

It's over now, alas alas
Another convention's gorn and past.

Yes if you weren't there you've missed it, For the first time I can remember, two of our members phoned me to say it was the best convention they have attended. And I would second that.

Although I am not an active stamp collector now, I am still a member of several philatelic societies and in one of them 'The Great Britain Philatelic Society' in their September / October Newsletter under the heading 'Think Tank Formed to address the apparent decreasing appeal of organised philately' it reports on some rather disturbing news regarding stamp collectors.

A group has been formed to study and develop solutions to stem the steady decrease in philatelic association memberships, and also the rapid decrease in involvement from younger collectors. Robert Bell MD, the group's founder, points to several concerning data points as the rationale for the group's creation. During the 17 years ending 2017, the American Philatelic Society's overall membership fell 43%, while membership under the age of 50 dropped from 20.4% of the total in 2000 to 3.89% of the total in 2017. Bell notes similar trends, with some exceptions, in philatelic association memberships across the hobby.

There can be no doubt that club membership numbers have fallen drastically over the years in this country as well. I can remember in another of my clubs 'The Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society' the then secretary announced at the beginning of a meeting some years ago that when he got home from the previous meeting and looked at the attendance book he counted there were 99 members present. Roy Garland said if he had realised this on the evening he would have gone outside the hall and grabbed the first passer-by and made him an honourable member for the evening. Today that club which I think still ranks as one of the largest stamp clubs in Kent counts it a good night if there is an attendance of 25 members.

The same lack of membership is also affecting many other types of clubs, including post card, jazz and bowling clubs which are three fields of interest that I have been involved in for many years.

Some more ominous news is that the Olympic Collectors Society has ceased to exist, because no member was prepared to take on the job of running it. In this respect the Exhibition Study Group is very fortunate in having a good set of hard working officers. I know this sounds as if I am blowing my own trumpet, but it has to be faced that in this modern society we live in, the young and the not so young members of it are increasingly reluctant to volunteer to take on any jobs. When I think back to when everything had to be done with a pen and ink I take my hat off to those club officials of yesterday, they were unsung heroes.

Many years ago my wife who was secretary of the Bromley Local History Society took on the job of organising an offshoot of the society in Beckenham. It took off and she was soon getting attendances of 60 to 80 at her meetings. On Nancy's death another lady took on the job and later when her husband needed care she had to give it up. I attended the last meeting of the Beckenham group and the request for a volunteer was met with silence from a packed meeting and it folded up.

I recently had an E-mail from Jean Osborne with some information on two season admittance tickets for the Great Exhibition which have just been sold on E-bay for a staggering £1,605 55 plus an extra £1.77 for postage. Jean also has one of these season tickets she got on E-bay but can't remember what she paid for it but not in that league. It is perhaps not generally known that after the Exhibition was closed to the public, Jurors, Foreign and Local Commissioners and Exhibitors were allowed the exclusive privilege of entrance on the 13th, 14th and 15th of October. On the first two occasions accompanied by two friends but on the 15th no friends were allowed. I have one of these special tickets, and I'm sure there can't be many of those about.

Jean asked at the convention if it was possible to start a buy and sales column, members could say what they have to sell or what they want to buy and should supply their name, an e-mail address and a phone number. If they don't have an e-mail address that is OK but it means neither of you can send a scan of any item you have for sale without posting it. Or it can be discussed on the phone.

The Editors

Exhibition Study Group Annual General Meeting Crystal Palace 13th October 2018.

Chairman Derek Connell opened the A.G.M. and welcomed all. This year we have lost two members, Mike Perkins and (Captain) Peter Denly, he asked members to stand for a minute silence in their memory. Derek then asked President Bill Tonkin to say a few words, he said that Mike had a stroke 2 years ago and he had kept in touch with Mike's wife. In that time Mike was given the phone he was able to say just two words "Hallo Bill". Bill and Kenneth attended Mike's funeral. Peter Denly had been fighting illness for some time, both will be sadly missed. Derek said he first met Peter at the Bishops Stortford P.S.

Apologies for Absence Fred Peskett.

Minutes of last A .G. M. proposed Barry Coker seconded Richard West and carried by all.

Secretary's report. Don Knight said that we have had two meetings at Stampex, Over the 2 hour period the displays were very good. We will look to have meeting at Stampex in 2019. I have sold one double cover of our special cover done in 2011. I get the ABPS magazine, copies are on the table, Bill asked if he could have one posted on to him. Two years ago the London 2020 chairman asked for suggestion on what could be commemorated on a miniature sheet to raise funds, we suggested the Cenotaph and War Memorials, Derek has had no reply.

Treasures report. Kenneth handed out copies of the accounts which shows that the Study Group is in a very sound financial position, they have been checked and signed by Andrew Brooks. The new web site has now been set up and is working by Kenneth and Ken Rumsey

A vote of thanks proposed Barry Coker Seconded by Terry Gazzard and carried.

