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THEMESCENE

Journal of the British Thematic Association which is a member of the Association of British Philatelic Societies

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THEME OF LITERATURE ON BRITISH STAMPS: An Annotated Checklist

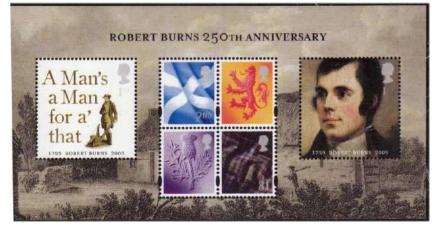
Neil Pearce, with contributions by Wendy Buckle

TA members whose collecting interests revolve around great literature and poetry were pleased when, early in 2009, Royal Mail issued further stamps to add to their theme. On January 13th Royal Mail produced a set of ten First Class stamps featuring British Design Classics: iconic designs of the 20th century, and included in this issue were



Penguin books. Best known for their original orange and white colour, Penguins are recognized the world over. The designer was Edward Young who, in 1935, produced it for a new publishing company who wanted its paperbacks to make classical literature affordable to the masses.

Later in the month, on Jan. 22nd two First Class stamps and a miniature sheet were issued to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish



poet Robert Burns, claimed by some to be the finest British poet after Shakespeare. The stamps appeared three days before Burns Night: the annual celebration of his birth. One of the stamps has a quote from the poet: "A man's a man for a' that" and an image of Robbie ploughing. He was raised in poverty on

a farm and later returned to the land after achieving fame as a poet in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh. The second stamp reproduces a fine painting of Burns by Alexander Nasmyth, the original of which is located in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The mini-sheet contains four regional definitive stamps, set in a background of Burn's birthplace at Alloway in Ayreshire. Robbie Burns has, in fact, been philatelically favoured several times by Royal Mail. Earlier issues appeared in 1966, stamps bearing his portrait (SG 685-6), and in 1996 (SG 1901-4) marking the bicentenary of his death in 1796, at the regrettably early age of 37. The four stamps contain quotations from his most famous poems, including 'Auld Lange Syne'.



William Shakespeare was commemorated in 1964, on the occasion of a special festival in his name. Five stamps (SG 646-650) illustrate Puck and Bottom from 'A Midsummer's Night Dream'; Hamlet contemplating Yorick's skull from 'Hamlet'; Feste from 'Twelfth Night'; the Balcony Scene from 'Romeo and Julie'; and On the Eve of Agincourt from 'Henry V'.

Literary anniversaries were celebrated in 1970: the death centenary of the novelist Charles Dickens and the birth centenary of the poet William Wordsworth. Five stamps (SG 824-8) illustrate Mr. Pickwick and Sam from 'Pickwick

Papers'; Mr. and Mrs. Micawber from 'David Copperfield'; David Copperfield and Betsy Trotwood from 'David Copperfield'; Oliver asking for more from 'Oliver Twist'; and an engraving by J. Farrington of Grasmere in the Lake District. Wordsworth's cottage is located by its shore.



The following year, 1971, featured further literary anniversaries: three stamps (SG 884-6) with artistic impressions of John Keats, Thomas Gray and Sir Walter Scott.

In 1975 it was time to note the birth centenary of Jane Austen the novelist. Four stamps (SG 989-992) portray Emma and Mr. Woodhouse from 'Emma'; Catherine Morland from 'Northanger Abbey'; Mr. Darcy from 'Pride and Prejudice'; and Mary and Henry Crawford from 'Mansfeld Park'.

The 1979 International Year of the Child was marked by a further four stamps (SG 1091-4) commemorating famous children's stories. These were 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' by Beatrice Potter; 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame; 'Winnie the Pooh' by A.A. Mime; and 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll.

1980 saw four stamps dedicated to famous authoresses (SG 1125-8). These were Charlotte Bronte ('Jane Eyre'); George Elliot ('The Mill on the Floss'); Emile Bronte ('Wuthering Heights'); and Elizabeth Gaskell ('North and South').

There was a gap of eight years before a literary figure was again noted. The death centenary of Edward Lear, author and artist, was commemorated in 1988 by four stamps and a miniature sheet (SG 1405-8, MS 1409). The stamps feature Lear's drawings. The l9p. stamp shows 'The Owl and the Pussycat'; the 27p. stamp has a self-portrait: 'Edward Lear as a Bird'; The 35p. issue shows 'Cat' from the Alphabet Book, while the 35p. stamp has the first line of a limerick: 'There was a Young Lady whose Bonnet...' The miniature sheet repeats the four stamps; the premium on the MS. was used to support the 'Stamp World London 90' International Stamp Exhibition.



In the same year four booklets were issued commemorating books by Charles Dickens, featuring characters from the novels "Oliver Twist", "The Old Curiosity Shop", "Nicholas Nickleby" and "Great Expectations".



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Shakespeare SG 646-648



Dickens and Wordsworth SG 824-848



Jane Austen SG 989-992



International Year of the Child SG 1091 - 1094



The works of Thomas Hardy were celebrated by a single stamp in 1990 (SG 1506) on the 150th anniversary of his birth. The composite design has a portrait of the author, his signature and a view of Clyffe Clump in his home county of Dorset.

Alfred Lord Tennyson was remembered in 1992 on the occasion of the centenary of his death. Four attractive stamps (SG 1607-10) show Tennyson in 1833 and 'The Beguiling of Merlin' (24p.); the poet in 1856 and 'April Love' (28p.); Tennyson in 1864 and 'I am Sick of the Shadows' (33p.); and Tennyson as a young man and 'Mariana' (39p.)

Arthur Conan Doyle is best known for his famous fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes, erroneously believed by some to have been a real person who lived in Baker Street London. The centenary of the publication of 'The Final Problem' was commemorated in 1933. Five stamps (SG 1784-8) recorded as many tales: 'The Reigate Squire,' 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' 'The Six Napoleons,' 'The Greek Interpreter 'and the 'Final Problem.'



