

THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President's Report

Chris Harman, RDP, Hon.FRPSL

This last year has been notable for a number of things. We have had the successful London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition in February 2022, postponed from May 2020. The Grand Prix National at London 2022 was won by past President Howard Hughes FRPSL and the GBPS website (built and managed by Maurice Buxton FRPSL) received the only large gold medal awarded for a website, for this amazing Society resource that continues to grow in its range of information.

At long last, life has been getting back to normal following much of the world being locked up and we are back to holding physical meetings. Numbers attending in person at the meetings at The Royal Philatelic Society have been disappointing; I think that people have not yet got back into the habit of participating in the way that they used to. I would encourage as many members as possible to attend in person. You will see some wonderful material – much more than you will see via Zoom – and have the opportunity to chat to other members. This offers so much more than you can achieve from attending only by Zoom.

The Society Officers, Council members and Consultants continue to offer the membership top class services, whether it be The GB Journal, the Newsletter, the displays, the competitions, or information and advice on material. I would like to thank all of them on behalf of the membership for the considerable efforts and devotion that they give to the smooth running of the Society.

I will only select two of the members for particular comment. Thanks are due to Chris George, the new editor of the Newsletter. The change has gone without a hitch and the Newsletter remains the same high quality that has been achieved in the past. The other person that deserves particular mention is our Honorary Secretary, Phil Waud FRPSL. The role of the Honorary Secretary is really to act as the glue that holds together all the varied functions of the Society. This Phil has done with efficiency and good humour now for the last six years, as well as being an active participant in displays and competitions. One of the privileges of the President is the awarding of the Harry Dagnall Thank You Award, given to a person who has made a significant contribution to the Society. For this year I have no hesitation in awarding this to Phil Waud as recognition of his major efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the Society. Thank you Phil.

As I retire as your President, I see a Society that is in very good hands and wish Peter Lister FRPSL, my successor, every success in a most rewarding role.

Society Services

Programme Secretary (Andy Donaldson FRPSL)

It gives me great pleasure to say that, unlike last season we have held a full programme of meetings this season. Hopefully, we will be able to do the same this coming season.

Following a number of successful PowerPoint/Zoom virtual meetings during lockdown we decided to make these a permanent feature of the programme with two or more a year. In December we had a very enjoyable round of Members' Displays on a Christmas/humorous theme and another will take place next month (Saturday 16 July 2:00pm-3:00pm with Chris Hibbert entertaining us on the subject of "Additional Strikes of the Maltese Cross").

Our Saturday all-day meetings recommenced with numbers attending picking up as the season progressed to near pre-pandemic numbers, which was heartening to see. To complement the traditional two-laydown physical display meetings we have also started holding meetings that are part PowerPoint/Zoom and part physical display. Each meeting of this type starts with a PowerPoint presentation to those attending the meeting at the Royal (while simultaneously broadcast over Zoom for those unable to attend in person) followed by a single laydown of material for those present to feast their eyes upon. These are proving very popular with both members and those invited to give displays.

Aside from our usual meetings this season we also had a joint meeting with “The Collectors Club” (CCNY) in October where a number of GBPS members gave presentations (once again over Zoom).

Looking forward to this coming season, for our Saturday all-day meetings at the Royal, we have an almost 50/50 split between purely traditional displays and the new split PowerPoint/traditional format. We also have two Zoom only displays (in December and July) and our regular twice-yearly evening receptions at Stanley Gibbons (in mid-December and mid-August). Hopefully you will find it an interesting and varied programme with something for everybody.

Additionally, the GBPS have been invited to display at a Royal Philatelic Society (RPSL) meeting on Thursday 1 December 2022. You will already have seen advanced notice of this in the Newsletter. If you wish to take part, and haven't done so already, *please email to offer a frame of material for the display*:

Meeting Manager, David Griffin, via meetings@gbps.org.uk or ring David on 07450 113084

Please provide your full name and contact details (email/phone), the subject of your proposed frame and the period it covers (pre-stamp, QV, etc. if not obvious from the subject).

As you will know, due to work commitments, Steve Teuma had to stand down from his role as Meeting Manager back in January but the GBPS Council were delighted that David Griffin agreed to take over the role. My thanks go to both gentlemen as their individual contributions have taken a not inconsiderable load off my shoulders.

As always, please see the GBPS website for all the latest information on the programme, as any late changes will be shown there. Those without internet access can of course call me on 020 8542 4226 for an update on any upcoming GBPS meeting.

