

# THEMESCENE

June 2011

*In this issue we:*

*Become a rocket man*

**Major milestones in manned flight**

*With Jeff Dugdale*

*Demystify more heraldic symbols*

**Coats of arms, part 2**

*With Geoff Hood*



*Look at a piece of World War II history*

**German Armed Forces Occupation of the Channel Islands**

*With Neil Pearce*



*Think beyond stamps*

**Thematic Postal History, part 1**

*With John Hayward*

*As well as visits to Essen, Sheffield and Perth*



**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**

**Volume 28, No.2. Whole Number 103**

**£2.50**

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# THEMESCENE

Vol.28, No.2, Whole Number 103

JUNE 2011

## THEMESCENE

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

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Chattisham  
Ipswich  
Suffolk IP8 3QE

### Distributed by:

K.D.S. Printers

### Website:

[www.brit-thematic-assoc.com](http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com)

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Collectors of royalty thematics have had a fine time recently with the royal wedding. I'm sure everybody enjoyed the pomp and pageantry, but anyone hoping for a comprehensive collection of stamps and covers is going to have to dig deep into their pockets. Royal Mail of course could not resist a £1.10 value stamp as well as a first class, plus a miniature sheet consisting of two of each value, making face value £3.12. However a first day cover of the sheet "personalised with your name and address" (well it would be, wouldn't it?) comes in at £4.22. A very handsome profit indeed. And can somebody explain to me why an FDC is more expensive than the presentation pack of the miniature sheet which "is enclosed within a high quality brochure charting the story of the Royal couple's blossoming relationship" (£3.65). All these details and quotes come from the Royal Mail web site, a site I would not have looked at had I not been asked to buy two FDCs for an overseas colleague. Given the sales hype you would think they would want your order, but no, every time I tried to pay by debit card the site threw me out. I rang Royal Mail. The line was busy of course, but I was regularly assured "your call is important to us, please continue to hold", though apparently not important enough to be actually answered in a timely manner. I did eventually get through, remonstrated with the assistant about their rubbish web site, to which the answer was "tell me about it". The assistant herself was very helpful, but it seems she was up against the technology as well. I despair of Royal Mail.

Things cheered up a few days later when Anne Stammers and I went to Sheffield for the ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition (page 64). We both had a great time, and I'd like to thank Sheffield Philatelic Society for their hospitality and hard work. We had both taken the plunge and for the first time submitted competition entries. Competing isn't for everyone, and as I regularly say in these editorials, it's not why the BTA exists, but if anyone out there is thinking "is it worth a try?" I'd say 'Yes'. You will be met with positive encouragement as well as a sense of achievement when you see your material on display. If you are considering it, do it now while the British Philatelic Trust are offering reduced frame fees.

Details of our AGM can be found on page 70. Do try to come along. Swindon is easy to get to by rail and car (just off the M4) and you can combine our AGM meeting with inspecting a fair of over 40 dealers. Our Chairman of three years, Richard Wheeler, will be



standing down at this AGM, and I'd like to thank him for all the hard work he has put in on behalf of the BTA whilst in the post. However he won't go away empty-handed. At the Committee meeting in March we had our annual vote for the Best Article in *Themescene* in the previous year. It was a close-run thing requiring a second ballot, but by a very small majority Richard took the prize with "The Progress of Puppets" (June edition). Congratulations too to Neil Pearce ("Literature on British Stamps") and Owen

Green ("John Thomas Baines") who came joint second. If you fancy trying to win such a handsome trophy you need only write an article.

I hope the early summer hasn't kept you in the garden and away from your collections, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM. ☐

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**John Hayward**

**W**hen you read this page at the beginning of June our Annual General Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 11th June 2011 will almost be upon us (see page 70 for details). It is being held this year at Swinpex which, as some of you will already know, is a very large provincial stamp fair and well worth visiting in its own right, so do make a day of it and attend the fair and our AGM; and at the latter make your views known on whatever matter you feel the BTA should be pursuing. I would also recommend the thematic display to be given by our esteemed Editor immediately following the AGM.

At the AGM you will note that our Chairman, Richard Wheeler, will be standing down from the Chair for health reasons after three years instead of the customary four. Richard has not been a fit man over the last couple of years, especially after his knee operation 18 months ago, following which he suffered considerable pain and walking problems, but has nonetheless soldiered on manfully as Chairman, and done a remarkable job in the circumstances. He stepped into the breach three years ago at the eleventh hour, and all the work he has done since then has been greatly appreciated, particularly when all of his colleagues on the BTA Committee realised how much he was doing despite his health problems. Many thanks Richard from myself and the membership and of course we still look forward to seeing you around and you bending our ear.

I would also mention briefly that our Patron and past President and Chairman, Brian Sole, has recently undergone a similar knee operation to Richard. Brian has subsequently been making steady progress and I am sure all members will wish him a quick and full recovery.

There are some other forthcoming thematic events to which I would draw your attention. It is not too late to apply to attend the BTA's Thematic Exhibiting Seminar on 18th June 2011 at the Royal Philatelic Society London (details on page 72). Please contact me as soon as you can if you would like to attend. Then there are the Fosbery Trophy and BTA Cup Competitions being held at Midpex, Leamington Spa, on Saturday 2nd July 2011. All you members in the Midlands should have this event in your diaries. Brian Sole and myself will be in attendance at the event and will be pleased to meet and chat to you, but we will also be noting in particular how the organisers cope with the space allocated to the philatelic societies and to meeting rooms. This was shambolic at the previous Midpex and unfortunately persuaded the BTA not to have a formal presence there this year.

I am extremely pleased to report that my *cri de cour* in the last edition of *Themescene* for more spare thematic material to be donated to the BTA has been met with a truly superb response. I now have enough material - stamps, slogan cancels, metermarks and covers - to sort out for sales from the BTA table at future philatelic events. In fact we have sold quite a bit of material already. On behalf of the BTA may I thank all those members who have contributed so generously. Your Treasurer should be more than happy in the near future!

Enjoy your collecting. ☐

# CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

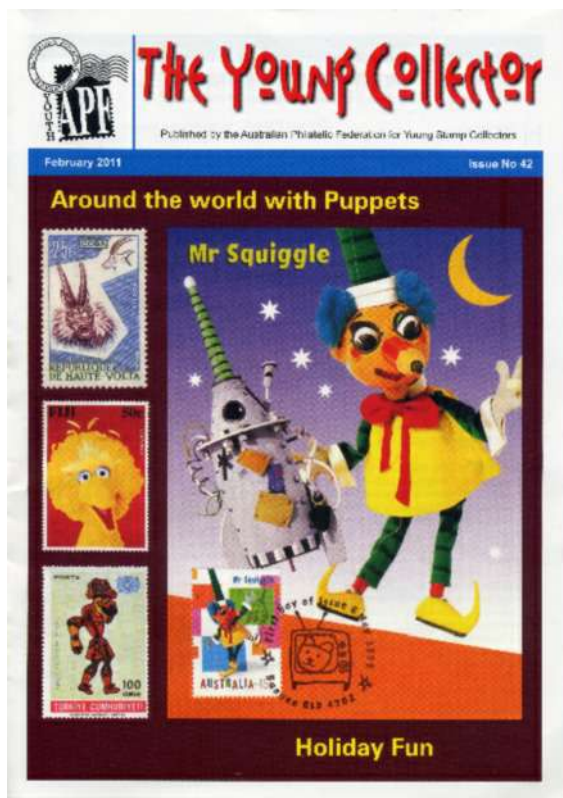
**Richard Wheeler**

It is with some regret that after three years I prepare my last Chairman's report as I am not standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting at Swindon on June 11th. Since I had a knee replacement in December 2009 things have not gone quite to plan and I have had periods when I have not felt my usual self or full of energy. I feel that it is only right that a younger person be in the post. (Not a pun). I have been indebted to John Hayward and to Anne Stammers for keeping me on the rails when my mind has drawn a complete blank!

When I first joined the Committee, it was to take over the distribution of the *Themescene* magazine which is so expertly edited by Wendy Buckle. During that time until our printers took over the distribution direct, postal charges rose considerably and this last price hike is a joke. Where our members can help keep costs down is by using email wherever possible.

My interest in thematics however has been as strong as ever and when possible I have

taken the opportunity to enter competitions and represent the BTA both at home and occasionally abroad. I did have an article published in *The Young Collector* for their February issue - 'Around the World with Puppets'. This was published by the Australian Philatelic Federation for Young Stamp Collectors.



