



## NEWSLETTER 2017

### Letter from the President

#### SESSION 2017-18

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Another new season and another year older, but hopefully wiser. Welcome to the 2017-18 season. The forecast looks great as I am sure Charles will show us in the new season's program.

Before writing the letter I thought I would have a look at last years to give me some guidance I then realised that when faced with such a task as a "Presidents display" we must all have the same thoughts. How much time, how big, when, that soon.

All is almost well and I have before me a sea of A4 paper just waiting to be joined up. I did however totally run out of mounts and several times plastic pockets, not to mention printer ink. After a dry run the other day I did notice I had lost several stamps maybe stuck to the wheels of my PC chair or up Janet's Hoover more likely. Oh well, at least they were only about £25 each. Where that hard to get cover went I will never know, maybe I sold it on E-bay by mistake.

Looking back on last year we made some great forward moves with the displays namely the use of secondary information by way of a projector and handouts, this was further bolstered by the *Miscellany* night where more hands-on sessions can take place. It must be said the original material displayed on the boards will always be the goal of any philatelist.

I do hope we can expand on the *Miscellany* evening, which I would like to rename "*The Learning Zone*", as the original idea was to be the passing-on of knowledge from member to member. This is something I feel very passionate about. As we all know, it takes hours of research just to prove one small point, but ask someone who knows the subject and a two minute chat can solve the problem. We have so many specialists among us that it would be great if we could all pass-on just a bit of our knowledge in the form of a half hour slot. If you feel you want to pass on your skills on paper by voice or maybe using the projector, please just let us know. We have all enjoyed doing our slots and the subject is open; I even managed to cover E-bay. Who knows we may need two nights for this soon.

With this in mind I am going to make my Presidents displays available on DVD. Ha-Ha I hear you say, some £££s to be made. No my intention is to keep some members who cannot make the evening meetings feel more involved. More so, I want to explore how our great work can be archived by ourselves for the future. Something that stuck in my mind was seeing displays with great covers included, never to see them again.

Well enough of my indulgences, let's look forward to a great season ahead as I am sure Charles will show us. We ended the year with another successful dinner and I would urge everyone to keep the date free for the next.

I look forward to the coming season and working with the rest of the Council. Please feedback any ideas you have as it is your society and we all wish it prosperity and longevity.

As for the "CHEEKY GIRLS" at the back they are always welcome even if their other half is missing a meeting to watch the footie; we would be more than happy for their company and cakes.

Many thanks to the Council members for all the work that goes into a season.

*David Millar*

### **News of Members**

At the census date, 1 July 2017, our membership was one less than last year, 36 in number. Peter Taylor resigned and there was one death, Alan Roy. Alan was a very active and knowledgeable member with a varied and high quality collection (from classic era GB overprints to modern Zambia). Allan will be missed, though we will retain fond memories forever.

Sadly, this year we also lost another ex-President, David Stirrups FRPSL. David moved south a few years ago to improve the quality of philately in East Anglia. David will always be remembered for his detailed studies of Gibraltar and a legacy, our presidential chain of office.

Dennis Collins FRPSL, a past president and honorary member, died on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. His death came as a shock. He was "the father of the house" to all philatelic societies in Scotland having joined DDPS on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1946 and a member of a Scottish society member longer than anyone else. A regular at evening meetings, he always displayed his good sense of humour as well as parts of his varied collection on members' evenings. We remember his holiday postcards addressed to unusual places and his Scottish "local overprints" featuring albino and albino inverted copies. He had a great variety of excellent serious collections from Swiss hotels to his most recent interest, perfins. We intended, with Dennis' permission, to mark and honour his 70 years as a member with a member's display this November. We will do this still, under changed circumstances, celebrating the philatelic life of a great friend to generations of members.

There were no new members.

### **Review of the 2016-17 programme**

This year we enjoyed 14 evening meetings, all of which were well attended. The highest attendance was 23 on the 13<sup>th</sup> October [to see displays by Arbroath Postcard and Stamp Club visitors George Parker (Famous Scots on Stamps), Ann Findlay (US Presidents) and Brian Cargill (Lighthouses)] with 14 being the lowest attendance. On average 18.1 individuals were present. [In 2015-6 the attendances were similar, these three figures being 23, 16 & 19.1.]

