

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2014/03

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IN THIS ISSUE – Wessex Bulletin by email, Wessex Federation Website, Dates for Your Diary, Reports from the Clubs, Wessex 2014 Competitions, Get those collectors out of the Closet & into your Club, Camel Postmen of Sudan, The Office was not in the right place, A bit of Naval History, From the Archive.

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.

Our web hosting facility is being updated we do not anticipate any access problems, contact the webmaster if you have any difficulties.

Please let our webmaster know if you gain any new members as a result of the website or any other contact made as a result of people locating your club via our website. We are interested to know if we are being effective and we are constantly looking at our keywords and structures to gain as many hits from potential members. Dawlish have been contacted by a potential member moving to the area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

ALL CLUB CALENDAR

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	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
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
13/05/2014	Philately will get you nowhere,(The pitiful and wasted life of a chronic stampaholic).	Mike Roberts	Torquay & Teignbridge
15/05/2014	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
03/06/2014	Visit from Exmouth Club		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
03/06/2014	AGM & Kiloware Night		Dartmouth Stamp Club
03/06/2014	Visit to Mid Devon Club		Exmouth Stamp Club
04/06/2014	Annual General Meeting		Plymouth Philatelic Society
04/06/2014	Members 8 Sheets I-L		Exmouth Stamp Club
06/06/2014	Visit from Taunton Club		Exeter Philatelic Society
09/06/2014	AGM and Ken Fox Memorial Trophy		Brixham Stamp Club
09/06/2014	Devon People & Places	Dr David Smith	Bideford Stamp Club
10/06/2014	Australia	Allan Cotton	Minehead & District Stamp Club
11/06/2014	Pete's Pieces	Peter Halmkin	Dawlish Stamp Club
12/06/2014	Visit by Sidmouth & Honiton SC.		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
18/06/2014	Informal Swaps & Selling		Exmouth Stamp Club
20/06/2014	Informal Evening		Exeter Philatelic Society
25/06/2014	AGM & Members Displays		Liskeard Stamp Club
02/07/2014	Devon	David Smith	Exmouth Stamp Club
04/07/2014	81st AGM		Exeter Philatelic Society
08/07/2014	AGM, Bring & Buy, Silent Display by Members		Minehead & District Stamp Club
09/07/2014	North Borneo Pt 2	Carol Turner	Dawlish Stamp Club
14/07/2014	Japan	Daphne Devonshire	Bideford Stamp Club
16/07/2014	AGM & Mini Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club
01/08/2014	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Exeter Philatelic Society
12/08/2014	Ascension Island Postal History Plus	Wilf Vevers	Minehead & District Stamp Club
30/08/2014	Annual Exhibition at the Strand Centre Dawlish - includes viewing of the Autumn Auction Lots.		Dawlish Stamp Club

Comments about this Wessex Bulletin and Copy for the next Bulletin as soon as please

REPORTS FROM OUR CLUBS

DAWLISH STAMP CLUB – held their Spring Auction on Wednesday April 9th at the Manor House Dawlish. There was some brisk bidding on the night followed by significant after sale purchases ensuring a high number of the lots actually sold, much to the delight of the vendors. It was surprising that a number of very modestly priced and significant lots were overlooked or ignored by collectors. The realisations can be viewed on the Dawlish Clubs Auctions web page at www.wessexpf.org.uk/Dawlish. The club has been fortunate in attracting interest via its web pages from people moving into the area, one of whom has already joined.

Lots for the clubs Autumn Auction should be submitted as soon as possible. The club will be running its **Annual Exhibition at the Strand Centre Dawlish on Saturday August 30th**, they hope to have some dealer presence and catering facilities. The lots for the Autumn Auction will be available for viewing.

