

# THEMESCENE

December 2011

*In this issue we:*

*Go back to the earliest literature*

**Homer's Odyssey**

**With Jeff Dugdale**



*Go where Cook never went*

**Speculative commemorative Cook stamps**

**With Barry Floyd**



*Get a surprise*

**Lifeboat cinderella solutions**

**With Edward Quinton**

*Look at the GB Christmas theme*

**Reading the Bible**

**With Wendy Buckle**

*Expand thematics*

**Thematic postal history, pt 3**

**With John Hayward**



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# THEMESCENE

Vol.28, No.4, Whole Number 105

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## THEMESCENE

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

It seems to me that in any branch of philately, not just thematics, research is everything. It improves your collection, it adds to the thrill of the chase, and sometimes it allows you to get one over the dealer by buying something you know more about than they do. Such research is well illustrated by Edward Quinton's article on page 142 (even if, as in this case, it came up with an answer he wasn't looking for). It is also illustrated in an oblique way by John Hayward's article on page 136. While John cheerfully tells us how we can use postal history in a thematic way he glosses over the immense work that must have gone into researching the covers he illustrates. A Guatemala cover carried by sidecar? How on earth did he find that out? I think we should be told. The subject of a future article perhaps?

Christmas is coming and yet again I find myself disappointed with the choice of designs by Royal Mail for their Christmas issue. Ostensibly commemorating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the designs bear no relation to the theme other than that they are nativity scenes. Somewhat stylistic, they have no period feel, and do not even reference the Authorised Version of the Bible, as it is also known. Irritation at this drove me to tell something of the story of the King James Bible (page 147). We also have articles by regular contributors Jeff Dugdale (page 127) and Barry Floyd (page 130). My thanks to them both.

It's always good to see publicity for our hobby, and the BBC have certainly done that with their slide show of the first twelve stamps in the Royal Mail "UK Landmarks" series, available from [www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-15238575](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-15238575). Postcard collectors may have caught the recent BBC 4 programme *The Picture Postcard*, presented in a slightly quirky style, but still entertaining. However we can't only rely on others for publicity, so hats off then to the National Philatelic Society who have decided to really have a go at promoting stamp collecting to a wider, non-traditional audience. They are taking a stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition Christmas Show, commissioning eye-catching publicity to hand out, and hosting a new web page (page 140). The show will be over by the time you read this, but do take a look at the web site. The NPS deserve the congratulations of all of us.

The 2012 BTA programme is enclosed with this magazine. As you will see, we have lots planned, not least a members' meeting in Scotland during the ABPS National Exhibition at Perth. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find details of a joint members' meeting with the Cinderella Society (page 145) and details about ABPS seminars being held during Spring Stampex (page 146). We are very aware that attending the 'Open Class' seminar will mean missing part of the joint Cinderella meeting, but going to the seminar needn't stop you from attending the afternoon of the joint meeting. You will be as welcome for half a day as for the whole day.

You will see from John Hayward's final President's Page, and from the list of Committee members, that there have been some changes to the Committee. John is nearing the end of his four year term as President, and we all owe him huge thanks for the dedication with which he has fulfilled the role. I was very taken aback to be approached at the last committee meeting and asked to become President. It's an enormous honour, and one I hope I can earn by doing my utmost to promote thematics and the BTA to the best of my ability.

May I finish by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a successful collecting new year. ☺

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**John Hayward**

Members will have noticed either from page 122 of this edition of *Themescene* or from the BTA website that there have been some changes among the officer posts on the BTA Committee. These have come about following a discussion at the Committee meeting in October regarding the continuing vacancy of a Chairman. The Committee felt that we could not carry a vacancy in this important post for too long so we have had a reshuffle of responsibilities to tide us over until the next AGM. I have stepped down a few months early as President and become Acting Chairman. Wendy Buckle has accepted the President's office - a well deserved honour for someone who has served on the BTA Committee for many years. Thankfully, she continues as our esteemed Editor. Simon Moorcroft has volunteered to be Acting Vice Chairman to fill the vacancy left by Wendy. On a personal front I had not expected to be Chairman again and I do not intend to be for the full four years this office entails. I will be 78 by then, so I will probably hand over the reins in 18 months / two years time. Meanwhile, can I say that it has been a great privilege to be the BTA's President and to follow in the footsteps of such eminent thematic collectors as Franceska Rapkin, Margaret Morris and Brian Sole.

There are some important thematic events coming up in the New Year. Stampex in February is concentrating on the Thematic Class as well as Postcards and the Open Class. On the Saturday of Stampex the BTA is running a joint member's meeting with the Cinderella Stamp Club at the Royal Philatelic Society London. Do come along to both of these enjoyable events, full details of which appear on pages 145 - 146 of this issue. We are well aware that the joint Cinderella meeting will clash with seminar on Open Class, so if you would like to come to only half the day meeting you will be very welcome. We have not forgotten our members in Scotland either, especially as they may not be able to attend events in London. The Fosbery Trophy, BTA Cup and Friends of Thematica children's competitions are being held at Perth in May and we intend to run a BTA members' meeting at the ABPS National Exhibition in Perth in October 2012. Make a note of these now from the 2012 Membership Card accompanying this issue of *Themescene*.

On a totally different subject and one on which I have badgered Stanley Gibbons for a number of years, they have at last updated their catalogue issues for Africa. Many of you know it is 20 years or more since SG published detailed A-Z catalogues of African countries' stamp issues. SG's *Simplified Stamps of the World* catalogues have been hopelessly out of date for many African countries - even some Commonwealth countries - ever since. It has therefore been particularly frustrating for thematic collectors to ascertain whether they are buying authentic stamps from many countries when they are not shown in SG's catalogues. Well, SG's new African catalogue goes some way to filling this large philatelic hole. It has not brought every country up to date though, but it has made a start and even indicated the dubious issues as Appendix items for some countries. I would hope your local philatelic society or library has a copy to which you can refer.

*Continued on page 126*

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

**Peter Denly**

Ordinary members	183	
Family members	17	
Junior members	2	
Society members	14	
Overseas members	19	
Overseas Society members	2	
Honorary members	4	
<b>Total number of members</b>	<b>241</b>	(At 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2011)

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

Miss Saru Shrestha      Kathmandu  
(Our first ever member from Nepal whom we warmly welcome to the BTA)

**Deaths advised since the September 2011 issue**      None

**A**fter a packed 2010 with both national and regional events celebrating our hobby, I believed that 2011 would be a year to be taken at a more sedate pace. Instead, this year has proved to be as busy as ever, punctuated with several society talks and displays including the West of England Thematic Society at their Ashburton get together. WETS gives its visitors a warm and friendly welcome which makes for a relaxed and most pleasant atmosphere for the day's event and is most encouraging for the speaker. Do look at our up-dated website where a most comprehensive list of speakers is now available for society programmes. I'm sure a word with your society's programme secretary will find a good thematic display booked for the coming year.

With this December issue you will find the **subscription reminder** for the coming year. As ever we are anxious not to waste members' money and we would ask you to let us have your subscription without the need for costly reminders. Every penny saved from postage can be directed more effectively towards our other activities. With costs rising in these difficult times, we are pleased to be able to confirm that the subscription remains at the same call rate as last year, which has been achieved by a hard look at the Association finances. Should you have a PayPal account we would encourage payment by this means which is only pence more than returning the paper form through the post, and significantly cheaper for members outside the United Kingdom. The remittance form has full instructions for the use of PayPal should you opt for this route.

The recruitment rate slowed down this summer, when of course people's thoughts turned away from stamps. Now that the 'season' is underway do speak to thematic collectors in your local societies and encourage them to join the National body if they haven't already done so.

**I take this opportunity to remind members**, that when making changes to addresses whether postal or email, please be sure to inform the Membership Secretary, which will ensure your copy of *Themescene* is delivered correctly. ☐

# PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

**Simon Moorcroft**

I hope that all of you have had an enjoyable start to the new season of philatelic events and exhibitions. I spent two highly enjoyable days at Stampex in September and was able to acquire a number of more unusual pieces for my collection and spend time studying the exhibits which were on display on the Village Green. I particularly enjoyed the exhibit on the Castle High Values, the story of which is of interest to me as one of my other interests is Pre-Decimal Machins.

I was also impressed with the exhibits in the experimental postcard class. The ABPS will be holding another such competition at Spring Stampex 2012 in conjunction with their emphasis on the "pictorial classes", but I hope that they choose to continue with this class as it, like the advent of the Open Class, offers opportunities to a whole new range of collectors to exhibit.

It is vital in my view that such opportunities are exploited and that the rules pertaining to these classes are not made too burdensome so that potential exhibitors are not discouraged. This has been one of the problems of thematic philately which in my view has led to a mindset amongst general collectors that thematic philately automatically encompasses high level restrictions on the sort of material one can collect, whereas in fact such restrictions are only applicable to exhibitors.

On a different note, some of you will have heard of the initiative undertaken by the National Philatelic Society which will see them taking a large stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition's Christmas Show, being held on 16th to 20th November. Please see page 140 for further details. In my opinion this initiative is one of the most exciting, pro-active and positive steps taken by any organisation in organised philately for some time. It is a real attempt to broaden the appeal of the hobby by reaching out to new audiences. This is something which has so often been talked of, but rarely attempted.

Philately is a fascinating hobby but suffers from people's natural stereotypes and prejudices. However, I have found one only has to explain a little about the importance of philately, the level of study which is possible, the size of the organised element and the linkages between philately and the development of communication, economic and social systems and world trade, to name but a few, to capture people's interest and open their mind to broader thinking. Any project which facilitates this process is worthy of warm support.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. ☐

## **President's Page.** *Continued from page 124*

Whilst on the subject of catalogues it occurs to me that some of those produced for philatelic material other than stamps are often well out of date or just limited to certain countries. Here I am thinking of postal stationery, special handstamps, metermarks, perfins etc. which many of us collect because of their thematic content. Some thematic collectors may also be unaware of their existence. So, Madam Editor, I will put my mind in the New Year to at least one article in *Themescene* on what has been published on this front and where if possible it is available.

*May I finish my final President's Page by wishing all BTA members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2012 with your thematic collecting.* ☐



# HOMER'S *ODYSSEY*

*Jeff Dugdale outlines a great epic and its descendants*

**T**he *Odyssey* was Homer's second great poem, and continues the story of the Trojan War, started in *The Iliad*. Odysseus, known to the Romans as Ulysses, features in the first poem from time to time.

Beginning at the conclusion of the Trojan War, the main story of Odysseus relates the ten year journey he makes in returning to Ithaca and his wife Penelope and son Telemachus. Despite her husband's twenty year absence and the attentions of over one hundred suitors Penelope has remained loyal to her husband and hopeful of Odysseus' return. The suitors although unsuccessful in winning over Penelope have nevertheless been living on her largesse whilst they wait, and much of Odysseus' property and wealth has been spoiled and eroded as a result.



The goddess Athena takes him under her wing as he sets out, and vows to protect him in particular from his main enemy the sea god Poseidon. Athena visits Telemachus, telling him to begin to seek his father who is now on his way home.

Odysseus and his dozen ships first raid the land of the Cicones, slaying many of their men and taking away their women, but Odysseus' men become complacent and are surprised by Ciconian reinforcements who chase them away killing six men from each of Odysseus' ships.

Odysseus then visits the land of the apathetic Lotophagi, who feed them narcotic fruit which causes memory loss, and as a result they are easily captured by Polyphemus, a man-eating Cyclops, son of Poseidon. He takes some of Odysseus' men, eating half of them in his cave. Odysseus gets the Cyclops drunk, tells him his name is "Nobody" and then sticks a burning



pole into the giant's single eye which confuses his father when he complains that "Nobody has blinded me!" The Ithacans escape from the cave by hiding under the bodies of sheep which the Cyclops allows out to pasture. However, thinking he is safely away from danger Odysseus, plump with hubris, shouts out his identity to the giant who then tells his father

in order to exact vengeance, and Poseidon curses our over-proud hero to sail the seas for ten years.

Odysseus next spends some time with the master of the winds Aeolus who gifts him all the winds minus the vital West wind, required to get home. The winds were contained a bag which Odysseus's sailors open seeking gold, and all the winds are dissipated driving the ship which was in sight of Ithaca, back whence it had come.



The fleet tries again and escape from cannibals before encountering the divine witch Circe who metamorphoses half of Odysseus's men into swine. Odysseus can have his men back as they were only if he agrees to love Circe which he does for a further year. On departing Odysseus finds a safe harbour on the Western edge of the world where he sacrifices to the dead and calls up the spirit of Tiresias for advice. He also meets several other famous shades from the world of Hades including his mother and Agamemnon who warns him about being seduced by women.

Back on Circe's island the sailors are advised about the final phases of their journey, and are then tempted by the Sirens, who Circe warned were ghastly hags lying surrounded by the



corpses of men they had seduced with their siren song which promises divine truths if listened to.

In order not to be seduced (though he wants to see and hear them for himself) Odysseus orders his men to bind him to the mast - as depicted on these stamps- and stuff everyone else's ears with wax.

Under no account is he to be released and he passes by them without being taken.

His next challenges, in the shape of driving a passage between Scylla and Charybdis, have provided the modern English language with a popular image to explain the awful choices which often face statesmen for example. The first of these was a six-headed monster and the other a dangerous whirlpool, but both are avoided and the remaining Ithacans arrive at the island of Thrinacia, where despite warnings from Circe, they seek to hunt the sacred cattle belonging to sun god Helios. Punishment for this is death for everyone - except our hero, who after the fatal shipwreck, is captured and kept as a mesmerised paramour by the sea-nymph Calypso on the island of Ogygia until after seven years Zeus sends Hermes to tell her to release him.



Odysseus sets out on a raft with some food and clothing reluctantly provided by Calypso.



Once again Poseidon intervenes and wrecks the raft, though our hero, naked and exhausted, is able to swim ashore to the island of Scherie where the Phaeacians live. As he awakes next morning he hears the noises of young women laughing as he is discovered by Nausicaa, the daughter of King Alcinous, who had been guided to the seashore by the goddess Athena,

his "guardian angel".

Nausicaa takes the battered stranger, who remains anonymous, to her parents' court where he is regarded as a guest of honour, fed and entertained, and takes part in a pentathlon (originally comprising long jump, javelin, discus, short foot race and wrestling), participants in which were considered to be elite athletes.

Adding this aspect to Odysseus' story to date will have convinced you that he is certainly the first ever super-hero of literature - but there's more!

When he listens to the blind singer Demodocus - an oblique reference to Homer himself? - relating two narrative poems about the Trojan War and mentioning him by name he is overcome by emotion and reveals his true identity and details his amazing story so far. The Phaeacians are so moved by his tale that they agree to help him on the last leg of his journey and deliver him to the coast of Ithaca, where he presents himself as a down-and-out with a false and fantastical legend in order to learn from local peasants what has been going on in his land in the two decades since he left it.

Odysseus is finally reunited with his son Telemachus who has also returned from his travels seeking his father and together they plan how to get rid of the suitors who have more or less squatted in his palace. Although Penelope is fooled by his disguise when he arrives home, it is the housekeeper Eurycleia who identifies him from a distinctive scar when she washes his feet. However he gets the old woman to keep his secret a little longer.



An archery contest is then held amongst the suitors using Odysseus' bow, with the man who can shoot an arrow through a dozen axe heads being the one who will finally win Penelope's hand. Of course far from winning, nobody but the "beggar" can even pull back the bow which Odysseus eventually does and then starts to shoot arrows at the suitors to kill and/or drive them away.

Having exacted revenge on several others in his household who have collaborated with the suitors over the years, Odysseus finally reveals himself to his wife who is at first incredulous, but when he provides details of their early life together she knows her man has returned and Ithaca can return to normal with its leader back where he belongs once more.



The word "odyssey", of course, has come to mean any long and tortuous journey or experience endured by someone and has been used in many contexts, real and imaginary. For example *Ulysses* the "unreadable" and controversial 1922 novel by Irish writer James Joyce tells the story of one day in the life of the protagonist Leopold Bloom and includes many parallels with the Homeric tale, Bloom being the hero, Molly being Penelope and Stephen Dedalus Telemachus.

The wonderful Coen Brothers film *O Brother Where Art Thou* (2000) is also loosely based on the story of Odysseus, again with many character and plot parallels. George Clooney plays the escaped convict hero Ulysses Everett McGill and his divorced wife (Holly Hunter) is called Penny. McGill's two convict companions Delmar and Pete represent his crew and the eternally pursuing sheriff is the Poseidon figure. "Delmar" means of the sea and "Peter" the rock, so in one sense McGill is always between the many troubles of the sea and the security of land etc.



Odyssey was the name of the command module of the ill-fated Apollo XIII expedition in April 1970 which suffered a catastrophic explosion on its way to the moon, and whose crew returned only after showing great courage and ingenuity in using the lunar module Aquarius as a kind of lifeboat-cum-living quarters until they approached the Earth on their return. Their journey to the Moon and back was truly an odyssey!

The Ulysses space probe was a joint NASA-ESA project to study the sun and was launched from a space shuttle in October 1990. It was originally to be called Odysseus on account of the long and complicated journey (e.g. using the gravity of Jupiter) it would be taking but was renamed to include an allusion to Dante's *Inferno*.

