

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2014/02

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IN THIS ISSUE – Wessex Bulletin by email, Wessex Federation Website, Dates for Your Diary, Halmkins Philatelic Errors, Sarawak-The 1882 2cents and 8 cents, Dawlish Stamp Club has moved, Modern Postal Markings, Some Unusual Items.

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.

Our readership is still climbing to the extent we now need to distribute in **three** batches.

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.*

A number of our new readers have sent request for copies of earlier bulletins – PLEASE NOTE THESE CAN BE FOUND AND DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE – see the Publications Page.

WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE at www.wessexpf.org.uk – **OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW** – Secretaries please ensure 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. **The federation can only publish that which you provide.**

It would be a real asset to clubs to report their meetings, especially the details of displays and have those reports included on their web pages.

DID YOU KNOW – Our website has been re-configured so there is no longer a need to have Java installed to navigate around the site. This means that everyone should be able to make use of the site. Additional changes have been made to web pages to try and ensure that individual club pages will come higher up the search results when people carry out web searches.

The federation website also carries an integrated Calendar of Events, you will find this on the Events Page. It is hoped that visitors to the region can find out what is going on and where and possibly visit clubs during their visit.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WETS Day - Will be held at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel Ashburton on 12th April 2014 arrival at 10,00 am for a 10.30 start. There will be two displays as follows:-

Barry Stagg – Parachuting (Barry is a BTA Speaker)

Jim Wigmore – Along Lost Lines (Jim is Vice Chairman of WETS)

Both the above displays are of 128 sheets and will be shown either side of lunch.

Cost is about £7.00 this includes coffee on arrival.

Attendees can obtain lunch from an excellent menu of choice in the Hotel.

For further details contact Jim Wigmore at JamesWigmore@talktalk.net

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON (South West Meetings) - The Convenor for these meetings is now Barry Horne who has taken over from Dr Derek Seaton.

The next meeting will be on 11th May 2014 at the Tiverton Motel gathering at 10.30 am for an 11.00 am start when there will be a display of Gambia by Michael Roberts in two sessions each of 96 sheets.

After Lunch there will be a Philatelic Farrago when attendees can mount displays of up to 2 frames and give a talk limited to 5 minutes. It is anticipated there will be quite a lot of displays.

Cost for the day is about £25.00 this will include morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Barry Horne at benroh@tiscali.co.uk

The next meeting of this group will be on 20th October 2014 watch this space for details.

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14th May 2014 - Mike Roberts "PHILATELY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE" (*The Pitiful & Wasted Life of a Stampaholic*) at Torquay & Teignmouth Club, St Michaels Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton. This display was given to the Royal Philatelic Society London in December 2011. **This is a major display and well worth making the effort to go and see.** No booking required, just turn up in droves, plenty of room for all.

15th May 2014 – Mike Roberts "PHILATELY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE" – at Taw & Torridge Stamp Club at the Castle Centre Barnstaple start at 7.30 pm.

