

THEMESCENE

December 2021

In this issue we:

Celebrate Success
Autumn Stampex:
Reports, displays and talks



Revisit Australia
Colonisation of Queensland
With Chris Wheeler

And Investigate Cetaceans
A Whale's Tale
Display at the RPSL



BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Volume 38, No.4. Whole Number 145

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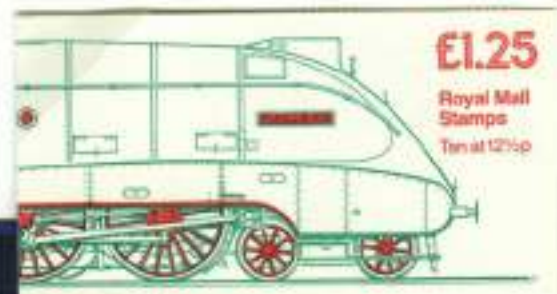
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LNER Mallard
The booklet was one of the 1983 'Railway Engines' booklet series.

Supermarket Philately
Display by Jean Alexander

THEMESCENE

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DECEMBER 2021

THEMESCENE

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CHAIRMAN

Barry Stagg

We are all part of History

Whether we like it or not we are all part of history. We all play a part as we go about our lives and often our contribution is lost in the sheer size of humanity. But at Stampex a few weeks ago the British Thematic Association put on a wonderful show of Pictorial exhibits that ensured that our contribution to British philately will not be forgotten for a long time. Thank you to all those who sent exhibits. The ABPS was very pleased with their quality and number - flooding the entrance to Stampex with over 130 frames of material. It was a wonderful sight with so many interesting topics covered. And, in a rare, very rare, occasion at a National show, a Pictorial exhibit was awarded 'best in show' so congratulations to John Davies for his *A Jubilee Reminiscence*.

It's great to see so many stamp clubs and fairs sprouting into life. I know some have closed doors for ever and collectors are being careful about venturing out again, but philatelic activities are starting again. And with that in mind I travelled to London a few weeks ago to see the much delayed display by Lesley Marley at the Royal. Lesley's name will be synonymous with Whales for a long time to come. Many wonderful frames of material put together over a life time of collecting. Truly a great collection and well worth seeing. Whilst in London I took the opportunity to visit the Postal Museum and see their Postcard exhibit. The exhibit, spread over a few rooms, showed the history of the postcard and its contribution to society from its very humble beginnings to becoming the 'internet' of its day – albeit somewhat slower but arguably more reliable!

For the last week I have been a 'prisoner' in the spare bedroom having tested positive for Covid. They say every cloud has a silver lining, and it gave me time to sort out my 'library' of information on various topics. All the cuttings over many years (decades!) have now been placed into A4 folders for easy reference. Well, that's the theory! Now I just have to sort out the shoeboxes of stamps, postcards and thematic bits and pieces. It's good to have ambition!

Keep well and safe. 

Membership

We are delighted to welcome five new members to the BTA:

Tim Aston	Quebec
Jorge Galloway	Florida
Jan Nyeki	Egham
Christopher Smith	Chippenham
George Yalden	Havant.

We hope you find your membership enjoyable and rewarding.

With regret we have to report the death of two members: Mick Hemmings and Jeff Dugdale. Jeff was a regular contributor to this magazine and his obituary appears on page 136.

THE PENAL COLONISATION OF AUSTRALIA (1788 - 1868). PART 3: QUEENSLAND (1824 - 1859)

Chris Wheeler

In February 1806, Dutch Navigator Willem Janszoon had landed at the northernmost tip of eastern Australia in his ship *Dufyken* (fig 1). The region was also explored by the French and Spanish prior to the arrival of James Cook in 1770, who claimed the whole east coast, under instruction from King George III, on 22 August 1770 at Possession Island, naming Eastern Australia 'New South Wales'.

In the previous article we saw how the need to separate the hardened convicts at Sydney Cove had become necessary, and a new settlement for them further away was essential. Thus in 1823 John Oxley (fig 2), a British explorer, sailed north from Sydney to scout potential penal colony sites in places like Gladstone and Moreton Bay (fig 3). At Moreton Bay he investigated the tidal estuary of the Brisbane River, which Cook had guessed would exist, and inspected the lower part of it. Matthew Flinders (fig 4) had been the first recorded European to enter the bay in 1799. In September 1824 he returned with soldiers and established a temporary settlement at what is now Redcliffe. On 2 December that year the settlement was transferred to where the centre of Brisbane now stands. At first this settlement was called Edenglassie, a hybrid of Edinburgh and Glasgow. This name soon fell out of favour and it was renamed in honour of Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales from 1821 to 1825. In 1839 transportation of convicts to Moreton Bay ceased and soon afterwards the penal base there was closed. However, free settlement continued to be allowed and people carried on colonising the area voluntarily. Then on 6 June 1859 Queensland became an independent Colony separate from New South Wales.

European settlement began in earnest after the abandonment of the Redcliffe settlement, and in 1825 work began on a new convict settlement on a headland which John Oxley named Amity point after the Brig *Amity* (fig 5) he had sailed in when establishing the Moreton Bay penal colony. It was the first European settlement on Stradbroke Island, the other side of Moreton Bay off the Brisbane coast. Within a couple of years, this new settlement was growing rapidly and the number of ships entering the bay was increasing. As a result, the facilities required to service the pilot station at Amity grew, and in 1827 convicts were sent to the island to build a new causeway at Dunwich, remnants of which can still be found on the same site. Within a year the first permanent European settlement at Dunwich had been built. Due to poor weather, smuggling, and conflict with the aborigines, this convict out-station was difficult to sustain and was closed in 1831.

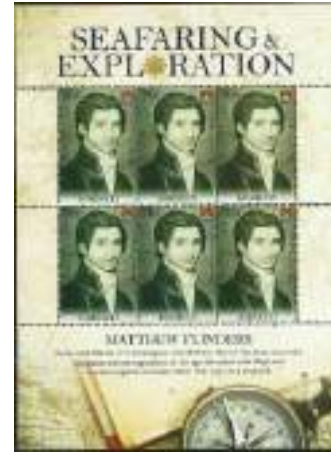
As free settlement continued apace, in 1847, the Port of Maryborough (fig 6) north of Brisbane, was opened as a wool port. Although most early immigrants came from New South Wales, the first free immigrant ship to arrive here from Europe was the *Artemisia*, in 1848, after a four-month journey. The next year saw the arrival of the *Fortitude* (fig 7) carrying more free immigrants to the region. Due to its very different climate and soil, and the many rivers flowing to the settlement through the eastern coastline, many settlements of mostly Scottish farmers established smallholdings, and then huge sugar



Fig 1: The 'Dufyken'



*Fig 2: Australia 1976
John Oxley*



*Fig 4: Kiribati 2009
Matthew Flinders*



*Fig 3: New South Wales to Queensland 1858
Annotated 'Per first steamer to Moreton Bay'*



*Fig 5: Postcard of the 'Amity' at
Amity Point*



*Fig 6: Australia 1989 FDC for the
'Pastoral era' cancelled Maryborough*



*Fig 8: Australia 1954
Railways*



*Fig 10: Australia 1955
Cobb & Co.*



*Fig 9: Australia 1954
Telegraph*

cane fields along the low-lying land of Queensland. One of the largest was near the mouth of the Mary River estuary, but the spread of sugar cane farms soon expanded right up the coastal lands to northern Queensland.

