

The Journal of the

STAMP-BOX

Collectors Society

L





'In the Box'

Most of you, in the course of writing on Society business, are now including some 'chat'. I find this very helpful indeed as this gives me, and the other officers, a feed back as to what you are looking for in a society and in a journal.

On another page, we will be discussing our Stampex meeting and some of the controversial matters that arose there, but this feature, which I hope will be permanent, will concern itself solely with your letters, that is why I thought it would be nice to call it 'In the Box', being about boxes, by your pillar box, through to my letter box.

Firstly, I wish to thank all those people who took the trouble to say nice things about our journal, they are appreciated, but more importantly, it shows I am not operating in a vacuum.

There was a slight cock-up by myself earlier this year, in that four potential members, all from the States, kindly sent me cheques for their subs. When I enquired at the bank, my bank, Lloyds PLC, they wanted £3 (say 5 dollars) to cash EACH cheque. I wrote to the people concerned, telling them that I would not be presenting their cheques for payment and the reason why. As we had a plentiful supply of the winter journal, the Hon. Sec. and myself, decided to send each potential member a copy. With it, went a short note, but whilst this was on the way, some of you kindly sent the cash instead. Meanwhile, back at the ranch (and believe it or not, our Hon. Treasurer actually lives ) our Hon. Treas. has managed to negotiate other arrangements with his bank. His bank will change any amount of dollar cheques for a flat fee of £3 the lot! I sent him the cheques which he has cashed. So to avoid this transatlantic game, we decided to keep both cheque and cash and so kind friends, your next year's subs. are paid, unless you ask for the cash back, in which case we shall wing it to you by return. Thanks folks, and apologies, hope you don't mind.

One of the subjects we spent some time on at our meeting was security, more about this later in the journal, but for now, a member from  (M 26) wishes to get in touch with any member within a reasonable distance for exchange of information etc., so if there is anyone out there wishing to take him up on this, please let me know and I will exchange names and addresses for you.

The gentleman mentioned above, goes on in his letter as follows. 'Running through all the newsletter seems to be acceptance that stamp box collecting is an adjunct of stamp collecting - I would maintain that the association between stamps and stamp boxes is fairly slight, e.g. Vesta cases have very little relationship to match box covers. They are all entirely different collecting fields and I would have thought stamp box collecting has more affiliation with "antique" collecting than stamp collecting. This is leading up to the suggestion that perhaps publicity should be given to the hobby and the Society through such magazines as that published by the Antique Collectors Club which covers all fields of collecting (except stamps)!

Well sir, my own position is, that I came to stamp box collecting through philately and consequently, all my contacts were (are) from that field. It was the obvious place from which to start a society, but now that we have covered the philatelic world, your Hon. Sec. is now in the process of attempting

the very thing you mention. What fortune he has, remains to be seen, but it is quite common for two hobbies to meet at the edges. Later in the journal, you will see an amendment to the rules, to extend our interest as a society, from stamp box collecting, to stamp boxes, cases and related items. This was a sound idea that arose from the meeting I thought, and it should broaden the basis of the Society, in that both philatelists and antique collectors and such like, would find a happy home in it.

Last thought from the same gentleman. 'Can we have a "For Sale" section in the newsletter over a box number, with a fee to the Society?' Why not I say, but who will adjudicate in the event of anything going wrong? Perhaps both the potential buyer and seller will allow your officers to exchange addresses without incurring any responsibility themselves. Your views on this would be most welcome, as I too, in my small collection have one or two swaps.

Here we have a letter from a lady member from the [REDACTED] (M 52). As you can see, the topics raised have been replied to early on, but I thought it would interest other members.

