



DUNDEE AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN YEARS  
[www.dundeephilatelic.org](http://www.dundeephilatelic.org)

## NEWSLETTER 2016

### Letter from the President

#### SESSION 2016-17

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David Dobson

Harry Jackson

Peter Dix

Last year in Summer I was finishing preparation of my exhibit for the Singapore 2015 WSC when Charles was prompting me for my letter. This year I am not refining a display but writing up a new display for my last President's Evening – and the effort that takes as you know. I am looking forward to the evening in September and hope you will all be ready to kick-off our new philatelic year and the programme Charles has brought together.

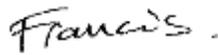
I was very pleased with my result in Singapore, but I had a challenge in that in the Revenue class also showing Singapore was a person who had all the proof material. They did very well but what stood me in good stead was my development and research. In this regard I was privileged last year to be awarded the Revenue Societies inaugural 'best article in the Revenue Journal' in the preceding year. I note this as Charles is working on an article about the Dundee Forgery collection and the sale that gives our society a good financial basis – as our Treasurer regularly informs us. Rather than rush something out, he is making the effort to explore several avenues to get background material. This is where displaying for our society competitions – the main trophies or even our one sheet - shows the thought behind what is displayed. It is with this in mind that council decided that this year there will be no introducing the entries – it will be based only on what shown. As our Librarian keeps reminding us and introducing to us philatelic literature delights, our library has plenty to offer to help us in this regard.

I have introduced a projector and screen in the evening meetings to try and give more visibility. It worked at our 'paperless' AGM and I will give a presentation for my President's Display. I hope we will be able to make more use of technology as Doug and Harry demonstrated in the Philatelic Miscellany evening that was planned by our Vice President. If anyone does wish to use the projector, please let me know. This is, of course, going hand in hand with our improving and expanding content website – see later in the newsletter for more information from our Webmaster.

With now over two of my three years as your president gone and, as this my final President's letter, I would like to thank you all for your support of the Society from our growing monthly morning meeting to our continued active contribution at Congress and our well attended (except the AGM) evening meetings. The good news is that much of this is making the Courier (and as of late several stamp magazines and more photos in the last ABPS magazine – which you may not have yet seen) thanks to the efforts of Colin, who kindly stepped back into the role of Publicity Officer. To end the season we had another excellent dinner and, as we have the date fixed for next year, I do recommend not booking

your holidays and joining us.

Again, my thanks to your council members who put in the effort to keep the society running smoothly for you. As I said in my first letter, the future of the society is in your hands, so please keep on with the support.



Francis Podger FRPSL

### **News of Members**

At the census date, 1 July 2016, our membership had remained the same and the current membership is 37 (33 members and 4 honorary members.) Regrettably, Alan Beat has died but we welcome Mark Lendon as a new member. (Incidentally, Mark discovered us through our website.) I am pleased to report to you that by unanimous agreement (of Council and members attending the AGM) honorary membership has been conferred on Bill Early.

### **Review of the 2015-16 programme**

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 19.1 individuals were present. [In 2014-5 these three attendance 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 Mekié, The Scottish). Other visitors brought "Surprises in GB", "Scottish Golf Courses" & "The Glasgow Penny Post Numbers" [Jean & Crawford Alexander (GBPS), Jimmy Alexander (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 displayed 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 14 & 8 entries on the two competition nights and 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 (fluorescence / phosphorescence, paper and presentation of a subject with digital images as a supplement) were presented by David Millar, Harry Jackson & Doug Howkins who gave an insight into each, followed by audience participation. This was a great success and we are to hold a second session on other philatelic technical matters next April.

Morning meetings are now established fixtures at which a small but stable company attend.

As it was last year, we finished this season with a Society Dinner at The Invercarse Hotel, on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. This social event is a very pleasant way to round off our year. We must thank David Millar for making the arrangements.



**Members and wives at the 2016 annual dinner, held at the Invercarse Hotel**

Back row from the left: David Millar, Peter Dix, Ron Goodfellow, Charles Lloyd, Jenny Easson, David Easson, Dennis Collins, Roma Roy, Katherine Goodfellow

Front row from the left: Margaret Dix, Janet Millar, Alan Roy, Francis Podger, Lynn Podger, Elspeth Collins

**Competition Winners and Distinctions (2015-16)**

DDPS

One sheet competition: Sandy Sloss: *"An 1845 Letter from Dalmellington to Ayr"*.

