



Figure 1: The triple-tiered floors of Europhilex 2015.



Confederate Stamp Alliance Celebrates 80th Anniversary at Europhilex 2015 in London

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

The Confederate Stamp Alliance, established in 1935, celebrated its 80th anniversary by holding its first ever annual convention outside of the United States. The Alliance met at Europhilex 2015, the international show held in London in May. Europhilex was celebrating the 175th anniversary of postage stamps. The world's first adhesive postage stamp was the legendary Penny Black, issued in Britain on 1 May 1840.

Also celebrated were the 125th anniversary of the first London Stamp Exhibition and the 150th anniversary of the first Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue. This was a major year for philatelic anniversaries.

CSA trustee John Walker, a British collector who specializes in Confederate patriotic covers, first brought up the idea of the CSA meeting in London. Who better to organize such an event for the CSA than a Brit with connections on both sides of the Atlantic. The idea quickly took hold and the CSA became a financial sponsor of the show and took a double booth in which were displayed an impressive 18 Confederate exhibits.

The CSA has always had a bountiful number of specialized awards at annual conventions, including those for research, writing, service and a wide variety of exhibit awards. The most coveted exhibit award is the CSA Trophy for the best and most comprehensive exhibit of Confederate stamps or covers. It is akin to a

Grand Award but may only be won once in every five years. This year the honor went to Deane R. Briggs for his exhibit of "Florida Confederate Postal History." Briggs also won a gold in international competition.

The CSA exhibits awards were given out at the annual Southern Supper. CSA judges (not Europhilex judges) for this show were Chief Judge Trish Kaufmann, Frank Crown and Schuyler Rumsey.

John Walker arranged for two wonderful philatelic tours for Alliance members during their stay in London. The first tour was to the British Library where Paul Skinner, head curator of philatelic collections, gave members a tour that began with the viewing of the Perkins-Bacon printing press, which was used to produce the Penny Black. There are many great philatelic rarities held at the library.

The initial philatelic viewing was followed by a private showing of the Confederate portion of the renowned Tapling Collection and the De La Rue die of CSA Scott 6, the five-cent blue typograph issue.

The other scheduled philatelic tour was to the Royal Philatelic Society London where the Alliance held their annual trustees' meeting. Members had an opportunity to view library holdings as well as private collections housed there.

There was little down time due to the packed philatelic schedule, but most everyone had a chance to take in some of the attractions such as the British Museum, the Tower of London, the London Eye, Big

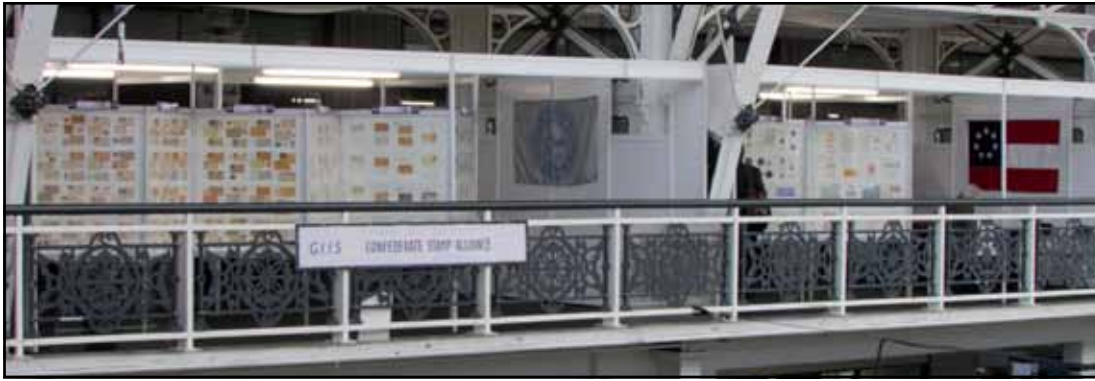


Figure 2: The Confederate Stamp Alliance booth on the mezzanine.

