

THEMESCENE

March 2011

In this issue we:

Descend from a great height

Passion and Parachuting

With Barry Stagg



Demystify heraldic symbols

Coats of Arms, part 1

With Geoff Hood



Investigate a restaurant in Covent Garden

Benjamin Franklin Stevens

With Ian Paton

Join the iphone generation

iPosties

With John Matthias



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THEMESCENE

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Here we are with the March issue, a new year for *Themescene*, and, some would argue, a new decade. (If the Common Era started at year 1 that is. But we had that argument at the Millennium). It's definitely a new decade for me, as I took over the Editorship of the magazine in March 2001. Ten years on, what have I learnt? That contributors are endlessly helpful and patient, putting up with me only publishing their article some length of time after receiving it, not always getting the layout how they would like it, and – heinously – letting spelling mistakes and other typos creep in, despite my best efforts. I've also learnt that while I would never want to do this job without a PC, perhaps Word isn't the best option. So while this issue may look like all the others I have in fact taken a bold new step towards modern technology and purchased a desktop publishing programme. And a very faltering step it is too. I started by using it to rewrite part of my collection, which at least meant I learnt the basics with something simple. I then spent most of January using the collection as displacement activity: rather than tackle setting up *Themescene* I just fiddled with the collection. But here we are, I have finally got a workable template which ought to save me time in future. It certainly makes the movement of text and insertion of illustrations much quicker and tidier.

I have been doing this for a mere ten years. 2011 marks 22 years since Peter Greening took over as Editor of *Gabriel*, magazine of the Guild of St. Gabriel. He has finally stepped down and passed the reins on to Len Yandell (page 34). I'd like to wish Peter all the best in his retirement from the post (though not from the Guild). He was always immensely helpful to me, and was happy to send me copy if I was short of material. And good luck to Len, who I know will do a great job.

Whatever I do, though, it probably won't stop the occasional error, and here I must apologise for mistakes in the list of Group Members in the last issue. The correct list (I hope!) is published on page 35.

Please note the cancellation of Thematix 2011, which had been published in our programme. Full details on page 29. On a more positive note the Friends of Thematica competitions – the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy and the BTA Cup – will be held as part of Midpex on 2nd July. Midpex details are on page 28 and this magazine includes a loose-leaf application form to take part. So why not have a go? Fosbery is 16 sheets, no rules, and judged by popular vote. How can you go wrong? The BTA Cup is a bit more serious: 32 sheets judged to national standards, and if you want it to be (but only if you want it) a stepping-stone to exhibiting nationally). I can tell you from first-hand experience that you will get valuable feedback which is both positive and encouraging. Please note the closing date of 20th May for application forms.

I'm writing this at the beginning of February. Snow has gone, bulbs are shooting up, and crocuses in bloom (at least down here in the south). Spring is on its way and I for one can't wait. Let's hope we will all soon be enjoying some sunshine.

My thanks as usual to all the contributors, including some who are being published here for the first time. Keep those contributions coming!

Enjoy your collecting. ☺

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

John Hayward

The New Year is well and truly upon us by now and I hope you have all spent those parts of the winter when we were all snowbound beavering away on your collections. Ours is a great hobby especially when you are housebound and cannot get about outside. There is quite a lot to do in 2011 in the BTA programme in various parts of the UK. To start with there is our members' meeting in Sheffield at the ABPS Exhibition in May (details on page 28). This should be a fine show if all the previous national exhibitions run by ABPS are anything to go by. I will be sorry to miss it as it clashes with the European Championship of Thematic Philately in Essen which I am attending. The BTA is going to run a whole day Thematic Exhibiting Seminar, the first we have done for many years, in in June – full details on page 29. So, come on all you budding exhibitors, this is the event to attend.

Many years ago dear old Frank Pegley said to me that thematic collecting is not just a narrow discipline about pretty modern stamps, but that it embraces all aspects of philately from traditional stamp collecting, postal stationery, cinderellas, and postal history. I agreed with him, but you may ask where does postal history fit into thematic collecting? Well, to my mind it does in the collecting of covers and envelopes which have been through the post, in at least a couple of ways. Firstly, there are the numerous postal markings and cachets, some from before the advent of the postage stamp, which display something to do with the theme you collect. These can indicate a mode of transport, a mileage rate, illustrate heraldry or even have a nickname which relates to you theme. Secondly, the means by which the postal item was actually transported may fit in with the very theme that you collect. Just think: mail has been transported by horse, dog, pigeon, sea, train, lorry, car, motor-cycle, bicycle, airplane, airship, balloon, rocket and probably lots more, and covers conveyed by these means could add an extra and very appealing dimension to your collection if you collect anything connected with these forms of transport. I hope these thoughts will start some of you off on the thematic postal history trail. I know what the Editor is thinking whilst reading this – I will get him to write some articles for *Themescene* on this – yes ma'am, I'll start with the June 2011 edition!

The response to my request in *Themescene* December 2010 for spare thematic material to sell from the BTA table at various events has been somewhat disappointing so far. I feel sure many of you have got something of what we are looking for stashed away somewhere perhaps almost forgotten – it being of no use to you but perhaps one day you thought you may be able to find a home for it. Well, why not root it out and send it to me? We are looking for those three stamps from the set of four you had to buy to obtain the one stamp on your theme. In addition slogan cancels, metermarks, covers, postal stationery, postcards will all come in handy for the BTA to sell. Please send them to me at my Camberley address (see page 2. Meanwhile, many thanks to those members who have donated material already. Enjoy your collecting. ☺

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Richard Wheeler

Another year, another day. I can hardly believe that we are back in January again as I write this epistle. What has been a little different is the amount of snow that we have experienced here in North Devon. Whenever I enter an exhibition I have to take my entry to London to hand it in. This involves an hours drive from my home in Braunton to Tiverton Parkway to catch the London train which takes two and a half hours and then catch a bus to the Royal. After the hand in, it's the journey back again. I can hear some of you saying, 'mail it'. To be quite honest I have heard of a couple of occasions when exhibits have gone awry with no trace, even using a tracker. I have considered other carriers, but for peace of mind after the expense of putting it together and the countless hours involved I don't want sleepless nights. Obviously it is fully insured but I would be devastated if it went adrift. However to hand in the exhibit to go to Jerusalem, the road from Braunton to Tiverton was closed. I had to get up an hour and a half earlier and catch a local train from Barnstaple to Exeter for a connection to the London train. By the time I had returned home again twelve hours had passed. The only plus for the day was the marvellous picture postcard scenery of the snow-clad county. The result from Jerusalem was good with a most unusual medal showing a compact arrangement of buildings in Jerusalem. I was also delighted to win a special prize in the form of a heavy glass plate with a most intricate pattern - rather like a stained glass window.

Although I am having a run of exhibiting, it is only a small part of collecting thematics. The main interest lies in our subjects and what you can find in related material. I was particularly pleased to read the December issue of *Themescene* which was packed full of interest. Both Jeff Dugdale and Neil Pearce are checklists of subjects. Likewise I enjoyed the articles from Jim Gray and Keith Lloyd, Ron Backhouse reporting on the Portugal exhibition and definitely something new from Brian Sole. I had never heard of the Cycle Couriers.

Please note about spare thematic material required for sale from the BTA table at various events and any contribution of other spare stamps to send to KIDSTAMPS.

There is so much of interest for thematic collectors in this magazine that items could be overlooked. For those visiting the ABPS Exhibition at Sheffield, the BTA will have a presence with a Members Meeting on Saturday 7th at 10.30 (see page 28). **FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA PLEASE GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT.** It is very disheartening for your Committee to receive comments that we only hold events in London. I have not forgotten the recent visit to Portishead, Bristol where John and I made journeys for a presentation in the autumn and no-one turned up. We shall also be at Midpex and Swinpex in the summer. The latter will be for our AGM and a presentation by Wendy Buckle. Last year's attendance was very poor and perhaps gives an indication that everyone is very happy with what we are endeavouring to do.

John is lining up a seminar in London at the Royal Philatelic Society and details are on page

Keep looking at our website at least once a week to ensure you keep up with what is going on.

May you have a successful and interesting year with our hobby. ☺

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	207
Family members	20
Junior members	1
Society members	15
Overseas members	22
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	4

Total number of members 270
(At 1st February 2011)

New Members joining since the December 2010 issue

Dr. B. Callan	Glanmire, Cork	Dr. J.R. Cohen	Barnet
Mr. & Mrs. M. Ellam	Derriford, Plymouth	Mr. T. King	Willingham, Lincoln
Mr. R. Owen	Lychpit, Basingstoke		

Deaths advised since the December 2010 issue None

Many thanks go to the 50% of Members who have paid their subscription already for the coming year. So despite the snow and general freezing conditions the mail has arrived thanks to our post lady who abandoned her bike and slogged it on foot. Please keep in mind our soaring post bill and if re-joining kindly return your subscription plus the reminder which you will find enclosed with this issue of *Themescene*.

For those Members who have made a comment on their subscription renewal form that they would like to see greater contact within the Association, may I remind you that one of the benefits of *Themescene* is 'Letters to the Editor' to spark comment and debate and a means of airing some knotty philatelic problem. A note or email to the Membership Secretary would generally allow a member to be put in touch with a collector sharing a common interest. In addition if you have a computer, the BTA web site is constantly being developed and improved and contains a wealth of information of help to collectors.

This summer whilst exploring Estonia, we spent some time in Tartu and during a heavy rain shower took shelter in what turned out to be the Postal Museum. Should you stray that way it is well worth a visit, and even has a web site from which I quote:

"This building at Rütli 15 served as a post office for more than 200 years. Now it is home to both the Sports Museum and the Post Museum. The latter includes recreated post offices from Soviet era and Estonia's first period of independence, old teletype machines, and more stamps than you could ever lick. Send a postcard from here and it gets a special postmark, unique to the museum."

Fortunately the rain persisted long enough for us to enjoy a conducted tour and for me to enhance my collection with some modest purchases.