National & General: Harry Jackson: *"The Indian State of Jaipur"*

Thematic: Doug Howkins: *"Provincial Shields of Spanish Provinces"*

Social Philately: Charles Lloyd: *"Postcards from the Belgian Congo"*

National

ASPS Congress 2016

Harry Jackson: *"Postage Stamps of Jaipur"*. Bronze-Silver

Doug Howkins: *"Provinces of Spain: Shields, Costumes and Heritage"*. Bronze-Silver

International

Singapore 2015

Francis Podger: *"Stamps Issued and Used in Singapore for Revenue Purposes, 1826 to KGV"*. Gold

Francis Podger: Literature Entry. *"Singapore: The Use and Development of Revenue Impressed Stamps. The Victorian Era to 2012"*. Silver

**Secretarial Matters**

The piloting of "guidance" on timing at meetings was a success, and its use gave more balanced meetings with the absence of embarrassing overruns. We will continue this practice and provide our speakers with this guidance as part of the information sheet.

This year we introduced a “paperless” format for the AGM. This is now commonplace for meetings – it saves money and is green. Papers were distributed by e-mail ahead of the meeting to allow members time to read and digest the issues. (Members who are not on the net were posted paper copies.) At the AGM each officer’s report was summarised as a Powerpoint presentation (to make it easier to follow) and projected, and the full report presented verbally. As a consequence we were able to deal with our business in little over an hour. (The saving made by adopting this procedure was about £90, which those present were pleased with and made our treasurer even happier.) We will do this again for future AGMs.

## **Finance**

Our treasurer, Robert Duguid reported our financial position at the AGM. We are in a period of transition resulting from our decision to reinvest our reserves. In 2015 we had income of £1,013 from our (new) Alliance Trust investment. Packet commission was very healthy at £110. He noted that an especial mention must be made of the generosity of Mr Dennis Collins FRPSL, who passed on (as a donation) the profit made from the sale of copies of his recent monograph to members of the Society. A total income of £1,506 was lower than that for 2014. Overall expenditure in 2015, at £1,483, was marginally higher than that for the previous year. This year we paid Corporation Tax on our Treasury Stock income for 2014. (This tax will not be charged on our reinvestment and we will no longer have this “item of expenditure” each year after income is received.) A few exceptional items of expenditure deserved mention, being a) The transfer of one meeting to the Queen’s Hotel, b) the purchase of a new trophy and the engraving of it and the other trophies, c) increased library purchases. The net result of the reduction in income and increase in expenditure was a dramatic fall in the overall surplus. Fortunately, the Society will have no Corporation Tax liability to pay in the future and Robert expects the accounts will return once again to a healthy surplus.

## **The Exchange Packet**

Once again we are very grateful to David Easson, our Packet Secretary, for all his hard work in preparing and administering the Exchange Packet. Sixteen exchange packets had been in circulation or were going through administration having completed their circulation. Because packets are sent out throughout the year each will be at a different stage in its progress. Income was banked for sales from 12 packets (Numbers 92 – 103) while payments were made to sellers with booklets in 10 packets (Numbers 88 – 97). The level of sales improved from last year (~20% compared with ~18%). However, because the value of sales varies from packet to packet and only five (Numbers 92 – 97) produced both income and payment an apparent loss of £43 was recorded. Of course, a surplus is produced by each and every packet and when scrutinised, this “loss” merely reflects lower content values for more recent packets. David was able to pass £110 from the surplus to the general funds of the Society.

## **The Library**

Generally, the Library Working Group meets once a month. Their task, devising our own cataloguing system and allocating every book the Society owns to it, continues. Pasting-in *Ex Libris* stickers and inscribing both the section where the book will be housed as well as any cross-referencing is taking place. Currently, the main reference list is just short of 1000 entries, a number that will continue to increase until this phase of work is finished. At this time, our librarian, David Easson, believes the stock exceeds 700 (a figure that is imprecise because books are still turning up!) Some additions to the stock have been donated by members and we have received others from the collection of the late Dan Carmichael. Two books have been bought: *Philatelic Witnesses of the Great War* (published by the Caledonian PS) and the *2015 Murray Payne George VI Catalogue (20<sup>th</sup> ed.)*, which is a lovely book as well as being very useful. David is pleased to report an increase in the use of the Library. He has adopted the suggestion that, at each evening meeting, a couple of notable books from our stock will be displayed.

Hopefully this will encourage even greater exploration of one of our greatest assets, which can stand proudly as one of the best philatelic libraries in Scotland.

### **Morning Meetings**

The morning meetings have taken place on a monthly basis throughout the year on the first Thursday of the month, usually in Roseangle. Attendance is often between 6 and 10 and regularly includes four people who do not come to evening meetings. There is no set format but members bring material either to pass around and be looked at, or to sell, or even to give away! From time to time we get visitors who see the notice in the press and bring along old collections for advice. During the year we have had about four of these. We help each other in matters of identification, sharing personal knowledge and experience, and also using the library to answer a range of questions. Refreshments are available from the beginning and there are up to two hours of convivial conversation which often goes beyond philately although we always get back to that!

