

Newport Philatelic Society

Newsletter Spring Seventh Release: Number 67 May 2020

Introduction:

Dear members, thank you all for your emails, ideas and articles. They are most definitely what makes these newsletters possible! Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I am able to publish the seventh edition of the interim Spring 2020 newsletter. As before, I have put all previous issues on our website.

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

I continue to be reminded in these difficult times to ask all members who are staying at home, social distancing or in self isolation, to reach out to a fellow member, get in touch, make a call, or send an email. It so important to be connected during this “lockdown”. In this issue we have a new single page display presentation challenge that I have developed from an original idea from Lynne, which is very easy to do, and will be entertaining for everyone, so no excuses allowed, everyone can contribute. It will hopefully will be of interest to all. I have included some examples from Lynne’s stamp “diaries” which prompted the idea for a challenge. In another article, Neil has started us off by sharing some hints and tips for sorting and enjoying our collections so please send me your pearls of wisdom gathered over the years to share with others!

Single Page Display:

Every member is asked to choose a favourite, memorable or special place in the world, show us a picture, a photograph from a visit there, you can include a picture of yourself there if you have one, or it can be a picture of the place from the web, or a drawing or even a painting for those more artistic! Then the challenge is to mount some stamps, a postmark, or a couple of covers or combination of any of these, which are linked to that location. Do not worry about the amount or type of stamp material, but the entry is limited to a single page (A4). If the stamp link is not obvious then tell us all the connections. Once your page is complete, then everyone should email an image, scan or photo of their page to me (les.ashtonsmith@gmail.com), which I will then create a collage of them all for members to view. I believe everyone can contribute, no excuses allowed, and we all have some time! Therefore, I am looking for every member to send me page and I will collate them all for a future newsletter or a special edition.

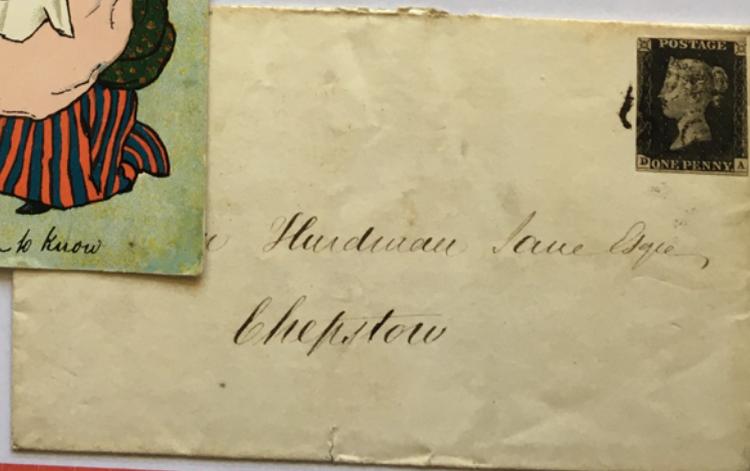
So very few rules, it must be a physical location, have some stamp material and only one page long, simple! I will be generous and give everyone two weeks (by 17th May 2020) to create it and send it to me. Any questions, please ask and I will make up some answers.

To start you thinking, I have put together two 1 page sheets for your interest, and as possible examples, however, I am sure you can do better. My two examples show Chepstow Castle in my home town and Reims Cathedral where I spend a holiday a few years ago.

Chepstow Castle, Wales



Chepstow Castle (Welsh: Castell Cas-gwent) at Chepstow, Monmouthshire, Wales is the oldest surviving post-Roman stone fortification in Britain. Located above cliffs on the River Wye, construction began in 1067 under the instruction of the Norman Lord William FitzOsbern. Originally known as Striguil, it was the southernmost of a chain of castles built in the Welsh Marches, and with its attached lordship took the name of the adjoining market town in about the 14th century. In the 12th century the castle was used in the conquest of Gwent, the first independent Welsh kingdom to be conquered by the Normans. It was subsequently held by two of the most powerful Anglo-Norman magnates of medieval England, William Marshal and Richard de Clare. However, by the 16th century its military importance had waned and parts of its structure were converted into domestic ranges. Although re-garrisoned during and after the English Civil War, by the 1700s it had fallen into decay. With the later growth of tourism, the castle became a popular visitor destination.



Reims Cathedral, France



Notre-Dame de Reims meaning "Our Lady of Reims") in Reims, France, is a Roman Catholic cathedral. The cathedral is famous for being the traditional location for the coronation of the kings. Famous for the **Smiling Angel** (French: *L'Ange au Sourire*), which is a stone sculpture of the cathedral of Reims which was carved between 1236 and 1245. This statue is an unusual departure from the normal more sombre visage. The Angel statue was beheaded following a fire caused by a WW I German shell. The pieces were collected by the bishop and the restored head became an icon for the French wartime propaganda as a symbol of "French culture destroyed by German barbarity".



An unusual diary idea: (an article from Lynne)

Isolation has given everybody a lot of time to get up to date on their specific collections but what do you do when you can't go any further, well I decided to clean and clear my stamp area and in doing so I found an old diary, where I had a different idea to record the trip I hope you like it.



Stamp Collecting Hints and Tips: (started by Neil)

An article started by Neil, which I am sure we can all contribute to and learn from:

Papers

The Gibbons Commonwealth 'Red' catalogue has some excellent notes on various papers e.g. Pelure paper is transparent when held up to the light. But here's one I learned years ago. Some papers are classed as 'vertical' or 'horizontal' mesh - it depends on the way the paper was laid down. Some books say 'hold it up to the light, and you can see the mesh.' Well, if you can you're a better man than me! But if you put the stamp on the heat of your palm, or on some kitchen paper on the radiator, the stamp will curl. If it curls left to right then it's vertical mesh, and if it curls top to bottom then it's horizontal mesh. Easy when you know!

Perforations

The Stanley Gibbons plastic perforation gauge is very good for most measurements, but sometimes the perfs. are quoted as, for example, 14.2 x 15.1. If you want spend quite a bit, however, I can recommend the Perfotronic2, made by Safe, which works to decimal places.

Colours

A good starting place is to realise that we all see colours differently (!), and that women see colours differently from men. Ultimately therefore the only sure way to differentiate is to have a reference set, and this has to be mint! But don't despair. By gathering as many copies as possible, and then checking papers and perfs., you can narrow things down. But the best way is to contact another member of the Club, or specialist Society if appropriate, and compare examples. The colours quoted in Stamp Magazines are not always accurate, so caveat emptor.

These hints are there to 'kick things off', and I look forward to more contributions from the members to help us all enjoy the hobby more.

Final Notes:

Dear members, my message is to all of you to please continue to keep safe and well. My thanks as always to all of the contributors, Lynne and Neil, who made this issue possible and remember there is always room for more. Our members have enjoyed the “how I started” articles so if you have not done one yet please share your “story” with society.

I have set the new challenge, a single page entry from everyone, we have a friendly and talented membership so if everyone produced that single page, we will have a cornucopia of riches to share amongst the members. Remember your social distancing but “reach” out to your fellow members and say hi, it is good to talk. Any mistakes and errors are all down to me, so as before, my genuine apologies for every one of them!

Les Ashton-Smith