In 1994 a set of ten first class Greetings Stamps featured characters from children's books and comics. SG 1800 – 1809 featured Dan Dare, The Three Bears, Rupert Bear, Alice in Wonderland, Noggin the Nog, Peter Rabbit, Red Riding Hood, Orlando the Marmalade Cat, Biggles and Paddington Bear.

1995 saw an issue of stamps marking science fiction novels by H.G. Wells. The year marked the centenary of the publication of 'The Time Machine'. Four stamps (SG 1878-1881) carried illustrations from 'The Time Machine': Time Travel (25p.); 'The First Men in the Moon': Space Travel (30p.); 'The War of the Worlds': Alien Invasion (35p); and 'The Shape of Things to Come': Futuristic Society (4lp.)

Shakespeare was again philatelically honoured in 1995 when reconstruction of the Globe Theatre, on London's South Bank of the Thames, was undertaken. Five stamps (SG 1882-1886) featured drawings of the four theatres from Shakespeare's day: the Globe (1599, 1614), The Rose (1592), The Swan (1595) and The Hope (1613). The next year five famous women were chosen to be shown on stamps (SG 1935-9) including the novelist Dame Daphne du Maurier (37p.).

The birth centenary of Mary Shelley was marked in 1997 with one issue of stamps devoted to Tales and Legends; Horror Stories (SG 1980-3). She was the creator of 'Frankenstein,' depicted in one of four stamps (3lp.) The other three stamps feature 'Dracula' (26p.), 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (37p.) and 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' (43p).

In light contrast that year, the characters and tales of the children's author Enid Blyton were recalled on the occasion of her birth centenary. The five stamps (SG 2001-5) show 'Noddy', 'The Famous Five', 'The Secret Seven', the 'Faraway Tree' and 'Malory Towers'.



In 1998 Famous Children's Fantasy Novels appeared on five stamps (SG 2050- 2054). They commemorated the birth centenary of C.S. Lewis and the death centenary of Lewis Carroll. The stories featured 'The Hobbit' (JR.R. Tolkien); 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' (C.S. Lewis); 'The Phoenix and the Carpet (E. Nesbit); 'The Borrowers' (Mary Norton) and 'Through the Looking Glass' (Lewis Carroll).



Alfred Lord Tennyson SG 1607-1610



Arthur Conan Doyle SG 1784 - 1788

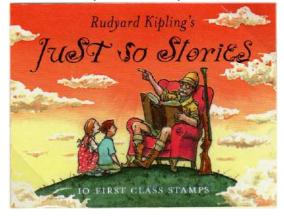


H. G. Wells SG 1878 - 1881



William Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre SG 1882 - 1886

Into the twenty-first century, there was a bumper issue of no less than ten self-adhesve first-



class stamps in 2002 (SG 2243-2252). They were in honour of Rudyard Kipling and appeared one hundred years after the publication of his 'Just So Stories.' The featured stories were: 'How the Whale got his Throat'; 'How the Camel got his Hump'; 'How the Rhinoceros got his Skin'; 'How the Leopard got his Spots'; 'The Elephant's Child'; 'The Sing-Song of old man Kangaroo'; 'The Beginning of the Armadillos'; 'The Crab that played with the Sea'; 'The Cat that walked by Himself' and 'The Butterfly that Stamped.'

Another generous helping of literary commemorative stamps appeared in 2004. They marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of 'The Fellowship of the Ring' and 'The Two Towers' by J.R.R. Tolkien. Ten first-class stamps (SG 2429-2438) feature illustrations from the books: a Map of Middle Earth, the Forest of Lothlorien in Spring, the dust jacket for 'The Fellowship of the Ring' Rivendell, The Hall at Bag End, Orthane, Doors of Darin, Barad-dur, Minas Tirth arid Fangorn Forest.

The 150th death anniversary of Charlotte Bronte was marked in 2005 by six stamps and a miniature sheet (SG 2518-23, MS 2524). The stamps featured illustrations from the novel 'Jane Eyre' by artist Paula Rego: Mr. Rochester (2nd class); 'Come to Me' (1st class); 'In the Comfort of her Bonnet' (40p.); 'La Ligne des Rats' (57p.); 'Refectory' (68p.) and 'Inspection' (£1.12).



In 2006 an issue of eight stamps (SG 2289-96) focused upon fictional creatures, loved both by children and their parents: 'The Tales of Mr. Jeremy Fisher' (Beatrix Potter); 'Kipper' (Mick Inkpen); the Enormous Crocodile' (Roald Dahl); 'More Paddington' about (Michael Bond); 'Comic Adventures of Boots'

(Satoshi Kitamuto); 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' (Lewis Carroll); 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' (Eric Carle) [complete with holes in the stamp!] and 'Maisy's ABC' (Lucy Cousins).



No less than ten stamps were issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the creation of The National Portrait Gallery in London, all First Class (SG 2640-9). We may claim six of those featured in the portraits as distinguished literary figures: Sir Winston Churchill (artist Walter Sickert); T.S. Eliot (Patrick Heron); Virginia Wolf (photo by George Charles Beresford); Sir Walter Scott (bust by Sir Francis Leggate Chantry); William Shakespeare (attributed to John Taylor) and Charles Darwin (John Collier).

The successful contemporary writer J.K. Rowling will have been gratified to view seven First Class stamps and a mini-sheet (SG 2750-6, MS 2757), issued in 2007 to mark publication of her final book in the epic Harry Potter series. The stamps commemorate 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'; 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'; 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'; 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'; 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix'; 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows'. The MS features a further five First-Class stamps bearing the crests of Hogwarts and its Schools: 'Gryffindor', 'Hufflepuff', 'Hogwarts', 'Ravenclaw' and 'Slytherin'.