I would just like to close the report with my usual requests - *If you have a GB display of your own or know of one that you think the GBPS membership would like to see please let me know.* Remember, this can now be a short Zoom/PowerPoint only display, a combined Zoom/PowerPoint and physical display or the traditional two-lay down display - the choice is yours.

In addition, if any member is willing and able to help arrange a regional meeting at a stamp show/fair in your area then please get in touch.

I can be contacted via programme@gbps.org.uk or on 020 8542 4226.

Editor of The GB Journal & Publications (Production) (Mike Jackson FRPSL)

No serious issues, so this is virtually a repeat of last year's report. The Journal continues to receive good articles; and Pardy & Son continues to do an excellent job of printing and distribution. I keep the mailing list database up to date following Ian Harvey's regular updates; supply Pardy with mailing label files (slightly differently now because Royal Mail insists on a spread sheet format for overseas addresses); I typeset the Programme Card and various forms; and I typeset and printed certificates for the last two years' Annual Competitions which are ready for distribution later in the year.

On the publications side, the Irish Spoons by Russell Taylor and John Deegan is in the pipeline, as is a stand-alone booklet by Ian Harvey on Booklet Pre-Cancellations. The History of the Penny Lilac by Bob Galland, Karl Louis, Peter Young and Ian Harvey is destined to be published early next year.

Our Newsletter Editor Chris George is making my task of typesetting the Newsletter as easy as possible. Thanks as ever to Ray Simpson for proofreading and editorial help; Ian Harvey for general publication advice; Howard Hughes for dealing with the advertisers; and the advertisers themselves for continuing to support the Society through their advertisements and of course our authors.

Both the Newsletter and Journal rely on contributions from members so please do not stop submitting material for publication! I look forward to your future contributions at mike@mjpublications.com

Editor of The GBPS Newsletter (Chris George)

The Newsletter has continued to appear regularly and there have been no specific production problems. The hugely attractive appearance of the Newsletter is entirely down to the professionalism and artistic skill of Mike Jackson FRPSL and the lack of errors are down to Ray Simpson FRPSL for his meticulous help with proofreading. Pardy and Son have continued to do an excellent job of printing and distribution.

In 2020 my predecessor Paul Ramsay FRPSL reported that the average size of the Newsletter was 36 pages. In my time as Editor that average has dropped a little to 34 pages (for printing reasons each individual edition must have a total number pages that is a multiple of four i.e. 28, 32, 36 or 40). Maintaining the Newsletter at a good size is crucially dependent upon the material that is received. I am immensely grateful to all those members who have prepared letters, short notes and articles. I have to thank two Council members who regularly supply me with articles and little fillers, Maurice Buxton FRPSL and Ian Harvey FRPSL. I do not know how they find the time and the energy!

Thanks also to Andy Donaldson FRPSL and John Davies FRPSL and the rest of Council for providing information on future meetings and news on relevant outside meetings and events. I must also thank Howard Hughes FRPSL who has been a great source of support whenever I have had a problem.

Reports and write-ups of GBPS meetings and presentations form the bulk of the Newsletter and without them it would be a much slimmer and less interesting publication. Preparing these reports requires concentration and time and I thank everybody who has contributed.

We are approaching the 400th Edition of the Newsletter and I am hoping that this will be a bumper edition. I have been seeking member's philatelic reminiscences in the last few editions of the Newsletter and I will edit these for inclusion in that edition.

I look forward to your future contributions at newsletter@gbps.org.uk

Website Manager (Maurice Buxton FRPSL)

Before going into detail on the developments of the website this year, the most striking piece of news was that it was awarded a Large Gold medal and Best in Class for "Digital Literature" at the London 2022 international. Why yes, this is bragging, but why not?

Anyway, back to the regular beat. The website has been updated on a fairly regular basis over the year (although with some lacunae, due to frantically preparing my decimalisation display to the GBPS in November and a postal history entry for London 2022) – with new downloads, meeting videos, and displays added as they became available. The latter in particular (<https://www.gbps.org.uk/displays>) contained a lot of new material for fans of Four Kings commemorative material to dig into, with a series of displays from David Ogden on the 1924-25 British Empire Exhibition and from Robin Restall on the 1937 Coronation stamp.

