From AEPS Bulletin
Vol 32 No.1
Autumn 2012

Leytonestone & Wanstead

Our recent fair (April 10) was one of the most successful yet. The hail buzzed with activity much of the day. Often, it was not possible to walk along the aisles between the dealers; one had to sidle. About ninety visitors signed the attendance book, but only 26 members. That's not even 50% of our membership. What happened to the rest of you? The visitors included a couple from Arizona, but admittedly they were here anyway; they didn't make a special trip. We signed up three new members, two of whom had come with the intention of joining anyway, so no arm-twisting was required. I think the dealers all went home happy - and most visitors (including myself) found something of interest in the dealers' boxes. The refreshments were excellent, and Sheila and Margaret were busy for much of the day.

We have had some excellent meetings this year. Jan. 14 was a 'members' day, when we were all asked to show something on the subject of 'Transport', Seven of us did, and of particular note were the offerings of Gordon George (items relating to Royal Mail contractors and labels from early bus services), and Cohn Stuart (Finnish railway and station postal markings). The rest of us showed stamps. January 23 was an 'informal', with no display scheduled 'in case of bad weather'. As it turned out, we were enjoying the mildest January in years, but only three of us brought material to show. Cohn showed classic Sweden, Roy Bates modern issues of St Helena, and I showed Swiss Pro Juventute issues, stamps and miniature sheets, from the beginning to the 1950s.

The highlight of the season's displays was Jeremy Gaskell's 'British North Borneo' on Feb. 23. Transferred from

Sept owing to a double booking. He took us through the issues of Brunei, Sarawak, Labuan and British North Borneo (now Sabah). After a potted history, he gave us a very thorough run through of the stamp issues, with compound perfs, plate flaws, and the lot. Of particular interest were the Japanese occupation issues, and the Australian cancellers used after liberation while new British date stamps were being prepared. Jeremy is an excellent speaker. Several people have commented to me since this meeting how much they enjoyed it. Someone must have known something. Twenty members attended!

David Gerken gave us a thematic show in March, on the subject of 'Bridges'. He explained the four basic types of bridge, and illustrated these with a varied display of stamps, postcards, photographs, and maximum cards. Finally, Stuart Henderson filled the second March meeting with a show of Australian bicentenary material (but he had left the baseball cap at home), which only stopped coming when he informed the Australian postal authorities that he had died. Part two brought British miniature sheets and part three a study of the postmarks of what had been German New Guinea, which continued in use some time after Australian forces occupied the area after WWI. Then, after the second world war, Australian stamps were used for some time after the Japanese surrender, white dedicated stamps were being printed. A very unusual and interesting display.