

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2018

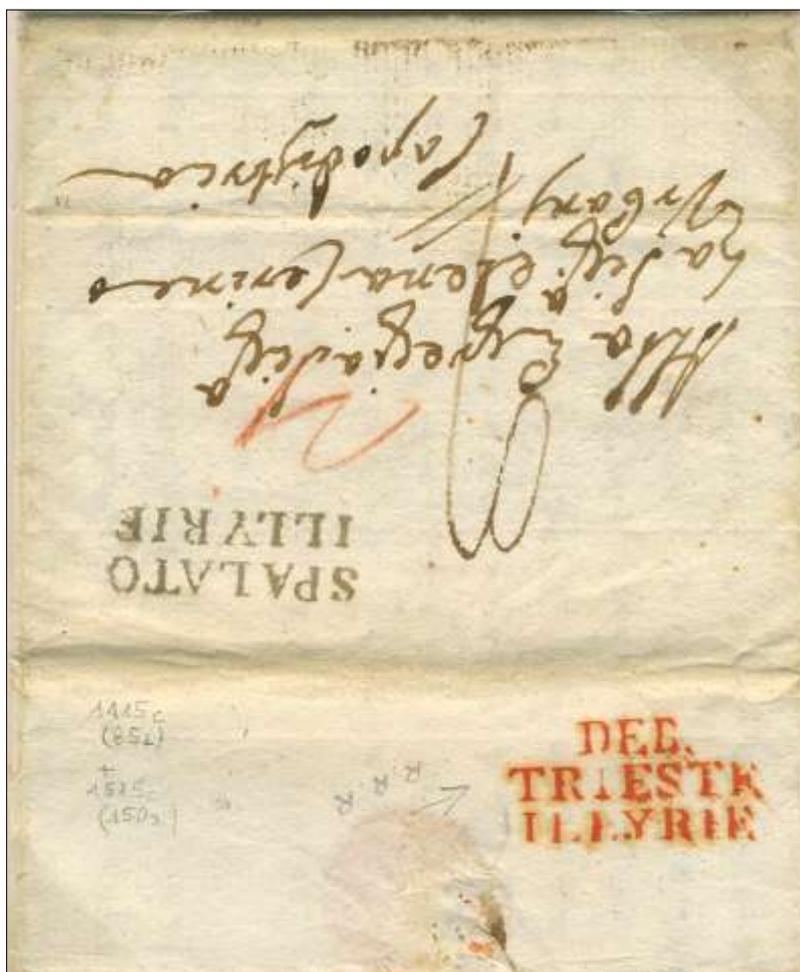
President Richard West opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 14 members present. He welcomed **Brian Asquith** and asked him to give his presentation on **Triest/Trieste**.



Trieste is situated at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea and has a Venetian name meaning “trade”, “market”. It was the main commercial Mediterranean port for the Austro-Hungarian Empire and “Triest” is the Austrian/German spelling. At the end of World War 1 it became a Mediterranean port for Italy and “Trieste” is the Italian spelling.

The first entire shown was from Trieste to Venice in 1505. Manuscript markings were used until 1782 when the first postmark, a Gothic “Von Triest” hand-stamp came into use and was used until 1786.

During the Napoleonic Wars Trieste was occupied by the French briefly in 1797, then again in 1805 – 1806 and a 1805 letter was shown from a soldier in Napoleon's army writing to his mother asking for money to buy shoes and shirts. Finally the French were there for a longer period from 1809 – 1814 when the coastal region of Istria and Dalmatia, including Trieste (the French spelling) was incorporated into Napoleon's Empire as “Illyrie”. Three different “Trieste/ Illyrie” postmarks were in use at this time and this entire from Spalato to Capodystria via Trieste is the scarcest of the three.



DEB./TRIESTE/ILLYRIE

“DEB” = Déboursé

This scarce mark was to warn that postage was accounted for to Trieste and that postage for forwarding from there to the destination was due.

There followed a letter from Trieste by Captain William Hoste, of the frigate HMS *Bachante*, to his father, a vicar in Norfolk, advising that he had been bombarding Ragusa (now Dubrovnik) and that Nap. seems to be at his last shift. He also writes that he has received the Order of Maria Theresa from the Emperor of Austria.

After the departure of the French the use of postmarks ceased and manuscript markings were again used until 1821 when reportedly a straight line TRIEST, with DATE, MONTH and YEAR came into use although a rather poor example dated 1819 was on show. Over the next 30 years a variety of postmarks were used examples of which were shown.

When postage stamps were introduced in 1850 Austria was the first country which did not introduce special cancellers, but from the beginning used the town and date postmarks, already in use, as cancellers decades ahead of other countries bringing in this town/date system.

Many shipping marks on mail to and from Trieste were shown including this from Malta to Pola via Trieste:-



***This is not an official “Paquebot” marking but a purser’s mark known on a variety of Austro-Hungarian ships from about 1895-1906.
B/S Trieste 26.2.99 and Pola 26.2.99.***

On the outbreak of war in 1914 Italy declared itself neutral but under the secret Treaty of London of 26 April 1915 it was agreed that Gorizia and Trieste as well as part of the Dalmatian coast would be transferred to Italy if she came in on the side of the Allies. Italy declared war on Austria on 23 May 1915. The Austro-Hungarian fleet surrendered on 31 October 1918 and on 3 November an armistice was signed between Austria and the Allies. Patriots “borrowed” an ex-Austrian destroyer “Audace” and went to Venice for support from the Italian navy. On 3 November 1918 Italian marines in the “Audace” tied up at the S. Malo pier in Trieste, which has been called the Molo Audace ever since. Italy had effectively annexed Trieste although the necessary treaties were not completed until April the following year. Austrian stamps were overprinted “Regno d’Italia/Venezia Giulia/ 3.XI.18” and brought into immediate use.

Italy signed a Pact of Steel with Germany in May 1939. On 1 September 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland, Italy announced its neutrality but on 10 June 1940 declared war on Britain and France. This registered cover franked with Hitler/Mussolini Italo-German Friendship stamps (more on the back) from Trieste to New York was posted on 25 September 1941:-



Cachet “HELD BY BRITISH / CENSOR / RELS'D JAN. 19”.
The cover was released in 1946 and is backstamped New York 5 March 1946.
It was in the post for 4½ years.

On 3 September 1943 the Allies, after conquering Sicily, landed on Italian mainland when the Italians surrendered unconditionally and the Germans withdrew to the Gustav Line, running from the River Sangro in the East to just north of Naples on the West coast. Within this northern area was Trieste which was incorporated into the Province of Adriatic Küstenland.

The residents of Trieste rose against the German occupiers on 29/30 April 1945 and a few days later the New Zealand Division and Tito's army arrived at almost the same time, giving rise to a tense situation, bordering on the outbreak of WW3. Tito wanted Trieste but Stalin did not support him so he had to back down. Trieste was divided into Zones “A” and “B” and ruled by the Allied Military Government until 1954 when it was returned to Italy.

30.04.2018
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 Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary