

THEMESCENE

March 2014

In this issue we celebrate our birthday by:

Enjoying ourselves

Spring Stampex displays and meeting

With Wendy Buckle



Voyaging around the world

Royal Grand Commonwealth Tour

With Raymond Ireson



Looking back 30 years

Early years of the BTA

With Brian Sole

Going back to the beginning

How I Started

With Barry Floyd



As well as all the Usual Features

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

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FOCUS ON THE CHEAP POINTS page 15

2.1 The net is improved and becomes bigger and bigger.
The Floats

The seine net and the stationary net has cork or wood floats along one side. Helping to keep the net floating and stretched.

Whau Valley had its own post office from 1969 to 05.02.1988. The WHAU tree is the lightest tree in the world. The small NZ village WHAU VALLEY has taken name from that tree. The wood is used for making floats to use on fishing nets.

issued stamp

The floats are placed close to each other on top of the net.

Original artist drawing in final design.

Take one small point of the story and develop it into a full page, in this case the cork floats attached to seine nets.

6.1 Fish is an indispensable part of daily nourishment.

White fish is a generic term for different species of saltwater fish all with white flesh, raw as well as steamed or fried. It is said that the white fish tastes best when cooked simple. Cod and Haddock are among the more popular white fish.

1987 Germany, postal stationery, Magdeburg edition with advertisements. Cod is a popular fish. The fresher the fish the better the flavour.

Copy of content:

Baked Stuffed Haddock
2 Fillets of fresh haddock (about £10 each)
2 jarred sauces

Stamps for Cooks
£1

Recipe for baked stuffed Haddock printed on the margins of the booklet

It is OK to use only one part of an item; in this case a recipe for haddock.

1.0 FISHING IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE IN THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE A LIVING

1.1 The "daily bread" is collected on the shore.

Prehistoric rock engravings and rock paintings are found all over the world telling a story about the importance of the fish and fishing.

The Norwegian rock engravings are dated back to 1800-1000 B.C. The first Australian rock paintings are thought to be around 40,000 years old.

In prehistoric times fishing was nothing more than gathering. Women and children gathered crabs and mussels at low tide.

Japan 1899 - postal stationery

Reduced copy of reverse

Make the storyline very visible and write up each part of the story close to its relevant illustration

3.0 TRADING IN AND PROCESSING OF FISH DEVELOPS AS A SEPARATE INDUSTRY

3.1 The catch exceeds the fisherman's own consumption.

As fishing changed from being fishing for ones own consumption a much wider market developed and a demand for different species is growing.

Mudflat easy to dig out of the mud at low tide.

1918 Die proof on India Paper.

The change meant development of new fishing methods, larger units and the start of promotional activities for the product.

Fish Fancy Card in use only 5 days, from Aug 16th to Aug 20th 1868.

After one day in use the cork broke and the rest of the cancellations show a fish without head.

Cut of a postal stationery

Enterprising postal workers whittled fancy cork cancels to promote own towns.

Second day cancellation Aug 17th 68

No more than five copies known.

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Apologies that this issue of *Themescene* is a little late landing on your doorstep. Not incompetence on my part, but a decision to delay publication so that I could include a full report from Spring Stampex. As you know, this year is the BTA's 30th anniversary, and we kicked off the celebrations in style with a bumper display by members at Stampex. These were very impressive, but space constraints mean only a few lines have been devoted to each one, and only a very few are illustrated here. So I would like to invite all those members who displayed (whether or not you competed) but who have never seen their material written up fully in *Themescene*, to send me a paragraph (or more!) and a few illustrations. Then over the coming few issues I can feature these properly and give due justice to your support to the BTA.

As well as this, founder member Brian Sole looks back to the founding and early years of the BTA (page 22). Clearly it was a popular move at the time, and a response to a burgeoning interest in thematics. It's sad that many of the Specialist Interest Groups around then have since folded. A lot of hard work went into its setting-up, and it is a delight that Brian Sole and Margaret Morris, indefatigable workers from the start, are still involved with us. Indeed Brian has never been allowed to leave the Committee, and I suspect only the geographical distance of living in Glasgow has allowed Margaret to escape! It has to be said it was not all sweetness and light: guess what - there were differences of opinion over aspects of the running. Does anyone know a Committee where this has not been true? One thing that struck me reading the article was the debate over Exhibiting. Clearly some people felt the BTA should lead the way in this, others (well John Fosbery at least) though rules were anathema. *Plus ça change*. What we can say from today's perspective is that competitive thematics has come on by leaps and bounds, with the first UK Large Gold won at an International last year by Lesley Marley. At the same time I like to think the BTA has kept faith with its non-competing members who just enjoy doing what they do. You after all are the beating heart of the Association, and most accurately represent the enjoyment of thematics in this country.