New or revised sections include a "first cut" listing of Forces rates (<https://www.gbps.org.uk/rates/forces> – additional information very much welcomed here), and extended versions of the Plating Tool (<https://www.gbps.org.uk/plating> – which now allows you to enter pixel measurements directly instead of using the E-Gauge or indeed the original plastic one) and the Postal Mechanisation Tools (<https://www.gbps.org.uk/tools/mechanisation> – which now have a listing of the outward codes c.1970-95, together with some notes on how they worked).

The listings of Post Office Warrants (<https://www.gbps.org.uk/po-warrants>) have been substantially extended, with thanks to John Copeland who discovered sources of Government documents on Google Books, which included them. The individual Warrants – over 180 of them – have been extracted and listed for download, achieving the goal of linking up with the listings of the earlier Treasury Warrants for both inland mail and regular overseas mail. (There is however one batch of overseas parcel post warrants still to come!)

Finally, among the routine queries arriving at the site email address (website@gbps.org.uk), there was as usual a few more offbeat ones. An art historian from Harvard was working on an essay on the ways American printers protested the 1765 Stamp Act – not with words, but with acts depending on a technical knowledge of printing – and wanted to reproduce a figure from a GBPS book, Chandler and Dagnall's 1981 volume *The Newspaper & Almanac Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland* (permission of course granted). A postcard collector wanted help in identifying the town of a postmark (Scottish rather than the suggested Penzance!), and a chap running a website for a Cambridgeshire village asked for background on the "Post Offices by County" listing as he was putting together a page on its former post office.

A French correspondent wrote looking for information on the British unit his grandfather was attached to – he had two envelopes from him with a GB FPO cancel, and had come across a reference to it in Ingo Egerlandt's display of BEF postmarks of 1939-40. Ingo was able to help him pin it down – he was liaison officer in the 159th Welsh Field Ambulance which belonged to III Corps Headquarters in Bethune, then moved to Caestre, fought and was finally evacuated under enemy fire at Dunkirk. He arrived in Great Britain and was accommodated in Tidworth Camp, Aliwal Barracks in Hampshire.

Site updates are noted at <https://www.gbps.org.uk/updates> when made.

The GB Journal Advertising Manager (Howard Hughes FRPSL)

We have had another successful year with dealers taking up all the available space in the GBJ. Whilst this offers an unparalleled opportunity to reach almost a thousand GB collectors, it is also considerably appreciated by our society as it enables subscriptions to be kept at an artificially low level. With this in mind, I would encourage members to patronise our advertisers who are supporting GB philately in general and our Society in particular.

For any advertising queries, please contact me at advertising@gbps.org.uk

Publicity (John Davies FRPSL)

Regular Press Releases have resulted in reports about future and past meetings in the philatelic press. Our programme of meetings is listed on the ABPS website Calendar of Events. We are also featured on the "All About Stamps" website and we have appeared regularly in the Philatelic Register email newsletters. Successes in the London 2022 International Exhibition also produced news about GBPS members including a Large Gold Medal and Best in Class for the GBPS website.

Social Media has allowed us to produce regular updates from the website on Facebook and Twitter. Sadly, Alasdair McIntosh is standing down from the role of

Social Media Manager - *we would welcome offers of help from members.*

If you'd like some Society publicity info to give another organisation, please contact publicity@gbps.org.uk

Librarians (Matthew and Cheryl Toomey)

The library continues to grow both digitally and in hard copy. We have continued interest from members asking for support with their research, making requests to borrow books and requesting digital copies of material.

There have been a number of recent additions to the library, uploaded periodically to the website.

We would welcome copies of any new books for review and inclusion in the library and donations would be greatly appreciated.

Library Loans

Articles in The British Philatelist, various regional postal history publications (which the library holds) and from the SG Archive disc have been forwarded to members as PDFs. Appropriate links were provided to enable download of documents. Book loans have continued to be popular from the extensive **GBPS Library List** which is shown on the website.

Sale of Duplicate Library Items

This list continues in the **Trading Forums** on the website shown under Miscellaneous. There is a credit balance of £150.75 from the sale of duplicate library items.

Journals Received

We continue to receive copies of the following journals:

The Overprinter, The Perfin Society Journal, MBP Circle Newsletter, FgGB (Germany)

Supporting GBPS Members' Research

To give you a flavour of the varied support we give, scans from numerous journals and books including British Philatelist articles, Kearsley Seahorses, Victorian postage stamps on cover, The GB Journal, Bacon's 1936 Line Engraved book, 1879-80 Tender Essays, the Philatelist and PJGB were emailed to members.

