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SEEOPS NEWS

Issue 1

June 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the first SEEOPS newsletter. It is six months now since we launched and as we will soon be taking our summer break from meetings, it seemed a good idea to get in touch more formally with our members. We are not sure what the frequency of the newsletters will be. Hopefully we will get into some sort of routine and three or four editions per year would seem about right, but it will depend on members, as it will be a newsletter for the members and by the members. That is a very subtle way of asking for letters, pictures or scans, questions and articles for future editions! We are grateful to our speakers whether from within the society or guests, who have willingly given their time to present to us and in some cases produce presentations specifically for SEEOPS displays. Work has started on our 2023 programme and already there have been offers of displays from within our ranks.

Please spread the word about SEEOPS as I know some of you have already been doing. Perhaps we can get to 50 members by the time we mark our first anniversary?

Where it all started

The South East England Online Philatelic Society, SEEOPS for short, was formally launched in mid-December 2021 and it is fair to say we haven't looked back since. The four founder members all thought that there would be good support for the Society, but I think it was with at least some trepidation that we started out. What if it had ended up with nobody else joining the four founder members? The adrenalin was running when Margaret Emerson launched the software for the first Zoom meeting on 4th January. Would anyone turn up?

There was a lot of work behind the scenes, as you can imagine, before the launch of SEEOPS which started with some initial conversations as far back as April 2021. We were pleased with the response of philatelists joining our ranks in the early days. Many of us became used to Zoom and other online meetings during the pandemic, but Zoom itself was new to Margaret, but it is easy to use and she is grateful to a philatelist who is now one of our members, who gave her an online

tutorial as it were, for another society. Zoom serves SEEOPS well and our online annual subscription is shared with the Civil Service Philatelic Society and we are grateful to them for that.

Meeting attendance varies between the morning and evening meetings, as you would expect, in some cases due to work or other activities, but there has not been a single meeting where any of us would have said. 'Why did we bother?' or felt that we had embarrassed a guest speaker with low attendance.

We said from the outset that we were not setting ourselves up in competition with any other philatelic society, postcard club or postal history group but just offering another medium to enjoy our hobby in its many diverse forms.

Publicity in philatelic magazines and by the ABPS has put our message out there. A small grant was made to the society as we started out and we would like to express our thanks to John Davies, one of our members, who although not able to join us online, made a donation to the new society to support us and the hobby. John has been made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his generous gesture and he has given permission to use articles that he has provided for the Civil Service PS in any of our newsletters, as that is not a copyrighted publication,

Membership for 2022 was set at £10 and will continue but the committee has decided that anyone joining from June 2022 will only pay half, this allows us to keep our subscription year as January to December for all members to save on administration.

The rest of the year

Our programme for the rest of 2022 is below for information in case you have lost the original email. The Tuesday morning meetings are 10.15 for 10.30am and the Friday evening meetings are 7.15 for 7.30pm. This seems to be working well and these days and times were selected to avoid a clash with other societies in Kent, although we have spread far and wide since then.

17 th June 2022	19.30	Sealing and securing the letter.	Stewart Gardiner
5 th July 2022	10.30	The Importance of Ships of the Falkland Islands.	David Mountfort
Summer Break		Only a.m. meeting in July, nothing in August.	
6 th September 2022	10.30	K.U.T.: 1890 to 1948. Flaws and Varieties.	Roger Gilbert
16 th September 2022	19.30	G.B. Railway Letter Stamps.	Vyonne Wheatley
4 th October 2022	10.30	Fackellauf: The Olympic Touch Run of the 1972 Olympic Games	Keith Burton
21 st October 2022	19.30	Smithy - The life of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith. 1897-1935.	Susan Burn
1 st November 2022	10.30	South American Topics.	Janet and Nick Nelson - TBC
18 th November 2022	19.30	Newfoundland	Brian Stalker
6 th December 2022	10.30	One of the Shahs - TBC.	Nigel Gooch
16 th December 2022	19.30	Christmas.	Julian Bagwell

The meetings we have held so far

Our first meeting consisted of four short displays by the founder members, after brief introductions. Our first guest speaker was Gerald Marriner with an excellent display of Channel islands Destination Mail. In February we welcomed Tony Davis, one of our members, to give a display on Nelson consisting of postcards, some historical records, maps and some stamp issues. After a break for London 2022, Tony Bosworth, also a member, gave us a display about Coronel and the Battle of the Falklands in WWI keeping the naval and historical theme going. Cyprus from 1878 to Independence came next in March with James Wigmore and then Lindy Bosworth another member, took to the air with her display of Czech Airmails. We took a break on Good Friday but resumed on 3rd May with a display by the Chair and Secretary, Margaret Emerson, entitled the 1953-54 Coronation Tour and this was followed by Stamps and a few covers from the Cook Islands on 20th May with George Henshilwood and Military Mail in the Middle East 1799 to 1918 with Jamie Smith.

