

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

Winter 2010

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IN THIS ISSUE – WESSEX BULLETIN by email, Wessex Federation Website, Dates for your Diary, Circulating Packet Material, Reports from Clubs/Societies, Canal Zone has its Own History – Stamps and Covers, Using a Computer to Write Up your Collection or Display.

WESSEX BULLETIN by email - If you have access to an email account, would you like to receive a copy of the Wessex Bulletin by email?

The Wessex Federation like many other organisations is keen to keep down its costs and it is following on from the very successful trials of this process carried out by WETS where over half the membership get WETS News via email.

Using email will mean recipients get a high quality full colour WESSEX BULLETIN as soon as it is issued with all the latest news and what's on events details.

If you wish to be included in this delivery process please let the Secretary know as soon as possible. This will enable a better Bulletin to be produced on a much more regular basis, so watch this space for more news on this exciting new venture.

BE FIRST WITH THE NEWS

WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE – We are delighted to be able to report that Brixham Stamp Club now has a presence on the website, this means that of all the clubs in the federation only Kingsbridge, Launceston and Liskeard have not yet provided details so they can be included.

OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW – Please ensure that the details about your club are fresh and up to date, this is currently one of the best ways of attracting new members in your area. Contact the webmaster through the Wessex website. Have you some pictures of presentations that have taken place, forthcoming exhibitions or meetings you need to publicise. **IF SO – USE THE WEBSITE**

DID YOU KNOW – there is an integrated Calendar of the Meetings of all Clubs in the Federation on our website, if you are not providing details of your meeting dates – you cannot be included – and you may be losing either visitors or potential members.

The Events Calendar both below and on our website is a bit thin for Local Events in 2011, if you are aware of any Philatelic Events or Fairs taking place in 2011 please advise the secretary so they can be included.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Local Events

19th February 2011 – Stamp Fair – America Hall Exeter

National Events

Spring Stampex 23 Feb 2011 - London: **No Competitive Exhibition** There will be a 200 frame exhibition by the Postal History Society.

ABPS Sheffield 2011 The National Philatelic and Picture Postcard Exhibition will be held on the 6th & 7th May 2011 at the Pond's Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield. For full details see the following website <http://www.sheffield2011.org.uk/>

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 16 Jun 2011 - 19 Jun 2011 Portsmouth - Details to appear later. If you would like a copy of the booking form to be sent then please contact Paul Gaywood. Email: advertising@abps.org.uk Telephone: 01772 713917.

CIRCULATING PACKET MATERIAL by Jim Wigmore - Every club that runs a packet seems to be short of material. For packets to be successful they need a constant stream of new material. It seems to me that one of the best ways of moving material around would be for clubs to

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work together passing on material that has been circulated in their own club and accepting material that has been circulated elsewhere. Such a scheme should benefit all and I would like to suggest that packet secretaries build relationships with neighbouring clubs with a view to operating jointly. Dawlish Club would be willing to collaborate with any of its neighbouring clubs to operate such a scheme.

Could I also suggest the packet can be used to circulate more than just stamps, how about Postmarks, Booklets, Postal History, etc. Contact Jim Wigmore on 01626 864844 if you are interested in collaboration with Dawlish Club or supplying packet material to the club.

REPORTS from CLUBS/SOCIETIES

DAWLISH STAMP CLUB – First Auction on 8th September 2010 – The club put together a very professional catalogue which was circulated around federation clubs and displayed on the internet. Potential buyers missed out on some really excellent quality lots. Around 60% of the lots sold, some realising good prices and giving the club a welcome boost to its funds.

The club will be running future auctions and would like to hear from both prospective sellers and buyers who can contact Jim Wigmore on 01626 864844 or by email at JamesWigmore@talktalk.net

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT IN THE NEXT ISSUE?

CANAL ZONE HAS IT OWN HISTORY – Stamps & Covers - Do you ever buy a £1 pack of poor quality covers at your club's auction to boost its takings and then pass them to a charity shop without even looking at them? Don't! Of course, they are almost certainly worth nothing, but a quick look can provide something to start you thinking as a philatelist and a knowledge seeker. Recently, says Tony Smith, having bought such an offer of scruffy covers I found two carried "Canal Zone" stamps. I know the canal goes through Panama linking the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. But who issued them?

To me philately isn't just about putting stamps/covers into albums and stock books, it is a hobby to teach you about history, geography and people, so I opened my "World History Stamp Atlas" and learned the first Canal Zone issues appeared on June 24th 1904 – the Canal wasn't even opened at that time. Built by American engineers it had been "leased in perpetuity" to the USA.

The postal service was run by the USA using dollars and cents, but independently of the normal US mail service. When the USA later simply overprinted their own issues for use in the Canal Zone the Panama authorities objected and overprinted stamps with their own currency and the original mail agreement was challenged.

In 1924 the USA returned to overprinting US issues for the Canal Zone. You need a clear head – and a specialist catalogue – to follow the switching and turning of who issued stamps for the Canal Zone over the next half century until the USA ended its postal service in September 1979.

The Republic of Panama later "guaranteed neutrality of the waterway" and took over full



operational control of the 82Km (Atlantic to Pacific) and 150M wide canal in 2000 and 80% of the nation's wealth comes from it. If you are looking for relevant stamps, Panama issued a 1915 set for an exhibition to mark the opening of the canal, then in 1918 and 1939 stamps showing giant ships passing through it. In 1955 it also remembered the Frenchman, François de Lesseps, whose vision first said it was possible to build such a waterway just as he had previously created in 1850-69 – the Suez Canal.

USING THE COMPUTER TO WRITE UP DISPLAYS OR A COLLECTION

By Jim Wigmore

For many years the Computer has been available to write up either our displays or collections but few are proficient in this task. The aim of this article is to help overcome this issue and give all who have access to a Computer enough information to be an able user and make the best possible use

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of this very useful tool. This process is for users who have MS Word installed on their computers. The following assumes a basic knowledge of the computer and familiarity with its accessories such as the mouse. In starting such a task careful preparation is the key.

Plan the work and work to the plan. - If you are writing up a display keep all the pages in the same folder. If you are writing up a collection you may wish to divide the collection into defined groups of pages and hold in separate folders.

Your First Task - is to define where you are going to place your finished work.

The suggested holding space is in the area called **My Documents** in a folder called **Write Ups**, you may even wish to create other folders within Write Ups for specific works. To create the folder Write Ups, select the START button in the bottom LH area of your screen, then My Documents in the menu shown, then create a new folder using the on screen instructions. A new folder will appear with the name highlighted, delete the name and enter the name Write Ups, with the mouse left click away from the new folder, your new folder should remain with the name you have just given it. To add additional folders within Write Ups, follow the above procedure until you have all the folders you are going to need.

Task Two – create a blank page with all the key features you will use throughout.

With your mouse select the START button in the lower LH area of the screen and from the menu offered select MS Word. A blank document will be showing. This needs to be prepared for your use. You will need to ensure you have certain toolbars available for use, go to the View button (*near the top LH corner of the screen*), in the drop down menu select Toolbars. Ensure the following toolbars are ticked, STANDARD, FORMATTING, DRAWING and REVIEWING.

Select the View button again and select Print Layout if this is not the current default.

Select the View button again and select Header/Footer, close the displayed box. Your displayed page will now show the areas at the top and bottom of the page where the header and footer would appear.

Select the File button (*near the top LH corner of the screen*), select Page Layout, you will see this has three options Margins, Paper and Layout. Select Margins and set the Top, Bottom, Left and Right margins to the smallest size your printer can work with probably in the order of ½ inch or 12 mm depending upon the grid your computer is set to. Select Paper and select A4 or the size of paper you intend to work with.

If the Office Outline box is showing down the RH side of your screen, close it by left clicking with your mouse on the X in the top right corner to close it. Your page will now occupy the full screen width and will appear as it will be printed. The final part of this task is to set the text you will be using, in the top toolbar you will see a box defining the text, with the size box to the right, to the left is another box defining the text format being used. Set format box to Normal (*using the on screen down arrow*) and then scroll down with the mouse and select Normal, Set the text box to the type of text you will be using e.g. Arial, Times New Roman, etc. using the same principle, set the size of text to a nominal value e.g. 10 point.