Sadly, due to there being a lack of indigenous labour to clear the land and establish the plantations, pirate ships were sent to the offshore islands in the area, mainly in Melanesia, the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), and New Caledonia. In the past the inhabitants were considered savages as they killed all invaders and ate them. However, missionaries had arrived in these offshore islands and changed their ways, so much so that when the pirate ships arrived from Queensland the young men would go out to them in their canoes bearing gifts and food only to be killed in the process or kidnapped and taken back to Australia in terrible conditions and sold there for £6.00 per head. They were sent to the farms to first clear the jungle, and then to plant and grow sugar cane. After three or six years they could technically end their 'contracts' and be returned to their islands, but very few returned.

This practice of seizing the local islanders, then known then as 'kanakas' was referred to as 'blackbirding'. The kanakas were of course acclimatised to the area and were generally strong and much more suited to this work than the British freemen and immigrants. They had centuries of uninterrupted heritage and tradition. Their descendants now generally refer to themselves as 'South Sea Islanders', and this is also the term used in formal and official situations.

The first shipload of 65 Melanesian labourers arrived in Boyd Town on 16 April 1847 on board the *Velocity*, a vessel under the command of Captain Kirsopp and chartered by Benjamin Boyd, a Scottish colonist who wanted cheap labourers to work at his expansive pastoral leaseholds in the colony of New South Wales.

More than 60,000 Islanders had been brought to Australia by 1863, and by 1901 about 100,000 were living in Queensland and New South Wales. The majority of these were repatriated by the Australian Government between 1906 and 1908, under the Pacific Island Labourers Act (1901) legislation that was an essential part of the White Australia policy. Some were exempted on various grounds, including marriage to Australians.

Whilst all this development was going on, the first railway and telegraph systems (figs 8 and 9) were introduced in 1854, and the first long distance roads were laid. Many independent coaching companies under the famous Cobb & Co name (fig 10) were established to transfer passengers and mail between these new towns. Mail continued to be sent by ship along the coast for many years as shown in figure 3.


The story of van Diemen's Land continues in Part 4. 



Fig 7: 5 March 1949 cover commemorating centenary of the arrival of the 'Fortitude'

AUTUMN STAMPEX 2021

It had sometimes felt like the event would never take place, having been postponed because of covid, but finally on 29 September Autumn Stampex opened its doors and resumed as a 'real' event, with the BTA as the lead organisation for displays. The organisers had made a number of changes, one of which was to our great advantage as they located all the dealers on the mezzanine or balcony floors, leaving the ground floor as the Village Green; so what greeted visitors as they arrived were 130 frames of pictorial displays and exhibits, plus the BTA being given a table facing the entrance, so we could not have asked for better exposure. The first day was quiet, perhaps because for the first time the Stampex organisers chose to charge an entrance fee, but the 'free' days were noticeably busier, although not perhaps to pre-covid standards. A number of innovations were introduced based on the Virtual Stampexes held in Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021, including a Collectors Lounge where organisations could meet and greet visitors, and the Spink Auditorium which hosted talks throughout the show. Those unable to attend in person could purchase an online pass to hear these via Zoom. On the Saturday there was a well-attended talk by BTA Chairman Barry Stagg on thematic collecting. This was followed by the awards ceremony for competitors. Overall the event provided good publicity for the BTA; we chatted to a lot of people and were pleased to welcome new members. The event was a lot of hard work, particularly for our Chairman and Competitions Organiser, but hopefully the following pages will give you a flavour of the range of material shown under our name. There is only room for a few of them here, but more pages will be found on our website under [About - Photo Albums](#).



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DISPLAYS BY BTA MEMBERS

Some of our members chose to compete at Stampex, others, listed here, chose to display. Congratulations to all of them for contributing to such a magnificent show..

ONE FRAME

Grace Davies	The Dove and Olive Branch: symbols of hope and peace
Grace Davies	Towards United Nations
Grace Davies	Alfred Nobel and his legacy
Grace Davies	Story of the Peace Rose
Gerald Lovell	Silverstone: home of British motor racing
Lesley Marley	The Oceanographic Museum of Monaco
Lesley Marley	Whale Island
Barry Stagg	Messenger of Peace

FIVE FRAMES

Mike Blackman	Discovering the world of umbrellas and parasols
Barry Stagg	The development and life-cycle of a parachute

EIGHT FRAMES

Jean Alexander	Supermarket philately
Peter Wood	It's an Irish World

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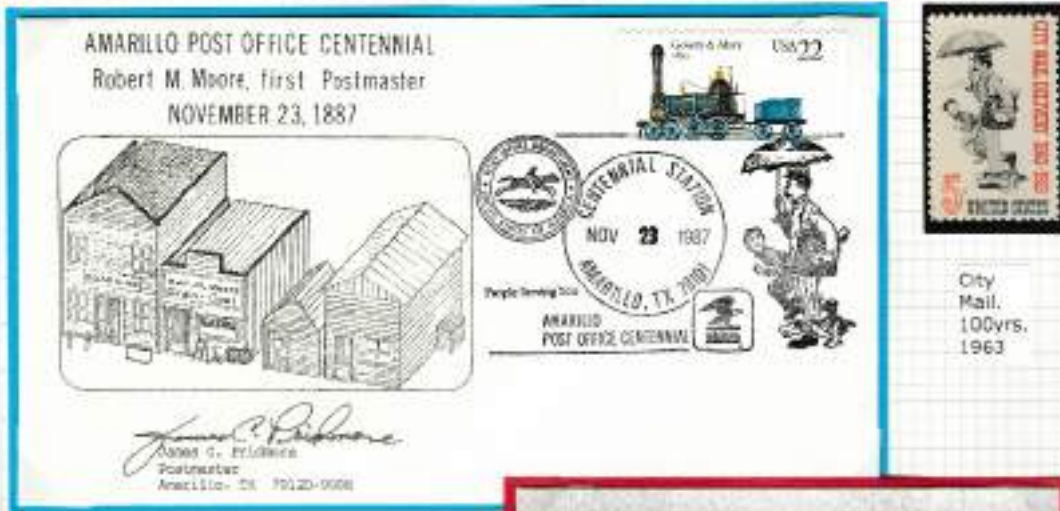
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Discovering the world of umbrellas and parasols
 A display by Mike Blackman

1. Umbrellas in Everyday Use

Postmen – and the post! – protected by umbrellas



Amarillo,
 Texas,
 Post Office
 Centennial,
 1987

Singapore: Postman of ~1910.
 'Postal Service Through The
 Years', in 2008.



It's an Irish world

A display by Peter Wood

1.2.2. The Shamrock - Sacred leaf of bard and chief.

The Shamrock has been worn on St. Patrick's day since at least 1681.



Shamrock and Shamrock brooch,
worn on St. Patrick's Day.



*Perfin - Shamrock.
Hibernia works, Sheffield.*



*Watermark - Shamrock.
GB 1/2d orange telegraph, 1880.*



↑
Emblem



↓
*The "Shamrock flaw"
-white spot on Shamrock.*

AUTUMN STAMPEX COMPETITIONS

At Stampex some of our members chose to display non-competitively, and some chose to compete. Here are the results of the competitive exhibits entered by BTA members. Congratulations to all of them for contributing to such a magnificent show.