Assistance required

We would like to have a website for the society and so if anybody has any experience of producing a website, please get in touch with the secretary and matters can be discussed. We have already had an offer to setup a Facebook closed group.

Stamp News

SEEOPS started meetings in 2022 and another milestone as far as British stamps is concerned is the launch of the so called Barcoded Machins. We all have our own views about them and personally I think they have ruined an iconic stamp with the barcode slapped on the side. Perhaps this is a way of getting a topic going for another newsletter?

The Machin stamp of course came into use in 1967 in the days of pounds, shillings and pence replacing the Wilding definitive series which was the first for Queen Elizabeth II. The Machin was adapted for the conversion to decimal currency. The Queen's head has remained the same although there have been very many variations in colour, as postal rates have changed and there were the double heads to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Penny Black in 1990, which featured an image of Queen Victoria and the Machin Head of Queen Elizabeth II. Security slits, background security printing, gummed stamps, self-adhesive versions and elliptical perforations have all featured in the history of the stamp.

The new first and second class and first and second class large stamps are bigger versions of the stamps they replace, with the barcode at the side. Cancelling machines have had to be adapted, otherwise a heavy cancel obliterates the barcode, which really defeats the object of having it attached to the stamp at all. They are officially known as barcoded stamps and are described that way on posters in Post Offices, but really the addition on the right side is a data matrix code and each one is unique. Royal Mail claim they have reinvented the stamp, but other countries got there first, Canada, Germany and France to name three. The data matrix is also supposed to contain a video clip of Shaun the Sheep, so has anyone tried viewing it?

The bar codes or data matrix codes are designed to speed the mail up and probably prevent re-use of a stamp, but at the moment there are no plans to add barcodes to commemorative stamps, although I suppose it's true to say that you don't see that many on your mail, well at least current issues.

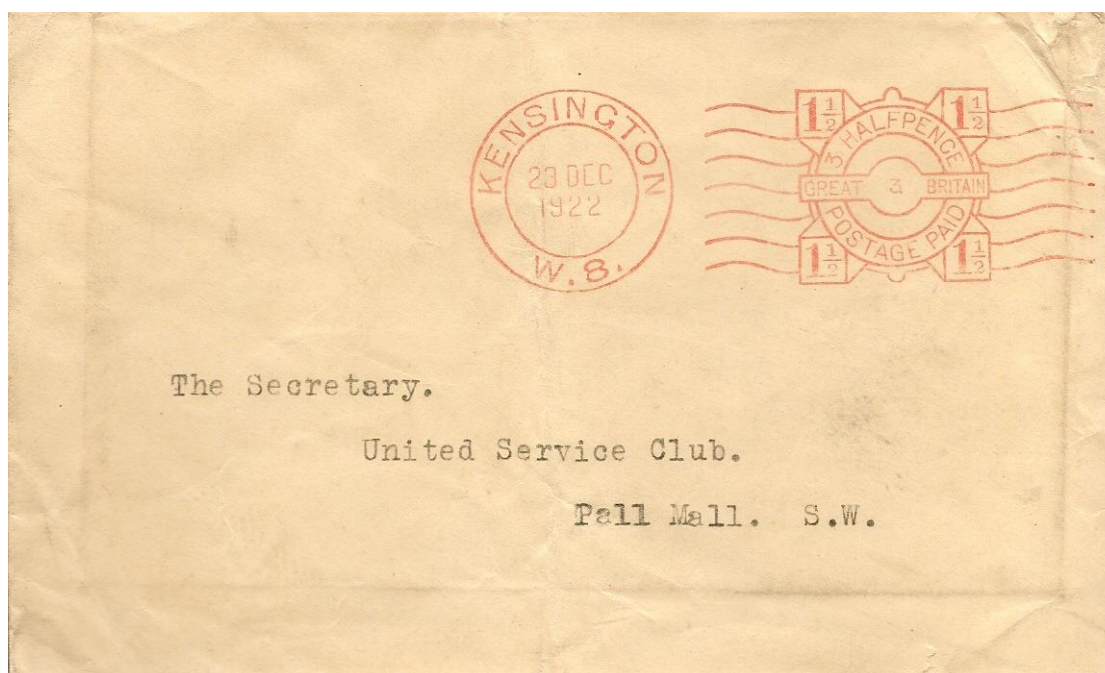
Christmas 2021 saw the first stamps with the codes and the regular definitives followed this year. A number of other stamp values were issued on 4th April ranging from 1p to £5 but how many will be seen on mail? Examples are shown below of the 1p, 2p, 20p and 50p values. Also in this design are 5p, 10p, 20p, £1, £2, £3 and £5 values. The £1.85, £2.55, £3.25 and £4.20 values are available in the same design style as the regular 1st and 2nd Class. These higher values are the Letter Europe Zones 1, 2 and 3 rate up to 100g and the Worldwide rate to 20g, the Letter World Zones 1,2 and 3 rate to 100g, the Large Letter Europe Zones 1, 2 and 3 rate and Large Letter World Zones 1, 2 and 3 rate.