We enjoyed entertaining and informative displays that were well presented by all of our speakers. Displays given by individuals were on Singapore Revenues, Cuba, German East Africa in World War 1, Commerce in the Post (Part 3), Netherlands East Indies and Transylvania.

Visitors from other societies brought: Robbie Burns, Compassionate Scots, Famous Scots, US Presidents, the ½d green of KEV11 and KGV, Recent GB miniature sheets, QEII Commonwealth definitives, Enemy aliens in the UK during WW2, Postcards from the Prague Symphony Orchestra in 1936, Lighthouses, Booklets and Hong Kong covers 1937 – 1985.

Members' participation evenings were three of our staples – recent acquisitions, the one sheet competition and the main competitions. Although entries in the competitions were down in number (compared with recent years) the quality were high. The low number of competition entries were compensated for by 14 contributions to N-night. No less than 188 sheets were displayed on that evening, resulting in an evening of three halves! Philatelic Miscellany was presented for a second year. This time the subject matter was e-bay (how the use it to sell as well as buy philatelic material), postal history – creating an ordered collection by way of an example, and thirdly, how to use computer imaging software to create album pages with illustrations to enhance the presentation and show specific features.

I think you will agree that we had a very varied programme, which is what we deserved.

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 was a very pleasant way to round off our successful year. We have David Millar to thank for making the arrangements.



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

Back row from the left: Jill Duguid, Robert Duguid, Lynn Podger, Francis Podger, Sabine Hotho, Harry Jackson, Margaret Dix, Peter Dix.

Front row from the left: David Easson, Jenny Easson, David Millar, Janet Millar, Charles Lloyd

**Competition Winners and Distinctions (2016-17)**

DDPS

One sheet competition: Colin Rochester: *"Shipwreck Mail from the SV Albatross"*.

National & General: Norman Kelso: *"Canadian Artefacts and Parliament Definitives"*.

Thematic: Norman Kelso: *"Penguins"*.

Social Philately: Harry Jackson: *"German Inflation / Hyperinflation 1916-23"*.

Postal History: Charles Lloyd: *"An Air-crash Cover from Nyasaland"*.

### **Secretarial Matters**

The "guidance" on timing at meetings is established and gives more balanced meetings with the absence of embarrassing overruns. Visitors are provided with this guidance as part of the information sheet and find it helpful. Other societies are beginning to adopt a similar approach because on occasion they have had similar problems with a few speakers.

The "paperless" format for the AGM was used once again. Documents 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. As a consequence we were able to deal with our business in little over an hour.

If any member knows a philatelist or someone who could be interested in the hobby please try to recruit that individual as a member.

Morning meetings are enjoyed by all who attend but they also serve as a useful forum for members of the public who have inherited collections, to come and receive advice on their disposal. Usually, the visitor is gently informed that their collection is worth little. However, part of being a collector is being optimistic that a jewel will turn up one day. Such a day arrived in June when a collection of mint empire stamps was brought in and our members were able and pleased to tell the owner to contact a major auction house.

Finally, a plaque to James Chalmers will be placed in Discovery Walk. Those responsible for the project contacted DDPS for advice. Not only is this plaque justified, I hope we can use it to inform the wider philatelic community that Roland Hill did not invent the adhesive postage stamp. This is breaking news and we will bring more information as the project progresses.

### **Finance**

Our treasurer, Robert Duguid reported our financial position at the AGM. Our financial year runs from January to December, consequently his report was for the calendar year 2016. Although our income (at £1935) was less than last year, our expenditure fell by more (to £1552) which resulted in a surplus of £383. (Robert was correct with his prediction for the year!) In 2015 our surplus had been £22, only. Looking at the balance sheet there are small changes (some up, some down) in all items with three exceptions, all of which were reduced (these being speakers expenses -£116, trophy engraving -£83 and library purchases -£55). Congratulations Robert.

Members who take the packet will be pleased to read that for a second year, your Packet Secretary (David Easson) was able to transfer a significant amount (£110) to our main account.