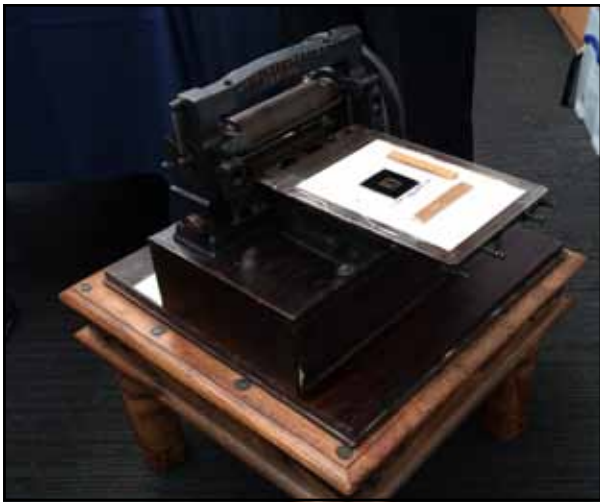


Figure 3: The printing press of Jean de Sperati, the scandalous philatelic forger; it was on display at Europhilex in a special RPSL booth with printing demonstrations and explanations.



Figure 4: Paul Skinner speaks to CSA members at the Perkins-Bacon press that printed the first postage stamps in the world, the British Penny Black.



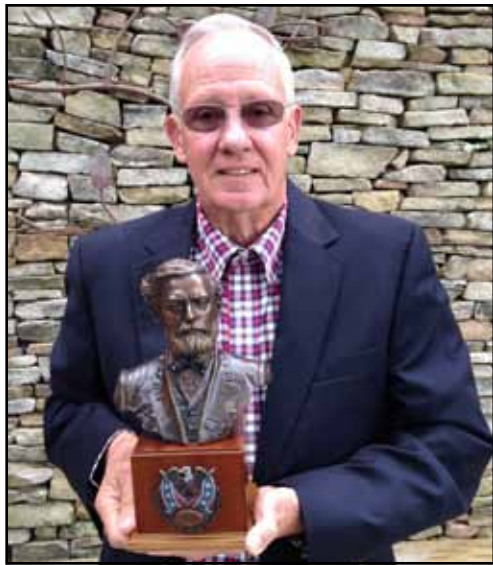
Figure 5: The De La Rue proof die, which was made for CSA Scott 6, the five-cent typograph issue.



Figure 6: Author Trish Kaufmann poses by Tower Bridge in rainy London.



Figure 7: The CSA dinner table at the Royal President's Dinner.



Deane R. Briggs holding the impressive CSA Trophy for his exhibit of Florida Confederate States Postal History. Briggs also won a gold in international open competition.



London CSA host John Walker with his Confederate Patriotic exhibit, winner of the John W. Kaufmann Memorial Award for the best exhibit of Confederate Patriotic covers.



CSA Secretary Larry Baum with his exhibit of Confederate advertising covers that won the Robert A. Siegel Award.

Ben and other famous places. There was also plenty of camaraderie in the evenings at various English pubs and fine eating establishments, most within a short walk or a tube ride away.

The annual CSA membership meeting was held on Friday followed by four presentations:

1. "The Postmaster Provisionals of the Confederate States" by Francis J. Crown Jr.
2. "Civil War Prize Court Mail" by Patricia A. Kaufmann;
3. "The De La Rue Stamps of the Confederacy" by John L. Kimbrough
4. "The Bryant-Stephens Correspondence from Florida" by Deane R. Briggs

Presentations were well attended by both members and exhibition visitors. A wine and snack reception followed for CSA members and members of the Royal Philatelic Society London, who organized the exhibition.

For a number of the CSA members, some of whom are also members or fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the black tie President's Dinner on Friday night was the highlight of the trip. It was held in the historic London Guildhall in Livery Hall after the palmers. Dinner and libations were outstanding and the entertainment was wonderful.

A young opera star regaled us with "Die Taubenpost" (The Pigeon Post), written in 1828 by Franz Schubert; "The Penny Post Act," a comic song written around 1840; "The Stamp Collector's Song," written in London in 1886; and "Hurrah for the Postman, The Great Rowland Hill," published as a broadside in Leith, Scotland circa 1837-40. The songs were amusing, appropriate, beautifully presented and enthusiastically received.

CSA members had a wonderful time in London and European members had the uncommon opportunity to easily attend an official Confederate Stamp Alliance event on a grand scale.

Members from Great Britain, Sweden, Holland and Germany attended and some from other countries were recruited as new members at the CSA booth. It was a memorable event.

Acknowledgements

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