

*Comments about this Wessex Bulletin and Copy for the next by May 30th please*

# The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk)

2013/02

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**Secretary** – Position Vacant (*Volunteers Required*)

**IN THIS ISSUE** – WESSEX BULLETIN by email, Wessex Federation Website, A Word from the Editor, From the Archives, 2013 Competitions, Dates for Your Diary, The German Inflation Period Pt2, Down the Tube. ABPS website & ABPS Handbook & Directory 2012, A Word from our Chairman, Promoting your Club, Tony finds his way to Captain Cook.

**WESSEX BULLETIN by email** – Requests to be included on the circulation list should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at [wessexweb@talktalk.net](mailto:wessexweb@talktalk.net) please include your full name, club and the email address your Bulletin is to be sent to.

The 2013 Wessex Roadshow will be featuring “The Bulletin” and giving club members the opportunity to get on the circulation list.

**Please Note this is a totally secure process** – *Your email address will remain secure, each copy will reach you on a personal basis without disclosing your email address to the other recipients.*

## **BE FIRST WITH THE NEWS**

**WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE** at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk) – **OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW** – Please ensure that the details about your club are fresh and up to date contact our webmaster Jim Wigmore at [wessexweb@talktalk.net](mailto:wessexweb@talktalk.net) with your current club details and programme. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLUB DETAILS ON A REGULAR BASIS & NOTIFY ANY CHANGES REQUIRED.**

**DID YOU KNOW** – There are lots of interesting facts and information available on the Wessex website e.g.

- The History of the Wessex Federation – Look on the opening page.
- The Federation Roll of Honour - Look on the opening page.
- Information about Stamp Fairs in your area – Look on the Events Page.
- You can find out about all the club meetings, the talks being given and by who – Look at the Integrated Calendar on the Events Page.
- You can look at past issues of the Wessex Bulletin plus some of the Articles that have appeared in some older Bulletins – Look on the Publications Page

**A WORD FROM THE EDITOR** – The Bulletin is starting to deal with some of the issues that most collectors will find of interesting and give then some thoughts and ideas they can use in their collections. This issue deals with the issues of competition, always a contentious topic. The federation has now approved the new Rules for Competition compiled by the sub-committee formed to look at this issue. See the article in full in this issue. The next part of the German Hyperinflation Period is also included. For your Diary now includes not only dates of Stamp Fairs and Events but also a section of the collective diary of club events. The federation is looking to put together a flyer with details of federation clubs plus the club diary and have this available at the various Stamp Fairs held in the area.

**2013 WESSEX ROADSHOW** – has started its travels with a vast array of interesting contributions, meaning the show may well vary depending upon the presenter’s choice for the occasion. A smart delivery script has been produced. Various members of the Federation Committee will be giving the display which will ease the load on our Chairman. **The federation would like to thank all those who have made contributions to this year’s roadshow, we would not have been able to deliver such an amazing show without you.**

**THANK YOU**

**DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE THIS AMAZING SHOW BOOKED?**

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES** *The following appeared in Wessex Philatelic Federation News No1 of February 1975 – As we are currently changing Competitions Rules we thought it appropriate to look back and note how Competition has always been a contentious issue. Some of the points made, still hold good.*

**Competitions** by Ivor Moore. - Nothing causes more debate in Philatelic circles than the subject of competition. This is not unnatural, for every Philatelist loves his stamps, whether they be Penny Blacks or modern Picasso's. Having accumulated their collection, the enthusiast then proceeds to mount the stamps in the manner of the individual's own liking, each guided by a varying inbuilt sense of artistic balance, and then writes' them up in a way which is dictated by that individual's knowledge and hand-writing ability. Thus we can see a dozen or more Exhibits in a competition, each set out differently - some neatly, some untidy, some crowded on a page, others dotted around wide expanses of white paper. Some with little or no writing up, and others surrounded by a wealth of information, but all the proud displays of their owners.