The 1913 opera *Pénélope* by French composer Gabriel Fauré is based on the second half of Homer's tale. ☰



*Editor's note:* various translations of the Odyssey are freely available in full text on the web, including <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/odyssey.1.i.html>

# SPECULATIVE COOK COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

*Barry Floyd casts an eye over those pretty pictures designed to tempt us*

To mark Captain James Cook's three epic voyages of discovery and exploration in the Pacific, in the second half of the 18th century, over 500 stamps were issued by more than 80 countries. They commemorated the bicentenary of Cook's maritime journeys and his tragic death in Hawaii in 1779.



Most of the stamps came from the postal agencies of islands or countries actually visited by the Captain, or at least viewed by him from on deck, even if he did not actually venture ashore. However, a considerable number of countries never remotely visited by Cook decided to profit from the philatelic celebrations by issuing their versions of his voyages. This is a regrettable feature of many postal agencies today, printing stamps bearing illustrations quite unrelated to their countries of origin. An extreme example of a country issuing Cook commemorative stamps is the land-locked state of Bhutan in Asia!

The writer decided to omit these speculative or irregular stamps from his recent book *Captain James Cook the Explorer: An Historical & Philatelic Review* which was already generously illustrated with 365 bone fide issues [1]. However, a closer look has now been taken at the rogue issues. While some are poorly designed, others are quite attractive, even appealing, in their portrayal of Cook and his vessels, and offering authentic illustrations of people and places associated with the Captain's remarkable journeys. Some forty-nine countries are involved, responsible for issuing 116 speculative issues. A small selection of these is now reviewed, continent by continent.

## The Americas

The Commonwealth Caribbean states of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Antigua, Dominica, Grenada and the Grenadines have all issued commemorative stamps, although routes followed in the course of Cook's three voyages of exploration lay well to the east of the West Indies.



Grenada and the Grenadines are islands with an apparently insatiable appetite for foreign exchange achieved from the sale of stamps worldwide. Not an event or historical anniversary goes by without philatelic recognition, even if the subjects are often irrelevant to the tiny Windward Island group in the Eastern Caribbean. In partial redemption of their profligacy some of the stamps are well researched and designed.



This set was issued to commemorate the Bicentenary of Captain Cook's 'discovery' of Hawaii and the 250th anniversary of his birth. Each stamp bears a head-and-shoulders vignette of Cook. The 18c stamp depicts a feast in honour of the Captain. The drawing is based on a sketch by the shipboard artist John Webber who was among the crew of *HMS Resolution*

during the Third Voyage (1776-1780). Cook and a small party of ship's officers had been invited by the Hawaiians to a protracted welcoming ceremony which ended in the feast; the meal included fetid pork which had been chewed on Cook's behalf by an attendant priest! The 35c stamp shows Hawaiian warriors performing a dance before a Royal Court. They are portrayed more like Afro-Caribbean men than lighter-skinned Polynesians. The 75c issue has an early scene of Honolulu Harbour, which Cook never visited, while the \$3.00 issue shows the trusty *H.M.S. Resolution* on a placid sea. The \$4.00 souvenir or miniature sheet accurately depicts the outer and return journeys of Cook's Third Voyage and final expedition to the Pacific. The stamp itself (magnifying glass required) portrays the deadly confrontation on the shore of Kealahou Bay, the 'Big Island' of Hawaii, where Cook was stabbed and clubbed to death on February 14th 1779. The illustration is based on a drawing by James Cleveley, a carpenter on board the *Resolution*.



The Mid-American state of Nicaragua issued a colourful miniature sheet in 1984 to mark AUSIPEX in Melbourne, Australia. The scene features the Botany Bay landing, on the south east coast of New Holland. Cook, in the company of ship's officers, is shown in full naval attire. From his pose he appears to be warning a crouching militiaman not to fire at a small group of Aborigines in the background. *The Endeavour* is depicted in what appears to be open ocean, rather than the confines of the embayment. The design is adapted from a painting by E. Phillips Fox (National Gallery of Victoria).

## Europe



In 1995 a commemorative stamp featuring Captain James Cook appeared from an unlikely country: Albania (Shqipëria) in its post-Communist phase. A four-stamp set was issued in honour of 'Polar Explorers'. The profile of Cook set against a background of icebergs is scarcely recognizable. The other three stamps provided comparable images of Fridtjof Nansen, Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott.



A set of six stamps portraying 'Navigators and their Ships' was issued by the south eastern European state of Bulgaria. The highest value, the 60ct. stamp, offers a fair likeness of Captain Cook. *The Endeavour* is shown close to a rugged snow-covered shoreline in the background. If this is intended to represent the Antarctic shoreline then the illustration is incorrect. During the First Voyage of exploration to the Pacific (1766-1771) the world's most southern landmass was not sighted. It was only during the second expedition (1772-1775) that Cook got close to Antarctic in the *Resolution*.

## The Middle East



A further unlikely source of a Cook commemorative stamp originates from the Persian Gulf Trucial Coast state of Umm Al Qiwain, incorporated today in the United Arab Emirates. However, the inhabitants of the Gulf region do have a maritime tradition; their forebears sailed dhows down the east coast of Africa and across the Arabian Sea to India and beyond.

The stamp itself is not recognized as a bone fide issue in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, being listed in an Appendix. It was either printed in excess of postal needs or it was not available to citizens of the state 'in reasonable quantities at face value'. While such stamps are normally shunned by serious collectors there are others who admit them to their album pages and even go so far as to bid for rarer items. The 15Dh value is one of a set of eight stamps featuring famous navigators. It bears a simplistic illustration of the Endeavour sailing into an unrealistic sunrise or sunset.

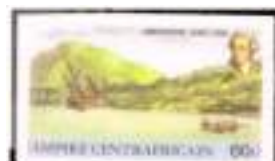
## Africa

A number of African countries chose to commemorate the achievements of Captain Cook in his discovery and exploration of new lands in the 18th century. While the outward and homeward bound Atlantic routes followed by Cook may have mirrored the western outline of Africa, his vessels would not have come within sight of the continent.

The republic of Togo was once a German Colony, resulting from that country's belated 19th century attempt to acquire colonies in Africa. After the First World War it was governed by Britain and France under a League of Nations mandate, later a United Nations trusteeship, and only achieved independence in 1960.



The 250th anniversary of Cook's death was commemorated in 1979 with a colourful set of seven stamps. The lowest, 25f value, features a map of New Zealand and shows the route followed by the Captain as he explored the coastline in 1769. The 50f stamp offers a painting of the *Endeavour* undergoing urgent repairs (careening) on the northeast coast of New Holland, having struck an outlier of the Great Barrier Reef in 1770. The crew remained on shore for a month before Cook ventured northwards via the Torres Strait and south of New Guinea to reach the port of Batavia in the Dutch East Indies. The 60f stamp reminds the viewer that James Cook started upon a maritime career by serving as an apprentice on vessels engaged in the North Sea coal trade. He lived in Whitby, the Yorkshire port shown in the stamp, with his employer John Walker. The house is now the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in Whitby. The 70f stamp provides a dramatic illustration of the Second Voyage's encounters with icebergs as *HMS Resolution* struggled to reach Antarctica in 1773-4. The 90f stamp bears a poor image of Captain Cook in full naval uniform. The 200f issue is described as a 'Sail Plan of the Endeavour'.



Occupying the heart of the African continent and known formally as Ubangi-Shari - a member of the French Community - the Central African Republic achieved independence in 1959. The set of four stamps (issued both perf. and imperf) commemorates the 150th anniversary of the birth of Captain Cook. It reproduces scenes from paintings by artists who have featured Cook's travels in their work. The 60f stamp again shows the *Endeavour* beached for repairs in north east Australia in 1770. However, the scene is the reverse of the original by Sydney Parkinson who was the young shipboard artist. He produced many fine drawings of plants and landscapes but sadly, at the age of 22, he died at sea

in the Indian Ocean as the expedition headed home. The 80f issue depicts 'The First European to Land in New Zealand' after an oillette by Raphael Tuck, one of a series on 'Our Empire beyond the Seas'. The 200f stamp is a slightly modified version of a painting probably by William Hodges, official artist on board the *Resolution* during Cook's second expedition to the Pacific. The painting shows a determined attempt by a landing party to get ashore on the Erromango, a New Hebridean isle. The original painting has the blue-coated mariner with



musket raised horizontally, firing into a group of island warriors. The philatelic version shows the some sailor without any weapon and a lowered left arm. We are left to contemplate the reason for this artistic censorship. Perhaps it was too vivid a reminder of European brutality during the 19th century's penetration of the 'Dark Continent'. The high value 350f issue shows calabash-masked paddlers on board a single-sail native canoe off the coast of the 'Big Island' of Hawaii. They are thought to be priests of Lono, the Hawaiian god of agriculture and fertility. The illustration is derived from another drawing by John Webber, the talented artist on board the *Resolution*.