In May we lost Allan Beat who was a lifelong collector and contributor / participant in the Packet. Because of family connections he had a huge supply of New Zealand stamps and was a wonderful resource for one of our newer members who was born there and decided to start concentrating on NZ stamps. His funeral was attended by four of us. Latterly, because of mobility problems, he had to be brought to the meetings, and his wife was particularly grateful to Peter Dix for arranging this. Allan rarely missed a morning meeting and had attended the April meeting but without him in May it did seem different. He will be much missed.

### **The Society's Web-site**

[www.dundeephilatelic.org](http://www.dundeephilatelic.org)

The society website has had a complete makeover this summer and hopefully members will find it much easier to navigate.

The new site is still menu driven but some of the information is now contained within a members secure area. This secure area can be accessed by using the Login facility.

The menu section will remain constant through all web pages of the site allowing access to all parts of the web site from wherever you are.

The top right hand of the web site contains the options to allow anyone to

Contact Us : Login : Logout

1. Contact an officer of the society.
2. Allow members to login to access the secure members' facilities and to change their password.
3. Allow members to logout.

Members will be contacted by the Webmaster with a member number and temporary password to allow them to access the secure area. Members should immediately change this password to something known only to themselves. Passwords should not be divulged to anyone else. All passwords held on the society database will be encrypted so if you forget your password contact the Webmaster and he will assign a new temporary password to allow you access.

The menu system (given below) shows all options available to anyone accessing the website.

History

Current Officers

Past Presidents

Members Awards

Competition Winners

Society Sites

Commercial Sites

(Inter)National

Exhibitions

The home page has been changed to provide boxes containing snippets of information allowing the user to select the box which then takes them to the more detailed information on that subject. It is intended that another box will be on this screen which will provide news relating to any feature changes on the website.

On a number of the screens there are a couple of new features not used before and which will hopefully help members with navigation on the page.

### Meeting Presenters

→[Dr. Ron Harkess](#)

→[Launch of Scott Covers](#)

→[Dr. Jim Grant](#)

→[Special News Item](#)

→[Tayside Postcard Club](#)

→[Francis Podger](#)

On the left hand side of the "Society News" page members will see a side bar which enables members to move directly to the item they wish by selecting the item they want beside the red arrow. An example is shown opposite.

Also on these pages (which can also be scrolled down to find the information you desire) you will see a blue button marked TOP at the right hand side of the page.  This can be used to move the screen immediately back to the top of the page.

For those members who have logged in to the website using their secure login and password an extra option will appear on each page of the web site providing members with the following options:

**Members Area** Contains

Minutes of Society Meetings

Officers Reports to AGM

Articles provided by Members

A current list of members of the society

A Library search facility

Site Administration options which will only be accessible by those members deemed as administrators or librarians.

All documents being displayed will be in pdf format which requires Adobe Acrobat reader (or any other appropriate viewer) to be able to view them.

I am currently working on the members articles pages and these should be available quite soon.

The Library search facility (once available) will allow members to search the society database to see if it contains a publication they require and will identify where it is located. Hopefully this facility will be available soon. Work is progressing on this to facilitate the setup of the publications on the database. I will keep you informed of developments using the home page box I mentioned earlier.

If any member finds information which they feel is incorrect or inaccurate, or if you feel there are other items which could be included on the site, please advise the webmaster by e-mail and steps will be taken to correct the anomaly as quickly as possible.

Indeed I would be happy to hear the views of members on the website, be they complementary or otherwise.

Happy Viewing

Norman Kelso (Webmaster) e-mail: [norman.kelso@btinternet.com](mailto:norman.kelso@btinternet.com)

### Publicity

Our thanks go to Colin Campbell who has continued his efforts to draw attention to our activities. Those who receive ABPS news will have seen regular reviews of our meetings, along with photographs. Our local press (Courier and Evening Telegraph) usually prints brief reports, unfortunately confined to the Dundee edition. The *What's On?* insert in the Courier occasionally carries details of our meetings but it is unfortunate that this publication appears on Fridays. Representation was made to the company about the lack of information compared to some other Dundee events and it is to be hoped that this will have some success. However, full details do appear on its web-site. Information on the society is present on the Dundee City Council website. Our own web-site has been very successful in promoting the Society