Election of Officers. Life President Bill Tonkin.

Chairman Kenneth Tonkin Proposed D Connell Seconded Ramon Goody.

Deputy Chairman Derek Connell Proposed Melvin Harrison Seconded Don Knight.

Hon Secretary Don Knight Proposed Derek Connell Seconded Richard West.

Treasurer Kenneth Tonkin Proposed Bill Tonkin Seconded Melvin Harrison.

Committee of 4
Richard West,
Ramon Goody,
Barry Coker
Terry Gazzard.

Proposed Derek Connell Seconded Jean Osborne.

Journal Team Bill Tonkin and Fred Peskett.

Web Site Team Kenneth Tonkin and Ken Rumsey.

Journal Printing and Distribution Kenneth Tonkin.

Archivist Bill Tonkin.

Account Checker Andrew Brooks.

Proposed seconded and elected on Block.

Venue for 2019 Convention. It was proposed that we return to Crystal Palace which had the full support of all. Date 12 and 13 October 2019. Bill to book this with Joan.

A. O. B. Jean Osborne spoke about members putting in the Journal a short list of items they wish to sell, Bill said he had tried this and had no response but he will be happy to try this again. Members must describe items and give a contact number.

Meeting closed at 11 am.

Displays at the Convention 2018. Day one Saturday 13th October

The first display after the A.G.M. was put up by **Don Knight**. After the death of Alan Sabey he had purchased his collection of ephemera and china of Wembley. In one of the folders there were 63 sheets of photocopies of rare British Empire Exhibition postcards. Alan had been lent these cards by Bill Tonkin and Mike Perkins and on seeing them, Bill was quite amazed. There was great interest shown by the members.

Jean Osborne now started her theme for the weekend which was advertising. She filled the six frames with 72 sheets crammed with rare and unusual advertising labels of the 1908 Franco-

British Exhibition, all advertising various companies' goods or services.

David Potter a new member, now showed his superb collection of the 1890 Post Office Jubilee Exhibitions, held at the Guildhall and the South Kensington Museum. Special handstamps with different time codes, covers addressed to outstanding dignitaries and the first commemorative pre-paid stationery were all shown. The special Guildhall card had a print run of just 10,000 and were sold out in two hours.

Don Knight put up a second display of the 2010 Festival of Stamps. One of the two mini sheets had the two values of the British Empire Exhibition. Don had gone to town with getting the many covers cancelled with different special handstamps. One example showed the two 1924 values on the special PHQ cards. Don had taken original mint stamps from 1924 and overlaid them on the 2010 item. Unknowingly, Royal Mail tied them both with a special handstamp.

After lunch, **Ramon Goodey** continued the Wembley theme with a fascinating selection of ephemera from the British Empire Exhibition. Here were coil stamps, joins and examples of overprinted "CANCELLED". A very difficult to find party admission ticket was shown with the counterfoil still intact, and amongst other items, a lovely example of the giant "Fellowship" card, signed by the Prince of Wales.

Another, relatively new member, **Lisa Wall** now gave a presentation using the overhead projector. She entertained us with the story of her research into Tudor Houses in Ipswich, their history, who lived in them, who bought them, their uses and how they were taken down and used elsewhere. Lisa has a particular interest in this type of house as built at White City and Wembley, and Bill and Don are helping her with her research.

Bill Tonkiin knowing in advance of Lisa's display now showed a new exhibit he had worked on for some months. He covered all six frames and then another two with "Tudors throughout Exhibitions down the years". Here was a cavalcade of postcards showing Tudor characters and costumes, houses inside and out, furniture and fabrics in static shows, pageants and parades from White City to Wembley to Crystal Palace.

Derek Connell now displayed "Victorian Exhibitions" starting with engraved letter heads and decorated envelopes, showing the 1851 Crystal Palace in Hyde Park and award seals from the Great Exhibition. This was followed by the International Exhibition of 1862, with the first special event postmark on cover, more engravings and silk souvenirs. Derek concluded with the Commissioners' envelopes for the series of Annual Exhibitions that started in 1871 and examples of awards, seals, handstamps and ephemera from the later Fisheries, Health, Inventions, Navy, Gardening and Forestry Exhibitions.

Jean Osborne rounded off the day for us staying with her theme of advertising, this time with labels of the British Empire Exhibition. A large pride of Wembley Lions strode across the frames, some simply advertising the Exhibition, some the pavilions and palaces, some the exhibiting companies, some with their stand number and some without. Yet other labels had no lion, but different designs created by the companies. Finally Jean showed a comprehensive selection of the different "Gregory Brown" designs and slogans, including one never seen before.