A third African state to be included in this review is the Djibouti Republic, overlooking the southern entrance to the Red Sea from the Gulf of Aden. It was formerly the French territory of Afars and the Issas. Historically, sailors from Djibouti would have ventured northwards into the Red Sea and eastwards across the Indian Ocean, possibly reaching south east Asia.

Two stamps were issued in 1980 to mark the death bicentenary of Captain Cook. They appear here in decorated miniature sheets. The 55f value bears an inked likeness of the commander, next to a retreating *Endeavour*. The surrounding artwork includes natives, ships, palms and an iceberg. In the second mini-sheet, the 90f stamp attempts to portray, with only partial success, the routes followed by Cook in the course of his three expeditions via red, blue and green lines. An enlarged version of the stamp (which was also issued separately from the mini-sheet) is shown. The surrounds of the mini-sheet reveal the prow of the *Endeavour* thrusting through rough waves, accompanied by a less familiar face of the Captain.

## Asia

The Asian interior state of Mongolia, far removed from the Pacific, has an eclectic approach to philately, comparable to other countries intent only on generating an income from sales beyond their frontiers. Examples of themes featured in Mongolian stamps are space satellites, the first manned lunar landing, classical European paintings, the history of aviation, railways



of the world and World Cup football. Maritime travel, Antarctic exploration and sailing ships are also subjects. The rather crude depiction of 'Capt. J. Cook's Ship' shown in the 80m stamp is from the latter set.

North Korea, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued a stamp in 1988 to mark the Bicentenary of European Settlement of Australia. The scene shows the Earl of Pembroke leaving Whitby Harbour in North Yorkshire; the artist is Thomas Luny. This was the vessel - renamed the *Endeavour* - which the Navy Board purchased on behalf of the First Voyage. The three-masted bark would have been Cook's choice

of ship; he was well acquainted with such collier vessels from his earlier years at sea. A vignette of Cook appears in the upper left-hand corner of the stamp while the Bicentenary emblem is located to the right.



In south east Asia the state of Laos was formerly part of French Indo-China, becoming independent in 1953. A profusion of stamp issues followed. In 1983 a six-part set of stamps appeared featuring 'Explorers and their Ships'. The 5k value has a not unattractive picture of a white-wigged Captain Cook in the foreground while native craft circle his vessel at anchor offshore in the background.

Like Laos, Cambodia was previously an Associated State within the French Union, achieving independence in 1955. A disastrous sequence of events followed, involving sovereign conflicts and Khmer Rouge atrocities against the civilian population. Over thirty years a total of two million men, women and children, were murdered - 35% of the total population - in an area now known as the 'killing fields'. The country's name changed to Khmer Republic, and Kampuchea, before returning to Cambodia (Etat du Cambodge) in 1989.

In 1992 An International Thematic Exhibition was held in Genoa in which Cambodia participated, issuing a special set with the theme of maritime travel and exploration. The 15k stamp honoured Captain Cook and the First Voyage ship the *Endeavour*. The other mariners were Louis de Bougainville and the *La Boudeuse*; Charles Darwin and the *Beagle*; Jacques Cousteau and the *Calypso*; and the balsa raft, the *Kon Tiki*.

## The Pacific Ocean

We arrive finally in the Pacific region, not anticipating many irregular issues since Captain Cook either set foot upon, or viewed from offshore, many of the islands within that vast ocean, and these countries have appropriately marked his visits with bone fide stamps. However, understandably, some were not visited.



The Solomon Islands, located east of New Guinea, lay north of the routes followed by Cook in the western Pacific during his second expedition. They were administered by Britain until attaining independence in 1978. In 1979 a set to mark the

Bicentenary of Captain Cook's Voyages to the Pacific was issued. The 8c value shows *HMS Discovery* - commanded by Tobias Furneaux - which served as the support vessel to Cook's *HMS Resolution* during the Second Voyage (1772-1775).

The 18c stamp has the Nathaniel Dance portrait of the Captain, albeit in an unfamiliar brown colour. The 35c issue shows a sextant, a marine instrument for ascertaining latitude. A note on the stamp reads: 'A sextant similar to the type used by Captain Cook'. This may be correct although the illustration could be of a sextant made in Belfast in 1850, 71 years after Cook's death. The 45c stamp reproduces the Flaxman / Wedgwood medallion of the Captain. This beautiful *objet d'art* was commissioned in 1784, five years after Cook's death.



The high value mini-sheet \$10.00 stamp, not part of the set just described, carries a broadside view of the *Endeavour* in 1770, the year in which the vessel was badly damaged after, as we have learned, striking an outlier of the Great Barrier Reef.



The Micronesian Marshall Islands lie well north of Cook's tracks during the Second Voyage's sweep of Pacific Islands in 1773. They have an interesting political history. They were part of the German effort at colonization in the Pacific in the late 19th century. After World War I, from 1920 to 1945, the islands were a Japanese mandated territory under the ill-fated League of Nations. Since 1947 the Marshall have been part of the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, using U.S.A. stamps. In 1984 the islands were able to assume control of the postal services. The stamps illustrated are from a series on sailing ships. The two 37c issues provide our final pictures of the *Endeavour* and the *Resolution*.

### Conclusion

This review of philatelic material from 15 countries has sought to describe and to evaluate 32 stamps featuring the remarkable maritime exploits of Captain James Cook, the 18th century navigator par excellence. His Three Pacific Voyages of exploration provided the Western world with much new scientific knowledge of the vast region and its diverse inhabitants.

Regret has been expressed that the stamps under review were issued by countries never actually visited by Cook, but whose postal agencies hoped to benefit financially from the Bicentennial celebrations (1978-9). Their stamps thus competed with bone fide issues originating from islands and countries clearly on the Captain's itinerary.

It is indeed unfortunate that many countries have issued stamps quite unrelated to their own history, national features or population characteristics. And the practice continues to this day, in efforts to sell stamps abroad to undiscerning collectors. Yet we have to acknowledge that some of the topics and designs of irregular stamps are colourful, informative, and fully the match of some of the issues from more reputable agencies. Others, by contrast, may be deemed



Bishop: "I'm afraid you've got a bad egg, Mr Jones"; Curate: "Oh, no, my Lord, I assure you that parts of it are excellent!"  
 "True Humility" by George du Maurier, originally published in *Punch*, 1895.

poor in that they have failed adequately to illustrate their themes or are just plain unattractive. Still others, while possibly escaping the charge of mediocrity, have little to appeal to dedicated philatelists. The old adage of the curate's egg comes to mind.

It will be up to readers to decide whether the Cook stamps featured in this overview are potentially worthwhile additions to collections honouring the great navigator or whether they should be excluded, in light of the

dubious motives behind their production. ☰

[1] Copies of *Captain James Cook the Explorer: an Historical .& Philatelic Review* (271 pp.) are still available, at the reduced price of £10 plus postage (inland) £3.50. Order from Barry Floyd,





of mail to addresses within the British, French and American Zones of West Berlin. The post office employed sidecars, scooters and bicycles for this service depending on the length of the journey involved. Illustration left shows an envelope posted in Berlin-Tempelhof 1 at 1640 hrs on 1 March 1949, the first day of service of the Postschnelldienst.



Note the envelope is endorsed in manuscript "Postschnelldienst" at the top and crossed (both in green) to signify the use of this

service. The type of vehicle used is unfortunately not evident. From 23 March 1949 green etiquettes were used for this service.

Let me now move on to airmail and how this can fit into a thematic collection. As many of you will know it does not start simply with the invention of the aeroplane in 1903. There are examples of post carried by balloon well before then. Most famous of course are the *Ballons Montes* carried by balloon from Paris during that city's siege by the Prussian Army in 1870 and early 1871. This was one of the few means of getting mail out of the besieged city and items of mail carried by balloon are greatly coveted. One such is illustrated in figure 6. Incidentally, *Ballons Montes* each had a name and that name can fit in with a particular theme.



Fig 6



Fig 7

The carriage of mail by air nowadays is extremely commonplace and the more unusual items are probably best collected by the thematic collector, especially from the early days of flying or the establishment of air routes. Of great topicality in the last few months has been the Centenary of the first UK Aerial Post. This flight took place on 9 September 1911 from Hendon to Windsor. Special postcards and postal stationery were sold in connection with this event and special postmarks were used for mail carried on the flight. These provide fine examples of thematic postal history. Figure 7 shows a commemorative postcard with the first flight handstamp.

