A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ☺☺ ☺☺
Voeux les meilleurs pour Noël et la nouvelle Année
Die besten Weihnachts und Neujahrsgrüsse
Beste Wensen voor Kerstmis en Nieuwjaar

The President, Officers and Committee wish all our members everywhere a very Merry Christmas.
We hope that the New Year brings prosperity and good fortune to you and your family.

Editorial

Our new Librarian hopes to re-open the Library on 1st November; our Committee profile this issue is that well-known hospital ship man - Peter High; plus details of a new book on “Railway Men of Cumbria Remembered” (see The Back Page for details).

DATES 2016:

12 November 2016 - Recent acquisitions & queries & a chat over coffee & biscuits - Member’s displays
10 December 2016 - Joint Meeting with the Postal History Society - Member’s displays

2017 DATES:

21 January 2017 - An afternoon with the Vice-Presidents - Robin Davis, Richard Berry & Geoff Hanney
11 February 2017 - Events in 1917 - Members’ displays
11 March 2017 - ALL-DAY meeting to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Society: Memorial display of Bill Collingwood material and John Daynes’ Plate 15-sheet Competition

Other dates of interest:

20-21 January 2017: York Stamp & Coin Fair, The Grandstand, York Race Course YO23 1EX
15-18 February 2017: Spring STAMPEX, Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Lapsed:
(1456) A Annakin-Smith; (976) OWN Cock; (372) M Fox; (1480) M Gibbs; (1422) CJH Kitchen; (1498) HL McAllister; (271) E Menne Larsen

Deceased:
(455) Bill Collingwood - July 2016; Bill had previously resigned from the Society in December last year, due mainly to his inability to attend meetings.
(381) Ray Downing - 26 August 2016 having spent most of the previous three months in hospital. Ray’s main interest was postal mechanisation and he was a prominent member of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle (PMSC). For around 15 years from 2000 until March last year Ray looked after our membership database and provided an invaluable service in maintaining our membership database, providing our Despatch Manager with address labels for each issue of the Journal and membership lists to officers as and when required.

FPHS Library - Update:

Members will be aware that at our AGM (see Summer Newsletter for details) we elected a new Librarian - Richard Berry FRPSL (one of our Vice President’s). Richard’s contact details appear on page 2. Well, he has now taken delivery of the Library stock and hopes to get the Library up and running by 1st November.

If you have not used the Library please take a look on what is available on our website - http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk/society/library/index.html

The Library listing is by Country, Topic or Author. In due course Richard hopes to update and improve the existing website listing.
SOCIETY Meetings:

10th September 2016 - An afternoon of member’s displays under the theme “Something Unusual from the Collection”

Regrettably I was unable to attend the September meeting and so my grateful thanks to Peter O’Keeffe for the notes that follow. It was disappointing to learn that attendance was low and also unusual that most of the ‘top tier’ of officers (President, three Vice Presidents and Hon Secretary) were not able to attend, although Richard Berry did turn up later.

Peter reports that attendance was less than usual with several absentees, some as noted above, being 11 to start with and two later arrivals which brought the total to just 13. Immediate Past President and London Meetings Organiser Peter High took the Chair. Announcements included a note of the deaths of Bill Collingwood and Ray Downing - those attending stood in memory of them both. Peter High also mentioned that next year would be the 65th Anniversary of the Society and that he hoped to have two or three “All Day” meetings. He also outlined the provisional dates and topics for next year. The days programme was listed as “Something Unusual from the Collection” and this did bring a good selection of items either not shown previously or of an ‘unusual’ interest.

Peter O’Keeffe was first up filling two frames with a variety of different items, a set of French postcards issued in 1938 to mark the inauguration of the WWI Australian Memorial, a set of GB War Bond Campaign ‘National Savings’ coloured cards used in 1918, two Programmes for Christmas concerts, one by the RAF and one by the Army in 1918, an unstamped cover OHMS from Russia in 1905, a postcard of a room at the UJC in 1917, a German POW letter sheet to Francis Field, coloured and in French circa WWII, several telegrams from British families in Germany with Berlin, etc postal markings, six Bruce Bairnsfather coloured cartoons issued in 1935, a few ‘different’ WWII POW cards/forms and a 1912 Telegram with Army Telegraphs postmark.