Email request regarding Richard Arundel's classification of Scottish duplexes. ***Can anyone provide some insight?***

Request from USA - Excelsior (Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society) for information on Postmasters operating offices in British North America, specific interest was in John Duncan (1722-1791) who was Postmaster at Schenectady, New York, April 1763. We received a copy of Excelsior containing the resultant article.

The library does not always hold copy to answer some requests. However we were able to assist from our personal library.

Library was offered copies of Philatelic Bulletins.

If any members would like us to try to obtain copies or runs of other journals to add to the library list we would be delighted to hear from them. If any Societies who have recently **digitised their journals would be prepared to allow the GBPS to hold a copy for reference**, on behalf of GBPS members, these would be most gratefully received.

We would like to repeat **our appeal for scans or PDF copies of any regional Postal History publications** which would help our members with their broader research.

New Additions and Books Wanted for the Library are listed separately in the newsletter.

Your librarians will be pleased to hear from you library@gbps.org.uk

Competition Secretary

All the entries can be viewed at <https://www.gbbs.org.uk/displays/competition-entries-2022.php>

The video at <https://youtu.be/TnJ4wxtNeoo>

Robin Cassell has held this position for many years but has now stood down. He will be missed and the Society is very grateful for his enthusiasm and dedication to the role.

The meeting was held at the RPSL in Abchurch Lane and was also on Zoom. It was well attended in the room and continues to be one of our most entertaining events. Many thanks to Chris Harman and Graham Winters for their expert judging and for providing detailed and constructive feedback on each exhibit. Undoubtedly this helps one understand more what the judges are looking for when we enter Competitions - the conclusion would seem to be thinking like a judge and you will score more points. The entries were all posted on the website and huge credit goes to Maurice for organising this.

The **R.A.G. Lee Cup** was again a very close contest and the winner was **Chris Symonds** with 93 points for *The Victorian 5s Postage Stamps 1867-1901*. There were six entries including Kevin Maunder with *1d Black Plate 5 Repairs; British Empire Exhibition - A Study of the 1924 Stamps with Sheet Serial Numbers* by David Ogden; *Lilacs and Greens 1883/4* by John Roe; *Railway Pre-Paid Newspaper, Parcel and Railway Letter Stamps (Pre 1923)* by James Muldoon and *The Wales 1st Class Dragon Definitive Since 1999* by Mike Mood.

The **Martin Willcocks Award**, for an entry of postal history, also attracted six entries and was won by **Phil Waud** for *Post in the Jubilee Years 1887-1902*. Dave Russum entered *15 Decades of Mail from Britain to Canada; British Empire Exhibition Registered Mail* by David Ogden; *Queen Victoria Jubilee Stamps on Cover* by Stephen Teuma and *Various Aspects of the Maltese Cross Obliterator* by Mike Jackson.

Duncan Barber's *Britons Adjust to Decimal Postage* addressed an interesting period in GB postal history. It was praised for its plan and very good covers. The judges felt it to be an exhibit worth developing and awarded Duncan the **Secretaries' Cup**.

The **Theo Jones Open Class Salver** was won by **Maurice Buxton** with *The Pools and the Post*. Other entries, all very different, were Mike Mood's *Celebrating the First UK Aerial Post* and Stephen Teuma's *The Jubilee Exhibitions of 1890*.

The award for an entry on any philatelic subject by a member who has not received any previous award in competitive philately is the **MacPherson Cup** and this year was won by **Graham Wylde** for *One Penny Plate 1*.

The competitions rules are being reviewed and there will be changes in time for next year. It is worth noting that the event is moving to March and entries will be welcomed from all including overseas members each year.

We are delighted that **Stephen Teuma has now taken over** this important post to organise and coordinate your entries.

If you have any queries, please contact Stephen at competitions@gbbs.org.uk

Membership Secretary (Team at Bill Barrell)

Victoria has stepped down after holding this post since 2017 and now the team at Bill Barrell Ltd. with Linda and Sam are attending to your requirements.

As will have been seen from the Accounts, membership increased to 910 from 865, a net increase of 45. We are pleased and sorry, in equal measure, to say that part of this is due to increased leisure time during 2021. Whilst such time may have enthused collectors to browse the excellent Society website and appreciate the large amounts of information available to those joining the Society.

The numbers and location of the 96 new members was 66 UK, 11 Europe and 17 rest of the world plus two members re-joining. The 51 members leaving the Society include many philatelic “retirements” and represent a usual annual number.

