

Comments about this Wessex Bulletin and Copy for the next by Sept 30th please

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2013/01

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Secretary – Position Vacant (*Volunteers Required*)

IN THIS ISSUE – WESSEX BULLETIN by email, Wessex Federation Website, A Word from the Editor, Dates for your Diary, 2013 Wessex Roadshow, A Thought from our Chairman, From the Archives, One of my Favourite Items, Snippets, Sarawak the Hinton Forgery, Preparation of Exhibits, GERMAN HYPERINFLATION 1920 - 1923 & IT'S EFFECT ON THE POSTAL SYSTEM - PART 1

WESSEX BULLETIN by email – Requests to be included on the circulation list should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at wessexweb@talktalk.net please include your full name, club and the email address your Bulletin is to be sent to.

The 2013 Wessex Roadshow will be featuring “The Bulletin” and giving club members the opportunity to get on the circulation list

Please Note this is a totally secure process – *Your email address will remain secure, each copy will reach you on a personal basis without disclosing your email address to the other recipients.*

BE FIRST WITH THE NEWS

WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE – 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. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLUB DETAILS ON A REGULAR BASIS & NOTIFY ANY CHANGES REQUIRED**

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR – HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to the first WESSEX BULLETIN of 2013. We are introducing a look at “The Archives”, this being information about how the federation started and some of the articles previously run in past Bulletins, thanks to Alison Burdon and Norman Claydon both of who have been delving deep into their storage cupboards. We are starting in this issue a series of articles about The German Inflation Period by Peter Lawrence. This article was run a long time ago in the “Bulletin” and Peter has very kindly brought it up to date.

We need more articles like this from you, don't be shy or hide your light under a bushel, if you need help or guidance to bring it all together just ask.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2013		
9th February	Stamp Fair	St James Church Hall, Taunton
16th February	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
28-23 February	Spring Stampex	Islington
16th March	Stamp Fair	Victoria Methodist Church Hall Weston-S-Mare
20th April	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
15th June	Stamp Fair	Victoria Methodist Church Hall Weston-S-Mare

Make sure your events are included in this Events List – Tell the Editor

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2013 WESSEX ROADSHOW – has started its travels. This year's show has to be seen as one of the best yet, with a vast selection of material available for the presenters to use. **A big "thank you" to all who have contributed, many for the first time.** Unlike previous shows it will be presented by one of the Wessex Federation Committee Members not just the Chairman. This will cut down on mileage travelled, reduce the load on the Chairman and give clubs the opportunity to meet other senior people from the federation (*this incidentally was why the roadshow was started in the first place*). **If your club has not yet booked the show, now would be a good time.**

A THOUGHT FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I've often wondered if displaying only philatelic competition entries at Exhibitions put people off joining clubs & or showing their collections. There is definitely a place for competitive philately but should they be the only items on display? I realize there is always a problem of organising the exhibition space, dealer participation, manpower to collect, erect, dismantle, disperse frames used and to supervise during the day. (*All of which tends to fall on the faithful few.*)

Of course all competitors like to see their efforts on display but with limited room who should be left out for say an invited exhibit relating to a current newsworthy area, person or event which may attract others to our hobby. Let's be fair many of the highly specialised exhibits are a 'right turn off' to people unless you are an aficionado. Your comments please.

A similar situation may arise in clubs who rely too heavily on guest speakers. These people are generally collectors who have above average collections accumulated over many years and whilst members like to see such material some may feel they cannot aspire to such heights & their own collection is of no interest. This is not true, we all have items that others are unaware they exist. The other excuse is 'its not written up', or "its in stock books". Does it matter that much? For me no, I like to see how others collect and I always learn something.

(The Chairman as always raises some interesting thoughts we should all consider very carefully, we do need to look more carefully at our public image. The key to success is good quality presentation about topics that are interesting. – Ed)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Some Notes on the History of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

The Federation dates from a meeting held at the Rainbow Cafe in Exmouth on 16th November 1946. The six clubs present (Exmouth, Exeter, Pinhoe, Plymouth, Torquay and Bath) voted unanimously to form an association of philatelic societies in the South-West of England - the first such association to be founded in Great Britain.

The name "**Wessex Philatelic Association**" was decided upon, as it covered the area of "**Wessex**" as defined by Thomas Hardy. The original members were quickly joined by Ilfracombe, Weston-super-Mare, Falmouth, Liskeard, and Sidmouth, and further clubs from Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, and Dorset were added later.

The first Chairman was Mr. Hadfield Craven, a stamp dealer from Torquay, and the first Secretary F. H. (Tommy) Thompson of Exmouth, a Yorkshireman who had spent his life in the Bradford wool trade. Both are names associated with current Wessex competition trophies. The first Wessex annual meeting and exhibition was held at Torquay in June 1947 corresponding with the Jubilee of the Torquay Society.