WEST of ENGLAND THEMATIC SOCIETY (WETS) – met at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel Ashburton on Saturday 12th April. The slightly depleted audience were given two excellent displays. The first by Barry Stagg on “Parachuting”, Barry covered all aspects of his subjects including his own amusing attempts to use a Parachute. It was interesting to learn that the use of Parachutes goes back a lot further than most people believe, plus the evolution of the technology for use today for Military, Sport and in the Aircraft and Space Industries. This display went way beyond most peoples expectations. The second display was by Jim Wigmore who showed “Along Lost Lines” the story of how Britain’s Railways evolved from Rope and Horse Drawn Wagonways to operation by Steam Engines and how the small initial railway companies merged to form bigger and bigger concerns, up to the Modern Day and the Preserved Railways. This was a very expansive and interesting display that has come a very long way from where it originally started.

If you are a Thematic Collector you really should join WETS and discover the ways and means to enhance your theme and get the most from your interest.

A REPORT FROM YOUR CLUB IS SOUGHT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

WESSEX FEDERATION 2014 COMPETITIONS – The Wessex Philatelic Federation 2014 Exhibition and Stamp Fair will be held at St. Michael’s Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton, on **Saturday 6th September 2014**. Copies of the Entry Forms, Competition Rules and Insurance Disclaimer Form are attached to this News Letter, they are also available on the Wessex Federation website details as above see the Competitions Page.

The Competition Secretary hopes that as many as possible will enter this years competitions and help to showcase our hobby.

GET THOSE COLLECTORS OUT OF THE CLOSET AND INTO YOUR CLUB – It is very apparent based upon those who buy and sell on Ebay etc. that we still have a strong collector base here in the UK. We are only going to get these people back into clubs by making our clubs interesting and increasing awareness of our hobby. The key to this is good advertising of Club and Federation Events plus a follow up report. Most local papers will accept reports of club activities, the trick is to submit them by email, keep the report concise and positive with the content kept to under 200 words. There is no need to mention individuals although it is a good idea to include a contact telephone number and your club website address. Try and submit pieces that have a hint of mystery or potential excitement, offer help to those with transport or mobility problems.

Try the approach of Dawlish Club who submitted reports to their local paper and put on their web pages the reports they submitted and the report as published by their local paper. The local paper very quickly got the message and started to print exactly what was submitted..

Don’t be afraid of submitting the odd picture within your report, most papers like local interest stories and once they accept you are a serious organisation will readily print your stories.

Clubs also need to run their own annual events to showcase the club and what it has to offer, this is a place where your potential new members will come from. Events of this nature need careful planning and the support of the Federation, they are very worthwhile both to the individual club running the event and the hobby as a whole.

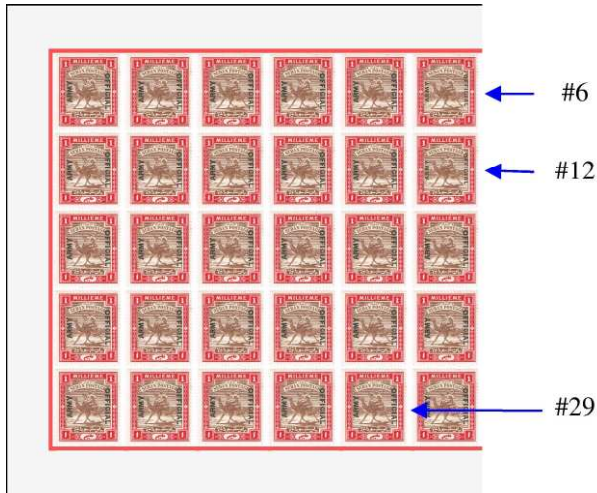
GOOD LUCK & TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENTS & ADVERTISING SUCCESSES

If you have a story for the next Wessex Bulletin we want to hear it.

Camel Postman of Sudan by Pete Halmkin

1 Millieme Military Official of 1905

On 1st January 1905 an overprinted 1m 'Star and Crescent' watermarked brown and carmine was released for use by the army authorities. This 'Army Official' overprint was released five months in advance of the definitive issue it was overprinted from. The likely explanation was that stocks of the 1898 1m 'Rosette' watermarked brown and pink were being used up during this period.