### **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. This year thirteen exchange packets were currently in circulation or had completed their circulation. Because packets are sent out throughout the year, at any time each will be at a different stage in its progression. Income was banked for sales from 14 packets (Numbers 98 – 111) while payments were made to sellers with booklets in 10 packets (Numbers 98 – 107). The level of sales was little changed (18.7%). David was able to pass £110 from the surplus to the general funds of the Society.

## **The Library**

Sadly, this year we lost one of the stalwarts of our Library Working Group, Alan Roy. Alan was heavily involved in the planning and practical work of reorganizing the library. Generally, the Library Working Group meets once a month. [David Easson (Librarian), David Cree and Peter Dix are the group and we thank them for their dedication to this work. Norrie Kelso must not be forgotten. He is compiling the library database in the member's area of our website to enable us to search the catalogue at our leisure.] Their task is approaching its conclusion. The cataloguing of these books is in its final stages and once done the positioning of the books in the bookcases will complete the job. (The latter has difficulties because we have many books that are equally important in several areas.) The latest estimate for the stock is 860+ books. New books have been acquired being purchases or gifts from members. This year "500 Years of Postal History in Europe", "Postal History of the Falkland Islands", "History of Post Offices in Ireland", "Lanarkshire Post Offices and Their Postmarks", "Charge Marks of the 4d Post", "The Rainbow Trials", "KGV Keyplates", "The Wilsons of Bannockburn", "The Catalogue Officiel Belge" have been added. Unwanted (i.e. duplicates or non-philatelic) books are being disposed of to create space for new books.

## **Morning Meetings**

The monthly morning meetings continue to be enjoyed by those who attend, whose number can approach ten. A relaxed atmosphere is a feature of these meetings with more experienced collectors offering advice over a cup of tea. 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! They help each other on matters of identification, sharing personal knowledge and experience, and use the library to answer a range of questions.

From time to time we get visitors who see the notice in the press and bring along old collections for advice. As has been mentioned already, one visitor came bearing an excellent old British Empire collection formed by a deceased relative. She had an idea it was good, but it was rewarding for our experts to confirm it was somewhat more than that.

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

Our webmaster, Norrie Kelso, has completed the new website design and I am sure that most of you will have visited it and seen that improvement. Norrie's objectives have been to improve your viewing experience and to make it easier to add new features. Two of these new features are our members-only area and the interactive library catalogue. New information technology hardware becomes available as the technical possibilities evolve but many of us still prefer to keep with systems with which we are familiar! Consequently, one of the issues Norrie has addressed is to make our website equally attractive on all types of browser. Make sure you visit [www.dundeephilatelic.org](http://www.dundeephilatelic.org) regularly because the site is updated frequently with news and information being posted on it. I have little difficulty in claiming that it is the best philatelic website in Scotland.

## **Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies**

Our society is one of the founders of ASPS and indeed its creation was the doing of DDPS. Each member society has one representative on the committee and each year the responsibility for hosting the annual meeting, Congress, passes from one society to another. Unfortunately, these days some societies have too few active members to accept the invitation though they may participate as one party jointly hosting Congress with one of the larger societies. Congress meets at a central venue that has the appropriate facilities and is convenient for travel from all parts of Scotland. Congress has met in Perth for several years. DDPS has been invited to be the host for Congress in its centenary year. This is likely to be 2023. The President hopes that members will support this event to make it a successful centennial celebration.

Norrie Kelso is our ASPS representative and also the ASPS webmaster. Those who visit the website will appreciate

both its appearance and up to date content. This quality is appreciated by all Scottish philatelic society members. Obviously, Congress is the highlight of the ASPS year and the 88<sup>th</sup> Congress (2017) went well with a 50% increase in competition entries, though (alas) there was none in the junior competition. There were fewer dealers than last year, though their number was comparable with earlier years. Even with fewer dealers, I am sure that those who attended were able to buy desirable material from the dealer's stalls.

### Publicity

Our hard-working Publicity Officer, Colin Campbell, continues to draw attention to our activities wherever and whenever it is appropriate. 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, though (unfortunately) confined to the Dundee edition. The *What's On?* insert in the Courier occasionally carries details of our next meeting 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 the paper's web-site. Information on the society is present on the Dundee City Council website and as A4 notices in the libraries and at Cornucopia Collectors (Frank Tonelli's). Our own web-site has been very successful in promoting the Society.