There are other means of carriage of mail by air, best known probably being the airship, and most famously the German airship *Graf Zeppelin*. In the 1930's there were numerous publicity and scheduled flights by Zeppelin and for these a great number of special cancellations and stamps were produced. They do look rather philatelic (see below), but very attractive, and can of course form a main or sideline collection. Carriage of mail by this means ceased to all intents and purposes with the disaster at Lakehurst, USA, but wreck mail from this event is avidly sought after although frightfully expensive. Perhaps the preferred cover to collect for Zeppelin mail is one carrying the registered label for Friedrichshafen where Zeppelins were made.



My final item for mail carried by air is a rocket post cover (below). This is an unusual item from Yugoslavia in the 1930's with a special rocket post stamp and cachet. Rocket post has always been experimental and therefore most mail carried by such means falls into the Cinderella category, but it is attractive and can add that little bit of extra dimension and fascination to your collection.



In my next and final article I will illustrate some further examples of mail carried by ship and the more unusual means of transport. ☰

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

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

**Cancellations on covers, FDCs, postal stationery, meter, aso**

# NEW ISSUES

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



# REDISCOVERING STAMPS @ IDEAL HOME CHRISTMAS

*Simon Moorcroft reports on an enterprising new initiative*


**T**he National Philatelic Society, in a bid to try and reverse the general trend of declining membership of philatelic societies and interest in the hobby, is taking a large stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition's Christmas Show which will be staged from 16th to 20th November at Earls Court, London. The theme for the stand at the exhibition is entitled "(Re) Discover Stamps – Because Every Stamp Tells a Story".

The stand has been designed to attract collectors, both old and new alike, with the intention of demonstrating the vitality and interest of philately and its attractiveness as a hobby. The main feature of the stand will be a full colour display wall showing a number of very famous stamps, such as the Post Office 2d Mauritius, and detailing a story connected with that stamp in a fun and engaging way. It is hoped that most visitors to the stand will find something of interest and with which they can relate, whatever their age or experience.

In addition, visitors will be able to take away a postcard, from which there will be a large number to choose, which will display a stamp and then explain the story behind that stamp so that they have a permanent memento of their visit to the stand and hopefully encourage them to delve more deeply into the hobby. These postcards have been sponsored by a number of different societies, of which the BTA has sponsored four, one in conjunction with the Irish Philatelic Circle. The BTA has selected stamps showing Winston Churchill, one of the great figures of the twentieth century; the Titanic, linked to Ireland both by it being built at the Belfast Shipyards and by Queenstown (Cobh) being her last port of call; a selection of Christmas gifts to recognise the purpose of the Show; and a hand held computer (PDA) to illustrate the transformative effect new technology has had on communication, business, society and economics.

It was felt by the BTA Committee that these would be amongst the best and most engaging images to include on postcards and be recognisable by a large number of visitors. In particular, it is hoped younger visitors will appreciate, through seeing a stamp showing a technology device with which they are familiar, that stamps are not old fashioned items concerned only with matters of history. The BTA is proud to be able to support this excellent initiative in this way.

It remains to be seen how successful this stand and venture will be, but it marks a significant and positive step in the right direction which could be beneficial to the whole of the hobby, particularly as the show is expected to see 60,000 visitors attend over its five day duration. The NPS should be congratulated for their pro-activism and fresh thinking on philatelic promotion.

A special website has been created to complement the stand and allow people to discover more about stamps long after the Show has ended. The website, in addition to more information about the venture, lists all the stamps which will feature on the various postcards and provides far more detail about the story connected with the stamp and the motives of each sponsoring Society or individual in selecting that particular stamp. To find out more please visit: [www.nationalphilatelicsociety.co.uk/index.php/re-discover-stamps](http://www.nationalphilatelicsociety.co.uk/index.php/re-discover-stamps). 

*The four stamps chosen for the NPS Stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition Christmas Show*



[www.nationalphilatelicsociety.co.uk/index.php/re-discover-stamps](http://www.nationalphilatelicsociety.co.uk/index.php/re-discover-stamps)



*The full postcards are numbers 7 to 10 on the web site.*



# LIFEBOAT CINDERELLA SOLUTIONS


*Always do your research, but prepared for an answer you don't expect,  
suggests lifeboat collector Edward Quinton*

Cinderella “stamps” seem to be a bit like buses – you look for them, then you find more than one in a short space of time. The first of these I had known of for several years was the 1923 Christmas seal from Denmark which appears to show a lifeboat.

The one used on a postcard came from a Danish dealer at Stampex a few years ago. Later that day he saw me again and offered me an unused one. When trying to find information about it from the Danish Lifeboat Service I got no reply, which was rather unusual. Two different sources brought no response either. A reply from the Scandinavian P.S. stated that it is not a lifeboat but a traditional Faeroese rowing boat, formerly used to carry goods and passengers between the islands, and only very occasionally used for rescue purposes. Now like the “gigs” in the Scilly Isles it is used for displays and races.

The other “stamp” came from Philatex a few days after the first two, and proved to be much more difficult to find any details of. It is green, with a rowing boat in the centre going to a wrecked sailing ship. It has a figure 5 in the top left corner, the letter M over the roman numeral 111 top right, and “TO THE RESCUE” at the bottom.

Again several lines of enquiry brought no positive response. Then a reply from Sweden brought a photocopy of the sheet *illustrated* showing the stamps as one of a series. Going by the letters on the lightship the correspondence believes it to be one of a series issued by the Church of England Temperance Society.

So neither items related to any lifeboat service but both interesting to have. 





# DUNDEE PHILATELIC WEEKEND

*John Hayward enjoys some Scottish hospitality*

This popular biennial event has been run for 23 years to date by Ken Norris and his very efficient team. The 13th Weekend was held from Friday to Sunday 28 to 30 October at the Queen's Hotel in Dundee and I was invited to be a guest speaker for the thematic display. It gave my wife and I the opportunity to travel across the Forth Rail Bridge for the first time – a great experience.

We all assembled for dinner on the Friday evening and I realised from the 80 people present that this was a very significant event. It was very relaxed and friendly throughout the two days and good to see many BTA members from north of the border in attendance. After dinner we were treated to a display by Mike Roberts entitled *Philately Will Get You Nowhere*, the pitiful and wasted life of a chronic stampaholic. Mike explained with numerous anecdotes all the avenues you can go down over a lifetime of collecting – the highs and the lows – with some lovely philatelic items to highlight his amusing tales.

Next morning after the Lord Provost of Dundee had greeted us all I presented my *Iron*



*Steed* thematic display, which was followed by Robert Johnson with *Cape of Good Hope*. This was a fine postal history display of the 19th century showing many of the problems of transport of mail into the hinterland of the Cape before the advent of the railways. Next came an auction to raise funds to cover some of the Weekend's costs, during which I was pleased to acquire an Army Courier Service item for my collection. The highlight of the auction though was a spirited contest for some GB QEII Wilding booklets by two bidders which started

around £20 and finally went to £450!

After lunch on Saturday we had some free time to explore Dundee and inevitably we went to the Discovery Museum and walked all over Scott's famous ship. It has been restored enormously and I found standing in places where Scott and Shackleton must have stood very moving. The late afternoon session was for all those attending to show eight pages from their collections with no more than a minute of explanation – the "Shotgun Session". The variety displayed was vast and hugely interesting. Later that evening we had a formal dinner with Scottish entertainment followed by a raffle to raise more funds for the Weekend.

On Sunday morning Mike Roberts entertained us again, this time with *Gambia*. This was a magnificent display of the Queen Victoria embossed stamps and some of Gambia's postal history. After this Alan Watson provided a mini display of British medals and then the final display was given by Robert Johnson entitled *Service Suspended* covering the 19th and 20th Centuries all over the world. This was mail which had not been delivered, or had to be delivered by roundabout means because of conflicts, closed borders, strikes etc. There was some superb material here from long forgotten wars and out of the way places.