Some of our visitors now returned home, whilst others relaxed in their rooms at The lodge. A number of us went to the local pub for a couple of pints and more talk of Exhibitioniana! Later we all gathered in the Paxton Room for our Annual Dinner.

Day two Sunday 14th October

After breakfast, **Ron Trevelyan** started with Spanish Expos 1929-30 in Seville and later Barcelona. There were early stamps and souvenir postcards showing early aviation. A Spanish village was built with traditional architecture showing arts and crafts - Ron showed Cinderella labels. Ron visited in 1992 and wrote it up in the E.S.G. Journal. '92 was the "Age of Discovery" being the 500 year anniversary of Christopher Columbus setting sail from Seville.

Ken Lewington of the Crystal Palace Foundation now showed a comprehensive selection of poster stamps advertising various Exhibitions including those for poultry and the annual "South London Exhibition" - the last held in 1936 before the Palace burnt down. Ken then gave us a brief talk on plans for a proposed 2022 festival and a new Museum and Cultural Centre.

Terry Gazzard decided to go Scottish this year and showed ephemera such as programmes, invitations and advertising cards from Glasgow 1888 and 1901 and giant postcards from 1908 and 1911.

EXHIBITION STUDY GROUP

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2018

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions	486.03	Website fees	18
2017/18 subscriptions prepaid	20	Convention expenses	179.3
Sale of books	48	Postage & stationery	0
Bank interest	5.9	Bank charges	20
Donations	13	Stampex meeting room 2017	48
	<u>572.93</u>	Stampex meeting room 2018	57.6
		Subscriptions	95
Excess income over expenditure	80.03	Donations	75
	<u>492.9</u>		<u>492.9</u>
BALANCE SHEET			
General fund	9108.19	HSBC current account	2160.09
Publications fund	3133	HSBC deposit account	10081.1
	<u>12241.19</u>		<u>12241.19</u>

Please note that in addition to the above we currently have a stock of approximately 20 Convention covers with an estimated value of £150

I am satisfied that these accounts give a true and fair representation of the financial activities of the Exhibition Study Group for the year to 31st July 2018

..... *G. D. Brooks*

Andrew Brooks

5/9/18

Date

Balance sheet for 2017-2018

George Burr showed illustrations of a rare overseas exhibit - a set of postcards from the Falkland Islands. Bill Tonkin said he reckoned they were the rarest of all Wembley Empire Exhibition postcards - being on sale in the "Falklands Court" with the remainder being sent back to the Islands.

Kenneth Tonkin now entertained us with a varied selection of postal history of the 1938 Glasgow International. These were primarily covers with various postal markings from advertising slogans and instructionals to machine CDS's and handstamps. Kenneth insisted this was all "philatelic" and thus really boring - but of course beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

Terry Gazzard popped up again with some beautiful silk postcards from Cork, Dublin and Glasgow, as well as the Franco-British. Then he produced a programme for a Refuge Assurance Company visit to Crystal Palace and within its pages was a silk badge for the participant of the Expedition to the Exhibition! Terry finished with a fascinating 1890 South Kensington Jubilee envelope, sent from the 1909 Manchester Congress to the Sudan, forwarded to Canada and returned to Manchester!

Bill Tonkin finished up the weekend with a talk about his son, our new Chairman, Kenneth. Not to be repeated here, for fear of embarrassing him, but as Bill is the Editor of the Journal, it may well appear anyway! Bill then treated us to a final display of his cut-and-paste characters, this time visitors to the 1910 Belgian International, who had already been seen enjoying themselves two years earlier at White City in 1908!

As our Convention closed for another year, we can safely say everyone had a good time!

Stampex Autumn 2018 by Don Knight

The Exhibition Study Group held a meeting on Saturday 15 September at Stampex. This was to be a joint meeting with members of the Congress Study Group but they were unable to attend. So with 6 members of the study group with 5 displaying parts of their collections the 2 hours were enjoyed by all.

Ramon Goodey started with a small selection of ephemera from the British Empire Exhibition. Followed by **Jean Osborne** who had traveled all the way down from Scotland, Jean put up on the boards some of her Franco British Exhibition cards. Starting with the rarer silk cards, book marks along with other items, making a request for information from members about other silk cards.

Ron Trevelyan then displayed his way of collecting the 1851 Crystal Palace, views of the opening with the Archbishop of Canterbury being part of the grand opening. A print of the Colebrook Iron Gates, then and now, the envelop folding machine and a copy of wallpaper. **Don Knight** filled the boards with the 1929 Newcastle Exhibition, showing the special handstamp and slogan meter marks along with some of the postcard views of the exhibition.

Derek Connell showed Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee, the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund stamps overprinted specimen. The 1950 International Stamp Exhibition, souvenir sheets and proofs, Menu card from the special dinner. The 1970 Philypia cover signed by John Stonehouse the then Post Master General, the special labels. The 2000 Millennium Time Keeper sheet over print, covers signed by David Gentleman, Jeffery Matthews and Tom Baker.

Don Knight ended the afternoon with his 1908 Bally Maclinton Village handstamps and views of the of the Irish Colleens in the village.

The Nottingham Exhibition of 1903-1904: An Amusement Park. by Keith Fisher. Part 3.

The visitors added to the growing throng on the bridge and beside the river. Two of the steamers started pumping water from the river and other hoses were connected to the mains. The firemen concentrated on confining the conflagration to the existing structures and, by the time it was out, at 11.30, they had succeeded. The main 'Ivory Palace' and the river side buildings were saved, although the official report conceded that, but for the wind direction and proximity to the river, they, along with the houses on Radcliffe Road, would have been demolished. The Radcliffe Road tenants

were lucky - one man had to break through the tiles of his roof to extinguish a piece of burning wood - as they could not expect any assistance from the West Bridgford Fire Brigade. There wasn't one.

It may have been some comfort to know that, just the day before, the General Purposes Committee of West Bridgford Urban Council had considered their fire-fighting arrangements and concluded 'that two sets of hand appliances be provided' after they had borrowed the money.¹¹⁸ luckily no one was injured during the blaze, except a fireman who cut his hand on a falling piece of corrugated iron.¹¹⁹

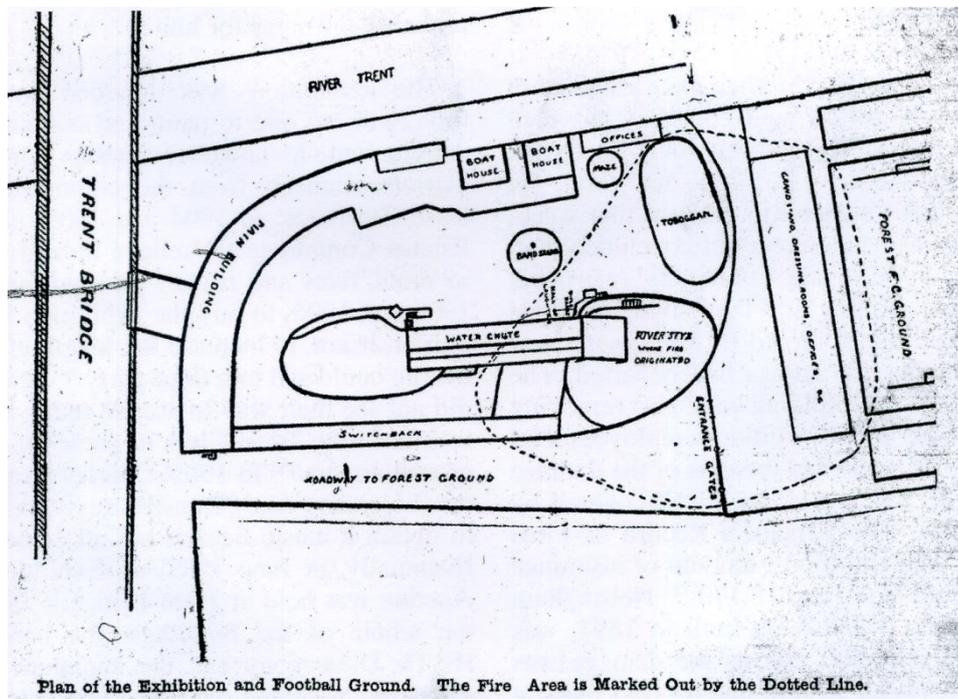


Figure 2. from the Nottingham Weekly Express, 8 July 1904.
Image reproduced by kind permission of Nottingham Local Studies Library.

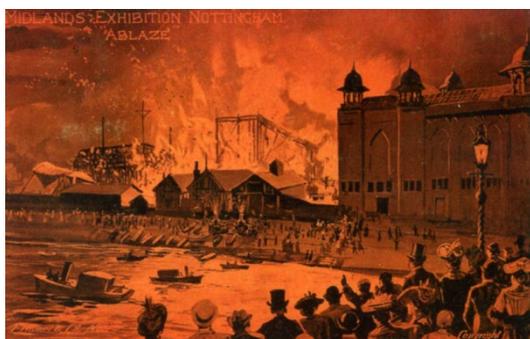
Two eye witnesses to the start of the fire were interviewed by the Nottinghamshire Weekly Express } ¹²⁰ The bandmaster of the 2nd Manchester Regiment, Mr Wingrove, said, 'I was directing the band about a quarter to nine, when a curious little light in the Fairy River attracted my attention. Then the light got a good deal more prominent, and I could see that behind the scenery fire was burning.' A 'lady' told the Express representative that, 'When the fire first broke out it seemed as if a number of electric sparks were playing on the canvas at the far end of the River Styx.' This description of the sparks as being 'electric' may be the cause of the common assumption that the fire was caused by a short circuit.¹²¹ The Nottingham Evening Post also reported that, during the fire, 'mischievous lads' set alight some timber behind the Forest ground. Was this their first arson attempt that evening? However, the fire brigade and newspaper reports all agreed that the fire originated at the River Styx but that the cause was unknown, a carelessly dropped match, cigar or cigarette being suspected. At this distance of time, it is impossible to say for sure the cause of the fire, but we do know the effect. The exhibition closed down.

