

Institute for Analytical Philately

Third International Symposium The Royal Philatelic Society London – 13th to 15th October 2017

Speaker Bios

Saturday 14th October – 09.10am - Christopher Harman, RDP, Hon. FRPSL

- Chris is a past President and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and is the current chairman of the RPSL Ltd Expert Committee.
- Chris had the good fortune to be “adopted” by Ron Lee (then chairman of the RPSL Expert Committee) and later, by Ron Butler (Ron Lee’s successor) who invited him to become more involved with philately in general and in the Expert Committee in particular.
- After some years assisting the Expert Committee, Chris formally became of a member in 1985 and its chairman in 2013
- Understanding the design, engineering and production of stamps has always been a particular interest and Chris brings knowledge of this to the expertising process.
- A number of philatelic books show considerable input from Chris, both as author and peer reviewer – the latest being *The Stamps and Postal Stationery Bahamas* (jointly published by the RPLSL and British West Indies Study Circle) where the chapters on the Chalon Head issues were his work.
- Chris has been a collector since childhood and has collections of the work of the printer Perkins Bacon, the revenue stamps of many countries, forgeries of the world, local stamps and modern British postal history are just some of his interests.
- Chris is an accredited FIP juror and was elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in Gateshead in 2003
- Chris has won international Gold medals for his traditional exhibit of “Posts of the University Cities of Oxford and Cambridge”. The scarcity of material and the lack of knowledge of the judges gives this subject a number of challenges for the exhibitor.
- He has also won international Large Golds for his exhibits of the early revenue stamps of Great Britain.

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Saturday 14th October – 10.20am - Ted Nixon – Member 2010

- J. Edward (Ted) Nixon, FRPSC- is Chairman of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, having succeeded the late Harry Sutherland, RDP in 2006.
- Ted has been chairman of the Foundation's Expert Committee since 2002.
- He is an international Gold medal exhibitor of the 1870-97 Small Queen Issue of Canada and co-author of a book on the same issue published by the Greene Foundation in 2009. In addition, he collects and exhibits early France and the Paris Star cancels and Newfoundland 1880-98, when not consumed with "philatelic administration".
- He is a member of nine national and international societies in Canada, Great Britain and United States, including the RPSL.
- Ted is a qualified actuary, having mostly retired from pension and employee benefit consulting. He was born, educated and resides in Toronto with his wife Diane, son and daughter, and grandchildren.

Saturday 14th October – 10.20am - Garfield Portch – Non-Member

- Garfield Portch, FRPSC is the Vice President of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation who was appointed in 2011 to replace the retiring John Tyack. Garfield has been a member of the Expert Committee since 2009 and, since the acquisition of the VSC6000 in 2012 has become the self appointed "forensics expert".
- He is a national gold medal exhibitor of 19th century Canadian Postal History specializing in the postal history of the post office in Toronto. He also has a gold medal exhibit of the Small Queens (but admittedly not as good as Ted's). Just to have something different from Canadian collecting, he also is working on a specialized collection of the Machin heads of Great Britain.
- He is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, a member of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the British North America Philatelic Society, the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, the Postal History Society of Canada and the West Toronto Stamp Club. He is also a director of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada Research Foundation.
- Garfield was born and raised in Toronto where he still lives with Leslie-Ann with whom he celebrated 50 years of marriage in March. His educational background is economics which has absolutely nothing to do with his professional career which was split between the graphic arts industry and insurance. Overlapping the two business careers was a twenty two year career as a soccer (football to Europeans) referee. Now retired from all three careers leaving time for philately.

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Saturday 14th October – 11.20am - Bob Mustacich – Non-Member

- Like many of us, Bob was introduced to the hobby at a young age by a family member. In this case by his father, who was a carrier, postal clerk, and later an assistant postmaster.
- When Bob discovered the Scott Catalogue at the local branch library in 5th grade, he was amazed by the "value" in his beginning collection. The hobby faded along with other childhood pursuits and was forgotten, only to be rediscovered during an early part of his technical career in pharmaceutical research.
- The previously unfamiliar U.S. Match and Medicine revenue stamps of the 19th century amazed him with their fantastic engravings and history from the wild times of 19th century medicine.
- As a researcher always watching for something "new" to do, this led to the study of cancels by medicine proprietors on the 1898 Spanish-American War revenues. He ended up writing a book on this topic and has the largest collection known of these stamps.
- Having always worked with computers for scientific computing, he took a stab at extracting images of cancels from these stamps in the late 1980s, but abandoned it because of its complexity. He did solve a puzzle many years back involving freak perforations of revenues showing that the computer could be used to characterise, fingerprint, and match perforations.
- Emboldened, he re-attempted the image analysis problem a few years [reviously, and this research led to today's presentation.

