

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 546

Saturday 17th February 2018

It was on the cards this month, that it was going to be a memorable meet, we had set it up for a good day and it certainly turned out that way. Even the weather was favourable, although we left Wisbech at 8.00am in a fog, and it didn't clear until we got to the forest near Thetford.

Everything was in full swing when we arrived at the hall, all the early birds were there 'wheeling and dealing'. The dealers were kept busy most of the morning with a steady flow of customers. Peter Workman has hurt his back, and his boxes are very heavy so he didn't deal but it was nice to see he still came along with his faithful friend Phil Lane. Unfortunately Ken Courtney along with Alice and Janice has one of the many winter bugs going around and couldn't make it.

The members came and went all day, with a final number of 64 checking in with Doreen plus a further 5 visitors. Our auction had been advertised extensively and three specialist silk collectors were among the visitors, Steve Davison from Northampton and Alan Stevens (author of the silk's bible) and George Cleverly from Hampshire.

Almost everyone took the opportunity to check out the 130 lots of rare, many unlisted silks on offer and just looking at them was good enough for most members. I'm not a silk's collector but you have to appreciate the precision used when they were made, the colours and delicacy was quite splendid. As most know we have another silk's auction in July and Alan took the opportunity to bring the July lots for everyone to 'drool' over. Another will follow in October. This idea to have a 'theme' to part of the auction has worked well this month and could well be developed further in the future. Just to remind you, we have a 'Sports' theme in April, a 'Film/Movie Star' theme in May, and July 'silks 2'. Although the themes will be a maximum of 150 lots we will still have 250 lots in each auction. I have at last finished the huge dealer's collection from Coventry and that will be finally all sold in May. Alan has enough items for May and early June but if you want to bring some in they will be very welcome.

Everything is building slowly for the forthcoming National Convention in Kings Lynn. The dealers committed to attending are all busy registering and will total around 35 different dealers using more than 100 tables with millions of cards. There are usually at least two American dealers who come over specifically for the event. If I see a list of dealers coming I will include it with next month's newsletter. I have drawn up a rota for our shared responsibility of providing staff on the visitor's door; please help me fill up the spaces. Cartophilic members get access at 10.00am on the Saturday and visitors (non-members) from 12.00 midday, the fair closes at 6.00pm. See the leaflet for more detailed timings. I understand two of our members will be standing Charlie Stringer and Mike Plant.

I have been to quite a few conventions and they can be quite stressful, so come along with a good idea of what you need and don't be shy of asking. It can be very time consuming trawling through dealer after dealer's stock of albums but well worth it. Don't forget most dealers like to haggle 'don't always pay the price they ask' (unless you think it is fair!) but an offer doesn't offend and you could save quite a bit of money. Dealers have costs, travel, table rent, etc., so bear that in mind when haggling. I'm sure you will find that rare card that has been on your list for years. Saturday and Sunday 28th/29th April are the dates, Lynn Sport Kings Lynn PE30 2NB the venue. If you want an inside tip Saturday is always the busiest – probably 250 – 300 collectors so dealer's tables are always busy and therefore pushing and shoving sometimes happen, whereas on Sunday it is quieter 150 – 200 collectors so much more comfortable for looking.

The eagerly awaited auction time soon came round and Alan had a telephone bidder also lined up so he asked Peter Beer to do the honours and it worked after a hesitant start. There were plenty of postal bidders so we were ready to start at the appointed hour. Ann and Les are in far off Thailand on holiday, so Doreen stepped into the breach and did a tremendous job in allocating all the lots in the right direction.

As we expected the silk's provided some spirited bidding and most lots were keenly fought for. Alan included in the auction a lovely collection of cigarette cards from a retired club member and we had a good final outcome on the day.

Final facts and figures: total spent £5412, of which there was 16 successful in-house bidders spending £3197, (one member spent nearly £2000), a further 20 postal bidders who spent £2215. There were only 4 vendors and only 50 were unsold. Only 10 silk lots were unsold, 6 of these were Flags, we don't like Flags!! Top spot went to Lot 38 a lovely silk uncut sheet of Morris Battleships and Crests sailing away for £520.

That didn't challenge the club record set in May 2006, when we sold £7200 of cards including a set of Wills Animals and Birds in Fancy Costume for £1750. Let's hope we may challenge that later in the year.

The hall committee had asked me to leave the tables out when we finished as they had a fund raising Chocolate Bingo in the evening, I don't think any of our members stopped though?

Finally on a personal note, we are in the process of moving house, from the Eastern European capital of the Fens, Wisbech to the giant metropolis of Kings Lynn. I will try and keep everything smooth but depending on timing and date of move, the newsletter might be hampered or brief in April/May time.

Next month we meet on **Saturday 17th March 2018** from 9.00am to 3.00pm
Auction 1.00pm Roydon Village Hall near Diss in South Norfolk.
Dealers booked in are Mike Heard, Ken Courtney, Roger Mann, Peter Beer,
John Haddon Silver, Geoff McMillan and Charlie Stringer.

Space for one more if anyone is interested in having a clear out. Tables are free for dealers.

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