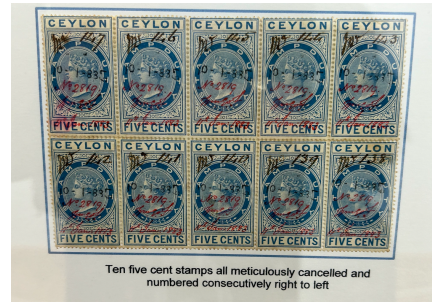


The Chichester and District Philatelic Society

Martha Watson Brown
News Editor
mommybadger@aol.com.

August 2025 Newsletter

April 2025 Guest Speaker: -Mr. Peter F. Cockburn, Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London.



Mr. Peter F. Cockburn FRPSL was the guest speaker at the recent meeting on 28 April. His fabulous and well- designed frames of stamps and bills were entitled ‘Ceylon Revenues & Telegraphs’.

Ceylon, today known as Sri Lanka, is an island that lies some 31 km off India’s coast in South Asia. The post office is still considered to be one of the oldest extant in the world. It was formerly known as The Ceylon Post and Telecommunications Department. The general post office is in the capital, Colombo.

Ceylon was under British colonial rule from 1815. Native sovereignty as a Dominion of the British Empire was granted after World War Two in 1948. In 1972 Ceylon became a Republic and was renamed Sri Lanka.

In 1862 ‘de la Rue’, a British printing company, printed the first revenue stamps. These were the brown (with varying shades) 1d and 2d vertical and rectangular issues showing Queen Victoria’s head

facing to the right. If you look at early Victorian stamps the head faces left. These were used on Exchange Bills.

In any monetary transaction there were three parties involved: payee A, payee B and the 'drawer'. Three stamps were used on Exchange Bills. As the display and talk by Mr. Cockburn continued one found stamps had been cut into halves for this purpose!

In 1861 a new order of embossed stamps was delivered by de la Rue. Mr. Cockburn's fine examples, many with 'canceled' across them, were on display. Today, some thirteen unused examples are known and are, obviously, quite rare.

In 1872 the stamps were printed in the new currency called Silver Standard Indian Rupees. These were printed by Thomas de la Rue in groups of three.

With Queen Victoria's death in 1901, King Edward VII's left-facing side portrait appeared on stamps as is considered normal practice.

Mr. Cockburn's display was a wonderful array of fiscal stamps including master die proofs, blocks of three, singles and stamps on Exchange Bills. There were Foreign Bills, Provisionals, Judicials, Telegraph stamps, and Stamp Duty: -Over 120 sheets of philatelic study.

He was an extremely enthusiastic speaker who obviously loves and enjoys his study. We were quite privileged to have such an excellent speaker and would like to thank him for such a delightful evening!

Martha Brown, News Editor CDPS

May Guest Speaker Mr. John Bushell

Items Concerning Charles Dickens, Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Chile. Chilean Early Shipping Items, and Fabulous Zeppelins!



Mr. John Bushell is a member of Burgess Hill Philatelic Society, President of Mid-Sussex Philatelic Society and Acting President of ASPS.

We enjoyed items such as picture postcards showing locations where Charles Dickens lived and wrote. He was born in Portsmouth in 1812, and many of us know that the house where he was born is a popular tourist place in Portsmouth! The Cobham Almshouses/ Pickwick Papers, are another example on postcard.

Dickens wrote for The Signalman. There were anecdotes about this in Mr. Bushell's talk. Philatelic items included numerous modern commemorative Dickens covers, Smiler sheets, and FDCs. The 2012 GB singles set of the Bicentenary of Dickens and a 1993 Christmas set featuring characters from A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens were also on display.

To add to this Mr. Bushell also showed covers from numerous countries including Dubai, Cameroon, Mozambique, the Channel Islands and the Caribbean. Obviously, Dickens is well-read around the world.

Mr. Bushell's 1940s aero-covers and postcards were as interesting. These all involved his second topic of the night: Chile.

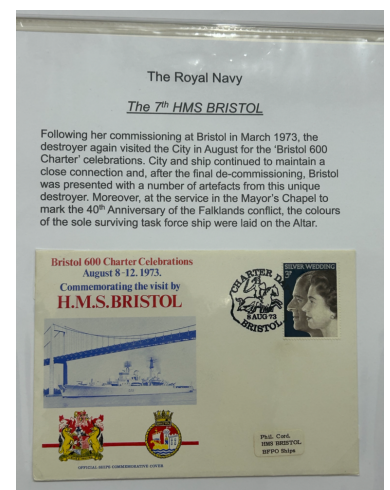
The censor marks and redirection instructions were of interest. Indeed, in many covers shown in his display, it is the story that is told of the conveyance, movement, redirection, cancel date stamps, cancels, special markings, and addresses that all add up to telling the story of a cover's history. Many agreed that was what makes cover collecting so much fun.

The evening concluded with Chilean early packet ship mail. What fun the many covers were! But the true joy at the conclusion of the evening were excellent and rare Zeppelin covers that are true gems of aero- philately. What a delight to read the philatelic markings on those!

Mr. Bushell proved to be quite enthusiastic in his Philatelic collections and we were very fortunate to have him a such a knowledgeable speaker.

PHOTO CORNER 2025

Some favourites Chosen by the Editor



June Meeting



Member John Armstone gave members of the Chichester & District Philatelic Society a varied and interesting display of non-philatelic material that ranged from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. He also included much of his material and knowledge about the more local former Selsey Tram.

In 1855, after much public outrage, the abolition of the Newspaper Tax, or what some folk deemed a tax on knowledge, occurred. Obviously, John was able to show some of the labels and stamps that emerged during the period.

As railways emerged, more parcels were conveyed by rail. Thus, the emergence of a wide variety of Telegraph forms, 'To Pay' labels, way bills and parcel forms were used by companies like the London Railway, Pembroke and Tenby, Kent & East Sussex railway, and Cambrian railway were built to withstand the new mode of parcels and letter carrying. These formed a goodly part of his display.

By 1871 the Post Office took over the Telegraph service, which had been in private hands prior to this year, and telegraphy was added to the PO services. Thus, Telegraph labels and other items were shown.

By 1891 the public was not permitted to send letters by rail. So, someone had the brilliant idea of putting a ribbon around a letter to make a "parcel". This is just one funny anecdote John shared with members.

Many thanks to John for his display and talk which was enjoyed by the society members.
Article by Alan Green & Martha Brown/. Photos by Martha Brown and Allan Green

Future Society Meetings at the Donnington Hall

22 September Competition Night Part II: Allam, Burkin, and Peal

27 October Revenue Stamps of Indian Princely States A-M given by Howard Morgan

24 November annual General Meeting, Quiz, and a One Page Competition

December 2025: - No Meeting

Other Important dates for your calendar: -

23rd August: -Chichester Stamp Fair at the Donnington Parish Hall

20th September: - HAMPEX Wickham Centre, Wickham PO17 5AL

11th October: - South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention at Ardingly RH17 6TL

22nd-25th October: - STAMPEX at the Business Design Centre in Islington

29th November: - Chichester Stamp Fair at the Donnington Parish Hall

July Meeting Entitled 'Atlantic Coast'

Our society met just recently with an excellent members' display evening with a theme concerning 'The Atlantic Coast'. From flying over the Atlantic coast, mail sent being near the coast and some interesting definitions of where the actual Atlantic begins and ends, the evening was a cornucopia of philatelic and non-philatelic items.

Bob Tebbitt is a collector of cricket items. There were two items showing tiny airstrips where cricket would be played. Of course, with incoming flights these airstrips would be cleared for safety! Gibraltar and Falklands Islands were some of those! The first cricket stamp came from Cape Verde, and there were a Suriname mint horizontal strip three showing cricketers in action. His was a collection from numerous countries. Lots of cricket and cricketers featured on his stamps.

Frank Griffiths' agenda was all about Barclays Bank. His items were from Canada, Ghana, France, St Lucia, and many other Caribbean islands. The history of Barclays Bank in these locales is always of interest.

Michael Asteris showed numerous philatelic items as well as postcards showing hotels and ships. His 1942 cover had a fine cancel-slogan "Savings Bonds for the War". There was a hotel in USA, Atlantic coast, of course, that featured "all mod cons.... including a radio in every room!".

There were SS Great Britain covers, a Paquebot cover, and several items posted in Edward VIII's reign. One was a 'first birthday in his reign' cover. Sadly, it was the only birthday celebration because he abdicated soon afterwards.

Russell Hill gave us a wholesome history of Billy Butlins's entrepreneurship across the pond in the Bahamas. In 1947 he purchased a plot of land in Grand Bahamas for £1.5 million. This was the beginning of Butlins Vacation Village Bahamas. He also built a 5000-foot runway so especially visitors from the American mainland could easily fly in to stay!

In 1948 construction began but the engineers hired failed to show. So, with 1,215 workers and a couple of new engineer's construction began.... slowly. Supply issues, rates and costs rose, and things got behind. Finally, on 28 January 1950 was opened. Seventeen thousand people showed up, but only less than half the enterprise had been completed! The business was liquidated on 6 September 1950. However, it was saved by another lot of investors who turned the site around and opened the Grand Bahamas Club which focused on things like big fishing trips and golf. Through other investors it was eventually renamed as the Grand Hotel and Country Club.

Russell Hill showed numerous postcards, a small poster, and several other items that went along with this most interesting history of Butlins Bahamas.

Christopher Podger concentrated on items concerning Income Postal Stationery from Cyprus. It doesn't involve the topic of the evening, but he did show some Canada, Leeward Islands, Jamaica, Mexico and USA. His items from Cyprus are top- notch and are always interesting. The history of Cyprus is always involved.

John Armstone showed items that had flown or sailed between the Cornish coast and the Scilly Isles. There were postcards and items concerning RMV Scillonian III, and a beautiful cover with a BEA cachet (British European Airways) in 1970 for the Twentieth Anniversary of the passenger helicopter service between mainland and the Scillies.

One felt the most interesting were the Local postage stamps of the Scilly Islands. Beautifully printed, with fine artwork and absolutely collectible.

Anthony Parker gave us numerous brief histories of the items he had on display. One, the stamps concerning the journey of the Pilgrims in 1620 from Plymouth, the 1845 maiden voyage of SS Great Britain, the 1907 RMS Mauritania, the Gypsy Moth that Francis Drake captained, and some Cunard items.

But the highlight, or should one say '*delight*', were the Zeppelin issues shown. In 1933 Zeppelins crossed the Atlantic and landed in various locations in the USA. Zeppelin issues are such a highlight for aero philatelists!

Howard Morgan was in his element with a display of his Newfoundland collection. His display included a colourful map which aided viewers, especially as he described the numerous flights.

Winter flights between 1921-23 were done by the DE Havilland DH-9 with skis so the planes could land on snow. There were three lovely covers with numerous cancellations depicting this. One plane took eight days to excavate from heavy snow and ice.

One cover showed a clear cancellation 'Air Post St Anthony'.

In 1930-32 the Gypsy Moth appeared in the skies. It was an 85-horsepower engine airplane and flew on mail contract to outlying settlements.

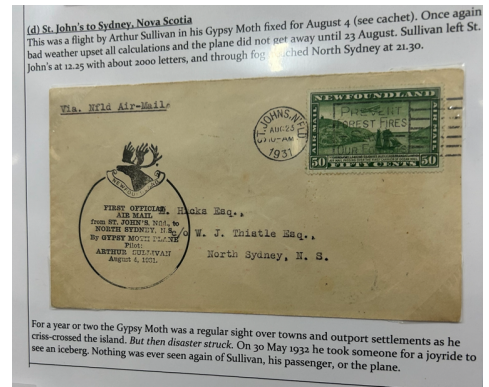
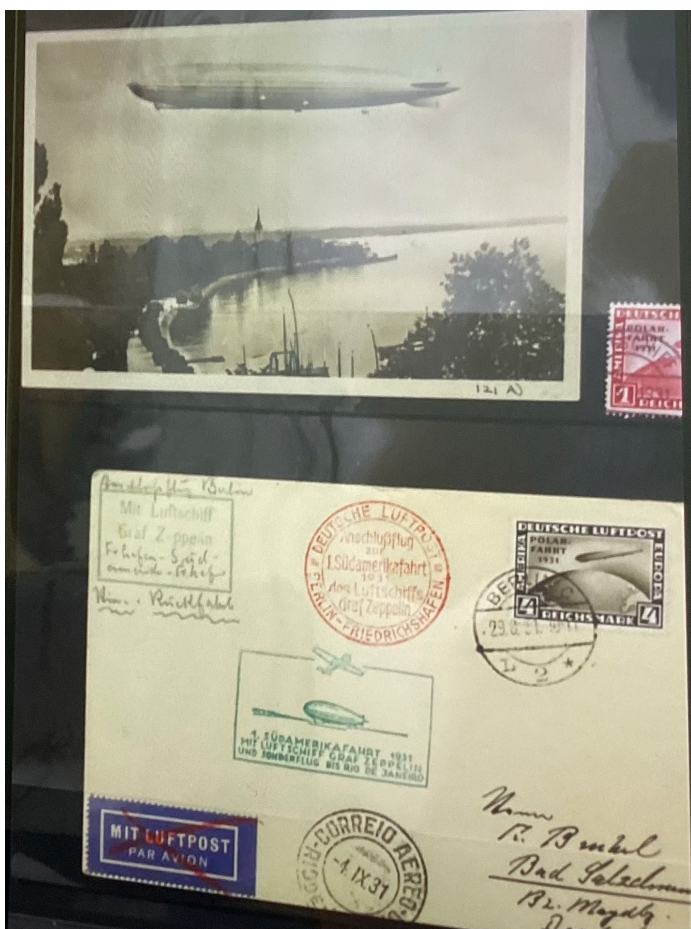
On 30 May 1932 a customer and the pilot, Mr. Sullivan, flew to see icebergs. Nothing was ever heard of plane nor passenger and pilot again.