In 2008 the birth centenary of another famous British writer, Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond books, was marked by six stamps and a mini-sheet (SG 2797-2802, MS 2803). The featured books were 'Casino Royale' (1st class); 'Dr. No' (1st class); 'Goldfinger' (54p.); 'Diamonds are Forever' (57p.) For Your Eyes Only' (78p) and 'From Russia with Love' (78p).





The following year's Europa themed issue was "Eminent Britons". This comprised ten first class stamps, including Mary Woolstoncraft, author of "A Vindication of the Rights of Women"; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and Dr. Samuel Johnson, the poet, essayist and lexicographer.



Bringing it right up to date, Royal Mail's contribution to the 2010 Europa theme of Children's Books was a set of six stamps and a miniature sheet featuring the original illustrations by E. H. Shepherd for 'Winnie-the-Pooh' (60p, 67p, 88p stamps; 60p, 88p and 97p MS); 'The House at Pooh Corner' (58p, 97p stamps); and 'Now We Are Six' (1st class stamp; 1st class MS).

Summary

We trust this review of British stamps illustrating our writers and poets will be of interest not only to those BTA collectors who have already adopted the theme but possibly to others, encouraging them to consider starting a similar collection. In addition to the GB issues there are comparable sets of stamps featuring literary figures issued by many other countries. See, e.g., the article by Clete Delvaux ' Shakespeare & Company' in *Topical Time* Vol. 60, No. 1 (Jan.-Feb. 2009), pp. 21-26. And the 'Library' pages of the BTA website shows what you can borrow or copy from our Library to expand the theme.

'Much Ado About Nothing'? Hardly so: 'As You Like It' seems more appropriate.

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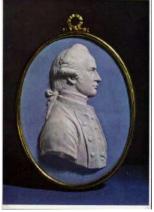
CAPTAIN COOK OBSERVED

Alwyn Peel illustrates the gain to be had from reading the philatelic press carefully

W ithin the pages of any copy of *Themescene* you will often find emphasis on the need to know your chosen subject and to keep your eyes open for items related to your chosen theme, even from unusual sources. Earlier this year when scanning the pages of a national stamp magazine I was surprised to see amidst an advert from a well known GB specialist dealer, an illustration I recognised immediately. He had purchased some of the archive material of the printers De La Rue and discovered some trials of the first successful phosphor band printing by De La Rue, dating back to 1968. This was no doubt an attempt to gain the printing contract for postage stamps from Harrisons. The two 9.5mm phosphor bands are printed by letterpress using a rubber stereo. Inscribed in manuscript on the sheet margins are "phosphor bars T.P.A. – 1st attempt Thos. De La Rue Sept.1968". T.P.A. is Terephtalic acid and is used as the activator and reacts the same as the violet phosphor on the last G.B. Wildings and the Machins stamps. Four different colours were used: grey, turquoise blue, rose-pink and orange, each with two designs, a large head in half tone and a small head in full tone.



The designs in grey show the large head on the left but the others show the large head to the right. All are printed by offset litho and are imperforate, the paper is dull and all the stamps are gummed, the two grey labels being gum Arabic and the others have P.V.A. gum. The printing created se-tenant pairs from the centre of the sheet, but only twenty of each, making them much scarcer.





Now to the thematic aspect. The design was said to portray an unknown 18th century gentleman, possibly a member of the De La Rue family. However, knowing my theme, I was happy to be able to identify the portrait as that of Captain James Cook, as portrayed by Josiah Wedgwood after a design by John Flaxman. This design has been

used on a number of stamps, as shown here. So came an unusual item into my collection, once again proving the benefit of research and

accumulated knowledge of the theme. The cameo portrait of Cook by Josiah Wedgwood (illustrated left) is from a design by John Flaxman and is now in the British Museum.

Alwyn Peel is Hon. Sec. of the Captain Cook Society, and will be giving a talk and display to the BTA at Sheffield on 7th May (see page 146).

NEW ISSUES

The stamps below are reproduced with the kind assistance of Harry Allan, PO Box 5, Poole, Dorset, BH12 9GF

BEIJING-FRANKFURT-LILLEHAMMER

Keith Lloyd looks in detail at a Winter Olympics cover

The first Winter Olympic Games were held in Chamonix, France, in 1924 and they were then held every four years (but not in 1940 and 1944) until 1992. During that period, the Summer and Winter games were held in the same year, but the next Winter Games were held in 1994 in the small town of Lillehammer, Norway. Subsequent Winter Games have been held every four years, with the most recent in Vancouver in 2010.



The cover illustrated was issued to mark a special flight by Air China to take the Chinese team to the Lillehammer Games. The stamp on the cover is the top value of the Outlaws of the Marsh (4th series) issued in 1993. set. depicting Shi Xiu saving Lu Junyi from execution. The cover is somewhat inconspicuously marked **IMPRIMES** PAR

AVION [printed matter / airmail] immediately above the address and it was sent unsealed. The ¥2.00 stamp seems to cover ¥1.00 (20g international printed matter) + 2×¥0.50 (2×10g printed matter air supplement). The stamp is cancelled with a double-circle Beijing [北京] branch 51 datestamp of 1994.2.8.

The large red printed bilingual (Chinese/English) cachet reads "OLYMPIC TEAM FLIGHT BEIJING - FRANKFURT - LILLEHAMMER B747" and includes a panda, the Air China logo and the logo of the Lillehammer Games. A pictorial arrival handstamp bears the words "DE XVII OLYMPISKE VINTERLEKER / 2600 LILLEHAMMER / 12.2.1994".



As seems to be the custom with collectors of first-flight and special-flight covers, the cover has been sent to a post restante address, to someone who was not going to claim it. The cover was, therefore, returned to sender with the date of return indicated by the ordinary postmark reading "LILLEHAMMER E / 05.03.94 / 2600". The top part of a return to sender label (UPU ref C33/CP10) is on the front of the cover; the rest of it, with the "ikke hentet / non réclamé" [unclaimed] box marked with a cross, is on the back.

THE BABE

Jim Gray traces the philatelic record of one of the greatest sportswomen of all time

s many people know, Babe Zaharias (Mildred Didrikson) was the most accomplished woman golfer of her day. She was born at Port Arthur, Texas, in June 1916 and died at Galveston, Texas, of cancer in September, 1956. Arguably she could be favourably compared with present-day golfers. However she was an athlete of renown before she

took up golf. In the 1932 Olympic Games she won three gold medals with world records: the Women's 80 metre hurdles, javelin and high jump.



On giving up athletics, she took up golf and won the Texas Women's Open in 1940, 1945 and 1946; the US National Women's Amateur in 1946; and the British Ladies' Amateur Championship in 1947, being the first American to do so. In August 1947 she turned professional and went on to win the US National Women's Open in 1948, 1949 and 1950. In winning the Tampa Open in 1951, she set up a then women's world record aggregate of 288 for 72 holes. She was voted Women Athlete of the year in 1932, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1950 and in 1949 was voted the greatest woman athlete of the half-century. Babe was the first woman to hold the

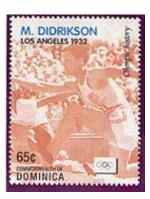
post of Head Professional at a golf club and was a courageous and fighting character who left her considerable mark on the world of sport.

The Athlete



To commemorate her athletic feats the Dominican Republic issued a set of eight stamps on the 24th of January 1957, the 17 cent denomination depicting the then Mildred Didrikson (miss-spelt Didrickson on the stamp), hurdling at the 1932 Games. This stamp was also issued imperforate. I also have in my collection souvenir sheets in both perforate and imperforate format. On the 8th of February 1957 the Dominican Republic used the same set of stamps overprinted and surcharged with *Hungarian Refugee Fund* +2*c*. First day covers of course were produced (though are difficult to find), and I have a perforate example. Imperforate souvenir sheets showing other notable

athletes are not illustrated here.



At the third Pan-American Games in Chicago in 1959, the Dominican Republic issued the original stamps on the 10^{th} of September, but this time overprinting with the surcharge of a runner, again in red.

Liberia, on the 19th of August 1996, issued a set of eight stamps commemorating the Olympics, which were then being held in Atlanta, Georgia, one of which featured Babe Didrikson. Then on the 12th of April 2004 the Dominican Republic again returned to the Olympics theme with an Olympic History set of eight stamps, one of which shows M Didrikson.

Finally, the Guinea Republic in 2007 issued a souvenir sheet commemorating the 1932 Olympic Games at Los Angeles. The background features Charles Lindbergh and his *Spirit of St Louis* with the stamp depicting the Babe in both her athletic and golfing roles.



The Golfer



On the 22nd of September 1981, the USA issued two stamps commemorating the achievements of Bobby Jones and Babe Zaharias. This first day cover commemorates Babe's golfing exploits, with a Pinehurst NC cancellation.

Somalia issued a souvenir sheet (date unknown) later, of some 'Lady Golfing Greats', including the Babe.





These then are the only stamps featuring the Babe that have been issued. It is sad that there has only been one stamp issued by the USA for such a distinguished citizen. Reproduced with thanks from *Through The Green* first published in March 2009.

PORTUGAL 2010 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Ron Backhouse enjoys a few days in Lisbon

s part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the Portuguese Republic, Portugal Mail sponsored this exhibition (Royal Mail please note) which took place in Lisbon from Friday 1st to Sunday 10th October. It was set amongst a large complex of modern exhibition halls in a beautiful quiet park alongside the estuary well outside Lisbon centre. It was organized by the Portuguese Philatelic Federation under the patronage of F. I. P. and they must be congratulated on mounting such a successful event.

The huge hanger-like exhibition hall was well lit and all the facilities were excellent with seating available for the weary.

I was told that there were more visitors during the first few days but when I entered the exhibition on Thursday 7th I was struck by how very quiet it was, rather like being in a library. This was unlike the mayhem in Rome 2000 (especially round the Italian P. O. booth), and the noise of school children, especially from the 22,000 children attending at the Euro Champs, in Paris last May. There were a few more visitors on the final weekend.

I was very disappointed that there were so few dealers attending, although it would have been costly to attend for such a long exhibition, with problems of lengthy travel and difficulty bringing much stock. There were more booths taken up by national post offices than there were by dealers. The dealers had nothing to interest me or my friends I met there.

There were 81 Thematic exhibits but I was the only applicant from G B to be accepted. I was happy to fly our flag with my Grande Vermeil award. The best placed in thematics was an exhibit on Pigeons, Large Gold (95%) and at the other end a Bronze (60%) on Football. I must mention that our worthy commissioner, Chris King, was awarded 97%, top mark in the Postal History section and placed 4th over all.





The official medal, designed by Pedro Vaz Pereira, which features the face of "Portugal"

Editor's note:

Congratulations too to Republic of Ireland BTA member Frank McDonald who gained a Large Silver medal at Portugal for "Discovering West London".

SOMETHING NEW FOR BICYCLE THEMATIC COLLECTORS!

Brian Sole 'gets on his bike'

Following the Postal Services Act 2000, the Postal Services Commission (PostComm) was empowered to grant licences to carry letters to any postal operator. Further liberalisation of the UK postal market took place from 1 January 2006 and PostComm then issued a mandatory *Postal Code of Practise for Common Operational Procedures*. One of the requirements was that postal items should bear a "Code Identifier" to denote the Company accepting them. However it only had to be shown by operators who provided the service without any intervention by Royal Mail. In practice this means that the majority of items showing these Code Identifiers are by operators of a local, well defined, area of operation.