After the Fire.

Edgar Kiralfy, the third brother, gave a statement to the press on the following Wednesday in which he confirmed that the exhibition would be closed for that summer and, very likely, for good. He said that they had intended to re-open that week, fencing off the damaged area, but concluded that, with their main rides and attractions destroyed, there would be nothing for the public to come in for. The band had returned to Manchester and the owners of the side shows had departed. The exhibitors in the main building were also removing their wares, and the exhibition employees had been paid off. He estimated the cost of the damage to be at least £7,500, which was well covered by insurance.¹²² The Fire Brigade's Record of Fires Book records the exhibition's amount of insurance on buildings

and stock as £18,170.¹²³ Nottingham Forest's members grandstand, built in 1897, was also insured, for £1,500, but as the damage was estimated at between £3,000 and £4,000 the fire was a serious loss.¹²⁴

The stand had contained dressing rooms, bathrooms, refreshment rooms, stores and offices but, luckily, as the club's head office was in Maypole Yard, Clumber Street, their important documents and records were intact.¹²⁵ The irony was that, the previous September, the ground had hosted demonstrations by the British Uralite Company of a fire retardant material - a mouldable mixture containing sulphuric acid, silicates, chalk and asbestos.¹²⁶ However, within a fortnight of the fire, the insurance had been paid and the club was confident that everything would be properly restored before the opening of the season.¹²⁷ The fire had other, more personal, consequences. Three days after the blaze, Hamel & Co. was advertising for boys to sell their postcards of the exhibition grounds - and fire (12 and 13).¹²⁸ The more unsavoury element also tried to profit from the disaster, with one Arthur Julian, of Narrow Marsh, receiving 21 days for stealing iron from the ruins.¹²⁹ Another 'victim' of the fire was nineteen year old Abraham Goddard who had worked on the water chute until thrown out of work. At the Nottingham Quarter Sessions, he was charged with stealing a bicycle but was found not guilty by the jury, who probably felt sorry for him.¹³⁰



(12) Midlands Exhibition Nottingham
"Ablaze" postcard E. Hamel & Co.



(13) Midlands Exhibition Nottingham,
after fire, postcard Blakey Bros. Image
Reproduced by kind permission of
Reflections of a Bygone Age. Keyworth.

The exhibition was boarded up and, over time, with no one to paint and maintain it, slowly deteriorated. Meanwhile, Charles Kiralfy tried to extricate himself from the commitment and the lease. He twice, in 1904 and 1905, petitioned the Estates Committee to 'relieve him of the payment of rents, rates and taxes'. He also asked them, in 1904 and 1906, to buy the exhibition buildings off him or, if not, to increase the length of his lease so that he could sell to a third party.¹³¹ The Committee did not see their way to accede to his requests, and instructed the Town Clerk to press for the payment of rent arrears.¹³² In 1905, Charles also approached the Licencing and Transfer sessions three times to obtain a music licence but all came to nothing. Eventually, in June 1907, an Expiration of Lease Auction was held at Trent Bridge.¹³³ This included the whole of the buildings, the bandstand, a 6 HP De Dion motor car, the miniature railway, six miniature warships, 46 distorting mirrors and 32 turnstiles. As well as numerous items of furniture, there were 47 lamp posts and five tons of gas piping.

While the sale was in progress, a William Stone stole a quantity of brass jets, and the caretaker's jacket.¹³⁴ There then followed almost eighteen months of protracted argument between Charles and the Estates Committee about what constituted 'returning the land to its original condition' as specified in the lease. First he asked to leave the lake open, and when rebuffed started using it as a dump for the building rubble. The Estates Surveyor and City Architect became involved in assessing the work and the cost of the clean-up. It all came to a head in November 1908, when the Town Clerk was instructed to issue a writ for £250 against him. In December, the claim was settled 'out of court' for £200,¹³⁵ thus ending the dealings between Nottingham and Charles, who they had welcomed so enthusiastically seven years before.

