

Peter Andrews (ESC 122, 1925-2017): An Appreciation

Peter Andrews came to the rescue of the Study Circle at the Annual General Meeting of early 2007, after the tragic sudden death in Shanghai of Robin Bertram. He took over as Chairman in typically self-deprecatory manner, willing to shoulder the necessary burden and aware that we needed a firm hand to steady the ship. Unexpectedly, he continued to steer us into calmer waters for a full ten years before stepping down at 92 in February.

He was known as a quiet man, but the several members who attended the celebration of his life in Braintree in June 18 saw a different side to Peter, with one after another of his extended family providing moving tributes to an active and adventurous life. With grandchildren in Saudi Arabia and Australia, he was virtually always on the move, his inquiring mind searching as far as Hong Kong, China and New Zealand for yet more fascinating facts and scenes – and causing him to miss the odd meeting when it clashed with an overseas visit.

Egypt was his supreme philatelic love, and also a place he loved to visit, from Cairo 91 through to the rather odd Sharm el-Sheikh exhibition in late 2008. And he was a regular visitor to Tony and Jenny Chisholm's Coromandel Coast stamp weeks (see below). He joined the Circle in late 1965, and quickly illustrated his attention to detail by indexing Volume V (1957-62) of the *QC* only a couple of years later. In January 1969 he became Secretary/Treasurer, and over the years fulfilled pretty well every Circle role – meeting leader, study leader, organiser and host of regional meetings, regular *QC* and Question Time contributor, chairman of the expert committee, an invaluable member of the Auction team, even editing a couple of *QCs* in emergency.

His philatelic interests were wide, but one overriding love was the censorship system, which culminated in his publishing, in 2003, the highly regarded *Censorship of Civil Mail in Egypt, 1939-1945*, which Peter Smith described as providing a definitive listing of these markings.

Peter led meetings on a wide range of interests - the First Issue, Crown overprints, the first Farouk issue, hotels, postal stationery, the postal concession period, Officials, postcards, cassette envelopes, "damaged in transit", and was very keen to support three recent initiatives: Edmund Hall's ESC website, the continuing TPOs study, and the fledgling study of Instructional Markings... always able to provide welcome and supplementary evidence for a meeting or in its immediate wake. A private man and always soft spoken, his gentle voice concealed a generous spirit and wide-ranging knowledge that he was invariably willing to share.

An electrical engineer, Peter was born in Warsop in Nottingham, starting as an apprentice, and was always busy, brought up in an era when "hands should never be idle". In retirement, when he said he wondered how he'd ever found time to go to work, he devoted himself to travelling, his far-flung family and ... Egypt stamps.

Although we shall miss him, we are thankful that he was spared to live such a long, useful and interesting life and grateful for all he did for the Circle and for the wider world of philately.

– Mike Murphy

Tribute from New Zealand: I know I speak for all the local members here - Sue Claridge, Anabright Hay, Herb Cowley and Claude Paulsen, together with Jenny Chisholm - all of whom had the pleasure of meeting Peter (some on multiple occasions as he visited several times after staying with family in Australia) when conveying how pleased we all have been to benefit from his extensive knowledge of Egyptian philately. Always humble and the perfect guest both here in Wellington and up at Matarangi Beach, Peter endeared himself to us all and we can only imagine the same, but amplified sentiments, for those who had shared meetings and travel experiences with him up in the northern hemisphere. I would be most grateful if you would please convey our condolences to Peter's family, a true gentleman and one whose contribution and leadership of our Circle will be sadly missed by all his friends here.

– Tony Cakebread (ESC 536)