I would also remind members, that when making changes to either your postal or email address please be sure to inform the Membership Secretary. ☐

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

May I first of all wish you a very Happy New Year and hope that 2011 is a successful year for you.

An exciting programme of events is planned for this year. Of particular importance is the workshop on thematic exhibiting that will take place on 18th June 2011 at the Royal Philatelic Society London (see page 29). The workshop is designed for those wishing to enter national competitions for the first time and complements the residential workshop being organised by the ABPS. I believe that it is important that the BTA does concentrate on providing information and advice about thematic exhibiting. It is, with the plethora of rules and principles, a very difficult field to understand and conquer, something I have been reminded of all too frequently over the last few years.

The BTA of course is a society for all thematic philatelists, whatever their outlook or ambition. Much of the work that the BTA does and the events which we organise focuses on the collecting side of the discipline. Thematic exhibiting, particularly because of the complex rules and requirements, is far from universally popular and indeed is despised by some. The BTA has always been conscious of this and has strived to ensure that people do not think of the Association as being purely for exhibitors. Indeed I still encounter philatelists who are not members who believe you have to be an exhibitor to be a member of the BTA! This is of course nonsense, but it is important that the BTA does work to disseminate information and inform on the complex subject of exhibiting, alongside its other work. I myself have found the advice I have received in this regard through the BTA to be invaluable.

I recently gave a presentation to a local society on how to collect thematically. During the course of the evening, it became clear that a very large number of people were very interested in thematic philately but felt that to progress to it from other philatelic disciplines, such as postal history or traditional, was to discard all the philatelic information and knowledge that they had accrued. Not so. The point of having material in a thematic collection is to illustrate the point in the thematic story that is being told, rather than for the intrinsic importance of the item to a philatelic story. Notwithstanding this, the rarity or importance of an item can still be highlighted through write-up.

This distinction regarding the purpose of the material is vital, particularly where collectors have a whole series of, for example, covers issued by an administration, each subtly different but of a broad common design. Here, one only needs to include a singular example because the item is there to support a thematic story, not a philatelic story. The fact that a subsequent issue was on a different coloured paper or printed by a different printing process, while interesting from a philatelic point of view, is of no relevance to the thematic story and should not be included alongside.

The presentation that evening, like other occasions, demonstrated to me that while many have some understanding of thematic philately and its merits, there remains a long way to go. The BTA continues to work hard to disseminate information and inform, and the web site is already an excellent resource for information, which will only improve over time.

Please do support the BTA in the weeks and months ahead. ☐*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The views expressed in these letters may not necessarily be those of the Editorial Board.

OVERSIZE PAGES

From Barry Stagg, *by email*

Over the past few years I have seen an increasing number of exhibits using 1½rd width sheets. I must admit it does give the exhibitor a bit more freedom in the design of the sheet and I think a 3x4 layout on a frame looks more pleasing to the eye. Having read Richard's comments in the Chairman's Page in the December edition of *Themescene* I was thinking about how you can print on these larger sized sheets. Most printers only do A4 and a bit bigger. I doubt if stick-on labels would be satisfactory in a National or International competition so is the only solution to writing up these larger sheets to buy an A3 printer? Or have I missed something?



PHILATELY IN FICTION

From John Matthias, *by email*

In the most recent *Themescene* you asked for examples of philately in fiction.

Science fiction writer Clifford D. Simak was also a stamp collector. One of his short stories called 'Leg. Forst.' concerned an intergalactic philatelist who received a mysterious parcel from an alien fellow-collector. The parcel contained a self-replicating goop that put things in order - useful in offices and especially for stamp collectors with a large accumulation of material. (It had other properties too, that were less welcome.)

Leg. Forst. was a bit of an odd title and I can't remember why it was called that. It appeared in an anthology called *So Bright the Vision* that was published in 1968. Regrettably, like many of the sci-fi books I acquired as a teenager, I don't know where my copy has gone. The factoids in this email, like the publishing date, are gleaned from Wikipedia.

I remember the story being quite funny, and actually capturing the feeling of having a lot of philatelic material that really needs to be sorted out. There were also a few fantastical ideas of what stamps in the future could be like, many of which we are probably seeing now with holograms, lenticular stamps and other innovations.

Thanks for another great issue of *Themescene*.

From John Hayward, *by email*

In case no one responds to Geoff Hood's 'Fictional Collecting' letter, there is at least one novel devoted to a stamp - *Solomon's Seal* by Hammond Innes. It is all about a rare stamp from the 19th century from the Solomon Islands.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The views expressed in these letters may not necessarily be those of the Editorial Board.

LITERATURE ON STAMPS

From Richard Wheeler, *by email*

I was re-reading Theme of Literature on British Stamps last night which I enjoyed very much. I did spot the deliberate mistake of an inverted Peter Rabbit and claim the prize!!!

However re. issues for Will Shakespeare, there was this air mail envelope for the 1964 festival. The bottom right picture is The Tempest showing Prospero, Miranda and Caliban.

I have a connection with this issue as my company The Dudley Telepuppets performed this play for two weeks at Stratford upon Avon for the Festival. To the best of my knowledge we were the only company playing it professionally in Stratford that year.



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PASSION AND PARACHUTING

Barry Stagg shares his own passion

Introduction

As some of you know my main thematic collection is on the topic of parachutes. And like most thematic collectors I get a real thrill from researching a story, from finding out the facts behind the events. Many philatelic items on parachuting tell a story of great passion: of love, of obsession, of great enthusiasm. I've selected a few examples of passion linked to parachuting from my collection; some are about great visionaries, some about living for the moment, some are happy stories and others rather sad. I hope you enjoy reading about them as I've enjoyed re-living and telling their stories.

Billy Mitchell



Considered by many as the father of the American air force and military parachuting, Brigadier General Billy Mitchell was a passionate advocate of air power. A pilot in WW1 and a great aviation visionary he predicted, in the 1920s, the rise of air power and the vulnerability of battleships to air attack; a possibility dismissed at the time by the authorities. In 1919 he recommended that infantrymen should be trained to jump from aircraft and to land behind the enemy thereby cutting off supplies and reinforcements but the idea was dismissed by the American military. He was court martialled for insubordination and retired and died in 1936 before his ideas

and dreams became reality at Pearl Harbour, Crete or Normandy.

Smaranda Braescu



If there was a claim to be the Mother of parachuting then Smaranda Braescu would have a good claim to the title. Born in 1897 she became an aviation and parachuting pioneer, setting many flying 'firsts' for Romania. In 1928 she parachuted for the first time from 2,000ft, becoming the first female Romanian parachutist. In 1931 she became the European champion, and in 1932 in Sacramento, California, she established a world record by jumping from 24,000 ft (the Air Letter gives you a good idea of the equipment she used) and instantly

became a Romanian hero. In the 1930s she worked as a test jumper for the Irvin parachute company. During World War II when the Soviets invaded her country she flew injured men from the front line to hospitals and when the Germans came she fought them as well. She is thought to have died in hiding from the Soviets in 1948. When the Berlin wall came down

Allies' lines and, despite being low on ammunition, men and supplies they refused to surrender and held on for five days until General Patton's relief force arrived.

Archibald McIndoe

Archibald was born in May 1900 in New Zealand. He qualified as a doctor and after a few years he moved to London. In 1938 he was appointed as consultant in plastic surgery to the Royal Air Force. McIndoe was considered not only a brilliant surgeon but very forward thinking: he recognised the importance of getting burns victims back to 'normal' life as soon as possible. His discovery that immersion in saline promoted healing as well as improving survival rates for victims with extensive burns - a fortunate discovery drawn from observation of differential healing rates in pilots who had parachuted on to land and in the sea - changed



the course of treatment for burn victims. Many men and women owe their lives to his brilliance, dedication, and almost obsession in making their lives liveable again. His image appears on this 1995 booklet commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Haviva Reick (Reik)



In 1948 as the British were leaving Palestine and the Israeli government was being formed there was an 'Interim Period' in Israel that took place from 2nd May until the 22nd May. The transition government used whatever materials they could find to provide a postal identity and one of the earliest stamps used during this period was a set of seven that depicted Jewish parachutists who worked for the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II. These seven, including Haviva Reik, were national

heroes and captured the heart and mood of the new nation. In 1944 Haviva parachuted into Slovakia where she helped to provide food, shelter and an escape route for refugees, escaping POWs and downed airmen. Towards the end of 1944 she was caught and executed by the Germans. Her sacrifice and those of her colleagues were commemorated on these first stamps issued by the new state of Israel. These stamps were printed in sheets of 35 (5x7) and come in three main varieties: black, olive or blue. They also come with either the Tel Aviv or Haifa overprints or with no overprints at all.



Ira Hayes

The American 3c stamp, issued in July 1945, was based upon the famous photograph of six men raising the American flag on Iwo Jima in February 1945. Such was the public demand for a commemorative stamp showing this image that the American postal authorities over-ruled the convention of not having living people depicted on stamps; subsequently over 137m stamps were sold! One of those men was Ira Hayes, a para-marine, shown on the far left of the stamp. Ira lived through that terrible battle and after the

photograph was published he was sent back to America to help with the war funding effort. It is now thought that Ira suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and was overwhelmed by 'survivor's guilt'. Drinking heavily he died at the age of 32 in 1955. A truly sad ending for a brave young man.

Ariel Envelope

In 1971 DB Cooper hijacked a Boeing 727 aircraft. He exorted \$200,000 in ransom, and parachuted to safety taking the ransom with him. To date this is the only unsolved American aircraft hijacking. Ariel in Washington State is the nearest town to where the FBI believes DB Cooper landed. Despite a huge manhunt he was never found and, much to the annoyance of the FBI, he and most of the money just vanished. In perhaps a show of defiance to authority every year the town of Ariel holds a DB Cooper Day, celebrating a brave if not crazy act by a man who remains a total mystery.



Valentine's Day



No article on passion would be complete without a reference to love. And what better time than Valentine's Day? Traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending poems or flowers. St. Valentine's Day can be traced back to 3rd century Rome. A number of theories exist on why the day is celebrated (Valentine being executed by defying Claudius and marrying men and women being my favourite) but most agree that Valentine died on 14 February; hence the date. Not sure of the parachuting connection but this 1937 postcard does make a nice picture!

