

**CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

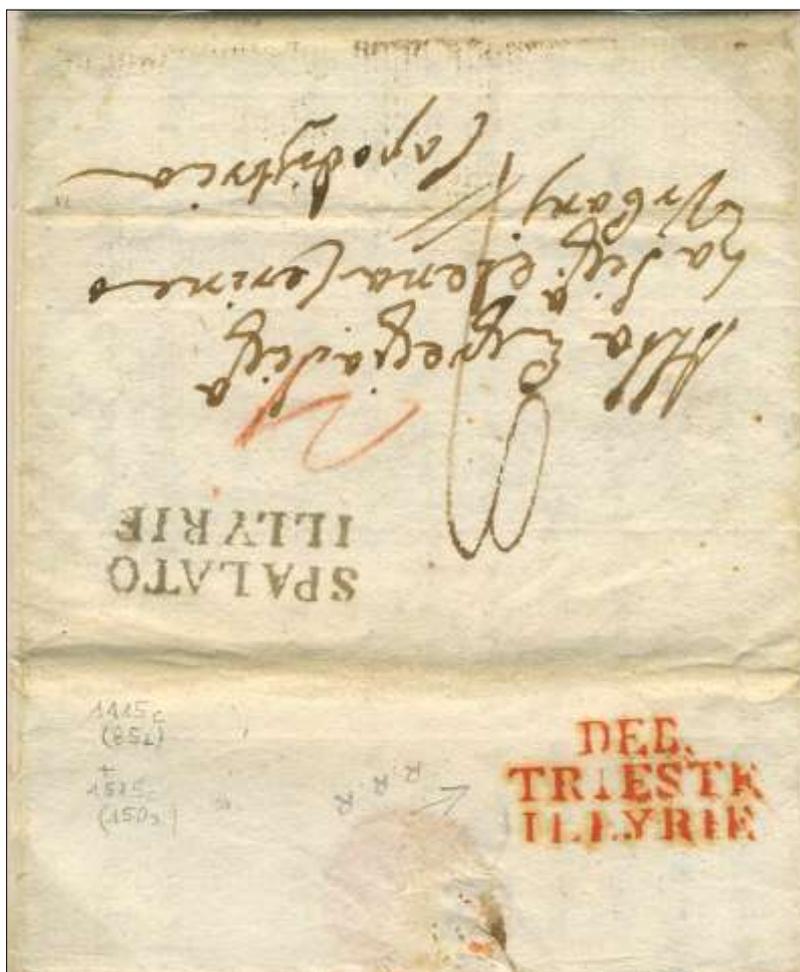
President Richard West opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 14 members present. He welcomed **Brian Asquith** and asked him to give his presentation on **Triest/Trieste**.



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:-





***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  
 Ref: CroyPhilSocNotes24.04.18.doc  
 Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary