

**CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:  
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

Vice President Frank Simpson opened the meeting at 19.30 hours and welcomed the 8 members present. He invited **Nigel Steer** to present his display on **Norway**.



Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden in 1814, after the Napoleonic Wars, and from then until 1905 the King of Sweden was also King of Norway. Pointed message sticks were the first form of communication and the first postmarks appeared in 1845. A lion rampant on a shield appeared on the first imperforate 4 skilling blue in 1855 with no country indication. The watermark was also a lion rampant facing in the opposite direction.

This was replaced in 1856 by 4 different value stamps bearing the head of King Oscar 1 and inscribed Norge. This design was replaced in 1859 by the head of the new King Charles XV. In 1871 the post horn was introduced and a post horn design was still in use 125 years later making it the most successful stamp in history. 1905 saw the separation of Norway from Sweden and King Haakon VII of Norway stamps were issued.

30 July 1914, Tryggve Gran became the first pilot to cross the North Sea. Taking off from, Scotland, Gran landed 4 hours 10 minutes later at [Jæren](#), near Stavanger, Norway.

During World War II Norway was occupied by the Germans and occupation issues including stamps overprinted with “V” for victory by the Resistance were shown. These need certificates to prove their authenticity and these were on display.

Both ship and railway TPO's, commercial covers, a postcard of the 1897 Balloon Expedition to the North Pole and souvenirs of other Norwegian Polar Exploration to the North And South Poles including Roald Amundsen, the ships Fram and Maud, Transpolar Flights were also displayed

The condition of the material was excellent throughout with blocks of early stamps as well as imprint blocks, some of which were shown on cover. Mr. Steer spoke clearly, informatively and entertainingly throughout which the members thoroughly enjoyed.

Vice President, Frank Simpson gave the vote of thanks for such an outstanding display and presented Mr. Steer with a Certificate and a bottle of wine.

01.07.2018

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Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Croydon Philatelic Society

With thanks to Brian Asquith.