

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

Autumn 2011

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Secretary –

IN THIS ISSUE – WESSEX BULLETIN by email, Wessex Federation Website, Message from our Chairman, Dates for your Diary, Circulating Packet Material, Reports from Clubs/Societies, Correction by Peter Burden, Looking for Suitable Exhibition Protectors, Something for the Aussie Collectors.

WESSEX BULLETIN by email – The initial response to our use of email to circulate the Wessex Bulletin as well as using mailed copies to club secretaries has been very favourable. If you wish to be included in this delivery process please let the Secretary know as soon as possible. This will enable a better Bulletin to be produced on a much more regular basis, so watch this space for more news on this exciting new venture. Requests to be included should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at wessexweb@talktalk.net please include your full name, club and the email address for your Bulletin to be sent to.

BE FIRST WITH THE NEWS

WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE – now carries a copy of the latest Wessex Bulletin, hopefully this may encourage casual browsers who find our site to join a local club.

OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW – Please ensure that the details about your club are fresh and up to date contact our webmaster Jim Wigmore at wessexweb@talktalk.net with your current club details and programme. There are still clubs in the Federation that have to date not taken up the offer by the Federation to have their club details hosted on the Federation website.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLUB DETAILS ON A REGULAR BASIS & NOTIFY ANY CHANGES REQUIRED

Message from the Chairman - I'm not quite sure what season it is supposed to be but I am writing this in early June & after a couple of nice summer days I feel as though I am back in early spring and the weeds can wait.

Come the start of the Stamp Club Season I enjoy looking at other societies programmes to see what's on offer and of course pinch ideas wherever possible to pass on to my club programme secretary. Clubs nowadays have to be thriving to support many guest speakers per season as most people now require at least travelling expenses which is only fair. That leaves members nights and the usual letter evening. However that can be made more entertaining by a bit of lateral thinking. One letter J evening I saw a display of Airgraphs. The excuse or reason for showing was 'Just in case no one else brought anything'. An 'M' night was treated to a display of Russian revenues under 'My Stamps'. *(One inventive member showed "Whales" on an "S" night, it was pointed out that Whales started with a W, to which the response was they are all stamps and that begins with an S - Ed)*. Lets stretch our imagination; C, I, L, M, V or X could be interpreted as Latin numerals so covering anniversaries and of course I, V & X occur for months in some date cancellations. Can you give suggestions for difficult letters?

Another thought (pinched of course) was Desert Island Selection presumably based on Desert Island Discs where you show your favourite 8 items/sheets with reasons for your selection and then narrow it down to only one. Please give your Programme Secretary all the help you can, it is not an easy task especially if he/she has done it for a number of years.

If you feel you would like to help please contact me, Carol Turner, Tel 01643 704128 or e-mail 4carol@tiscali.co.uk.

(Watch out for more comments from our Chairman in the next issue – Ed)

Your comments, ideas and responses matter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Local Events

2011	Event	Location
Oct 29th	Thematrix – see below	Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton.
Oct 29 th	Display of Wessex Federation Competitions - Entries	
Nov 17th	Stamp Fair	Plymouth Guildhall
Nov 18th	Stamp Fair	Clyst St George - Parish Hall
Nov 19th	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
2012		
18th February	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
21st April	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
21st July	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
15th September	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
17th November	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall

National Events

THEMATIX – Dartmoor Lodge Hotel on Saturday 29th October from 10 am. with a number of dealers present – we have been requested to point out that these dealers can fill the needs of ALL collectors, if you have a specific requirement just ask, their stock may be held by subject but they can still find the item you are looking for. There is some excellent catering on site.

3rd-5th November – Autumn Philatex at Royal Agricultural Halls Greycoat & Everton Street London SW1P 2QD

22-25th February 2012 Spring Stampex London.

Local Events

WETS DAY – 29th October at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel when the feature will be the John Hilsdon Trophy Competition Entries. This event is being hosted by THEMATIX.

Display of Wessex Federation 2011 Competition Entries – 29th October at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel.

CIRCULATING PACKET MATERIAL – Several clubs have adopted the idea promoted by Jim Wigmore. Dawlish, Honiton & Sidmouth and Taw & Torridge are all gaining benefit from exchange arrangements of Packet Material. Well done, we would like to hear from any other societies that have set up exchanges and are benefiting from the experience.