DO TRY & ATTEND ONE OF THESE DISPLAYS – THEY ARE BRILLIANT

Date	Subject	Speaker	Club
04/03/2014	Yugoslavia	Dave Pratley	Dartmouth Stamp Club
05/03/2014	Dave's Digital Display	David Oates	Plymouth Philatelic Society
05/03/2014	Club Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club
06/03/2014	8 Sheet Competition + Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
07/03/2014	People & Places of Devon	D. Smith	Exeter Philatelic Society
10/03/2014	Visit by Torquay & Teignbridge Club		Brixham Stamp Club
10/03/2014	Visit to Brixham Club		Torquay & Teignbridge
10/03/2014	Orchids of the Commonwealth	Mark Humphrey	Bideford Stamp Club
11/03/2014	Annual Auction		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
11/03/2014	Visit from Wells P.S.		Minehead & District Stamp Club
12/03/2014	Meet the Club & View the Spring Auction Lots		Dawlish Stamp Club
13/03/2014	Dave's Stamp Show	David Oates	Torquay & Teignbridge
19/03/2014	WETS Roadshow		Exmouth Stamp Club
20/03/2014	Club Dinner at Cedars Inn		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
20/03/2014	Taw & Torridge Club Dinner		Bideford Stamp Club
24/03/2014	France & Colonies	David Roseveare	Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
27/03/2014	Silent Auction		Torquay & Teignbridge
28/03/2014	WW1 East Africa	Peter Chantry	Liskeard Stamp Club
02/04/2014	Annual Competition Night		Plymouth Philatelic Society
02/04/2014	Members 8 sheets F-H		Exmouth Stamp Club
03/04/2014	Club Auction		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
04/04/2014	Czechoslovakia	B. Hart	Exeter Philatelic Society
08/04/2014	New Zealand	Bernard Elms	Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
08/04/2014	WETS Roadshow		Minehead & District Stamp Club
08/04/2014	Rose Bowl & Cobb Cup	Judges John Dain & Mike Watson	Dartmouth Stamp Club
09/04/2014	Spring Auction		Dawlish Stamp Club
10/04/2014	Stamps & Postal History of the Falklands	Richard Griffiths	Torquay & Teignbridge
12/04/2014	WETS DAY	Brian Stag & Jim Wigmore	Dartmoor Lodge Ashburton
14/04/2014	Members One Sheet Comp. DIY World at War	Club Members	Brixham Stamp Club
14/04/2014	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Bideford Stamp Club
16/04/2014	Member Speaker	Terry Cowlard	Exmouth Stamp Club
17/04/2014	North Borneo Part 2 (1909-1918)	Carol Turner	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
24/04/2014	Dealer Evening	Mike Whyte	Torquay & Teignbridge
28/04/2014	The Natural World	Mary Barrett	Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
30/04/2014	Sally & Martin Entertain	Sally & Martin Ellam	Liskeard Stamp Club
01/05/2014	Club Members Entertain		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
02/05/2014	Competition Evening		Exeter Philatelic Society
06/05/2014	An Evening with David Lethbridge	David Lethbridge	Dartmouth Stamp Club
07/05/2014	March & Chatteris	Martin Evans	Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/05/2014	The Chris & Jeff Show (Stamp Design)		Exmouth Stamp Club
08/05/2014	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Torquay & Teignbridge
11/05/2014	RPSL (SW)		Tiverton Motel

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12/05/2014	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Brixham Stamp Club
12/05/2014	Cyprus 1978 to Independence	Jim Wigmore	Bideford Stamp Club
13/05/2014	AGM & Silent Auction		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
13/05/2014	Switzerland	Gary Green	Minehead & District Stamp Club
14/05/2014	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Dawlish Stamp Club
15/05/2014	Philately will get you nowhere, the pitiful and wasted life of a chronic stampaholic.	Mike Roberts	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
19/05/2014	Members S-Z and New Additions		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
21/05/2014	An Evening with Martin & Sally	Martin & Sally Ellam	Exmouth Stamp Club
22/05/2014	AGM & Informal		Torquay & Teignbridge
28/05/2014	GB Booklets	Terry Cowland	Liskeard Stamp Club
29/05/2014	AGM + Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club

Halmkin's Philatelic Errors #1 'Treat' Your Stamps With Care!!

I was recently preparing an article for 'The Sarawak Journal' on the 1888 De La Rue 2 cents and 8 cents values of Sarawak.

Whilst scanning the lower value into my computer for use in the article I realised it had a considerable amount of discolouration caused by a process known as 'foxing'.



The Definition

Foxing is a term describing the age-related spots and browning seen on vintage paper documents such as books, postage stamps, certificates, and so forth. The name may derive from the fox-like reddish-brown colour of the stains, or the rust chemical ferric oxide which may be involved. Paper so affected is said to be "foxed".