Dear [REDACTED]

I had meant to reply to your letter in my husband's RPSL Journal, seeking persons to become members of a stamp box collectors Society. Before I did reply, came the extensive article on stamp boxes in "Linn's Stamp News" of January 27, 1986 and this really prodded me into action. The lumping of all containers into the "box" category for "cases". In the shops or at the fairs, if one asks about a stamp box usually there is a negative reply. Asking for a stamp case does get a positive answer from time to time. Also, [REDACTED] in his article states that the collectors of boxes are "mainly established philatelists seeking a diversion." In my case, my husband is the established philatelist and I was the one seeking a some what parallel hobby.

My collection is quite modest at the moment. Most pieces have been purchased in England, with a few from Ireland, Scotland and the U.S. And I must confess I have not done the cataloging that should be done.

Nonetheless, I would enjoy becoming a member of the Stamp Box Collectors Society and have enclosed my cheque for £3. Should there be an additional sum due for airmail, please let me know.

From [REDACTED] one of the first members to join (M 5) writes as follows:-

'As regards stamp dealers and principals of auction houses being members of the Society, then of course they have every right to join as individuals. However, this right must only apply whilst such individual is a private collector of stamp boxes. If this privilege is abused and information and acquisition of boxes etc. is used for business purposes, such a member should be expelled from the Society. Perhaps such principals of auction houses can give early warning to other members when future auctions at their houses include stamp boxes/cases etc, so that interested members can obtain the relevant catalogues.'

Right, first things first. Although a discussion was on the agenda at the Stampex meeting and although quite a few dealers turned up, little of substance was arranged. We had a very generous gesture of support from one of the auction houses and we hope to include in this issue some information about a forthcoming auction that will include a considerable number of stamp boxes etc. This auction house appears to have taken a great interest in the prospects for the Society. As stamp boxes etc. constitute only a small part of their overall sales and a very small part at that, it is obvious that their intentions are strictly honourable and we must accept their help in the spirit it is offered.

However, our member has a point. A large number of our members are dealers, but each one differs in some respect to others, so we cannot make any firm policy based on just one dealer. Some dealers are stamp dealers who do not sell stamp boxes, they collect them themselves; some dealers collect and sell; some principals of some auction houses have specifically asked to be enrolled as private members, others have used the firms notepaper and requested to be enrolled as a firm. I know that the auction house mentioned above, although it sometimes has stamp boxes in its lists, has principals who are keen collectors in their own right. In fact the representative who was at our Stampex meeting was extremely helpful in wanting to further the Society and I hope he continues to take that interest as professional help is the best help.


To finish my reply to the member who prompted this line of thought, it goes without saying, that any member, whether collector or dealer, will be expelled from the Society, if, in the judgement of the Society's members, the privilege of the Society is abused in any way. To re-assure our member, my promise holds good that no details of membership will be given without the consent of the member, as only the Hon. Sec. and myself are privy to the membership list.

I am taking an editorial liberty, by quoting yet again from the same member's letter, as he raises an interesting subject.
'.....on reproduction of items in members possession. Most, if not all members, are likely to own cameras. Many are likely to own a close-up lens. I do. I will try and photograph some of the more unusual items in my collection, something I have never done before and, if successful, will send you on the photos for inclusion in future issues of the journal.'

I sincerely hope that the gentleman from London is successful, as what we require most of all from members are articles and photographs, especially of unusual pieces and I should like to appeal to all members to send me what they can. Long articles will be thankfully received, short ones also, even just a paragraph, or a long letter will be welcome, especially if some snaps are included.

On the same subject, at the Stampex meeting, I was struck by a very novel method employed by a member to record his box/case collection. I hadn't time to find out if he was a philatelist, but the method he used obviously had originated in the mind of a philatelist.

He simply had his pieces photographed, reduced in size, put the photos in a book and beautifully wrote up all the information he had accumulated on each piece on the page. By turning the pages one could see his collection and read all about it. Regretfully, I mislaid his name, but will be happy to be reminded. Splendid idea I thought, and practical also, in that if one is away from home and one sees an item in a shop, one can immediately look to see if one has the piece or not.