Bernard Atkinson then showed six covers/cards of New Zealand or Australia connections, including troops serving in Somaliland. Peter Burrows showed two frames of various military forms/instruction sheets issued by the Admiralty, the RAF including the Pigeon Service, with instructions how to pack a pigeon for transporting prior to its release. More naval formed included the reading (onboard ship) of the Banns prior to a sailor getting married. Albert Coles showed one frame of Australian items, including a cover marked for the First Flight from Australian to Batavia, but returned to sender as the Japanese had taken the Netherlands East Indies. Other Forces mail items, a civilian identity card and an unused green ‘Honour’ enveloped turned inside out for apparent use after the war (a pity it was not then used!).

In the second session Lorraine Maguire surprised us all with four frames of photocopies of original drawings by the New Zealand war artist / painter, Peter McIntire. These were in black and white, which she was able to acquire at the Wellington Museum,
where she was fortunate to get as a special ‘one off’ the opportunity to photocopy them herself. These were nearly all ‘war’ scenes or of individual members of the NZ army in WWII and included Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy. There were also illustrations of winners of the Victoria Cross and of the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG). In addition there were several sepia postcards of the troops and a few other bits and pieces.

Nick Colley then showed an assortment of naval mails, including unusual (i.e. rarely seen) ‘Received from H.M. Ships’ markings. He claimed that these were unusual as they were written up!

Alan Baker produced some mail from United States bases in and around the Caribbean - this being rather unusual as he says he does not collect American material! It seems that the US had bases on virtually all the islands.

Next up was Peter High and it would not have been unusual if hospital ships had not cropped up again. Peter, however, had hospital yachts - several of which were ‘loaned’ by their wealthy owners to be utilised for conveying medics and nurses and/or supplies to the war zones. He showed a cover to H.E. Weston with se-tenant KEVII embossed postal stationery cut-outs, then one from a hospital yacht, the USS Relief which attended at the 1932 10th Olympiad, mail from Sir Thomas Lipton’s yacht the Erin dated 1915 and a final offering - two photos of the Asturia Hospital Ship with the crew playing with the ship’s cat.

The third and final session was Alistair Kennedy with the most unusual display of the day - some 30 years ago his mother left him a box containing documents relating to some (very) early relatives on her side of the family. He produced details of the WWI service and deaths of Bonny Prince Charlie and others joined Australian units in WWII. Alistair had certificates given to combatants including photographs of the burial sites, details relating to the 1700s.

All in all a different but very interesting selection of material and most certainly it lived up to its title of being “Unusual” - I feel sure those members who missed it did miss a good afternoons displays.

8th October 2016 - All-day meeting, including the President’s Cup Competition and ‘Live’ Auction

This was another meeting which I was unable to attend due to annual holiday and attending a wedding in Jamaica and so my grateful thanks this time to Geoff Hanney for the notes that follow. I hope that normal service will be resumed next month!

We started in the morning with Standing Displays (not in any order and hopefully I have not missed anyone as I did not start notes until later). The members who displayed did not talk on these standing displays.

Alistair Kennedy - Modern postcards of HMS Victory and Nelson
Nick Colley - WW1 German Air Force and Airships
Peter High - Russo-Japanese War (do not remember the subject area)

Chris Stephany-Weddell - US Hospital Ship USS Relief
Edmund Hall - Egypt Censorship both Military and Civil

Then the President’s Cup 9-page competition was held with a disappointingly low number of only five entries - nevertheless they covered some interesting and unusual topics as follows:

A. Nick Colley - “WW1 German Air Force” (Different from above)
Showed the different types of units in the German Air Force through the smallest of 4-5 aircraft to Wings (a number of squadrons) with cachets. The units were initially broken into Artillery and Defence Squadrons. The defence squadron became the lighter squadron as the role of aircraft changed during the war. There was bit on Carrier Pigeon Squadrons and also an experimental bomber unit based in Ostend.

B. Alistair Kennedy - “Military Bases in the Royston Area”
Showed items from a number of US 8th Air Force bases in the Royston area from RAF Bassingbourn which was handed to the Americans and the new bases built (or rebuilt on WW1 bases) along with the squadrons that served on them. The post war had examples of mail as RAF Bassingbourn after it was handed back by the Americans and again when it was handed to the Army as Bassingbourn Barracks, plus RAF Backway, a small signals base.

C. Chris Stephany-Weddell - “U-Boats of WW2”
The entry started by showing the Accommodation and Depot Ship cachets that supported the different parts of the U-boat fleet including training Flotillas. It then moved on to mail to and from actual U-boats (U92, U237, U439 and U328) with some details of the service of those vessels. The cover to U328 was returned to sender as it had been sunk a few days before possibly by a Canadian ship although this was never confirmed.

