

**Minutes of a Meeting held in Dundee Art Society Gallery, Roseangle, Dundee  
on 13 March 2014**

## **The Levant**

**Welcome:** The president welcomed the members and visiting speaker – Paul Stevens from Perth PS.

**Apologies for absence:** Sandy Forbes, Norrie Kelso and George Lewthwaite.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on the proposal by Robert Duguid and seconded by Len Stoneman.

**Display:**

Members were given an interesting historical insight into why so many countries had Post Offices in The Levant – these had been based in the various embassies and used the stamps (overprinted) of their countries. Most closed during the First World War. Paul's display consisted of a wide selection of material covering the period from 1869 to the 1920s. This included stamps (many as blocks), postal stationery and covers (one of which had a rare Austrian bisect). The effect of inflation was also seen in the issues by Turkey. Among the many interesting facts were that Romania had opened a post office, without permission, on a boat in the Red Sea. This was closed by the Turkish authorities after 8 months. Also on display were covers using stamps of various countries that had been overprinted by the White Russian army as they retreated from the Red Army.

Paul's well presented talk and display was appreciated by the members.

**Business:**

President/ASPS Representative

Covers and cards for the forthcoming ASPS Congress were still on sale at 50p each (60p if purchased at Congress). There were 23 entries for the National Competition. Members were encouraged to attend Congress and to 'sign up' to help at the Society table over the two days.

Secretary

A reminder that the Council Meeting will be held on 20 March at 14 Comerton Place, Drumoig. Officers should e-mail their reports in advance to Council members or bring sufficient copies to the meeting.

A recent request from ABPS to complete a questionnaire, that would include personal details of certain Council members, would be queried as to who would have access to this information.

Librarian

The library group had met this morning and the work of re-cataloguing was almost complete. Members returning books should check with the librarian that they have been included in the new catalogue before returning them to the shelves.

Packet Secretary

96 booklets had now been received and would be made up into packets for distribution.

It was noted that eight members attended the recent morning meeting.

**Publicity:** A recent article in the Courier referring to Edmund Morel led to responses to the paper by the Publicity Officer and the Secretary. It was noted that Ian MacPherson, Treasurer of ASPS, had died suddenly at home last Saturday/Sunday.

Web-site is up to date with new information added.

**Vote of Thanks:** The vote of thanks was proposed by Alan Roy.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next evening meeting will be at 7.30pm on 27 March.

The next morning meeting will be held in the Art Society Gallery on 3 April from 10am to noon.