Dolly Shepherd

Many women can claim to be the mother of modern parachuting but there is only one claim to be the Grandmother of British parachuting and that's Dolly Shepherd. Born in 1887 she was by trade a milliner but at weekends and bank holidays she was a famous parachutist and fairground entertainer in the Edwardian and Georgian eras, renowned for her exceptional courage. When she was 16 she got a part-time job at Alexandra Palace so that she could hear John Philip Sousa's band (as she could not afford the ticket price). One day she was serving a customer who turned out to be the great showground entertainer, Gaudron. He offered her

a job as a parachutist in his aerial workshop and she agreed immediately. In those days parachutists hung on to a trapeze attached to a hot air or gas balloon and at the right height (around 3,000ft) pulled the release pin to descend to earth – as shown on the postcard.



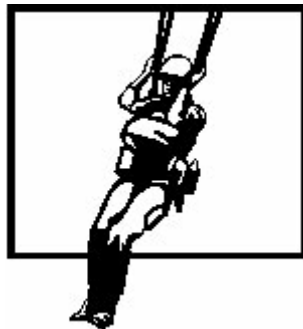
There were frequent malfunctions of the release pin, parachute and balloon and Dolly had her fair share of problems. This included a mid-air rescue of another female parachutist which made Dolly a national hero. Dolly was an enthusiastic parachutist. At weekends during the season she would either go to Alexandra Palace or travel to show grounds and fairs around the country such as Wolverhampton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch or the Pickering Gala. The life expectancy of parachute entertainers was not high, with many not seeing the end of their first season! Dolly was much loved by the crowds and had a huge following. She risked her life every weekend to entertain the crowds and she lasted eight seasons before suddenly retiring. She truly earned her title of 'Queen of the Air' and in my view Grandmother of British parachuting.



Conclusion

What I have tried to do is to show you some of the links between parachuting and the passions that have happened around them. And these words are just a summary of their stories. A search on the internet will find many articles on each of the above and if I've interested you enough perhaps you, like me, will spend hours reading about their exploits, their bravery and their passion.

May I take this opportunity to thank Christine Earle and Brian Sole for all their advice over the years and the encouragement to write this article. ☰



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RECENT ISSUES FROM VANUATU

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Smile! You're in Vanuatu. In 2010 Lonely Planet publications named Vanuatu as one of the world's ten happiest places. A set of stamps was issued in December to celebrate this, featuring ten smiling faces and different aspects of life there.



In August 2010 Singapore hosted the first Youth Olympic Games. Its vision is to inspire people aged between 14 and 18 to participate in sport and adopt the Olympic values. Focusing on sport, education and culture the vision also emphasises and encourages young people to play an active role in their communities. Vanuatu sent competitors in football and basketball.



January 2011 saw an issue on Turtles of Vanuatu, commemorating two species native to the islands but under increasing threat of extinction. Both the Hawksbill and Green turtle are being managed by protection programmes in the islands.



COATS OF ARMS - MORE THAN A PRETTY PICTURE

Part 1: the origins of coats of arms and the language of heraldry. By Geoff Hood

Introduction

Coats of Arms were introduced in the 12th century to identify knights wearing armour. Their usage, now extended to organisations as well as individuals, has continued to the present day. They can be very attractive in appearance, but more than that they are also informative, being used to show the circumstances, background, achievements, status and even aspirations of the bearer. Hence the title - "Coats of Arms - More Than A Pretty Picture"

Symbols

Since time immemorial symbols have been used to denote ideas, and to express group identity - national, political, social and religious. Amongst national symbols are the Roman Legionary Standard (GB 888), the Lion of Judah (Persia 337), Nicaragua's Cap of Liberty (on early postal stationery cards, Higgins & Gage 8-11) and Mexico's Eagle and Child (on 19th century newspaper wrappers H & G 1-35) recalling the foundation of the country.

Religious symbols are well known: the cross and the chi-rho of Christianity, the crescent moon of Islam; the yin and yang of Taoism and the Star of David (Israel 38).

Social and philosophical symbols include the Caduceus for harmony (1949 Crown Colonies UPU series, second value); the swastika for well-being, long before its adoption by the Nazis (Sri Lanka 1249); and the Japanese Chrysanthemum Mon (on many of their 19th century stamps and stationery cards).

However, symbols such as these lack the essential hereditary and formal characteristics of heraldry.

Emergence of Heraldry



As Armour came into use in the Middle Ages, it was natural that it should be decorated. The Bayeux Tapestry shows designs on shields in use at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 (GB 712 and France 1722). However, there is no indication they were used consistently.

In the 12th century the Duke of Normandy, who became King Henry I of England, had a shield with two lions (Jersey 425). His granting to his son-in-law, Geoffrey of Anjou, in 1127 of Arms which also bore lions (France 1638) was the first sign of the essential hereditary element of heraldry. Armour came increasingly into use (Malta 573) and it became more and more difficult to distinguish between armoured warriors in war and tournament. As a result, Coats of Arms were in fairly common use by the 13th Century. Each knight adopted a unique design so that it was possible to identify him. A successful knight handed the design down to his heir. Thus, for example, the Dukedom of Normandy has passed down to Queen Elizabeth II. Sark (Guernsey 16) and the French Department of Normandie (France 817) which were part of Henry I's domain still use his arms.



Originally heraldic designs were placed on shields and then banners. They were also displayed on cloth intended to cover armour such as tabards (Monaco 895) and horses' caparisons (GB 960 and Austria 1813). Hence the term *COAT OF ARMS*.

Formalization of Heraldry



As Coats of Arms became more widely adopted their use was formalized to preserve their unique status. In 1484, King Richard III founded the College of Arms (GB 1984 'By Design' Booklet). The College still has legal responsibility over the use of Coats of Arms in England, Wales Northern Ireland. Grants of Arms stem from the Sovereign, to whom the College, headed by the Earl Marshal of England (GB 1238), is directly responsible. The Earl Marshal has a staff comprising Kings of Arms (Falkland Islands 1977 booklet SB 1) and Heralds (St. Lucia 471), all of whom are Officers of the Royal Household. Arms may

legitimately be borne in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Dependent Territories only after issues of a formal Grant of Arms such as that to the diocese of the Windward Islands (St. Vincent 527).

The College of Arms has no jurisdiction in Scotland, (*even though Scottish stamps are included in a pane of the 1984 GB College of Arms booklet!*). North of the Border, the corresponding function is carried out by Lord Lyon King of Arms (GB 1363).

Spread of Heraldry

From the Middle Ages onwards, the use of Coats of Arms spread ever more widely. As well as their use by individuals, Arms were gradually adopted as an expression of corporate identity



(Belgium 2493).
 Official Bodies and Com-



Some localities took over arms borne by local knights; a *cinquefoil* and a *chevron* borne respectively by the 13th Century Earls of Leicester and of Stafford are still used by these Cities (including perfins on stamps for official use). Others adopted a variety of designs often alluding to their situation or origin, such as the representation of an island on Tenerife's arms (Spain 1702) or their name, for example three horns on the arms of the Principality of Hornes Arms were also increasingly adopted by Offi-

panies. That of Commercial Union Assurance (GB back cover of booklet X2) includes symbols of their fire and naval classes of business. As the use of arms spread and owners were justifiably proud of their rights to bear them, opportunities were seized to display them in many different ways: on windows (Luxembourg 1256-8), on flags (Cayman Island 380), on seals (Austria 1577) and on military insignia (France 1966 Red Cross booklet cover). They were also borne by servants to identify their allegiance, for example by Swiss (1974 Internaba miniature sheet) and Austrian (SG ? S3.50+80g) letter carriers.

Achievement of Arms



As the granting of arms became formalised, so did the detail of the way arms are displayed. The main design on the *shield* may be supplemented by other features to give a full display, known as *An Achievement of Arms* (Belgium 1980 Official packet containing postal stationery cards). That can include supporters and a motto and may be surmounted by a helmet and a crest. Each feature of the *Achievement* plays a part in expressing the significance of the arms.

With one exception, the shape of the shield has no heraldic significance, differences being purely for artistic effect. The one shape of heraldic significance is the '*Lozenge*' used by unmarried women. Supporters which flank the shield are used by those of high rank or civic status. They may be animals, human (Fiji 407) or occasionally inanimate objects (Canada 1806a). The Swiss Cantons are unusual in that each has only one supporter (Switzerland 536). The Helmet harks back of course to the knightly origins of heraldry, often embellished with a representation of some other object in the form of a Crest, such as a portcullis (Australia 350) or a warrior (Hungary year 1997 27fl stamp).



The Art does not have to be too serious. The kangaroo and emu supporting Australia's arms can be seen carrying the shield on a stretcher (1121b and booklet SB61). But too much licence leads to heraldic 'howlers'. The field of Alderney's arms should be green and not yellow (as shown on Guernsey SG20). Zurich's

Arms are depicted twice (on Switzerland 527): one is reversed and therefore incorrect.

Clearly Heraldry can be very attractive and artistic, but as we are beginning to see, a Coat of Arms is "Not Just a Pretty Picture"

THE LANGUAGE OF HERALDRY

The widespread use of Coats of Arms led to the need for a common way of describing them in order to ensure conformity to the Heraldic 'rules' with no duplication. As a result, an Heraldic Language evolved. Many of the terms used to describe colouring and design are French which was the common language of the medieval European aristocracy.

Tinctures



Only a few colours, known heraldically as *Tinctures*, are employed: they are of four types - *colours*, *stains*, *furs* and *metals*. The main *colours* are *azure* (blue), *gules* (red), *vert* (green) and *sable* (black), with *purpur* (Purple) being used rarely. So-called *stains* are *tenné* (orange) and *murray* (reddish purple). The *furs* are *ermine* which represents ermine tails and *vair* representing animal skins, whilst the *metals* are *argent* (silver or white) and *or* (gold or yellow).

When large scale colour reproduction was impracticable, a system of shading, known as *Hatching*, was developed to allow different tinctures to be represented in monochrome. Red is shown as vertical lines, blue as horizontal lines, green as diagonal lines, gold as dots and black as both horizontal and vertical lines, whilst silver is left blank. Similarly Heligoland's arms (coloured on SG12) appear hatched on a newspaper wrapper - interesting as it carries (as far as the author is aware) a unique three-farthings stamp.

The Field



The background to the shield or *field* may be plain or divided into several parts, known as partitions. A field divided into two vertically is said to be '*parti per pale*' (Spain 1965); horizontally '*parti per fess*'; and diagonally '*parti per bend*' (Austria 2302). A field divided into three partitions may be '*tierced in pale*' (Egypt 679) or '*tierced in fess*' (Hungary 1513). With four partitions, we have '*parti quarterly*' (Andorra booklet) or '*parti per saltire*' in the case of Lorenzo Marques (Mozambique 515). Many smaller divisions make for very striking arms, such as those of Monaco (appearing on many of their stamps and particularly effectively on a 25frs booklet).

Lines between parts of the shield are mostly straight, but may take other forms which have special heraldic terms, such as *indented*, with pointed teeth (Bahrain 169) and *undy* or wavy (French Zone of Germany F1)

Ordinaries

Some simple designs on arms are known as '*Ordinaries*', such as a diagonal stripe called a *bend* (France 973), a vertical stripe or *pale* (Malagasy Republic 71) and an horizontal stripe or *fess* (Malta 1039). Others are a diagonal cross or *saltire* (Jamaica 362), a border or *bordure* (Colombia 1080), a diamond or *lozenge* (Angola 596), a disk or *roundel* (Gabon 1083) and a small rectangle or *billet* (France 1125).

Charges

Apart from these and a few other simple shapes, other designs on the field are called '*Charges*'. Of these there is an infinite variety. Here we look at some of those most frequently seen.

A very common and ancient charge, a Lion, - no doubt reflecting strength and courage on the bearer - is depicted in various attitudes, each with heraldic nomenclature. A lion standing on its hind legs (Czech Republic SG1 and the corresponding booklet) is *rampant*; if walking and also looking at the viewer *passant guardant* (*Guernsey SG1*). It may have two tails, *double-queued* (East Germany E2569) or have a forked tail *queue forché* (Germany French Zone F2).

Also very common is a cross, which may be seen in very many different forms: the simple *passion* cross (Jersey 146), the *patriarchal* cross with two arms (Czechoslovakia 1956), and the cross *flory* with decorated ends (Spain 1692). Interestingly for a philatelist the well-known postmark is not truly a Maltese Cross, but a cross *patty*: the heraldic Maltese Cross (Malta 362) has pointed ends.

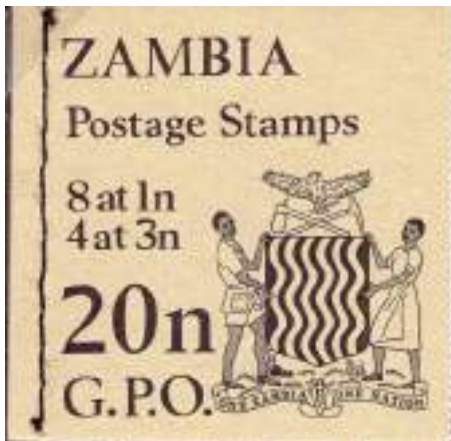


As well as the cross, a number of other religious symbols are often used. The *Agnus Dei*, representing Christ the Lamb of God appears on Sweden 1155, and the *Skutum Fidei*, the symbol of the Trinity, is shown on Jersey 138 and an accompanying 50p booklet. Andorra's arms (F389) include

a *mitre* alluding to the Bishop of Barcelona as co-ruler of the principality.



Mythical beasts also abound, for example, a *Griffin* (Liechtenstein 1965), a *Wyvern* (Gabon 1054), a *Triton* (Bermuda 458) and a *Yale* (Barbuda 377). Like the lion they too may be thought to represent the powers of the bearer of the arms. More realistic animals also appear: springboks supporting the arms of South Africa (SG569), a leopard (Nyasaland 157), and an eagle (Austria 1376), described heraldically as 'perched with wings displayed'.



Humans are frequently depicted as supporters (Zambia 721), but less often as a charge on the shield (East Germany E2573 and Latvia 1995 miniature sheet). A very rare example of a skeleton appears on a GB 1970 slogan postmark.

The range of other charges is virtually limitless. The sun is usually depicted with a face, described as '*in his glory*' (Switzerland J271). As already described, only a limited number of colours are used in heraldry. However, occasionally an object such as a tree may be shown in natural colours (Malagasy 175), when it is described as '*proper*'. A further selection of charges may be seen on the cover of a Liechtenstein 1.10frs booklet of stamped postcards.

Blazoning

A complete description of a Coat of Arms using these terms is called a *BLAZON*. The *field* and any *partitions* are given first, followed by *ordinaries* and then *charges*. A series of Portuguese booklets illustrating the arms of different localities includes their respective blazons. ☐

To be continued in the June 2011 issue

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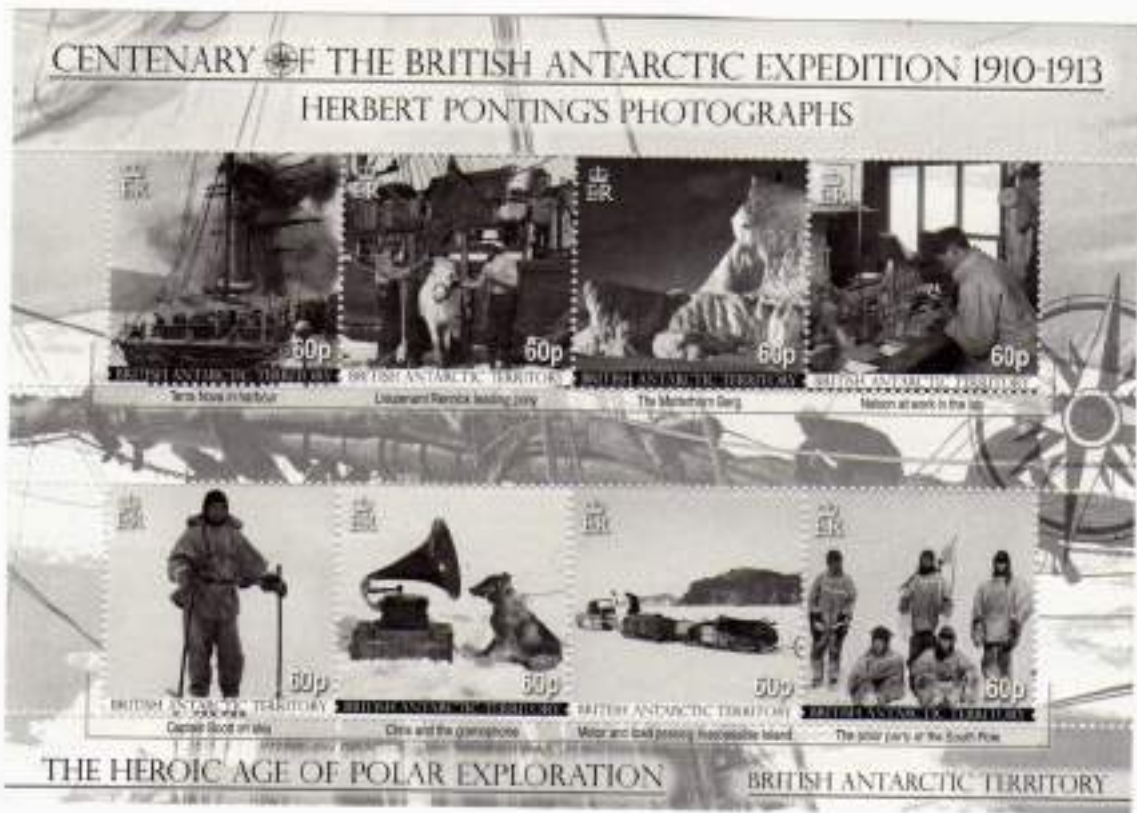
NEW ISSUES

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NEW ISSUES FROM THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STEVENS

Ian Paton does some in-depth research on the philatelic link between a distinguished 19th century American and the restaurant at 17 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London

The 1870 cover illustrated below (Type 2, USS Plymouth) introduced me to Benjamin Franklin Stevens (BFS) in 1979 when I was in the early days of forming my thematic collection to illustrate the History of the USA. Other than the fact that the auction lot description recorded that he was the US Government Despatch Agent in London I did not know anything about him. I bought it because in addition to his handstamp I found the postal markings and address very interesting. I realised the cover was posted in Ripley, Ohio to Lt. Newphill on the *USS Plymouth*, care of BFS at 17 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, and it had a red London receiving mark.

In 1986 I added a second cover dated 5th March 1885 (Type 3, USS Lancaster, see below) because it had been posted in France at the Gare de Nice, addressed to Dr. Griffith USN on the *USS Lancaster* c/o BFS at 4 Trafalgar Square. In 1988 I moved to Cambridge and in the University Library I consulted the eight volume *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships* and so learnt about the detailed movements of the *USS Plymouth* and *USS Lancaster* and their locations in 1870 and 1885. This showed me the important link to American history provided by these covers which illustrated how the US naval squadrons were stationed abroad in defence of their international trade.

Around 1990 with the help of the *American Philatelic Research Library*, I found out about the book *The Postal History of the Forwarding Agents* by Kenneth Rowe. Once I had bought a copy I discovered that there were four types of the BFS Handstamp. This book, and several magazine articles I had read, stated that BFS, the US Despatch Agent, operated out of the American Embassy [Legation prior to 1893] at 17 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. As a Londoner I thought it unlikely that any Embassy would be located near the fruit and vegetable market so I started my research.

My letters to both the Embassy in London and the State Department in Washington received the response that they did not have a list of the 19th century addresses in London, so I spent a day at the University Library looking through the 50 volumes of *Kelly's Annual London Street Directory* covering 1860 to 1912. The Embassy Location section gave the address of the American Legation as Portland Place between 1858 and 1866; it moved to Upper Portland Place, then Arlington Street. From 1870 it had several addresses in Victoria Street, until 1893 when it became an Embassy without a change of address. It was still in Victoria Street in 1912.

Using the business sections I also found that BFS had an office from which he ran an antiquarian book selling business at 17 Henrietta Street, and the office of the US Government Despatch Agent was shown at the same address. Kelly's Directory for 1873-74 showed that both BFS and the Despatch Agent moved to 4 Trafalgar Square. I extended my research to look up BFS in *Who Was Who in America* and *Dictionary of American Biography* [replaced in 1999 by *American National Biography*] so I started to learn about the man himself. These studies led me to a 1902 privately published biography of BFS which was in the University Library, and then I had all the material I needed to write about him, as well as making my contribution to American postal history by showing that the US Despatch Agent in London did not work out of the US Embassy.

My article was published in the May 1994 edition of the *American Philatelist* and this led to the completion of the final link in the philatelic chain ending with Porters Restaurant. An American philatelist who had read my article wrote to me saying that he came to London

on business and enjoyed lunch at Porters Restaurant at 17 Henrietta Street; now he would raise his glass to BFS whenever he went there. Needless to say I rushed off to have lunch at Porters Restaurant several times; but there has now been a gap of over five years and it is the prospect of eating there again soon which has provoked this article.

For the record I will give a few facts about the very distinguished Benjamin Franklin Stevens (1833 - 1902), who was born in Barnet, Vermont and moved to London in 1860 to join his elder brother's antiquarian bookselling business.

In 1864 he set up on his own and in 1866 was appointed, by US Secretary of State W. H. Seward, to be the U.S. Government Despatch Agent (Forwarder) in London. He retained this appointment until his death in 1902. In 1865 he married Charlotte Wittingham (d. 1903) daughter of Charles Wittingham who owned the Chiswick Press, of which BFS was a Director from 1870 to 1877.

His function was to act as the London Agent forwarding mail to and from American diplomats and Service Personnel in Europe; and he also organised accommodation for important US visitors to London. He was known to the 'great and the good' including famous Americans like George Peabody, General W. T. Sherman, and James Russell Lowell, as well as all the US Ambassadors between 1866 and 1902. In 1895 The American Society in London was formed with Stevens as its President. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Fellow of the Society of Arts.

Due to his travels as an antiquarian bookseller he became known in the capitals of Europe and he undertook research into documents held in Europe which related to the founding of the USA in 1789. He employed other researchers at his own expense to locate more documents and the results were published by the Chiswick Press in 25 volumes between 1889 and 1898. In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian War, he was sent by the US Ambassador to the Paris Embassy carrying secret documents.

When he died in 1902 his obituary was published in the *London Times* on 10th March. I had become fascinated by BFS as well as covers with the four different handstamps, and the different addresses on them. Though I have looked at more than fifty covers I restrict myself here to seven including two Type I handstamps which are very scarce. I will give the details of all seven covers in Type sequence.

Type 1. (1866-1868) Red handstamp worded AGENCY not AGENT. BFS at 17 Henrietta Street.

Cover dated 17.JUN.1867. From US Consulate in Bristol to Monsieur Leon V. Schisaw, French Vice-Consul, Norfolk, Virginia. Absence of other markings means BFS forwarded this to the USA in the Diplomatic Bag.

Cover dated 12..AUG.1867 To Col. Alexander B Crane, Mitchells & Crane, Broadway, New York City. Absence of any other markings means that it was both delivered to BFS in a Diplomatic Bag and forwarded to the USA by the same means.



Type 2. (1868-1878) Red handstamp AGENT + STARS BFS at 4 Trafalgar Sq.
 Cover dated 24.OCT.1870. From Ripley, Ohio. To Lt. J.N. Newphil USN, US Steam Ship Plymouth. Red New York transit mark. Plymouth was flagship of the European Squadron, so forwarded by Diplomatic bag to Villefranche, France.



Type 3. (1879-1896) Purple Handstamp AGENT NO STARS- DOUBLE OUTER OVAL BFS at 4 Trafalgar Sq.

Cover dated 01.NOV.1881 From Washington DC to Paymaster P.J. Barton USS Nipsic.

Forwarded to Villefranche Sur Mer, France, by applying purple handstamp.

Cover dated 05 1885 From Gare de Nice, France, postmark on French stamp. To USS Lancaster which had been Flagship of the European Squadron 1881-1885 and was now en route for Brazil. Forwarded in Diplomatic Bag by another ship to South America or the USA.



Type 4. (1896-1901) Purple Handstamp AGENT NO STARS SINGLE OUTER OVAL BFS at 4 Trafalgar Sq.

Cover dated 03.AUG.1899 From Philadelphia, Pa. To Lt. F Seiper USN, USS Essex. Forwarded Care of the United States Consul, Plymouth, using a purple handstamp. The Essex was on a lengthy training tour for naval apprentices September 1898 to 1903.

Cover dated 27.JUL.1900 From Lynn, Mass. To Mr. Wm. T. Marchand USS Essex. Forwarded Care of the United States Consul, Copenhagen using a purple handstamp.



iPOSTIES

John Matthias explores the application of technology to philately

Much has been made of the impact of electronic communications and technology on postal services. The rise of internet business has, of course, meant more parcels being delivered than ever before, but at the same time Royal Mail's insistence on using labels instead of stamps has seen a definite decline in the number of genuine postally used stamps available for anyone wanting to add modern issues to their collection.



However a newish SmartPhone application (or 'app') called iPosties is reversing this trend. The app can be downloaded for free and allows you to turn photos taken on your phone to be converted into a postcard, complete with a personalised message on the reverse. This then travels through the post like any normal postcard. The whole printing and posting service only costs 99p.

I first became aware of this in the summer when my sister-in-law sent us two postcards of photos she had taken from her holiday. The philatelic implications struck me almost immediately. As this has travelled through the post, it opens up the possibility of any photo relevant to a collector being turned into an item of philatelic interest.



Purists may snort and say that it would be cheating to do this, but to me it is no different to the many companies producing various commemorative covers. Okay, the postcards don't have stamps on, but they have travelled through the post.

And as an added bonus for collectors, this app could allow a collector to appear in their own collection – if for example you collect particular landmarks or places and you visit them, why not send yourself a postcard to celebrate. (Or ask your sister-in-law to send it!)

More information is available at www.iposties.com, where you can also download the app.



This postcard was sent using the Postcards iPhone app. www.iPosties.com

HISTORY OF BRITAIN

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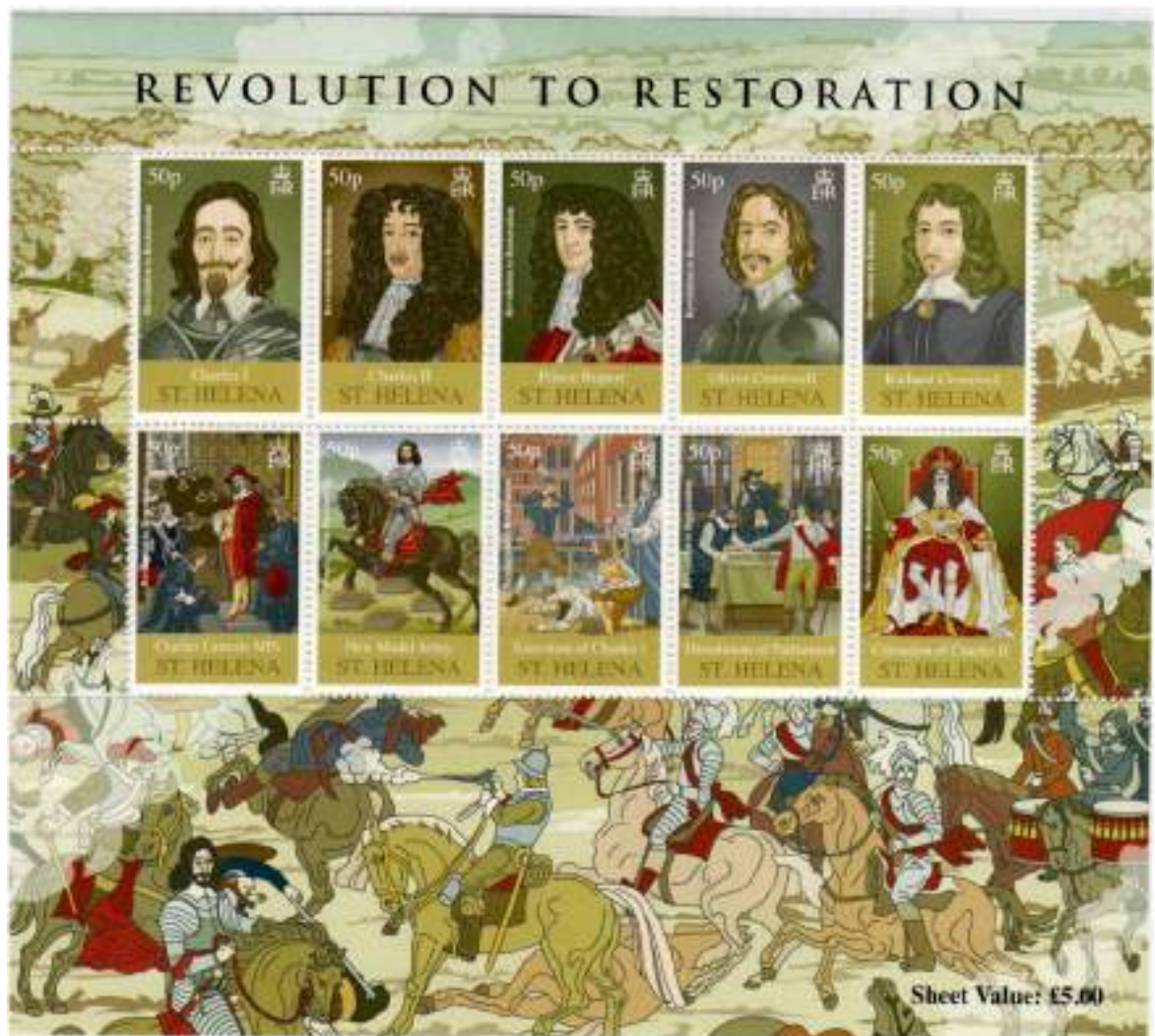


Battle of Hastings

Peasants' Revolt

Queen Elizabeth

English Reformation



BTA NEWS

MEMBERS MEETING 7th MAY 2011, SHEFFIELD

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 if you have not already done so. You do not have to display if you do not wish to.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11TH JUNE, SWINDON

Our AGM will again be held in conjunction with Swinpex, the biggest society-run fair in the south. The AGM will be followed by a display by last year's AGM Cup winner Wendy Buckle with "Worth the paper it's written on". The meeting is in the afternoon, but come early as there will be 46 dealers in attendance at the Fair. See

<http://www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/swindonps/page9.phtml> for the full list of dealers.

