

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (7)

SWALE PHILATELIC & P/CARD SOCIETY On January 20th, member Bryan Clark displayed a variety of publicity stamp photo's and issues of 1979/80, plus items about the Post Office underground railway in London. The second half was of old & new postcards and photo's of the South East Kent Coast from Whitstable to Dungeness. On Feb 3rd, three members, John Crunden, Shaun Caveney and Jocelyn Watson shared displays entitled "Aspects of Sittingbourne", ending with a display of photo's of Post Boxes in the area. On Feb.17th, Maurice Flack displayed used Commonwealth stamps, of many Countries which we had never seen before. On March 3rd, Roger Stone showed post-cards of Edward VIII tours as Prince of Wales, from 1915 visiting troops, visits to Canada, Hawaii, Australia, Bermuda, West Indies and Japan. The Isle of Thanet P.S. were our guests on March 17th with Bernard Kennett giving a display of "The Boy's Brigade" from 1883 He had joined in 1937, a member- ship of 74 years ! This year the Brigade will be celebrating 100 years of 'camping'. Roger Hault then showed Indian stamps from 1883, Victorian through to Edward VII and George V. Our member Chris Rapley showed on the 7th April "A Dealers Aspect" - cards of Snow White, the Seven Dwarf's, the Queens Dolls House, George VI Coronation, Theatrical, Euro-Disney and the Eden Project. The second half included Military Uniforms, ships used during the Falklands. Then a quiz of silhouette cards of past commodities - the winner was Karen Blunden.



MEDWAY TOWNS P.S. January is normally 'Presidents Night', but this year we had our Annual Auction postponed from December.; in February, Len Barnes showed 'Aspects of French Aviation' prior to WWII, giving us a very full understanding of the development of Aircraft in the twenties and thirties and the problems for commercial ventures. March was Competition Night, but as in so many clubs too few members seem willing to enter the competitions and this time we had no entries for the Cinderella Trophy. Joyce Kemp



won our 'Challenge Cup', with her entry 'Anglo-Egyptian Concession Seals' and the Thematic Trophy was won by Ed. Jarvis, with 'Rocks and Crystals'. In addition we had members displays of 'Sailing Ships' and 'Spanish Sahara'. In April, it was the letter 'C' and with a good attendance, half of whom displayed something. Subjects included Cyprus, the GB 2004 'Crimea' issue, 1960's Canada, Ceylon, and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. We also had the 'A26 Cancels of Gibraltar, Postcards sent 'Contrary to Regulations', Cows (in the form of meat), the French Channel Island of Chausey, and to conclude a selection of 'Collectable Cards', ranging from cigarette cards and playing cards to travel cards and credit cards.

NORTH WEST KENT POSTCARD CLUB There was an excellent attendance, including several visitors, for our March 28th meeting "Gravesend to Tilbury - A Ferry Tale" by Bob Appleton, with many scarce post-cards on show - a very enjoyable evening. Next meetings are April 18th, 'The Descendants of Queen Victoria' by Roger Stone, and on May 16th we have a visit to Maidstone Postcard Club evening fair.

I.D.CHECK. Have you heard about the stand up comic who was hired to do a show at an old peoples home ? They were a tough crowd, they would not open the door to his 'Knock, Knock' jokes until he showed them his I.D.

THE NEW ISSUES PAGE

Some 'new' definitive stamps are being issued on May 12th, these are 68p, 76p, £1.10, and £1.65 in green, pink, olive, and what I assume is a drab/brownish colour. All are Machin's and will all have the 'Security Feature' of semi circular slits, and what is described as 'an iridescent overprint' bearing the repeat pattern of the words 'Royal Mail' as on the present second class definitives. The Post Office say that they are "A must for any serious collector" ! The face value is £4.19

Self adhesive,
Gravure Printed
by De La Rue
Security Print
with phosphor
bars,
perf: 15 x 14
size 20m x 24m



ANOTHER PRESTIGE BOOKLET

Issued on May 5th, this is to celebrate the British designers, Morris & Co, founded 150 years ago, initially designing stained glass windows etc. In my opinion, the six stamps are not particularly appealing, they have 2 first class, 2 at 76p, and 2 at £1.10. with four different panes which also include 2 at 50p, 2 at 10p, 4 at 5p and 4 second class Christmas stamps.