At this time two exhibitions were held each year, hosted by member clubs in rotation; the Main Exhibition, at which individual competition entries in four adult and three junior categories were displayed, and the Thompson Cup Exhibition for the entries in the inter-club competition.

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The difficulties of covering such a wide area meant that in the 1970's two further federations were formed, Cornwall Federation and Somerset and Dorset Federation, at this time the Wessex Philatelic Association became the Wessex Philatelic Federation. Some clubs became members of more than one federation with the Wessex Federation covering mostly the Devon area. The three Federations come together in a biennial exhibition **SWIPEX**

ONE OF MY FAVOURITE ITEMS. by Carol Turner



This Airmail letter card has 2 superb strikes of the temporary rubber date stamp of 6 OCT 1949 Keningau, North Borneo from a Sister Daniel, Immaculate Conception Convent Tambunan thanking the recipient for a parcel of gifts for the children including dresses, picture books, needle cases etc and describing her trip up country in a long letter to presumably the Secretary of a Woman's group associated with a Church. This item was purchased when I was on a weeklong residential course.

One evening of that week happened to be the local stamp club meeting night so instead of associating with colleagues you know where I went. I bought this item there for the princely sum of 25p in the early 90's, price on a piece of paper attached by a very rusty paperclip. When I got home & Alec saw the paper-clip I was roundly berated for such sacrilege but I'd made sure the rust had not gone through the piece of paper to my prize. Even if the rust had gone through the paper, the mark is not common and was well worth 25p on a single stamp.

(My Mums sister Olive and her family lived in Walley Range Manchester at the date of this cover – Ed.)

SNIPPETS

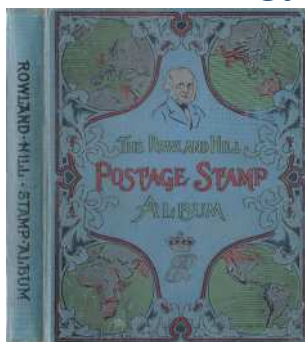
LAUNCESTON STAMP CLUB – have been quick off the mark in sending their programme details for 2013 to the editor and webmaster, WELL DONE LAUNCESTON your web pages will be updated on the Wessex website accordingly.

BIDEFORD STAMP CLUB – have advised the Chairman about a move of venue to Kingsley Hall Westward Ho!, but did not state when this comes about, hence to date we are unable to update their web pages on the Wessex website.

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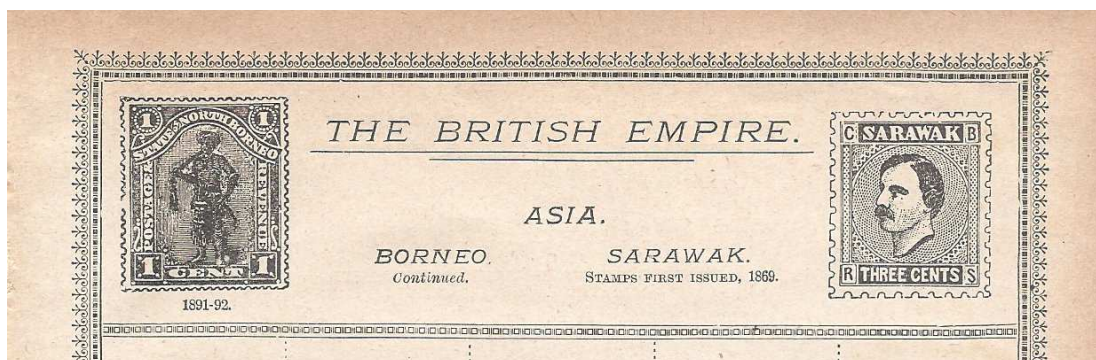
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Sarawak – The ‘Hinton’ forgery. - By Pete Halmkin



The ‘Rowland Hill Stamp Album’ compiled by T.H.Hinton was published by E.Nister of London (circa 1905/6).The album was intended for beginners and was divided into sections on The British Empire, Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania. Each page was headed with two examples of stamps from the Country (or Countries) to be collected on that page. Some of these were photos but most were illustrations which USUALLY bore a good likeness of the stamp.

This was not the case on Page 25 – North Borneo and **Sarawak**.



The crude representation of the 1871 Sarawak three cent (SG2) was used to produce, or possibly illustrated from, a forgery in the issued colours which is gummed and perforated 10½.