### The 2017-18 Programme

<b>2017</b>	
September 28	President's Evening: David Millar (DDPS) <i>Around the World in 80 Pages</i>
October 12	Colin Fraser (USA) <i>British Central Africa 1891 - 1908</i>
October 20-21	SCOTEX, Perth
October 26	Visit from Lanarkshire Philatelic Society
November 9	<i>A celebration: Dennis Collins – 70 years as a member</i>
November 23	Visit from Arbroath Stamp & Postcard Club
December 14	One sheet competition & Recent acquisitions
<b>2018</b>	
January 11	Annual competition(s)
January 25	Sandy Forbes (DDPS) <i>South Australia</i>
February 8	<i>"O" night</i>
February 22	Visit from Perth PS
March 8	Sheila Den (Aberdeen PS) <i>Fernando Po &amp; Friends</i>
March 22	Bill Shand (Postal History Society) <i>Straits Settlements</i>
April 12	<i>The Learning Zone (Philatelic Miscellany III)</i>
April 20 - 21	ASPS Congress, Perth
April 19	Council meeting
April 26	AGM

May 10	Society Dinner
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This year we have a full programme, 5 individual displays (2 by Dundee members and 3 by visitors) and 3 visiting societies (Lanarkshire, Arbroath & Perth). There will be 5 members' nights, one of which is unique. At this date I have not received any requests from other philatelic societies for Dundee to visit and display, though I expect these to come. The year will be rounded off, as we have become accustomed to, with the AGM and our Society Annual Dinner.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September our season starts. This will be the first *Presidential Display* by David Millar. His chosen title, *Around the World in 80 Pages*, reflects its content, though he assures me he will show 180 sheets .

Two weeks later we are to be visited by Colin Fraser who was born and brought up locally but lives in the USA now (at Woodstock NY) and is a stamp dealer as well as working for an international auction house. His display, *British Central Africa 1891 – 1907* has won gold in America. BCA, which is now Malawi, officially became a protectorate in 1891 and Nyasaland Protectorate in 1907. It has a political / social history very different from the surrounding colonies. We are in for a treat.

Next, we have a visit from Lanarkshire PS, a very active society and its members always bring a variety of interesting material. There will be something for everyone.

Our third meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November is that landmark event alluded to earlier. It is a celebration of the philatelic life of the late Dennis Collins FRPSL. We will do this by members providing two boards, each containing 10 sheets on the theme "*What I love about my philately*", which is appropriate because to maintain his interest as a member for 70 years, Dennis had an enduring passion for the hobby.

A second society visit takes place on November the 23<sup>rd</sup> when our nearest neighbour Arbroath Stamp and Postcard Club will mount a display. Once again something for everyone with the opportunity to see material that is suited to a shorter display format.

We end 2017 in our traditional way with the one sheet competition, recent acquisitions and seasonal fare.

A gap of four week over the festive season will allow you to prepare your entries in our competitions held at our first meeting of 2018 on January the 11<sup>th</sup>. We hope that many of you will compete.

Last year our Australia authority Sandy Forbes FRPSL completed his study on *South Australia* and displays this at our second meeting of the year. It is eagerly anticipated! (You will recall Sandy was awarded a large silver gilt for part of this collection at Congress in 2015 which followed his gold in 2013.)

In 2018 we reach the letter "O". Bring philatelic material that will educate and entertain us on February the 8<sup>th</sup>, "*O*" Night. The scope is wide – Oman, Orient, Ottoman Empire, overprints, offsets, omnibus, occupation, Ostmark and Öre denominations, on piece etc. No doubt, there is great fun to be had stretching the interpretation – 'orrible designs, odd stamps and even old stamps!

Perth will be the third society to visit, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

At the following meeting Sheila Den will show *Fernando Po and Friends*, a colony which I am confident we have never before seen in Dundee. Sheila is the current President of Aberdeen and this was her 2017 Presidential display. Having possessed only a single Fernando Po stamp (a brown *infanta*) in over 60 years of collecting, to see some more is long overdue.

Sheila is followed by Bill Shand who is coming from England to display *Straits Settlements*, part of an ever popular

and highly collected part of the world. Reports given to me describe his material as high quality presented expertly in an entertaining way.