The Overprinting Process

The overprint was set up by hand in Khartoum in half-panes of thirty stamps. For 28 of the overprints the setting size was 9¼ mm for 'ARMY' and 16mm for 'OFFICIAL'. Owing to a lack of available font the setting of the last stamps in rows 1 and 2 (#6 and #12) was smaller at 8¼ mm for 'ARMY' and 13½ mm for 'OFFICIAL'. Another constant variety occurring on the setting was the substitution of a '!' for the first 'I' in 'OFFICIAL' on stamp

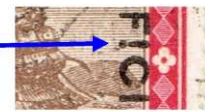
#29.



SG A1
Large Font



SG A1a
'!' for 'I'



Enlargement x2



SG A1b
Small Font



SG A1b
Dropped 'O' #6



Enlargement x2
Rotated -90°

Other Varieties

Small quantities of 'Rosette' watermarked stamps were overprinted; a very small quantity of half-panes were overprinted horizontally; in a small quantity of half-panes the overprint was inverted with 'ARMY' reading down; a single copy is known with both words reading down.



SG A3
Inverted Overprint

THE OFFICE WAS NOT IN THE RIGHT PLACE by David Roseveare.



An article appeared in a French stamp magazine over twenty years ago regarding the 1974 Ivory Coast “Stamp-Day” issue which was designed and engraved by Pierre Bèquet. The date of issue was set for the 19th April. He produced an image of a post-office

which he copied from a document that he borrowed from the colonial archives. Apparently all the offices were built to a standard design with only minor differences. Unfortunately he got the name wrong, “BUREAU DE DABOU” instead of “BUREAU DE GRAND-LAHOU”. The error was spotted by the postal administrator in that country and stamp production ceased. Completed sheets were returned to Paris to be destroyed and the task of producing a replacement was given back to Pierre. This led to a delay of one month and the new stamp was issued on the 17th May. I read the article at the time and kept a copy, hoping that one day something might turn up.

Imagine my surprise when, a month ago, whilst looking through eBay I saw a picture of the “Dabou” stamp on a French dealer’s site. It was with a small group of Ivory Coast stamps on a stock card and I decided to buy it. A week later I acquired another from the same person. I then decided to track down the writer of the original article for more information. Michel Daulard is now aged 84 and in 1974 served as the personal diplomatic envoy to the president of the Ivory Coast and was there when the problem arose. He said that only one sheet of 25 stamps survived, all the others having been destroyed. The replacement issue “Bureau de Grand-Lahou” totalled 500,000. He has a block of four in his collection and in 1987 he was pleased to

receive, from an old friend still living in the Ivory Coast, an envelope bearing two of the “Dabou” stamps. It is reported that these are the only examples known on cover. The seller of the stamps I acquired said that they were part of a large collection housed in a “one country” album. He took the pages out and sold them individually. It contained other “gems” from that country many of which have found new homes.

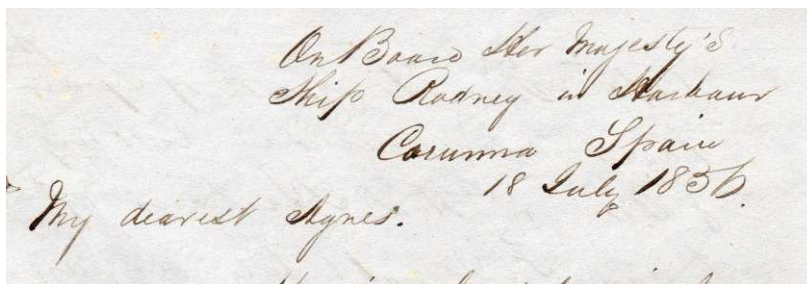
Long live eBay and Delcampe! Without them we wouldn’t have a chance to develop our collections.