### The 2016-17 Programme

2016	
September 22	The President's Evening: <i>Singapore Revenues 1937 to 2012</i> Francis Podger
October 13	Visit from Arbroath Stamp & Postcard Club
October 14 - 15	SCOTEX, Perth
October 27	<i>Cuba</i> Sheila Den (Aberdeen PS)
November 10	Visit from Falkirk & District PS
November 17	Visit to Aberdeen PS
November 24	<i>German East Africa- First World War</i> Gordon Shepherd (Rhodesia SC)
December 8	One sheet competition & recent acquisitions
2017	
January 12	Annual competition night
January 26	<i>Commerce in the Post III</i> Ron Goodfellow (DDPS)
February 9	"N" night
February 23	<i>Aspects of the Netherlands East Indies</i> John Jackson FRPSL (Malaya Study Group)
February 27	Visit to Arbroath & District Stamp & Postcard Club
March 9	Visit from Stirling & District PS
March 23	<i>A Transylvanian Night - Postal History and Stamps from the Land Beyond the Forest</i> Mark Lendon (DDPS)
April 6	DDPS Council meeting (Provisional date)
April 13	Philatelic Miscellany II (To be arranged by David Millar)
April 21 - 22	ASPS Congress, Perth

April 27	AGM
May 11	Society Dinner

This year we have a full programme, 6 individual displays (3 by Dundee members and 3 by visitors) and 3 visiting societies (Arbroath, Falkirk & Stirling). There will be 4 members' nights. Three or four of our members will represent the Society on visits to Aberdeen and Arbroath. The year will be rounded off, as we have become accustomed to, with the AGM and our Society Annual Dinner.

This will be the last year of Francis' presidential term. We will be treated to more from his prize winning Singapore collection. This time it is *Singapore Revenues 1937 to 2012*. In the new-year we return to South East Asia when John Jackson visits from Leicestershire to show the Dutch East Indies. This is the first time that we will have a full display of this large colony that spans the Indonesian Archipelago, which is a little surprising given its importance. Our first visitor of the season is Sheila Den from Aberdeen with Cuba, which as Doug has proven is a country with a varied history, great culture and as a consequence fascinating philately. Gordon Shepherd is to show German East Africa during the First World War, topical because of its centenary. This somewhat forgotten theatre is a curious mixture of horror and romanticism. Gordon has produced a book on this which is in our library. Ron Goodfellow has gathered more Commerce in the Post which we will see as Part 3 of this series. (No doubt memories will be stirred by images of products which were well-known in our childhood.) Our newest member, Mark Landers, brings us another territory which we have not seen before and is now part of modern Romania, Transylvania. Given the regions political turmoil during the era of stamps a great philatelic night is assured. (Garlic need not be brought!)

We will visit two societies within our region and on each occasion four members are required. There is reciprocity with members of three other societies coming to Dundee to give displays. These are always interesting and entertaining and there is always something in particular to interest each one of us.

Three of our members' participation nights are regular features in the programme and need little explanation. The *one sheet competition* brings out creativity - in imagination and in serious study. This event is coupled with *recent acquisitions* and produces suitable end to the first part of our philatelic year. The evening is made all the more enjoyable with the presence of seasonal food and drink. The Christmas break allows us all to focus on the DDPS *annual competitions* that follow on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. This is followed by "*N*" Night. [New Zealand, Netherlands, navigators (thematic), newspaper stamps etc.] The fourth of these nights, *Philatelic Miscellany II* continues what proved to be a successful educational meeting last year. Two or three different topics will be presented.

### **Finally**

The DDPS Newsletter always features a short article on an aspect of the Dundee postal history. Last year Dennis Collins presented Dundee perfins. This year he has produced an article on a pre-stamp postal item, an entire from the Provost of Dundee to his counterpart in Perth.

It just remains to wish you a good collecting season and we look forward to seeing you at Francis' display on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

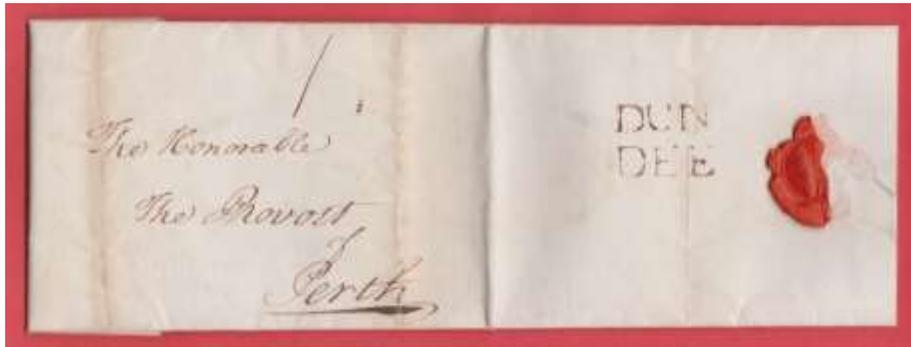
*Charles Lloyd*

(Hon Secretary)

## Bedding, Coal and Candles Dennis F Collins FRPSL

Being a collector of books I occasionally visit book fairs which sometimes can yield items of postal and local history interest. A recent find is this letter dated at Dundee on 3rd December 1779 from Henry Geekie, Provost of Dundee, to the unnamed Provost of Perth<sup>1</sup>.