All too soon the final speeches and thank-yous were said and lunch taken before we all said our goodbyes to old and new friends and made the long journey home. I was greatly impressed with the Weekend and the efforts the organisers put in to ensure it was enjoyed by everyone. ☐

# WETS AUTUMN MEETING

*Jim Wigmore reports*

The Autumn Meeting of WETS was held at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel in conjunction with ThematiX on 29th October 2011. All the visitors attending had a really fantastic day, and judging by the number of people visiting them, so did the dealers. ThematiX dealers were Bob Lee, Paula Cant, David Griffiths, Frank Spencer and Martin Wybrow. In addition to WETS members we were delighted to welcome many club members from South West Clubs as well as BTA members and others from outside the area. Also being shown at the venue were the competition entries from the Wessex Federation. WETS displayed entries for the John Hilsdon Memorial Trophy. Those taking part were:

Trevor Frey	On the Square	Square and Compasses, the symbol of Freemasonry
Gillian Gray	Living in a whorl	The origins, evolution, classification, lifestyle, life and afterlife of seashells
David Herrity	Now you see it, now you don't	A study of British stamps from 1881 to 1884 issued with fugitive ink
Val Robbins	The transportation of mail	Systems of carrying mail by land, by sea and by air
David Roseveare	Grandeur with a little more gravure	Study of the works of Pierre Bequest, the French stamp designer and engraver
Carol Turner	Man and malaria: warfare	The occurrence and influence that malaria had on military campaigns
Jim Wigmore	The Cyprus Government Railway	A narrow gauge railway network that served stations from Famagusta to Nicosia from 1905 to 1951



The entries were judged this year by WETS Treasurer and former BTA Chairman Richard Wheeler. The Trophy is named after an early WETS member from Cornwall who had a keen interest in birds. When John died in 2008 his family, in conjunction with WETS member Lesley Marley a family friend, donated this trophy to WETS as a perpetual memory of John and his love of both birds and philately.

This year the award went to David Roseveare for his entry *Grandeur with a little more gravure*, shown here being presented with his trophy by Lesley Marley.

The whole day was very successful, and WETS and ThematiX will be holding the event again at Dartmoor Lodge Hotel on 27th October 2012. ☰

# BTA NEWS

## **JOINT MEMBERS' MEETING WITH THE CINDERELLA STAMP CLUB**

We have arranged a joint Members' meeting with the Members of the Cinderella Stamp Club (CSC) at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY on Saturday 25th February 2012. This will give the Members of the CSC the opportunity to display Cinderella stamps and other philatelic material that has a thematic content, and for BTA Members to display thematic stamps and other philatelic material that are Cinderella items. The RPSL will be open from 10am with coffee available and the displays will commence at 11am. Members of the CSC will display from 11am to 1pm with a break for lunch until 2.15pm. Members of the BTA will then display until 4.30pm with a break for tea at 3.15pm.

Members of the BTA should bring along 12 or more pages from their collections of Cinderella material of all kinds, i.e. items which have not been issued by a country's post office. For example this can include local posts, strike posts, fiscals, Xmas labels, advertising labels, fakes and forgeries, in other words anything that is not in the catalogue. In addition members are encouraged to bring along material for sale. There should be three or four dealers in attendance and the material recently donated by BTA members will also be on sale. This promises to be a really good day especially if it is anything like the last joint meeting we held with the CSC about 10 years ago. Do come along, even if you have nothing to display, and come for half a day if you cannot make the whole day. We do understand that some people will want to attend the 'Open Class' seminar at Stampex in the morning, so we would welcome seeing those people for the afternoon session. Security arrangements apply at the RPSL, so BTA members who are not members of the RPSL should sign in on arrival as guests of John Hayward.

## **WATCH THIS SPACE: PLANS FOR A BTA WEEKEND AWAY**

The BTA is busy planning a two-night "Have Fun with Philately" weekend, hopefully in late September or early October 2012.

The programme will include invited presentations and participants' displays. Partners will be very welcome as it is hoped to hold the event near a town or city where there will be a variety of tourist attractions.

If you think you would be interested in coming, or would like further details, please let our Secretary know: [annies1@btinternet.com](mailto:annies1@btinternet.com) Full details will appear in March 2012 *Themescene*. Put it in your diary now!

## **DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY**

*INTERESTED IN THEMATIC COLLECTING?*

*WOULD THEY LIKE TO JOIN A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW  
ABOUT THEMATIC COLLECTING?*

*IF SO, WHY NOT TELL THEM ABOUT THE...*

**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION?**

# HERE AND THERE

## SPRING STAMPEX 2012 COMPETITIONS AND SEMINARS

At Spring Stampex 22 to 25 February 2012 the theme for the exhibits will be “The Pictorial Classes”. This will involve Thematic Philately, the Postcard Class and Open Philately (including Open and Social Classes).

Three seminars will be held at the exhibition:

On Thursday 23 February 2012 at 11am *Collecting and Exhibiting Postcards* will be led by Seija-Riitta Laasko. She is a qualified postcard judge in Finland and for Nordia exhibitions. Her publications include “A handbook of collecting and exhibiting picture postcards” and “Paris 1900 – Postcards from the Belle Epoque” to be published in English this autumn.

On Friday 24 February 2012 at 11am *How to Build up a Thematic Exhibit Successfully* will be led by Wolf Hess RDP, an FIP Thematic Judge and exhibitor, who has formed gold medal exhibits in the thematic class as well as other classes. This includes large gold medals and Grande Prix Thematique for his exhibit “Fight Against Tuberculosis” at Hafnia 2001 and at the European Championship 2006 in the Thematic Class.

On Saturday 25 February 2012 at 11am entitled *Exhibiting in the Open Philately Class: New Rules and Advice to Exhibitors* will be led by Birthe King and Christine Earle. Each is a gold medal winner in this discipline in the UK and overseas. Birthe is a National Judge in Denmark and the UK and a Nordia Grand Prix winner. Christine is an International Judge and received a prize at Nordia 2011 for the best introductory page.

The Postcard and Thematic Seminars are free. There is a charge of £19 for the Open Class Seminar which includes the cost of lunch. All three Seminars should be of interest to BTA members, so please make a note to come along. On Saturday you can even go to the Open Class Seminar in the morning and attend the joint BTA meeting with the Cinderella Stamp Club in the afternoon (see the BTA 2012 Programme Card and *Themescene* page 145).

Stampex competitions will give a superb opportunity to those amongst our membership who want to improve what they have achieved at local Society and Federation levels. The pictorial classes are broader, especially the thematic class, than the other traditional classes in which one can exhibit. Potential exhibitors need not feel any of these three classes remain a closed shop. They afford the opportunity for free individual expression. Why not give one or more of these classes a try at Spring Stampex? The organisers have reduced the entry fees to a reasonable level (£10 per frame) to encourage exhibitors. Application forms for the classes are obtainable from the ABPS website:

[www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Downloads/ABPS\\_Spring\\_Stampex\\_2012\\_Complete\\_Final.pdf](http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Downloads/ABPS_Spring_Stampex_2012_Complete_Final.pdf)

## DIAMOND JUBILEE EXHIBITION

In an initiative to attract non-collectors to our hobby BTA member John Davis will be mounting an exhibition of stamps and philatelic material to celebrate and commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It will be at Highcliffe Castle (Hampshire) from Wednesday 1st to Friday 10th February 2012. The display will comprise 24 frames of stamps and philatelic material.

Admission to the Castle £3.00 (accompanied children under the age of 16 and Season Ticket Holders, free), opening hours and full details are available from:

Highcliffe Castle, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Dorset BH23 4LE  
tel. 01425 278807. [www.highcliffecastle.co.uk](http://www.highcliffecastle.co.uk)

# READING THE BIBLE

*Wendy Buckle looks at versions of the greatest story ever told*

The Royal Mail Christmas issue this year commemorates the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Or rather, the Presentation Pack does, the stamps themselves being nativity scenes apparently unrelated to this version. However the theme set me thinking about other issues related to the British Isles which have featured Bibles in the vernacular. It is a popular theme with many countries. Choosing to translate a Bible into one's native tongue immediately renders it accessible to most of the population; many more people can read the Bible, and an even greater number can follow Bible readings.



The Isle of Man Christmas issue of 1975 (SG 71-74) was a set of four stamps commemorating the Bicenentary of the Manx Bible, translated by a group of clerics on the Island under the editorship of Philip Moore (shown on the 7p. value). Further editions followed in 1777 and 1819. The Manx Heritage Foundation have now put the full text of the Bible on the web at <http://mannin.info/MHF/>



In 1988 Great Britain commemorated the 400th anniversary of the Welsh Bible (SG 1384-7), translated by William Morgan (1545-1604). His was not the first translation (one version was known from 1470, and the 1567 translations of the New Testament only by William Salesbury and Richard Davies are shown on the 26p and 31p values respectively ) but Morgan undertook to translate the complete Bible, published in 1588. This version was itself revised by Richard Parry (shown on the 34p value) and published in 1620. William Morgan was appointed Bishop of Llandaff in 1595 and moved to the Bishopric of St. Asaph in 1601.