Of course Stampex will not be the only event in our anniversary year. We have three meetings lined up, in London, Swindon and Wakefield and (page 27), and then in October we will be holding our second Fun With Philately weekend at Oxford. For residential attendees this is nearly booked up, some returning, some first timers. So if you are interested please fill out the booking form on page 120 of September, or page 160 of the December issues of *Themescene*, and get them off to Anne Stammers as soon as possible. Day delegates are equally welcome, and we can take those bookings nearer the time if necessary.

We welcome a new contributor to this issue (page 17). Raymond Ireson, born in Britain but now a Canadian citizen, is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Not only a new contributor, but he is also a new member.

In the previous edition of *Themescene* our President John Hayward promised us a series of articles on "the basics". Well he has duly sent me the first one, but lack of space means it has had to be held over.

Spring is coming, and I wish you a happy philatelic season ahead. ☒

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

John Hayward

I start my page on a rather sad note – the death of long standing BTA member, John Crowther, who passed away last October at the age of 84. John had been a BTA member since 1991 and was one of our stalwart supporters. John's thematic interest was his Olympic collection of stamps and memorabilia. He was of course a member of the Society of Olympic Collectors and an active member of its committee for many years. He was also active in the North West Philatelic Federation, the South Manchester Philatelic Society and the Manchester Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society. I had the pleasure of meeting him on several occasions and well remember a natter with him at Basildon 2004 over a glass of whisky. He will be greatly missed.

On a much happier note I was so pleased to learn that in November 2013 in Brazil our former Chairman, Richard Wheeler, obtained a gold medal in the international thematic class – at last some might say – but he gained 92 points as well. Many congratulations Richard – you have put in a lot of hard work getting there and bent more than an ear or two on the way. You will have to elucidate me on how to earn those extra two points!

Now for something completely different. Stanley Gibbons 2014 Stamps of the World set of simplified catalogues were published last Autumn and I like to take a good look at these in my local library every year to see if I have missed any new issues on motor-cycles. I had not as it so happened, but I did note that SG have updated some of what I call the “esoteric” countries from last time round, in some cases by quite a few years. Mali is now in up to 2003 and Togo to 2004. However, SG is still hopelessly out of date with Liberia only up to 1993, Equatorial Guinea only to 2001 and Burundi to 2002. Even worse is Comores up to 1993, then a gap to 2003. I know SG is keen to ensure the provenance of issues before it commits them to its catalogues, and this is very difficult with some countries because of the internal turmoil that has recently occurred or is still occurring there. However, Michel, Yvert and Scott all manage to do this much better. Indeed they list all new issues from the “doubtful” countries right up to last year. So, my familiar beef at SG asks why can they not do it too?

What is more, SG's simplified catalogues are obviously very popular as two of the six volumes were out on loan (they are not kept for reference purposes only as in some libraries) for quite some time before I was able to look at them. This made me wonder why they are so popular. Well one included Great Britain so I expect that was the reason, but my feeling is that my local stamp club members were using them as the set of six catalogues is too expensive for the club to buy annually for its library; and one thing I do know is that these catalogues are so useful for pricing stamps for sale in club booklets. If your local philatelic society/stamp club does not stock these catalogues then I trust your local library does. If not, would it not be worth a try requesting your library to stock the catalogues?

Enjoy your collecting. ☒

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

I hope all of you have had a very good start to the year and have been able to find some time to spend on your collections while avoiding the wind, rain and whatever else nature has thrown at us in recent weeks!

As you will see this issue of *Themescene* is dominated by Spring Stampex and is why publication was delayed so we could include reports, photographs etc from this exciting event. It was indeed a truly excellent show. Our 30th Anniversary display, which comprised nearly 70 frames of material, was able to represent the huge breadth of theme-based philately which the BTA now encompasses. A large number of our members had agreed to display, with a fantastic range of themes and some wonderful material on show for everyone to see. It really was a great showcase for the BTA. Details are on page 8.

On the Friday we were also treated to a presentation and display by Jørgen Jørgensen who had travelled over from Denmark. His presentation, of which a full write-up appears on



page 14, was fascinating and showed, for those who are interested in entering their collections into competitions, how it is possible to dramatically improve an exhibit, and thus the chances of gaining a higher mark, without having to spend a fortune on expensive material. It is all about how one tells and presents the story connected with the theme, constructs the plan and how the write-up on the page connects with the material. I found it very informative and it will be beneficial, particularly to my wallet!

Brian Sole and Chairman, après Stampex

A number of our members also achieved excellent results on the competitive side at the show, including our Editor Wendy, who achieved a Gold medal with her exhibit entitled Paper Past and Present – a huge achievement which she was rightly delighted with and celebrated accordingly!

I would like to put on the record my grateful thanks to John Hayward, Gerald Lovell, Wendy Buckle and Anne Stammers as well as all the other members of the Committee who worked so hard over a period of months to make our events at Stampex a success.