REPORTS from CLUBS/SOCIETIES – It is perhaps no real surprise to note that we have not received any reports from clubs/societies, we know that club secretaries are hard pressed but what about your Press Officer? This raises another issue how many clubs actually have a Press Officer or a member responsible for Publicity and how effective is their efforts. Do you get good coverage in your local newspapers, do you actually put in reports of your meetings and do they report accurately what you submit. Dawlish Club have taken a very proactive approach by submitting reports to the local press and then showing on their website what they have submitted and what the local paper actually prints. The local newspaper caught on to this very quickly and now publish reports exactly as submitted. **Why not use the same tactic, the Wessex webmaster will be happy to place your reports on your club website pages.** If your local paper is not accepting your reports or hacks them about so they no longer mean what you say, this is a very effective way of gaining their respect. **Hint** – *“Keep reports positive and below 200 words make sure you include your next meeting date time and place, and submit them by email direct to the editor.”*

Make sure your club is known about locally?

CORRECTION by Peter Burden In the article about the Bideford, Appledore & Westward Ho! Railway reference was made to the Appledore RSO handstamp - R.S.O. does not stand for Rural Post Office. The initials are wrong anyway. It means, I believe, Railway Sorting Office. Meaning the mail directed to it coming through London was sorted on the railway. The Travelling Post Office from London to the West Country had a separate bag into which offices designated as such had their mail sorted. The T.P.O. arrived in the West Country and the bags to Ashburton and Poundsgate and so on were able to be sent to their destination without any further delay. Ashburton and Poundsgate and scores of other offices all had R.S.O. handstamps although they were miles from main railway lines. *(Thank you Peter for correcting this error – Ed).*

LOOKING FOR SUITABLE EXHIBITION PROTECTORS. - David Roseveare writes... We are adding more and more quality items to our collections thanks to eBay, Delcampe and the many auction houses who supply us with their lists. For those of us who like to present our work at exhibitions the requirement for good quality acid-free clear pockets offering protection for the pages is most important.

Some years ago, at a philatelic event at Ashburton, visiting speaker Brian Sole demonstrated how the visual impact of an exhibit could be greatly improved by the use of top quality exhibition protectors. At that time one of the few suppliers was Michael Jackson. He was a leading postal history dealer who attended stamp fairs in the region and who sold the "Permex" protectors. They were expensive but lasted a long time if handled properly. Luckily I purchased a large quantity. After Michael died, his stock passed to Vera Trinder of London and the personal touch was lost.

When I first started exhibiting I used the "Venus" protectors and they weren't too bad to start with. It all changed sometime later when I removed a display page from the sleeve and found a clear imprint of that page on the clear surface! Acid-free was a foreign word in those days! After dabbling with "Esselte" and some other brands, I ended up using the W.H. Smith range of A4 acid-free file pockets (in packs of 100 without the cardboard insert). My display page size is 284mm high and by trimming the top and removing the hinge portion of the pocket I found it suited my requirements. Smith's also sell a similar product, in a pack of 100 but with a cardboard insert but the pockets appear 'mottled' to the naked eye. Use a craft knife and straight edge on a wood or plastic board to trim the pockets, I don't use scissors. My recent roadshow 16 page display was recently returned to me after a period of 12 months and, apart from a few blemishes, the protectors were still nice and clear, *(many thanks for looking after them).*

For my international presentation "From Grandeur to Gravure" I replaced my "Permex" protectors with the Frank Godden "Clarendon" variety. They are excellent quality but expensive. When I was in Paris I purchased an original drawing for one of Pierre Bequet's Antarctic issues. It is roughly A3 format, double width. Unfortunately the "Clarendon" protector is too high (295mm) and it has been brought to my notice that it is difficult to fit them into frames. I resolved the problem, with some advice from Lesley Marley, by using the Ryman A3 Premium clear pocket, landscape opening and trimming the top and side as per the A4 'Smiths' pocket. I am very pleased with the finished product. They are made of 80 micron polypropylene material and a packet of 10 pockets cost less than £5. Although they aren't marked 'acid-free', I contacted the Ryman head office and they, in turn, contacted the manufacturer who confirmed that they are suitable for my use. They also do an A3 portrait opening type. The cost of 'Clarendon' double size protectors (pack of 25) costs over £60. I have discovered another company, Secol Archival Products of Norfolk. Their website address is www.secol.co.uk (by Royal Appointment) and they will send you a catalogue of their products on request. They can supply a packet of 50 protectors for roughly the same price as the 'Clarendon' product. Their postage rates are more expensive but the overall cost is still cheaper. There seems to be a vast price difference between similar sized products. Sometimes I wonder if we are being exploited for what we do.