**WE NEED MORE ITEMS LIKE THIS FOR FUTURE ISSUES
IF YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE CONTACT THE EDITOR
HELP WILL BE GIVEN TO FORMAT THE INFORMATION IF REQUIRED**

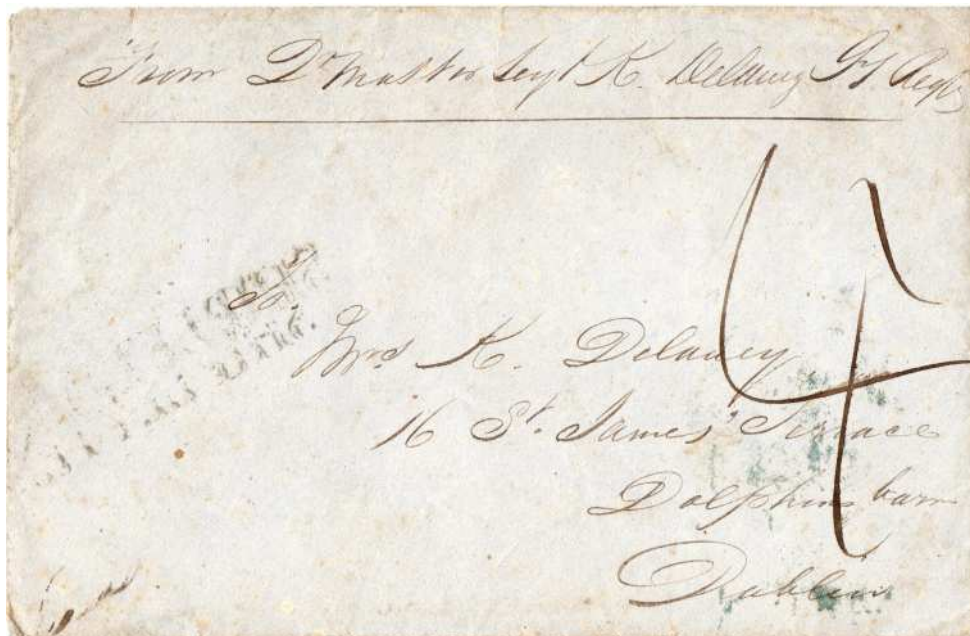
A BIT OF NAVAL HISTORY –

dating from 1856 the envelope and letter illustrated was written aboard HMS Rodney at anchor in the Port of La Coruna in Spain. It begs the question what was an English Warship doing in Spain at this time. Given the date of 1856 the ship was obviously a Sailing Vessel.



The sender was 2nd Master Sergeant K Delaney writing to his wife in Dublin. He must have been a Marine thus giving the item both Naval and Marine interest.

The letter appears to be rated at 4d and carries an inline SHIP LETTER mark on the rear along with a pair of circular date stamps. The envelope has a COMMISARY mark in Blue. If our Naval Historians can



throw some light on this story we would like to hear from you

Despite having Philatelic, Naval, Marine and Human interest this philatelic gem was surprisingly overlooked at the recent Dawlish Stamp Club Auction.

The moral seems to be we all need to look more carefully at the Auction Catalogues we get and above all we need to go and have a look at the lots.



GOOD HUNTING FOR THE FUTURE & WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE GEMS

FROM THE ARCHIVES – *(The following was printed in Wessex Bulletin No.5 of Spring 1982)*

“UP SPIRITS” – When the South Hams Society accepted an invitation from the Commanding Officer of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, Captain Julian Oswald RN, to give a display, twelve society members were welcomed by Captain Oswald and two members of staff, Mr Cole & Mr Deeprise, both members of South Hams Society.

Two films, a discussion on Watermark and Phosphor Detecting and a quiz, which was won by Reg Hughes, provided a very enjoyable and successful meeting.

Well done South Hams, is this to be a regular feature of your programme, and if not why not.

(This was a great piece of initiative, one we can all learn from. Do you have organisations on your doorstep that may be useful in this way to promote our hobby? South Hams we believe became Dartmouth Club who are now down to a very small number. Watch out for more Snippets from past Wessex Bulletins – Ed)