D. Peter High - “Hospital Ship Heligoland during the Vietnam War”
The Hospital Ship Heligoland was funded by the German Red Cross and was intended to deal with civilian casualties. The ship was on station from 1958 to 1972 other than short period of time when she went to Singapore for a refit. It was based initially at Saigon and later Da Nang; it would put to sea at night as would be cooler. There are a lot of philatelic items from the ship, but those in the entry were all from doctors and nurses who served on the ship.

E. Edmund Hall - “Turkish & German WW1 POW and Internee Mail from Egypt”
The display showed the various POW and Internee camps in Egypt with relevant cachets. Little mail exists from the Turkish side as the majority of the POWs and Internees were illiterate. It was pointed out that the British used Armenians to guard the Turks as they spoke Turkish and due to the massacre of Armenians before the war some of them took the opportunity for revenge. As a result the British were accused of war crimes after the War.
Voting was by secret ballot of the members present and the winner was Edmund Hall, second was Nick Colley and Chris Stepahny-Weddell came third.

The ‘Live’ Auction was held in the afternoon, but there were only nine people in the room, nevertheless it seemed to go reasonably well as there were quite a few postal bids.

**65th Anniversary of the Society:**

2017 marks the 65th Anniversary of the Society and we are planning a number of activities to commemorate the event. First of all we shall hold an ALL-DAY meeting on Saturday 11th March 2017 to mark the anniversary, which will also include a memorial display of the Bill Collingwood’s US material presented by his family, along with our annual 15-sheet competition for the John Daynes Plate.

In July 2017 at the weekend away for the York Stamp & Coin Fair we shall be holding a 65th Anniversary Dinner on the Saturday evening. We are also looking at other ways to celebrate our 65th anniversary so watch this space and your e-mails for more news in the weeks to come.

**Weekend Away: York July 2017:**

It's been two years since we last had a weekend away - but we hope to organise such an event next year.

In doing so we are looking at returning to York once again in July 2017 to coincide with the York Stamp & Coin Fair. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a flyer for the event - please complete and return to Ian Muchall as soon as possible.

**A Profile of your Officers / Committee:**

The fifth of our Committee profiles - this time that of Peter High - Immediate Past President and London Meetings Organiser:

Born in Croydon 72 years ago, I began collecting postage stamps whilst at primary school. Stamps moved on over time to an interest in postmarks and then to paquebot and censor marks and WWI British naval postal history. For the past 35 years or so I have concentrated on forming a collection of covers and cards with cachets and censor marks used in hospital ships from a variety of countries and periods in war and peacetime.

I have been fortunate to establish a postal friendship with a Japanese member and also with a Russian youth living in Siberia. This has meant that more meaningful 'write-ups' have been made for items from those countries. A basic collection of Russo-Japanese War items has been the result.

I have lived in Banstead 'Village' for 17 years - it's more like a motorway at times now. A couple of miles down the road the village 'hosted' a POW Camp for Italians and, later, Germans. I have a tiny sideline collection of mail from the camp.

Collecting postal history has sustained me through the ups and downs of life and I enjoy giving displays to philatelic societies - my way of putting something back into the hobby - but have no real interest in formal exhibiting.

I am very keen to promote the study and collection of military postal history and should like to encourage fellow members to think about and arrange a regional meeting of the FPHS in their area. Please contact me if you are willing to make some arrangements in this respect. I will be pleased to help where necessary.

I retired after 41 years with a life assurance, pension and investment company; in the final seven years engaged in investigating the personal pension debacle. This took me to all parts of England and Scotland. Next, a six month contract with a major bank investigating the endowment mortgage fiasco extended to five years and I continued investment complaints handling for the final two years.

In support of my local community I managed my local church office for five years and took on roles as a primary school governor and community hall manager; the latter two roles I still perform. My wife and I together somehow 'manage' two young girls and I have two, now adult, boys from my first marriage, and four grandchildren.