The last meeting (before the AGM), *Philatelic Miscellany III* now renamed *The Learning Zone* continues what proved to be successful educational meetings last year and the year before that. Two or three different topics will be presented.

### Finally

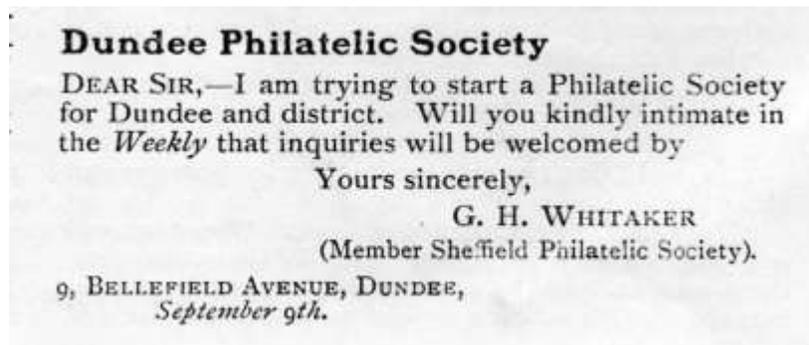
The DDPS Newsletter always features a short article on an aspect of the Dundee postal history. Last year Dennis Collins presented "Bedding, Coal and Candles", an article on a pre-stamp postal item, an entire from the Provost of Dundee to his counterpart in Perth. This year David Easson has given us two, as you see. On your behalf, I would like to thank David.

It just remains to wish you a good collecting season and we look forward to seeing you at the display of our new President, David Millar, on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Charles Lloyd*  
(Hon Secretary)

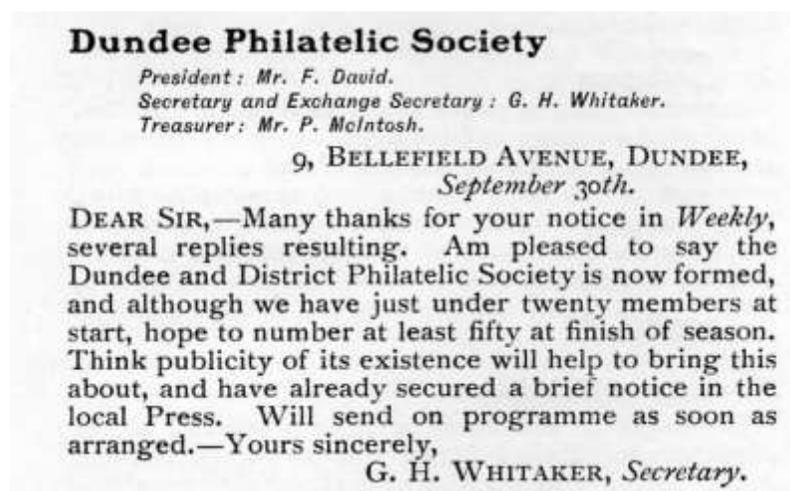
## A Short History of Dundee & District Philatelic Society David Easson

In the Gibbons Stamp Weekly, dated 23 September 1905, this letter appeared:



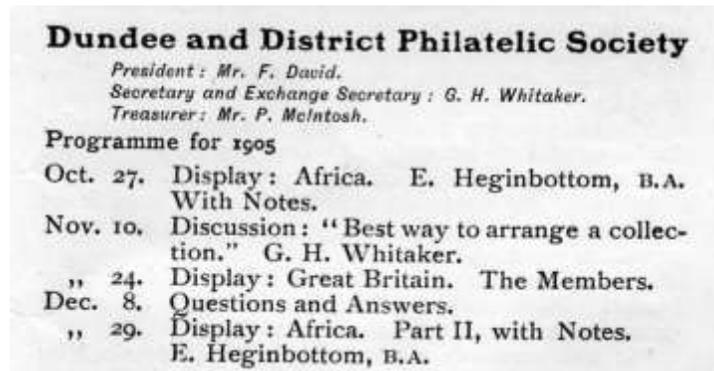
**Dundee Philatelic Society**  
DEAR SIR,—I am trying to start a Philatelic Society for Dundee and district. Will you kindly intimate in the *Weekly* that inquiries will be welcomed by  
Yours sincerely,  
G. H. WHITAKER  
(Member Sheffield Philatelic Society).  
9, BELLEFIELD AVENUE, DUNDEE,  
*September 9th.*