The British Postmark Society provided a list of the known Code Identifiers allocated by PostComm up to July 2010. These ran from CL101 to CL152. I have made contact with three of these operators who use cyclists to deliver mail and where the Identifier incorporates a recognisable cycle illustration i.e.

CL128 Cycles4U, Birmingham

CL130 Yellow Jersey Delivery Ltd, Coventry

Licence granted 15 June 2009 Licence granted 10 August 2009 Licence granted 27 January 2010

CL141 Cycle Link, Norwich

The 3 operators have kindly provided examples of their marks incorporating cycle images, but these are all provided "by favour". I now require examples of the codes used on envelopes, properly addressed!

Looking through the list, other operators who may possibly incorporate cycle illustrations in their Identifier Codes are

- CL126 City Cycle Couriers, Plymouth
- CL138 Pedal Post, Kidsgrove
- CL148 Cyclepost Ltd, Warwick

Licence granted 11 March 2009 Licence granted 17 December 2009 Licence granted 25 February 2010

Local Post In Coventry www.videlivery.co.uk CL130



cycle-link.com

BTA NEWS

MEMBERS' MEETING 7 MAY 2011

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheaf Street, Sheffield S1 2BP

The British Thematic Association will be holding a members' meeting at the ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition at the above venue from 1030 to 1230 hrs on Saturday 7th May 2011. The meeting will commence with displays by members, so please bring along up to 12 sheets on any thematic subject you like, to display and talk about for no more than 2 minutes. After the members' displays we will have a display on Captain Cook by our guest speaker, Alwyn Peel.

So please make a note in your diaries to come to the meeting. You do not have to display if you do not wish to.

SPARE THEMATIC MATERIAL

The stock of thematic material available for sale from the BTA table at various events is getting quite depleted and needs building up again. We would be grateful if members could donate any spare thematic material they have to the BTA for sale at its table in future. Perhaps it is what you have been wondering what to do with for some time, apart from consigning it to the waste paper basket! We would particularly like to receive slogan cancels, metermarks, covers, postal stationery and postcards. Please keep sending spare stamps to Just4Kids as some of you do at present, although they will be appreciated by the BTA if you have any additional stamps to spare. Donations should be sent to John Hayward at 18 Waverley Drive, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DL.

Half page advertisement for Stamp Insurance Services

HERE AND THERE

JOBURG, Johannesburg, 27 – 31 October 2010-10

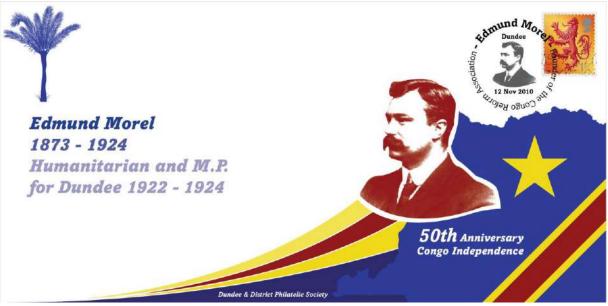
Congratulations to the two British thematic entrants to this F.I.P. event. Richard Wheeler gained a Large Vermeil with "Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets", and Peter Weir got a Vermeil with "Liquid of Life".

INDIPEX, New Delhi, 12 – 18 February 2011

The only UK thematic entry to this event will be Richard Wheeler "Masks, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets". There will be two thematic entries from the Republic of Ireland: "Discovering West London" by Frank McDonald and "W.A. Mozart ... from Prodigy to Genius" by John Fitzsimons.

DUNDEE & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY COMMEMORATIVE CARD

A card has been produced to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Congo independence. It is also a tribute to Edmund Morel who was MP for Dundee West from 1922 until his death in 1924. In 1917 he had been imprisoned for his pacifist views, treatment which was a major contribution to his poor health and early death at 51. With Labour's victory in 1924, everyone expected that he would become foreign secretary in Ramsay MacDonald's government. However, he was seen to be too fiercely independent as a moralist and crusader. However MacDonald nominated Morel for the Nobel Peace Prize. We will never know if he would have won it since he died of a heart attack on 12 November 1924.



Morel was the person who recognised King Leopold's exploitation of the Congo. He was a lowly shipping clerk sent by the Elder Demster Line to oversee its activities in Antwerp. Morel had a news hound streak in him and investigated. The more he uncovered the more he publicised the atrocities and drew in leaders of the time. He withstood intimidation and threats from Leopold. His humanitarian and moral status puts him in the same league as Ghandi or Mandela in more recent history. Unfortunately he is largely forgotten His work, together with Roger Casement forced the Belgian Government to set up a commission of investigation. The result was the transformation of Leopold's private property (the Congo) into a Belgian colony. It was a major turning point at the peak of European colonialism.

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COSTS OF DUNDEE CARD (including postage)

Cancellation on front: £4

This card will have the signatures of John Letford (Lord Provost of Dundee), Jim McGovern, (Labour MP for Dundee West) and Dr. Charles Lloyd (President of Dundee & District Philatelic Society).