Printed by Cartor Security Printing and priced £9.99 for the booklet. The six basic stamps cost £4.64. At these prices, no wonder we have fewer youngsters attracted to the hobby.



Many of us will remember being able to buy mint G.B. stamps when the postage was 2½d for a letter using 'old' money, and in my case with 2/6d (12½p) as a top limit. There were of course far fewer 'commemoratives' issued then Those were the days - we had no other distractions - stamps ruled

POST & GO LABELS

The third issue of Birds of Britain this time featuring freshwater birds is to be issued on May 19th. Presumably as stocks of previous issues run out. Six new labels, all for the first class postage rate, now costing £2.76. Again nice designs, but are they catching on? I have only seen one or two used - are the public buying them? These could be 'stamps' of the future, - will the Post Office feel justified in continuing to issue them? They could be rare if they are discontinued! Will the Post Office continue to have a monopoly of handling the post?

For anyone not yet aware of this service, the labels can be obtained from machines in the public area of main Post Offices in many towns, by cash, credit or debit card or from the P.O. Phil. Bureau



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Harpenden
10 February 2011

Dear Peter,

You have asked for comments on the reporting of Society displays where these might be a bit repetitive. The basic reason for making these reports is to let those who were not there know just what they have missed and could have enjoyed if they had made more of an effort. If there is a bit of duplication, then so what! Let us not put off those kind people who take the trouble to write up their events.

Another comment if I may, regarding the Federation's very useful programme of seminars, I could find no mention of a venue, a timetable or approximate cost. Even a very good organiser can get too close to the subject!!

You also asked for comment on the Bulletin over the internet. So my first query would be sending to whom? If you send to Society Secretaries it would get no further than the hard copy does at present. You would need to broadcast it to all members of the affiliated societies who can receive it. Putting it on a website would be no better than the present arrangements as so many people are just too lazy to look. My second query is who would do it as you are not on the internet and would need to be!

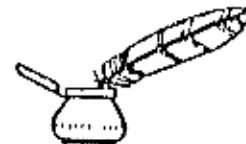
My other comment is about the "Dates for your Diary" on page four. Why is there no reference to Congress in Southsea on June 15/19th I recall when Kent always had a good representation at Congress, but today it is rare to see a familiar face from Kent. I have enjoyed this event for 50 years and would strongly recommend it. I also notice from one report that you are probably a member of the Kent Postal History Group. This is a body that I have always admired and which has had as members some great stalwarts of the hobby. During my years as Chairman of the ABPS Awards Committee, I was asked on several occasions to accept award nominations for members of this group. I was obliged to turn them down because the Group is not affiliated to the ABPS. Whether they are still not I do not know, but if so then they have certainly missed out.

All for now, Best Regards,
Neil Russell.

Editor's Note: These are extracts from two letters by Neil, and I can comment; It has always been my intention, as Editor, preferably to include a two or three page article on a particular philatelic subject in each issue, but unfortunately these are rare due to members not submitting enough. I also need to ensure that the bulletin does not have too many pages, 26 or 28 is the usual size and recently Society reports have been taking up to 7 pages. When certain displays are repeated at other clubs, is it necessary to report the 'same' display at each one? perhaps just the title is sufficient! My thanks also to the Secretaries & Press Officers who do take the time to send in their reports, but several rarely bother. Regarding the Seminars, each Society does receive full details, from Maurice Flack, giving times, cost and application forms for each seminar, I produce a map of the venue in the Bulletin now and then, and thought that I included enough information in each issue - with Maurice able to dot the 'T's etc on hearing from any one not already familiar with the set up. However, your point is noted!

This is continued on the next page. PJOK.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)



Next, the internet - the last 3 editions of the Bulletin have (and I believe still are) appeared within a day or so of publication so are available to anyone taking a look. The addresses of Officers and Club Secretaries is NOT included, but contact can be made via Michael Thompson who is in control of the system. Hard copies of the Bulletin will continue to be sent out, but for those who might prefer not to receive them, it can be so arranged. It is up to the Hon. Secretaries to ENSURE that all members are made aware of this. If they fail in their responsibilities their members should know what action needs to be taken. Michael does the printing and seems to be an expert with this new fangled machinery - I am getting a little too long in the tooth for all this, and it would take me a while to even pick up the basics.