I was Newsletter Editor (working with a typewriter in the days before the laptop computer) and later

**Newsletters received:**

The September 2016 Newsletter (No 224) contains a lengthy article on “Mail Handling from FMO Avalon During the Second World War” setting out how mail was handled and with several illustrations of covers from Avalon showing various postal markings. There is also a one page update on new cancels identified pre-1936 for the BNAPS Catalogue of Canadian Military Markings, Vol I currently being worked on. There is also a note on exhibit awards at New York 2016 relating to Canadian military mails; a query which came via myself on RCAF in the Indian Ocean; comments on the sale of the Don Thompson Collection sale which featured in the previous issue and an obituary on former Editor Ken Ellison. Lastly an illustration of a cover cancelled with a new earliest recorded date for CF 15.

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President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society 1982-1984, and have had the privilege of being President of the Forces Postal History Society for two terms (1999-2001 & 2012-2014). On behalf of FPHS I arrange the London meetings and the Society sponsored ‘War & Philately’, an annual stamp & postal history fair in Banstead, my home town, which is held in Banstead Community Hall, where I am Hall Manager. This is in its fifth year.

I am a member of the Anglo-Boer War PS, Italy & Colonies Study Circle, the Postal History Society, Military Postal History Society (USA) and Associazione Italiana Collezionisti Posta Militare (Italy).

**Request for Information:**

Alistair Kennedy writes that a non member, Barry Scott, has recently written an article in the London Philatelist on the Circular numbered M handstamps used in Iraq in 1920-21. He has given him copies of FPWS newsletters 50, 51, 52 and 103 which included references to these marks. However, if any members have covers bearing these marks, he would appreciate scans of both sides, or details of any other covers. If you are able to help please make contact via Alistair on email at: akennedroy@hotmail.com or write to him at 48 Grange Bottom, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 9UQ.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

It will soon be that time of year - membership renewal time: your subscription to the Society falls due on 1st February 2017. If you take the paper version of the Journal then a renewal form will be enclosed as part of this “Journal Package”. If you take a paperless subscription then our Treasurer will email you a copy of the renewal form.

Please try to renew on time. It causes much additional work for our Treasurer and for other society officers if a late renewal is received. Your support in this area will be much appreciated.

Please note that in line with agreement at the AGM subscriptions have been increased (details on the renewal form). You can pay by cheque (UK currency only), Pay-Pal via our website, or if you have a UK bank account by bank transfer (details on the renewal form) or standing order - but please remember to instruct your bank to pay the correct amount as above with effect from the next payment.

The Society regrets that it will not be possible to forward the next Journal (i.e. Spring 2017) if your subscription has not been received by 1st April 2017. NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT.

**WANTED: EDITOR**

You will have read in the Autumn 2016 issue of our Journal that our Editor, Colin Tabeart, is going to stand down from that role at our Annual General Meeting next year (8 April 2017). We are, therefore, urgently seeking a new energetic individual to take over that role.

You will need to have a computer and be connected to the internet with an email account; you will also need to be computer literate in terms of using Microsoft Word and the ability to manipulate pictures received (in jpeg or jpg format) as well as convert Word documents to pdf format.

Anyone interested please contact Colin (colintabeart@btinternet.com) or telephone 07833 783828 for full details of the task.

A copy of “The Editor’s Routine” is on our website under the Forum under a new heading of “Office Holder Functions”.

For the Society to function effectively we do need an Editor - can you possibly fulfil that role?
### Auction Results:

**FPHS Auction No 308 - PRICES REALISED Summer Auction 2016:** Postal auction run by Geoff Hanney

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**FPHS ‘Live’ Auction - October 2016 - PRICES REALISED:** ‘Live’ auction run by David Pearce

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Lots sold: 151  Total Sales: £1,199.50
**New Publications launched:**

Postal History 2000 is delighted to announce two new publications: one has already been printed and is available whilst the other is expected to be available early in the New Year (2017):

Members are invited to write to Peter High to express their interest in one or both books and they will be notified just as soon as the books are available: peter.high94@hotmail.co.uk

Already available: BRITISH NAVAL POST and CENSOR MARKS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR Volume 2: This volume details all the new discoveries since the publication of the first book AND incorporates all the marks listed in the Cumulative Supplements. A mammoth undertaking by Dr Michael Gould has at last reached fruition. Published in a similar format to the original book (revised edition), it will be of approximately 150 pages. The price will be around £25 + postage.

Note: if you have expressed an interest in or have already ordered the above book and not yet received it please make contact with Peter as soon as possible (due to an email malfunction he appears to have lost some emails regarding interest in the book).