A request from a lady member from  (M 46), who on sending me accurate descriptions of leather stamp cases, asks whether it is possible to catalogue these as we are doing with the chrome cases. Well dear lady, our constitution now states 'that we are a Society for the collecting of stamp boxes, cases and ALLIED ITEMS'; so I see no reason why we should not attempt to catalogue these nice looking items, for a rather specific reason. One day, when the journal is old and grey, someone, somewhere, will attempt a comprehensive catalogue of these items we are collecting and it would be nice to turn back to old copies of the journal and find all the work is done for them! especially when we are having fun in collecting them. So let me know folks and I will begin a listing.

I am now able to add to the listing of the stamp booklet cases first started on page 6 of the Spring 1986 issue of the journal.

From [redacted] (M 30) Large. Folkestone. Isle of Wight. Gravesend.

From a lady from [redacted] (M 46) London. Ullapool. Bracklesham Bay.
Round Houses, Veryan.

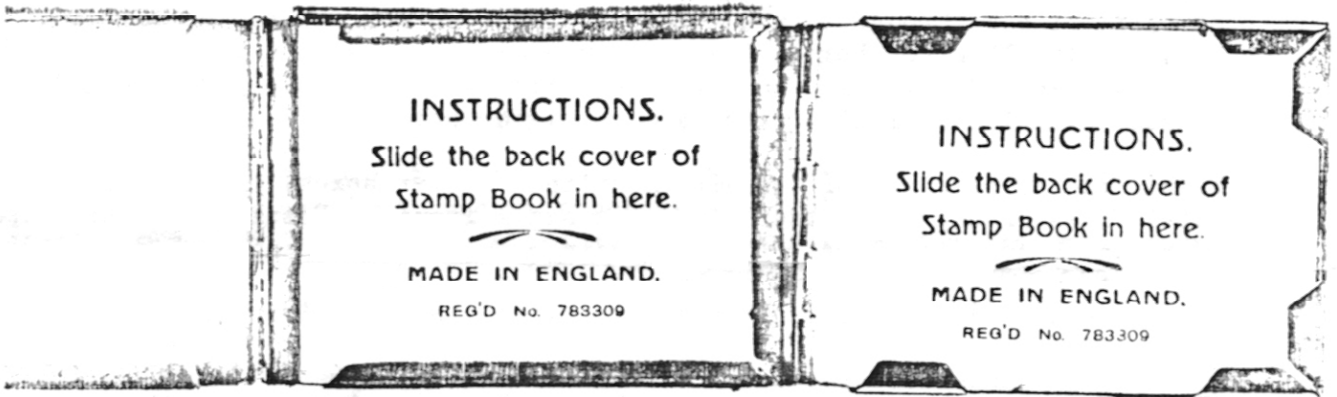
From others Cromer. Totland Bay. Ripon.

Further to these cases: Fig. 1 shows two types of inside back flaps. The proportion of each cannot ever be known, but identifiable numbers on the inside of the front flaps are different, even though the fronts are precisely the same. The straight edged one is finished in gilt and the 'toothed' one is finished in silver. As can be seen by the numbers, they both carry the identical patent numbers, so they were almost certainly made by the same manufacturers. Incidentally, in answer to another member's query, they were all issued with the Instructions interleaf in the back half of the case and so nothing unusual in that. Possibly this member has too few to realise the true position.

U.K. 783309 (Mento).

R. 3087-1-2.

Fig. 1.



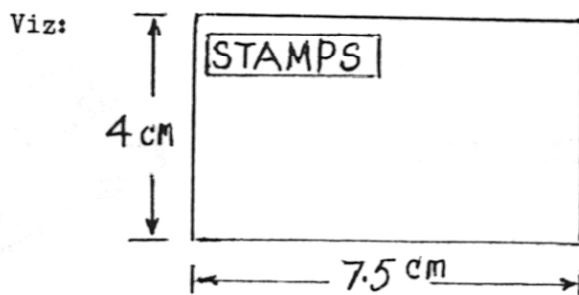
A letter from a well known postal historian from [redacted] (M 38) includes a description of a chrome case not known to me, obviously from the same manufacturers as the other case, as the number is the same R. 3087-1-2. Can anyone add to this?

