

## Newport Philatelic Society

### Newsletter Spring Sixth Release: Number 65 May 2020

#### Introduction:

Dear members, my thanks to all who have submitted articles or stories and as a result of these submissions I am pleased to be able to publish the sixth edition of the interim newsletter. As before, I have put all previous issues on our website.

<https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>

Our postal deliveries to home are working remarkable well, much applause for the key postal workers, with my Ebay purchases being delivered much faster than usual, this recent letter is my second with the "STAY HOME" slogan message with a Medway postmark this time around. Unfortunately for me, the sender wrote on the cover, but it is nice to see some different definitive stamps for a change!



I am reminded by this message to ask all members who are staying at home and social distancing or isolation to reach out to a fellow member, get in touch, make a call, or send an email, it is so important to be connected during this "lockdown". I look forward to hearing from you. In this issue we have "my early collecting story" from Lynne and two articles from Alistair, the first tells us his "collecting story" and the second is a new mini display from his extensive "polar" collection.

## Why I started collecting: (by Lynne)



It took some time to remember how it all began but when looking through my albums I found some covers that brought back all the memories, so here goes. It started in a way which was very similar to Roy's story, my daughter aged 5 (in 1976) came home from school wanting to join the class project collecting stamps, would we help? So off we started searching through all of our drawers and boxes at home, I went to my works office and they helped out by giving me their stamps off the envelopes they received every day. It was quite a



boost for the class, every child had a book in which they wrote the countries of the stamps they had, with a little help from the teachers (disappointedly I cannot find it now) and they all shared stamps on a Tuesday. Then we enlisted my family in Maesteg to help out as well as we went visiting them at the weekends, so Monday became a very busy evening stamp sorting. However, two months later she got really interested in gymnastics and stamps went out of favour, but by then I was hooked and we were still getting in all the stamps. I can say that we never bought any packets from any stamp shop as there were none in our area. At that time we were also going to the USA on holiday and that's how I got into my US collecting. It was not until I retired in 1999 and joined the stamp club that I have put everything into some sort of order. I had previously had them all in stock books. I did, however, find two covers from those early days, shown above, and we had not cut the stamps off(!) thank goodness.

### **Alistair's Journey with Stamps:** (by Alistair)



I suppose I first noticed stamps when we moved to stay with my Grandmother in Suffolk during the war. My Grandfather was very ill with cancer and my Mum went to help look after him. I had two Uncles in what was then Southern Rhodesia, and an Aunt who lived in Canada plus two Cousins who had been evacuated there, so there was quite a bit of correspondence even then, and of course I noticed the stamps being excitingly different. After a while I had quite a good run of the Rhodesian stamps, still on bits torn from envelopes. The



Canadian ones were mostly the same except when a food parcel or other goodies turned up, but these were few and far between.

After the war we moved to London and I was given an album which I filled as any opportunity offered. My Father also bought an album and started collecting some Commonwealth countries' new mint issues. I remember when the first Channel Islands stamps came out, particularly, because we had friends in Jersey – they were there the whole war. I recall that they got a letter once addressed simply "Mrs Denning, the Channel Islands"!

Collecting was just one of my hobbies, and didn't assume much importance. Then college came along, and girls, and that was it until the 1990's, except for one particular meeting. I used to row on the Thames, and one day I was put in an eight with an Australian chap called Jon Stephenson, he was doing a post-graduate course in Geology, and I discovered he was signed up to go on the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition the following year (1957). I was fascinated and spoke quite a bit to him as I had read all I could find about Scott, Shackleton, and other explorers when at school. He soon moved to a more senior boat, but I kept my interest, and was given Sir Vivian Fuchs book on the expedition when it came out some years later.

My real collecting started about 1990, when my Mother-in-law mentioned that a neighbour was trying, without much success, to sell her late husband's stamp collection. I said I'd be interested to see it, and that is when I realised it was worth a bit (4 Davo albums of Scandinavian countries, they were quite full and included a lot of the early stamps). I managed to sell these at a reasonable price for her, and she gave me all the duplicate stamps not in the albums, which set off my own Scandinavian collection. After this, the lady kept finding stamps all over the house, in the garage and in the garden shed, all in bundles in carrier bags and partly stuck together with damp. Also, much later a small suitcase was also found full of yet more stamps. I spent hours soaking and sorting these, and they formed the seeds for a lot of country collections, many of which I have now filled out.

Of course, I was now hooked, and visited various fairs, including one at St Julian's School which was run by the Newport Stamp club, though I did not realise this until a year or so later, when I joined the club. On retirement in 1993, I at last visited my Uncles in what was by now Zimbabwe, and that set me off collecting all the Rhodesias, which of course includes Zambia & Malawi as well, and I have also added South Africa which I was also able to visit. I am



not certain what eventually set me off on the Antarctic theme, but I have always had a fascination with Islands, so I think it was when I started subscribing to The Falkland islands & Dependency new issues. I soon discovered and joined the "Polar Postal History Society" and later the "Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group" both of which opened my eyes to the amazing material available and to meeting some very knowledgeable people from several countries, including one or two explorers and many people who had been down South.