This little poem was passed to the Editor:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list? | 3. Come to our meetings often
Help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member
Please take an active part. |
| 2. Attend our meetings often
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you just sit in your chair
To criticise and knock? | 4. Think this over, member
You do know right from wrong.
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong? |

We don't have that many meetings a year, but your support at them is invaluable. We do however have a very active Committee, and as you see the AGM is due in June. Are you interested in joining the Committee? New blood would be most welcome. There are only two Committee meetings a year (in London), but there is plenty of email discussion between meetings. If you would like to know more, without committing yourself, please contact anyone on the Committee (details on page 2).

MIDPEX 2ND JULY LEAMINGTON SPA

Midpex has moved to a new venue, the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre at Leamington Spa. The details given on the web site suggest a much improved venue. 50 dealers will be in attendance and the Friends of Thematica will hold their annual competitions there - the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy and the BTA Cup (application form inserted with this issue of *Themescene*). For full details of Midpex see <http://www.midpex.co.uk/index.html>

THEMATIC EXHIBITING SEMINAR

18th JUNE 2011

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The BTA Committee has noted that the number of entries in the Thematic Class at Stampex and in the BTA Cup has decreased considerably over the last few years. With the emphasis to be placed very much on Thematics at Spring Stampex 2012, and with the objective of increasing the number of entrants for the BTA Cup and the potential numbers to form part of the UK team at future Eurothema events, the BTA has decided to run a one-day Thematic Exhibiting Seminar on Saturday 18th June 2011 from 10am to 5pm at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. The Seminar will be aimed at thematic exhibiting at UK National level and cover all the main aspects of exhibiting at that level, including the plan, treatment, thematic and philatelic knowledge, and presentation, with examples of 16 and 32 page exhibits provided for criticism. The Seminar will complement the residential weekend exhibiting workshops being run by the ABPS (see December 2010 *Themescene* page 151, also the ABPS web site) which are concerned with the more general aspects of exhibiting in all classes rather than being concerned specifically with thematics.

No qualifications are necessary for those members wishing to attend, but it should be borne in mind that some experience of exhibiting at local Society or Federation level will help. There will be a charge of £17 for each BTA member attending the Seminar to cover the costs. This will include morning and afternoon tea/coffee/biscuits, but lunch will have to be taken away from the premises at members' own expense. A minimum attendance of 15 is required to make the Seminar financially viable with a deposit to be paid beforehand. Would those members wishing to attend the Seminar please inform the BTA Displays Organiser, John Hayward (address on page 2), as soon as possible. Full details of the timetable and programme for the day, plus arrangements for entry to the premises and paying the deposit will be provided once the minimum attendance figure has been reached. ☰

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

IBRA 2011 5 - 7 May. Essen, Germany
The European Championship of Thematic Philately

ABPS Sheffield 2011 06 May - 07 May. Sheffield
See <http://www.sheffield2011.org.uk/>

BTA AGM. 11 June. Swinpex, Swindon.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2011 16 - 19 June. Southsea
With National One Frame competition

MIDPEX 2011 2 July. Leamington Spa
See <http://www.midpex.co.uk/>

Autumn Stampex 2011. 14 - 17 September. London

HERE AND THERE

EXCHANGE OF THEMATIC MATERIAL

The BTA has received a request from the Indian delegate to the FIP Thematic Commission to exchange thematic material with specialised collectors. Indian collectors are looking for items concerning or related to flags, maps, railways, roses, radio and birds, specifically items of study, research, proofs, and postal history. They would appreciate to see scans or details of items available and the price. Even information about the existence of such items would be of help. In exchange they are offering to supply particular items of thematic interest from India. Contact should be through Mr R. D. Binani, email address binanipm@gmail.com with whom suitable exchange arrangements should be made before any exchange of material.

THEMATIX 2011

With great regret the organisers of Thematix have had to cancel the event due to be held at the Harlequins Rugby Ground later this year. The financial implications of organising the fair have proved to be untenable, and alternative formats are being pursued for Thematix 2012.

However the Thematix name will be perpetuated in the form of a thematic day in conjunction with the West of England Thematic Society on 29th October; to be held in the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7JW. Full details of this event can be found at <http://www.thematix.co.uk/pdf/files/wets.pdf>

KIDSTAMPS

Kidstamps are now able to announce that they have enrolled their 1000th member – Bridget Calthrop, a 9 year old pupil of St Augustine School, Haywards Heath, where John Browning has just set up a stamp club. We welcome her to the club and hope that we help to increase her enjoyment in collecting.

Stamp Active Network, which promotes Kidstamps, takes this opportunity to thank all those collectors and dealers who support them in their work of bringing the hobby to the attention of our youngsters. With their continued support, let us now look forward to encouraging the next 1000 young collectors and keep the hobby alive for the future. Our thanks also to the organisers behind Kidstamps, for without their hard work it would not happen.

David Rossall, SAN Publicity.

STAMP ACTIVE COMPETITION 2011

The entries in the Stamp Active Competition for 2011, organised by the Stamp Active Network, and sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society, were judged by Christine Earle, Brian Asquith, Stuart Henderson and Richard West. While the number of entries was fewer than in 2010, it was extremely pleasing that many of the entries came from young collectors who have not previously entered the competition.

Thanks to the Philatelic Traders' Society for providing the space to display the entries at Spring Stampex, and to The Royal Philatelic Society London for hosting the judging.

The main trophies were awarded as follows:

Best overall entry (Kidstamps Cup) -	Lynne Mitchell (Bobbing Along on the Canal)
Best entry in Group A -	Rhys Evans (From Canoe to Concorde)
Best entry in Group B -	Claire Mitchell (Is it a bird? Is it a plane?)
Best entry in Group C -	Lynne Mitchell (Bobbing Along on the Canal)
Best entry in Group D -	Rachel Foster (100 Years of Girl Power)
Best Group entry (Myers Shield) -	Doonfoot Primary School (Where shall we go today?)
Best results from a single school -	Doonfoot Primary School

The medals awarded in the individual classes were as follows.

Class A (14 to 16)

Rhys Evans -	From Canoe to Concorde: Silver-gilt
Ayla Ward-Syme -	Bonjour La France: Silver

Class B (12 and 13)

Claire Mitchell -	Is it a bird? Is it a plane?: Gold
Sophie Smith -	All About Me!: Silver-gilt
Siobhan Rae -	Looking into Space: Silver-gilt

Class C (10 and 11)

Kyle Allen -	Getting Around on Wheels: Silver
Aisha Ali -	Malaria: Silver-gilt
India Birrell -	Snakes: Bronze
Cameron Broome -	A World Tour of Famous Buildings: Silver-gilt
Dylan Brown -	Famous English Authors: Silver-bronze
Emilia Darwent -	Animal Babies: Silver-gilt
Sarah Farrell -	Snow and Ice: Silver
Portia Girvan -	Gemstones: Silver
Douglas Glendinning -	Science and Scientists: Gold
Rhea McTaggart -	Tropical Splendour: Silver
Lynne Mitchell -	Bobbing Along on the Canal: Gold
Marton Munkacsi -	An Alphabet of Sports: Silver-gilt
Rebecca O'Mahoney -	A Time to Celebrate: Silver-bronze
Iona Scroggs -	My Book of Fairy Stories: Silver-bronze
Orlagh Smith -	Birds: Silver-bronze

Class D (up to 9)

Ana Borland -	Be Safe on the Road: Silver
Layla Donnelly -	Grow your own: Silver-gilt
Lauren Dutthorn -	My Bookshelf: Silver
Holly Dyke -	Birds Galore: Silver-bronze
Rachel Foster -	100 Years of Girl Power: Silver-gilt
Erin Kavanagh -	The Stars and Stripes: Silver
Christopher McIntyre -	Run for it!: Silver
Heather Nuttall -	Enjoying the Countryside: Silver
Sarah Schnider -	Big Ships: Silver
Daniel Tucker -	Dictionary of Stamp Collecting: Silver-bronze

