

## **The Chichester & District Philatelic Society Newsletter**

### **August 2023 Issue**

Editor

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#### **May 2023: - Guest Speaker Mr. John Robbins “Antarctica “AQ**

Written and photographed by Alan Green



Guest speaker John Robbins took us on a journey usually requiring layers and thermal underwear! So, tonight we arrived in one of the world's coldest places: Antarctica. This is where three oceans meet: Indian, Atlantic and Pacific. It has an area larger than Australia, Europe, or the United States. It contains 70% of the world's fresh water.



With a mixture of envelopes, stamps, photos and colorfully illustrated maps we learnt of the many bases there: Australasian, British, Norwegian, French, American, Chilean, and Argentinian, among others.

With a varied human population of between 1000 & 4000, other inhabitants include Elephant Seals, Penguins, Polar Bears, and Albatross.

Famous explorers such as Scott, Ross and Shackleton crossed the icy continent to reach the South Pole. A base's first task was to, plant their national flag and establish a post office! Many thanks to John for a well-researched and illustrated display.

#### **June 2023: John Armstone: - “Telegraph Stamps & Ephemera of the British Isles**

By Alan Green

John Armstone's collection is too large to cover here, so here's a taster!

Telegraph stamps were intended as pre-payment fees, and were attached to Telegraph forms to show payment had been paid.

First issued by English & Irish Magnetic Telegraphy Co. in the early 1850s, the stamps were displayed at the Great Exhibition of 1851, were printed by Perkins Bacon, and later by De La Rue and Waterlow. John showed examples of printer's proofs, control varieties, and colour varieties, among other items.

The Post Office took over from various private printers in 1870 and Telegraph stamps were re-used as postage stamps. Also displayed was a page of QV period Army Telegraph stamps as well as many envelopes for Telegraph(s). He concluded with some Post Office 'training stamps from 1970. Originally stamps like these were first issued in London in 1920.

I think we all marvel at John's varied and interesting collection. He's always a very welcome speaker.

**July 2023**

**Members' Evening: - British Islands**

It's always interesting to see what members bring to these themed evenings, and how each member uses the title to what they have in their own collections.

Excitingly, the Chichester & District Philatelic Society now use 'new' display stands. (photo on right = the new stands). These are lightweight and allow for more pages to be viewed at one time. Grateful thanks go to Frank Griffiths who researched, ordered and help unpack these stands, and to Alan Green who also helped in this regard.



Our German collector, ANTHONY PARKER, was able to give several key dates when, for instance, Heligoland was British in 1814, but later ceded to Germany in 1890. There were several Eastern/ Pacific islands that were German, but these were captured, ceded, recaptured and/ or made Protectorates. So, no stamps from these Once/ still German islands Anthony opted to show Channel Islands with an overprint of George VI, the 1999 GB issue of the Solar Eclipse, the Millennium Bridge issue, a few machins, and the 2001 R.N. Submarine set.

FRANK GRIFFITHS showed Leeward Islands, British Commonwealth islands in the Caribbean. There are lots of islands there, but he showed some stamps used in The British Virgin Islands. Also included were mint stamps and covers from Victoria to King George VI. Very polished write up, information and display style.

CHRISTOPHER PODGER showed Cyprus in the Mediterranean area. In 1878 it was taken by the British, and it became a colony of Britain in 1928.

He showed George VI issues in his display, including an interesting visa page with British revenue stamps, and stamps showing many nice cancellations and markings. One thinks the most interesting inclusion in his display was the stamp duty sheet (see photo on right) when he had to bring his car from Cyprus. The print font is so small it is difficult to read!

RUSSELL SMITH came in with some very historical items about Butlins Holiday Camps. The title of his display was: "Butlins's Islands"! His were postcards from Skegness Amusement Park, the first of the Butlins we know. There were later others in Hayling Island and at Felixstowe.

An "Island on an Island" was Monkey Island, on Hayling Island, with real monkeys! He described how you could row boats around the monkey enclosure. Another Amusement Park was at Felixstowe. Ben said that the Amusement Park at Felixstowe had bumper boats. What fun!

Russell showed numerous postcards, pictures, and posters from this highly delightful area in British history. (see photo at right).



FRED ROBINSON knows where every postbox is on Seal Island, or Selsey, where Seal Island is. Fred knows when they were removed, petitioned for return by locals, and

reinstated by the GPO. Fred has photographic evidence of these, and some very excellent postal history evidence by way of post cards. His is a highly knowledgeable display of local history that should be preserved carefully for the future. A fabulous talk and display. (third photo on right).

JOHN ARMSTONE opted for the Isle of Wight railways. His knowledge about railway stamps, charges, surcharges, stamps and carriage letters is supreme and unequal able.

