

# COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE-50 YEARS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS JOURNAL

## The proposal

The Editor and supporting Committee of the Falkland Islands Journal made a (successful) proposal to the Stamp Committee in the Falklands that the Journal merited recognition through a commemorative stamp issue in 2017 for the following reasons-

1. The Journal was founded in 1967 and has been published annually ever since-2017 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
2. It has made a significant contribution to documenting the history of the Falklands and, through its concern for accuracy (articles are peer-reviewed where possible), has enabled many historical misperceptions and inaccuracies to be corrected
3. Through support for the Alastair and Jane Cameron History Prize competition (by publishing the winning entries) it has fostered and encouraged an interest in their Island's history by local young people
4. It has encouraged serious and significant academic research into the history of the Falklands by supporting and working with potential authors and historians
5. It promotes and represents an outward-thinking and globally important view of the Falklands which is distributed to a wide range of countries where the Journal is purchased

## Background to, and history of The Falkland Islands Journal

The Falkland Islands Journal was first published in 1967. It was the brainchild of the then Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands (from 1963-1969) W.H. ("Tommy") Thompson whose short foreword stated:-

*"I hope this issue will be the first of many. The idea behind the Journal is to promote interest in the Falkland Islands and their history. Editorial policy is to publish items of interest from the past and present. Politics do not come into it. If any reader takes exception to anything which is printed from the past they must resort to the grave to lay their blame: as to the present, the authors of all signed papers are alone responsible for opinions expressed in them. MSS., and letters will be gladly accepted, but with a budget which is less than even the proverbial shoestring, and difficulties of printing, no guarantee of publication or promise of payment can be given. W.H. Thompson."*

Mr Thompson later wrote, in an article in the 1999 issue (The Genesis of the Falkland Islands Journal: pp 1-2) *"I was Colonial Secretary from 1963 until 1969*

*and during that time I spent many hours delving into the archives which were beautifully kept and stored in a room of the Secretariat. With the exception of six years during the 1920s, they were complete from 1841 onwards. The loss of those six years was due to a fire which caused great damage to the earlier Secretariat building. Fortunately they were unimportant years when nothing much occurred in the islands.*

*Please remember that we had no air service to or from the islands and our shipping was limited to direct sailings from the UK, of which there were very few, and by the Falkland Islands Company's ship Darwin with ten voyages a year to and from Montevideo in Uruguay. In midwinter there was a six to eight week gap when she was away having her annual Lloyds inspection. It was during that long dull period that I spent much time getting into the archival material.*

*In 1965 I thought it would be a good idea to put some of the more interesting material into print for the benefit of interested people within the Colony. There were difficulties. Finance of course and the fact that Joe King the Government Printer was snowed under with work brought about by an increasing amount of legislation which was slow and tedious work in those days of hand type-setting. (Monotype came three years later). However, by 1966 I wrote to all the farmers and other worthies asking for a promise of support which I asked for in the form of an advance order for copies at a price of 5/-each. The response was good and with the connivance of Joe King on cost cutting I was able to go ahead. Sir Cosmo Haskard, Governor at the time, gave his blessing "provided nothing gets charged to Government or the taxpayer" and the first issue was produced in early 1967.*

*I produced further issues in 1968 and 1969 – which I consider to be the best of my lot. Unfortunately my successor in office had no interest in the venture and it very nearly died. I was very sad." However, it did continue and the rest is history.*

Tommy Thompson edited the first four issues. J.A. and J.I.C.B. Jones the 1971 and 1972 issues and an Editorial Committee from within the Islands the 1973 and 1974 issues. There seemed to have been a lack of interest in the Journal at the time. Fortunately, an eminent farmer, Executive Councillor and historian, Sydney Miller (1905-1992) took on the job of editor "for a year or so only to rescue it from its imminent demise" (his words to Jim McAdam). He ended up editing the Journal for 15 years and passed on (in 1990), to Jim McAdam a thriving and active Journal. Jim has been "in post" since 1990. All work on the Journal is voluntary and together with Jim McAdam the editorial team is: Alison Barton, Rob Philpott, Kevin Kenny, Emma Jane Wells, Geraldine McAdam, Tom McAdam and Nikki Buxton (see Foreword). Significant events in the life of the Journal have been the introduction of a glossy, colour cover (in 2000) coupled with a major expansion in size and content. A website was created in 2004 by Tom McAdam ([www.falklandislandsjournal.org](http://www.falklandislandsjournal.org)) and a fully-searchable CD ROM, produced by Nikki Buxton containing content of all back issues till 2015, is also available.

