



## Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

### VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299

Website : [www.philas.org.au/newcastle](http://www.philas.org.au/newcastle)

**AUGUST, 2014 : Newsletter No. 170 : EDITOR: Ron Davis**

## WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET , MAYFIELD AND EACH THIRD WEDNESDAY AT 10.00 a.m. AT STUDIO 48, 48 MACKIE AVENUE, NEW LAMBTON EAST.

**VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME**

DATES	DETAILS
Thurs 14 Aug 2014	A.G.M., ANNUAL COMPETITION and AWARDS NIGHT
Sun 17 Aug 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed 20 Aug 2014	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Howard Fisher– “THE SCRAMBLE for AFRICA, Part 3”
Thur 11 Sept 2014	PowerPoint Presentation by Bernard Doherty “NEWCASTLE POST OFFICE”
Wed 17 Sept 2014	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by John Moore– “LORD HOWE ISLAND — POSTCARDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS”
Sun 21 Sept 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Thur 25 Sept 2014	<b>STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</b>
Thur 9 Oct 2014	Display by Bernard Doherty “SELECTION OF SOUTH AFRICA POSTAL CARDS”
Wed 15 Oct 2014	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, PowerPoint Presentation by Bernard Doherty – “NSW POSTAL STATIONERY”
Sun 19 Oct 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Thurs 13 Nov 2014	<b>PHILATELIC SCAVENGER HUNT</b> — see details on Page 6
Sun 16 Nov 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed 19 Nov 2014	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Ron Davis– “EVEN MORE HARDLY EVER HEARD OF COUNTRIES”
Mon 8 Dec 2014	VISIT TO MAITLAND STAMP CLUB 7.30 p.m.
Thurs 11 Dec 2014	Display by John Moore “POLITICAL & SOCIAL ASPECTS OF EAST GERMANY”
Wed 17 Dec 2014	<b>NO Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b>
Sun 21 Dec 2014	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m

### **THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, August 2014**

Last call for our ANNUAL COMPETITION which will coincide with the August Annual General Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August. There are three classes or levels that are available.

**NOVICE:** Is a society member who has not won any medals either in any exhibition or awards at the Society's Annual Competition. FIVE pages plus a title page. Entries in the Novice Class will be judged by popular choice on the night of the AGM.

**INTERMEDIATE:** Open to those members who have won a previous award at a Society competition level. TEN pages which includes a title page. Judged by the three appointed judges.

**EXPERIENCED:** Members who have achieved medals or awards at Regional, State or National Exhibitions. FIFTEEN or SIXTEEN pages which includes a title page. Judged by the three appointed judges.

Entries in the Intermediate and Experienced section will be judged by a panel on 10<sup>th</sup> August, and will be required to be in the hands of the Senior Judge, Don Catterall (phone 4943 5639) before then.

A reminder also about STAMPEX 2014 - a Half-National – which will be held in the Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, ADELAIDE, on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October '14.

We still need members for the Committee – why not volunteer at the AGM ?

- JM/RD -

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**THE PRESIDENTS REPORT 2013 - 2014**  
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Another Society year has passed, with a range of displays and activities to keep members enthused and busy - for those involved in preparing and organising them.

Four of our Society's daytime and evening meeting displays were by Sydney visitors, with the remainder by our own members. It is fascinating to see the range and quality of the philatelic material held by our Society members.

Our intent to promote philately and our Society, in the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie areas, commenced on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> June (Friday and Saturday), with a successful display at the Mount Hutton shopping centre, Lake Macquarie Fair. I would like to thank Don Rutherford, Russell Goddard, Keith Kestel, Ron Davis, Dave Roberts and in particular, Don Catterall, for their help in setting up and manning the displays; and also those members who provided the fourteen single frame displays that were used.

A second display at the Belmont Citi Centre is planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The Society has also been asked to give a small four-frame display at the University of Newcastle Great Hall on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, in conjunction with a concert presented by the Newcastle University Choir, to commemorate the beginning of the First World War in 1914. With a theme of WW1, it is surprising how few British Commonwealth stamps have been issued. Most recent have been Remembrance stamps coinciding with 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gallipoli, the Armistice and other events. Both Great Britain and New Zealand intend issuing annual sets commemorating events of each of the four war years. We will have to see whether Australia follows suit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their ongoing help and contribution in the operation of the Society; especially our stalwart secretary, John Moore.