But now comes the result of the judging. As many of the enthusiasts realize that their Exhibit has not been chosen, a sense of frustration is felt. The Judges criticisms are taken as personal insults, rather than as efforts to improve ones knowledge or satisfaction. They forget in many cases that the judging is rarely, if ever, based on the view of one man, but is the opinion of several. They forget the rules by which the competition is run - if they ever read them carefully in the first place - and the method by which the points are allocated. They forget that the Judges are usually professionals in the philatelic world, respected by many other educated philatelists for their real knowledge and love of stamps. They also forget that the judges too have their own sense of artistic balance. Above all, they forget that the judges may have an extremely difficult task in reaching their decision, especially in a competition where the only restriction on entry is the number of sheets, this leaving the way open for Postal History, Postal Stationary, a study of Plate Flaws, Thematics, or a study of printing processes, to be included in the same competition.

The Judges are only human, but usually have that extra little bit of knowledge than the lay-man, and judge accordingly. They have to base their final decision on the rules as set out for the competition, and can only award points within the limits allowed for each section. This normally means that the majority of the points are awarded for philatelic interest, research and beauty of presentation, in which event, all entries start off, at least, on an equal footing.

Material does not have to be rare or expensive, as badly presented, it will not win because, although it may score highly as to philatelic interest, it will gain very few marks for beauty of presentation. Anyone with enough money can buy a large quantity of two penny Blues, but this guarantee's nothing if not set out knowledgably and neatly. One would be unlikely to win if, having bought these stamps and set them out neatly, research was missing. Lack of write-up usually means lack of knowledge, and knowledge is of great concern to judges. How many people can really plate the penny black and the two penny blue, and understand all the re-entries on these?

Neither will the person who buys a load of modern kiloware win, even if the presentation is good, as very few points will be awarded for philatelic interest. On the point of philatelic interest, the Thematic collector must beware lest the collection is too scant in material. No amount of writing up can hide the absence of sufficient stamps, which in itself is a suggestion of lack of research.

Of course, all rules can be interpreted as any individual chooses to do so. A collection of X number of pages means no more than just that, subject to the other rules of entry. It does not mean X pages which have to be overcrowded with hundreds of stamps, cheap or expensive material, badly set out with little or no write-up or study; neither does it mean one stamp per page, lost in a mass of writing up, though the latter must stand the better chance.

What it does mean is a collection in which knowledgeable people look for a combined balance of the various sections for which points are awarded, and in which non-philatelists become interested in the hobby as they realize what an absorbing hobby it is.

In any event, does it all matter that much? Obviously to some individuals it does, but surely, the main idea of stamp collecting is the pleasure it gives to the collector, which pleasure includes the fun of setting out one's stamps in the manner which is most enjoyable to oneself. I would not think anyone sets out some stamps in one manner in their Album and a further selection in a more careful manner for competition.

Surely one enters a competition only to give pleasure to oneself and others, and to win that competition is just the final "cream to the milk and not an end in itself. In the Plymouth Library there is a book entitled "How to arrange and write-up a Stamp Collection" -published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., and I'm sure it would be obtainable in most Libraries. Why not borrow it?

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## 2013 FEDERATION COMPETITIONS

Competitors in the 2013 federation competitions will be required to follow the new rules a copy of which is attached to this newsletter and to submit a signed copy of the Liability of Insurance Form a copy of which is also attached along with their entry submission form. *This information is now on the website.*

**The federation recognises the risks associated with members competitive entries.** It has been suggested to the federation committee and agreed that all entries submitted to federation competitions should be accompanied by a set of colour copies on 160 gm card. By this process the original will be judged and returned immediately to the owner with the colour copy actually being displayed at the exhibition venue. The colour copy may be further used by the federation in a future roadshow with the permission of the owner. *This information will be further clarified on the Entry Submission Forms when they are circulated to clubs and made available for potential entrants.*

The federation hopes that this process will give encouragement to those with more valuable items to include them in their entries in the full knowledge they will only be out of their possession for a short time and there will be no risk to their property at public events.