The Journal is particularly dedicated to encouraging schoolchildren in the Falklands in the study of their local history by publishing winners and highly commended entries of the “Alastair and Jane Cameron History Prizes”. The Journal team work closely with the National Archivist and the Director of the Museum and her staff.



*The current editor, Jim McAdam and Tommy Thompson in 2016.*

The Journal is now linked to the Historic Dockyard Museum and will publish a report on Museum activities and, where appropriate, exhibitions. There will be a small display marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Journal in the Printing Office at the Historic Dockyard Museum alongside the early Falkland Islands Government printing equipment on which the first editions of the Journal were produced.

### **Illustrations for the stamps (see back cover for full colour illustration)**

From a range of suggestions made to the Committee, illustrations were chosen for the four stamps in the commemorative set. These were based on covers of past issues and were a particularly apt choice. They were as follows.

#### ***31p stamp (below). Depicts the cover from the 2010 issue***

The 2010 issue of the Journal was dedicated to the memory of Jane Cameron, the

Falkland Islands Government Archivist, who had died as a result of a car accident in Argentina in December 2009 and included articles written by her.

While her legacy is in the numerous young people in the Islands she encouraged and helped with projects for the Alastair Cameron History Prizes, some of which were published in the Journal, - she was hugely helpful in many other ways. Her professionalism, sheer hard work and input into many of the entries for David Tatham's *Dictionary of National Biography of the Falklands* act as a permanent memorial to her.

The painting on the front cover of the 2010 issue of Pale Maidens (*Olsynium filifolium*) in the Falkland Islands was by Gerald Roberts. Her friends say these were Jane Cameron's favourite wild flowers



**76p stamp (above). Depicts the cover from the 2013 issue**

This issue particularly recognised the contribution to the Journal made by Mike Stammers (1943-2013), former Curator in the maritime history department of Liverpool Museum, and Keeper of the renowned Merseyside Maritime Museum.

His long and distinguished association with the Falkland Islands grew through his

interest in the *Jhelum*, a ship as important to Liverpool's history as to that of the Falkland Islands and resulted in a classic study of meticulous scholarship with John Kearon, *The Jhelum. A Victorian Merchant Ship*. Mike was Deputy Editor of the *Journal* from 1991 up until his death and made a huge contribution to the expansion in volume and quality of the publication over these years.

The painting of the *Jhelum* on the front cover of the 2013 issue of the *Journal* was by the current editor's late father, Fred McAdam.

***£1.01 stamp (below). Depicts the cover from the 2014 issue***

The recognition of centenaries and other notable anniversaries often featured in articles published in the *Journal*. 2014 was the centenary of the World War I naval battle of the Falklands and three research articles on the topic were printed.

The cover of the issue was a section of a painting of "The Battle of the Falkland Islands" by J.S. Abrahams, Devonport, Feb 1915. The ships in view are (left to right) H.M.S. *Carnarvon*, H.M.S. *Invincible*, H.M.S. *Inflexible*.



***£1.22 stamp (above). Depicts the cover from the 2016 issue***

The publication of the 2016 *Journal* marked its 50<sup>th</sup> issue. It was also a year of many

notable anniversaries and these were recognised by articles in the Journal:- ranging from a piece commemorating 100 years since Sir Ernest Shackleton arrived in Stanley on the *Endurance* expedition, his son's visit as Lord Edward Shackleton in 1976 to compile his hugely influential Economic Development Report; the DC4 hijacking incident of September 1966; and a review of advances made over the past 50 years in the understanding of Falklands geology. The front cover was a section of an oil painting of Stanley by the founder and first editor, Tommy Thompson, while he was Colonial Secretary in the Falkland Islands.

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Jim McAdam and Alison Barton