THEMATIC CLASS

Andrew Millington	Copper: discovering its properties, its many uses and its growing trade over 10 millennia	Large Gold
Brian Sole	Go by cycle	Gold
George Henshilwood	Links between USA and Scandinavia	Vermeil
Heather Lawn	The Origins and Evolution of Parrots	Vermeil
Maureen Mathieson	All of a Flutter	Vermeil
Anne Stammers	The Allure of Gold	Vermeil

OPEN CLASS

John Davies	A Jubilee Reminiscence	Large Gold
Wendy Buckle	The Firm of John Dickinson, Paper Maker	Large Gold
Wayne Cox	Pillars to Post	Gold
Malcolm Gascoyne	A Quest for The Lands of Spices	Large Vermeil
Erene Grieve	The Written Word - the Tools and the Trade	Vermeil
Chris Wheeler	The History of the Salvation Army	Vermeil
Anne Stammers	Copper (aes cyprium) Metal of Cyprus	Large Silver
Chris Wheeler	The Cause, Cure and History of the Plague Pandemics	Large Silver

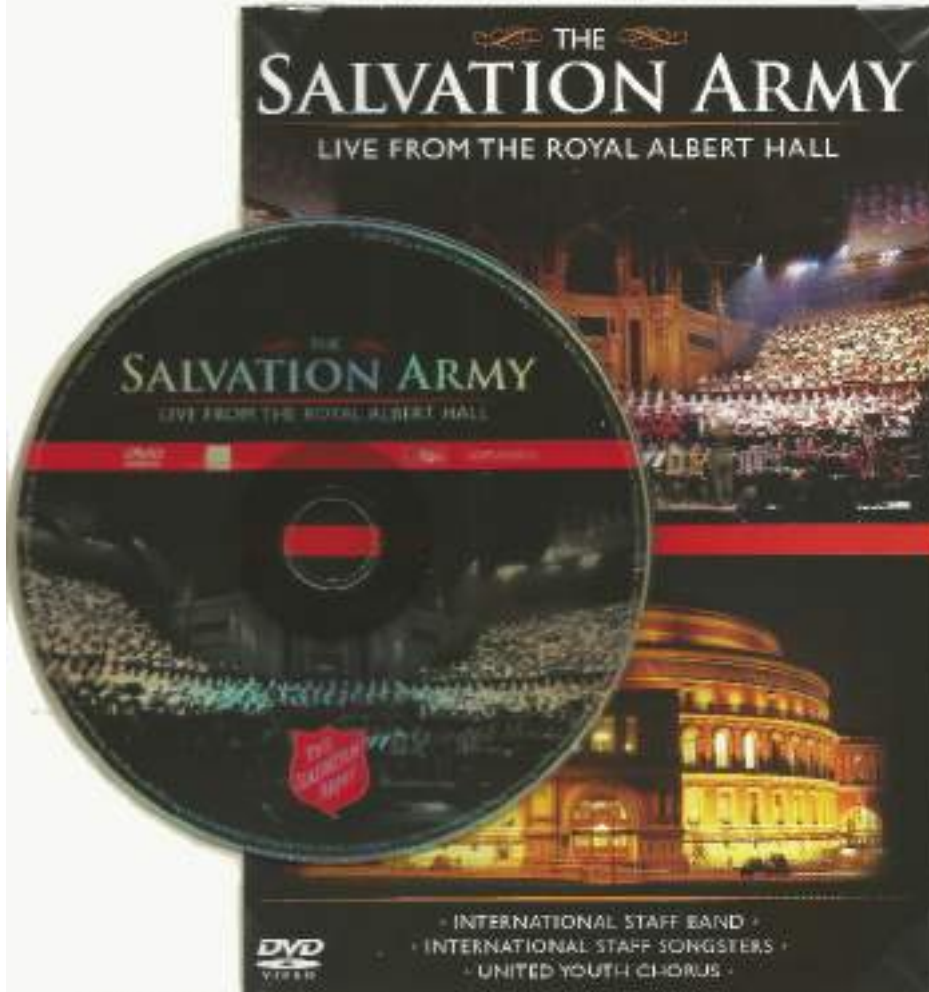
PICTURE POSTCARD CLASS

Brian Sole	Cycle Past	Gold
Malcolm Gascoyne	Post WWII Postcards in Sarawak	Vermeil

Three of these members also received individual awards. John Davies won the Stampex Silver Mailcoach Trophy for Best in Show; Andrew Millington won the Christine Earle Rosebowl for the best Thematic entry and Wendy Buckle received a special award for Treatment in the Open Class.

The history of the Salvation Army An exhibit by Chris Wheeler

As the years went by and the number of musicians and singers increased, more and larger concerts were held. One of these was at the Royal Albert Hall. The Army produced hundreds of records, CDs and DVDs, many conducted by well-known personalities.



A DVD cover from a selection of songs performed over the years by the Salvation Army. Huge services, celebrations and rallies were held there and General William Booth would deliver captivating speeches and sermons, most notably his very last public words "While women weep"



Ralph Vaughan Williams (conductor of many Salvation Army recordings) portrayed on the Great Britain 9p stamp in the 1972 General Anniversaries set

The origins and evolution of parrots

An exhibit by Heather Lawn

The Origins and Evolution of Parrots

1 Formation of the Superfamilies

1.1 New Zealand Parrots.

New Zealand breaks away from Gondwana about 82 mya.
A land bridge between New Zealand and Australia may have existed up to 52 mya.

69 mya
Parrots
Psittaciformes

58 mya
Cuckatoos & True Parrots
Cacatuoidea et Psittacoidea

47 mya
Cockatiel and True Parrots
Nymphicus hollandicus et Psittacoidea

31 mya
New Zealand Parrots
Strigopodidae

Ken & Kaka
Nestor notabilis et Nestor meridionalis

New Zealand
Pictorial Stamp and Proof
4 Apr 1888

Romania
Parrots
24 Feb 2011

The *Strigopodidae* are the first Superfamily.

Page 2

GLASGOW THEMATIC SOCIETY DISPLAY ENTRIES AT STAMPEX

All the societies affiliated to the BTA were invited to show at Stampex. The Glasgow Thematic Society came up trumps with no less than sixteen non-competitive displays.

TWO FRAMES

- | | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| Stewart Gardiner | Victorian
Valentines | “The Golden Age of Valentines is generally accepted as the Victorian Era. The display illustrates the work of notable valentine producers and others using new techniques |
| Graham U'ren | The Western
Capercaillie
(Tetrao
urogallus) | A systemic study of the bird, including its taxonomy and evolution, description and behaviour and geographical range. Plus the links between the Capercaillie and humans. |

THREE FRAMES

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Murray Touche | The Art of the
Hautman
Brothers | Stamps and other materials of the Hautman brothers, who have won 13 United States Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp (The Duck Stamp) contests between them. |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|



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ONE FRAME

Alan Blakeley	The Life of an Insurance Policy	The stages involved in setting up and running an insurance company's administration processes in Victorian times.
Mike Cleary	Mutiny on the Bounty	The story of the Mutiny and the main characters who were involved.
Paula Cleary	Energy and the Environment	Environmental issues associated with energy resources from global warming and climate change to renewable and sustainable forms of energy.
Brian Dow	Roald Engelbregt Gravning Amundsen	A brief history of the expeditions and voyages taken by Roald Amundsen.
John Gavin	Ross Dependency	A brief background to the Ross Dependency and a few Postal History covers 1958 -1967.
Margaret Lyth	Margaret's Miscellany	Aspects of nature depicted on mostly UK First Day Covers and miniature sheets
Ken McChlery	Bishopbriggs	Postcards telling the story of a village that became a town
Maureen Mathieson	Butterfly Hierarchy	Butterflies and moths shown according to the status of their names, from different types of rulers to the common worker
Elsie Miller	Henri Durant and the Founding of the Red Cross	Henri Durant and his foundation of the Red Cross; its development and commemoration throughout the world.
Ken Norris	Preserved Ships	Old / historic ships, some Clyde Built, carefully preserved for all to see in relevant locations throughout the world.
Garry Cheyne	World War I War Bonds	Postal History, Postcards, Cinderella Stamps and Ephemera associated with war bonds, often accompanied by appeals to Patriotism and Conscience.
Margaret Morris	Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star	The first verse of the famous nursery rhyme showing how each line has astronomical significance.
Elizabeth Nairn	Scottish Influence in Early New Zealand Life	How 19th and early 20th century Scottish settlers and people of Scottish descent influenced many aspects of life in New Zealand.