*Following the article about preparing entries in the previous Bulletin we have had responses regarding display/exhibition protectors, especially for the larger sheet widths. Readers are directed to the article on this subject carried in the Autumn 2011 edition of the Wessex Bulletin. See also the website*

The 2013 Competition Entries will be shown at St Michaels Church Hall Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm with Dealers present. More information in the next Bulletin. Entry Forms will be available shortly, see also the website

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Fairs & Events

2013		
6th March	Launceston Stamp Fair	Central Methodist Sunday School Room.
14th March	Stamp Fair	Plymouth Guildhall, Armada Way. PL1 2ER
15th March	Stamp Fair	Clyst St George (Exeter), Parish Hall EX3 0RE
16th March	Stamp Fair	Victoria Methodist Church Hall Weston-S-Mare
20th April	Stamp Fair	Exeter America Hall
23rd May	Stamp Fair	Plymouth Guildhall, Armada Way. PL1 2ER
15th June	Stamp Fair	Victoria Methodist Church Hall Weston-S-Mare
28th June	Stamp Fair	St James Church Hall, Taunton

## INTEGRATED CLUB CALENDAR

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	Club
05/03/2013	An Evening with the Morris Gang		Dartmouth Stamp Club
06/03/2013	Club Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club
06/03/2013	1939	Richard Wiggins	Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/03/2013	Club Auction		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
11/03/2013	Dave's Digital Display	Dr David Oates	Brixham Stamp Club
11/03/2013	Wessex Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Bideford Stamp Club
13/03/2013	<b>What you may not know about the Channel Islands Pt2 –</b>	Peter Gay	Dawlish Stamp Club
14/03/2013	Postal Reform	Mr. J. Grimwood-Taylor	Launceston Stamp Club

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20/03/2013	Members Entertain	Jeff Gregory & Ed Elsey	Exmouth Stamp Club
21/03/2013	Club Dinner at Portmore Golf Club		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
21/03/2013	Taw & Torridge Club Dinner		Bideford Stamp Club
27/03/2013	Shells	Gillian Gray	Liskeard Stamp Club
03/04/2013	Members 8 sheets S-U		Exmouth Stamp Club
03/04/2013	Annual Competition Night		Plymouth Philatelic Society
04/04/2013	Postal History of the First World War	Graham Mark	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
05/04/2013	Competition Evening - Informal		Exeter Philatelic Society
08/04/2013	Antarctica	Jim Parsons	Brixham Stamp Club
08/04/2013	Postcards & others	Norman Bond	Bideford Stamp Club
09/04/2013	Rose Bowl & Cobb Cup	Judges J & V.M. Wigmore	Dartmouth Stamp Club
10/04/2013	Wessex Roadshow		Dawlish Stamp Club
11/04/2013	Wessex Roadshow		Torquay & Teignbridge SC
11/04/2013	Auction & Raffle		Launceston Stamp Club
17/04/2013	Member Speaker	TBA	Exmouth Stamp Club
18/04/2013	Cyprus 1878 to Independence	Jim Wigmore	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
24/04/2013	Great Britain	John Harrison	Liskeard Stamp Club
01/05/2013	Wessex Roadshow		Exmouth Stamp Club
01/05/2013	China & The Occupation of Germany	John Dain & Mike Watson	Plymouth Philatelic Society
03/05/2013	British Post Labels & Forms	Martin Evans FRPSL	Exeter Philatelic Society
07/05/2013	An Evening with David Lethbridge	David Lethbridge	Dartmouth Stamp Club
09/05/2013	The Forerunners to Mandate Palestine	Dr David Smith	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
13/05/2013	Cyprus a Divided Island	Jim Wigmore	Brixham Stamp Club
13/05/2013	Life of the Honey Bee	Gary Green	Bideford Stamp Club
15/05/2013	Members 8 sheets V-Z		Exmouth Stamp Club
19/05/2013	Trading	Keith Attwood	Launceston Stamp Club
19/05/2013	A Visit with Orchids	Mark Humphrey	Launceston Stamp Club
23/05/2013	AGM followed by Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
29/05/2013	An East African Adventure	Peter Chantry	Liskeard Stamp Club
04/06/2013	AGM & Kiloware Night		Dartmouth Stamp Club
05/06/2013	Labuan, Sarawak & North Borneo	David Parnall	Exmouth Stamp Club
06/06/2013	German Empire, Colonies, Weimar & Third Reich	John Shields	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
06/06/2013	Annual General Meeting		Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/06/2013	Evolution of Puppetry	Richard Wheeler	Exeter Philatelic Society
10/06/2013	AGM and Ken Fox Memorial Trophy		Brixham Stamp Club
10/06/2013	China Part 2	Mike Watson	Bideford Stamp Club
13/06/2013	Visit to Taunton Stamp Club		Exeter Philatelic Society
13/06/2013	Trading & Talk	David Lethbridge	Launceston Stamp Club
19/06/2013	Informal Swaps & Selling		Exmouth Stamp Club
20/06/2013	British Postal Labels & Forms	Martin Evans	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
21/06/2013	Informal		Exeter Philatelic Society
26/06/2013	AGM & Members Displays		Liskeard Stamp Club