Group entries

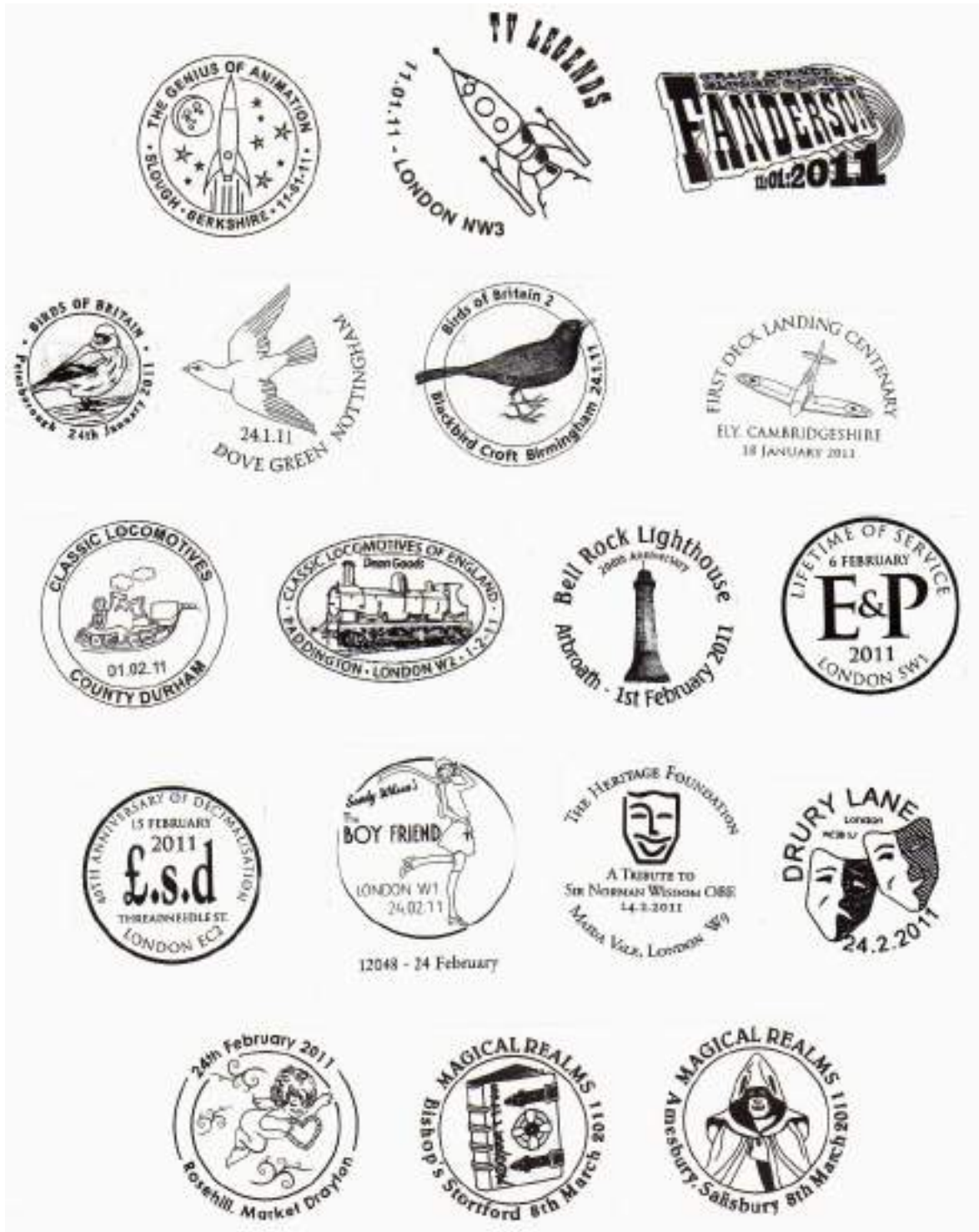
Doonfoot Primary -	Where shall we go today?: Silver-gilt
Neyland Community Primary -	All About Christmas: Silver
Prendergast Community Primary -	All About Stamp Collecting: Silver-gilt

HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

Handstamps reprinted on these pages first appeared in the "British Postmark Bulletin".

For a free sample copy, write to:

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JOBURG 2010: IMPORTANT LESSON FOR THEMATIC EXHIBITORS

Dr Tan Ngiap Chuan , Thematic Juror Team Leader , Joburg 2010

The 26th Asian International Stamp Exhibition was held in one of the metropolises in the African continent and entries ranged from South Africa to Singapore to Sweden. Joburg 2010 was indeed an international and inter-continental show. This added to the enjoyment of the thematic team of jurors, who could view an impressive range of thematic exhibits from four continents, including Australasia, all in one setting.

It was heartening to see that some of the thematic exhibits had attained significant improvements in their quality of exhibit and presentation compared with their previous display in past exhibitions. To achieve that, the exhibitor needs to heed the suggestions and recommendations on ways to improve their exhibit from qualified jurors. Ideally these could be conveyed to the exhibitors directly at the meet-the-exhibitor session at the exhibition. If that is not possible, such messages can be relayed via their national commissioners when they return to their respective countries after the event.

It is almost a pre-requisite for the motivated exhibitor to be familiar with the marking scheme for thematic philately. The scheme has remained stable for the past decade. As the Chinese saying goes, “know your competitor and know yourself, you will win all battles”.

As in all competitions it is a battleground, and exhibitors who understand how the scoring is conducted will be at a great advantage. Such information is available literally at your fingertips when you access the FIP website from anywhere in the world and at any time of the day. All you need is to browse through the section on thematic philately and be acquainted with the marking scheme.

Those who have done so will realize that a large proportion of marks are allocated to the exhibit plan and development. To achieve a higher level of award, it is crucial for the exhibitor to invest time and energy in putting up a good plan. This is the key step in communicating the story that the exhibitor wishes to illustrate with his or her collection to the audience, which includes the jurors. Here the exhibitor should devote efforts in designing a plan that illustrates the theme in a clear and concise way. In this way the audience can understand the story line immediately and be connected with the flow of ideas as shown in the various chapters in the plan.

The plan should not be cluttered, but be compatible with the number of frames allocated to the exhibitor. For example, a plan comprising of two full columns, with many chapters squeezed into a single page, would be excessive for a five-frame exhibit. This may jeopardize the overall quality of a thematic exhibit, even with the presence of excellent items, as marks are added only to the segment on “rarity and condition”. The latter carries fewer marks than the plan and development.

A formula to win a higher level of medal will be to design a well-balanced plan supporting a refreshing storyline, display excellent philatelic items in strategic locations, and illustrate the theme in clear concise fashion. Experience matters in deriving such a formula, but it can be expedited by the jurors’ constructive critique. Getting the right formula can be bolstered by an ever-willing spirit to learn and improve.

All the jurors were glad to encounter exhibitors who used these winning formulae in Joburg 2010 and these exhibitors were aptly rewarded. ☐

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GROUP NEWS

GUILD OF ST. GABRIEL



As from the first *Gabriel* magazine of 2011 there will be a new Editor. Peter Greening has been editing the magazine since 1988. He has done a wonderful job as Editor and ensured that there has always been a varied mix of contributions in all things religious. I am sure that everyone who has had contact with Peter or read the magazine over the last few decades will appreciate what he has done for the Guild. He has combined this task with periods as Secretary and President. The new Editor, Len Yandell, plans to continue in Peter's footsteps. Peter remains as President of the Guild. Details of the Guild can be obtained from Rev. David Hague, 16 Filder Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 8SY.

Programme

March 20th	National AGM and Competitions
April 16th	Jennifer Toombs - stamp designer
May 21st	Le Havre. Len Yandell
June 18th	Proverbs and Music; and, Talking to God. Peter Greening

MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB

At the A.G.M. held at the Masonic Home, Oadby on 30th October 2010, the members heard of another good year with membership about 300 and the Club financially secure.

A new meeting place will be the venue for the 2011 Interim Meeting. It is to be held at the Masonic Hall, Half Edge Lane, Eccles on Sunday 17th April, 11.00am – 4.00pm. A buffet lunch will be available along with the usual auction, Master of Philately Degree exemplification, stock sales and exhibitions. Names of those attending (especially those requiring the MoP) should be registered with our host for the day, Mike Cordon, tel: 0161 792 4056 forthwith.

The next A.G.M. will be held at Devonshire Court Masonic Home, Oadby on Saturday 29th October 2011.

Prospective members (who must be Freemasons of a Constitution recognised by the UGL of England) should visit the website www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk or contact Maurice Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, N. Yorks, TS10 4JS

Themescene is always pleased to publish news from
Group members. Just email a few lines to the Editor

GROUP MEMBERS

Alba Stamp Group

Mr. S. Brown, 14 Buchan Drive, Perth, PH1 1NQ.

Astro Space Stamp Society

Mr. H. Duncan, 16 Begg Avenue, Falkirk, FK1 5DL

Web: <http://www.asss.utvinternet.com/>

Bicycle Stamps Club

Mr. B. J. Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0QJ.

Web: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~bicyclestamps/>

Bird Stamp Society

Mrs R. Bradley, 31 Park View, Crissway Green, Chepstow, NP16 5NA.

Web: <http://www.bird-stamps.org/bss.htm>

Captain Cook Society

Mr I. A. Peel, 13 Caudry Close, Thornhill, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF12 0LW.

Web: <http://www.captaincooksociety.com/ccsu1.htm>

Concorde Study Circle

Mr B. L. Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey,

SM5 4PQ. Web: http://www.concorde-jet.com/e_concorde_study_circle.htm

Glasgow Thematic Society

Mrs M. Mathieson, 17 Hairmyers Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 8SS.

Guild of St. Gabriel

Rev. D. C. Hague, 16 Filder Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 8SY.

Masonic Philatelic Club

Mr. M. Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, N. Yorks, TS10 4JS

Web: <http://www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk/>

Scout and Guide Stamp Club

Mr. T. Reed, 10 Falconwood Close, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1TB England

Tel: 01425 650961 Web: <http://www.sgsc.org.uk/index.shtml>

Ship Stamp Society

Mr. T. Broadley, 10 Heyes Drive, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0PB.

Web: http://www.chez.com/philateliemarine/phil_mar_e/SSS.htm

West of England Thematic Society

Mrs. G. Gray, 6 Compton Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 5BZ

Web: <http://www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS/>

BOOK REVIEWS

ROYALTY ON STAMPS: A CELEBRATION OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY THROUGH STAMPS 1952 – 2011

Stanley Gibbons, 2011, 86 pages.