Energy and the Environment

A display by Paula Cleary

Energy and the Environment

Think Green

In 2016, the annual theme chosen by Europa (formerly CEPT) was 'Think Green'. This was designed to encourage thinking about all aspects of creating and sustaining a 'green' environment. Many countries produced stamps on the theme and here are just a few.



Henri Durant and the Founding of the Red Cross

A display by Elsie Miller

HENRI DUNANT

The Red Cross is an Organisation familiar to all – war, in disasters, at Football matches, Festivals, Outdoor Concerts etc their uniform and assistance is well known.
How did this Organisation begin?



Jean Henri Dunant was born in Geneva on 8th May, 1828



He became a Bank Clerk and was sent to one of the Bank's branches in Algeria where he eventually worked his way up to the position of General Manager.



In 1856 he created a corn growing and trading company to operate in foreign colonies –
Financial and Industrial Company of Mons-Djémila Mills
(*Société Financière et Industrielle des Moulins des Mons Djémila*)



He purchased a farm and a Mill and laid out plantations confident that he would soon get planning permission for access to water supplies.
But, after a year, he had not received that permission.

He decided the only thing he could do was to appeal, in person to the Emperor, Napoleon III (nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte.)

THEME COLLECTING: STORYTELLING WITH STAMPS

This presentation by Barry Stagg at Stampex gave both a personal and an objective perspective on collecting. Few people have just one philatelic collection or type of collection and collecting or exhibiting of one philatelic Class e.g. Traditional, is not mutually exclusive of collecting another e.g. Thematic.

Starting with the personal, Barry told us why he enjoyed collecting by theme. Various things give enjoyment: the challenge of searching for and finding new material, learning new things about the subject, improving philatelic knowledge and meeting fellow philatelists, but all of these can be summed up into one activity: 'Having Fun'.

Looking objectively at the subject, Barry defined theme collecting as

“The collection of philatelic items on a particular subject
that are all related to, or are associated with, that subject”

the 'items' being whatever you choose to collect, including, but not limited to, stamps, proofs, other pre-issue material, cancels, air letters, Airgraphs, V-Mail, booklets, postcards, postal stationery and telegrams. The range of subjects is limitless, but many of the best theme collections are put together by people with a connection to their chosen subject. Theme collections can take years to put together, so they need to be interesting to the collector. Material on the chosen topic can be either related to the subject, so it depicts the subject specifically (e.g. if you collect parachutes then a picture of a parachute); or associated with the subject, which deals with other topics relevant to the theme (e.g. in the case of parachutes aircraft used for parachuting). Barry offered practical advice on where to find material and how to develop the theme and then moved on to competing. If you collect for your own pleasure, and maybe give displays to groups, the categories of competition are completely irrelevant, but if you compete then there are different classes:

Theme minus associated material = **Topical**

Theme plus a story = **Thematic**

Theme plus a story plus non-philatelic material = **Open Philately.**

Plus of course postcard collecting. All of these should be built around a good story, and Barry gave some helpful detailed advice on this. Finally, some key points about exhibiting:

Thematic Philately

- Read the rules
- The story is the key element
- The story will need a title
- The exhibit should use a wide variety of philatelic items - from as many countries as possible
- - in as many eras as possible
- The Scope of the exhibit will need to be well defined
- The exhibit will need a Plan showing its structure
- The exhibit will need to be well Presented

Try and incorporate early material if possible

Open Philately

- All of the above-mentioned thematic points; plus:
- A good mixture of non-philatelic items that support the story
- Where possible some ‘technical’ information on the non-philatelic items
- The non-philatelic items to be no more than 50% of the exhibit

Picture Postcards


- All of the above-mentioned Thematic points (apart from a wide range of philatelic material!)
- A3 sheets give more design opportunities than A4
- Give some technical information about the postcard e.g. artist/photographer, printer or method of printing.

The full PowerPoint on which this report is based is available on the BTA website under ‘Displaying Thematic Collections’. The talk as recorded by PTS is available on [YouTube](#)



WORLD POSTCARD DAY

October 1st was World Postcard Day, and promoted heavily at Stampex, where you could send postcards with a special Royal Mail cachet. There were also talks and displays, and it's good to see the subject is attracting young people, see for instance the YouTube video "[My First Stamp Show on World Postcard Day](#)" (which also featured shots of the BTA frames).

BTA Chairman Barry Stagg gave a talk from the Royal Philatelic Society entitled *Picture Postcards: Why is a postcard more than just ... a postcard?* in which he gave a very brief history of the picture postcard; explained exactly how to define a picture postcard; and then talked about collecting, displaying and exhibiting postcards. People are attracted to collecting for all sorts of reasons, and the subjects available are almost limitless. Barry offered practical advice including where to source them, pitfalls to avoid when buying, and how to store them. Displaying your collection, perhaps to a stamp club or other organisation, allows you full rein to show them as you want to, but exhibiting - entering a formal competition where your entry is judged to a standard - means keeping to the size restrictions of frames (eight A3 pages which equates to around 40 postcards per frame). Barry used his own postcard collections on daffodils, on the history of Cheltenham, and on parachuting, to illustrate the enjoyment of telling a story. He also offered detailed advice on how to enhance a postcard exhibit by developing a clearly structured story and by adding technical information. Anyone interested in postcard collecting and / or exhibiting will find a lot of practical help in this presentation, which is now on the BTA website Displaying [Thematic Collections page - Guidance on Postcard Exhibiting](#) (available to members only, so please log in first). 



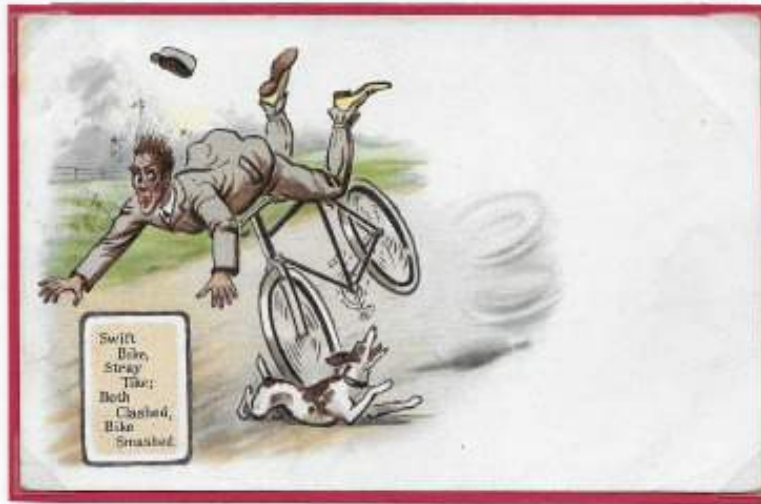
Cycle Past

A postcard exhibit at Stampex by Brian Sole

2. THE SAFETY BICYCLE

2.3 THE PITFALLS

SWIFT BIKE, STRAY TIKE, BOTH CLASHED, BIKE SMASHED. The 'Ellanbee' referee Series 501.
Designed in England. Heliotyped in Saxony, Landecker & Brown. Reverse cancel Ramsgate 'JA 4 06'.



THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL.

Undivided back. Postkarte Series 223. Square circle cancel Cardiff 'MY 7 04'.