The National Library of Wales have made available a beautiful page by page copy of the

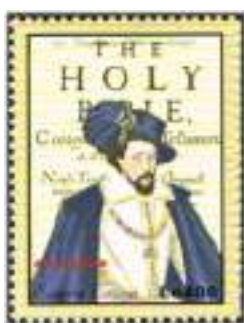
Bible at: <http://digidol.llgc.org.uk/METS/BWM00001/beibl?locale=en>

This brings us to the 1611 Bible, known colloquially as the King James Bible, the King James Version (KJV) or the Authorised Version. Again, not the first in the vernacular, having been preceded by translations by John Wycliffe (1382-1388), William Tyndale (Geneva, 1526) and Miles Coverdale (1539). Coverdale's version became known as the "Great Bible"

and was the first authorised version in English. Henry VIII decreed that this version should be read aloud in the services of the Church of England, and it became the standard work until replaced by the KJV.

King James VI of Scotland acceded to the English throne as King James I of England. In 1604 he convened the Hampton Court Conference to undertake a major review of the Bible. 47 scholars worked on a new translation from Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic sources, which was completed in 1608, and itself subjected to perusal by a General Committee of Review. The completed work was first published in 1611, designed to be used in churches rather than for private devotion. The first printing used a black letter font, although editions in roman font followed quickly. Multiple printings over the years produced a growing number of misprints, so in 1769 the Oxford University Press produced a corrected edition which has remained standard to this day.

Very many of us use phrases from the KJV, perhaps without realising it. If for instance you refer to someone with “feet of clay” or claim that by their action they “reap the whirlwind” you are quoting from one of the great works of English literature. ☐



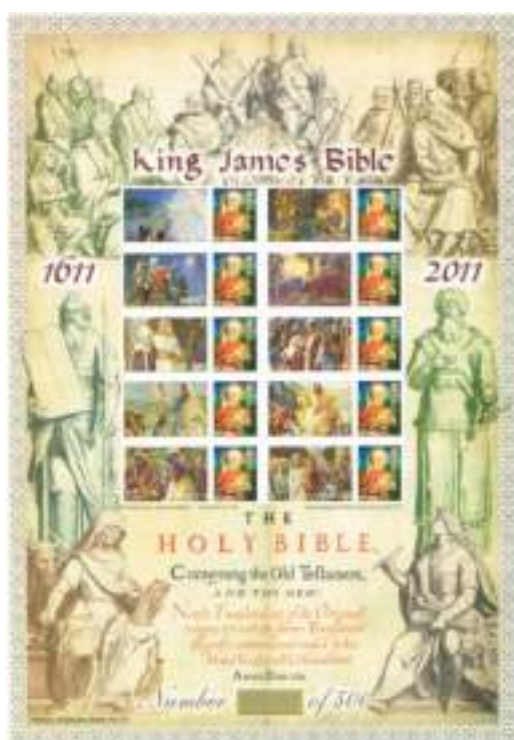
*Sierra Leone issue for the Millennium, 1999*



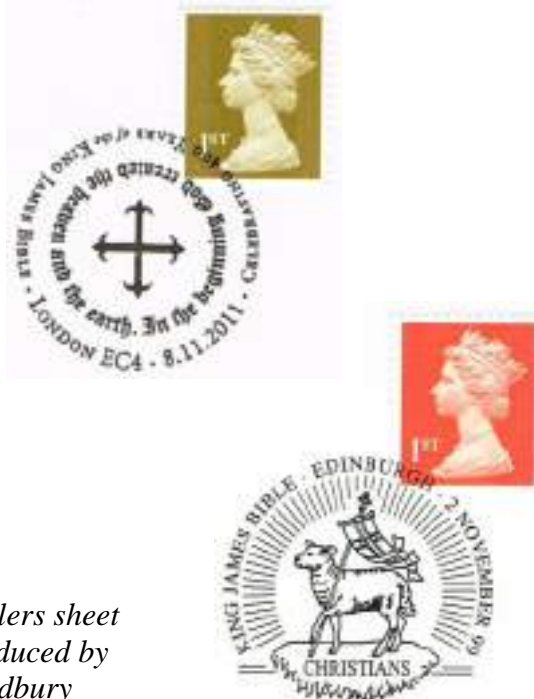
*First day cancel for the GB 2011 issue*



*GB Millennium Issue 1999*



*Smilers sheet produced by Bradbury*



**Just4Kids Christmas 2011**  
The King James Bible

**...we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one ...but to make a good one better.**

**The New Version**

The work of translation began soon after the conclusion of the **Worms Court Conference**. The arrangements were more sophisticated and complex than for any previous English Bible. Six Companies of Translators were appointed, each consisting of about nine leading scholars and theologians. Each was allocated a specific section of the Bible to translate, using a set of rules designed for both accuracy and consistency.

These Companies met regularly between 1564 and 1570. Each Company took their representatives to **Worms** in **Germany**, where the final version was agreed. At the meetings, the translators read the translated text aloud to each other, to ensure any disagreements were spoken from church benches.

The new Bible appeared in 1611.



**Printing and Publishing**

It was not until the late 1560s that the new Bible was printed. Robert Barker, who had purchased the privilege in the hope of making a commercial success of the production. The Bibles were printed on large sheets of paper, suitable for placing on church lecterns. These were sold 'loose-leaf' for 20 shillings, or ready bound for 25. Many churches opted to make their own bindings.

Although the law had granted the privilege of producing the new Bible, it seems to have made little of any profit for them. The Geneva Bible of the continent was the favorite translation for parsonages.

Early printings of the work were not reliable, and errors often resulted from careless typesetting and proofreading. In 1575, Barker and his colleague Martin Laine produced the 'Wicked Bible', which - among hundreds of other errors - accidentally omitted the word 'for' before 'sacred'. This did not prevent additional printings.

**As Enduring Legacy**

Very few of those involved in the production of the King James Bible in 1611 would have guessed that their own Bible would go on to achieve iconic status, becoming an international best-seller. Perhaps they might have hoped at most that their translation would have served their own generation. Yet the King James Bible (or Authorized Version) is now one in rising to fame.

It was not until the late 19th century that its remarkable quality began to be recognized. In the beginning of the 18th century, the King James Bible was being hailed as a religious and literary classic, the 'last monument of English prose' - a status that the work would enjoy until the early 20th century. The new today, many will prefer the new translation to its more modern rivals.

Perhaps the most important and lasting contribution of the King James Bible has been to the shaping of the English language itself. Many of its distinctive sayings have found their way into our everyday way of speaking. Phrases such as 'the apple of my eye', a 'sea of glass', or 'the land of the living' have become part of modern English.

The 400th anniversary of the publication of the Authorized Version is being marked by the issuing of new stamps for Christmas 2011, which show six significant events in the development of the New Testament from the King James Bible.

**Mark Turner**  
**Hilberg**

**Double Lessons**

**the land of the**  
**the white of her teeth**  
**stand in awe**  
**pour out your heart**  
**go from strength to strength**  
**give up the ghost**  
**a law unto themselves**  
**the powers that be**  
**a thorn in the flesh**  
**the salt of the earth**

GB Presentation Pack for the 2011 Christmas set

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

From: Mrs Joyce Boyer, by email

I would like to say 'Thank you' to the pupils of Alloway Primary School Stamp Club. I have a large collection of Christmas related stamps and had been trying to think of a different way to display some of them. The article in Just4Kids in the last edition of *Themescene* has given me the idea that I could illustrate some of the Christmas songs by using stamps. I include 'Going to church' as an activity but now this could be extended to 'A Carol Service'. Also the Carol Singers could be given a song or two.

It will need some thought but many thanks to the young pupils for giving a pensioner some new ideas.

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

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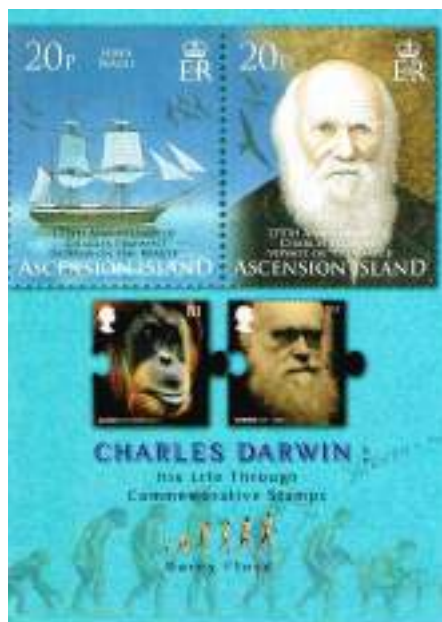


# BOOK REVIEW

**Floyd, Barry**

**Charles Darwin: His Life Through Commemorative Stamps,**

D. S. Media Resources, Malaysia.



Having collected all philatelic material related to Charles Darwin over the past 50 years, it gives me great pleasure to review the latest book by Barry Floyd on “Charles Darwin: His Life through Commemorative Stamps”. The book is a natural progression from his earlier essays which appeared in *Themescene* in 2009, and in a larger format in *Topical Time* in 2010. I think that the book will be an invaluable starting point for stamp collectors who may choose it as a foundation on which to build up a collection.