If any members require past copies of The GB Journal (or Newsletter) to show philatelic friends or to leave at society meetings please get in touch. There are always small surpluses for such purposes.

Membership queries can be contacted as usual at membership@gbps.org.uk

Consultants

Postal History (Michael Lockton FRPSL)

It has been a quiet year with queries mainly coming from New Members. With the lack of Stamp Fairs there seems to have been a lower level of turnover in Postal History material than in previous years. Of course it may mean that Members are becoming more knowledgeable and the use Members are making of Maurice Buxton’s excellent Website.

I have been the Society’s Postal History Consultant since the introduction of Consultants in 1980 and feel it is time that I handed the baton over to a younger member. In the last 42 years, I have answered many queries and encouraged members to continue their own research. All stamps are issued for the purpose of pre-paying postage and it is the excitement of their use that makes Postal History such an intriguing subject. I hope Postal Historians of the future will continue to find it so.

Your **Society welcomes offers to help as the new Postal History Consultant** to continue this service.

Queen Victoria – Line Engraved (Mike Williams FRPSL)

Queries continued to arrive at a healthy rate during 2021, although not quite at the same exceptional level as 2020. Several were from our newer members, and it is heartening, for me at least, to see that a good proportion of them collect the Line Engraved stamps. These issues continue to produce a flow of fascinating new finds.

One area where there is a steady flow of new records is in the list of earliest recorded dates of use (ERDU’s) of the plates, where a comprehensive plate-by-plate listing is now available free online for reference by all. It is updated regularly for new finds. Most of these finds are now being found among the less-studied ‘perforated Stars’, where different printings, watermarks and perforations add to the range of factors to be looked at, but the imperforate issues still occasionally come up with new records.

The other area where finds are regularly made is that of plate repairs. Again, most of the finds are being made in the less well studied perforated issues; in recent years, repairs have been reported that show that a couple of the later Die I plates occur in four states while a second Die II plate has been recorded in three states. I am sure that there is much still to be found in this area of study. The 2020 ‘SG Specialised’ catalogue is already behind the curve in this subject, even though much new information on plate repairs was added to that edition. The revised listings in that catalogue have now been assimilated by most collectors and dealers, and they seem to now be well understood.

Next, a ‘plug’ for the ‘Plate Number’ issues. I think that, when compared with the imperforate and perforated ‘Stars’, the four values of the humble ‘Plate Number’ series are still much under-researched, and would repay study, even at this comparatively late date.

Finally, I wish you all ‘good hunting’. And, whether you have been collecting for weeks, years or decades, if you find something new, let us know about it!

Mike’s contact is lineengraved@gbps.org.uk

Queen Victoria – Surface Printed (Peter Young FRPSL)

This year has been the quietest year for questions and requirements from members in a long while, although it is encouraging to see four new members corresponding. Otherwise there were a couple regarding postal marks that were past to the relevant consultant, a few on De La Rue's printing methods, and a few on 'fly spots'. The correspondence has, surprisingly, increased in February & March, perhaps suggesting that members had spent much of the year preparing their frames for the London International.

Again the myth of re-engraved, re-cut, or 'repaired' letterpress plates has reared its ugly head on two occasions - and in The GB Journal of all places! Can I shout very, very loudly, please, that before 1900, De La Rue did NOT re-cut any of the very, very thin plates. Their only method of repair was by substituting units and resurfacing. Any darker irregular ridge down a frame line is simply the result of rust or an accretion of ink and poor cleaning.

On the other hand, this has been the year when more than a dozen members with interests in the letterpress issues from 1880 to 1900 have been intensely involved in preparing a lot of work writing new sections and new introductions to old sections, updating the varieties, providing illustrations, and correcting previous details, explanations or errors, etc. for a new catalogue for Stanley Gibbons. It will be interesting to see the result of this 'labour of love'.

Please forward your questions to Peter at surfaceprinted@gbps.org.uk

King Edward VII (Alan Vaughan)

There have been few enquiries this year. These have concerned various plate varieties on the three-halfpence and two-pence and about the scarcity of listed flaws on the two and a halfpence. There was an enquiry about the Dickinson paper six-pence which is a genuinely scarce stamp that you really need to see in order to become confident with identification. Incidentally although both shades are priced the same the dull purple shade seems to be distinctly scarcer. Deeper shades are also scarcer.