- Ed Burnard, President -

## ANTARCTIC POLAR POSTMASTER Reported at [www.southwalesargus.co.uk](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk)

A Welshman took on the role of polar postmaster in February, 2013, when he re-opened an Antarctic post office for the first time in 50 years. The British Post Office, at Detaille Island on the Arrowsmith Peninsula in Antarctica, has no telephone, internet access, mains electricity or running water, but it provides a fully-functioning international mail service to the rest of the world and provides funds to continue the work of the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust, (UKAHT).

Polar Postmaster, Tudor Morgan operated the post office from a historic British base selling British Antarctic Territory stamps. Around 25 cruise ships called in to use the Post Office over a few weeks carrying mainly American and European passengers. During this time more than 300 letters were franked and despatched around the world. Once the letters get a highly-prized stamp and postmark they are transported by sea to the Falkland Islands when they enter the international mailing system.



All the money raised from stamp sales goes towards saving the historic building and protecting it against the harsh winter weather. UKAHT works to conserve and safeguard the few remaining historic buildings left in Antarctica.

The Post Office was built on the base in the 1950s and used by the men to send parcels home. The nearest people are the scientists working at Rothera Research Station which is a modern British Antarctic Survey base about 100km away.

The Post Office closed at the end of the Antarctic season in late February last year, but by then Mr. Morgan had catalogued artifacts on the base which was one of four used by explorers Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton on their journeys to the South Pole.

- Stamp News, March 2013 -

## AUCTION NIGHT - THURSDAY, MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014

**For a change, the weather-Gods smiled and the roll up was excellent with over 50 in attendance and 45 taking bidding cards.**

**There were 397 lots on offer from 22 vendors, and a record high of 222 lots were sold, bringing a 56% selling rate. The vendors must surely have been happy. A total sales figure of \$2,039 was reached, and this too is a record for our auctions.**

**To mention a few of the higher sales : the top price of \$60 was paid for an album containing well over a thousand KGV Penny Reds. Next came a set of Northern Territory Revenues which went for \$55.**

**\$50 was the price paid for the next two lots - one being a lovely collection of the stamps of Grenada (a great bargain) and the other, those of Aitutaki and the Cook Islands.**

**\$42 was paid for an enormous box of all sorts of philately (a members spring clean) with many a prize within and from the same vendor, a large box of ancient stockbooks that fetched \$32. An unusual usage early Registered envelope attracted some attention and went for \$38 to a knowledgeable buyer whilst \$32 was paid for some very nice pages of Newfoundland stamps.**

**Very popular on this night were bags of used Australian stamps with quite a few bidders chasing these, and finally Scandinavian sets sold well, as did lots of pages taken from world stock books.**

**Thanks to all involved for such a really good night. See you again on 25<sup>th</sup> September.**

- Don Catterall, Auction Convenor -

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 A gasp of astonishment came from the person sitting beside me. He was looking at a page with four varieties of the 1897 2/6d Diamond Jubilee Charity issue. "Each of these stamps is catalogued at over \$400", he whispered ....

## **NEW SOUTH WALES, PART 3**

**- a display by WARREN OLIVER, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

It was, indeed, a mind-boggling display. Warren, who started collecting stamps while he was still at school, had been collecting "N.S.W." since the 1960's. This "PART 3" was "the end" of his collection - from 1888 to 1904, and the "O.S." and Postage Dues, Stamp Duties, and a series of private perfins.



They were (nearly) all there - starting from some really beautiful mint copies of the 1/- and 2/6d Charity issues of 1897. There were 40,000 of the 1/- Charity issue printed, and only 10,000 of the 2/6d., but they only pre-paid postage of 1d. and 2½d. – the remainder going to a hospital for tuberculosis (or "consumption" in those days). It was the first time an issue of this kind appeared anywhere in the world, and although these NSW Charity stamps sold like hot cakes, the issue of the stamps drew a mixed reaction from philatelists.



Stocks of the 2/6d were exhausted within two weeks, and

the 1/- sold out soon after. However, the "London Philatelist", the official journal of the Royal Philatelic Society in London, stated: "*all philatelists should condemn the action of the New South Wales Post Office in selling stamps of facial value of 1d. and 2½d. at 1100% above their stated postal value*". Stanley Gibbons refused to catalogue these stamps for many years – in fact, until 1926, and even then illustrations were not provided. The 1/- stamp was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1897, which was the day nominated as the official celebration date of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The 2/6d. followed 6 days later.