Cancellation on the reverse: £2

Mint card: £1

Cheques should be made payable to 'Dundee & District Philatelic Society' Cards are available from Colin G Campbell, 11 Denoon Terrace, Dundee DD2 2EL Tel: 01382 667901; e-mail: <u>campbell933@btinternet.com</u>

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

David Rossall gives a round-up of recent events

BRILLIANT BRITAIN – STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK ONE PAGE COMPETITION

Back in April Stamp Active Network launched a one page competition for primary school children, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, on the theme of Brilliant Britain. Over 30 entries were received from children throughout the UK. There were three age classes with up to three prizes available in each, and the results are as follows –

1^{st}	Joshua Davies	Spittal VC School
1^{st}	Millie Smith	Lostock Hall School
_	Louise Avery	Welwyn Garden City
3^{rd}	Heather Nuttall	Lostock Hall School
1^{st}	Lynne Mitchell	Doonfoot Primary School
_	Emily Smith	Prendergast Primary School
$3^{\rm rd}$	Francesca Stringer	Greenford
	1^{st} 2^{nd} 3^{rd}	1stMillie Smith2ndLouise Avery3rdHeather Nuttall1stLynne Mitchell2ndEmily Smith

All the winners received vouchers for Stanley Gibbons, and there were packets of stamps for all the competitors. Our thanks go to all the children who entered, and to those who encouraged them, and we look forward to receiving even more entries next year.

FIP YOUTH COMMISSION WINNER

Congratulations to Jacqs Scourfield on her latest achievement. The FIP Youth Commission has just staged its first international literature competition for youth, and Jacqs has won the top award in her age group (up to 15 years). The award was made for her article "Help for Young Collectors" and subsequent material that appeared in 2009 in the Raflet Magazine, to which she contributes as Junior Reporter.

This adds literary prowess to her many competitive collecting awards, especially for her display on "My Childhood in Stamps" which has been a winner at many levels, locally and nationally. Jacqs was also the second recipient of the Anne Dummer Award for Young Collector of the Year in 2009.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETIES CONGRESS

The Congress, hosted this year by the Paisley society, was held in Ayr on Saturday 2nd October. One of the highlights of the Congress was the presentation, by Willie King, the newly appointed General Secretary of ABPS, of the Anne Dummer Award for 'Young Collector of the Year, 2010' to Lynne Mitchell of Doonfoot Primary School. Willie was also prevailed upon to make two further presentations, from the British National Youth Stamp Championships, of the Benham Trophy for best entry in Class D (12-13 years) and also the Melville Cup for the best overall entry in the championships to Claire Mitchell of Belmont Academy, Ayr.



Willie King and Lynne Mitchell

SUPPORT YOUTH - SUPPORT KIDSTAMPS

A few facts and figures about our young collectors. Historically we have always had more girls than boys in Kidstamps, but now things are changing: new members enrolling are now almost split 50/50 between boys and girls. The main age groups are between 10 and 13 years. The main declared interests are predominantly animals, especially if you add in the separate categories of dogs, cats and horses. These are followed by sport, flowers, cars, space and birds. Country-wise the preferences are for GB, Australia, USA, France and Africa.

So, if you really want to encourage our collectors of the future, you now have a good idea of the kind of material that we are looking for. We especially need covers, maximum cards or miniature sheets relating to any of the above; not cast-off material that no-one else wants, but material that will really make our youngsters interested in continuing with the hobby.

If you want to help us to help them, see if you can't find some interesting items that link in to our needs and send them to -

Kidstamps Appeal, 46 Moorfield Road, Rothwell, Nr. Kettering, Northants, NN14 6AT

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE

From an ABPS press release. Much of this information is on the ABPS website; it is reproduced here for those who do have access to the Web



With 184 exhibits awarded a vermeil medal or better at FIP exhibitions, the United Kingdom is second only to the United States in international philately. The ABPS Exhibitions Committee wants to maintain this proud tradition for the home of the world's first postage stamp and, following the success of London 2010, has set out its programme of events for 2010-2011.

REDUCED FRAME FEES AT NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS IN 2011

The ABPS Exhibitions Committee is pleased to announce that the British Philatelic Trust will subsidise national frame fees for the whole of the year of 2011 reducing them from the current $\pounds 25$ per frame to $\pounds 10$, and it is hoped that this will encourage more exhibitors to participate. The ABPS is supporting three national exhibitions during 2011 and hopes that the reduction in frame fees will lead to 500 frames of competitive exhibits being shown in the year. Brian Trotter, Chairman of the Committee said,

"Exhibiting is good for the hobby and underpins a great deal of philatelic study, but the social side of exhibiting shouldn't be forgotten. Exhibitions with their associated opportunities to meet other philatelists, often from other parts of the world, are a lot of fun."

ABPS NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, SHEFFIELD 6TH TO 7TH MAY 2011

The National Philatelic Exhibition will include a Multi-Frame Picture Postcard Exhibition, and will be held at Pond's Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield.



Sue Hillier, the event Secretary commented, "We are planning several special events during the course of ABPS Sheffield 2011. As well as the expected competitive philatelic displays we are planning a very special Court of Honour showing a variety of interesting and unusual material. There will also be meetings and talks on a variety of subjects, and the annual dinner will take place at the prestigious Cutler's Hall."

For further information see the website: www.sheffield2011.org.uk

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, SOUTHSEA, HAMPHIRE, 16TH TO 19TH JUNE 2011

Maintaining a long tradition, the ABPS organises each year the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Colin Searle, Congress Secretary, noted

"The first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held in Manchester in 1909. Barring interruptions due to war, they have been held annually ever since. The venue moves each year, and Congress is a major opportunity to meet fellow collectors for a relaxing few days in pleasant surroundings. The events include discussions, displays and visits, plus the ever-enjoyable Congress Banquet.

The highlight for many is the occasion at which both the Congress Medal is presented, and the new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists are invited to sign the Roll. More often than not, this is linked with a reception hosted by the town or city in which the Congress is held".

The National One Frame competition will be held at Congress in 2011, and this means that there should be more than the usual opportunity to meet judges, and at a more relaxed venue. Congress is very sociable occasion attended also by husbands, wives and partners of collectors with considerable opportunities to relax in the bar, to enjoy a convivial meal, or simply to see old friends. If you haven't been before, why not try it this year?