One of the reasons I like collecting "Antarctica" is the fact that you get a flavour of many countries who now run research stations or research projects there even if they don't have their own Base. The second reason is that it gives me the excuse to collect items to do with shipping, in which I have always been interested. I used to sail a lot before moving to South Wales, and even took navigation classes which were held in "Beaver Hall" in London which was the headquarters of the "Hudson Bay Company"

The photograph is me on the Antarctic mainland in 2001. The wellies, and the rest of the outfit are necessary for getting in and out of the Zodiacs, and for walking in all the penguin poo which is what you see between all the stones. It was not that cold, mostly around freezing!

Since returning home I have found out that one of our friends, Ian Hart, has a great interest in The Southern Ocean and has been to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia many times. Firstly in the early sixties, as crew on the "m.v. A.E.S.", this ship supplied the Islands, at which time, he was a keen stamp collector and a member of the Polar Postal History Society (P.P.H.S.), and later, in the mid-nineties, doing research for his books on whaling in which he is a leading authority. He also set up, and was the first curator of the Whaling Museum on South Georgia.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, I have just bought at auction some covers and a letter he wrote in the sixties to members of the P.P.H.S. from the ship and have put it with some later material which he had given me, and I have now written up to show you as a mini display. I hope you find it of interest.

## Alistair's Mini Display:



### FALKLAND ISLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA



Covers relating to Historian & Author Ian Hart F.R.G.S. & Shackleton Scholar



Cachet signed by Ian Hart on the back



Cover from "A.E.S." crew member Ian Hart to fellow member of the Polar Postal History Society Reg. Leppard. Not registered but paid at registered rate with 1d + 1/- Red Cross Centenary + 2d Birds Falkland Islands stamps cancelled Port Stanley 9 OC 63. There are three "M/S A.E.S." cachets & typed Ship's details & it is signed by Captain Hansen. It contained the letter on the next page.





## FALKLAND ISLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA

Covers relating to Historian & Author Ian Hart F.R.G.S. & Shackleton Scholar



M/S. "A.E.S.",  
Port Stanley.  
9<sup>th</sup> October, 1963.

Dear Mr. Heppard,

Thank you very much for your letter. You caught me just in time as we sailed the following afternoon and I actually received your letter from the Captain when we were half way down the Thames.

We arrived here ~~yesterday~~ <sup>Monday</sup> after a very quick and pleasant voyage. Stanley is a windy place, with intermittent showers of rain often followed by short periods of sunshine. Hoping the weather will hold to make a trip or two across the harbour to see the "Great Britain" at Sparrow Cove (and chop a piece off if nobody's looking), and some of the seal and penguin colonies around Arrow Point and Rabbit Cove in Port William. Also possibly a flight in one of the Government owned Beaver floatplanes to some of the Camp settlements.

*Some heavy falls of snow*

Unfortunately shall miss the Society's Autumn Meeting, but shall look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting. Please give my regards to all Members.

I am sending you covers with postage stamps as requested, also with "A.E.S." ships stamps autographed by Captain Hansen. The other three together with one for Nigel are coming by Surface Mail; also a few cards. These shall almost certainly come back with this ship to the U.K. via Brazil, as the "Darwin" arrived from Monte, here only a day or so ago <sup>today</sup> and shall not be going there for another month. We expect to be in Great Yarmouth by the beginning of December.

Well, that's all for now. Hope the cover pleases you. Keep your nose to the grindstone Nigel.

With Kindest Regards,

Yours Sincerely,  
Ian Hart

M/S "A.E.S."



*please write crossing's out!*



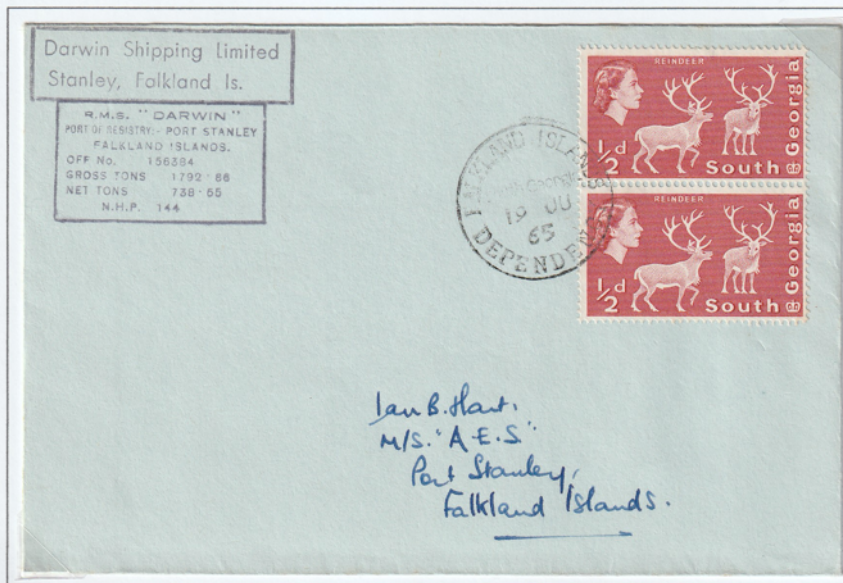


## FALKLAND ISLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA



Covers relating to Historian & Author Ian Hart F.R.G.S. & Shackleton Scholar

*"R.M.S. Darwin"* mail from South Georgia



In 1965 Ian Hart who was a crew member on the "A.E.S.". was loaned to "R.M.S. Darwin" for a midwinter voyage to South Georgia. From there he mailed these two covers to himself c/o the G.P.O. Port Stanley.

Many years later Ian was to become a double Shackleton Scholar, & set up the Whaling Museum on South Georgia