Do please take it upon yourselves to ask members of any other club you belong to, if they have any spare stamps for the Children's Clubs mentioned in *Themescene*. I have been amazed at the quantity I have been given.

In May I attended and competed in the European Championships at Essen along with John Hayward, Lesley Marley and Peter Weir (see page 55). Brian Sole was there as the UK representative. At the time of writing, apart from Stampex next Spring, I have nothing planned, apart from the AGM of course.

Those who live in the UK, and especially those in the Southern parts of the country, will have the opportunity to visit the Dartmoor

Lodge Hotel at Ashburton in Devon on October 29th when Thematix will be present. This will be the first time a thematic show will be staged in the West Country. The West of England Thematic Society, who have their members' annual competition on that day, will be present, and it is understood that the Wessex Federation will be taking another room in the Hotel. A fully licensed bar and restaurant will be available.

I shall be writing my final report on the past year for the AGM which will be published in the Autumn issue of *Themescene*. In the meantime, happy hunting for those elusive items which add so much interest to our collections. ☐

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

**Peter Denly**

Ordinary members	176
Family members	17
Junior members	1
Society members	14
Overseas members	19
Overseas Society members	2
Honorary members	4

Total number of members 232  
(At 1st June 2011)

## **New Members joining since the March 2011 issue**

Mrs. J. Morris	Margate, Kent	Mr. C. Silverio Santos	Portugal
Mr. G. Hughes	Buckingham		

## **Deaths advised since the March 2011 issue**

Mr. A.P. Berry of New Zealand

In common with many interest groups, this year when it came to renewing subscriptions, due to increasing years, the general economic climate and a seeming reluctance to participate in organized events, sadly we have said goodbye to around 10% of our membership. However recruitment has been maintained at about the same rate and we are delighted to welcome three new members including one from overseas.

Whilst PayPal has been successfully used by members to renew subscriptions, we have been surprised that more overseas and euro area members have not taken advantage of this facility which is much cheaper than sending a bankers draft, and less risky than trusting cash to the post.

As the Association relies mainly on subscriptions for its income it is important that we should increase the membership numbers, and to this end a word dropped at your local society may well encourage those interested in thematic collecting to join. Don't forget to point potential members towards the web site, which we are finding is a good source of recruitment as well as a great source of information.

Our register of speakers continues to grow and an invitation to visit a local society would always be welcome, plus it may prove a catalyst to aid our recruitment drive. So do encourage your Programme Secretary to check the web site listing and include a thematic subject for your next season.

**I would also remind members** that when making changes to addresses, whether postal or email, please be sure to inform the Membership Secretary. ☐

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## GREETINGS CARDS FOR COLLECTORS



*From: Jon Matthias*

Illustrated is a brand new greetings card being sold in Clinton Cards at a very reasonable 3 for £1 deal. I bought it because one of the stamps has the Statue of Liberty on (my theme), but there are also some very nice cars, trains, planes, and sports featured. I just thought other members might be interested, particularly if they need to get a card for a philatelist friend.

*Editor's note: Other card publishers are of course available. Publication of this letter does not imply endorsement of the product by the BTA. You know - all the usual caveats.*

## PHILATELY IN FICTION

*From: Jon Matthias*

Further to the 'Philately in books' correspondence, I wondered whether other *Themescene* readers have watched "The King's Speech"? There is a rather sad scene where King George VI talks about how he would have liked to have built model aeroplanes, but instead had to collect stamps "because Father collected stamps, so we had to." Members whose children don't share their love of the hobby, can perhaps console themselves with the thought that King George V had the same problem.

*From: Barry Stagg*

In the December *Themescene* you asked about naming fictional stories that have stamps as a major theme. May I mention the book and film "Tommy Tricker and the Stamp Traveller" (1988). I don't believe it has been released in the UK but it concerns a young boy who can travel around the world in a stamp! Not quite Oscar material but an interesting concept!

## MARCH THEMESCENE

*From: Frank Spencer*

Just received the latest *Themescene*...

A few remarks:

page 22: The picture of Scott Wilson Evans etc at the South Pole was certainly not taken by Herbert Ponting.

page 27: The final design in the St Helena sheetlet shows the 'Coronation of Charles II' BTA members can imagine for themselves what this ceremony would have involved - almost certainly lots of scraping (as an adjunct to the bowing).

page 10: Jimi Hendrix did parachute jumps on his military service. He joins the recently (posthumously) pardoned Jim Morrison and Janis Joplin in being refused a stamp portrayal by USPO (yet they allowed Elvis to be featured, and Mr Presley also had a dodgy history).



*From: David Hope*

I wish to correct an error that occurred in the article on 'Coats of Arms - More than a pretty picture' (p.20). The Bishop Co-Prince of Andorra is the Bishop of Seo de Urgel not the Bishop of Barcelona. This has been the situation since 1278 when the Co-Principality was set up.

*And a response from the author Geoff Hood:*

Mea culpa. The Bishop of Urgel ('Seo' just means see or diocese) is indeed co-ruler of Andorra. The mistake arose from an early draft, corrected some time ago in my collection, but regrettably not in the article. It may be of interest to note that the other co-ruler is the President of France: is he I wonder the only Prince elected by popular vote?

## YOUNGSTERS NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN

*From: Lise Whittle*

Alloway Primary School in Scotland are putting on a school production of *The Sound Of Music*, and the school stamp club have decided to do a collection of stamps associated with



the songs from the musical, to be displayed in the school entrance on the night. We also want to enter it into the national junior stamp competitions. We have a long list of stamps we are collecting; if you have any of the following thematic stamps and can spare them, the youngsters will be extremely grateful. And we hope you enjoy looking for them too!

We are looking for stamps showing:

hills / mountains / star / music / people or children singing / heart / lake / trees / church / stones / lark / person climbing a tree / waltzing / nuns / abbey / chapel / a meal / cloud / clown / waves on the sand / moon or moonbeam / hand / weather / raindrops / roses / kittens / copper kettles / woollen mittens / brown paper packages / string / cream coloured ponies / apple strudel (or apple) / door bells / sleigh ride / schnitzel / noodles / wild geese / girls in white dresses / blue satin sashes / snowflakes / nose / eyelashes / winter / barking dog / bee / feeling sad / doe (a female deer) / sun / run / a needle pulling thread / tea, jam, bread / goats /

goatherd / town with people / prince / bridge / castle / men on a boat / men in a chapel / men drinking beer; or beer / little girl in a pink coat / clock / church bells / nursery / cuckoo / goodbye / goodnight / morning / edelweiss / small white flowers / blossom / snow.

Please send any stamps you can spare to Alloway Primary School Stamp Club c/o Mrs. Lise Whittle, 11 Nether Auchendrane, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4EE.

Many, many thanks.

# MAJOR MILESTONES IN MANNED SPACEFLIGHT

*Jeff Dugdale flies very, very high*

**C**an you guess, if you don't know, how many people have flown in space since Yuri Gagarin did it first on the 12th April 1961 ? Is it....

A 200+ B 400+ C 600+ D 800+ or E 1,000+ ?

The answer may surprise you but you'll be able to deduce the range as you read the following account of the highlights of manned spaceflight over the last fifty years.



*Gagarin, USSR issue 1961*



*25th anniversary  
Of his flight*



*Marking what would have  
been his 75th birthday*

Gagarin's single orbit attracted great philatelic interest and his achievement has been commemorated by the USSR/Russia on a dozen or more occasions and by issues from a very large number of countries. His flight allowed the Soviet Union to maintain the lead in the Space Race, begun with a series of Sputniks and followed by an extended series of space "firsts", each one a statement of one-upmanship over the USA. It was first to launch twin flights (Vostok 3 and Vostok 4 in August 1962), first to put a woman in space (Valentina Tereshkova in Vostok 6 in June 1963), first to launch a three man crew (Voskhod 1 in October 1964) and first to have a man "walk in space", a vital procedure for the building of space stations, which is the subject of our **second major milestone**.

