

## Hon. Secretary's Report

The most important element in the activity of our society is the displays shown at our evening meetings. We endeavour to have a varied & interesting programme presented by expert collectors. This fact apart, a most pleasing feature this year was the frequent appearance of delicious cakes to accompany our tea at the end of meetings. In particular, thank you, Lynn & Sabine.

In the past, some meetings overran or the time for viewing was severely limited because the oral introduction was excessive. To avoid this we introduced better time management as a trial. Also, we took up Harry's suggestion for a comment / question time after viewing. Both were successful and are to be made permanent.

This year we enjoyed 14 meetings, all of which were well attended. The highest attendance was 23 on the 25<sup>th</sup> February to see displays by Aberdeen PS visitors, Bruce Walker (Aden & Zanzibar) & Joe Richie (Jammu & Kashmir), with 16 being the lowest attendance at a meeting. On average 19.3 individuals were present. [In 2014-5 these figures were 21, 14 & 16.8.]

Our season opened on 24<sup>th</sup> September, President's Night, for which Francis' subject was "WW2 Censorship in Singapore". The Malayan Peninsula featured also at two other evenings – "Japanese Military & POW mail on Thai-Burma Railway" (Terry Pickering, Gateshead) & "Malaya – Four Unfederated States" (David Mekie, The Scottish). Other visitors brought "Surprises in GB", "Scottish Golf Courses" & "The Glasgow Penny Post Numbers" [Jean & Crawford Alexander (GBPS), Jimmy Crawford (Bearsden PS)]. We were treated to Harry Jackson's *tour-de-force* (labour of love?) for India, which had a most complicated postal system with imperial and states services. Harry guided us through this using his superb collection of stamps.

Apart from Aberdeen, two other societies visited: Perth & the Caledonian. They treated us to Victorian Ceylon (Ian Smith), Gunboats & Sloops (Tony Cochrane), Sudanese Airmail (Paul Stephens), The American Civil War (Lynn Robinson), Czech Censorship in 1938 (Richard Beith) & Canadian Pacific Rail View Cards (Colin Caskie). Clearly, we fulfilled our objective of variety!

Members' evenings continue to be well supported with no less than 12 offerings on "M-Night". This year we put a novel subject in the programme: "Philatelic Miscellany" at which three selected topics were analysed and the audience participated. This was a success & enjoyable. Morning meetings are now established fixtures at which a stable company of about ten attend.

Our membership has remained. It is nice not to report any deaths. Bill Early has resigned after many years as a member. Our good wishes go to Bill.

We round off our season in two weeks' time with the Society Dinner at the Invercarse Hotel. It is an appropriate and enjoyable way to end this successful philatelic year.

*Charles Lloyd* Hon. Secretary