Dear [redacted]

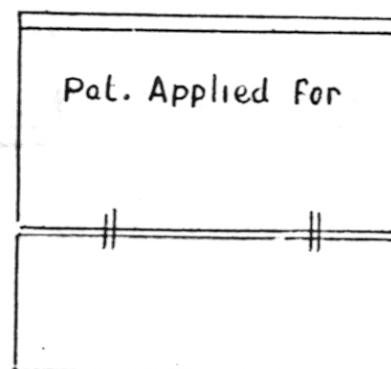
Thanks for Newsletter No 2 of the S.B.C.S. all very interesting.

As regards the Chrome Booklet Holders I can make a few minor additions to your listings.

- 1) Crest of Cromer and "Stamps" decorative logo both on front.
- 2) Diagonal blaze on left with "STAMPS" engraved, also hand painting of tulips and daffodils on front.
- 3) Diagonal blaze on left with applied Wishbone or Stirrup on bottom right.
- 4) An oblong chrome type but with compartments for loose stamps.



R 3087-1-2



The tail end of our Hon. Sec's article on silver, carried over from page 9 of our Spring 1986 journal follows. We shall attempt to print some more types of boxes and cases as space permits. Please write to Martin if you want guidance on the acquisition of anything silver, he will be glad to hear from you, as I will for anything unusual to go into the journal.

SILVER (continued) by Martin Leverton

When one progresses from the small envelopes and ilk, one finds that the next step up, pricewise, generally, would be single, double and occasionally treble compartment boxes, normally with stamps set behind a small square cut-out of glass inset in the top of the box, to see which denomination of stamps are in the box. Sometimes they have some filigree work and chasing or embossing, sometimes with ornate feet, or sometimes on a small pedestal. There were a variety of silversmiths producing such designs, generally from the late 1890's for about twenty years. However, these boxes are often fairly basic, and a representative few is all that one would really require in a collection. Although there have been collectors who, because of the shortage now of the scarcer types of stamp boxes, have built up collections of these types of boxes, all with different dates and Assay offices. These boxes can be found at present for about forty to fifty pounds for a single compartment box through to a hundred pounds or so for a three compartment box. With all stamp boxes, the more unusual they are, the higher the demand and price accordingly, and so with these window types. Very ornate and unusual examples will also fetch a much higher price.

Within the price range of the aforementioned silver boxes, one also can find, albeit less often, many other different small items. Possibly in the shape of a tiny book, just larger than an ordinary definitive stamp, which will pull out on a swivel to give a place for keeping the stamps. Or, perhaps a flat case with a jewelled pull-out to provide two compartments.

Other stamp boxes were produced for dual or multi-purposes. Such as a stamp compartment within a sovereign case or a vesta (match) case or box or visiting card case. All of which would add much interest to a collection, when one considers the numerous types which one might find. Illustrations do this section far better justice than mere text on the subject. As one can see, there were many different types made at the time, and these gradually appear on the market, and it is not too uncommon for a hitherto unseen example turning up.



A SELECTION OF SILVER BOXES

A PHILATELIC HISTORY SOCIETY

Our Hon. Treasurer, [REDACTED], started a new type of society a year or two back. Unusual in the sense that the society collects Philatelic History, not postal history. In other words, items concerning the history of philately itself. I would have thought that that was a tall order, but he has a steadily growing circle of people who are interested in the onset and development of the hobby (science?) of philately. He has taken it to its logical conclusion and has started a Museum of Philately. His journal is full of the most odd items such as ancient dealers lists, old photos of dealers shops long gone and other weird, but very interesting items. His address for fellow afficianados is:-

[REDACTED] Be consoled, he would just as soon go into rhapsodies of an early packet of stamp hinges, as a Victoria letter box, so anything, but anything, pertaining to philately would be appreciated for his museum.