SG2 (genuine)



SG2 (forgery)

The forged stamp has a repair in the south-west corner which if viewed from the reverse shows a lack of the yellow colouration, indicating the colour was applied after production.



Corner repair showing original illustration colours

Research The forgery was (knowingly!!) purchased in a **Sarawak Specialists’ Society** auction in October 2011. The stamp album was purchased in a second-hand shop in Plymouth in March 2012. The link between the two was made only recently!!

DO YOU HAVE A STORY – If so send it complete with illustrations to The Editor or the Wessex webmaster details shown above.

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PREPARATION OF EXHIBITS - *The following is based upon the Current National Standards and will fit the Wessex Exhibition Frames. Exhibitors are encouraged to look at the scope these recommendations give and to make the most of their exhibits accordingly. These recommendations will form a part of the rules for future Wessex Federation Competition.*

Sheet Size and Paper

There are often questions on sheet size and paper, and there are many philatelic myths about what is, and what is not acceptable.

Broadly, dark coloured paper is not acceptable, **black is unacceptable**, and at the other end of the spectrum, chemically enhanced optically bright, white pages are often detract from the material being shown.

Matting (card mounts behind items) are acceptable. Too many different colours of matting can be confusing. Matting in black with wide margins can make an exhibit look like a display of mourning envelopes, and black Hawid mounts can have the same effect. The test is one of suitability. Does the mounting enhance the material?

Most experienced exhibitors will use only transparent Hawid type mounts and will never use black mounts. Most will use white, off white, or cream card. Duplicating paper in thin plastic protectors falls off the frame as it is mounted. Respect your material and the exhibition mounter by using something reasonably sturdy.

Protectors should be of good quality, for example chemically inert polyester, e.g. Melinex®, Mylar™ without surface coatings or plasticisers. Again this is to protect the material and to stop it folding over or falling from the frame as it is mounted.

National Exhibition display frames measure 120 cm in height by 100 cm in width and hold sixteen 'standard' pages. 'Standard' pages must not exceed 23 cm in width and 30 cm in height. Sixteen pages exceeding this width can only be accommodated in a single frame by overlapping.

The pages are usually mounted in four rows of four. Exhibits should be mounted on sheets of A4, although A3 pages mounted horizontally are accepted. Commercially produced sheets such as Clarendon (288 x 218 mm), and double Clarendon (288 x 436mm) or other 'standard' album pages are accepted, and frames may also be composed of 8 double sized sheets or 12 sheets of 1½ times a 'standard' size.

Sheets must be numbered consecutively, preferably at the front bottom right hand corner and contained in transparent protectors. All exhibits without protectors will neither be exhibited nor judged.

Other larger sheets can be accepted but they must be in multiples of the standard size. Sheet heights greater than 30 cm are difficult to handle, and may be rejected. Where pages exceed 30 cm in height they will be placed in the frames at the risk and responsibility of the exhibitor.

Sheet size is a matter for the exhibitor, but bear in mind that awkward sizes may be difficult to transport or to mount, and in some cases the organisers may refuse particularly awkward or flimsy pages. A3 gives more flexibility, particular for large items and ephemera, and can be more suitable for Thematic or Open Philately, although Postal History material and large postal stationery can be sometimes difficult to display on A4.

REMEMBER – *a 16 sheet entry is one that fills the standard frame designed to take 16 x A4 sheets. If you use larger sheets to accommodate large items you can proportionately reduce the number of sheets as long as you fill the frame. Some typical examples follow.*

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Standard frame of A4 sheets

Standard frame of A3 sheets

Standard Frame of 1 1/3 sheets.

Standard frame with mixed sheets.

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GERMAN HYPERINFLATION 1920 -1923 & IT'S EFFECT ON THE POSTAL SYSTEM

PART 1 - By Peter Lawrence



The root cause of the hyperinflation experienced by Germany following the end of WW1, lay in the way they funded the war. The Imperial Government decided not to introduce new taxes nor increase existing taxes. Instead they raised loans and issued bonds, which would be repaid with interest when they had won the war, which they expected to do having beaten the French in 1870-71. In any case most Governments thought it would be over by Christmas. However

Christmas 1914 came and went with no end in sight. The first sign that all was not well came in 1916, when the letter rate was raised from 10pfg to 15pfg, the extra 5pfg going entirely to the cost of the war. As the war dragged on this was not enough and they increased the amount of money in circulation and abandoned over a period the link between paper money and their gold reserves. Only 6% of the cost of the war was paid for out of taxation.