If you need more information, go to the ABPS website at <u>www.abps.org.uk</u> click on the Contact Us button at the bottom of the home page, and someone will contact you in due course. Application forms will appear on the ABPS website.

UK EXHIBITING SEMINARS: ABPS RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

The ABPS Exhibitions Committee is organising two weekend workshops about exhibiting. These are aimed at those who have mainly displayed at club and society level, who now wish to consider the more formal disciplines associated with exhibiting. Those who have exhibited only once at national level, or have not exhibited for many years will also be welcome, as will Federation judges wishing to sharpen or renew their skills.

EXHIBITING AT NATIONAL COMPETITIVE EXHIBITIONS

4th March - 6th March 2011: Washington near Newcastle

11th March - 13th March 2011: Royal Learnington Spa

In four sessions, the workshop will address Philatelic Research, Treatment, Presentation, and Judging. That is "How do I know what I've got?" with Francis Kiddle and Colin Hoffmann; How do you construct an exhibit? From introductory page onwards with Brian Trotter and Richard Stock; and Presentation, Layout and the use of IT in creating an exhibit, with Chris King and Frank Walton.

On Sunday morning there will be a practical judging workshop looking at exhibiting from the point of view of the Jury room. This morning session will be part one of a federation level judging qualification, which will be followed by part two which will be a full day training session at a subsequent national exhibition.

Details are on the ABPS website at www.abps.org.uk

For further information contact Chris King, chris.king@postalhistory.net Tel: 020 8346 1366.

HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

The Handstamps reprinted on these pages first appeared in the "British Postmark Bulletin". For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35 – 50 Rathbone Place, London, WIT 1HQ

BOOK REVIEW

THEMATIC EXHIBITING by Wobbe Vegter. 2010

64 pages, softback. ISBN 978-0-620-46958-6



Dutch-born Wobbe Vegter, now living in South Africa, has been awarded Gold medals at various national and international philatelic exhibitions. Prompted to write by others keen to learn from his knowledge and experience, he explains that the genesis of the book was a series of articles in which he set out to unravel the mysteries of thematic exhibiting. I suggest they will remain a mystery if the novice plunges unprepared into the special regulations and the guidelines for the evaluation of thematic exhibits drawn up by the *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie* (FIP), helpfully set out as two separate appendices to Wobbe's book.

Collecting thematically may indeed be a case of collecting whatever you like that depicts your chosen theme. Wobbe equates this with playing a ball-game with your kids in the back garden. However, if you want to move on and compete in your chosen sport you need to know the rules and to abide by them. So it is with taking the step from thematic collecting to thematic exhibiting. The do's and the don'ts may well be set down in the FIP regulations and guidelines but they are not necessarily immediately clear to anyone wishing to take the step. He recalls his own struggles, many years ago, to get satisfying answers to, in some cases, some pretty basic questions. And so, after a short assessment of the reasons for wanting to exhibit and the pleasures it can bring, both to ourselves and to others, the book attempts to give the "satisfying answers" for which Wobbe himself felt such a need.

Using a number of helpful illustrations from his own collection – many, but by no means all relating to his chosen subject of computers – the author goes through the various elements that a judge looks for in a thematic exhibit and which will be assessed for the purposes of awarding points. Thus "Treatment" (total 35 points) and its sub-sections of title & plan (15 points), development (15) and innovation (5) are all examined in some depth. "Knowledge, Personal Study & Research" (30 points) follows, divided into thematic (15 points) and philatelic (15). What the judge will look for in "Condition and Rarity" (total 30 points) is also explained. After that, "Presentation" (5 points) receives due attention. Within this framework, the subject of what philatelic material can be used and, just as importantly, what shouldn't be used, is also discussed. It often appears that, for novice exhibitors at least, this subject can be the greatest challenge and can also provide the greatest pitfalls.

Altogether, a very welcome, informative and readable handbook, often with a touch of gentle humour, unravelling the mysteries of thematic exhibiting.

Norman Hudson

Contact:

Mr W.O. Vegter, 7 Ceres Close, La Rochelle, Bellville 7530, South Africa E-mail: <u>wvegter@xsinet.co.za</u>

Copies can be obtained by sending a €23.00 payment (including postage to the UK) by Paypal to the e-mail address. Full details see <u>http://wvegter.hivemind.net/abacus/Newbook.htm</u>

DVD REVIEW

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY ARCHIVE EDITION 1890 - 2009

Five archive DVDs plus bonus DVD packaged in A5 slipcase ISBN 0 85258 777 6 Compatible with Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 as well as Apple Mac with PC Emulator. Requires a DVD drive and 512MB RAM. £199.95

This archive is a massive undertaking: 120 years of articles comprising over 40,000 pages, indexed from cover to cover. The main features are:

Browse Archive

First click takes you to 10 year sections, second click to single year and third click to single issue. From here you have the index page for that issue. This is in Ariel font which is not very attractive or easy on the eye; it would have been a small job to clean this part up. From the index list you can go to a pdf of the article. The Demo disk sent to reviewers does not appear to contain any full article content, so I cannot comment on the quality of the scans.

Search Archive

This gives you a Search Box. Enter key word or words, and, if you want to, refine by Category (such as book reviews, features, editorials etc). Choose your item from the list presented and get the pdf. There is a helpfully detailed Advanced Search narrowing down and linking search criteria. You have the option to Save your search, so you can revisit the results quickly.

This Search Box is also on the article page of the Browse Archive. You can limit the search by volume number if needed.

Any article can be printed out, with no limitation on the number of times it is printed.

The Help file opens in a separate window and is arranged in a standard format with Contents, Index, Search. This is clear and comprehensive.

The discs also have an "About" section on Stanley Gibbons and Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

One irritation – which may only apply to the demo disc – is that the display does not fit neatly on the screen. It is narrow widthways but conversely is too long lengthways and you can't scroll down to see the full length. There seems no way of fixing this.