Re the "Dates for your Diary", I received no info. about this, and failed to notice the note in the ABPS magazine - Sorry ! It is included in the listing on page 4 of this Edition. The current members of the Kent Postal History Group are all members of other societies, some of which are affiliated to ABPS, but apathy rules and only a few seem to have enough interest - a great pity, but if those who are keen, are already affiliated, through their other clubs they do not seem to care. It is noticeably how few even bother to read the ABPS Newsletter which is available to affiliated clubs.

PJOK.

29711, Alcaucin, Spain.
17th February 2011

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the Kent Federation Bulletin which I received today. Philately in Southern Spain is virtually non-existent apart from a stamp shop in the city of Malaga which is about 50 miles away from our village and a couple of small dealers at the local market in Trapiche. Therefore most of my collecting is now courtesy of eBay, although I am still in contact with some U.K. dealers. Prices for covers are very expensive whilst stamps are usually cheaper in the Malaga shop. The local market dealers are very reasonable and are always on the lookout for good quality items to add to their own collection, or to sell, but they seem reluctant to buy from U.K. dealers for some reason. On the other hand, philately flourishes in Northern Spain particularly in Barcelona.

I even tried to drum up some local interest to start a society, but had no response despite knowing that some of the Brits living here still have an interest in philately.

Yes we heard that the U.K. had suffered badly from snow. We were lucky here that it arrived in the form of rain - much more acceptable !

Wishing you and the Bulletin continued success, I enjoy receiving it and reading the news of local societies - I was sorry to learn of Yvonne Larg's passing.

Yours sincerely,

John Grant.

Editor's note: Thanks for your news John. One often wonders what interest in philately is generated in other parts of the world, and learn of the availability of material, and their prices! PJOK

A Quote: Deciding not to choose, is still making a decision!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (3)

Holywell, North Wales
20th March 2011



Dear Peter,

Herewith my latest offering for the Bulletin !

I recently bought a batch of GB and Foreign Postal Stationery - a new addition to my collecting interests, plus some Telegrams to add to those I already have, but both lots are still awaiting my attention. The run of good weather we are enjoying has prompted me to spend some time in the garden - just generally tidying up and repairing a couple of damaged fence panels. The daffodils Forsythia, and Heather are all in bloom and it is a pleasure to see the hedgerows are starting to show the first signs of growth. Reading through the recent issue of the ABPS magazine, I was quite surprised to see how many societies are starting to include daytime meetings in their programmes. This is something I have been suggesting to members of the societies that I belong to, to consider - all yet to no avail. As practically most of our members tend to be in the 'retired' category it seems logical to me that it is easier and more convenient to meet during daylight hours, particularly in the Winter months. I realise that some of those still working - there are only five in total, spread over 3 clubs, may not be too happy should this come about, and I do not mean to brush them aside as some are longstanding members, but such a change could actually gain us some new members. Maybe we can reach a compromise, with evening meetings in the Summer and daytime meetings in the Winter !

Of late there have been several articles in the philatelic press regarding the 'Gold Horizon' labels, which I personally find of interest, but find it difficult to obtain several of the different 'codes'. as some of them are used on overseas mail and others used when sending letters/parcels to those serving in the armed forces. The new style labels with straight edges and rounded corners are gradually coming into use hereabouts as local Post Offices use up their stocks of 'perforated' labels, and additionally here in Wales we have bi-lingual labels. I wonder how long it will be before someone includes them in a display ?

Regards & Best Wishes,

Dennis Rosser.

Editor's Note: Thanks Dennis, I have held over the two other items that you kindly sent, and although they are not philatelic, I might use them in the future. You will be interested to know that the Tunbridge Wells P/S have to date held 7 morning meetings with attendances ranging from 27 to 12, with an average of 16. We find that 10.30am to 12.30 seems a suitable timing, and usually half a dozen or so members, and often, the speaker, stay for lunch at the venue (a Pub) afterwards. This means that we are not caught up in any evening rush hour on the way home, and in Winter, we also travel in daylight. However we continue with the usual evening meetings, and several members attend both. It has gained six new members (two being members of neighbouring clubs), and we have a full programme for the rest of this year. We have been fortunate in taking over the annual Crowborough Stamp Fair, (following the Crowborough P/S closing down) and this provides sufficient income to pay the rental for the morning venue, thus our not having to increase the subs !