Members can find out meeting venues from the Wessex Federation website

**HAS YOUR CLUB SUBMITTED ITS PROGRAMME FOR 2013-2014**

*Check the website and submit updates to the webmaster.*

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## THE GERMAN HYPERINFLATION PERIOD – Pt 2

### The Second Berlin Provisional Overprints

These stamps were printed between mid-September and early October. All plates were cast from stereotypes. Some efforts were made to re-establish a grading system by reverting to the UPU colours of Brown, Green and Red surplus stamps but this failed as the rate increases were too fast and outstripped the provisional issues.



Value	Ref	Value	Ref
100 Thousand Mk on 400 Mk	SG 287	800 Thousand Mk on 400 Mk	SG 298 GRN
125 Thousand Mk on 100 Mk	SG 288	800 Thousand Mk on 400 Mk	SG 299 BRN
250 Thousand Mk on 500 Mk	SG 293	800 Thousand Mk on 1000 Mk	SG 300
800 Thousand Mk on 5 pf	SG 294	800 Thousand Mk on 300 Mk	SG 301
800 Thousand Mk on 10 pf	SG 295	2 Million Mk on 200 Mk	SG 302
800 Thousand Mk on 200 Mk	SG 296	2 Million Mk on 500 Mk	SG 303
800 Thousand Mk on 300 Mk	SG 297	2 Million Mk on 5000 Mk	SG 311

In spite of all their efforts, the Berlin State Printing Works had to obtain outside help and subcontracted the printing of the stamps listed below to the Berlin printing firm of R. Boll. They were issued with paper, stamp and overprint plates and also a rouletting machine.

Value	Ref	Value	Ref
400 Thousand Mk on 15 pf	SG 306	400 Thousand Mk on 30 pf	SG 308
400 Thousand Mk on 25pf	SG 307	400 Thousand Mk on 40 pf	SG 309

During the First and Second Berlin periods, there had been 4 postal rate increases as follows.

	1 <sup>st</sup> August	24 <sup>th</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> September	20 <sup>th</sup> September
Local Postcards	200 Mk	400 Mk	15000 Mk	50000 Mk
Local 20 gm Letter	400 Mk	800 Mk	30000 Mk	100000 Mk
Inland Postcard	400 Mk	800 Mk	30000 Mk	100000 Mk
Inland 20 gm Letter	1000 Mk	20000 Mk	75000 Mk	250000 Mk
Foreign Postcard	1800 Mk	36000 Mk	120000 Mk	450000 Mk
Foreign 20 gm Letter	3000 Mk	60000 Mk	200000 Mk	750000 Mk



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**DOWN THE TUBE** – The Metropolitan Railway (known as the Met) was the first Underground Railway in the world it opened on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1863. It ran from Paddington to link Euston, Kings Cross and terminated at Farringdon Street. The line was built to accommodate both Standard and Broad Gauge tracks beneath local roads using the "cut-and-cover" method between Paddington and King's Cross and in tunnel and cuttings beside Farringdon Road from King's Cross to Smithfield, near the City.

The Metropolitan Railway was a passenger and goods railway, when the line opened to the public, it was powered by steam locomotives designed to consume their exhaust steam with gas-lit wooden carriages, all supplied by the Great Western Railway (GWR). The miniature sheet of Cuba gives a very good impression of how these first

underground trains would have appeared.

Other railway companies looked to make use of the tunnels for both freight and their own services, this very quickly led to a dispute between the Met and the GWR who gave one weeks notice of their intent to withdraw their locomotives and rolling stock as of the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1863.

Archibald Sturrock the Chief Locomotive Engineer of the Great Northern Railway (GNR) and an ex-GWR employee stepped into the breach (*the GNR was planning its own underground service to Moorgate and already had some suitable locomotives*) supplying both locomotives and coaches for the service which continued uninterrupted as a result.

