

## Hon. Secretary's Report 2013-4

The 2013-4 programme opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> September with Alan Roy giving his second President's display, *Northern Rhodesia & Zambia*. This was followed by refreshments. At the meetings that followed, displays on a range of fascinating subjects were given by five individual visitors and by three visiting societies (Aberdeen, Arbroath, Perth & District). There were four "themed" meetings for members to show part of their own collections. These member's participation evenings go from strength to strength. *First time displays* (shown by 3 members on the 13<sup>th</sup> February), in particular, deserves praise. Attendances were identical to those of last year! (Last year's data are in brackets). The average attendance was 18.3 (18.5) with the highest attendance being 24 on the 24<sup>th</sup> October to see Stuart Gardiner's *Early Europe* (23 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October for Christopher Podger's *Cyprus*). The lowest attendance was 15 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January for *K Night* (14 on the 14<sup>th</sup> December for the *One sheet competition & recent acquisitions*).

Throughout the year we saw varied and sometimes imaginative displays of superb quality. Members were treated to rarities that many of us had not seen before. The way in which visitors had mounted and written-up their stamps and covers gave the audience ideas for their own collections. Our Society visited two others (Glasgow, Perth & District). In total, six members represented Dundee at these visits, showing material that was very well received. Jean Osborne, who had been unable to come last year to show her award winning *Papua, New Guinea and PNG* collection, treated us to a suitable finale.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month between September to April. The vagaries of the calendar meant that we held 14 meetings this year with three week gaps in both November and January. The Arts Society continues to be a good landlord and its rooms in Roseangle are an excellent venue for a philatelic society to meet (for both the environment and location). This year, we decided not to hold a meeting on the evening before Congress in April because a significant number of us would have Congress commitments. In the future, this practice is likely to be repeated. This means the AGM will be in early May from now. (In the past it was at the end of April).

Our membership has remained the same. We welcomed two new members (Fred Cochrane & Cameron Raynor) and the return of Alec Steele, but we were sorry to receive the resignation of two members (David Stirrups & Jim Stulka). The publicity that Colin Campbell creates for the press and our website inform the public of our existence and our activities. They are invaluable in the recruitment of new members.

I regret having to inform the AGM of the death of Robin Turner and former member Phillip Doughty .

The morning meetings continue to be a success with numbers approaching double figures on many occasions. As with the evening meetings, publicity (in the press & on the web) brings in visitors who find the daytime more suitable. Next year, meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday morning of each month.

Reorganising and the cataloguing of our library continues. The library group convened periodic morning meetings through the year and it will continue to hold these until the task is complete.

The syllabus for 2014-5 has been finalised. As you see there are to be 14 meetings with the normal mix of individual displays (by visitors & members), visiting societies and member's participation nights. 1914 is the centenary of the outbreak of war. The philately of the war years is of great interest. We will commemorate this historic year with a members' participation evening in November, titled *The Great War, 1914 - 1918*. With members collecting interests being so varied, we should see a fascinating display in which many nations will be represented, as well as family mementos!

The Society Dinner will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, following this AGM. We have decided to patronise a new venue, The Invercarse Hotel. David Millar has made the arrangements. (Thank you, David.) The second change is to schedule it for the end of session, instead of mid-session. This means that after the meal we will leave to a warmer, and I hope dry night. This event will round off (in an enjoyable way) what has been a successful philatelic year.

Charles Lloyd (Hon. Secretary)

8<sup>th</sup> May 2014