A young husband was washing his football shirt - "What setting do I use on the washing machine" he asks his wife. "It depends" she says "What does it say on the shirt"? "Manchester United" he says!


DID YOU KNOW ? That the EURO currency is used in four areas outside Europe, in French 'Overseas' Departments. Martinique, and Guadelope, both in the Caribbean, plus French Guiana in South America, and Reunion in the Indian Ocean East of Madagascar.

I understand that St. Pierre and Miquelon, which is just South of Newfoundland may also use the Euro, but as yet I have no proof of this. They are classed as 'Departments' and are governed by France

 That following the referendum in Rhodesia in 1980, the name of that territory changed to ZIMBABWE-RHODESIA ! This lasted only for about 7 months, and although no postage stamps were printed two registered envelopes (without printed stamps) were issued with the name "ZIMBABWE / RHODESIA", using two lines. Some commercial firms had printed envelopes with the double name for use by their clients, and the country's Stock Exchange also had the double name printed on contract notes. Some people writing to local friends or firms used to address their mail to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. However there were no postmarks as such. For a local Jamboree, the Scouts included the double name on some printed souvenir envelopes.

 That two stamps issued to commemorate the 'Postal Union Congress' meeting in London in 1929 showed the head of King George fifth on a background of the Union Flag. These were the 1d and 1½d values, designed by E.Linzell. Also that the 2½d value of that set was the first British stamp to omit the crown: nor did it include the word 'Revenue', although the Inland Revenue did authorise its use for fiscal purposes !

 That New Zealand prepared some 'stamped' Postal Stationery post-cards showing the head of King Edward 8th ready for his Coronation in 1937. These were of course never issued, but a souvenir set of six similar cards was issued for "TARAPEX", their National Philatelic Exhibition in 1986. Were these the only P/S items prepared for his Coronation ? By 1986, the two pre-decimal values, ½d & 1d were of course obsolete, and following decimalisation could not be used postally.



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 I was very disappointed when my twin brother did not send me a Birthday card - he told me he had forgotten !

25 MILLION ITEMS OF UNDELIVERED MAIL !

Dennis Rosser has sent me an article which appeared in the DAILY MAIL on the 21st March 2011, by Paul Sims, which will no doubt be of interest to many collectors. For those readers who did not see it, here is a brief report based on the item.

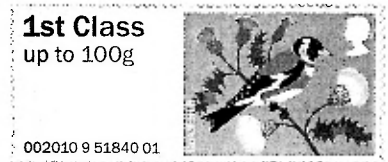
The Royal Mail admitted that it destroys an average of 25 million items of undeliverable mail each year, This amounts to around 70,000 items per day, on which several millions of pounds in post-age costs would have been paid. However, valuable contents are retained for four months, awaiting any claims from the public, but may then be sold at auction, with any profit going to the Royal Mail to offset their costs. Other items are sent to a shredder. Over the last 6 years, it is estimated that over 152 million items of post that could not be delivered or returned to the senders, have been destroyed. It is understood that the majority was business mail. These figures have been obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, which initially the 'Royal Mail' refused to give details on the grounds that the data was likely to result in negative publicity and competitors might take advantage in a derogatory manner. Many items bear no addressee's details, and few have the senders address on the outside, so the Royal Mail have to open many to check if sufficient details are inside. In the last financial year just over 5 million items were returned to the senders - many of which had to be deduced by the staff at the specialist department at the National Returns Centre in Belfast, as often the senders address might be incomplete. It is claimed that it would be irresponsible not to safely dispose of much of this mail, when it cannot be delivered or returned. The National Returns Centre employs around 160 full time staff, and their annual costs in handling such mail is £4 million. As we know, some collectors do accumulate the "Ambulance" envelopes that the 'Royal Mail' use to return undeliverable mail to senders, so this information might help to put the situation into some perspective compared with the immense volume of mail that is handled daily. It also seems that whether the address is complete or not, the use of a clearly written post code ought to alleviate this problem !

LOST IN TRANSLATION :- A hotel notice in Germany : In your room you will find a mini bar which is filled with alcoholics !
It sounds rather crowded.

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BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE STAMPS OF 2010 !