The Kiralfy brothers had their fingers burned, figuratively speaking, by their attempts to forge their own path away from their father. The Roker enterprise was unsuccessful - Charles applied to

abandon his lease at the end of 1904¹³⁶ - although the two Scarborough venues managed to survive into the 1905 season¹³⁷. Charles and Albert returned to working with their father. While Charles was groomed as Imre's successor, Albert undertook other projects with his father, notably the Liege Exposition of 1905, where Imre was awarded the Cross of Commander of the Order of Leopold by the King of the Belgians¹³⁸.

But the main effect of Charles's return was to free Imre to develop his largest project, the Franco- British Exhibition of 1908. This 'White City' exhibition at Shepherd's Bush in London was so large that, when the 1908 Olympics was relocated to London at short notice - it was transferred from Rome after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906 - the Olympic Stadium, complete with 100 metre outdoor swimming pool, was added to one corner of the site with little difficulty.¹³⁹ The Kiralfy's had another interest in the Olympics as Edgar ran in the 100 metres, for the USA. He didn't win a medal.¹⁴⁰

So what of the Nottingham site? It stood empty until 1915 when a cinema was built. This building had several names over the years, the Pavilion, the Palace and the Plaza, but eventually closed in 1942 and was demolished in 1955.¹⁴¹ The present building opened as the Bridgford Hotel but was not as successful as hoped and, in 1978, was acquired by Rushcliffe Borough Council.¹⁴² Although it has similarities to the exhibition, (it is curved and white) for some reason, despite its larger size, it seems less imposing than the 'Ivory Palace'. It could be because it is set back from the road or perhaps it's just the lack of domes. On the ground, there are no signs of the exhibition. The widening of Trent Bridge in 1926 and the building of the road between the bridge and Nottingham Forest's ground - as an extension of the existing Pavilion Road - has obliterated any traces. So confined to history is the time when, on a pleasant summer evening, you could dine el-fresco on the balcony, stroll through the grounds listening to the band, watch an amazing aerial display or even, if brave enough, shoot the chute.

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- 117 Nottingham Evening News, (24 February 1904).
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- 122 NWE, (8 July 1904).
- 123 NA CA.FB/1, Record of Fires Book.
- 124 NWE, (8 July 1904).
- 125 Kelly's Directory of Nottinghamshire (1904).
- 126 NWE, (4 September 1903).
- 127 Rushcliffe Advertiser, (15 July 1904).
- 128 NEP, (5 July 1904).
- 129 NEP, (15 July 1904).
- 130 NEP, (25 July 1904).
- 131 NA.CA CM/29/8.

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 133 NDE, (31 May 1907).
 134 NEP, (6 June 1907).
 135 NA,CA CM/29/9.
 136 SDE, (7 September 1904).
 137 Leeds and Yorkshire Mercury, (6 June 1905).
 138 The London Gazette, (21 November 1905).
 139 Rebecca Jenkins, The First London Olympics 1908, (2008).
 140 Rebecca Jenkins, The First London Olympics 1908, (2008) 107.
 141 www.nottstalgia.com [accessed: 12 September 2016].
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 Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, Vol. 120, 2016



Stamp 95 at Wembley

I've dug out this old photograph of three smart looking gentlemen some of them looking much younger than they are today This was taken at Stamp95 when Alan Sabey managed to twist the arms of the organisers into letting us have a free stand. I think he offered to put on a 600 sheet display of his Wembley collection in return. I know he also gave this huge display at a meeting at "The Royal".

On our part we offered to put on a display of some of the rarest Wembley post cards chosen from the collections of Alan, Mike Perkins and myself. I agreed to write up and mount the display so it conformed to single pattern. I also made a list of the display and named the owner of each card so that when the time came to break it up and return it there could be no possibility of a mix up and gave Alan and Mike each a copy. A copy of this list was amongst the sheets that Don gave me.

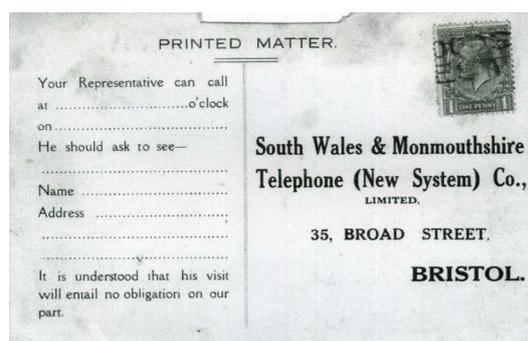
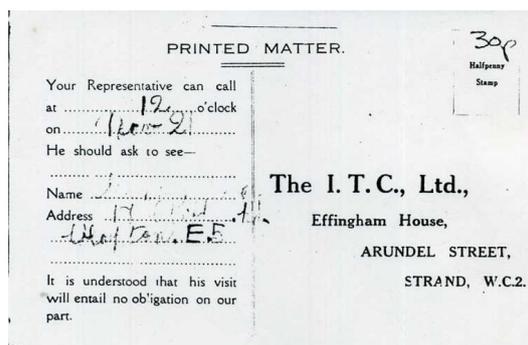
Coming forward over twenty years, how time does fly, we come to our 2018 convention and our secretary Don Knight broke new ground by showing a display consisting of photocopies of post cards. He gave me a copy of his display and when I got home and examined it I realised it was scans of our 1995 display at Stamp95. Apparently way back Alan had collected the display after the exhibition closed and made a copy of it before it was broken up and returned to the other two owners.

