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PRESS RELEASE

Scholarship saves postal archive

The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, administered by The Royal Philatelic Society London, has helped save the postal archives of the South Atlantic island of St. Helena.

The scholarship was awarded to Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett. In 2009, they discovered a hoard of old records and artifacts in the cellar at the Jamestown Post Office. Fearing they may be destroyed, either by development of the site or by the action of termites, they resolved to save it. In March 2013 they returned, and with the help of two friends and the Director of the Museum in Jamestown, were able to archive this valuable record relating to the Post Office since the 1860s.

With assistance from the Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, and the St Helena Government who paid for the archival storage, it is now part sorted in 101 boxes for future researchers to study.

The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship is available to philatelists, wherever resident, wishing to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. The Scholarship is intended to assist with the costs incurred undertaking the researches, especially for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs where such research is undertaken overseas. More details are available from www.rpsl.org.uk or by writing to The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, providing an email address if possible.



The postal archives of St Helena before and after the recent work undertaken.

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