first half of the evening Derek had invited Mr Ian Sherlock to give a display of Papua New Guinea stamp issues released over the last decade. Ian highlighted some of the themes shown including the flags of the country's provinces, Prime Ministers since independence, gold mining, youth organisations (Scouts & Guides), and the history of the Kokoda trail in both time of war and peace. Stamp issues relating to native species (including marine life and birds) were much in evidence; regrettably some of the wildlife, such as the Tree Kangaroo, is currently on the endangered register.

Collectors of the thematic of Birds were in for a treat, the Bird of Paradise is featured on the National Flag of Papua New Guinea, and 38 of the 42 known species are to be found in the country. Feathers from the various types of bird are used in the headdresses worn by tribal chiefs. The types of Bird of Paradise, the heraldic use of the bird's image and the tribal use of the feathers were to be seen regularly featured on the stamps shown.

Cont.

For the second half of the evening Derek showed a range of subjects, starting with postcards and photographs of the titled services of the *Southern Railway Company*, including those which continued into the days of British Rail. These trains were given names such as the *Bournemouth Belle*, the *Atlantic Coast Express* and the *Golden Arrow*, and were often hauled by the Bulleid Pacific steam engines of the Battle of Britain/West Country class and the Merchant Navy Class.

The display then moved briefly to First Day Covers of the ten year long *Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*, before turning to one of Derek's primary areas of interest with a selection of revenue stamps from Great Britain, Canada and the United States of America. While many of the stamps were the result of very high quality engraving and printing, they are not always easy to find, and finding out the background to the taxes for which they were issued is often anything but straightforward.

Derek's exhibit concluded back in Southern Africa, with a couple of frames of material (stamps, postcards, postmarks, envelopes and leaflets) relating to the Victoria Falls on the borders of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, the construction of the rail bridge and the falls as a tourist attraction.

Frequently the space available in the newsletter does not allow room to do justice to the material shown at our society's meetings, let alone the enthusiasm for their subject and snippets of information conveyed by the exhibitor, the Secretary's evening is an example of that situation.

The Chairman, Robert Hurst, gave the vote of thanks.

Reports of the displays to the Society will continue in the next newsletter.

Another successful auction! Paul Munro – Hon. Auctioneer

There was an excellent turnout for this year's auction on 7th February, despite the poor weather conditions. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend, and especially to Les Jobbins, Derek White and David Ainsley who assisted with the smooth running of the evening.

The auction was one of the largest the Society has staged for a number of years in that there were a total of 145 lots up for grabs. 72% of these lots were sold, so from my point of view I am very pleased with this outcome. I think this was due to both the quality and variety of material for sale. Bidding at times was fairly competitive, so well done to you if you were successful in what you sought.

The outcome of all of this was that realisations totalled £602. This in turn produced £104.75 by way of commission, money which will go to help with the running costs of the club. As I always maintain, there is no auction unless you, the members, are able to provide me with material to sell, so many thanks to all those who provided me with items, and special thanks to those who donated material.

Lastly, I was very much aware that at the end of the auction there were delays for some members whilst invoices were being prepared, apologies to anyone who had to wait. I have given this matter some thought and have now addressed this problem by simplifying my accounting systems. Things should be a lot quicker next time round.

On behalf of the Committee I hope that you enjoyed the evening and hope that you will again be able to give your support to next year's auction.

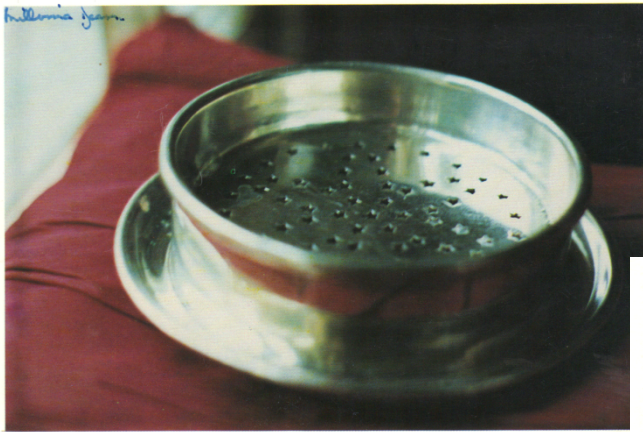
Philatex

The organisers of Philatex have announced that following the lease of the Lawrence Hall by The Royal Horticultural Society to Westminster School, the twice yearly Philatex stamp fair will cease after the spring 2012 event (being held from 19-21 April). This is obviously a very disappointing situation, the relaxed atmosphere of Philatex and the ease of access to the venue compared with Stampex in Islington, as well as having a different mix of dealers to that offered by Stampex was appreciated by many philatelists.

Collectors in the South East of England have in the past been very fortunate with the number of shows available to them within a relatively short distance that have drawn in dealers from outside the region, and thereby increased the pool of material available to view for their collection. Whether another organiser will step in to run a new show in London or Stampex expands remains to be seen. Certainly the loss of a free meeting room offered by Philatex to many specialist societies will be exercising minds in a number of committees over the coming months.

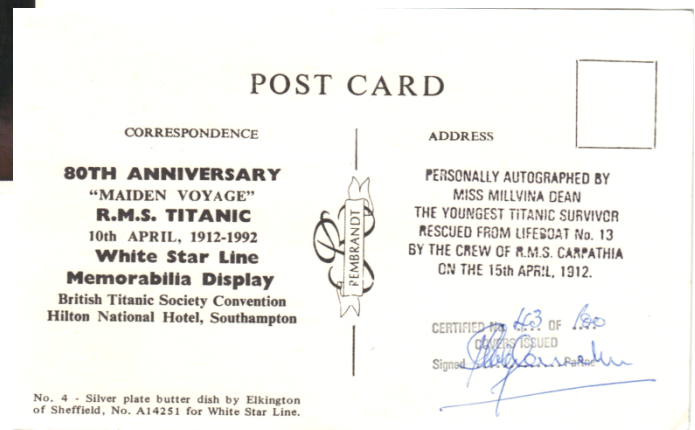
Anniversaries in 2012

2012 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Redhill Philatelic Society, but 2012 also sees several other significant anniversaries, including the death of Captain Scott and his companions 100 years ago on their return journey from the South Pole. The opportunity has been taken to illustrate here items relating to two other events of national importance which have respectively, their 100th and 75th anniversaries in 2012:



The Sinking of R.M.S. Titanic - April 1912

Items relating to the loss of the Titanic are highly sought after, but even so bargains can sometimes be found such as the modern card shown here of a silver plate butter dish produced for the White star Line. The card was signed by Miss Millvina Dean in 1992. Miss Dean at two months old was the youngest survivor of the loss of the Titanic. (The card was found in a dealers bargain box of cards for just 50p)



The Coronation of King George VI - May 1937



A single stamp was issued to commemorate the Coronation. The 1½d stamp was printed in Maroon by Harrison & Sons to a design by Edmund Dulac. The source of Dulac's drawn portraits of the King and Queen was a photograph by Dorothy Wilding.



The cover illustrated shows the use of three Coronation stamps to pay the Empire surface postage rate of 1½d to Thames on the North Island of New Zealand plus 3d for registration. The reverse (above) bears a commemorative Coronation (Cinderella) seal, alongside the transit cancels.