The small tank engines supplied by the GNR being so suitable for the task and the design formed the basis of the first locomotives built for the Met.

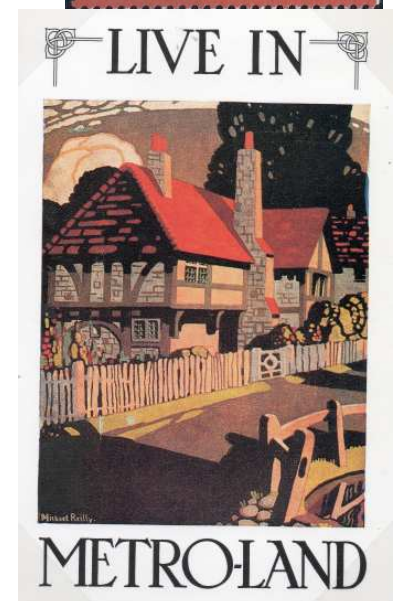
The railway was extended from both ends in conjunction with the District Railway reaching Hammersmith in 1864, Richmond in 1877 and completing the Inner Circle in 1884. It also extended northwards in its own right from Baker Street.



The Northwards extension became the Met's most important route out into the Middlesex countryside, where it stimulated development of new suburbs. Harrow was reached in 1880, the line eventually extended as far as Verney Junction in Buckinghamshire, more than 50 miles from Baker Street and the centre of London. Despite the line to Verney Junction being built the Met never actually ran trains there, it was part of an abortive scheme to link the Met to the Great Central with a view to running through trains via a Channel Tunnel to Paris.

Electric traction was introduced in 1905 and by 1907 electric multiple units operated most of the services, though electrification of outlying sections did not occur until decades later. The Met line to Rickmansworth and beyond was operated using steam locomotives and coaches, steam gave way to Electric Locomotives as far as Rickmansworth with steam beyond into the 1960's.

Unlike other railway companies in the London area, the Met developed land for housing, and after WW1 promoted housing estates near the railway using the "Metroland" brand. John Betjeman provided the





commentary for a short feature film about "Metroland", he also wrote a poem called The Metropolitan Railway which featured the Baker Street Tea Room another Met venture to encourage travel by Met trains.

The introduction of electric power for trains plus the means of deep tunneling led to the introduction of the deep tube lines starting with the South London Line in 1890 using the tunnel built by Brunel under the Thames, this set the size of trains much smaller than standard size. The Central London Railway, the Piccadilly & West Brompton, along with many others soon followed.

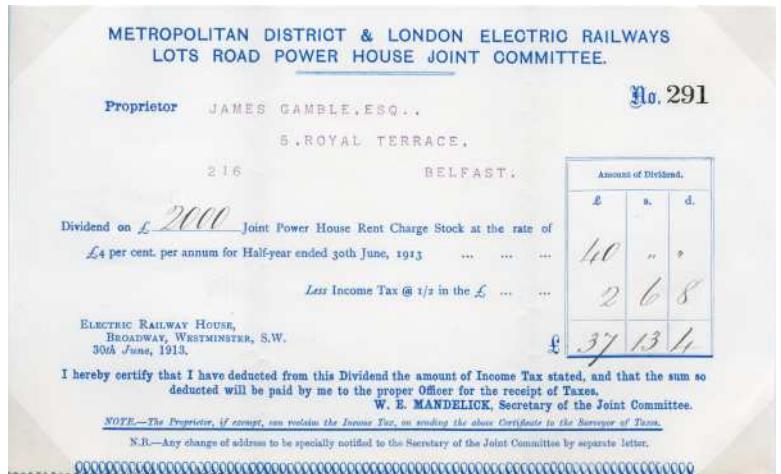
On 1 July 1933, the Metropolitan Railway was amalgamated with the underground railways of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London and the capital's tramway and bus operators to form the London Passenger Transport Board.

All this construction of Underground Railways in and around London made significant improvements to travel for people both living in or outside the Capital.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 the British Post Office issued six stamps featured to commemorate the opening of the Underground and tell its story, shown left.

The question is "DO THEY TELL THE STORY WELL".