Post Word War II Postcards in Sarawak

A postcard exhibit at Stampex by Malcolm Gascoyne

POST WWII POSTCARDS IN SARAWAK

II Introduction

In the aftermath of the liberation of Borneo in 1945 there was little demand for picture postcards. Reconstruction, repatriation of troops and civilians and shipping of essential supplies occupied all shipping during the following years. It was not until 1947 that any passenger ships were released from military service and they had to undergo extensive refurbishment before they could then be returned to service. The first evidence I have found of a picture postcard being used is in 1950¹. Usage is rare during the early to middle 1950's. Interestingly we find no evidence of pre-war cards re-emerging, only new photographs, with two outstanding photographers (Lim Poh Chiang and K F Wong) contributing the major portion of the output in the early years. The absence of grained postcard photo paper means that all of the early cards have plain backs.



Plain back photo used locally witha Kuching (Dated 10th February 1951)
13 cent local postcard rate of April 10th 1947

- Plain**
- 1) Introduction
 - 2) Lim Poh Chiang's black & white cards
 - 3) K F Wong's black & white cards
 - 4) The Advent of coloured cards
 - 5) Lim Poh Chiang's coloured cards
 - 6) K F Wong's coloured cards
 - 7) Postcard Publishers
 - 8) SW postcards
 - 9) A.S.M.K. postcards



Plain back photo used to the USA. Dated 2nd September 1952.
Paid at 40 cent postcard rate of 9th May 1949 (50 cent from 1st August 1949)
been increased to 30 cents in 1950.
Front shows a studio portrait of a Dayak woman.



Plain back photo used to Netherlands
Dated 10th June 1954.
Paid at 40 cent rate as of January 1st 1954.
Photo of the Assam Hotel

1) Personal communication from a member of the Sarawak Specimen Society.



Plain back photo used to Hawaii USA
Dated 10th March 1956.
Paid 55 cents (50 c on back)
Dated at 1st January 1954.
Photo of the Assam Hotel

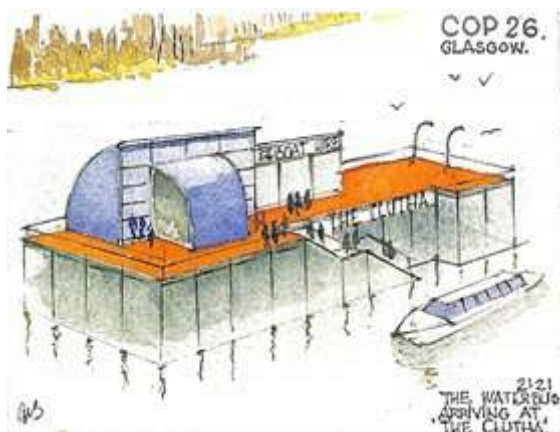
COP26. THE 2021 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

The conference took place from 31 October to 12 November in Glasgow. While the purpose of the conference was deadly serious it didn't stop at least one philatelist having a bit of fun with it. Andrew Black, a member of the Caledonian Philatelic Society, designed four tongue-in-cheek postcards to mark the occasion. They are available in sets of four for £1.50 per set plus a flat charge of £1 p&p. Orders should be sent to the President of the Caledonian Philatelic Society, Maureen Mathieson, who will organise despatch - maureen.mathieson@gmail.com (01355 235121).



The 17th century Tolbooth Steeple is a famous Glasgow landmark being visited by the “Waverley”, one of the last sea-going passenger-carrying paddle steamers which usually tours the Firth of Clyde in summer months.

The Clutha Bar became famous when a Police Helicopter crashed into it in 2013 and caused numerous casualties. It too is on the banks of the Clyde and has since been rebuilt – the waterbus is very popular with tourists in the summer months.



The Briggait Fish Market was built in the 1870s on the banks of the Clyde but has since relocated.

HOW I STARTED ... AND GAINED INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Lesley Marley

My philatelic life began when I moved from Scotland to Trowbridge Wiltshire in the late 70's. I found a lovely little Philatelic Society in the town and went along to my first meeting. I was greeted very warmly by all the men in the society, no women were to be seen, that unnerved me a little 'did they want me to do the teas and washing up', no I was not needed. Phew! But to my surprise six months later I was secretary with no philatelic knowledge at all, and not knowing what to collect. The advice I was given was 'you should collect Thematics'. What was that? In spite of the advice no one knew how or what to do, only that I should collect a Theme?!?!?

After some traditional and postal history collecting and then dabbling in collecting themes such as stained glass, windows and scouts, I realised I liked the story-telling aspect of thematic collecting, and so an obsession was born. I joined the American Topical Association, I went to London to the large philatelic exhibitions. We moved to the West Country and I joined Liskeard and Plymouth clubs, and helped set up the West of England Thematic Society, affectionately known as WETS. I now live in Havant, a small town near Portsmouth. Although I had been collecting for 25 years it was not until 2001 that I was able to attend thematic shows in London run by the British Thematic Association. It was from these shows that my knowledge of this type of collecting grew. Encouraged by knowledgeable thematic collectors who I met, I entered my first London based exhibition.

I was inspired by an Antarctic exhibit I saw in the early 1980's about Polar and Antarctic exploration. The stamps in that exhibit depicting whales and other sea mammals spurred me to collect as many stamps as I could illustrating whales and dolphins. Commenting on my first attempt at an exhibit on whales, I found my pages were just blue, blue and more blue due to the nature of the stamps; the judges had a field day with me, but they were also encouraging and gave me many useful tips. The first was the need for a good plan and story, 'easier said than done'.

As with most exhibitors who aspire to higher awards, I saw that much work needed to be done. I spent hours examining dealer's stocks to find materials other than stamps in order to support "The Whales Story". I also purchased more books about whales and whaling history; hours were spent writing and rewriting my exhibit. After qualifying to exhibit internationally, by first showing at Stampex 1999 and 2006, I was not accepted at my first two international shows for which I had applied. In 2006 I made it to Washington 2006 as a first time entrant, with a 80 page exhibit now called 'A Whale's Tale'. With Christine A. Earle and my husband we set off for Washington. Earning a Vermeil award was a disappointment, although now older and wiser I realise it was a good mark, and accepted an FIP judge's advice "Just make your 80 pages the best you can". So over the next couple of years I continued working on the 80 pages. Top awards followed: Gold at WIPA 2008, Gold at IBRA 2008, Gold at London 2010 with an expanded 128-page exhibit and Gold at Paris. After Paris I set about rewriting my exhibit again because I had acquired new material and wished to use 11"x 11" pages. This was the hardest thing that I had ever done: condensing four pages into three (in each row of the frame). Although the pages were larger, maintaining the red thread of the story was a challenge. I was able to take out

material which I considered duplicates. I then entered and was accepted for Australia 2013, combining the show with a six week holiday in Australia with my husband, and visiting whaling stations in Eden and Albany.

I was absolutely thrilled with the show result - **LARGE GOLD** - far beyond my expectations. Thus I became the first exhibitor in the UK to win a Large Gold for a Thematic entry at an international show. At ECPT 2015 (European Championships for Thematic Philately), which was the thematic arm of London 2015, I was entered in the Champions' Class (open to all champions of ECPT from 2006 to 2013) and was placed first. I then entered New York 2016 and was thrilled to be awarded another Large Gold Medal.

Vermeil in Washington 2006 to a Large Gold in New York, 10 years of hard work.

The late Christine A. Earle gave me a large amount of advice and encouragement to spur me on, over the years.

I credit my success to a lot of hard work, continually searching for new and fresh material, rewriting the exhibit to bring it up to date, to taking advice from more experienced collectors, exhibitors and judges, and reading the rules, and as Frank Sinatra said, "I did it my way".

Acknowledgement

This article is taken from the accompanying booklet to *A Whale's Tale: a display given to the Royal Philatelic Society London*, by permission of the author.