Pavel Belayev and Alexei Leonov, the 11th and 12th spacefarers were launched in Voskhod 2 in March 1963 in a flight surrounded in mystery, as contemporary space stamps demonstrate. Secrecy and legerdemain were a major part of the Soviet space programme, so anxious were they to deny the Americans any significant detail of what they were doing. For example, it was many years after Gagarin's flight that it was revealed he was not in control of it so was in effect just a passenger, and that he ejected during his descent and landed via parachute. The shape of Vostok/Voskhod was also concealed for five years after the first flight. So it was no surprise to learn that the USSR minisheet of 1965 gave a totally false impression of what Leonov did in the first ever EVA (extra vehicular activity). The naïve style of the minisheet portrays a cylindrical spaceship with a strange collar or skirt at its base and a hatch open so exposing both cosmonauts to outer space. An accurate illustration of the event is given in the 1980 minisheet designed by cosmonaut Leonov himself, no mean artist, showing

an inflatable rubber airlock-cum-egress complete with camera which sprouted from the Voskhod hatch leaving his commander still inside the pressurised cabin. This detail, and the facts that Leonov nearly did not manage to get back into his spacecraft because his spacesuit had ballooned much more than expected after his twelve minute spacewalk, and that he forgot to retrieve the film from the camera, were suppressed for many years.



The Americans were behind for the first six years of the Space Race, their first man in orbit John Glenn not doing so until February 1962, and the first of their two astronaut Gemini craft not orbiting until March 1965, five months after the Soviets had put up three men in one spaceship.

However the next Soviet first, our **third milestone**, is a tragic one with the death of the first person in flight on 23rd April 1967, when Vladimir Komarov, the first cosmonaut to go into space twice, was killed during re-entry. All the previous Soviet space achievements had been overseen by the mysterious “Chief Designer” Sergei Korolev, sometimes flying missions sooner than he might have liked, for propaganda reasons demanded by the Kremlin. But Korolev had died suddenly in January 1966 and his successor Vasily Mishin was not in position long enough to argue his case forcibly. As a result, the flight of Soyuz 1, which was intended to rendezvous



with Soyuz 2 to be launched the following day (as the West learned only over 20 years later) was underway when it was far from ready. Subsequent investigations revealed scores of unresolved technical problems with the Soyuz craft, four previous unmanned test flights of which disguised under the “Cosmos” programme had failed. In short, Komarov was launched on a “wing and a prayer” but the Soviets’ luck ran out and he died a horrible death, probably from intolerable G-forces, as he tried to descend after 18 orbits. The cancelled Soyuz 1-2 rendezvous would have been an important step in the success of the Soviet lunar landing



programme that would have seen a Soviet manned moon shot via a Zond (Soyuz) craft. But all this was revealed much later, after the Americans had got to the Moon first and the Soviets had claimed that they were not planning to go there anyway !

So our **fourth major milestone** relates to an *American* success, that of Apollo 8 which circumnavigated the Moon at Christmas 1968, carrying in Frank Borman, James Lovell and Bill Anders, the 21st, 22nd and 23rd humans in space. The Americans too had had their problems, notably with the near disaster of Gemini 8's docking with an Agena rocket in March 1966 . Only the skills of Neil Armstrong and David Scott (which NASA did not forget in future crew rotas) saved their lives when the conjoined craft tumbled out of control, though they made a safe emergency return to Earth. But life was lost in the Apollo 1 launchpad fire in January 1967 when appalling negligence and poor spacecraft design killed three astronauts Virgil Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chafee, some of whom would surely have gone to the Moon.

Recovery from this disaster had to be quick, as the Americans had scant idea of where the Soviets really were in their own Moon project, and this meant that in a programme which was falling behind the schedule of getting to the Moon's surface "by the end of this decade" (as NASA had been charged by President Kennedy) Apollo 8 flew to the Moon long before its Lunar Module (LM) was tried and tested. The launch window meant that the crew would be heading for fame at a time when they particularly wanted to be with their families, so much was made of the spiritual significance of the three astronauts' new perspective on Creation by being the first men ever able to look at "the good Earth" from lunar orbit, as the American commemorative for the event suggests.



Our **fifth milestone** is, of course, the first Moon Landing by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin of Apollo 11 in their LM called Eagle in July 1969, an event celebrated with stamps from literally scores of countries.

The Apollo programme had originally envisaged a dozen such Moon Landings, and effected six before public interest was clearly waning with such "spectaculars", government funding dried up amid concerns about safety (enhanced by the Apollo 13 near disaster), and the point of it all when millions were starving; so that funds and hardware for flights after Apollo 17 in late 1972 were redirected to the Skylab project to try to address the Soviets' clear superiority in space station technology. (Skylab was first manned in May 1973).

The Apollo programme had originally envisaged a dozen such Moon Landings, and effected six before public interest was clearly waning with such "spectaculars", government funding dried up amid concerns about safety (enhanced by the Apollo 13

**Milestone 6** is the Apollo-Soyuz test project of July 1975 which saw the first American-Soviet cooperation in manned spaceflight.



Using a leftover Apollo command module, the Americans docked with a Soyuz craft, using a specially design mating chamber, and visited each others' craft in a flight which was the precursor of future cooperation and highly significant of warming relationships politically.



Notably no other manned flight (not even Vostok 1 or Apollo 11) has been more widely commemorated with philatelic media such was its international profile and fascination.



Whilst the Americans had concocted Skylab out unused Apollo hardware the Soviets missing out on the Moon concentrated strategically on developing space stations which promoted long stay missions firstly in a series of civilian and military Salyuts and then with Mir, making out that this was their preferred option, (to going to the Moon). These projects allowed them to introduce guest cosmonauts from a dozen Soviet satellite states in the Intercosmos Programme. So our **seventh milestone** is the flight of Alexander Remek of Czechoslovakia (the 87th person and first non Soviet or non American in space) via Soyuz 28 in March 1978. Today citizens of over thirty countries (including Briton Helen Sharman, the 249th person in May 1991 in Soyuz TM 12) have flown into space.



Whilst John Young the commander of Apollo 16 was on the Moon in April 1972 he learned of his selection as commander of the first American shuttle launch, though he had to wait for a further nine years before he and Bob Crippen (the 102nd person in space) flew in STS-1 (*Columbia*) - **milestone no 8**—twenty years to the day that Gagarin had first flown. The shuttle was to fly for a further thirty years proving very versatile, for example, in rendezvous with Russian space station Mir, servicing the Hubble Space Telescope and bringing up components of the International Space Station. But of course it suffered two disasters of its own with the destruction of STS-51L *Challenger* on launch in January 1986 and of STS-107 *Columbia* on return to Earth in January 2003.



**Milestone 9** relates to the long stay flight of Soviet cosmonaut Valery Polyakov (the 207th person to orbit), who launched in Soyuz TM in August 1988 via Soyuz TM6. He spent 240 days in space on his first spell so establishing the safety of properly trained crew on long-stay flights which are now routine on the International Space Station (ISS). Polyakov made a further long stay flight, this time of 438 days when launched on his second mission to Mir in January 1994.



The second generation Soviet space station Mir was to have been replaced by Mir-2 but with both NASA and the Soviet equivalent Roskosmos running out of money the idea of a joint enterprise was born and as a result the space shuttle STS-63 *Discovery* in February 1995 visited Mir carrying a Soviet cosmonaut, the first of the former rival corps to fly on a shuttle, in **Milestone no 10**. The purpose of a series of shuttle visits to the Soviet space station was to prepare for full cooperation

on the planned ISS.

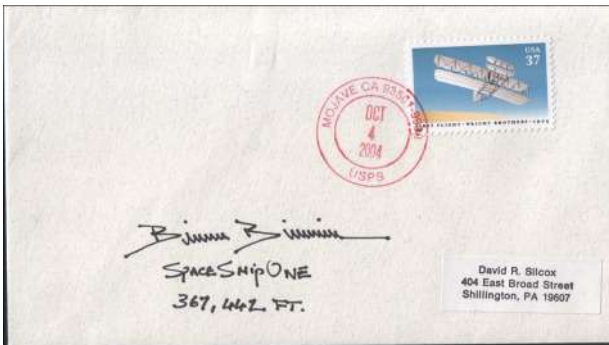
But a much more important point, as **milestone 11**, was reached when the first two modules of the ISS, the Russian *Zarya* and the American *Unity*, were mated and the veteran Russian Sergei Krikalev and American Robert Cabana arriving in December 1998 via STS 88 *Endeavour* were the first to visit the new International Space Station, which in the next ten years was built incrementally with additional major contributions from Canada, Japan and the European Space Agency.