Any archive such as this stands or falls by its full text content. If you subscribe to GSM (or read someone else's copy) then you find it useful and interesting, and would enjoy such a huge resource, with all the space-saving advantages of discs. At just on £200 this seems at first glance an expensive product, but assuming 12 issues a year for 120 years this works out to about 14 pence per issue, hardly a lot to have such a comprehensive archive.

Wendy Buckle

If you want a visual preview go to YouTube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKvgKwDzkeE

WEBSITE REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE METER STAMP CATALOG

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog.

For those members who collect metermarks related to their theme, and even for those who do not, may I recommend this website which I came across on reading an issue of the British Philatelic Bulletin a few months ago.

The best description of what it is all about is contained on the homepage which says:

"Postage meters and meter stamps first appeared at the end of the 19th Century and came into general use worldwide starting in the 1920s. This catalog is an attempt to organize and categorize all the postage meter stamp designs and their major varieties that have ever been used in the world. The organization is by country and roughly in chronological order by stamp design within each country. It is based on *The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog*, written and published by Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh in 2005, and its 2008 Supplement.

A word of explanation: this is a postage STAMP catalog, NOT a postage METER catalog. The listings are organized by the appearance of the stamps rather than by the meter models printed."

I would explain further that it is the postage stamp element of a metermark that forms the basis of this catalog, and of which there are countless illustrations, and not the slogan/picture element, which will disappoint members if you are looking for a catalog of illustrated thematic metermarks. This is not to say that the latter are not there – they are, but not in abundance and you will have to look for them under a particular make of metermark. The site very usefully contains the basics of meter stamp collecting, a glossary of abbreviations and symbols, an identifier to enable you to find the country your metermark is from and details of meter manufacturers. There is a huge amount of material packed into this website and I would recommend it to all thematic collectors. Feedback would be greatly appreciated.

John Hayward





Just4Kids

by Lise Whittle (Adults, please photocopy these pages and pass them on to a youngster you know)



CHRISTMAS IS NEARLY HERE!

Will lots of Christmas cards and parcels be arriving at your house? I'm sure you have been busy collecting all the fabulous Wallace and Gromit Christmas stamps from the envelopes and wrappers. 3rd Alloway Brownies in Scotland made up a Christmas poem, and found stamps to go with it. Here is the poem they wrote – you could copy it out and see if you can find some of your own Christmas stamps to match each Christmas item mentioned in the poem;

3rd ALLOWAY BROWNIES CHRISTMAS POEM





CANADA



A is for ANGEL at the top of the tree B is for BAUBLE, round and shiny C is for CAROLS we all like to sing D is for DINNER - roast turkey and Christmas pudding E is for ENVELOPE with cards inside F is for FATHER CHRISTMAS – on his sleigh he will ride G is for GIFTS wrapped up - what's beneath? H is for HOLLY made into a wreath I is for ICICLE – cold, wet and see-through J is for JESUS – Happy Birthday to You! K is for 3 KINGS who travelled night and day L is for LANTERN lighting the way M is for MINCE PIES – what a delicious smell N is for NUTS – crack open the shell O is for ORANGES – mixed with champagne for Buck's Fizz P is for PANTOMIME – "Oh Yes It Is!" Q is for QUEEN'S SPEECH on TV at 3 R is for ROBIN – a Christmas birdy S is for SNOWMAN – cold, round and white T is for Christmas TREE – what a beautiful sight U is for getting UP for Christmas Day fun V is for the VIRGIN MARY – Jesus's Mum! W is for WEATHER, a wild, wet, windy nation X is for XMAS – a Christmas abbreviation Y is for YAWN – it's been a long Christmas Day Z is for ZZZZZZZ....night, night.....we're away.











You could use some of the new Wallace and Gromit stamps for the poem;



'C is for CAROLS we all like to sing....'

(Gromit raises an eyebrow as Wallace sings carols - out of tune, no doubt!)

'D is for DINNER – roast turkey and Christmas Pudding ... '

(Gromit staggers in under the weight of an enormous Christmas pudding)





'E is for ENVELOPE with cards inside...'

(Gromit posts his own stack of Christmas cards. Keen-eyed collectors armed with a magnifying glass will see the envelope being posted on Gromit's letter is the actual first-class stamp.)

'T is for Christmas TREE – what a beautiful sight.....'

(Wallace is looking a bit wobbly decorating the tree – but look closely to see who is at the top of the tree)



COMPETITION!

There is one stamp from the Wallace and Gromit Christmas stamp set not shown on this page – what is it? (you could ask at the Post Office or look online). Write your answer on a piece of paper with your name and address, and the winner will receive a Wallace and Gromit presentation pack.



CHRISTMAS JOKES!



What do you call Mrs Santa Clause? *Mary Christmas!* What do snowmen eat for lunch? *Icebergers!* What's furry and minty? *A polo bear!* What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? *Frostbite!* How does a snowman travel? *On an icicle!* What does Santa do with overweight elves? *He sends them to an elf farm!* What does

Santa suffer from when he gets stuck down the chimney? *Claustrophobia!* What carol is sung in the desert? *O Camel Ye Faithful!* What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"

To contact us, send in a letter, enter competitions or to get your free Young Stamp Collector's CD, send your name and address to; Just4Kids, c/o The Editor, Themescene, 87 Victoria Road, Bournemouth. BH1 4RS



Themescene Vol. 27 No.4 December 2010

LIBRARY LISTING

If you would like to receive a list of articles on your topic(s), send a stamped sae to the Librarian. To assist, he will quote the current postal rates when he sends the list.

If you are interested in borrowing any articles then give him a ring and he will advise how to proceed.

Members asking to borrow books and catalogues are not required to pay the cost of outward posting, only the return cost.

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