You have now created your Basic Page. This page should be saved to your Write Ups folder as follows, select the File button, select Save As, direct the page you are saving to My Documents/Write Ups and save as file name “basicpage” You now have a basic page that contains all your settings and font you intend to use throughout your write ups, this page can be selected and used many times in the creation of your subsequent write ups for display or your collection.

Actually Writing Up a Page – In order to get the most from the computer and obtain both an eye catching and effective way of displaying your philatelic material or telling your story, you will need to master a few key skills.

These skills can be summarised as :-

Page Layout. Inserting Shapes. Inserting Graphics. Inserting Text. Saving your Work.

Each is a relatively simple task once the rudimentary skills are appreciated and an understanding has been gained into what can be achieved.

Page Layout – The most important task of all is to plan what you wish to include on a page and to understand how it can be placed and moved around to get the layout and effect you wish to create. Remember nearly all is possible, providing what you are trying to get on the page is not larger than the page itself. Understanding the following techniques will help in this process.

Inserting Shapes – Every Stamp, Cover, or piece of Postal History has a shape, those shapes are squares, rectangles, circles or triangular. We can position shapes on our page to both accept our item and enhance its appearance on the page while at the same time matching the shape size to our item. In order to do this we need to become familiar with the AutoShapes toolbar which should be positioned at the lower edge of your screen (*providing you have carried out task 2 successfully*). To insert a shape on the page, select in the page with your mouse, then click on the desired shape on the AutoShape toolbar and insert it on the page. The page will display a box with the title “Create your drawing here”, **DO NOT INSERT YOUR SHAPE IN THIS AREA**, insert the shape away from this area, otherwise your shape will be locked and unable to be adjusted and moved around the page later. Click on the Shape you have inserted and Right Click, from the Drop Down menu select Format Auto Shape. You will now have a box displayed that will allow you to set the properties of the shape. Select the Layout tab and select the Square shape, select the Advanced setting and confirm the Square setting is still selected, if not re-select, click OK. Select the Size tab, measure your item and set the height and width dimensions to your required size (*for borders you may need to add 2mm*).



Select the Colors & Lines tab, at the Style box set the line style to solid and the width you wish to use (*suggest 4pt*), now select Color from the menu select the colour you wish to use (*25% Grey is an effective and neutral setting*). You can now select your shape and move it around the page and position it at will. If you are using further examples of the same shape, select the shape with the mouse, then select the Edit button top left on the screen and from the drop down menu select Copy. Select back in the page, then once again select the Edit button and from the menu select Paste. A copy of your shape will be inserted for you to pick up and position on the page. This process can be repeated as many times as you like until you have all the copies you require. You can also draw lines such as that shown below, don't forget to change the properties.

Inserting Graphics – The ability to incorporate a scanned image is very useful and can be carried out as follows. You need to know where your scanned image is being held on your computer and its file name.

Click on the page and then click the Insert button on the top toolbar and select Picture on the drop down menu, select From File on the second drop down menu. Navigate to the folder where your image is held and select it, then click on the Insert button. Select the picture using right click and select Format Picture. Select the Layout tab and select the Square shape, select the Advanced setting and confirm the Square setting is still selected, if not re-select, click OK. You will now be able to move your picture around the page and alter the size by selecting one corner and adjusting the size to your requirements.



Inserting Text – The ability to insert text and control its appearance and where it is placed is perhaps one of the most difficult of all to master, but once mastered very simple. There are two ways in which text can be inserted, directly onto the page or using text boxes.

Directly onto the page would be used for Page Titles and introduction text, start at the top of the page and insert the text you require, move any graphics or pictures into this area and the text will auto wrap around (providing you have set the parameters according to the rules above).

As most of the text will be associated with either the graphic boxes or shapes, the use of Text Boxes will be more efficient and easier to control and manage. To insert a text box go to the AutoShapes menu and select the text box symbol.