Don acquired the copy sheets when he managed to obtain some of Alan's collection when it came up for auction, and I recognised the display when Don gave it at our convention. For me Don's

display provided a wonderful trip down memory lane.

Correspondence to the Editor from David Ogden

First an E-mail from David Ogden regarding half a card he has recently purchased. I say half a card because he only has half of a double card, where one half is meant to be separated and used for a reply. Complete cards with both still halves attached are very scarce and I show below one such card and it can be seen there is a tag which slides into a slit at the top of the card (Just above 'Printed Matter') when it is folded for posting. The half which is retained and has a picture of an aerial view of the exhibition and this half is far more common. As far as I know this telephone company published three cards which I have illustrated.



David has been digging up some information about the company and has discovered the following information on the "britishtelephones.com/hist" website:

In 1902 a Frederick T Jackson became a clerk at The Private Telephone Company, one of five companies operating telephone services in the UK at that time. By 1906 he had become Company Secretary of the company, which had changed its name to New System PTC.

At that time most businesses relied on one or two telephones in their building and firms like Sterling and G.E.C. were struggling to sell their internal telephone systems because of the high cost involved in purchasing the telephones and wiring-in the new system. New System PTC offered a way round this - internal telephones for rent rather than purchase, which made it economic to change to internal telephones rather than continue with message wires or speaking tubes. The equipment was supplied by a German Company, Fuld Gmbh of Frankfurt.

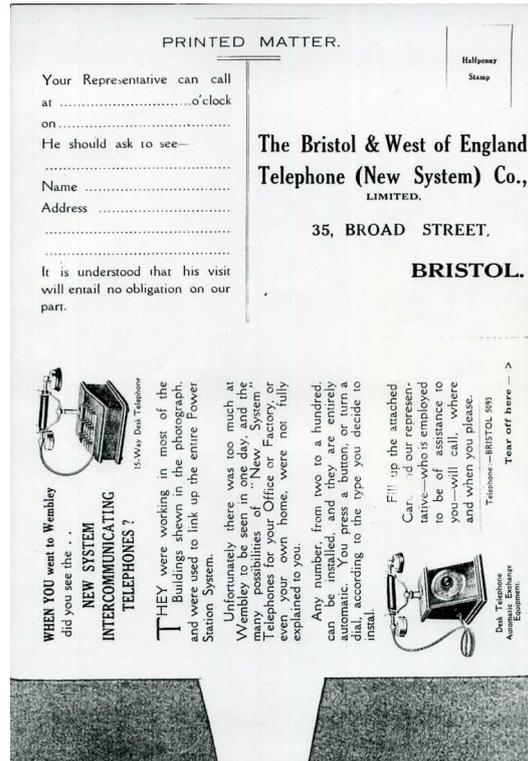
In 1908 Jackson left New System PTC and joined a rival company, Intercommunicating Telephones [assumed to be The Intercommunicating Telephone Company], which subsequently took over New System PTC. The combined business operated under the New System name.

In 1912 Jackson met Campbell Cochran (a solicitor) in Glasgow and they pooled resources to buy out the German-owned Caledonian Telephone Company and similar companies operating in Birmingham, Leeds, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Ireland.

With the outbreak of the First World War they could no longer obtain their phones from Fuld, so they were forced into local manufacture. A new company, The Telephone Manufacturing Company, was set up. It supplied intercom phones only to the New System group of companies. New System's slogan was "a penny per day per instrument". The company was able to buy the confiscated equipment of the German-owned companies at a bargain price.

In 1920 the Telephone Manufacturing Company went public and purchased all the shares in the rental companies. Other rental companies were established around the UK and in Brussels, Paris and Melbourne. After a period of expansion, the company got into financial difficulty and a restructuring in 1929 saw the formation of two separate organisations - The Telephone Manufacturing Company (1929) Limited and Telephone Rentals Limited.

So, it seems that I.T.C. stands for "Intercommunicating Telephone Company". The Bristol and West of England and the South Wales & Monmouthshire companies were presumably local trading businesses of I.T.C. I note that both cards were to be returned to the same Bristol address. Perhaps there are other regional cards?