As well as being crewed by official astronauts from many countries, the ISS has also provided the Russian space agency with finances of around £15M a time by having very rich (and fit) guest astronauts for a one week stay in those parts of the ISS under their aegis. The first of these was American businessman Dennis Tito, who as the 403rd person to orbit flew to it on Soyuz TM32 in April 2001. Since his flight (**milestone 12**) six further “space participants”, including American entrepreneur and scientist Professor Greg Olsen who has done it twice (!), have indulged in this most expensive of adventure holidays !



A new independent player arrived on the scene in Oct 2003 when Yang Liwei of China, the 431st person to orbit, was launched by his own country in Shen Zhou 5, as our **milestone 13**. Since then five other Chinese taikonauts have orbited in two further flights and there are plans for Chinese twin flights and a small independent space station in the coming years.



A further indication of things to come was the winning of the \$10M X-prize by SpaceShipOne, financed by the American Bert Rutan which was twice piloted to the edge of space (100 km/62 miles) in September and October 2004. (**Milestone 14**) The significance of this is as the commencement of spaceflight independent of government agencies which will be a blossoming aspect of spaceflight this decade.

*SpaceShipOne cover signed by pilot Brian Binnie*

In October 2010 the ISS had been permanently manned for a decade and was scheduled to be completed with the last two shuttle flights in the first half of 2011.

So the answer to the question posed at the top of this article is that the number of people who have been in space is around 520 as we go to print, but because some of these have done it more than once, and some six or seven times, the number of instances of human spaceflight is easily 600+ (\*), a disappointing figure given the plans the Americans had for their shuttle fleet which was originally intended to average 30 flights a year but which has managed typically five or six.

Before this decade is out the following events ought to have occurred and will have been seen as further major milestones in manned spaceflight history:

- The first private enterprise flight to edge of space carrying half a dozen celebrities probably on Virgin Galactica's SpaceShipTwo;
- The first space participant (tourist) flight around the Moon via a Soyuz craft;
- An independent manned launch by India;
- The American return to space via their new Orion capsule originally intended for a new Moon Landing programme;
- A landing on the Moon by Chinese taikonauts.

(\*) - see <http://www.spacefacts.de> for full details



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# EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THEMATIC PHILATELY: ESSEN 05 - 07 MAY 2011

Results from the UK:

Class and category	Exhibitor	Title	% marks	Position
1. Art & Culture	Richard Wheeler	Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets	85	5th out of 8
5. Transport & Technology	John Hayward	The Iron Steed	86	6th out of 10
6. Medicine & Science	Peter Weir	Liquid of Life: blood from an ancient myth to a modern medicine	82	7th out of 7
7. Animals and Plants	Lesley Marley	The Whale's Tale	91	1st out of 5

Lesley was a gold medal winner in her class and was included in the voting for the Grand Prix - Champion of Champions. Each of the 12 Jurors voted individually for their 1st to 6th places and Lesley was placed 5th out of 9 entries.

The GB judge was Brian Sole and he was one of the 3 jurors judging Classes 5 and 6.

The winner and gold medallist of Class 5 was the Finn, Jari Majander with “The Wheels of Chance - the bicycling society” (inspired by the HG Wells story of 1897). Brian gave the speech announcing Jari as the Class winner and was pleased that he also won the Grand Prix , with the highest number of votes.



*Lesley Marley with Jorgen Jorgenson, President of FIPA*



# COATS OF ARMS - MORE THAN A PRETTY PICTURE

*Part 2: the usage and means of coats of arms. By Geoff Hood*

## Heraldic Usage and Meaning

Part 1 described the development of heraldry and the specialized language used to describe coats of arms. This part discusses how they are used.

Early Arms had simple designs with little or no obvious meaning (Switzerland J15 and J22). Wider use led to the need for more and more different designs. They inevitably became more complex. Designs were adopted which were very artistic; but they were also informative, often with an additional meaning relevant to the bearer of the Arms.

## Companies and Associations



The design of arms borne by an organisation can express its purposes or associations. So the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin shows gold artefacts (Eire 677); Royal Mail's arms (shown on GB booklet pane 2124bl) include many small rectangles (known as *billetty*) having the appearance of envelopes; the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's arms bear a mace (Bahamas 633); the Panama Organisation (Canal Zone 232) has the apt motto - 'The Land divided and the world united'; and the French Sapeur-

Pompier (France 1631) depict symbols of fire and rescue.

Educational establishments commonly include an open book on their arms, such as the Linz Hochschule (Austria 1492) and the University of the West Indies (St Vincent 379). Hong Kong University (SG 192) is similar but their New University's arms (SG 259) have, not surprisingly, a more Chinese character. Curiously though, Cambridge University's Arms (Dominica 325) show a closed book (Oxonians might have some comment on that!).



The religious meaning of the arms associated with the church is brought out in a number of ways. Holders of office in the church show their rank by different

adornments above the shield. The Pope has a triple tiara surmounting his arms (Venezuela 1785), whilst a cardinal's has a purple hat (Belgium 1785) and a catholic bishop a green hat (Germany 1832). Anglican Bishops and Bishoprics have a mitre (Norfolk Islands 124).

## National Arms

Arms adopted by government authorities frequently allude to the origins of the territory. Thus, the arms of the constituent States of Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia, appear on the reverse of a Victoria stationery card (H&G 23). These separate arms are combined on the arms of Australia. Like Australia, South Africa (569) uses Arms combining symbols of the original states - Cape of Good Hope

(69), Transvaal (205) and Orange Free State (P1). Similarly the arms of Spain (1764) arise in part from the union of Castille and Aragon (Spain 2680). The arms of the USA reflect those of George Washington (Barbados 714) with the horizontal stripes also alluding to the 13 original states. The combined Arms of the Unified Kingdom of Austria-Hungary include the Motto “Indivisible and Inseparable” (although that assertion was not to remain true for much longer afterwards!)

The location and nature of a territory may also be alluded to. A representation of a desert is included on the arms of the Spanish Province of Sahara (Spain 1695), whilst Gibraltar (158) has the ‘Key’ to the Mediterranean. Because of stoicism in defending its strategic location during World War II Malta was honoured with the George Cross which was incorporated into its arms thereafter. San Marino’s arms (323) include a representation of the triple fortified peaks of Monte Titano.

Singapore’s design is a play on its name - Singa and pura, Latin for lion and city (Singapore 52 and Cocos Keeling Islands 56), whilst Rhodesia had elements of Cecil Rhodes’s personal arms (387).

A countries’ products may be shown - sheep from the Falkland Islands (176), pineapples from Jamaica (231) and agricultural items from Tasmania - rake, plough, scythe and wheat

### Civic Arms



Like National arms, local authorities’ arms may refer to the name of the locality. Some are quite obvious: a red man on the arms of Rottenmann (Austria 1843), a bathtub on the arms of Baden (Austria 1861), and a bear for Berne (Switzerland J18) and for Berlin (East Germany E2538). In other cases the reference is more obscure, amounting to a pun on the name, known heraldically as *Canting Arms*. Examples include Antwerp (Belgium 94) with severed hands (Flemish - hand werfen); Munich (Germany 198) with a monk (German Münch) and Reims (France 736) with a garland (French Rinceaux).

### Arms of Individuals



Individual Arms express the bearer’s circumstances like those of organisations. They very often show relationships between individuals, a key feature of Heraldry. Thus Anne Neville, wife of Richard III, *impaled* (i.e. placed side by side on one shield) the Royal Arms and those of Neville (Grenadines of St Vincent 230). Hans Adam, the ruler of Liechtenstein, inherited his arms from his father, Franz-Josef. They *marshal* (i.e. display) these arms separately side by side with their respective wives, Fuerstin Marie (1992 miniature sheet) and Fuerstin Gina (SG491).

Only the individual bearer of Arms is entitled to use them, but members of his family may adopt them *differenced* by an additional charge. Before marriage Queen Mary bore her mother’s and her father’s arms *quarterly* - 1 & 4 the Royal Arms *differenced* with a *label* (as grand-daughter of George III) and 2 & 3 the arms of Teck (Kiribati 184). Prince Charles also

uses a *label* on the Royal arms (Belize 614). Sons and brothers of the French kings added various devices to the Royal Arms (France 816, 1124, 1228).

A Grant of Arms is of course itself an honour. An additional honour of an Order of Chivalry is shown by a decoration around the shield. British examples are Garter (Bermuda 482), and Bath (Guernsey 32 and Bermuda 501). European Orders include the Elephant and the Seraphim.