Five weeks later, 28 October 1905, another letter was published:



**Dundee Philatelic Society**  
*President: Mr. F. David.*  
*Secretary and Exchange Secretary: G. H. Whitaker.*  
*Treasurer: Mr. P. McIntosh.*  
9, BELLEFIELD AVENUE, DUNDEE,  
*September 30th.*  
DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for your notice in *Weekly*, several replies resulting. Am pleased to say the Dundee and District Philatelic Society is now formed, and although we have just under twenty members at start, hope to number at least fifty at finish of season. Think publicity of its existence will help to bring this about, and have already secured a brief notice in the local Press. Will send on programme as soon as arranged.—Yours sincerely,  
G. H. WHITAKER, *Secretary.*

Another week later, 4 November 1905, this appeared (note the name change!):



Clearly the will to forge ahead was there and so "our" first programme and "our" first officials were in place. Mr Whitaker was not only Secretary but Exchange Secretary as well. (As current Exchange Packet Secretary I wonder exactly what that entailed in those early days!)

But where did we meet? As far as we can tell from minutes we met in the rooms of William Hay & Son, "Restaurateurs & Confectioners", 47 Murraygate, which is part of the site now occupied by Marks & Spencer. At present the address of M&S is 41-43 Murraygate, but the same site between Horse Wynd and Peter Street had nos. 45 to 55 in the 1950's, so renumbering has clearly taken place. It would appear that we continued there at Hay's until 1923 when we set up an arrangement with the Dundee Art Society, which we have continued ever since. So we celebrate a centenary with them in about 6 years' time!

In the 1923-24 Dundee Directory we appear in the "Educational & Literary Institutions" section, being at 43 Nethergate (then home of the Art Society) which was a tenement roughly at the north-eastern side of the dual carriageway where West Marketgait crosses the Nethergate. We are still at that address in the 1939-40 edition but the following year, still with DAS, we have moved to 17 South Tay Street, which today is a solicitor's office opposite Tay Square and the Rep. This address continues until the 1948-49 edition, and then the next year we are with DAS in 17 Roseangle. Now actual dates for moving between premises have yet to be identified but we can say we have been in our current premises for around 67 years, which may be a Scottish Philatelic record! As I was taken as a small boy to a DDPS Junior Night in Roseangle c 1953 or 54, it seemed like a well-established place by that time, and to me a suitably "grand" edifice for such an important hobby.

## The Dundee Postage Due

### David Easson

A conference was held in 1912 to look at possible reforms to the system of "uncollected revenue" where mail was concerned. Out of this was born the idea of "Postage Due" labels.

Eventually four denominations were issued ½d, 1d, 2d and 5d, with printing starting around 17 March 1914 and the system beginning with the stamps / labels in use on 20 April. In 1915 a 1s value was added, and following that a 3d in 1918 and a 4d in 1920.

Then in 1921 a suggestion was made in Dundee about a need for a 1½d value:

In October 1921, J. J. Anderson, an Assistant Inspector in Dundee pointed out to the Dundee Postmaster that "As the minimum surcharge on all Foreign correspondence is now 1½d I would respectfully submit that a 1½d Postage due label be issued".

(Quote from p126 of *George V and the G. P. O. Stamps, Conflict and Creativity* by Douglas N Muir, 2010)

This suggestion was passed on to London and agreed, but with a certain amount of hesitation. It was unclear how long the rate would exist but as the total cost of producing 5000 sheets was only £35 it was decided to go ahead.



The colour followed that of the 1½d postage stamp (a chocolate brown made by Slater & Palmer). Essays were submitted on 11 August with the first stamps issued in December 1922. However at the UPU Congress in Stockholm in 1924 the minimum charge was reduced from 30 centimes (equivalent to 1½d) to only 10 centimes, coming into force on 1 October 1925. There was no further need of a 1½d value. In due course rates changed again and it reappeared in later issues. However Dundee had played a little part in the history of these labels, thanks to Mr Anderson.

