

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 28.01.2014



President Brian Asquith opened the meeting attended by 21 members at 19.45 hours and invited **BRYAN DOWLER** to present his display on the **GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS**.

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands are made up of many islands and atolls in the Central Pacific Ocean. Bryan's display was in 2 parts:

- The period up to 1938;
- The period of World War II.

Part 1: As there were few people and no stamps until 1911 few covers existed before this date. However, despite the paucity of material Bryan showed a number of covers, the earliest in 1895, which mainly comprised correspondence from Paul Dolch to Meissen in Germany. In 1911 the stamps of Fiji were used in the Islands overprinted with Gilbert & Ellice Islands and were shown on a variety of covers. In 1927 the first definitive stamps were issued. The ½p, 1p, 2p and 2½p stamps as whole un-mounted mint sheets were displayed as well as being shown on covers, many with rare hand stamps. The presentation also contained Blocks of 4 and 6 stamps.

Part 2: During World War II the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were occupied by Japan. All the letters had to be passed by the censor and the censor marks on the envelopes were numbered showing where they had been stamped. (e.g. 1-Fanning Island, 3-Beru Island) The letters containing George VI Gilbert and Ellice stamps went to various destinations and by different routings. Some letters at the end of the War had stamps that had been signed showing that the hand stamp had been lost.

Following inspection of the excellent, interesting and often rare material by members, the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.