Rank in the British aristocracy is shown by the designs of the helmet and the coronet. Nobles have a silver and gold helm facing sideways; Knights have a steel helm; Earls have a coronet with alternating leaves and pearls; and Barons have only large pearls (Bermuda 457, 459 and 500).

Holders of Office may *Marshal* their Personal Arms with those of their Organisation, as do the Grand-Masters of the Sovereign Order of Malta (shown on Malta 405 and 421; also on local stamps of the Order).

Women conventionally bear their arms on a lozenge-shaped shield (reflecting their supposed non-belligerent nature!). The arms of Mary Queen of Scots appear in this shape on a 1987 Scots Aerogramme, as do the arms of the West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes on a 1986 special postmark.

Many arms reflect the achievements of the owner or of his forebears. Pens on the Gutenberg



family arms honour their ancestor's fame as a printer (Liechtenstein 444). Drake was awarded arms which show in a stylised form the sea between the Pole stars (St Kitts 184). The arms of Doyle bear a *Canton of Egypt* in recognition of the General's achievements there (Guernsey 328). The arms of the Princes of Thurn & Taxis (Belgium 3146) are surmounted by a crest which includes a post horn, reflecting the family's provision of an early postal service to much of Europe. Columbus' Arms allude to his discovery of the West Indian Islands (Argenti-

na 1865). Nelson's arms bear exploding bombs and one of the supporters carries a broken Spanish flag (Anguilla MS453).

Many Saints have, often retrospectively, been 'allocated' arms which allude to their lives - or even their deaths! St Helier was beheaded in the Channel Islands in 555 AD and axes figure on his arms (Jersey 143). St Nicholas (Austria 1921) is shown distributing gifts to the poor. St Peter is custodian of the Keys of Heaven; the two half cantons of Nidwalden and Obwalden are traditionally under his protection and their arms show a key (Switzerland J11 and J13). St Martin's arms show him sharing his cape with a beggar (Czechoslovakia 2723).

### **Arms of Dominion**

Arms of Dominion differ from other arms in that they are neither personal nor hereditary. Rather they are settled *ad hoc* by each monarch and reflect the territories he rules over - both



actual and aspired to. Thus the British Royal Arms have gone through many forms English Royal Arms were first officially used in 1198 when Richard I (Barbuda 47) bore three lions, adopted from a similar Norman design. The Channel Islands still use these arms (Jersey 1) because of the Queen's sovereignty over the islands as hereditary Duke of Normandy. Use of the English arms continued until 1340 when Edward III (Guernsey 17), who laid claim to France, combined those of France and England (GB 961).



James I (Newfoundland 95) who united the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland adopted complex arms in 1603 combining the previous arms with those of the old Scottish Kings (GB 2111) and the Irish Harp (Eire 679). The succeeding Stuart sovereigns continued to use these arms (Bermuda 157). In 1684 William III added to these Stuart arms a central shield of his paternal arms of Nassau, still used by the regions of Nevers and Franche-Comté (France 1499d and 2152).

In 1714 George I, Elector of Hanover, dropped the *inescutcheon* of Nassau and added in the 4th quarter the arms of Hanover which combined those of Brunswick, Luneberg and Westphalia (GB 1980 Scots airletter). In 1801 on Union with Ireland, George III dropped the long anachronistic French arms, added the lion of Scotland as a full quarter and placed the Hanover arms on a central shield.

Finally, on the death of William IV in 1837, since Salic law prevented Victoria from inheriting Hanover, that quarter was dropped, leaving the Royal arms as they remain today (beautifully shown on a Czech Republic card marking a visit by Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh).

And so the story comes full circle from the first recorded royal granting of arms in 1127 to arms as they are used today, decorative certainly, but meaningful and informative as well - **Not Just a Pretty Picture.** ☰



## **THEMATIC CANCELLATIONS ON LINE THEMATIC-CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

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The following notice appeared in the Island's newspapers:

“The Post Office advises that further supplies of 1d. postage stamps are not at present available and that, until further notice, prepayment of penny postage...can be effected by using one half of a 2d. stamp, providing that division is made by cutting the stamp diagonally. It is emphasized that the bisection of stamps should be done carefully and that correspondence bearing half stamps not cut in the manner indicated will be liable to surcharge.” (1)

This strikes one as a petty bureaucratic notice, threatening surcharges at a time when far more serious issues were at stake due to the German occupation.

While the tactic of bisection had been resorted to by other countries when supplies of stamps in demand had run out, it remains a regrettable defacing of an often well-designed stamp. In the case of the Channel Islands, bisecting the centennial commemorative stamp meant decapitation of one or the other of the two monarchs. In the event, the bisect stamps ceased to be legal after only 58 days, when the first issues of island stamps were produced.

Guernsey was the first Channel Island to issue its own stamps. Printed by the Guernsey Press, the stamps depicted the Island's coat of arms with the lettering 'Guernsey Postage'



The 1d scarlet went on sale on February 18th 1941 to be followed by the ½d. green on April 7th. The third stamp, the 2½d. blue, only appeared three years later, on April 12th 1944. The printing was pretty basic, with numerous variations of shades and poor perforations. Shortage of paper meant that some of the stamps had to be printed on imported French watermarked paper which had a tendency to turn blue during gumming.

The first Jersey stamps, very similar in design to those from the sister island of Guernsey, went on sale on April 1st 1941. A 1d. red was followed by a ½d. green, issued on January 29th 1942. Due to shortages of paper, the Jersey stamps were at times unavailable and meter franking was resorted to.

Following a suggestion from the German occupiers in Jersey, a new set of pictorial stamps showing familiar scenes around the Island was planned. A local painter, Edmund Blampied, was commissioned to undertake the venture and six stamps were eventually issued in June 1942.

The stamps were printed at the works of Postes, Telegraphs et Telephones in Paris, occupied France, with engraved plates made by Henri Cortot. While better designed and produced than the earlier Jersey definitives - with accurate perforations for example -- the stamps were merely plain forerunners of the attractive multi-coloured pictorial issues for which Jersey is well-known today. Curiously, unlike stamps issued by other countries overrun by the Germans in World War II, there is no indication on the stamps of the Nazi presence in Jersey in 1942.



*Pictorial definitive stamps for Jersey, designed by Blampied: no watermark, perf.13. (1942, SG 3-8)*

The green ½d. stamp depicts a scene from an old Jersey farm; the 1d. red stamp shows Portelet Bay; the 1½d. brown stamp features Corbière lighthouse; the 2d. yellow stamp has a distant view of Elizabeth Castle; the 2½d. blue stamp features the imposing Mont Orgueil Castle, heavily fortified by the Germans; and the 3d. violet stamp shows the gathering along the seashore of *vraic* (seaweed), used as a compost on vegetable plots.

We trust this brief review of the wartime issues of stamps in the Channel Islands may interest collectors enough to pursue further aspects of the German approved philatelic service. For example, it would be a worthwhile endeavour to try and collect covers from the years 1940 - 1945, noting destinations and originators of the enclosed letters. Apart from messages to evacuees from relatives and friends still on the islands, other letters will have been allowed from prisoners of war, and possibly from the many thousands of ‘slave’ labourers from Eastern Europe, brought to the Channel Islands to help build the formidable defences of the Atlantic Wall. ☐



(1) Manning, John *Glimpses of Guernsey*. A collection of interesting stories and traditions (Guernsey, 1995), p. 60-61.

Permission to draw information from Mr. Manning’s article on ‘Occupation Stamps’ is gratefully acknowledged. ☐



# NEW ISSUES

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# NEW ISSUES

## SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE

The omnibus issue from which this selection is taken celebrate 60 years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The stamps and miniature sheets depict Her Majesty and HRH Prince Philip through the decades in photo album form representing the royal couple from their earliest years together to the present day. All stamps are diamond-shaped, and there are miniature sheets of single stamps and sets of eight.

The Queen is the constitutional monarch of 16 independent sovereign states known as the Commonwealth realms. In addition, as Head of the Commonwealth, she is the figurehead of the 54-member Commonwealth of Nations. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, is Britain's longest-serving consort and the oldest serving spouse of a reigning monarch.



# ABPS NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, SHEFFIELD, 6 – 7 MAY

*Wendy Buckle reports; photos by Anne Stammers*

The Exhibition was hosted this year by Sheffield Philatelic Society, who are to be congratulated on running such a friendly and efficient event. The venue, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, was ideal, providing one room on the ground floor large enough to accommodate both dealers and exhibition, plus adjacent meeting rooms. The area was well lit, and stands were laid out with plenty of space to move around. It was a very comfortable venue.