The Error

Some time ago I had purchased a proprietary product containing N-chloro tosylamide (chloramine T) designed to treat "foxing". As I considered the problem was extensive I decided to ignore the instruction to '...use a fine brush to treat small areas...' and immersed the stamp for ten minutes in a saucer containing the solution. After careful rinsing in clean water I was initially delighted with the resulting lack of discolouration. However as the stamp dried I realised the result was not as good as it first appeared!

The Lessons Learnt

- 1) Read the instructions and follow them carefully.
- 2) Make sure the stamp you are treating is not printed using 'fugitive' inks.
- 3) Unless you are really sure do not use on your valuable stamps.

Consequently a visit to Ebay was required to replace my 2 cents value with a nice, clean, **untreated** copy!

(Thank you Peter for having the courage to admit to an error and drawing attention to us all of the fragility of the material we are the custodians of. If others have the courage to admit to their mistakes we would all appreciate learning from your mistakes – Ed.)

The article which I was working on at the time of my *faux pas* follows -

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Sarawak - The 1888 2 Cents and 8 Cents

The 'Sarawak Gazette' of 1st December 1888 contained the following notice:

'A new issue of Sarawak stamps has been made and are now in circulation. The stamps are a great improvement on the old ones; they are in two colours only, green and mauve, but each different value bears a small square of different colour on which the value is printed in figures. The issue consists of 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 25 cents, postage and revenue.'

The new stamps, which were only valid for local use and between Sarawak and Strait Settlements, were designed and surface-printed by De la Rue in London.

The initial requisition for the stamps was prepared on 9th September 1887 by the Postmaster General of Sarawak, A.K. Leys. In it he stipulated the sheets should be no larger than 50 stamps. This was logical as Sarawak was using a decimal currency system. This requisition was amended by no less a person than Rajah Brooke and sent to De La Rue on 11th January 1888 whilst he was in England. This amended requisition included a note that '*...Sheet should be of 60 stamps each...*'

The final requisition was sent from the London Sarawak Agent, Woodhead & Co, to De La Rue on 8th July 1888.

Printing was in sheets of 60, arranged in 10 horizontal rows of 6, on un-watermarked white wove paper. Each sheet was comb perforated gauge 14.

The first delivery from De La Rue to Woodhead on 12th September 1888 included 500 sheets, 30,000 stamps, of both the 2c and 8c values.



Postal Use

Letters from Sarawak to Strait Settlements (per ½ oz.)



Postal Use

Letters (per ½ oz.) Newspapers
Printed paper or books (per ½ oz.)

The stamps were first issued in Sarawak on 11th November 1888.

DAWLISH STAMP CLUB HAS MOVED

The club held its Annual General Meeting at its new venue on 12th February followed by a review of members new acquisitions a very eye opening experience since many of the items shown were very unusual, see the article that follows on Modern Postal Markings. The lighting and general ambivalence is excellent and the Club will be inviting local collectors and the greater collecting world to come along on 12th March 2014 and view our new premises along with the Auction Lots for the Auction on 9th April 2014. A copy of the Auction Catalogue is attached to this copy of the Bulletin, **PLEASE NOTE** due to the vast number of lots there will be **NO VIEWING ON THE NIGHT**.

The club went on to have its Annual Dinner at The Smugglers Inn Dawlish on 21st February 2014, a good time and an excellent meal was enjoyed by all.

MODERN POSTAL MARKINGS

The display of Postage Due markings shown at the recent Dawlish Club AGM was a real eye opener in that it contained so many different versions of what we all think we know about, including versions with the office name included. This really begged the question, should we be copying all this information and recording it as a Study Paper. We spend so much time going through old records to identify and record

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markings and stamps etc. that are tens of years old when we have the material here to hand for what is no more than twenty years old, **NOW IS THE TIME TO WRITE THE RECORDS.**

SOME UNUSUAL ITEMS by Jim Wigmore

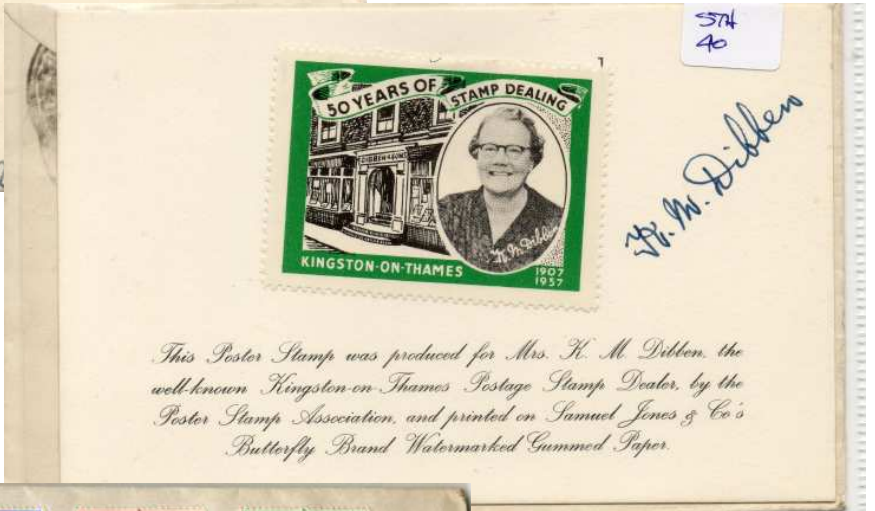
A look through the recent Dawlish Philatelic Auction Catalogue for their April 2014 Auction threw up some very unusual items.



The first relates to the 1936 London Stamp Exhibition, there were several items relating to this event and the Commemorative Labels produced for the event including one from a dealer R.M. Dibben. These items are illustrated on the cover left cancelled with a special exhibition cancel. Also included with the cover was an example of

Mr. L. A. Liddle,
42, Oakway,
Grand Drive,
Raynes Park,
S.W. 2

an advertising card by Mr Dibben carrying one of his labels shown right. To generate this sort of material, philately must have been a very strong hobby at this time. Further proof of this comes with another cover that appeared in the same auction shown below.



restrictions in place. The question that must be asked is just how rare is this item and given the wartime restrictions did it actually get delivered?

For those interested in Thematics and Scouting another item was also spotted in this same auction, shown right this miniature sheet of labels was issued to Commemorate the Centenary of Lord Baden-Powell. The sheet appears to date from 1937.

From the Royal Philatelic Society Exhibition of 1940, this commemorative cover dated 6/5/1940 is addressed to Paris and carries Air Mail cancels of that date. This exhibition must have been a rare event given the wartime



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This was by no means the sum of all the unusual items in this sale. Here are some more.



Above is a very early Air Mail cover from Hong Kong to Harwich. This item is a bit of an odd item, just how far did it actually "Travel by Air" as the cover states that it was sent on 21st June 1935 and arrived at Harwich on 2nd July 1935. Quite a good service considering the distance and difficulties of flight in those days. The previous mail alternative is shown right marked "Via Siberia". Dated 3rd February 1930 there is no arrival cancel or any indication how long this route took. It is assumed that the "Via Siberia" route was by rail. This must be quite an early illustrated cover. How interesting this must have been to receive such a letter giving an insight into a world probably not seen before.



There are also some rare GB Collectors Packs and Booklets in this auction giving collectors of GB an opportunity to add significantly to their collections at some very low starting prices.

More on the prices realised for some of these items in a future Bulletin.

These were just a few of the items that caught my eye in an auction that is full of interesting lots many of which I have never seen before. It struck me that no matter how long we have been collectors of philatelic material we are still learning and constantly being astounded by items we are finding.

If you have any interesting items of this nature we would like to hear about them for future issues of the Bulletin, don't forget to include illustrations, in colour if possible

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