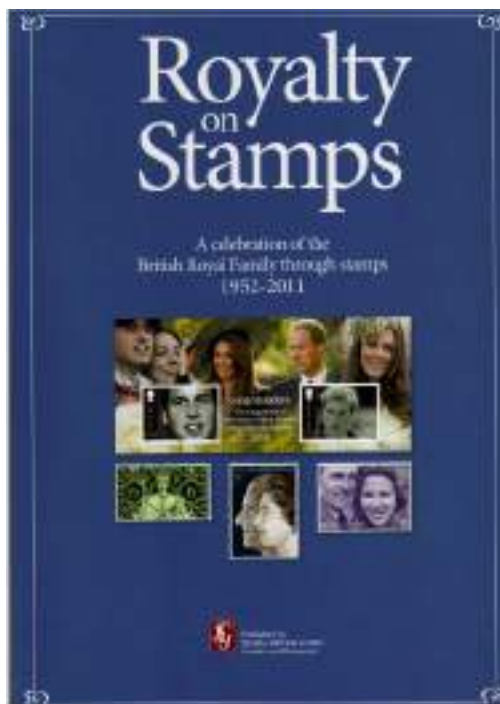
ISBN 0852597991

£8.96

Gibbons have produced this A4 book “to mark the royal engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton”. It reprints 21 articles from *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* prefaced by a new article “Prince William: his life on stamps (and a few postcards)”. Presumably the articles have been reproduced using pdf copies since there is a variety of typefaces and the early articles have rather fuzzy black and white illustrations (plus extraneous headings such as “This month Gibbons Stamp Monthly comes with a free souvenir sheet...”). However it is packed with information for philatelic royal watchers on the major steps of the Queen’s life: her wedding, her coronation, birthdays and anniversaries. Other members of her family are also covered: the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Prince Charles and Princess Anne. Besides Royal Mail, issues by Crown Agents and Guernsey and Jersey Post are well covered. “Royal weddings past and present” takes a world-wide look at other royal families. The book concentrates very heavily on stamp issues, with a single article on “A royal year in postmarks” and one article “Royal Wedding postcards”. It would have been nice to see a wider variety of types of material, though a selection of reproduced articles necessarily reflects the editorial approach of the magazine.

What is perhaps missing is a checklist of stamps. Some of the individual articles have them, but one comprehensive list in this book would have added enormously to its usefulness to a thematic collector. Even so, for anyone collecting British Royalty who does not already own the *Gibbons Stamp Monthly Archive Edition* DVD I would say the book is a “must”.

Wendy Buckle



JUST4KIDS

By Lise Whittle

(Adults - please photocopy these pages and pass them on to a youngster you know

AROUND THE WORLD IN SPORT!



Try and find a stamp showing any sport from countries in alphabetic order.



ANDORRA – high jump.

Andorra is a small principality in the Pyrenees in Europe. It is bordered by Spain and France, and is the sixth smallest nation in Europe.



BELGIUM – cycling.

Belgium is in Western Europe, and its official name is the Kingdom of Belgium. Two languages are spoken in Belgium – flemish and French. The capital city is Brussels.



CHINA – table tennis.

China is one of the world's oldest civilizations. It is in East Asia. The capital city used to be called Peking, but is now called Beijing. In 1949 China divided into two states – the People's Republic of China (commonly known as China), and the Republic of China (commonly known as Taiwan).



DOMINICA – boxing.



Dominica is an island in the West Indies in the Caribbean Sea, between North and South America. Christopher Columbus named the island after the latin name for Sunday (*dominica*) which was the day of the week on which he spotted it on November 3, 1493. Dominica is sometimes known as the ‘Nature Isle of the Caribbean’ because of its unspoiled natural beauty. It has lush, mountainous rainforests which contain many rare plants, animals and birds. One bird, the Sisserou Parrot, is

pictured on Dominica’s flag.

ETHIOPIA – swimming.

Ethiopia is a country in east Africa. It has the second largest population of the African nations. It is a land-locked country, which means it is surrounded by other countries - Eritrea, Sudan, Kenya, Djibouti and Somalia. The capital is Addis Ababa.



You could start your own collection of sports stamps, and you could write a short description of the sport as well as the country. If you can't find a stamp for the next letter you need, just leave a gap and go on to another letter. Later on you are bound to be able to fill in the gaps – that's part of the challenge and fun of collecting stamps!

JOKE TIME!!!!

Why are football players never asked to tea?
Because they are always dribbling!

What is tennis players favourite city?
Volley wood!

What do you call a sheep doing karate?
A lamb chop!

Who are the happiest people at a football match?
The cheer leaders!

To contact us, send in a letter or jokes, 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



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Books

Vegter, W. *Thematic exhibiting*. 2010 (14 grams for postage)

Journal articles

Aircraft

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 | Watson, S. | Flights of Fancy [post cards] | Stamp Magazine 12/2009 |
| 4 | Winchester, J. | The Early Bird [Louis Bleriot] | Stamp Magazine 9/2009 |

Art

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| 5 | Schuessler, R. | Egyptian Art on Stamps | Saudi Aramco World 2/1987 |
| 2 | Agrawal, S. | Ragamala Paintings [Indian Miniatures] | Topical Times 10/2009 |

Blindness

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 21 | | Blindness in mythology and religion | Topical Times 10/2009 |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|

Breast feeding

- | | | | |
|---|------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 2 | Barnes, P. | Welfare 1. Breast Feeding | MediTheme 8/2009 |
|---|------------|---------------------------|------------------|

Cacti

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| 3 | | Philatelic Botany; Cactaceae | ThemNews 11/2009 |
|---|--|------------------------------|------------------|

Children's Literature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 3 | Dugdale, J. | Harry Potter | Topical Times 8/2009 |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------------------|

Christmas

- | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 4 | Farmer, B. | Santa Delivers | American Philatelist 12/2009 |
|---|------------|----------------|------------------------------|

Civil Engineering

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 4 | Borges, A. | Building Arches: Aqueducts,
Bridges, Dams | Topical Times 6/2009 |
| 4 | Connell, D. | The Stamps of the Tower
[of London; London Bridge] | Gibbons Stamp Monthly
10/2009 |

Cricket

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|--|------------------------|
| 3 | Jennings, P. | The Ashes 2009:
England Won the Crucial Moments | Stamp Magazine 02/2009 |
|---|--------------|--|------------------------|

Dance

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 | Dufdale, J. | Lords of the Dance (Ballet Russes) | Stamp Magazine 5/2009 |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|

Esperanto

- | | | | |
|---|------------|--|-------------------|
| 4 | Dunlop, J. | Dr L L Zamenhof : 'Dr Esperanto'
1859 -1917 | MediTheme 11/2009 |
|---|------------|--|-------------------|

		Exploration	
2	Hindle, R.	Robert Fitzroy - Darwin's Chauffeur!	Themescene 4/2009
5		Speculative Cook Commem. stamps pt 2	Cook's Log 4/2009
		Fairy Tales	
7	Obojski, R	The Return of Scheherezade	Saudi Aramco World 10/1977
		Famous People	
4	Ganz, C.	History of American Women in Philately	American Philatelist 12/2009
		Folklore	
3	Berger, R.	Witches and Witchcraft	Topical Times 6/2009
		France	
5	Keppel, A.	Moments when time stood still. [French stamps 1966-73]	Stamp Magazine 5/2009
		Masks	
2	Foy, K.	Mask Parade	Stamp Magazine 1/2010
		Medals and Decorations	
4	Van Greunen, E.	Phaleristics in Philately (medal collecting)	ThemNews 11/1990
		Medicine	
1	Guthrie, D.	Medical and Scientific Philately	Brit. Medical Bull. 1949
3	Singh, L.	Your Heart Is Your Health	Topical Times 8/2009
4	Menzies, S.	The Pasteur Institute	MediTheme 8/2009
4	Barnes, P.	Hansen's Disease - Leprosy	MediTheme 8/2009
1	Dunlop, J.	Blood Stained Tears	MediTheme 11/2009
4	Menzies, S.	The Study of Medicine in Afghanistan	MediTheme 11/2009
		Middle East	
8	Obojski, R	Philatelic Tour of the Middle East	Saudi Aramco World 2/1983
5	Obojski, R	Stamps and History of the Hijaz	Saudi Aramco World 10/1979
		Mythology	
13	Ericson, C.	Aspects of Love by C Ericson	Topical Times 4,6,8/2009
		Naval Aviation	
6	Jennings, P.	The Unknown Heroes: Naval Aviation 1909 - 2009	Gibbons Stamp M. 9/2009
		Opera	
2	Dugdale, J.	Puccini Opera	Themescene 4/2009
		Parks	
3	Park, B.	Taiwanese National Parks	Topical Times 8/2009
		Petroleum	
3	Obojski, R	Petroleum and the Postage Stamp	Saudi Aramco World 2/1973
		Railways	
5	Wigmore, J.	Britain's Railway Evolution Pts 1, 2 & 3	Themescene 2,3,4/2009
		Royalty	
8	Floyd, B.	King Bhumibol of Thailand	American Philatelist 12/200

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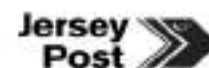
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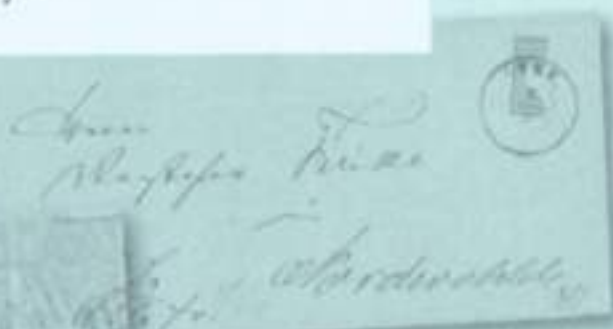
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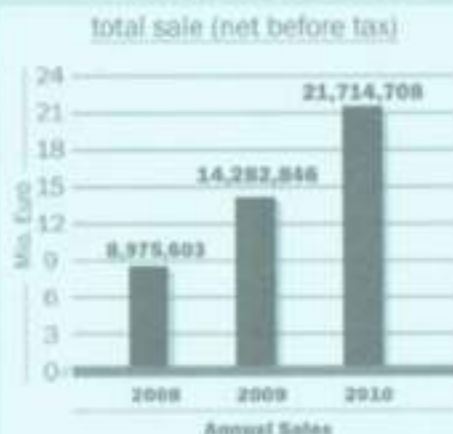


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