Sheffield was the location for the ABPS annual competitions. There were five thematic entries:

Wendy Buckle. Worth the Paper It's Written On: making and using paper. Four frames. Gold award.

Starting with early writing materials, it then looks at the invention of paper-making, the materials used, early and modern paper mills, and the industry today.

Barry Stagg. History and Development of the Parachute and Parachuting Techniques. Five frames. Vermeil award.

From early days and the basics, it covers development in World War II right through to manned and unmanned spaceflight, plus some the individuals associated with parachuting.

Anne Stammers. Rocks to Riches. Three frames. Vermeil award.

Traces precious gemstones and minerals from their geological formation, through extraction, to the beautiful jewellery and artefacts they are made into.

Carlo Rasmussen. Guided Tour of the Gota Canal and the Adjacent Waterways. One frame. Large Silver award.

As it says in the title - a tourist guide along the Canal showing its sights and its history.

John Hunter. Atoms For Peace - Atoms For War. One frame. Bronze award.

The evolution in national and public attitudes towards nuclear energy, influenced by events such as weapons testing, the arms race and accidents such as Chernobyl.

*Wendy*

*Anne*



Due to the timing of the BTA meeting clashing with the judging critique, the thematic judges Francis Kiddle and Birthe King very kindly found time later in the day to provide a detailed critique to Anne, Barry and Wendy, which we all found helpful, positive and encouraging.

The Open Class also provided some interesting topics. Two entries in particular stood out: “Needle Makers of the Arrow Valley” was an absolutely fascinating account of their manufacture and trade. The pre-stamp postal history alone was wonderful, augmented by advertisements, stationery, needle packets, and photographs.

“North Cape and Beyond” told the story of the ‘golden years’ (1883-1914) of mail carried on the cruise ships operating to North Cape and Spitzbergen, illustrated with postcards and menus as well as the postal history.

The Awards Dinner, held at the Cutlers’ Hall, Sheffield, was impressive in its setting and friendly and relaxed in its ambience. After an excellent meal we were treated to an illustrated talk by David Beech on “Eminent Philatelists”. As the slides (if that’s what you call PowerPoint) of said eminences went up we were asked to play ‘Guess the portrait’. The audience collectively failed on nearly all counts. Incidentally ‘eminent’ was used loosely, it also included the notorious dealer Charles Ponzi, source of the eponymous Ponzi Scheme. Despite our woeful lack of knowledge the whole event was a great evening which we thoroughly enjoyed.

If 35 dealers and four specialist society stands, plus nearly 300 exhibition frames, were not enough to keep you entertained during the day, there were also presentations by David Beech on “Rarities of the British Library Philatelic Collection” and by Bob Wilcock on “The London 1908 Marathon”, plus meetings by the Royal Philatelic Society London and the Yorkshire Philatelic Association.

The BTA held the only other meeting, which unfortunately was not well attended. However those who did come were entertained by a lively and informative talk by Barry Stagg on Archery. Barry had stepped in at very short notice when our advertised speaker was forced



to drop out, and brought along his “second collection”; his ‘parachuting’ theme being among the competition entries at Sheffield. Barry explained that he is an archer himself and hence his interest in the subject. Most archers are right handed but two items show left handed archers. He explained the importance of wearing the correct body protection according to whether you are left or right-handed. An item of Russian postal stationery illustrated safety equipment for the chest. The ladies in the audience winced at the thought of the damage that could happen if you aren’t properly protected.

*Barry in front of his parachuting exhibit*



Raw materials were shown: bows in the West are made of yew, but the Japanese traditionally used bamboo; and goose feathers make the best flights. A lovely “Shooters Hill” cover introduced the history of archery via a place name signifying the area where archery was practiced in medieval times. That led us on to battles, and of course the mastery of the English longbowmen at Crecy and Agincourt. The French sent in the flower of their nobility, weighed down with their armour. The English responded by showering arrows from the high ground, their aim being to take out the horses, rendering the knights immobile in a sea of mud. Not chivalric perhaps, but very effective. The French did have crossbowmen, but being unable to keep the crossbow strings dry, and thus taunt, meant they were no attack weapon either. The English also, quite inadvertently, employed the original “biological warfare” at these battles: arrows were stuck in the ground ready to be grasped quickly to reload. A metal tip, covered in mud (and worse), fired into the body would cause fatal infection.

Another historical anecdote concerned 1066 and all that. Apparently it is unlikely that Harold was killed by an arrow in the eye, despite the evidence/propaganda of the Bayeux Tapestry. Barry then moved the story on to archery as a sport. Target archery and field archery were explained, and Barry acknowledged that while it might be a great sport to play it does not make a good spectator sport, and has been included and excluded from the Olympics over many years. Not only is it a great sport for children (using smaller bows, obviously) it is also a sport for the blind, who aim by means of a bell behind the target. The target (made of straw) and scoring system was explained.

Finally, here’s a thought. We all know that the bow and arrow is the symbol of love, but has the irony ever struck you that of course it is actually a weapon of war?

This report doesn’t do justice to the full range of subjects covered, shown via a wide variety of different types of material, with a talk delivered in a relaxed and entertaining way. Thank you Barry for an excellent display.

Following his talk we had two-minute displays from members present:

Keith Lloyd. “Blind Man’s Mail” with Return to Sender cachets from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

David Hope. Piracy and some of the infamous buccaneers, including Henry Morgan.

Richard Hindle. Early European Exploration, with the start of a new collection on pre-Columbian discoveries.

Non thematic collectors who joined the audience also enjoyed the meeting.

All in all it was an enjoyable, if very busy, two days. ☰



*General views of the hall*



# THEMATIC POSTAL HISTORY

*John Hayward suggests ways of enhancing your collection*

**T** rue to my promise in the March 2011 edition of *Themescene*, and without your Editor having to chase me, I am writing a series of articles on Thematic Postal History which I hope will give readers a wider perspective and enjoyment to their thematic collecting. What do I mean by thematic postal history? It clearly involves covers and envelopes that have been through the post, and I think they can be divided into two separate categories. Firstly, postal markings, instructions and cachets, and secondly the means by which the postal item was actually transported.

Let me deal with postal markings, instructions and cachets first. These are too numerous to list in any detail and go back to well before the invention of the postage stamp. They display something to do with, or which links with, the theme you collect. They may indicate a mode of transport, a mileage rate, carry an illustration of a symbol or even have a nickname which relates to your theme. For example, a “Bishop Mark” would be of interest to a Chess collector, a “Brunswick Star” cancellation might attract someone who collects astronomy, indication of a reduced postage rate for the blind would interest a collector of Louis Braille, a military unit cachet might be of interest to a collector of warfare, and so on. Any of you who have seen the wonderful displays on the horse given by Michel Abram to the BTA in recent years will know what I mean. He showed covers from before 1840 with illustrated postal markings of stirrups and horse shoes to indicate the mail was either carried by horse or the postal charge paid. Furthermore, our own member Ian Paton in his superb thematic exhibit on the development of the United States, and in his numerous articles in this magazine, relies considerably on this form of thematic postal history to convey the story of significant events in US history.

That’s enough of descriptions – let me move on to some illustrations. Figure 1 (next page) shows a feathered letter which was sometimes used on post in the early 19th century. Quite obviously a collector of the bird theme would covet this item. Fig. 2 shows a military sender’s handstamp on a letter during World War I (WW1) indicating free postage. This would be of interest to a collector of not just WW I, but of diseases (note the epidemic laboratory in the cachet) and postal services. If you collect a theme like the development of trade or education worldwide or even related to one country, then an official cover sent postage paid from a Government Department responsible for trade or education would fit nicely in your collection. Even better might be the GB stamp overprinted for use by the Board of Trade or Department for Education on a cover from that organisation. Just think of the various GB stamps that have been overprinted for official use by Government Departments and the many foreign countries as well: official covers bearing these stamps would greatly enhance a thematic collection.