The original scans were taken on a black background which shows at the bottom.

from John Davies

J. Davies
 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire.
 OX16 9LB
 Telephone: 01295 255831 Mobile:07528 333416
 E-Mail: davies1890@btinternet.com
 To Members of the Exhibition Study Group
 A JUBILEE REMINISCENCE - A Philatelic History of the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee

I have begun writing up the philatelic aspects of the 1890 celebrations and events. This will include examples of many of the philatelic items that were produced as well as aspects of their planning.

This is very much “work in progress” and I have a few more months of work to integrate further my researches, including those from The Postal Museum, London, British Library, London Metropolitan Archives and more.

I would very much like to receive scans or photocopies with details of any unusual or scarce items, including the invitations, tickets, bag labels etc and Fumiss and Elliot envelopes, Guildhall Proofs or whatever you think would add value to understanding the material and its rarity.

Can you please confirm that you are happy for your material to be shown in the book, with appropriate acknowledgement.

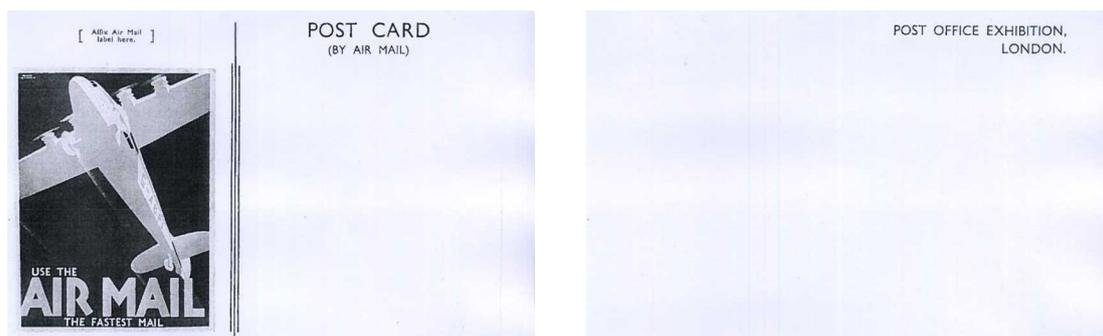
I am not sure in what final form this might appear but I have to finish the draft first.

Thank you, in advance, for any help you are able to give.

John Davies FRPSL

from Abraham Costin

Bram writes to ask if anyone can help on any information on this card which he picked up on E-bay. In my reply to Bram I said I have had a think about your card, and I have a very similar card that was published for the British Industries Fair in 1933 when it was held in Castle Bromwich, Birmingham. I have sent him a scan of this. I think your card must have been published about the same time, and the Post Office probably had a stand at an exhibition about that time, possibly the Ideal Home Exhibition in 1933.



Can anyone help Bram to identify this card.

from Michael Gorringe

Mike has found Wembley map number 50 and very kindly send it to me so that I can scan the various panes containing advertisements for a firm called Attwater & Sons. Mike discovered that Attwater still exist and still trades from the same address, they have a very sympathetic Sales Manager Rachael Kennedy who contacted him within few minutes and would be pleased for ESG to use information she sent him in our newsletter as it has rather good pictures.

Mike writes that the seller of the map, has another one in pristine condition, but may now offer it to Attwater. He will keep me posted on progress.

From: Rachael Kennedy <Rachael.Kennedy@attwater.com>

Sent: 22 August 2018 14:49

To: mikegorringe@hotmail.com

Subject: RE: Old map of British Empire Exhibition 1924

Hello Mike

Thanks for the e-mail with the details of the British Empire Exhibition 1924. This is certainly the same business and we are still trading from Hopwood Street Mill in Preston. Strangely enough I have been looking through our archives recently as we are celebrating 150 years in business this year.

I have asked around and none of my colleagues were aware that Attwater exhibited at this exhibition in 1924. I appreciate you sending the newspaper article. I have attached some old photos and I like to think that we look very different now!

I will forward your e-mail to Richard Attwater (5th generation owner) and see if he has any information regarding the British Empire Exhibition but he is away at the moment.

Best regards

Rachael Kennedy Sales Director

Contents of different panels on Map number 50. Attwater & Sons

Panels

- I. Advert for British industries Fair 1924. Without printers reference number. 5mm between box and 'For fuller etc.' seven lines of text measures 33mm deep.
- K, L, M & N Picture of the Imperial Stadium and text on the British Empire Exhibition. The headings of the paragraphs are, Variety and Colour, The Tomb of Tut, Monster Military Tattoos, and An Empire Parliament.
- S. Advert starts with "Mica Leatheroid Vulcanised Fibre" in 12 lines of text.
- T & U. Advert with a picture of Attwater & Sons Stand No. 274 Bay No. 74.
- V. Advert starts with "Manufacturers of Steam Engine & Hydraulic Packings" in 14 lines of text.