The 'British Philatelic Bulletin', which is published by the Royal Mail has recently carried out its annual poll to find what readers thought were their favourite stamps and favourite sets issued last year. Top of the poll for favourite sets was the 'Great British Railways set of six, second was the 'Mammals' set, and third, the 'Post & Go' Bird set of six labels. Personally I thought that the Festival of Stamps 'Seahorses' reproductions were very good, but apparently these were not included - I wonder why ? The individual stamp gaining most votes was the Dormouse (first class value) in the 'Mammals' set, and rather surprisingly the Wallace & Gromit, large first class stamp in second place. Third place was the Goldfinch in the Post & Go set. All six of the Great British Railways stamps were rated, with the LMS Coronation Class locomotive sharing joint 6th place with two others of the same set. Did you have your favourites ? If so perhaps you might care to drop me a line, telling us your choice.



SOME FORTHCOMING MEETINGS Several Societies

or clubs are holding their Annual General Meetings in May or June and hopefully they will remember to let me know A.S.A.P. of any changes of senior officers, so that Federation communications are sent to the correct person (or E-mail address). PJOK

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| May 9 | Medway Towns | Postal Mechanisation | by Martin Lynes |
| May 19 | Tunbridge Wells | Ascension Island | by Ray Jeal |
| | | (morning at Groombridge) | |
| June 14 | Malling S.C. | Mexico | by Ray Barton |
| July 1 | Bexley | Money by Post 1800-2000 | Henry Hupfield |
| Aug 1 | Cinque Ports | A World of Stamps | Christine Baker |
| Aug 18 | Tunbridge Wells | St Helena | by Bob Deakin |
| | | (morning at Groombridge) | |

My apologies, in the last Edition, I listed Michael Farrant showing German East Africa at Orpington on 6th April, this was in fact at Sevenoaks - sorry ! PJOK E & OE.

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MORE WAYS TO SPEND !

The Royal Mail are hoping that collectors will buy their latest offering, a set of Pin Badges showing various designs of Pillar Boxes. So far they have produced 8, the latest is a KEVIIIR type 'B' of 1936. They are at a 1.60 scale and cost £6.95 each. The set will comprise of 20 individual designs.

REPORT FROM OUR 'SWISS' CORRESPONDENT

Dubendorf, Switzerland.

23rd January 2011.

Dear Peter

I am sorry to see you received no letters for the last Bulletin. Delivery of an e-mail to tell me a new one was available was a "great leap forward" – as you'd expect a China collector to say! Congratulations. Will the archive be posted on-line?

So, time for another missive from the land of the contour. Since I last wrote I have visited a number of stamp fairs. A large two day affair, just outside Bern, was part of the "Day of the Postage Stamp" in early December. There was a free shuttle bus from the railway station to the venue, but since it was only a twenty minute walk and there was a queue of around sixty people, I walked. A number of people arrived on skis since it had been snowing. There were two halls of dealers, the Post Office hand-stamping new issue covers and a good set of displays. Whilst much was Swiss, there was a selection of other material. Displays seem to be in a 12 sheets per frame format. GB is often filed by dealers with its former Colonies, so you often have to look through much Commonwealth material. Best buy of the day was a Gold Coast stationery card with a manuscript cancel for slightly less than the price of a cup of coffee. Whilst in Bern I visited the shop of the well known name of Zumstein, the Gibbons of Switzerland.

The next day was a local fair in the old school here in Dübendorf. I had the chance to meet some of the local club and view the displays. A further selection of dealers provided a few Chinese covers this time. I have now joined the Society and it seems the general format of the twice monthly meetings is a chat, business, then a 50 lot auction and a bit of a bourse. It looks like displays are relatively rare. I don't know if this is just a local thing or if all clubs follow this format. Of course one challenge is trying to follow an auction held in Swiss-German!

Before Christmas I travelled to the big exhibition in Germany in Sindelfingen. It is a relatively short drive from Zurich. There are many similarities to Stampex with over 100 dealers including several familiar faces. I met a couple of collectors from the UK and some of the German China Society. Many societies had stands and it seemed more of a collectors event rather than a trade event like Stampex.

I have noticed that many smaller fairs seem to manage to offer a cooked lunch with a glass of wine etc, even if a small mobile barbeque has to be used. Would not work with insurance in the UK I expect. Unfortunately, due to a family party in the UK, I shall miss a two-day fair on a boat at Zug. Maybe next year!