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Saturday 14th October – 1.00pm - Paul Leonard, FRPSL

- Paul Leonard has over 40 years' experience of supplying science – based evidence for regulatory and policy customers.
- His career has included duties as a Nuclear Inspector, science audits of laboratory facilities and management of a \$5m R&D budget.
- Retiring from Government service in 2007, Paul was able to expand his interest in forensic analysis, especially the fraudulent use of philatelic material.
- Becoming a member and subsequently Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, has enabled Paul to share his enthusiasm for forensics working with members of the Royal Expert Committee. This includes analysis of paper types, printing methods, use of adhesives and the historical context of the submission.
- The RPSL has extensive museum facilities and over 200,000 records of worldwide significance.
- Paul's scientific knowledge of analytical techniques has been used to aid opinions whether from comparison of reference material, accessing material from other collections such as the British Library or undertaking tests using the Video Spectral Comparator, VSC6000.
- Paul gives talks on forensic philately to a range of societies and works with researchers at universities and laboratories.
- In 2016, he was invited to the meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, (ASQDE), spoke at their conference in Pensicola, Florida and the ASQDE has recently published his paper.

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Saturday 14th October – 2.00pm - Tim Lyerla – Member

- Tim learned about stamp collecting as he was growing up in Napa, California at a time when there were only five wineries in the area. The dealer-tutor was a veteran of WW II, of German heritage, and got him hooked on German Colonies through their boat stamps, which were inexpensive enough in mint condition in the smaller format for an 11 to 13 year-old to collect in fair numbers.
- Then puberty hit, and the philatelic door slammed shut.
- He resumed collecting this material after waking up partially from that testosterone fog and had a wife and a son, and a little spare time in the evenings.
- Initially he thought he might get close to a complete collection of this area until he bought a German catalog and learned it was a lot deeper than he had been led to believe from the Scott listings. So that goal was laid to rest.
- However, the catalogues kept adding more shade variants to the various issues--even some of the "boat" stamps--which added more complexity to an already vexing problem. He was particularly vexed about the lack of objective analyses of these shades and a complete reliance on somebody else's opinion, which often didn't match his own observations of this property.
- He had little experience with photography, although he worked in a profession that required evidence for statements of observations. But he turned to it as a possible way to glean some objective appraisal of the shades, using relatively inexpensive and readily available equipment. He has been working on this project for the past three to four years.
- Whether it adds any useful or better information about this area of stamp collecting has yet to be determined, but he persists out of a hope that it might and being too damned old to start something else.

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Saturday 14th October – 3.00pm - Fernando Moreira dos Santos – Member?

- Fernando met philately when his wife, in 2012, presented him with some postage stamps. He went to study what he had and discovered a universe of friendships in blogs and fell in love with the hobby.
- In 2014, he joined the “Sociedade Filatelica Paulista” – SPP (Philatelic Society of São Paulo), the oldest philatelic society in Brazil, having been in existence since 1919 and found support from philatelists who felt the need to develop philately.
- In 2016, he created in SPP three groups of studies, traditional philately, thematic philately and postal history.
- Feeling the need for greater dissemination of philately, he started a pioneering project in Brazil of live transmission and dissemination via Facebook of lectures that occur monthly in SPP, as well as in study groups.
- He was elected as consultative advisor to the Brazilian Philatelic Federation for the management of 2017-2020.
- Regarding his philatelic interests, since 2013, he had been attracted to Cottens essays, about which very little was known and began a historical study that opened the doors to the largest university in Brazil, the University of São Paulo – USP.
- The researcher Marcia Rizzutto, from the Physics Institute of USP, started to assist him in philatelic studies, which resulted in the article that will be presented at this, the third Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately.
- At the same time as he received the invitation to present at this Symposium, he was nominated by the vice president of the “Fédération Internationale de Philatélie” – FIP – to the Americas Reinaldo Macedo
- Also, the philatelist Everaldo Nigro dos Santos was honoured to be proposed for membership of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

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Sunday 14th October – 09.00am - John Barwis, FRPSL

- After earning a PhD in geology in 1979, John spent 24 years conducting and supervising geological and geochemical research in the petroleum industry, during which he published extensively in the scientific literature.
- He began collecting stamps as a child and, led by his background in the sciences, later became interested in how stamps were manufactured - especially with regard to differences that lay beyond standard catalog criteria.
- He has published 25 articles on stamps and postal history, including a monograph on the first issues of Victoria, and contributions to the two previous IAP symposia.
- He is President Emeritus of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, and serves on the American Philatelic Society's Finance Committee.
- In 2009 he and a group of fellow philatelists, realizing that non-destructive laboratory methods were becoming increasingly available and affordable, founded the *Institute for Analytical Philately, Inc.* to encourage, advise, and financially support those interested in learning more about their philatelic materials.
- IAP now numbers more than 100 members in ten countries. John serves as the current IAP president.