A WHALE'S TALE

Report of a display given by Lesley Marley at the Royal Philatelic Society London, on 04 November 2021

This display, originally scheduled for March 2020 and much delayed due to Covid, was a visual delight as well as an exemplar of thematic philately. The story told in the first eight frames, which constituted her award-winning exhibit, was wide-ranging, covering 'Natural Description' - habitat, ecology and diet; 'Man's Influence' - early encounters, the whaling industry, whaling stations and products made from whales; and 'Preservation' - global threats and conservation. Much detail was given in each section, introducing us to a wealth of knowledge about the whale family - the cetaceans, which also includes dolphins and porpoises. Man first encountered whales perhaps 8,000 years ago, and myths and legends grew up about these sometimes enormous creatures, the blue whale being the largest creature on the planet. (A later frame in the display told the story of the largest blue whale ever captured: 33.5 metres long and thought to weigh over 170 tons. The boat that landed it in 1912 was 9 metres shorter than the animal it captured). The grim history of whaling was followed by "a glimmer of hope" where man-made threats including global pollution are finally being tackled and the 'Save the Whale' movement which began in the 1970s.

Immediately following the exhibit were sections examining the work of stamp designers Nick Shewring, Barry Barrett, Gordon Drummond and George Bennett. Original artwork and unadopted designs were shown, influenced by modern underwater photography which demonstrate the grace of these animals. Their sinuous form moving through water, and the

striking outline of a whale's fluke (tail) as it rises out of the water, were beautifully captured. It struck me that the full-size artwork on occasion seemed more successful than the issued stamp, which by its size slightly diminished the effect.

As you would expect, the whaling industry was covered in detail. Five frames of postcards entitled "There she blows" charted the industry in graphic detail. By today's standards it seems to many a barbaric trade, but the write-up was factual and impartial, written in a way to let people make up their own minds. The photographic postcards were often produced under difficult circumstances and put on sale very quickly. There is the pathos of the views of dead whales being stripped for their blubber, baleen, tendons and other parts, but also the striking images of the hardships suffered by the crews of the whaling vessels battling the elements to provide a livelihood for themselves and their families. This was graphically reinforced later in the display with a frame on eighteenth century whaling in the Arctic Ocean, with views of men in rowing boats approaching prey which dwarfed them.

This aspect is reinforced by two frames of whaling correspondence, where transcriptions of the contents of some of the letters added to the picture of life aboard the vessels. This section was yet another example of the amount of philatelic research needed to write up the covers, with routes and rates (often quite convoluted) meticulously recorded.

Later on in the display five frames looked at twentieth century whaling ships, including postwar vessels built as factory ships where the entire process of capturing and processing the animals was done on board. Now armed with explosive harpoon guns it is not surprising that the numbers of whales caught became a danger to their survival.

Downstairs, four exhibition cases complemented the story with displays of memorabilia, whale bones, whale products, scrimshaw and children's toys.

This report has only covered the major topics shown. There were 42 frames in total, encompassing thematic philately, open philately and picture postcards. The standard of presentation was immaculate throughout, the content fascinating, and the quality of material stunning. It is no surprise Lesley has achieved world-wide recognition with her competitive entry, and we were lucky to see both that and material never shown before. 📖



Lesley with Peter Cockburn, President of the RPSL

ZOOMING ALONG

Reports by Barry Stagg

For our first meeting on a Saturday afternoon Dawn Hamman, President of the American Topical Association, entertained around 30 BTA members and friends by talking about the state of American philatelic fairs and the various benefits from being a member of the ATA.

Dawn started her talk by showing us a stamp from her first Topical collection, a Manatee. Dawn then outlined the difference between Topical and Thematic collecting, going on to mention the huge number benefits available to ATA members; including over 40 talks/videos on a diverse range of topics, the topical checklists, a dynamic website with information on a variety of topics including exhibiting, a dedicated youth section on the web site and numerous books for sale. With over 50 ATA study units to choose from, covering a vast range of topics, there is very likely to be one for your topic. A fun and fast moving talk given by a good friend of the BTA.

A total of 29 people watched the BTA's 11th Zoom meeting. This was our first member's evening where members were asked to show up to six sheets of their collection. And what a great success it was. Twelve members showed their material and two more wanted to but we had run out of time. Members showed an eclectic list of topics and, quite remarkably, they all kept to time!

We started with Mark Humfrey talking about 'Orchids' and showing some nice stamps and relief fund labels. Les Aston-Smith followed by presenting 'Albert Einstein' with a wide selection of material and information on Einstein. Having been told that Einstein worked in a Patent Office whilst working on his theories enabled me to answer one question from a TV quiz show the following day! Third up was Adrian Thomas presenting 'Wilhelm Röntgen'. Röntgen was a German engineer who, in the late 19th century produced and detected electromagnetic radiation and later discovered x-rays. All nicely shown on stamps.

Malcolm Gascoyne showed some wonderful postcards of early coffee-houses and explained how many became focused meeting places, such as shipping at Lloyds coffee house. This was followed by Edith Knight who showed postcards and covers depicting 'Rio Tinto Mines' in Spain, including the civil war period. I was particularly interested to see a postcard showing the British village where the engineering staff lived.

Rodney Knight was our 6th presenter and he showed 'postcards from the front', in particular the messages written on them. These short messages, some from hospital, gave an interesting and sobering view of World War I. Peter Wood showed some humorous postcards on Irish Home Rule. The postcards showed a suffragette, lucky black cats and a valentine's card! Another fascinating insight to a difficult part of our history.

George Henshilwood was our 8th presenter, with 'a thematic segue'. Stamps and FDCs featuring the Erie Canal, the 1901 Pan-American exposition and the 1982-85 transport issues were shown. Grace Davies showed six favourite items from her Peace collection, including a lovely Japanese woodcut postcard. The 10th presenter was Gerald Lovell with 'a signature dish', which turned out to be signed covers by such people as Vera Lynn, Terry Wogan, Harry Carpenter and Cliff Richard to name but four. Quite

fascinating. Mike Blackman showed ‘Large umbrellas’ and they were large! A postcard from the Paris exposition showed umbrellas that were made of concrete and 140 metres in diameter! I was particularly interested in the 3100 28ft diameter umbrellas installed in the USA and Japan in 1990 – until one collapsed on a visitor and then they were dismantled in 1991!

And last but not least we had Andrew Millington presenting ‘symbols and symbolism’ of Copper; the atomic symbol being Cu. But Andrew discussed a number of other symbols that were related to copper, including ankh from Egypt, and Venus and Cyprus and their relationship with copper.

A most interesting and fascinating evening and my thanks go to all the presenters. We shall do this again next year.


On 17 November 29 BTA members and guests were treated to a tsunami of wonderful material in *A Jubilee Reminiscence*: the 1890 Jubilee celebrations of the Penny Post. Our presenter, John Davies, has been collecting philatelic and non-philatelic items related to the Jubilee celebrations since the 1990s, resulting in a detailed story of the event. It started in 1889 when De La Rue were asked to prepare a design for a new commemorative stamp. Essays were prepared but not adopted. The first major public event was the *Conversazione* and Exhibition at the Guildhall held from 16th to 19th May. This was followed by the *Conversazione* at the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria and Albert). A huge selection of material was shown, ranging from original commemorative envelopes, exhibition passes, bag labels, a Guildhall invitation, letter cards, a Jubilee medal and wrappers that held the letter cards, to name but a few of the items, plus a detailed study of the Post Office Jubilee envelope. All beautifully presented and described in some detail.

John has exhibited this material nationally and internationally a number of times, achieving several Gold medals, including at the 2016 World Stamp Show in New York. At the last Stampex John’s exhibit was the first one to achieve Large Gold and Best in Show for an Open Philately exhibit at UK national level. The exhibit will be at London 2022 next year and if you have not seen it yet it will be worth the effort to see a truly wonderful exhibit and collection.