I am indebted to him for permission to publish an article from the latest edition of his journal.

A ROWLAND HILL STAMP BOX

By [REDACTED]

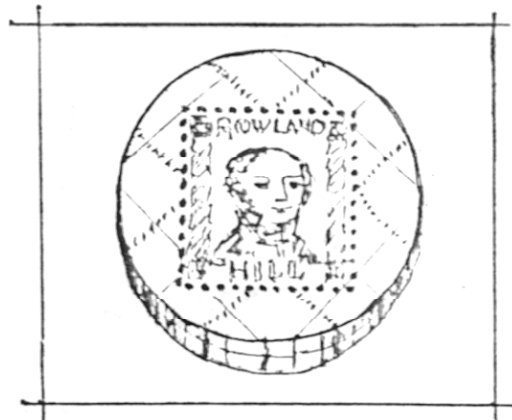
Stamp boxes are a delightful subject and I should like to collect them myself, but today's prices make it an expensive hobby. However, on one occasion, some time ago, I could not resist purchasing what I regard as a rather special one. Souvenirs of Rowland Hill from the Victorian era are surprisingly few. I have seen a plate depicting his statue at Kidderminster and heard of, but not seen, a Parian bust of him. The stamp box shown here is the only one of its kind I have seen apart from one in the National Postal Museum. This little wooden box ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter x $\frac{1}{2}$ " high) is of 'Mauchline Ware' produced by W & A Smith of Ayreshire from 1821. The tartan pattern was not introduced until the 1840's and here it is the dark green Forbes design. The portrait of Hill is set in a fairly accurate frame of the penny red: 'Postage/One Penny' being replaced by 'Rowland/Hill'. The perfs are shown by gold leaf dots. The whole thing is finely decorated.

I would guess the date as being between 1850 and 1860 - possibly produced to commemorate the 10th, or the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the penny post.

Does anyone else own souvenirs of Hill from the Victorian era? I should be interested to know. Details to [REDACTED]

Stamp boxes and Rowland Hill are on the margins of Philatelic History. I produce this article to publicise the formation of a Society interested in the study of stamp boxes.

Details can be obtained from [REDACTED]



TRADE TALKby 

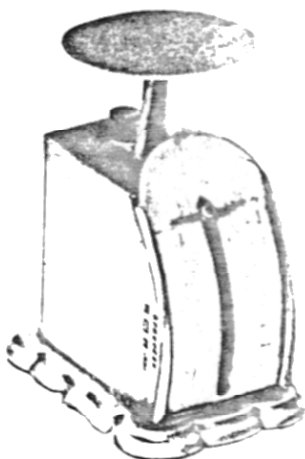
It is still not too difficult to find the commoner types of stamp-boxes, either in antique shops or fairs or in the occasional auction. However, several of our members are enquiring as to where one can find some of the more unusual types, which are fast disappearing.

Some postage-stamp auctioneers have in the past had sales to include a wide variety of boxes. These have generally been collections disposed of in their entirety. Amongst the best was at Phillips in 1981 when part of the late E.F. Hugen's collection was sold. Some other examples from his collection went to the National Postal Museum (at King Edward Buildings Post Office, St. Paul's, London, E.C.) The N.P.M. have recently had many interesting examples of stamp-boxes on show, including a loan collection from the late Frank Godden. The Museum welcomes all visitors during office hours.

Phillips and also Harmers, two of the main London stamp auctioneers, seem the most likely sources at auction for stamp-boxes and they are always on the look-out for items to offer through auction. Phillips have a sale of some 120 or so lots of stamp-boxes on May 8th, I'm told the first for about a year. In the past, Sotheby's and Vessey's have had collections for disposal, which got snapped up by dealer and collector alike. Now that these collections have been broken down and dispersed worldwide, where do we find good material nowadays?