It took me a lot of time to work out what to use. Before you buy, hold the material up to the light and feel the texture. In my opinion, many products advertised as clear and of archive quality aren't very good. If you can find a sample do some checks of your own, put it on the window sill in the sun and check that it doesn't go brittle. What does it look like under a UV lamp? Does it easily crease? There are so many things to look for. You can save a lot of money if you have the time and patience.

Please remember that this article is based on my own personal experiences. I hope that my observations will prove useful to some of you. If anyone else has come up with a better product, let's hear from you.

SOMETHING FOR THE AUSSIE COLLECTORS – Collectors of Censor Mail may find the two covers shown interesting, both are stated to come from the 2nd Military District of New South Wales. That below is dated 18SE41 at RANDWICK and has been marked CALIFORNIA CLIPPER with a clear PASSED BY CENSOR mark. The war with Japan was by this time in full swing with Australia being the start point of irregular flights across the Pacific by Pan American Airways. Can any of our Censor Mail or Air Mail collectors add to this information.

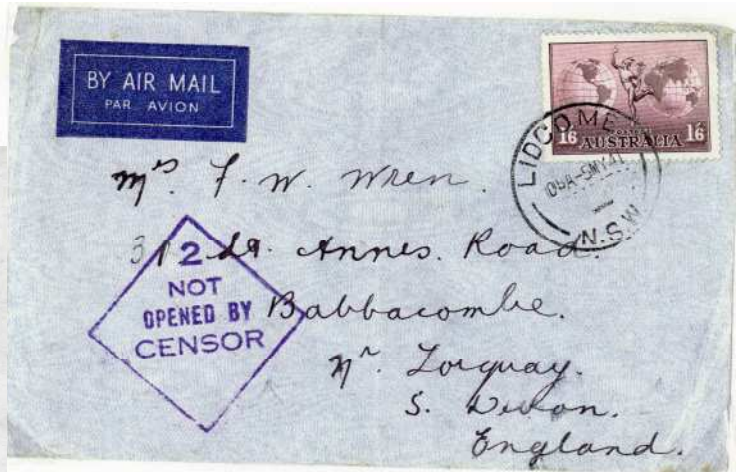
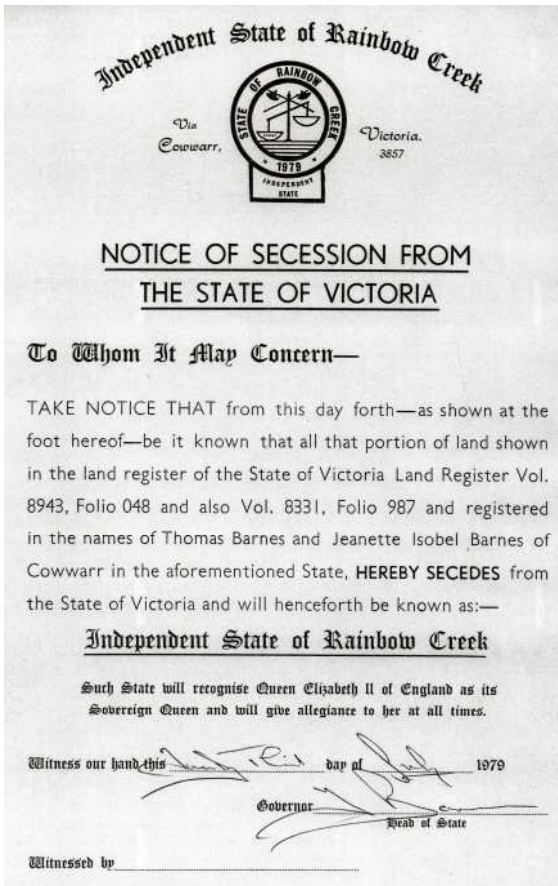


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The second cover dated 5MY41 at LIDCOME is addressed to Torquay and has not been Opened by Censor, although it is in an Air Mail envelope the rate is considerably less than the cover to America so did it actually travel by air? Can any of

our Aussie specialists add to this with details of how it travelled etc.

Rainbow Creek Independence



How many of our Aussie collectors have come across this one and more importantly have you got the stamps that were issued see below, are there others?



Thanks to Tony Smith for the above, he will be interested in your comments.

YOUR INPUT MATTERS – IF YOU HAVE A STORY WE WANT TO HEAR IT.