

Report of a meeting at Stampex, North London, on 25 October 2025

There was a small but enthusiastic turnout, with four Officers unable to attend for various reasons. One visitor did attend – we hope he will decide to join the Circle, encouraged by the display of Jon Aitchison's fascinating Egyptian printed advertising envelopes.

David Ogden, Chairman, welcomed members and especially our visitor but also regretted to have to inform the meeting of the passing of Sue Claridge (ESC 256) of New Zealand, a former ESC Publicity Officer. He reminded members that the December issue of the *QC* will be the last printed copy before it is available only online. The full 2026 subscription, however, will be cut to £15. He described the thriving Facebook page, now approaching 1,000 members without subscription fee, as a wonderful resource especially for newer collectors with the great advantage that queries can receive expert responses very quickly. The Circle was still seeking, he said, a Committee member to take up the reins of Membership Secretary.

He reported that the previous day he had visited the British Library, in conjunction with Stampex. Richard Morel, Curator of the Philatelic Collections, was very welcoming, and Egypt material from the Tapling collection is currently available to view at any time. The group was taken into the vast archives to see an astonishing range of material including Egyptian postal items. Appointments can be booked and material ordered to view. He reminded members of the Postal Museum's extensive collections, which can also be freely visited. A discussion point was that collectors are generally not so interested in items they cannot buy.

Looking to the future, the meeting heard that now Customs problems are solved the ESC will make every effort to hold a meeting at the Boston 2026 World Expo, the world's major international, from May 23-30. We had excellent attendances at similar top-level meetings in Washington in 2006 and New York in 2016.

The Exposition will take place at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, which is some 15 minutes by road from Boston airport and the same from Boston railway station. We hope to see many overseas visitors, as well as North Americans, for the top show of the year: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd6swjw>