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Sunday 14th October – 10.10am - Richard Judge – Non-Member

- When the speakers at the symposium were asked to give our backgrounds that led us to become philatelic experts he thought “How am I going to get around this? I am no expert”.
- But the really fine aspect of this hobby is that non-experts are allowed to use knowledge gained from their own field and apply it to their collections and then disseminate it to fellow collectors. This is indeed his case.
- His background is in molecular electronic spectroscopy in the visible portion of the spectrum. Hence his interest in the colour of stamps. At the start of his scientific career, he was employed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment as head of their x-Ray diffraction and XRF labs.
- He later moved back to academia to work in very high resolution visible spectroscopy using lasers as a light source. His interest in the use of infrared spectroscopy came as part of the process of analysing the visible electronic spectra.
- He has a fondness of the Admiral series of stamps from Canada and in the process of filling out his collection, the red shades of the 2c Admiral became a frustrating exercise in trying to match the shade of a stamp with either catalog descriptions or commercial colour guides. Then came along two or three stamps that were certified pink shades but looked very different from each other, at least to my eye.
- This talk is a result of a now four year study of trying to sort out the chemistry behind the shades.

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Sunday 14th October – 11.10am - John Cibulskis – Member

- John Cibulskis has a B.S., M.S., Ph.D. in Mathematics from Illinois Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Illinois - Chicago.
- He has a Professional Master's Certificate in Database Applications from the Oracle Corporation and has taken numerous other short professional courses in management and Information Technology.
- His professional experience is 15 years as a Professor of Mathematics and 24 years in industry providing IT support to Statisticians
- John was introduced to stamp collecting as a youth and only resumed this hobby upon his retirement. John is a member of the Germany Philatelic Society (USA) where he is the Director of the Color Study Group.
- He has been studying methods of applying desktop scanners to the problem of identifying stamp color shades for the last 10 years and has published several papers on the subject.

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Sunday 14th October – 1.00pm - Larry Lyons – Non-Member

- Larry is Chairman of the Expert Committee at The Philatelic Foundation in New York where he has at his disposal a VSC6000, Stereo Microscope, and a Bruker XRF.
- He trained with Tom Lera at the NPM.
- A major exhibitor having won 26 Grand Awards at National Shows plus five Grand Awards at the Collectors Club in New York.
- Collector of US Carriers and Local Post postal history.
- Editor of The Penny Post for 18 years.
- Has been a Trustee of the Philatelic Foundation for 18 years

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Sunday 14th October – 2.00pm - Harry K. Charles – Member 2017

- Harry K. Charles, Jr. has a BS degree from Drexel University and a Ph. D. degree from the Johns Hopkins University, both in electrical engineering.
- He is currently Program Manager and Group Supervisor for the Education Center at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL)
- Dr. Charles has over 40 years of experience in the microelectronics field and is a specialist in electronic packaging. He has over 210 major technical publications and holds 17 US Patents.
- Dr. Charles has been internationally recognized for his research and teaching activities. He is also the Program Chair for Applied Physics in the Whiting School of Engineering Professional Education Program and is Editor-in-Chief of APL's *Technical Digest*.
- As a lifelong philatelist, he has collected stamps and researched postal history for over 40 years and has specialized collections of Lindbergh, the US Bicentennial and the Statue of Liberty.
- His primary focus, however, is on back of the book issues. Dr. Charles has done extensive research in two primary areas: 1) the Postal Savings, War Savings, and Savings stamps and associated ephemera, and 2) the US postage dues (including the Possessions), of which he has an extensive collection.
- A recent series of articles in the *United States Specialist* about the Possession postage dues has just been given the Hopkinson Literature Award for 2017.
- For over 40 years he has been a member of the American Philatelic Society and is a member of the Baltimore Philatelic Society and the United States Stamp Society
- Dr. Charles has over 50 major philatelic publications and has both presented and exhibited his collections.