Occasionally something nice turns up in an antique auction somewhere, but as there are up to 40 auctions every day up and down the country, how can one keep tabs on everything and also have the time to go to the auction too? It is often best to let the regular antique dealers buy the item, as they may be at the auction anyway, and they may quite often (but not always!) be willing to pass it on for a quick profit.

A lot of the better items are ending up in the United States. One antique dealer, who always has 20 or 30 silver stamp-boxes in stock at any one time, gets almost cleaned out twice a year by a U.S. dealer. There are only one or two antique dealers with any selection of better stamp-boxes, and as far as stamp dealers are concerned, the position is the same also, perhaps two with a selection. There are numerous other stamp dealers who are busy endeavouring to buy them, but for their own collections or shop displays only, as stamp-boxes, together with postal-scales and other postal antique memorabilia, make such an attractive and interesting array for stamp collectors to admire.



SILVER POSTAL SCALES

A DOUBLE STAMP-BOX
SHAPED AS A COPY OF
SHAKESPEARE'S DESK

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Stamp Box Society held at the Royal Horticultural Hall on Saturday, 8th March, 1986 at 11a.m.
 Reported by the Hon. Secretary, ██████████

The meeting was attended by 16 people.

A welcome address was given by the Acting President, ██████████
 Firstly, the election took place of the officers for the coming 12 months, as follows (all honorary) :

President - ██████████
 Treasurer - ██████████
 Secretary - ██████████

Also, the introduction and acceptance of ██████████ as Vice-President. (Note 1)
 Four proxy voting forms had been received prior to the meeting accepting the officers and the rules and regulations.

Details of membership were heard from the Secretary. 63 members up until the time of the meeting in the 3 or 4 months that the Society had been formed. An article on stamp-boxes and the Society itself in the American publication Linn's Stamp News had produced 14 of the last 16 members being from Canada and the U.S.A.

A statement by the Treasurer gave an account of the money received. This had amounted to £196. The newsletter, journal and postage had amounted to over £140, leaving a balance of over £50. As yet, the Society is waiting to see whether the British Philatelic Trust will give a grant to cover the room hire for the Stampex meeting (£20) and also the setting up of the regular journal or any other help.

Rules and Regulations.

██████████ suggested that the Society widens its field to incorporate letter-scales.

Also, there was a suggestion to include stamp-cases in the Society name, and perhaps the inclusion of philatelic desk furniture within the Society. The President offered that 'Stamp-Cases and allied items' be put into Rule 2. This was followed by a vote which carried the motion. This motion was accepted by all those present and will be incorporated in the rules and regulations.

The point was raised by ██████████ that 'M' numbers in the journal creates the effect of a secret society. Along with the wording of rule 11 this was, he suggested, overdoing the need for security and confidentiality.

██████████ suggested that names be quoted unless otherwise specifically (Note 2) requested by the member. No membership number in the journal was proposed by ██████████ and seconded by ██████████.

██████████ disagreed with this point, as he has a number of requests from members to keep their membership anonymous. After further animated discussion it was eventually agreed to hold a vote on the matter. As the result was 5 in favour of retaining the M number system and 5 against, with 2 abstentions, the President, in his capacity as Chairman, brought his vote down on the side of continuing with the use of the M numbers.

A member raised the question of having the Society's account audited. The Hon. Treasurer, ██████████ replied that he was quite happy to have the accounts audited when there were sufficient of them, but first they would need to have someone to volunteer their services and at that the matter was left.

Rule 12. ██████████ stated that subscriptions due 'on' October 1st is too specific (this could be a Sunday). The rule will be amended to 'by' October 1st. This was agreed to and the rules so amended.

The amended rules and regulations were accepted.

asked about future meetings. The President, , replied that twice a year, once Stampex and then at B.P.E. was likely where possible. The journal would be issued 3 or 4 times a year, as funds permitted.

The President asked for comments from the floor for the future of the Society.

There was unanimous agreement that dealers and auction-houses should be actively encouraged.