There are of course many more items that collectors interested in the Underground can find, such as Railway Letter stamps from all the independent railways that formed the Underground plus London Transport. Share Certificates and Payment Remittances can also be found for the individual railway companies and the Power Generation Plant at Lotts Road.



The editor would be interested in your illustrated stories about the London Underground.

## ABPS Website & ABPS HANDBOOK & DIRECTORY 2012

Recent checks of both the above show that Wessex Federation Clubs information is either none existent or in many cases incorrect.

Club Secretaries please check the details for your club and advise ABPS accordingly as follows:-

**Website errors** – email to [secretary@abps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@abps.org.uk) or write to :-

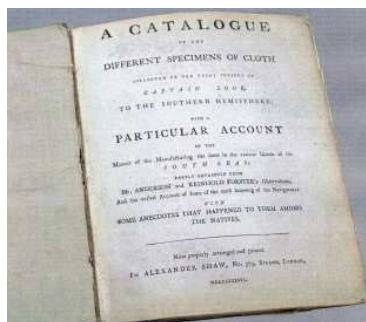
The Association of British Philatelic Societies c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place London W1G 6JY

**Handbook Errors** – email to [handbook@abps.org.uk](mailto:handbook@abps.org.uk) or write to the address above.

**THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE**

**A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN** Where is our hobby going? Children still collect things be it Pokémon cards, cards of footballers, marbles, coloured pencils or whatever. The opportunity to see & collect stamps is greatly reduced as most of our mail is now either from bulk postings (PPI's Condition 9 Access Mail etc) or metered mail of which some few are collected by aficionados. Stamps are reserved mostly for private letters/cards and those 'philatelic mailings' from stamp collectors & dealers. Letters are reducing as the use of email increases & will continue to do so with the computer literate generations. Internet shopping will increase & so will the use of private carriers & I can see it will not be many years before there are local collection depots open long hours for those unable to be present during the normal working day. Even when we do get letters with stamps on how boring are the current non denomination stamps or horizon labels to the young collector? Commemoratives are not readily available. No wonder our youth have given up unless they have someone to inspire them. These days with all the pressures on schools & clubs it's difficult to see who else but relatives would be able to provide that inspiration & material. **Your ideas for inspiration are needed.**

**PROMOTING YOUR CLUB** The federation has produced an A5 size double sided leaflet defining all the clubs in the federation with a diary of all the meetings taking place over the next three months. These leaflets will be circulated in dealer fairs and will be made available to clubs upon request.



**TONY FINDS HIS WAY TO CAPTAIN COOK** - Intrepid explorer Tony Smith didn't need his oft self-declared skill at navigation when he recently read in a local newspaper that a rare book relating to Captain James Cook was up for auction in Honiton, the auctioneer's saleroom was 200 yards from Tony's house.

He promptly hurried to meet the chairman of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood and told Mr. Richard Bearnas "I couldn't meet the estimated value of the book, £40,000-£60,000, but I'm a member of the Captain Cook Society and am interested in anything connected with England's Supreme

*Navigator*". Mr Bearnas promptly produced the book and let him inspect (or revel) in the 1787 book.

The 24 page book is one of approximately 20 created to display examples of tapa or cloth brought back to England from Captain Cook's three voyages to the Pacific.

Tony was photographed, no protective gloves holding the book, he then attended the auction. He couldn't believe it, two dealers fought a tug-o-war battle it was ultimately sold for a world record £130,000 plus buyers premium.

The 'beaten' dealer said this particular book was the best quality he had yet seen, the original binding was near perfect. Add the auctioneer's words the book "had come from the estate of a deceased gentleman in Cornwall" and Tony began thinking of men from the West Country who had sailed from Plymouth on Captain's Cook's three voyages from 1769-1779. Such men could have collected the small examples of tapa/cloth, used 18th century London expert Alexander Shaw to create and catalogue the sample in the books, and took them back to Devon or Cornwall. Over two centuries their families may have preserved the books, knowing what they represented in their family history.

The West Country link was, seemingly, underlined when in 2010 a similar book of tapa/cloth specimens was sold at Christies for £115,000. It came from the estate of the deceased Ms Lucia Croft from Ashburton, Devon.