Margaret Emerson



100 years old

The meter mark is 100 years old this year and was first seen on GB mail in September 1922. The example below is from 23rd December 1922 and the earliest example that our Secretary has so far.



The following is an extract from an article written by John Davies concerning anniversaries in 2022 and it first appeared in The Bulletin of the Civil Service Philatelic Society (CSPS) in February 2022. John talks firstly about a possible stamp issue that could have been made in 2022 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Ernest Shackleton, he died on the 5th January 1922 and then continues:

The second important anniversary (in 2022) is the centenary of the introduction of postage meter frank machines on the 5th September 1922. The first type was made by Pitney-Bowes. One of the

earliest users of such machines was the Prudential Assurance Company, which had a head office in London's High Holborn. Although Pitney-Bowes was an American manufacturer, Britain began to manufacture its own types such as the Universal multi-value which was an electric machine. The hand operated types were also made which were the Universal 'Simplex' which had limited values and an Universal 'Simplex' for parcel post tape. Also made in Britain was the Neopost machine and this too had limited values.

Over a period of time slogans were added and a change of 'stamp' design appeared in 1925 showing the Royal cypher. It might be worth noting that all the value indicated impressions all have the words Great Britain. It has been a custom in Great Britain for postage stamps not to bear the country of origin as a mark of respect to the fact that Britain introduced the postage stamp payment system and that the portrait of the monarch was sufficient. As meter post impressions do not have the royal portrait Great Britain was incorporated to comply with the rules. However, it must be said that certain other stamps don't carry the country's name, such as Postage Dues which are for internal usage.

Apart from machines used under license by firms, the General Post Office used counter machines for parcel post. Their design was totally different and omits the words Great Britain.
John Davies

Postmarks and Postal History

John Davies would like some information about the postmark that is shown below. He writes, I have come across an unaddressed cover bearing a 10p stamp cancelled by an exhibition postmark for the 50th anniversary of the PUC held in Warwick. Does any Member have details as to how long the exhibition was held and what do the initials NPC mean? Any information would be welcome.'

The mark is illustrated below.



The 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V

The 1935 Silver Jubilee was a first in terms of stamps across the British Empire as an omnibus issue was made for the first time. This idea has continued for royal commemoratives since that date. Stamps were issued in Great Britain and then the across 59 other countries, territories and British Protectorates. That number is only counting the Morocco Agencies once, when in actual fact there were four issues with British, Spanish and French currency as well as for use in Tangier.

The omnibus stamp issued across a number of countries in the British Empire consisted of a central image of Windsor Castle which was designed by Harold Fleury and was printed using the

recess method. Three of the major stamp printing firms were involved and there has been extensive study of the stamps and even today new varieties come to light. The three printers were Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co, Waterlow and Sons and De la Rue and Co and they printed, 15, 15 and 14 different country stamps respectively. The stamps were produced in two processes, a central vignette or centre plate depicting Windsor Castle and an individual frame plate for each value and country or territory. The dies were all produced by Waterlow.