Let me stay on the category of cachets which carry a thematic connotation with particular reference to my own theme of motor-cycles. During WW I the British Army became obsessed with the problem of sending safe, swift and secure military dispatches at the front. Mail had to be carried only by service personnel and the motor-cycle was the ideal vehicle to achieve this. So the Dispatch Rider Letter Service was formed in 1917 for this purpose. There were no special handstamps to identify the service, but instead mail was endorsed “DRLS” by hand. Fig. 3 shows such an endorsement in 1918, and as the envelope was carried by motor-cycle it has found its way into my collection. It even has the original dispatch intact.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

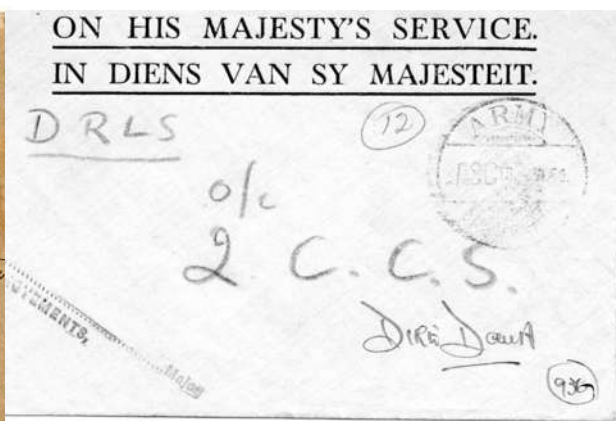


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

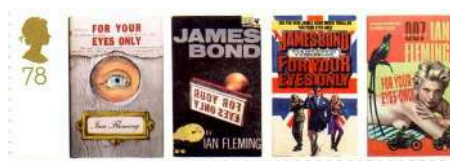
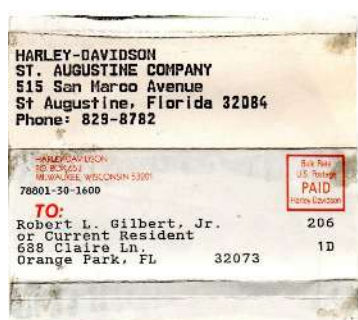


Figure 7

Things were not so primitive in World War II. The DRLS was greatly expanded and handed over to the Royal Signals. It was extended also to British Commonwealth troops. Fig. 4 shows a military cover from South African troops in Ethiopia sent to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Section with the DRLS (note handwritten cachet) used for the journey. This cover is not just of interest to collectors of the theme of motor-cycles: collectors of warfare would be interested as would collectors of hospitals. The item I really like from this section of my collection is shown in Fig. 5 for military mail used by Australian Forces in Papua New Guinea during WW II. Here a special label has been printed and affixed to the cover authorising the use of the DRLS. The DRLS has continued in peacetime, but became the armed forces Courier Service. Fig. 6 shows a cover carried by motor-cycle of the Courier Service with a special label affixed for the Northern Army Group. Incidentally, James Bond posed as an army dispatch rider in Ian Fleming's *For Your Eyes Only* and the GB stamp of 2008 (Fig 7) shows him in this role!



Bringing this area of thematic postal history right up to date, thematic collectors should not forget that the modern PPIs (postage paid indicia) on the dreadful junk mail they receive may well bear a thematic symbol of some kind. Fig. 8 is an item from the USA advertising Harley-Davidson. Amongst others I have seen are Guinness. So don't just throw this material away when it comes through your door – you never know what might be imprinted in place of the humble postage stamp!

There is a final postal marking which I would like to mention in this first category of thematic postal history: registered labels. They usually bear the place name of the post office from which they were sent. The place name can of course link in with a theme, but even better in my view are registered labels from mobile post offices at exhibitions, shows and sporting events which are directly involved with the theme you collect. Mobile post offices are often present at foreign international exhibitions and shows, and collecting the registered label for the event on a cover really makes a collection that much more interesting. Fig. 9 is a cover posted at the mobile post office at an International Bicycle and Motor-Cycle Show in Germany. If your theme is golf or cricket, watch out for covers posted at the Open Golf Championship or Wimbledon. Fig. 10 shows a registered label for Northampton on a cover posted from a mobile post office at Silverstone race track. How do I know? Not because Gerald Lovell told me, but because the mobile post office used at Silverstone on race days had the number "Northampton 49".



I will move on to thematic postal history and the means by which a letter was transported in following articles. ☰

# AGENDA

**For the 20th Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association  
to be held on Saturday June 11th 2011 at 2.30 p.m. at Swinpex at  
St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* September 2010
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010
6. Election of Officers

The following Officers have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Anne Stammers Secretary  
Peter Wood Treasurer

There is a vacancy for the position of Chairman

7. Election of Committee members

The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Peter Denly FRPSL	Membership Secretary
Cuttently	Wendy Buckle	<i>Themescene</i> Editor
Currently	Simon Moorcroft	Publicity Officer
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising Manager
Currently	Brian Sole FRPSL	Committee member
Currently	Jim Etherington	Committee member
Currently	Gerald Lovell	Committee member
Currently	Charles Oppenheim	Committee member

The following person has been nominated for the Committee – Barry Stagg

8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of  
Ron Backhouse Librarian  
Grahame Boutle Examiner
- 9 Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by **June 8th 2011**

The meeting will be followed by a display 'Worth the Paper it's Written On' by Wendy Buckle

Signed: *M. Anne Stammers* (Hon. Secretary) 19 April 2011



**THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**  
**Account for the year ended 31 December 2010**

<b>2009</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2010</b>
3,439	Subscriptions	4,034
500	Donations towards BTA Stampworld 2010 costs	0
12	Publications - net surplus	3
14	Other Sales and Income	23
90	BTA Cup Entry Fees	30
-101	less : Expenses	-12
3	Bank Interest	3
<u>3,957</u>		<u>4,081</u>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
2,704	"Themescene" - Printing + Distribution Expenses	2,963
- 466	less : Advertising Income	-501
139	Meetings	161
223	International Events - Eurothema	0
333	Committee Meeting Expenses	332
214	Publicity and Web Site	75
119	Insurance	119
474	Affiliations	443
453	Administration Expenses	291
-	ATA costs (net)	8
250	BTA costs for Stampworld 2010	772
250	less : from Stampworld fund (donations)	-250
-	Sales, commission and table share income.	-213
<u>4,693</u>		<u>4,200</u>
- 736	DEFICIT -Expenditure over Income	-119
<u>3,957</u>		<u>4,081</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010**

	<b>Accumulated fund</b>	
5,648	Balance at 1.1.2010	4,912
- 736	less : Deficit for the year	-119
250	Stampworld 2010 fund (donations)	0
<u>5,162</u>		<u>4,793</u>
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	4,890
91	Current Account	1,980
200	"Themescene" float	0
163	Stock of publications	157
71	Amounts due and Payments in advance	75
<u>5,415</u>		<u>7,102</u>
- 114	less: Subs received in advance	-1,205
- 139	less: Amounts due or Received in advance	-1,104
<u>5,162</u>		<u>4,793</u>

# 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 which have been run by the ABPS (see their 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 42), 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. ☐

## BTA NEWS

### RESULTS FROM INDIPEX

Republic of Ireland National Commissioner Frank McDonald reported on the thematic results from the British and Irish BTA members:

#### Vermeil

Frank McDonald	Discovering West London
Richard Wheeler	Masks, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets

#### Silver

John Fitzsimmons	Mozart: From Prodigy to Genius
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# 82ND ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES 15-16 APRIL 2011

*Colin Campbell reports*

Joint hosts of the ASPS Congress were Glasgow Thematic Society and Strathclyde Postcard Club. Setting up the numerous stands on the 14th was undertaken by a band of willing volunteers and the day ended with the informal Scottish Philatelists Dinner. Well over 500 attended over the two days. On both days large queues formed at the entrance as collectors were eager for the doors to open.

An introduction to the Tom Rielly Display was given to an enthusiastic audience by Margaret Morris, a past president of both host societies. The theme of her display was 'Astronomy'. Her display in the main hall attracted many viewers.

A civic reception, hosted by the Provost of Perth, was followed by the annual dinner after which the guest of honour, Professor Roland Paxton, delivered an informative illustrated talk on the work of the engineer John Rennie 1761 - 1821.

This was followed by the awards ceremony for the winners of the various competitions. The awards were presented by Emslie MacPherson, wife of Ian MacPherson, president of ASPS. Winners were:

Richard Beith	Aerophilatelic Shield
Bill McKinley	Scottish Thematic Rose Bowl for the Thematic Class
Stanley Gray	William Ferris Memorial Trophy for Traditional (non GB) pre 1900
Jean Osborne	The Bridge of Allan Trophy for Traditional (non GB) post 1900
Rex Clark	The Glasgow 800 Cup for General Postal History
Pauline Cheasley	The Iain T. Boyle Vase for Social Philately
Jeff Stone	The Robson Lowe Award for Philatelic Literature
Bob Clark	The Cowal Salver for Best First Time Entrant
Rex Clark	The Dr Hirst Bowl for the Best Overall Presentation
Julia MacLeod	Scottish Postcard Trophy
Maureen Mathieson	Robert Burns Quaich for the most interesting Host Society Display

The ASPS Award of Merit was presented to Jim Moffat of Paisley Philatelic Society.

