

A cross here indicates that the Treasurer awaits your sub for the current year



Leytonstone, Wanstead & District Philatelic Society

the Bye-post

No 197

ed David Pashby

June 2012

Hello, Everybody!

I was unable to send out a Bye-Post with the lists for the February Inter-Society Auction - there just wasn't time because it came so soon after the November auction. It took up a great deal of my time and left none for Bye-Posts. The auctions are better spaced in the new programme. Autumn auction in November, (so lots of time to get your material together), and the spring auction in March - a bit close, but not quite such a rush as this year.

A vendor's form is coming with this Programme and Bye-Post; very early for an auction in November, I know, but the days of the penny post are long past, and we have to put as much as we can into one envelope, to save costs. So please don't file the vendor's form away and forget it. You can send lists up to Saturday, November 10 (one of our regular meeting days - see programme), material can come a little later. But not too much later; I've got to check it and number it.

Two requests, one from me, the other from members.

(a) PUT YOUR OWN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FOR EACH OF YOUR LOTS IN THE SECOND OF THE TWO COLUMNS ON THE LEFT, AND LEAVE THE FIRST COLUMN BLANK. I NEED THIS COLUMN FOR THE NUMBER I PUT ON EACH LOT.

(b) GIVE AN ADEQUATE DESCRIPTION OF EACH LOT YOU SUBMIT. MEMBERS COMPLAINED THAT SOME DESCRIPTIONS WERE TOO VAGUE. Remember that not every potential bidder comes to the auction room. The list is posted to out-of-town bidders as well, and indeed will appear on our website. A full description may just persuade someone who can't attend in person to submit a postal bid.

My thanks to all those people who submitted lists last time in legible writing. Some used block lettering. Lovely! I only had to make a couple of calls to clear up a word here or there that I couldn't decipher.

Our recent fair (April 14th) was one of the most successful yet. The hall buzzed with activity much of the day. Often, it was not possible to walk along the aisles between the dealers; one had to sidle. About ninety visitors signed the attendance book, but only 26 members. That's not even 50% of our membership. What happened to the rest of you? The visitors included a couple from Arizona, but admittedly they were here anyway; they didn't make a special trip. We signed up three new members, two of whom had come with the intention of joining anyway, so no arm-twisting was required. I think the dealers all went home happy - and most visitors (including myself) found something of interest in the dealers' boxes. The refreshments were excellent, and Sheila and Margaret were busy for much of the day.

We have had some excellent meetings this year. Jan. 14 was a 'members' day', when we were all asked to show something on the subject of 'Transport', Seven of us did, and of particular note were the offerings of

Gordon George (items relating to Royal Mail contractors and labels from early bus services), and Colin Stuart (Finnish railway and station postal markings). The rest of us showed stamps.

January 23 was an 'informal', with no display scheduled 'in case of bad weather'. As it turned out, we were enjoying the mildest January in years, but only three of us brought material to show. Colin showed classic Sweden, Roy Bates modern issues of St Helena, and I showed Swiss Pro Juventute issues, stamps and miniature sheets, from the beginning to the 1950s.

The highlight of the season's displays was Jeremy Gaskell's 'British North Borneo' on Feb. 23. Transferred from Sept owing to a double booking. He took us through the issues of Brunei, Sarawak, Labuan and British North Borneo (now Sabah). After a potted history, he gave us a very thorough run through of the stamp issues, with compound perfs, plate flaws, and the lot. Of particular interest were the Japanese occupation issues, and the Australian cancellers used after liberation while new British date stamps were being prepared. Jeremy is an excellent speaker. Several people have commented to me since this meeting how much they enjoyed it. Someone must have known something. Twenty members attended!

David Gerken gave us a thematic show in March, on the subject of 'Bridges'. He explained the four basic types of bridge, and illustrated these with a varied display of stamps, postcards, photographs, and maximum cards.

Finally, Stuart Henderson filled the second March meeting with a show of Australian bicentenary material (but he had left the baseball cap at home), which only stopped coming when he informed the Australian postal authorities that he had died. Part two brought British miniature sheets and part three a study of the postmarks of what had been German New Guinea, which continued in use some time after Australian forces occupied the area after WW1. Then, after the second world war, Australian stamps were used for some time after the Japanese surrender, while dedicated stamps were being printed. A very unusual and interesting display.

This year's other meetings were taken up by the fair, the auction, and a swap evening.

Have you any particular stamp wants? Let me know, and they can be advertised here.

And articles are always welcome. There is no law that says I must write the entire Bye-Post myself.

And if you are not sure, please check with the treasurer, Ron Plumb, that your sub is fully paid up. The insurance on the packet is not valid (while in your possession) unless it is.

Rod Crump, who has done a sterling job organising the packets for a number of years, wishes to retire at the end of 2012. We need a new packet superintendent. If you want a packet, someone has to volunteer to run it. Rod will help you learn how.

Now for an extract from Anthony Trollope's novel: "He Knew He Was Right" (1869)

As for the iron pillar boxes that had been erected of late years for the receipt of letters, one of which – a most hateful thing to her – stood almost close to her own hall door, Miss Jemima Stanbury had not the slightest belief that any letter put into one of them would ever reach its destination. She could not understand why people should not walk with their letters to a respectable post office instead of chucking them into an iron stump – as she called it – out in the middle of the street with nobody to look after it. Positive orders had been given that no letters from her house should ever be put into the iron post.*

The joke is, of course, that Anthony Trollope was the inventor (in 1851) of pillar boxes.

Cheerio! David.