

Dundee & District Philatelic Society
Minutes of Meeting 22nd February 2018
Dundee Art Society, Roseangle Gallery, Dundee

Visit by Perth Philatelic Society

Welcome: In the absence of the President, Vice President Harry Jackson chaired the meeting and welcomed members and guests to the evening meeting. Harry then welcomed Ambrose as a new member to the society.

Apologies: David Millar, Sandy Sloss

Attendance: 11 Members and 4 Visitors

Minutes: The minutes of the 8th February 2018 were approved by Robert Duguid and seconded by Ron Goodfellow.

Business:

President: Nothing to report

Secretary: Made available copies of the Spring copy of ABPS news for members.

Treasurer: Nothing to report

Packet Secy: Four boxes almost completed, and issue of new packets is imminent. Membership of the exchange packet has now dropped to 12.

Librarian: With reference to tonight's displays David showed two books from our library. 'Plating of the Penny Black' and 'History of Post Offices in Ireland'

Publicity: Informed members that news items for DDPS were in the spring edition of ABPS. Our meeting was advertised within What's on in the Courier.

Webmaster: Informed members that the Other Information section of the website now contains links to all FIP websites.

ASPS Rep: Asked members to assist in manning the society desk at Congress in April and also made available copies of the congress cover for purchase.

Vote of Thanks: On behalf of the members Francis Podger thanked both of our guests for providing two outstanding displays.

Date of Next Meeting: Morning Meeting – 1st March 2018 10am till Noon
Evening Meeting – 8th March 2018 Fernando Po & Friends by
Sheila Den (Aberdeen P.S.)

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Display:

This evening saw the members enthralled by two visitors from Perth Philatelic Society. To start off the evening Norman Watson provided a display titled 'The Postal Development of the Penny Black'. Norman began by provided an erudite explanation of how Perkins Bacon developed the die for the Penny Black and the process of creating the plates for printing them as well as how the corner letters were imprinted on the plate. Norman started off with examples of covers sent prior to the Penny Black including the 4d post covers. Norman indicated that he collected these covers because he liked the story that accompanied the item.

This was followed by a selection of covers all of which had Penny Blacks attached, including some covers sent in May 1840 which are very rare to find. The covers all displayed 'Maltese Cross' Cancellations, mainly in red. Included in the display was a cover with a cancellation in black which as Norman explained did not show up very well on a black stamp. With weight being an issue, some covers also contained multiple penny blacks to account for this. A little-known fact was that some people did not like licking the stamps so we also had one cover where the stamp was stuck on with wax.

To complete his section of the evening Norman also showed off a small collection of 18th Century covers related to Dundee, including one which could be the earliest known Dundee postmark, and another cover with a 'DUMDEE' postmark.

Paul Stevens followed this up with a display of 'British Occupation of Former Italian Colonies'. This was a collection of stamps and covers from various parts of the Middle East and Africa where the British Forces operated in World War II. Paul began with an explanation of the background to why they became British Colonies in 1940, and that the stamps were overprinted for use by the forces but this was later extended to include the general public. Stamps and covers on display covered the M.E.F. (Middle East Forces), E.A.F. (East Africa Forces) and B.M.A. (British Military Administration). Most of the covers on display contained Italian Style postmarks and included was an Italian prisoner of war mail. One cover on display contained 3 different post office cancellations which is extremely unusual. Most of the covers on display from Tripolitania had cancellations from different post offices.

In 1950 a British Administration assumed the running of the Colonies.