

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

Leytonstone, Wanstead & District Philatelic Society

the Bye-post

No 199

ed David Pashby

January 2014

Hello, Everybody!

Important announcement

I do not intend to stand for re-election to any of my posts at the AGM in May.

I have undertaken the job of Secretary of this Society – with gaps – since 1971. (I was chairman for a time, also secretary of AEPS.) Reason: failing health.

- 1. My eyesight is deteriorating badly.**
- 2. My mobility is becoming restricted.**
- 3. I have far less energy than I once had.**

I have been doing this job since at least 1970 (not continuously) and really feel it is someone else's turn. And someone must come forward. We did operate for a year or two back in the '90s with no secretary at all, but by the end of that time it was clear that the Society was falling to bits, so reluctantly, I stood for re-election. So a replacement is urgently needed if you want this Society to survive.

The job can obviously be split into three. Firstly, the secretarial business proper, secondly, the auctions (I don't know how I acquired this job; it is a lot of work), and thirdly, the separate post of Bye-post editor.

I want this club to survive and flourish, and I would be very unhappy indeed if it folded. It is a very unhealthy situation where it all depends on one person. So come on, one of you. Volunteer.

You have never done this kind of work before? – Nor had I, when I began.

We welcome several new members to the Society, Miles Černý, Richard Trottier, Simon Palmer, and hope they will enjoy and benefit from membership. They seem so far to be very active members, which is just what we need; a bit of activity to wake us all up. Keep coming, fellows, with new ideas. We may not act on them all, but we will certainly consider them. Some we have already acted upon.

For instance, at our recent January Saturday meeting, we changed the normal format to an informal 'gather round tables to discuss items: brought in by members; apparently a common format in Canada. At the table where I sat, Gordon George had brought along a number of German World War One occupation issues, foreign post offices in Asia, and similar out of the way items, and the rest of us were trying to identify and place them. It took us most of the session, and I think we all felt at the end that we had employed our time enjoyably and usefully. We must try this format, sparingly, again.

At the Monday meeting in January, Members entertained the Committee. And surprised us with the wide range and wealth of material presented. The Committee thanks the five members who displayed something.

In September Gordon George displayed a wealth of errors on GB stamps- printing errors, colour shifts, design errors, we were astonished at the range of material displayed. Colin Stuart followed with a selection of Malay states, having identical designs but a different sultan's portrait for each state.

We also had a 'do-it-yourself meeting in October, when The Committee Entertained'. (The meeting described above was the 'return visit'. Colin showed a number of unusual items – postcards from Finland in pre-WW1 days to New Zealand, and such. David Pashby gave a mini-lecture on the 13th century in France, as illustrated by the stamps; famous men. Architecture, art etc. Gordon George had a collection of Id lilacs. There was time for Stuart and David to put up a second display each; recent issues of Sweden, and Swiss soldier stamps.

In this period there was one outside speaker; Cliff Hurst of Sidcup Society came and showed 'Newfoundland; It's Different'. His display covered everything from pre-stamp covers to early cross-Atlantic flights, This was a very thorough look at Newfoundland philately and it is a great pity that only six members turned up to enjoy this treat.

The three other fixtures for the latter part of 2013 were dedicated to the Autumn Fair, the Auction, and the Christmas quiz, won this year by Dennis Bowman; questions set by Colin Stuart. Enough variety on these meetings to keep everyone happy, I would hope..

SIGNOSCOPE: The Society has a signoscope watermark detector that is rarely in use. It may be borrowed for a small charge, and if no-one wants to borrow it, the Committee would consider negotiating its purchase for a modest fee. These things cost over £100 new.



Every new president of France has the right to a new definitive stamp issue; it won't have his Portrait on it, that is impoli, but it will be a new version of Marianne, symbol of the French republic. In this case, hundreds of designs were submitted, the dozen most attractive selected by the vote of school pupils from all over France, and thistwelve (along with the pupils) went to the Élisée Palace (where M. Hollande lives) for him to make the final choice. Et le voici! La Marianne de la Jeunesse. (The Marianne of youth.) Now, this Marianne isn't any old Marianne. According to the designers (Olivier Giappa and David Kawena), the form of her face is inspired by the actress Catherine Deneuve, eyes by Marion Cotillard, (actress, I suppose), lips by Brigitte Bardot. And others. All very obvious, when you know what to look for!

Now, back to the main point of this Bye-Post.

**IF YOU ENJOY ATTENDING THE MEETINGS, RECEIVING THE PACKET, ATTENDING FAIRS AND AUCTIONS,
YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR ME!**

I don't want to see the club 'go under',

I want to know it is still flourishing in at least five years time.

SO COME ON, SOME OF YOU, STOP SITTING BACK AND SAYING

'OH, SOMEONE ELSE WILL RUN THE CLUB',

Because that way you will soon have no club.

So I wish my successors as Secretary, Auction Manager, Bye-Post editor every success.

Cheerio! David