The railway letter service began in 1891 and introduced a speedier transit. Thus, carriage letter charges were devised. From 1891-1920 the charge was tuppence, from January 1920 it was 3d, and by late 1920 it had risen to four pence.

There were a host of different cancellations and markings from well-known IOW locales to the more remote villages. (fourth photo on right)



BOB TEBBITT is a cricket thematic specialist. At first, you'd think finding an "island" would be difficult, but then, if one considers his specialty, many of the cricket playing communities are on islands, especially in the Caribbean.

Bob chose Antigua. His display followed the cricket played from mini sheets to stamps. He included overprint issues when the title of the island became Antigua Barbuda, and Redonda overprints were included too. He said that "phosphates" on these issues were "not so exciting". He reckons overprints sold more stamps than anything!

With Bob, we always learn cricket history, but here was plentiful evidence of Antiguan island cricket philately.



MARTHA BROWN chose Jersey issues for her island choice. This is a new area of collecting for Martha. She showed a beautiful commemorative QEII £10 stamp on cover. This issue was issued in June 2022 for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. It has very special ink effects such as platinum suprametal, silver hot foil, iridescent ink and a special gloss UV varnish. Also included were recent modern first day covers, including Post and Go labels and some domestic mail self-adhesive stamps.

NEIL SMITH had a title of "Some Time, One Time, British Islands". His display centered around French engraver Albert Marius Hippolyte- Decaris (1901-1987). From an early age Monsieur Decaris was involved in art through engraving, book making and printing. He began engraving stamps in 1935. Indeed, he won a gold medal for his 1948 Olympics issue. Beautiful engraved stamps emerged from New Caledonia, Madagascar, French Oceania, Martinique, and more. (See photos on right.) Neil's display is a beautiful example of framing and titling within heavy frame lines around his stamps and information. A lovely display enjoyed by everyone.



May Visit by Bob Tebbitt & Alan Bush to Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society

Article written by President Bob Tebbitt

On 15th May 2023 the club was invited to the Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society. An attendance of approximately 35 people were present in their spacious hall in Porchester.

Bob Tebbitt and Alan Bush attended as guests and gave presentations.

Alan Bush started with his comprehensive history of Horizon labels and included a full array of Service Indicators, with many errors and oddities on cover. Some of the audience had never heard of this product so it was particularly fascinating for them.

After the break Bob Tebbitt showed four cricket related competition entries with commentary "How's that Prime Minister?", "Strange Places to Play Cricket", "Dropped Catches and Missed Stumpings" (errors), and "The 1900 Paris Olympics".

The exhibits were all appreciated by the audience who asked many interesting questions and derived a similarly high level of enjoyment from the evening as did the speakers.

### August 2023: - Alan Bush & Martha Brown Visit Petersfield & District Philatelic Society

On the 7th August Alan Bush and Martha Brown visited Petersfield & District Philatelic Society. Martha displayed Third Reich Germany with a history introduction beginning with Hyperinflation in post-WWI Germany and the restraints on German economy much due to the Treaty of Versailles. Martha's introduction was valuable in understanding why the civilian populace embraced new ideas that would hopefully lead to better pay, conditions, more jobs, increasing industry, and more.

Through covers, stamps, partial sheets, and propaganda items Martha was able to show quite a large selection of her collection from 1926-1945 Germany.

Alan Bush showed a mixture of Horizon labels, anomalies, fakes and 'Used the Wrong Way' large letters, covers, and pieces.

For instance, Alan showed us stamps that were printed with a colour variations due to the changeover between De La Rue and Harrisons, leading stamp printers.

He discussed methods the Post Office used to try to prevent reuse. In companies the idea of Perfins, tiny holes shaped as letters or numerals, to prevent employees using company stamps. Alan showed a fine 'B' Perfin on a large Burberry cover as an example.

On QEII stamps elliptical perforations were used as a security feature, along with granite papers and fluorescent markings. Phosphor bands were also used, and forgers used clear nail varnish in the place of phosphor on their forged stamps. Pretty easy to see if you're looking for it. But, as Alan pointed out, when there are some twenty or more stamps, often of varying types (definitives mixed with commemoratives) then the PO staff won't have the time to, look for forgeries and fakes!

Alan showed wavy lines versus arced ones, backwards and inverted text, incorrect font sizes, wrong postal codes, and more,

He points out: - Reuse of stamps is illegal.

But it sure makes a great collection idea!

Alan Bush and Martha Brown thank those at Petersfield & District Philatelic Society for welcoming us so warmly and embracing the topics of the evening.

### STAMP GROUP COFFEE DATES ☕

We meet at 1030 am at the Chichester Festival Theatre Coffee Shop

Parking is at the Northgate Car Park, Chichester.

Information ring Martha on 07553-543701

September 4 and 18

October 4 and 18

November 6 and 20

December 4 and 18

The Editor Thanks all contributors for their articles and photos.