Since the Ecuador 1936 issue commemorating Darwin’s visit to the Galapagos Islands and right up to 1959 there was hardly any suitable material on which to base a comprehensive collection on Darwin. However, things have changed over the past few years. Any occasion seems a good reason for a stamp issue commemorating this or the other anniversary.

The style and layout of the book, if somewhat unusual, is very acceptable on account of its clarity. A passing comment, not a criticism, occurs to me; literally dozens of books and texts have already appeared in print describing Darwin’s life and works, so perhaps Part 1 “Biography” could have been reduced since details are already available from other sources. Indeed some are mentioned in Appendix I. Illustrations of the early pictures and photographs are noteworthy and complement the text. It is useful to have all the information in one volume and will save time on research.

Darwin’s early life and studies at Edinburgh and Cambridge are dealt with next, but his star begins to shine when he appears in the expedition on HMS *Beagle*. His own comments are quoted and descriptions of countries and islands visited are superb, his coexistence with Captain Robert Fitzroy interesting.

Part II “Philately”: This part of the book is the more important since it leads the collector into the realm of the actual material indicated by the title of the book. The author’s choice of the sequence of issued stamps, miniature sheets, first day covers and postcards gives impetus to the arrangement of one’s collection. His selection of available material is based primarily on the Voyage and here the collector has a choice as to what to acquire and arrange. Suitable works by Darwin are mentioned only in passing which is rather a pity since a fuller collection of Darwiniana would complete and enhance this section.

Works suitable for philatelic treatment would include the “*Origin of Species*”, “*Descent of Man with Sexual Selection*”, “*The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication*”, “*Breeds of Domestic Pigeons*” and a few smaller ones. Perhaps Barry Floyd felt that this may be too wide a field to tackle and we may expect a follow-up book dealing with Darwin’s works in philately.

Two small errors should be mentioned here to satisfy picky collectors who love flyspecks on stamps. On page 60, St. Helena 25p value, the bird in the foreground is not a common pheasant, but a chucker partridge, *Alectoris chucker*. On page 61, the Ascension 20p stamp featuring *Beagle* "in full sail" is in my opinion in half-sail. These are but tiny imperfections.

The publishers should be congratulated on producing a very colourful and prestigious book which will no doubt grace the shelves of libraries of philatelic societies who count thematic stamp collectors among their members.

P.S. Since the book was written numerous additional Darwin issues have appeared on the market. Good hunting. ☐

*Reviewed by Eugene Wood, Glasgow Thematic Society*

*This book is now available to loan to members from the BTA Library*

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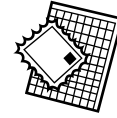
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# JUST4KIDS



By Lise Whittle

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

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

## IT'S COMPETITION TIME

Here are two competitions for you to enter. You can enter one competition, or both competitions. There are great prizes waiting to be won!

### COMPETITION 1:

1. How many of the Sesame Street characters can you name on this sheet of stamps from the Cayman Islands?

Answer: .....

.....

2. Where are the Cayman Islands?

Answer:.....



## COMPETITION 2

1. How many birds can you identify on this sheet of stamps from Malta?

Answer:.....

.....

2. Where is Malta?

Answer:.....

.....



### WHERE TO SEND YOUR ANSWERS:



Send your answers with your name and address to:  
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## Journal Articles

### Animals

- |   |             |                    |                       |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 | Shunker, K. | Edge of extinction | Stamp Magazine 8/2010 |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|

### Astronomy

- |    |  |                                 |                   |
|----|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 12 |  | Naming the craters parts 1 to 4 | Orbit 2010 - 2011 |
|----|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|

### Communication

- |   |            |  |                 |
|---|------------|--|-----------------|
| 2 | Vegter, W. | Cyber heroes of the past: John von Neumann | ThemNews 8/2010 |
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### Dogs

- |   |            |         |                       |
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| 4 | Knight, G. | Top dog | Stamp Magazine 7/2010 |
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### Exhibitions and Fairs

- |   |             |                     |                       |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 | Rimonis, R. | The fun of the fair | Stamp Magazine 7/2010 |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

### Explorers

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| 6 |  | Links between Cook and Darwin | Cook's Log 12/2009 |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|

### Fish

- |   |                 |                                    |                |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 3 | Van Niekerk, L. | Fisher Folk: South Africa set 2010 | Setempe 4/2010 |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|

### Flags

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|---|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | Whittle, C. | National and other flags | ThemNews 8/2010 |
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### Football

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| 1 | Laubscher, L. | 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa: a philatelic mystery |  |
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### Guides

- |   |             |                                    |  |
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| 9 | Davison, M. | A centenary of Guiding parts 1 - 4 | Scout & Guide Stamp Club Bulletin 2010 |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------|--|

### **Hovercraft**

- 2 Fowler, J. Hovercraft: a postmarks theme British Postmark Bulletin 10/2009

### **Medicine and Nursing**

- 4 Menzies, S. Medical philately of Australia 1940-1969 MediTheme 8/2010
- 2 Menzies, S. Florence Nightingale 1820-1910 MediTheme 8/2010

### **Music**

- Music: talking with God Gabriel 3-4/2010

### **Religion**

- 3 Shepherd, A. Nun more courageous (Mother Teresa) Stamp Magazine 9/2010


### **Satellites**

- 7 Hillger, D. Unmanned satellites on stamps: parts 32, 33 & 35 Orbit 2010

### **World War II**

- 5 Dugdale, J. Total war Stamp Magazine 6/2010

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**N**ow is the time to be thinking about your entry for next year's Stamp Active Competition. If you are interested in competing, and are not older than 16 on 1st January next year, you can prepare your entry on any theme or country that you wish. The minimum requirement is only 4 pages and you are also allowed to put in 2 entries. All entries will be displayed at Spring Stampex in London next February. All the details for the competition, with the rules, dates and entry form can be found on the Stamp Active Network website [www.planetstamp.co.uk](http://www.planetstamp.co.uk) Just sign on and go to Rocket News / Competitions. Entry is free – so you have nothing to lose! 

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## FRIENDS OF THEMATICA 2012 COMPETITIONS

**Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies' Congress  
Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth  
May 11 and May 12 2012**

### JOHN FOSBERY and BTA TROPHY COMPETITIONS

Despite the Annual Thematica events at Carisbrooke Hall in the summer having ended in 2008, Friends of Thematica has continued to organise the same competitions outside of London. We are pleased to have been invited to display the entries in Perth in 2012.

You are invited to enter:

- A. The **John Fosbery Thematic Trophy Competition**. Open to anyone who has not won a thematic philately medal at a National or International Exhibition. No Rules, No entry fee.

**16 sheets** in transparent protectors, any theme; return postage requested.

OR

- B. The **British Thematic Association (BTA) Trophy Competition**. Open to all, **32 sheets** National Thematic Philately rules will apply, medals awarded. Entry Fee £15.

Please complete the form below and send, (with remittance payable to the British Thematic Association if entering the BTA Trophy), to  
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telephone: 01372 467652; e-mail: [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY FORMS IS FRIDAY 30 March 2012  
The sheets will be required by 27 April 2012 – Further details will be sent to entrants.**

# FRIENDS OF THEMATICA 2012 COMPETITIONS

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Postcode.....

E-mail address.....

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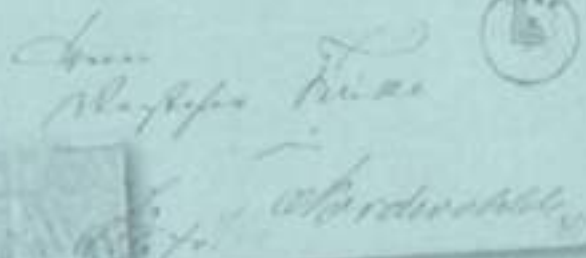
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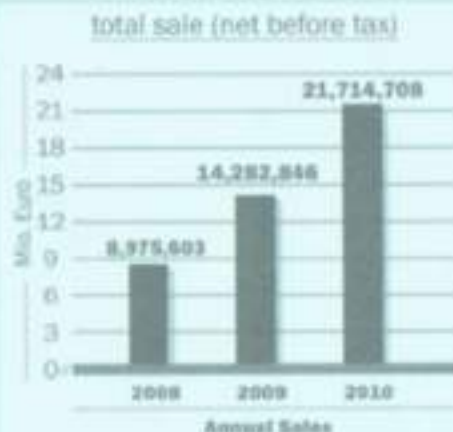


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