The entries in the Junior Section were of a high standard with the lowest points awarded being 10 higher than that of last year. The ingenuity of the entrants continues to be an attractive feature of this competition.

The joint winners of the one page competition for age up to 8 years were Oswin Ashwood and Charlotte Cooper. The age group 9 to 12 years was won by Chloe Liddell.

The entrants for the Alba Salver fell into three classes –

Class A: up to and including 8 years: 4 sheets


Class B: 9 to 12 years: 8 sheets

Class D: 16 to 17 years: 16 sheets

Winners were:

Lauren Epsie	Class A:	Large Silver Gilt
Lynne Mitchell	Class B:	Gold
Claire Mitchell	Class D:	Gold

The Alba Salver was won by Claire Mitchell with her entry 'Let there be light'.

At the AGM, Alex McCulloch of Kirkcudbright Philatelic Society took over the presidency of ASPS from the retiring president, Ian MacPherson. Plans are already in motion for the next ASPS Congress on 13-14 April 2012. The venue will again be the Dewars Centre, Perth. Full details will appear later in the ASPS website at [scottishphilately.homestead.com](http://scottishphilately.homestead.com) 



*Bill McKinley receives the Scottish Thematic Rose Bowl from Emslie MacPherson, wife of the ASPS President, for his entry "Clouds"*



*Ian MacPherson, President of ASPS, presents Margaret Morris with the Tom Rielly Medal*



# HERE AND THERE

## BILL HART AWARD WINNER 2011

Each year the committee of Stamp Active Network honours an adult who has made an outstanding contribution to furthering the cause of Youth Philately in the UK.

We are delighted to announce that this year's unanimous choice is Jean Wood.

Jean has been a collector for most of her life, starting collecting at the age of ten, and competing since she was . She has been extremely active at all levels in philately, especially in the North East, serving many societies as President or Secretary, as Council member and President of the North East Federation, and as Chairman of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1998. This work was recognised in 2007 when she was received the Congress Medal.

This award is made, however, for the dedication and enthusiasm that she brings to her work with young collectors, and especially for the 16 years of service and dedication as competition secretary for both the British Youth Championships and the Stamp Active Competition. Such work is largely unseen and unrecognised, but is essential to the operation of our children's competitions, and Jean's quiet but efficient work fully deserves this recognition.

## GROUP NEWS

### ALBA STAMP GROUP PROGRAMME

#### 2011

25 June	Summer outing to Stirling Castle
10 September	Falkirk Scottish castles
8 October	Motherwell Scottish ephemera
3 December	Falkirk Alphabet afternoon, letter H



#### 2012

14 January	Motherwell	Letters of the words HERALDRY AW
3 March	Falkirk	Lunch, AGM, Auction
28 April	Motherwell	Guest speaker Alex Shepherd

*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://astropacestampociety.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

Mr G. Horsman, 23a East Main Street, Blackburn, West Lothian, EH47 7QR.

Web: <http://www.birdstampociety.org>

## 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](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. Simister, 1 Falcon Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 8AY

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](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

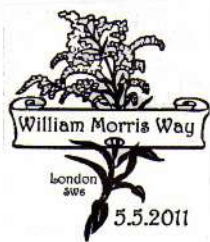
Web: <http://www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS/>

# HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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

For a free sample copy, write to:

The Editor, Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35 – 50 Rathbone Place, London, W1T 1HQ



# JUST4KIDS

By Lise Whittle

*(Adult members - please photocopy these pages and pass them on to a youngster you know, and perhaps include some stamps to help them.*

*When you photocopy this, please enlarge each page to A4 size (enlarge to 141%).*

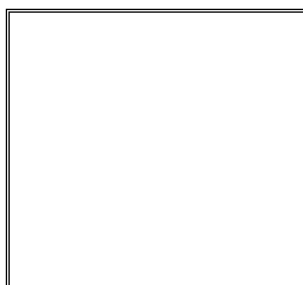
*Thank you*

## STAMPS BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER 'A'

**Find stamps and mount them in the boxes below:**



1) Find a stamp from any country beginning with the letter A



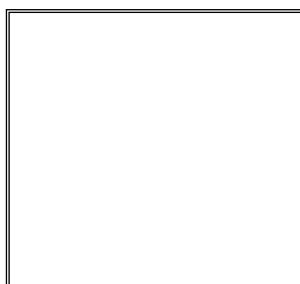
What is the name of the country? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you think of any other countries beginning with the letter A?

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2) Mount a stamp with an Aeroplane on it

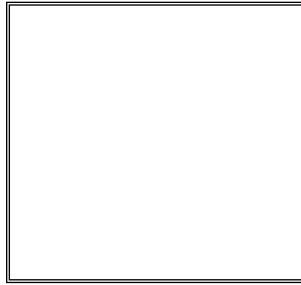


What country is the stamp from? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of aeroplane is it? (Sometimes it tells you on the stamp, so look closely!)

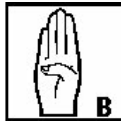


3) Finally, find a stamp which shows an **Animal**



What country is the stamp from? \_\_\_\_\_

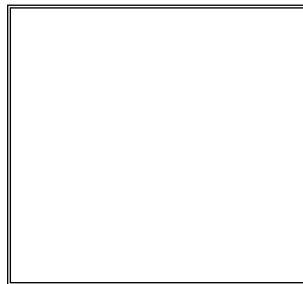
What kind of animal does it show? \_\_\_\_\_



**STAMPS BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER 'B'**



1) Find a stamp from any country beginning with the letter **B**

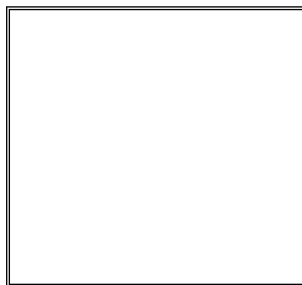


What is the name of the country? \_\_\_\_\_

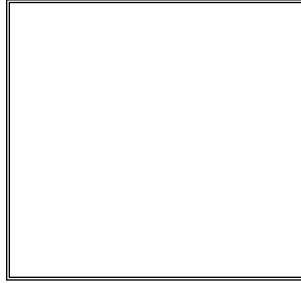
Can you think of any other countries beginning with the letter B?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Now mount a stamp with a **Bird** on it



3) Finally, find a stamp with a **Butterfly** on it



What country is the stamp from? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of butterfly is it? \_\_\_\_\_

*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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Back issues: **Richard Wheeler** (see Chairman)

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**Brian Sole** (see Patron)

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Web Master: **James Wigmore** email: [jameswigmore@talktalk.net](mailto:jameswigmore@talktalk.net)

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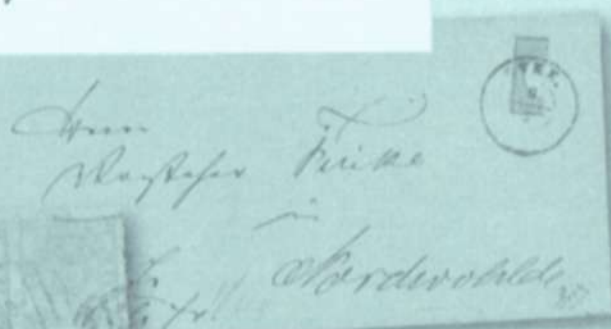
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sold for 28,560 €



sold for 46,410 €

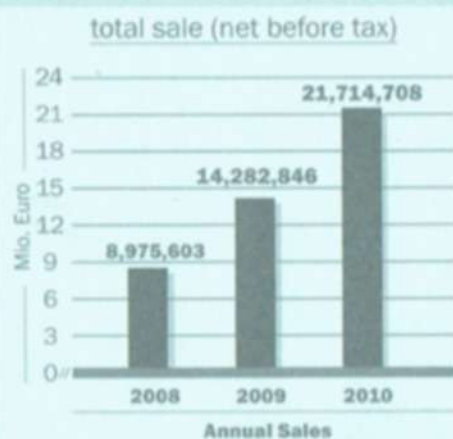


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