And then there were the 1888 New South Wales Centenary issues, which were said to be the world's first commemorative issues, and were the result of a State-wide competition for their designs. Again there was controversy – purist philatelists were horrified that Queen Victoria's head was NOT shown on five of the eight issued stamps (as had been done since 1851) and even more horrified that a LIVING person was shown on the 20 shillings (£1) stamp – Lord Carrington, the Governor of NSW in 1888 (as well as depicting Captain Arthur Phillip, the first Governor, 1788).



Used from 1892 to 1910 (when Australian Commonwealth stamps superseded them), a set of seven stamps from ½d. to 2/6d. appeared in a great variety of printings with varying watermarks and perforations. The 1d. red Coat of Arms was printed in its millions, and appears in almost every school-girl's or schoolboy's collection. In 1905, a competition was held to find the world's twelve ugliest stamps. The 2½d. in this series had the "honour" of being voted into second place.



Warren then displayed all the "O.S." overprints from the 1854 – 1871 overprinting, the 1888 overprinting, and the 1890-1892 overprinting (except one). Then followed pages of N.S.W. DUTY STAMPS, and the eleven POSTAGE DUE stamps originally issued in 1891. This design was pinched from the 1891 United States postage due stamp – the letters "U.S." were replaced by a kangaroo and an emu, and "N.S.W." was inserted at the bottom. Varieties galore - an awe-inspiring collection !!

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\*\*\* *After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus-stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.*

\*\*\* The Antarctic is a continent entirely surrounded by oceans. The Arctic is an ocean almost entirely surrounded by continents !

\*\*\* ***Do you need NORFOLK ISLAND or PITCAIRN ISLAND stamps??***

***Contact LEO NOLA, P.O. BOX 194, NORFOLK ISLAND 2899 (phone 0011 672 322 165). Mention that you belong to the NPS and you'll get a good deal. Leo is a 90-year-old getting rid of his collection, and has "a garage-full" of stuff, from SG 1 on !***



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**“RAILWAYS PARCELS STAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES”.**  
 - the display by **WILSON ILBERY**, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014.



Wilson Ilbery, the President of the Cinderella Collectors Club of Australia, came up from Sydney to show us his medal winning collection. He began by explaining the development of the NSW Government Railways System, and then outlined the history of the stamps which were available from almost all the hundreds of Stations throughout NSW for the carriage of parcels. His display covered the three designs and the ten sub-series utilised from 1891, and then ended with the cash register labels which followed when the stamps were gradually withdrawn in the 1980's. Throughout the display, completeness of these issues was remarkable and usage was shown wherever relevant. For the delight of the serious collectors, Wilson showed examples of many of the rarest items known, some of which were probably unique.



Of particular note were the rarest Crown/NSW watermarked issues from the First Series, then the O S Overprints, so complete and with variations unlisted! Ivory Numerals, Private User overprints and Property Search issues made our eyes gleam. It was a great display and appreciated by all. - Don Catterall -

### **SWAP AND SALE NIGHT, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

A very good crowd came along to Mayfield Diggers for this event, and I counted over 30 in the room at one stage. Ten of our members had tables of goodies, and the buyers seemed spread pretty well around, with plenty of philatelic fellowship on offer as well as a wide range of material. All part of the fun !

Quite a number of regulars were absent however, and they missed an opportunity to pick up some bargains. The action continued till well after nine o'clock when we all packed up and said what a good night it had been.

Our next event will be an Auction Night on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Try not to miss it.

- Don Catterall, Events Coordinator -



\*\*\* **QUICK START** : Remember the old crank handle?? It was the development of the electric starter that finally made petrol the fuel choice for the motor car. A British Arnold car had the first fitted electric starter in 1896. By 1912, the US company Cadillac had introduced the system into production models. Until then, 40 per cent of cars were steam-powered, 38 per cent used electric batteries, and only 22 per cent used petrol. The electric starter meant that petrol-driven cars would start up at once - unlike steam, which had to be built up. And petrol-driven cars could be refuelled more quickly and easily than electric cars.

\*\*\* People in Victorian Britain who couldn't afford chimney-sweeps dropped live geese down their chimneys instead.

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# POLAND – ITS HISTORY AND ITS RE-EMERGENCE DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR 1, TO 1925

- the display by HOWARD FISHER (Toronto), Thursday 10 July 2014

The history of Poland goes back for 1000 years. The country was named after the Slavonic tribes on the North European Plain, but didn't officially gain the name POLAND until 966 A.D. The borders then were about the same as they are now, but expanded after victory in the July 1410 Battle of Grunwald by the Polish-Lithuanian armies against the Teutonic Knights. The Polish-Lithuanian dominion expanded until by the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, it extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea – the largest kingdom in Europe other than Russia.

BUT – Poland was whittled back after three progressive partitions of Poland in 1772 (by Russia), in 1793 (by Austria), and in 1795 (by Prussia), being divided between those three countries, and so it disappeared from the map altogether in 1795 for 120 years. It was during this Partition period that the first Polish postage stamp was issued in 1860 under the auspices of the Russian Government. This postal privilege was withdrawn after the insurrection of 1863, and Russian, Austrian and Prussian/German stamps were again used in Poland, until 1918.



World War 1 began in August 1914, and by late 1915 the Russian portion of Poland was fully occupied by the German Army, and the Eastern Front was eventually pushed beyond Kiev. During the War, Polish Legions were formed, and, although sympathetic to Britain and France, they fought against Russia in co-operation with Austria until the collapse of Russia in the Revolution of 1917. But Austria-Hungary also collapsed in 1917, so the Polish Corps fought with the Germans against the Bolshevik Red Army until the capture of Minsk on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1918.

After the formal end of World War 1 in November 1918, Poland was attempting to re-establish its borders. In early 1919, there was a war between Poland and the Ukraine, followed in 1920 by war with Lithuania, and by civil war in Ukraine between the Soviet-backed Ukrainian People's Republic and West Ukraine, the latter allied with Poland.

Then followed the history-making Polish-Soviet War in the summer of 1920. It is not well known that Lenin and chief political Commissar Stalin wanted to conquer Poland and create a communist revolution in Germany, with the Red Army eventually pushing on into Italy. To them, world revolution appeared to be a foregone conclusion. On the other side, the Polish leader's aim was to establish a federation of Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania, and to re-establish the Polish borders as they had been in 1772.

The Polish-Soviet War was nasty, brutish, and short. The famous Battle of Warsaw in August 1920 was decisive – the Bolshevik forces were split and routed. One leader commented: "The history of contemporary civilization knows no greater importance than the Battle of Warsaw. The danger menacing Europe at that moment was stopped. Had the battle been a Bolshevik victory, it would have been a turning point in European history, for the whole of Central Europe would have been opened to communist propaganda and to Soviet invasion – the consequences of which can only be imagined".

By August 24, it was virtually over. Tukhachevsky's forces had left behind more than 200 artillery pieces, more than 1,000 machine guns, 10,000 vehicles of every kind and nearly 66,000 prisoners of war. Total Soviet casualties were in the vicinity of 100,000; the Polish victory had cost 238 officers and 4,124 enlisted men killed, as well as 562 officers and 21,189 soldiers wounded. The defeat crippled the Red Army. Lenin called it "an enormous defeat" for his forces. In the following months, several more Polish follow-up victories saved Poland's independence and led to a peace treaty with Soviet Russia and Soviet Ukraine later that year.



Plebiscites were held or planned in Silesia in the south-west and Olsztyn in the north-east, to determine which territories would be included in either Germany, Poland or Czechoslovakia. Meanwhile, a republic of Central Lithuania was declared in October 1920. This was annexed to Poland in March 1922.

Poland adopted a constitution on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1921, and by 1923, its borders were almost settled (apart from a few minor exchanges later), and they remained so until 1939. In 1924, Poland re-introduced its traditional currency unit, the zloty, divided into 100 groszy, and in 1925, issued a new pictorial set of stamps.



- H.F. -

\*\* Gunpowder was proposed as fuel for the first internal combustion engine, which was suggested in the 17th century by the Dutch mathematician Christiaan Huygens (1629-95). He is better known for inventing, in about 1656, the first working pendulum clock.



We've included this in the Newsletter a couple of months early to allow you time for completing the Hunt.

## **PHILATELIC SCAVENGER HUNT – for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The Fun of Philately ! There is no better way of learning about your stamps than by searching albums or through a catalogue for those missing items.