Unfortunately for the Germans the Allies had not read the script and they won. The loss of the war put a severe strain on the economy of the new Weimar Republic, in the change from a war time to a peacetime footing, the repatriation of prisoners, pensions for widows and soldiers incapacitated by war. At the peace treaty in 1919 Germany was forced to accept responsibility for the war so as to justify reparations. These were finally fixed at the London Conference in 1921 .at 132,000 million Gold Mk, to be paid by installments. The rate of payment was fixed far above what Germany could afford to pay To meet their Commitments the Government once again embarked on a policy of increasing the amount of money in circulation but whereas Germany was isolated from world markets during the war, now they were not and inflation quickly set in.

Period 1 - May 1921 to 31st July 1923

From a philatelic point of view it is convenient to study the effect on the postal system from May 1921. It followed closely the incorporation of Bayern and Wurtemberg into the German postal system and inflation was not out of control. It was at this point that the Postal Authorities decided to introduce a new grading system for mail. This was based on 4 grades, each with a unique design of stamp, which was more flexible than the ILP.U three colour system. It allowed a range of values within the same design making it easier for the sorting staff to spot if incorrect franking had been applied.

Grade 1	Small format numeral	5pfg to 50pfg	SG 153 - 159	Postcards & local letters up to 20gms
Grade 2	The workers	60pfg to 160pfg	SG 160 - 165	Inland letters up to 20gms, Foreign postcards & letters up to 20gms
Grade 3	2 Colour Post Horns	2Mk, 3Mk, 4Mk	SG 166 - 168	Franking above the normal, registered, express small packets etc
Grade 4	Large format numeral Ploughman	5Mk, 10Mk, 20Mk	SG 169 - 171	Franking above the normal. Parcels etc

Unfortunately the usual German efficiency went AOL and not all the new stamps were available on time and were issued, on lozenge water marked paper, over a period of time up to December 1921. To fill the gaps until the new stamp issue was complete, 4 old Germania definitives were overprinted (SG 172 - 175) At the end of 1921 it was decided to adopt a new watermark, (Mesh) and to reprint all the stamps (SG 176 - 195), but this took until May 1922 and was overtaken by a three fold postal rate increase on 1st January

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1922. This rendered the Grade 1 Small Format Numerals and Grade 2 Workers, no longer sufficient value to cover the new rates.

The new grading system was only eight months old and was already falling apart. To meet this situation the 2,3 & 4 Mk 2 colour Post Horns were relegated to Grade 2 and printed 1 colour. (SG 204 - 206) Two new 2 colour Post Horns, 5Mk & 10 Mk (SG 207,211), were printed to cover the gap left in Grade 3, and the increased postal rate. To cover Grade 1, 75pfg & 1 ¼ Mk Germanias (SG 196,197) were printed by modifying existing plates. On 1st July 1922 there was another but smaller rate increase and a new 75pfg Small Format Numeral (SGI 84) was issued for Grade 1, & the two Germanias withdrawn. A 5Mk Post Horn was moved down from Grade 3 to Grade 2 and a new 50Mk Large Format Numeral (SG 246) added to Grade 4. Up until the end of September 1922 the system had worked fairly well but then there were four large rate increases in quick succession on 1st October, 15th November, 15th December 1922 and 15th January 1923 which more or less finished the system.

Postal Rate	Inland postcard	Inland letter	Foreign postcard	Foreign letter
1 st July 22	150pfg	300pfg	350pfg	600pfg
1 st Oct 22	3Mk	6Mk	12Mk	20Mk
15 th Nov 22	6Mk	12Mk	24Mk	40Mk
15 th Dec 22	15Mk	25Mk	50Mk	80Mk
15 th Jan 23	25Mk	50Mk	90Mk	150Mk

To try to keep pace with the postal rates rising at this speed, the Small format numeral and the Post Horns were phased out as being no longer of sufficient value. Higher values of Workers. 12Mk (SG 251) for Grade 1 and 25Mk (SG 253) for Grade 2 followed by 30Mk, 40Mk and 50Mk (SG 243 - 245) were issued for Grade 3. In addition 100, 200,300, 400, and 500Mk Large Format Numerals (SG 236 - 240) were added for Grade 4. At this point only the Workers design, covering three Grades, and the Large Format Numeral for Grade 4 were in use.

The new system of May 1921 no longer existed, but worse was to come.

The postal rates increased again on 1st March 1923 just as a new simpler design of stamp appeared, the Medallions, from 100 to 500Mk (SG 260 - 265), There was a further rate increase 1st July 1923. This was the last increase during Period 1, which had lasted 24 months and saw 9 rate increases giving an across the board average rise of 1 to 1300.

(Watch out for more of this fascinating story in the next issue. – Ed)

Our editor has been painting again.

The scene is Postbridge in the snow

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**

**THIS SPACE
COULD HAVE
BEEN FILLED BY YOU.**



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