Coming up

The next talk in our Zoom series will be on 14th December when Barry Stagg and Brian Sole will entertain us with “A Christmas Celebration”. Put the date in your diaries.

Note

The ongoing programme of Zoom meetings is available on the ‘[Events](#)’ page of our website. If you have missed any presentations and would like to catch up they are all available to members only, also on the ‘[Events](#)’ page. You will need to log into the site first. If you need any help setting up an account please [email](#) us. Emails alerting members to upcoming presentations are sent out regularly. If you have not been getting these (unless you specifically requested not to) it may be that we have an old or incorrect email. Please [let us know](#). 

OBITUARY: JEFF DUGDALE 1947 - 2021

Many *Themescene* readers will have known Jeff as a regular contributor to the magazine, on a variety of subjects around his particular interests in literature and mythology. By profession he was an English teacher, having graduated in English literature from the University of Aberdeen in 1970. He retired from Elgin High



School in 2008, but continued as a supply teacher to local schools until 2016. He was a member of the Moray Stamp Club and a prolific writer, contributing articles to *Stamp Magazine*, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *Stamp Collecting*. Perhaps his greatest interest was in astronomy, and he was the long-time Editor of *Orbit*, journal of the Astro Stamp Space Society. He supported the BTA not only through his writing (for which he won the Francesca Rapkin Memorial Bowl in 2020) but by supplying a detailed analysis of the themes commemorated on GB stamps, available on the ‘[Resources](#)’ page of our website.

Jeff died peacefully in his sleep on September 10th, and we extend our sympathies to his wife and family. The following short piece which he authored is published as a tribute to him.

KON-TIKI: CREATOR GOD

Most members of our society will be familiar with the 1947 “Kon-Tiki” expedition by Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl (1914-2002) which saw him with a small crew steer a balsa wood raft 4,300 miles from South America to the Tuamotu Archipelago in French Polynesia; his purpose being to prove a theory that ancient people from what is now Peru could have populated other areas and made a variety of cultural contacts having made long sea journeys. The outline of Heyerdahl’s journey is referenced on these issues from France 1972 (fig 1) and French Polynesia in 2007 (fig 2). The French Polynesia stamp of 2007 (fig 3) and miniature sheet of Sao Tome et Principe 1982 (fig 4) also show a striking face which was painted onto the sail of Heyerdahl’s raft: that of Kon-Tiki.

Kon-Tiki is one of the names given to the great creator god within Inca mythology - Apu Qun Tiqui Wiraqutra, whose name is known in various forms. In one version of the myth “Viracocha” rose from Lake Titicaca, shown on Peru 2006 (fig 5) and created mankind by breathing into stones, Peru 2008 left and middle stamps (fig 6), but was unhappy with his first creation - of brainless giants - so he destroyed them with a flood and made humans, beings who were better than the giants, from smaller stones. After creating them, they were scattered all over the world. Viracocha later wandered the Earth disguised as a beggar, teaching his new creations the basics of civilization. Different legends tell stories of his offspring. 📖



Figs 1 and 2: Kon-Tiki raft



Figs 3 and 4: images of the face of Kon-Tiki



Fig 5: Lake Titicaca



Fig 6: creating and destroying life

LONDON INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

19 - 26 February 2022

At last it's nearly here, delayed by 21 months due to Covid-19. So far over 120 dealers and auction houses are booked to take part, plus around 50 meetings of specialist groups, including our affiliated society the Exhibitions Study Group (19 Feb). In addition, on 23 February one large meeting room will be dedicated to tables hired by philatelic societies.

If you are interested in viewing the exhibits please note that the classes will be split. From 19th to the morning of 22nd the classes on display will be Postal History, Revenue, Open, Picture Postcards, Postal Stationery, Modern and part of Youth. From the 23rd to the morning of 25th [Friday] the Championship, Traditional, Aerophilately, Thematic and the rest of Youth classes will be shown. So those of us interested in all the pictorial classes will need two visits (at least). There will be 261 frames / 41 entries of Thematic, 167 frames / 34 entries of Open and 68 frames / 13 entries of Picture Postcard.

BTA members have entered the following:

POSTAL HISTORY

Margaret Morris *Astronomical Communication (1742-1899)* 5 frames

THEMATIC PHILATELY

Wendy Buckle *Paper past and present* 5 frames

George Henshilwood *Having fun with Numbers* 5 frames

Lesley Marley *A Whale's Tale* 8 frames

Brian Sole *Go by cycle!* 8 frames

Peter Weir *Liquid of Life - Blood, from an Ancient Myth to a Modern Medicine* 8 frames

OPEN PHILATELY

John Davies *A Jubilee Reminiscence* 8 frames

Simon Moorcroft *Winston Churchill - "Where did I go wrong?"* 1 frame

Barry Stagg *The Messenger of Peace - the life and legacy of the missionary John Williams* 1 frame

BTA SECOND VIRTUAL ONE-PAGE COMPETITION

The BTA is very pleased to announce the launch of its 2nd Virtual One-Page Competition after the success of its inaugural competition which closed in January. Entries from seven countries and positive feedback from many of the entrants encouraged us to 'roll this dice' again.

You can find details and rules below. The closing date is 31st January 2022. Entries should be sent to our Competitions Officer [Andrew Millington](#), who will be happy to answer any questions, but beware he will strongly encourage you to 'have a go' if you contact him!

We received exhibits on a very diverse range of topics last time. Lost for inspiration? Why not look at [last year's exhibits](#).

All entrants will be judged, so that we can determine some 'best in class' entries, and all entrants will receive feedback from an accredited judge.

Have a go and showcase your philatelic interests. We'd love to see them!

Rules of the competition

1. Exhibits can be on any aspect of pictorial, thematic or topical collecting on any subject you like. Stamps, covers, postal stationery, slogan or commemorative postmarks, picture postcards, etc. are allowed: i.e., anything within the remit of a Thematic, Topical, Picture Postcard or Open Philately class in an organised competition.
2. Exhibits can either be one A4 page or up to an A3 sheet (i.e. 2 x A4) in either portrait or landscape format. We may decide to judge different size sheets separately.
3. Your page must have a title and a short introduction. Do not include your name on the page.
4. The exhibit must tell a story.
5. The balance of philatelic material-to-text is your choice. Try to make the presentation of the page attractive.
6. Your page can be printed, typed or handwritten but it must be in English.
7. The closing date for entries is 31 January 2022.
8. There is no fee to enter this competition (though in future years there may be a modest entry fee).
9. Points will be awarded as follows:

Title and Introduction	<i>maximum</i>	10
Presentation		15
The story		40
Quality of material		10
Non-thematic information		15
Variety of material		10
		<i>100</i>

BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th September 2022

voco Oxford Spires Hotel

Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS

<https://oxfordspires.vocohotels.com/>



COST

Full Delegate

Will include:

2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast; pre-dinner drink both evenings; some wine with dinner; teas, coffees and biscuits or pastries between the sessions.

Two people sharing: £249

With single room supplement £299

There are also a number of other options, including an extra night on the Thursday or Sunday, a day (or half day) delegate rate, and options for meals. Please see the booking page for full choices.

TRAVEL

By car: the hotel is easily reached from the A40/A34 to the north, or the M4/A34 to the south. The hotel has free parking.

By train: only a short taxi ride from Oxford Station.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The City of Oxford is easily reached either by bus from the end of the hotel drive, or in good weather only a short stroll along the Thames tow-path. Oxford - 'City of Dreaming Spires' - needs no introduction. But if you want some ideas see the [web site](#). If you are coming by car there are many places which are a [short drive away](#).

BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th September 2022

voco Oxford Spires Hotel

Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS

PROGRAMME

Friday

p.m. Arrival
18.00 Welcome, with Pimms and soft drinks
Members' displays (6 sheets, one minute)
19.30 Dinner; followed by invited display by Bob Hill
Where are the Kit Cats??!

Saturday

09.00 Invited display by Katrin Raynor-Evans on *Astronomy*
Coffee
11.00 Members displays of latest acquisitions (12 sheets)

Lunch not provided. Hotel has restaurant, lounge and bar, or spend some time in Oxford.

Saturday afternoon *Your choice:*
Demonstration of stereo-zoom microscopes by Owen Green. Please bring along any stamps you would like to see examined.
and
Go By Cycle! Brian Sole's multi-award winning exhibit. Static display over lunchtime and afternoon.
or
Free time to visit Oxford.

16.00 Members display on a theme, letter E or F (12 sheets)
19.30 Pre-dinner drink
Dinner followed by a light-hearted quiz and raffle

Sunday

09.00 Invited display by Andrew Millington
Copper: commodity and catalyst
Coffee
11.00 Members displays of any theme (12 sheets)
12.45 Lunch (optional)

Themes for members displays are suggestions only, feel free to bring something else

BTA WEEKEND BOOKING FORM

I wish to book:

- Rooms based on two people sharing £249 per head
- With single room supplement £299 per head
- Extra dinner/bed/breakfast Thursday £109 per head;
[plus single room supplement £25.00]
- Extra dinner/bed/breakfast Sunday £99.00 per head;
[plus single room supplement £25.00]

Or:

- Evening meal Friday £42.00 per head (inc. drinks)
- Day delegate Saturday £15.00 per head
- Evening meal Saturday £42.00 per head (inc. drinks)
- Day delegate Sunday £7.50 per head

Deposit

£25.00 per person (non-refundable). Or: Day delegate rate per person

Please tick as appropriate (BACS or PayPal preferred):

- I have paid £..... by BACS. Sort code 40-03-29; account number 71157701. Please add your name and '2022 Weekend' in the 'Reference' box.
- I have paid £..... by PayPal; paid to peter.wood95@btinternet.com. Please add your name and '2022 Weekend' in the 'Add a note' section. (Sending money to 'Family or Friends' will not impose a fee to yourself or the recipient).
- I enclose a cheque for £..... made out to BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION
- I wish to repeat the booking made for the 2020 Weekend. You already have my deposit. (*This only applies to a few people. Please check with Peter Wood if you are not sure.*)

Your details

Name.....

Name of partner

Address.....

..... Post code

Telephone number (home) Mobile.....

Email.....

Acknowledgement of booking will be sent by email where possible.

Rooms are limited so please email a scan of this form if no cheque, or post form plus cheque, as soon as possible, to:

Mr. P. Wood, 182, Andrewes House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BA

Please do NOT book directly with the hotel.



BTA PROGRAMME 2022

18 January
19.00 for 19.30

BTA MEETING ON ZOOM
Les Ashton-Smith *Auguste Piccard*

Please check the 'Events' page of the BTA website for details of Zoom meetings during 2022

31 January

Closing date for entries for Virtual One-Page Competition

19 - 26 February

London 2022

Open Philately and Picture Postcard exhibits on show Saturday 19 February until noon on Tuesday 22 February. Thematic Philately exhibits on show Wednesday 23 February until noon on Friday 25 February.
No BTA meeting

11 June
14.00

Annual General Meeting plus guest speaker 14.30
At Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College
Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
Over 40 dealers, free parking, and cafe facilities.

16 - 18 September

BTA Weekend
At voco Oxford Spires Hotel

09 October

South of England Stamp Fair
At Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL
Over 40 dealers, free parking and cafe facilities.
BTA Competitions. BTA Table

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

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As has already been explained, Sweden represents the largest contingent of immigrants from Scandinavia and has, arguably, (Norwegian-Americans are also ferrely loyal to their Scandinavian roots) the strongest ties to their heritage. In the remainder of this exhibit, we focus on the history and on a number of aspects of the ties between Sweden and the United States. The starting point is the Viking heritage of the Swedes, as we have already discussed. It is remarkable that the Vikings journeyed as far as North America by the year 1000AD and it took the Europeans more than 500 years to follow in their footsteps. The Max-card shown opposite shows a Viking Longship hunting through heavy seas, something they would certainly have had to contend with on the trips West. Below, we show a number of stamps emphasizing Sweden's Viking heritage.

Swedish Connections [1]



VÅGOR 250 HÅRTE 20 KR

Sweden
 Sveriges
 Filippin
 1950
 1951
 1952
 1953
 1954
 1955

Sweden 1973
 Ancient Air
 A Viking ship
 from a picture
 stone from
 Lerbö, Gotland
 1973

Sweden 1977
 Viking ship
 from Gotland
 1977

Sweden 1980
 Viking ship
 from Gotland
 1980

Historical and modern air shipping (as featured with 1980)
 (Hans Ner - designer) 1 (Björnstam) 2 (1971-81) 3 (1981-99)



For whatever reasons (it has been suggested that they suffered losses from the local Red Indians), the period of Viking settlement did not last very long and the Vikings retreated to their more familiar pillaging grounds. The story then moves on to the European 'discovery' of North America by Columbus in 1492 and the subsequent battles between Spanish, French and British to establish sovereignty over the country. The Swedes were part of this, fleeing home to establish a new colony in the New World. That began in 1638 and picked up pace in the 19th and early 20th centuries - driven by religious repression and the social conservatism and class snobbery of the Swedish monarchy. It was also not helped by population growth and crop failures which made rural living even more bleak. However, we begin our story 350 years later in - a year which enjoyed two global stamp exhibitions, one in Chicago and one in Stockholm.



STOCKHOLM
 1955
 Sveriges
 Filippin
 1950
 1951
 1952
 1953
 1954
 1955

STOCKHOLM 1955
 2 for SVERIGE
 2 for SVERIGE
 3 for SVERIGE
 4 for SVERIGE

STOCKHOLM 1955
 2 for SVERIGE
 2 for SVERIGE
 3 for SVERIGE
 4 for SVERIGE

STOCKHOLM 1955
 2 for SVERIGE
 2 for SVERIGE
 3 for SVERIGE
 4 for SVERIGE

From Swedish booklet (Theme: Stamp Collecting) issued for STOCKHOLM 86

This is the U.S. Postal Service's first commemorative stamp booklet. It is a guide to stamp collecting, the world's most popular hobby, and a most appropriate for 1986. Thousands this year will attend the ANA/PSA 86 international stamp show in Chicago. The American Philatelic Society this year will celebrate its centennial and the Smithsonian Institution in 1986 will observe the 100th anniversary of the national stamp collection in existence. In each connection on the cover, the Swedish postal administration issued a special stamp booklet that will attract to the STAMPCOLLECTING international stamp show in Chicago and to the postal service's American stamp show in Stockholm.

STAMP COLLECTING USA • AMERPEX '86

The International Stamp Show at Chicago, May 22 - June 1, 1986, will attract the best of this booklet cover line of designs.

Eight 22 cent stamps - \$1.76

CLH 11999

STAMPCOLLECTING USA 22

STAMPCOLLECTING USA 22

STAMPCOLLECTING USA 22

STAMPCOLLECTING USA 22

STAMPCOLLECTING USA 22

STAMPCOLLECTING USA 22

This booklet is of philatelic importance for two reasons:

1. It was the first booklet issued by USPS to feature commemorative stamps;
2. It was the first stamp to illustrate a US stamp which had not yet been issued (#220) illustrates the US Postage miniature sheet which was issued later in 1986 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American Philatelic Society)

Links between the USA and Scandinavia Exhibit by George Hensilwood

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