The highlight was a large green Newfoundland 50c stamp on cover with a marvelous cachet concerning the first official air mail at St John's by the Gypsy Moth airplane.

Martha Brown showed a developing collection of the mail sent to her by her late mother, and mother's uncle since 1974. Each cover involved blocks of four, single issues, and/ or embossed envelopes that were current with newly released USA stamp issues. She said her mother would often include mint items folded carefully inside letters in the envelopes mentioned in the display.

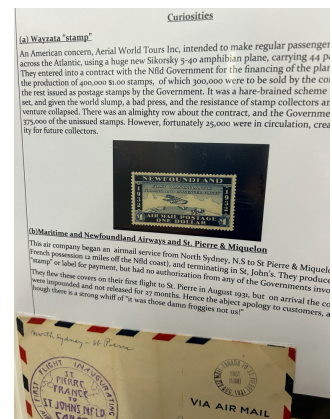
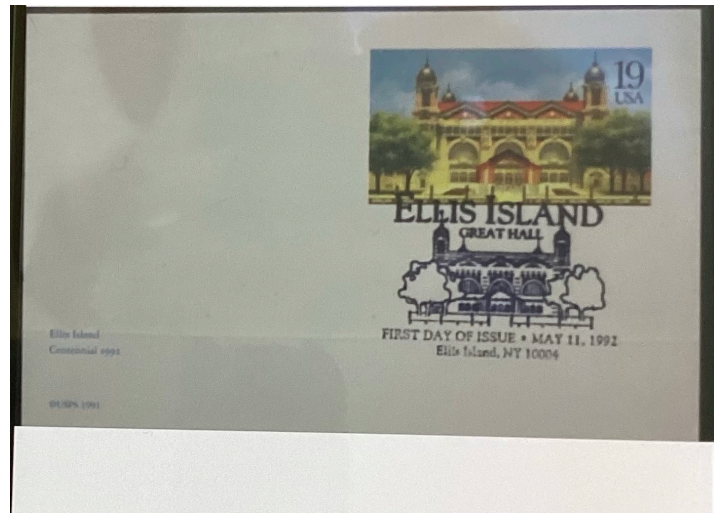
Philately obviously ran in the family and her mother (father too,) and Uncle wanted to ensure her collection was current by receiving these issues. Martha has saved nearly every letter written by her mother since 1972 to 2016. Quite a collection!

Article Martha Brown, Photos Alan Green & Martha, Layout design Frank Griffiths



Ascension Island featuring SS Great Britain Zeppelin cover

Anything for November newsletter please email the Editor



Enquiries to the Editor Mrs. Martha Brown mommybadger@aol.com

Enquiries to the Secretary Mr. Frank Griffiths chichesterps@yahoo.com

Grateful thanks to Mr. Alan Green for his help as roving reporter/photos



Coffee group still meets at Chichester Festival Theatre Cafe(CFT CAFE) on Mondays shown below at 1030 am. We'd love to see you !

New Dates:

August 4 and 18. September 1, 15 29. October 13 only

November 3 and 17. December 1 and 15.

We will meet in the New Year 2026 on January 5 and 19

Dates in your diaries everyone! Please let me know if any of those dates are in conflict with a bank holiday, Santa on his sleigh, or a national holiday I don't see on MY calendar!
mommybadger@aol.com

Thanks👍