## Annex

Seven members attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Dennis Collins which was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July. During a conversation at the service I discovered that Ron Goodfellow had written "An Appreciation of Dennis". It contains details of the Dennis' life outside philately as well his collecting interests. From his longstanding friendship, Ron has been able to write this well-informed article, which I could not have been able to do and I thank Ron for agreeing to it being published in the newsletter as an annex.

## Dennis - An Appreciation

Dennis was 87 when he died, his last year being blighted by cancer advancing throughout his body notwithstanding he was always positive and upbeat when you spoke to him. Several weeks ago when he went to sit down at his computer, he missed his footing and fell off the swivel chair. It turned out he had fractured his hip.

Whilst the ambulance personnel were attending to him, Elspeth had to put their dog, Becky into the kitchen as she was licking Dennis' face as he lay on the ground. Sadly Elspeth didn't get Dennis home from hospital and he died in Ninewells with his family around him.

Dennis' body was returned home the afternoon before the funeral and Becky didn't leave his side, sleeping beside the coffin that night. On the day of the funeral the heavens opened flooding the close family and friends at the graveside with its tears.

Dennis' childhood home was in the Magdalen Green area of the west end and as he went to the High School, he got on the train at Magdalen Green station to go into the West Station. Presumably his father who had a tailoring business in Whitehall Street accompanied him in the early years.

Having left school, he graduated from University as M.A. and LLB, later becoming a Writer to the Signet.

I first knew Dennis during my C.A. apprenticeship, which back then meant being indentured to a professional firm for five years, the third of which was spent at University. During the 1965/6 session, amongst many other subjects,

our lecturer for Trusts and Succession was one Dennis Collins. The experience was not a pleasant one as I found the subject terminally boring, so much so that I failed that particular exam. Fortunately that one mishap didn't hinder my progress and I was very happy to move on and leave that behind.

Qualifying in 1968, I had more time to myself and having had a strong interest in stamp collecting, I joined the Dundee & District Philatelic Society. As I sat there I froze when I saw that man again! After some awkward moments between lecturer and student in his company it dawned on me that we had become equals, fellow collectors, sharing an interest. This was the warmth of Dennis' friendship which has spanned nearly 50 years.

Dennis was the Society's longest serving member having initially applied to join the Society but told to go away until he was sixteen years old! Dennis became President in 1974 when Dundee hosted Congress which meant he was President of Congress that year and he asked me to give the Vote of Thanks at the conclusion of proceedings.

Dennis was a partner in the firm of Gilruth, Pollock and Smith in Whitehall Street and when H. & H.J. Carlton merged with GPS (they must have seen the way) David Gow became one of Dennis' fellow partners. The three of us would travel together to Congress, then at Stirling University and park the car at the very back of the campus with panoramic views of the Forth Valley and Stirling Castle. It was a scenic outlook as we consumed our picnic lunch in the car. Perhaps we shouldn't have left the wine glasses sitting on the dashboard, however.

Many of you will remember seeing items from his various collections displayed at the Society. His principal interest was China, both the Imperial Post and all the foreign postal agencies following the Boxer Wars. That collection was sold by Spinks in Hong Kong a good number of years ago. Another interest outside philately was the Sherlock Holmes Society and he and Elspeth attended several of their events one of which was to the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. This was convenient with his interest in Swiss hotel cachets, especially postcards written by internees living in hotels during World War One.

Another consuming interest for him was perfins. I once gave Dennis a stamp on piece with a bold Dundee postmark, the stamp having a perfin of SM above BP. Dennis didn't recognise it but it wasn't long before he came back to me and said it was from the Shell Mex and B.P. depot with the name of the manager at the time of the postmark! That was symptomatic of Dennis' other interest both philatelic and historical – Dundee. This culminated in his writing the book "A Gentleman's Residence" about Craigie House and its environs.

Dennis was erudite on many subjects and a loyal friend to many. We can remember his sometimes mickey taking comments delivered with a cheeky grin. It will be a long time if ever, I get used to Dennis not being with us.

Dennis Ferguson Collins remembered by his family – Elspeth, Ross and Catriona their son and daughter with their respective children Ally and Lucy, Fergus and Fiona together with faithful Becky.

*Ron Goodfellow*

- Proud to have known him.