This is some text inserted so you can see what it looks like justified left only.

This is more text that has been justified left and right, it looks better.

Right click on the text box and select Format Text Box from the drop down menu. Select the Layout tab and select the “In line with text” symbol, select the Advanced setting and select the Square setting, click OK. You will now have a box like that shown left. Select Format Text Box this time select Colors & Lines go to Color and select No Line select OK and

This is some text inserted so you can see what it looks like justified left only.

This is more text that has been justified left and right, it looks better.

Note – NO BOX

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the box will appear as that right and above.

It is still in a text box and you can still move around the page like all the other images. One more trick to learn is text justification. To justify text highlight the text you wish to justify and then select one of the options in the top menu bar, left, centre or justified left and right. The use of font size, colour and weight are also useful tools to master. Font can be changed in size by highlighting and then adjusting the size using the font size down arrow, while highlighted, font can be made **bold** by selecting the **BOLD Button** next to the font size box and colour can be altered by selecting the down arrow next to the large **A** at the top RH of the menu bar. You may for instance wish to draw attention to your *research by using a different colour or italics* note how this information immediately stands out.

Save your Work – Care should be taken when saving your work, as you will be working initially with your “basicpage”, you will need to save your new page with a different name. You will need to select a naming policy that will allow you to keep your pages in the correct sequence and make finding them again simple. If you have set up the folders as suggested at the beginning the naming of pages can be as “Page001, Page002, etc.”, DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF STARTING AT 1, 2, 3 etc., if your total number of pages exceeds 10 your pages will be stored based upon the first digit and they will be stored out of sequence. To store your new page select the File button and select Save AS in the drop down menu, define the file you wish the page to be stored in and alter the file name to your new page title, then press OK.

Summary – The above skills need to be worked through several times, experiment as you go, you will become more confident with each success. It is important to be disciplined in your planning and work, diligence pays dividends. I have learnt through experimentation, you can start your learning process based upon the knowledge I am now passing on.

I am aware that others may adopt other principles even using a spreadsheet such as MS Excel, if you can get good results using simple tools such as MS Word why complicate the situation. I am a firm believer in the KISS principle (*Keep It Simple Stupid*). Advanced users may already be familiar with many of the points identified, there are however many more skills that can be added. I feel sure that once you have mastered the above, your own lateral thinking will allow you to work out some of the other things that can be achieved.

GOOD LUCK IN PRODUCING YOUR WRITE UPS – MAY THEY CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

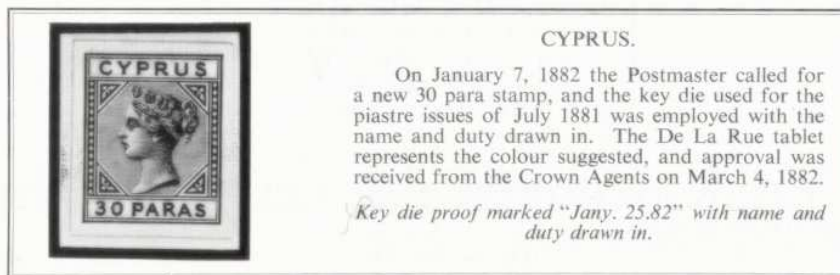
Below is an example of what can be achieved using the techniques described (Note that a page border has not been used in order to maximise the use of the page area).

The missing 30 para value.

When the first Key Plate printing was introduced this value was being met by the vast stocks of 1d stamps of Great Britain overprinted with both **CYPRUS** and **30 paras**. (*shown below left*).

This was the equivalent to the 1d Imperial Letter Rate

As stocks ran down, a request was made for stamps with this additional value, (*reference the British Museum proof copy and note, shown below right*).



British Museum Proof and Note.

The stocks actually ran out prior to delivery of the new stamp, this was overcome by overprinting a number of the 1 piastre value at the Government Printing Office in Nicosia.

The resulting stamp was on sale from 22nd May 1882 until 7th June 1882, **a period of just 17 days**.