Your display may be presented however you wish. Even if all the items are not found, an entry would add to everyone's interest ... PARTICIPATION is the key !

### **First Section is Entirely from Australian Decimal Issues :**

1. An Albatross.
2. Standing Stones
3. A Block of Cheese
4. A Mortarboard
5. A Hologram
6. Tinkerbelle
7. The Last Man Standing
8. A Goose
9. A Two Bob Coin
10. A Reflection
11. A British King
12. A Sacred Bird
13. A Jackhammer
14. A Telescope
15. A Helicopter
16. A Flying Cloud
17. Something Cultured
18. A Chair
19. A Stamp on a Stamp.
20. A Watering Can.



### **This Second Section is World Wide :**

- 1 A Board Game
- 2 A Tiny Stamp
- 3 A Tax Stamp
- 4 A Stamp in the shape of a piece of Fruit
- 5 The Founder of the Red Cross
- 6 A Dog Sled
- 7 A Crucifix
- 8 A Snow Scene
- 9 A Spanner
- 10 A Scuba Diver
- 11 Windsor Castle
- 12 A Wagnerian Opera.



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### **BITS AND PIECES ...**

**WANTED :** GLADYS TYACK, phone 4987 5996, wants a GREAT BRITAIN 37p Needles Rock from the 1998 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lighthouses issue, Fine Used, but Mint is okay.

**WORLD RECORD :** The unique BRITISH GUIANA 1856 1 cent Black on Magenta stamp sold on 17<sup>th</sup> June for \$US9.48 million (including the 20% commission, but excluding any insurances and New York sales tax). Right now, that's over \$A10,150,000 !! Without doubt, it's the most valuable item for its size on this Planet – worth literally \$US350 BILLION a kilogram !!



## **THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,**

**at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East,  
at 10 a.m. on the THIRD Wednesday of each month (except December).**

### ***“TROOPER BROWN, AND OTHER TASMANIAN POLICE CORRESPONDENCE”***

**– a display by DAVID ROBERTS, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014**



You really had to be there to read the letters themselves – a number of one-page entires from around 1859, cross-written on both sides, from and to various Police and other O.S. sources. “Trooper Brown” started off in Tasmania at the bottom, looking after the police horses, and worked his way up to become a Police Superintendent. A lot of the letters were to and from the Detectives’ Offices in Hobart and Melbourne, including one which caused a bit of amusement, about “Sly Grog”. Another was about a rather unpleasant local Superintendent who insisted that all the police under his control get new uniforms, although the quartermaster had none, and the policemen themselves had to pay for local tailors to make them (and so they weren’t all the same, much to their boss’s disgust) - an “anonymous” officer took the matter to HIS superiors, and the higher-ups were reluctant to take action because the complaint was “anonymous” !



David also showed old bills and accounts and other correspondence from and to Tasmanian government offices, all in the old pounds, shillings and pence, which reminded us that it’s nearly 50 years since we changed to decimal currency !

### ***“SOUTH GEORGIA, ETC.” : a display by DON RUTHERFORD, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014***

The first postage stamps were issued in this remote Antarctic island in 1909 – the postmaster had to buy them from the Falkland Islands to sell to the whalers. From 1944 to 1962, Falkland Islands stamps overprinted South Georgia were used, from 1963 to 1986 South Georgian stamps, and after 1986, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

One item in Don’s display was a King George VI Pictorials 1938-50 cover from Deception Island, postmarked South Shetlands 5th February 1947 : “In January 1944 the British government mounted a naval operation destined to renew the pre-war Antarctic programme of research, called Operation Tabarin. Bases were to be established in various parts of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, including one at the former whaling site of Port Foster on Deception Island. Mail was postmarked with a rubber face datestamp of a basic design common to those introduced in other Dependencies. A fire on 8th September 1946 all but destroyed the base and its equipment, the personnel surviving in tents until relieved by the first ship to call on the annual relief voyage in January 1947. All outward mail was taken aboard and the vessel set sail for Stanley, where on arrival the Falkland Islands postmaster decided to have the mail cancelled by the old type South Shetlands 2 datestamp. For the first time “D” was used as the code letter. The datestamp was sent to Deception Island where it remained in use until replaced towards the end 1948. There was no “48” year slug available so “47” was retained in the datestamp for the 1948 period.”