It is a double sheet folded to 4 inches by 2.75 inches with a manuscript 1 on the front and a large two-lined DUNDEE (AN 90<sup>2</sup>, in use between 1767 and 1781) on the back. Also on the back is, in two broken halves, a wax seal with the crest of the lilies from Dundee's coat-of-arms.



With the aid of Dundee's City Archivist I have obtained an extract of the Town Council's Minute of Meeting held on the day before; Provost Geekie being in the chair :-

The Provost represented to the Council, That the Military presently quartered in this Town had made repeated demands from him of Bedding & Coal & Candles for their sick soldiers, but that he had given them no positive answer, as he was unacquainted whether it was usual for Boroughs to be at that expence. The Council are resolved to be regulate in this particular by the practice of other Boroughs, & request the Provost to inform himself whether or not it is the practice of Montrose, Aberdeen or any other of the neighbouring Boroughs to be at the expence of these Articles.

The following day this letter was despatched:--

*Sir*

*The Military quartered here have made a demand of Bedding, Coal & Candles for their sick Soldiers. As this is a demand on our Borough quite unprecedented with us, no such having Ever been made before, The magistrates wish to know the practice of other Boroughs, & particularly should be much obliged to you to inform me, if any such expence (the first Articles of which must be very considerable) is ever demanded & paid by you.*

*I respectfully am*

*Sir*

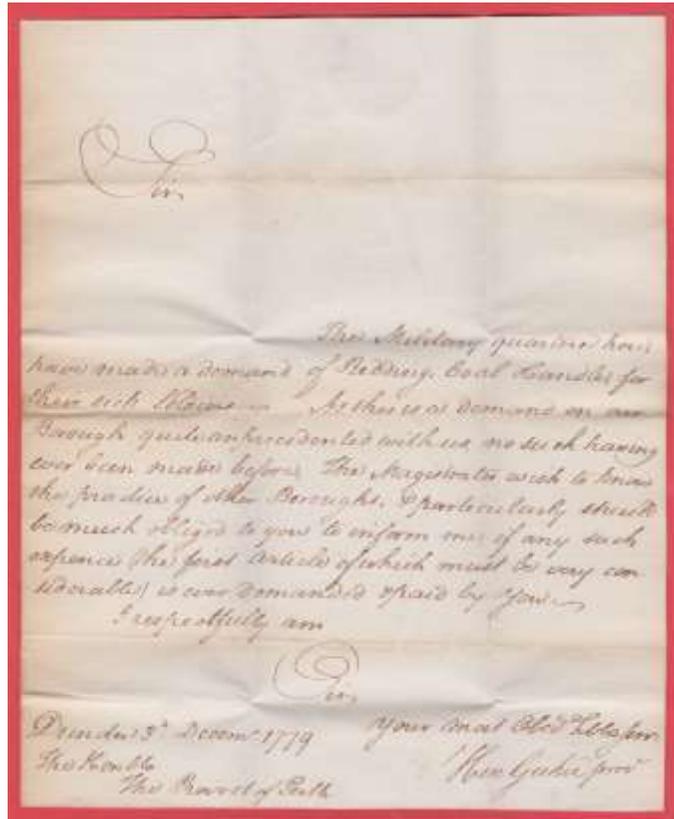
*Your most Obed&hbleserv.*

*Dundee 3rd Decemr 1779*

*The Honble  
The Provost of Perth.*

*Hen Geekie prov*

The 18th Century spelling and punctuation of the Extract and Letter have been retained



1779 was a time of anxiety in Britain arising out of the American Revolutionary War, Britain also being at war with France and Spain. Military were stationed in Dundee and their sick were accommodated in the Hospital in the Nethergate where the Roman Catholic St Andrew's Cathedral now stands.

<sup>1</sup> Why he was not named is a matter for speculation. Was it the custom in such letters? Was it more personal? Records show that George Fechny (a Merchant Bailie) was the Provost of Perth from 1778 to 1780

<sup>2</sup> AN 90 is the identity number given by Bruce Auckland in his book, *Postal Markings of Scotland to 1840*