I managed to contact a fellow (English) member of the Postage Due Mail Study Group who lives locally and we held a meeting of the Swiss members of the Group with 100% attendance – both of us.

Grüße an alle.

Paul Davey.

Editor's Note: Thanks paul, good to hear that you picked up the February Bulletin 'on-line' and nice to learn of your Philatelic experiences in Switzerland. You have done well to attain a 100% attendance at the meeting of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, you might invite the UK based section to join you before long! PJOK

KENT FEDERATION DAY RALLY & STAMP FAIR ON SATURDAY, 25th JUNE 2011

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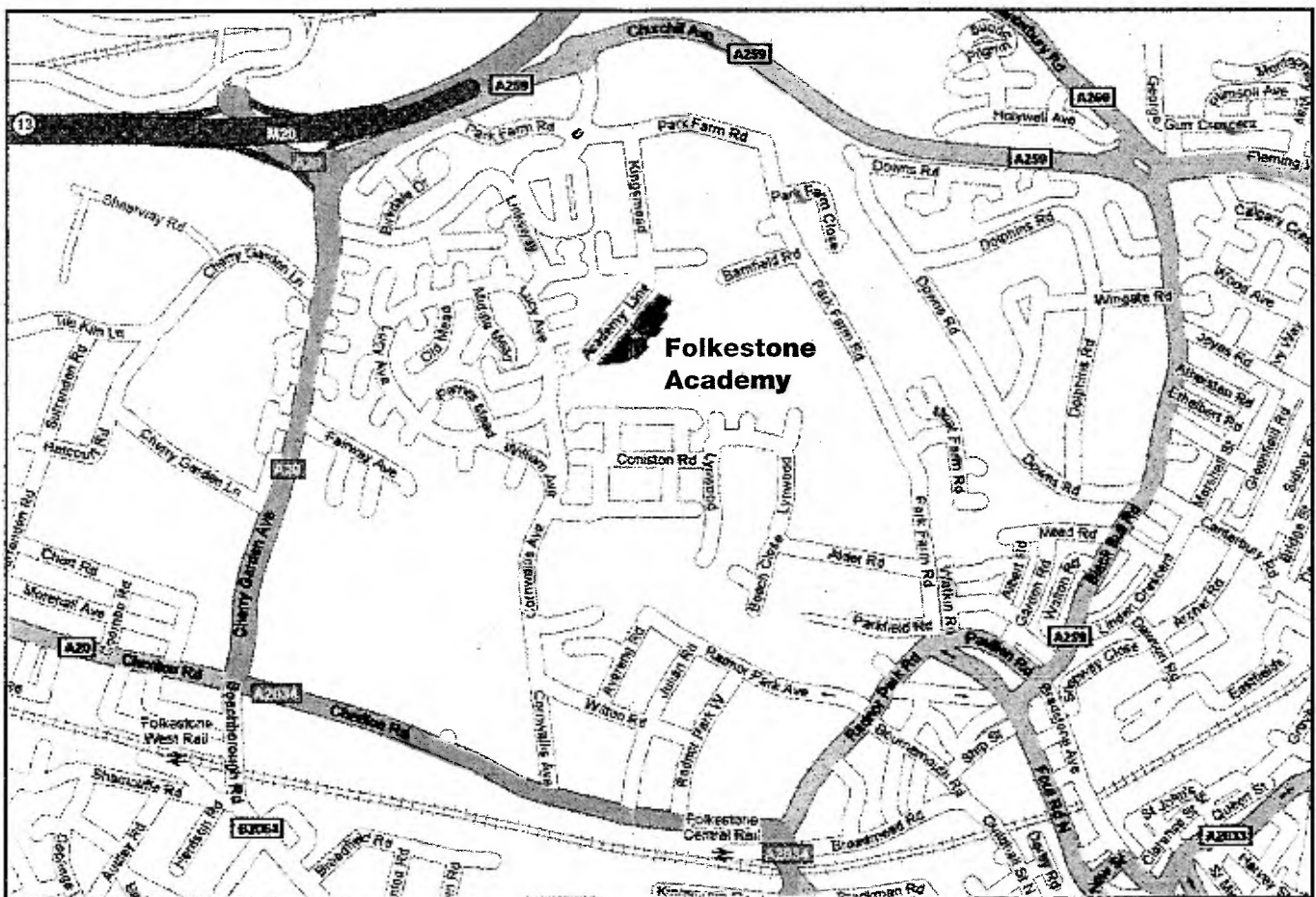
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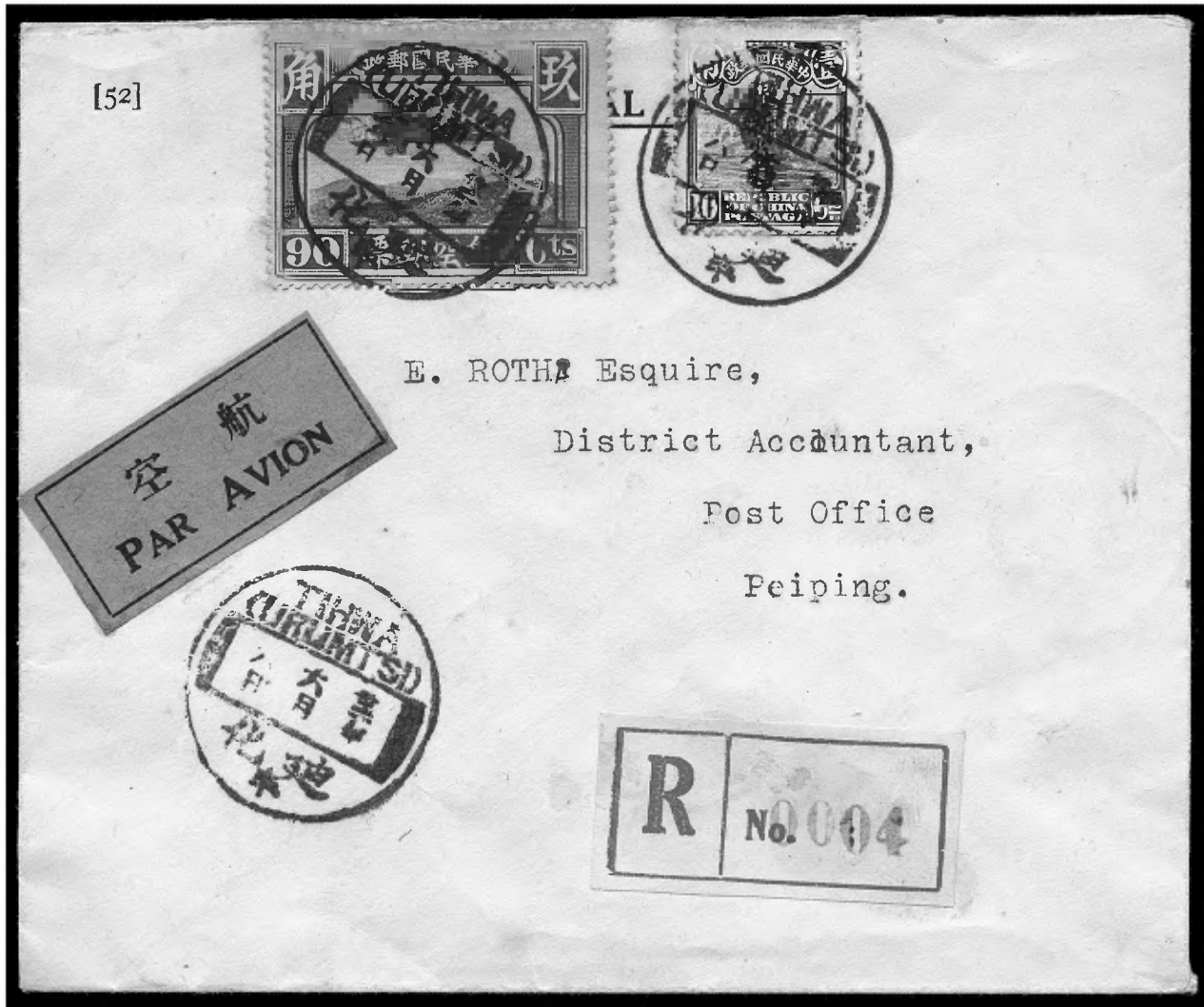
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All World Stamps and Postal History at Auction



[52]

E. ROTH Esquire,

District Accountant,

Post Office

Peiping.

*China: 1932-33 Sinkiang Airmail 10c. used on envelope from Tihwa to Peiping.
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