Available early in the New Year: WORLD WAR TWO CENSOR MARKS: This is a completely revised listing which John Daynes was working on when he died. There have been a few additions to the listing since then and this new book will become the definitive volume for years to come. It will comprise approximately 300 pages of text and illustrations in a similar layout to John's original book. Publishing format will be similar to the Gould book with colour gloss laminated cover. The price will be around £50 + postage.

NOTE: the Daynes' book ONLY will be also available in electronic format at around £35 + cost of stick + postage.

Peter High
94 Winkworth Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2QR

**Annual General Meeting 2017:**

In accordance with General Rule 8 (a) and (b) NOTICE is hereby given that the 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 8th April 2017 at 10.30am in the Union Jack Club. Members wishing to submit motions for discussion or nominations for officers and committee posts must notify the Hon. Secretary by 19th March 2017. A mini 'live' room auction is expected to follow the AGM at 2pm.

**Post-War FPOs used on Exercises & Operations:**

Would any member (including dealer members) who acquired lots in the recent Cavendish sale of Mike Knott's collection be willing to provide the Society with details of any exercise (or short lived operations) FPOs - FPO number and type, date, exercise name, BFPO address, period, location and unit, so far as available. Please send details to the Hon Secretary - Michael Dobbs who will share the information with others, in particular with Derek Ransom who is currently preparing a text on British FPOs during QEII reign based on the late John Daynes' manuscript.

**Harry Cope Award for Literature:**

Members are reminded of the above award - it is named after a former Hon. Secretary of the Society (Harry Cope), who was a benefactor of the Society. Nominations for the Award may be made by any member in writing to the Hon. Secretary. To qualify for consideration a work should include original research (preferably on subjects which have received little or no attention in the past) and the content be such as to fall within the scope of Forces Postal History. The material submitted can be an essay in depth or article of not less than 4,000 words, or a book. It can be published privately or commercially or through the FPHS. However, the author(s) must be member(s) of the FPHS and the work should be a new work written or published within the three years preceding the year of the award.

The full rules for the Award can be found on our website or by applying to the Hon Secretary.
Press Release - New Publication:

Railwaymen of Cumbria Remembered:

To make sure that the railway employees of Cumbria’s railways killed whilst serving King and Country in the Great War are remembered, the Cumbrian Railways Association have produced a record of those that fell in the conflict.

Covering the main railways serving the county (including the Scottish companies), all know information is included about every man that it was possible to identify from the records and war memorials. Many served in the local regiments — The Border Regiment and the King’s Own (Royal Lancashire) Regiment, many other regiments are covered together with branches of the services.

A carefully researched and beautifully designed tribute to the 231 railwaymen of Cumbria who died in this terrible conflict with details of the unit served in, date of death and location of burial, plus some personal details where available. Also included is information about the railway war memorials upon which the men are commemorated and the stories of the unveiling of those at Barrow and Maryport, and of the Memorial service held at Carlisle Cathedral on 14th May 1919.

"simple but beautifully produced . . . the use of art nouveau printers embellishments adds a certain period charm to this attractive and reasonably priced book." Cumbria Local History Federation Bulletin.

Anyone with relatives that made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War will find this publication of great value with their researches, as will historians studying the war from a military prospective.

Railwaymen of Cumbria Remembered: 48 pages illustrated, A4 format. Available from CRA Book Sales, 50 Tattershall, Toothill, Swindon, SN5 8BX. Price £4.00 post free.

See also our web site giving information about the wide range of railway books published by the Cumbrian Railways Association.

www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk
The Association is a Registered Charity Number: 1025436

Exhibitions - displays by Members:

The Philatelic Association of Aue in the district of Aue-Schwarzenberg in Saxony held a philatelic exhibition (XIII Erzgebirgsschau) on 10/11 September 2016 and German member Ingo Egerlandt was awarded GOLD for his entry “Post Offices of the British Expeditionary Force 1939-40” - well done Ingo.

Autumn STAMPEX (14-17 September 2016) saw the following members displaying exhibits on behalf of the King George VI Collectors Society:

Richard Berry FRPSL - The 1937 Coronation
Mike Sanders - GB George VI Line Engraved Arms issue overprinted for use in Italian Colonies
Antony Plumbe - Nigeria: The King George VI era
Rod Vousden - World War II - British Military Honour Envelopes
Alan Baker - Canadian Forces: Postal History
Susan McEwen - Postal History of Japanese Occupation of Malaya: Penang

(with apologies to anyone I have missed)