The suggestion that the membership fees be put up to an annual subscription for inland £5 per year and overseas £6 and joint membership for husband and wife at £6. The £3 current subscription would not be able to cover a quarterly journal plus all the incidentals during the year including hall hire for meetings. This was carried unanimously.

Affiliation with British Philatelic Foundation. This will cost £10 per annum (or £15 if the membership goes over 75) and told the room that he was in agreement with the idea. The listing in the B.P.F. handbook being one of the main advantages. Listing in the handbook ought to produce a few new members which would alone cover the cost of joining. There was agreement to join the B.P.F. which the Secretary will be seeing to in due course.

Liaison with auctions. of Phillips offered to mention the Stamp-Box Collectors' Society in the relevant auction catalogues with the President's name for interested parties to contact. There was a suggestion that auction catalogues of stamp-boxes could be given sealed or unsealed in envelopes to the Secretary to be distributed to members. This would promote the auction and also inform Society members of any forthcoming auction. If unsealed, the S.B.C.S. journal could be included in the sending and the postage charge could be at the expense of the auctioneers. This was all perfectly acceptable.

There was a suggestion of in-house auctions - i.e. at a meeting, any members wishing to dispose of any of their stamp-boxes could do this in conjunction with the meeting. This will be reconsidered at a later date and put to the members.

Dealers' adverts or inserts of leaflets in the journal was agreed for (Note 3) the future to bring a little extra revenue to the Society. Also individual members requirements or their surplus items could also be advertised in the journal.

The name 'Casophily' was queried, as it is an amalgam of languages. (Note 4) Further suggestions of names to consider were put for members to come up with, for future discussion.

Finally, before the formal part of the morning finished, thanks were offered to for forming the Society.

An informal chat followed, where members introduced themselves to each other and showed some of the boxes they had brought along.

Notes on the minutes of the Stampex Meeting. by [REDACTED]

Note 1. My daughter, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], one time Vice President of a College Society and, with her husband [REDACTED], joint editor of the award winning journal of the Anglo-Boer War Society, was co-opted by me as Vice-President for a number of reasons. Most importantly no volunteer for the post was forthcoming! She is a teacher of some 25 years experience, her second subject being English and she lives within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the printers of this journal. So I 'volunteered' her, especially as her subject, history, includes the many faceted period of the reign of Queen Victoria.

Along with the other officers, she will be presenting herself for election next March (1987).

Note 2. The question of security ranked very highly in our discussions at the meeting. As the founder, and now elected President of this Society, I think it is incumbent on me to be as tight with security as I am able. The general feeling among members, is that I have perhaps gone 'over the top' about security. To attempt to meet both wings of the Society, the 'no numbers' and the 'numbers' wings, I have, in this issue of the journal used descriptions and numbers. I shall expect to have the views of as many of you as are able, to tell me what you think. In the meantime, I shall not be giving names and addresses unless specifically instructed to do so. I shall be happy to drop the numbers system if that is what our members want.

Note 3. Can any member in the advertising business advise your officers about 'selling' space in this journal to help our funds, which is necessary to develop our Society?

Note 4. We have more erudite members in our Society than meets the eye. A lady from the States, in a charming letter, asks me why I must use 'dog latin' to 'invent' a name for we collectors of stamp boxes and cases, whilst at the meeting I was taken to task by a member for mixing Greek and Latin! You already know how I arrived at the world shaking word of CASOPHILY so I shall not repeat it here, but if the more learned among you would bend your collective minds to the problem, perhaps you will come up with a word to satisfy the most renowned of classicists from Oxbridge.

Last Words.

I am now getting requests for past numbers of the journal. I think this will increase in the future and so I shall be asking for a £1 (say 2 dollars) for each past copy sent. O.K. Folks?

[REDACTED] is looking for a fairy godmother (father), a publisher for his proposed definitive book on stamp boxes and cases. Is there such a one out there? Replies to [REDACTED] please.