I have had interesting conversations with other collectors about fluorescence and its detection and particularly about the (misnamed) golden-brown fluorescence, which is anything but golden, being more a weak brown. There are so many UV lamps on the market that I cannot make an informed recommendation. I usually suggest buying the 'money-detector' type lamps that have a black tube for long-wave UV. I am lucky that the lamp I made myself 48 years ago is still going well with its original tube. Another recommendation is that the tiny key-ring UV lights give out enough long-wave UV to be useful when looking at dealers' stamps.

Please forward your questions to Alan at kevii@gbps.org.uk

King George V (Allan B. Jones FRPSL)

The number of enquiries this year has been fewer than last year, and amounted to no more than 5 or 6 covering a wide range of subjects.

Please forward your questions to Allan at kqv@gbps.org.uk

King Edward VIII (Barry Stagg)

There have only been two enquires from members this year, both of which were answered. One concerned insured mail and the other requested an opinion on coil perforations. I'm always happy to try and answer your questions so please don't hesitate to ask.

Please forward your on-going questions to Barry at keviii@gbps.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth II - Pre-decimal Issues (Ian Harvey FRPSL)

QEII – Pre-decimal

Enquiries continue on the Wilding issues, usually related to production aspects, particularly phosphor varieties. Those that may be acceptable for future catalogue listing, I store for the next edition. In the last year, I have “bombarded” the members via the Newsletter and Journal with articles on booklet pane issues and I will continue to report on these and new counter sheet varieties brought to my attention.

However, I am always “open for business”, be it queries on QEII, booklets in general or any other area in which you think I may be able to help at qeiiPREDECIMAL@gbps.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth II - Decimal Issues (Scott Kibby)

A little over twelve months ago I received an unexpected phone call from Ian Harvey one evening which, aside from the general chewing of the cud, was to enquire if I might be willing to take on the mantle of the decimal consultant. I obviously accepted as here I am a year later giving fellow readers an update on my debut consultative year.

It started quite quickly with an enquiry in the first few weeks but has levelled off through the year and I believe I have had about half a dozen queries of one sort or another.

At one end of the spectrum I was contacted by an artist who uses Machins as his medium and was wondering where he might lay his hands on more. For that I progressed his enquiry into the Newsletter and I believe he gained at least some positive results, so thank you to any members who assisted. At the other end of the spectrum, and in fact the most recent and on-going enquiry, is regarding a potential find of some previously unrecorded essay material of a set of commemoratives. I also had an interesting discussion with a collector researching the 1990 Machin issue for the anniversary of the 1d Black and 2d Blue. Being a Machin man myself, I was able to help with examples of various items, but also to assist in the individual making use of The Postal Museum archives. Thanks go to Georgina there who helped that individual and myself on more than one occasion in the last year.

I’m happy to have been able to help and look forward to the coming year’s queries.

Contact me at qeiiDECIMAL@gbps.org.uk

Postal Stationery (Dr. Alan Huggins MBE, RDP, Hon.FRPSL)

A relatively small number of direct queries from members have been received and dealt with. The book on the 1840 Embossed Wyon Whiting Essays mentioned in the 2021 AGM report has now been published by the Royal Philatelic Society London. Information on new discoveries and updates to the Collect British Postal Stationery listings may be found in the Postal Stationery News section of the Postal Stationery Society Journal. The range and quality of the Postal Stationery at the London 2022 International Exhibition was impressive, and demonstrated the progressive global growth of interest in this area of philately.

Please forward your questions to Alan at postalstationery@gbps.org.uk

I still get the occasional questions, mostly of the “what is this?” variety. Many stamp-like things are found and, of course, they do not appear in the Gibbons catalogues. I normally find I can either answer the question or find somebody who might know the answer.

Some time during the coming year or so we will see the new Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Catalogue (volume 1, part 2). This will include the updates to the back-of-the-book sections on the Postal Fiscals, College Stamps and Circular Delivery Companies. It will also probably include a new section of the stamps of the Private Telegraph Companies.

For those who took the opportunity to look at the London 2022 exhibits in the Revenue Class, they will have seen material that is on a par with any traditional exhibit. Indeed, at Hunfilex 2022 in Budapest in late March, a Revenue exhibit of Austrian Newspaper stamps was a contender for the Grand Prix international. Also, the Open Class exhibits continue to thrive at exhibition and draw all sorts of ephemera, labels and similar non-philatelic material into collecting and exhibiting.

One day there may not be the need for a back-of-the-book consultant.

Please forward your questions to Chris at backofthebook@gbps.org.uk

Phil Waud FRPSL

Hon. Secretary

June 18th 2022