### ***SIX SHEETS FROM MEMBERS’ COLLECTIONS : 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014***

Eleven members displayed items from their various collections (with much talking and discussion ! ) :

**ANNA HILL** – Sumarian coins (3500 years old!) and ancient Roman coins, and Polish and Russian Banknotes;

**JIM MACDOUGALL** – *Newfoundland*, from 1497 up to its merging into Canada on 1st April 1949;

**ROGER EGGLETON** – Canadian Parcel Post stamps, from Eaton’s and Simpson’s Mail Order firms;

**CAROL DAVIS** – *Art on Stamps*, arranged as if in an art gallery, with people and walls drawn in;

**RON DAVIS** – *Russia in Turmoil 1918-1925* – armies everywhere - the aftermath of the 1917 Russian Revolution, and their defeat in the Russian-Polish War and the Battle of Warsaw 1920;

**KEITH LAVERICK** – Great Britain Booklets, dismantled so that we could appreciate them properly;

**JOHN HILL** – *4000 years of Postal History to 1933* – a 21<sup>st</sup> Century BC Babylonian clay tablet, a Death Warrant from the Doge of Venice, an 1883 shirt letter, a letter from Governor Macquarie, a 1904 Christmas Island cover and a rare 1933 Cocos Island postmark;



**TONY WALKER** – *Japanese Occupation of North Borneo, 1942 to 1945*;

**DON CATTERALL** – *Great Cricketers of the Early Years*, on sepia-coloured postcards;

**DON RUTHERFORD** – Usage of the Australian KGVI 3d. Green postage stamp

**SANDRA BAKER** – *Honey Bees (Domesticated Animals)*, subtitled “From Flower to Hive to Honey”.

\*\*\* *Cows carry cowpox, but chickens don’t carry chickenpox.*



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# WORLD'S OLDEST POST OFFICE FOR SALE

Snuggled away in **Sanquhar, Scotland**, the **world's oldest post office** is claimed to have been servicing the mails for more than 300 years, since **1712**.

Now, however, it's for sale. It's freezing in the small community near the Scottish border where the shop is situated - in Dumfriesshire near Solway Firth on the map of the United Kingdom.

Part of Britain's 11,500 retail network of branches that provides a variety of services, including selling postage stamps and flogging gifts, the shop does a brisk, although not brilliant trade.

The Universal Postal Union has placed its stamp of approval on the Sanquhar PO as the "oldest working post office" in the world. The PO, town and district all reek with history in an area where Scots tribes and warlords enjoyed belting the tripe out of each other - and the British - for centuries.



Sanquhar was granted a royal charter in 1598 but there may have been a settlement on the site as early as the eighth century. Letters posted from the village receive the handstamp, "The World's Oldest Post Office." How's **that** for a CDS !



The Guinness World Records entry reads, "The oldest working post office is located in Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, UK. It has been operating continuously since 1712. "The second oldest working post office is located in **Stockholm, Sweden (1720)** and the third is situated in **Santiago, Chile (1772).**"

Sanquhar started out as a staging post for mail carriages, so the "post office" title is a bit of a stretch although it was definitely involved in the mails.

Penny Murphy has owned and run it since 2011 and she is said to be hoping to sell the PO for around £235,000. The new owner will be only the 16<sup>th</sup> post master of Sanquhar Post Office, and they will "take their place in the roll-call of postal history."

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**\*\*\* The word 'coach' derives from the Hungarian town of Kocs, where, in about AD 1500, a comparatively smooth-riding, horse-drawn vehicle was designed. The carriage was slung between the axles on leather straps, and the front wheels were smaller than the rear ones to make steering easier.**

**\*\*\* ROMAN ROADS :** Road-building was one of the great triumphs of the Roman empire. By the time the empire fell in the 4th century AD, the net-work covered more than 80,000km (50,000 miles) throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Not until railways were built in the 19th century was the Roman system surpassed. At the height of the empire it took six days to travel from London to Rome. By coach on the same route 1700 years later, British Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel took exactly the same length of time.

**\*\*\* LITTLE PERFORATIONS :** *The world's smallest postage stamps were issued in Bolivia between 1863 and 1866. They measured a mere 8 x 9.5mm (0.31 x 0.37 inches).*



" The Hundred Years War lasted for 116 years.