While there are some varieties on the frame plates, the majority of the varieties and the associated research concerns the centre plate. There are a number of prominent plate flaws including an extra flagstaff to the right of the tower at Windsor Castle, the short extra flag staff which is to the left of the flag pole on the main tower, the so called lightning conductor error, the flagstaff on the right hand turret and a double flagstaff. All these varieties can be found on sheets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. There are other varieties on the De la Rue sheets and these include a diagonal line by the turret, a dot to the left of the chapel, a dot by the flagstaff and a dash by the turret. With the Waterlow printings the varieties are a damaged turret, the so called kite and vertical log flaw, which appears to the left of the design, the kite and horizontal log flaw and the bird by the turret. Two of the more obvious varieties are shown below.



Bird by turret variety on this Bermuda 1½ d issue (Waterlow)



Extra flagstaff variety on Malta ½ d issue (Bradbury Wilkinson)

The GB issue consisted of four values, ½d, 1d, 1½ d and 2½ d. The examples below have been overprinted for use in the Morroco Agencies and show the value in Spanish currency, centimes.

Note that the overprint is in red on the 2½ d value. The stamps were engraved by J A C Harrison and printed in recess by Waterlow.



In Australia King George V was depicted riding his horse called Anzac on 2d, 3d and 2/- values with a jubilee description as part of the design and these are shown below. The stamps were designed and engraved by F D Manley and recess printed by John Ash.



Nauru overprinted the first series issued under the Australian Mandate, which was first issued in 1924, with the wording 'His Majesty's Jubilee 1910-1935'.



Canada issued a very fine set of 6 stamps and the 3d value as an imprint block is shown below. The King is depicted here with Queen Mary and the year dates 1910 and 1935 appear to left and right. The inscription in the margin reads 'Canadian Bank Note Co, Ottawa', the printers, and the recess method was used.



The imprint plate block from New Zealand of the 1d value shown overleaf also depicts the King and Queen with the year dates in the top left and right hand corners and the words 'silver jubilee'

between the images. This is from plate 4 as shown in the bottom margin and the wording in the margin tells us the printer's name, Bradbury Wilkinson and Co Ltd Engravers New Malden Surrey England.



Other smaller territories of the British Empire overprinted existing stamps and examples from the Cook Islands and Samoa are shown below. The Cook Islands 2½ d value below left, issued originally in 1932, has the variety a narrow first 'E' in George in the right hand stamps. This variety only occurs on this value but there are other varieties on the 1d and 6d values. The overprint as you can see is in red.



Normal first E in George to the left and the narrow variety to the right.



The stamps themselves have a number of flaws and some are not listed by Stanley Gibbons as they are deemed to be from printer's waste.



The example above right has the Penny error for Penny in the value tablet at the base, which comes from the top right stamp in the illustrated block to the left.

The Samoa stamps were first issued in 1921 and so some 14 years after being first issued they were overprinted for the Silver Jubilee. The wording reads 'Silver Jubilee of King George V 1910 – 1935'.



New Guinea also overprinted two existing stamps, the 1d and 2d, with a two line overprint placed in the lower half of the stamp, clear of the value tablets. The stamps were printed in recess by John Ash in Melbourne and came from a longer set of 16 stamps.



Papua also overprinted an earlier issue as shown below. There are two settings for the overprint and on the 2d value it appears at the base of the stamp over 3 lines, presumably not to cover the value tablet, whereas in the 1d, 3d and 5d values the overprint is over two lines but widely spaced, as the value tablet is in the two bottom corners of the stamps. The 2d overprint is of the same style as used on the New Guinea stamps above. The stamps came from a longer set first issued in 1932.



South Africa issued a set of 4 stamps all of the same design by J Booyesen and these are inscribed bi-lingually in English and Afrikaans and the stamps alternate across the sheet with South Africa at the top or at the bottom of the design. The values are ½ d, 1d, 3d and 6d. Silver Jubilee is written either side of the King's head, one side in English and again to the other in Afrikaans. On the ½ d, 3d and 6d where South Africa is at the top of the stamp, Silver Jubilee is to the left of the King and on the 1d it is to the right. The English and Afrikaans inscriptions are reversed in alternate stamps, so pairs are always needed when collecting these and other South Africa issues. The wording in the value tablets is also bi-lingual, Postage and Revenue or Posseel and Inkomste on the ½ d and 1d values and Postage or Posseel on the 3d and 6d.



Margaret Emerson

Founder Members

Professor Paul Davey (Treasurer), Margaret Emerson (Chair and Secretary), Dawn Johnson, Michael Thompson (Deputy Treasurer).

These can all be contacted using the Society email address seeonlineps@gmail.com which is monitored by the Secretary.