We now look forward to further interesting meetings this year including our joint event with the Guild of St Gabriel, one of our affiliated societies, on 17th May, which will be held in London; our AGM on 14th June at Swinpex which will be followed by a display by Grace Davis; and then our meeting in Wakefield on 5th July (full details on page 27). I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to these events. At the same time, don't forget this year's BTA competitions for those of you who are interested (see pages 39-40). They are a great chance to test your thematic exhibit and get some helpful feedback from expert judges.

Enjoy your collecting over the coming months and let us hope the weather stays more settled. ☒

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	170
Family members	14
Junior members	2
Society members	13
Overseas members	13
Overseas Society members	2
Honorary members	3
Total number of members	217 (at 14 th February 2014)

New Members joining since the December 2013 issue

Mr. B. Harmon of Drogheda

Mr. R. Ireson FRPSC of Quebec

Mr. D. Trowbridge of Norwich

Deaths advised since the December 2013 issue

None

We take pleasure in welcoming three new members and hope that they will find their membership rewarding, with access to check lists and advice, some of which can be found on the website.

Our membership over the past year has increased slowly, but if we are to combat the natural losses it is essential that our recruitment rate is improved. The initiative to supply speakers to local societies has had some success and with some good bookings in the coming season may hopefully do more to improve our numbers.

Included with this copy of *Themescene* will be found a reminder for those who so far have not renewed their membership for the coming year. As ever costs are rising and postage is becoming quite a concern so we would urge those still to pay to respond to this call and so avoid a costly personal letter. On a positive note there are fewer subscriptions outstanding at present than in previous years, and we take this opportunity to thank all those who have paid promptly.

As I write my windows are being lashed by wind and rain, and it looks as if we will have a month's rain in a day at this rate, although thankfully it remains outdoors and not indoors like so many poor souls. To be ever topical a colleague has been putting together a thematic collection entitled 'Floods', looking at some of the events of the past. I have the feeling that material may not be so scarce in the immediate future; such as mail posted from villages cut off in the West Country.

When you read this Stampex will have come and gone, but I cannot let it pass without congratulating our members who provided material to fill some 70 frames for our 30th anniversary display. This is such a good response and good support for our Displays Organiser.

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 amongst other things will ensure your copy of *Themescene* is delivered correctly. ☒

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

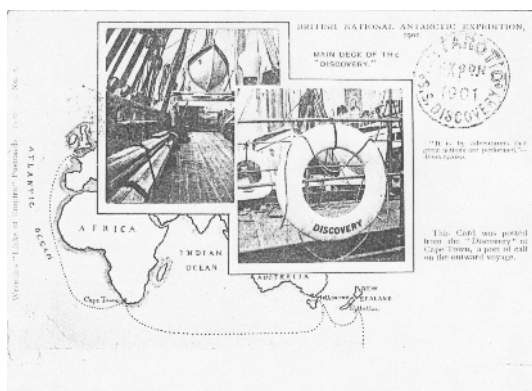
The views expressed in these letters may not necessarily be those of the Editorial Board.

TELLING A STORY: POSTCARDS ARE A PLUS!

From Richard Hindle, by email

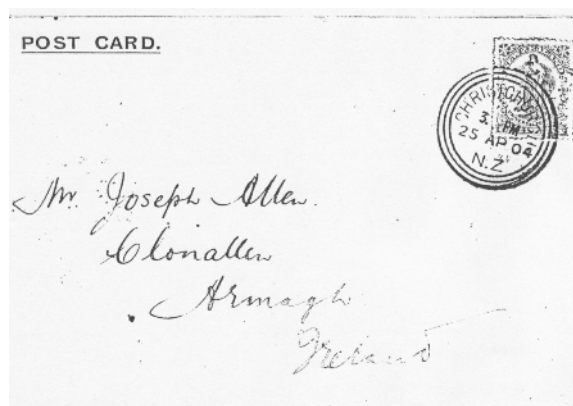
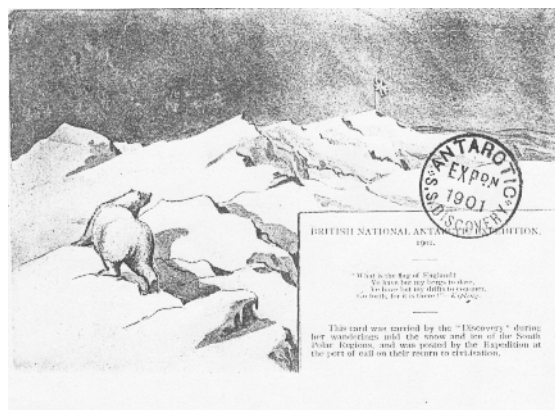
It was interesting to read Jim Etherington's article about using postcards in a philatelic display. I have been using them ever since I started my theme on exploration some 35 years ago for displays to philatelic societies. Nobody has complained, in fact they are frequently received most favourably. I would note that the postcards should not dominate a philatelic display! I will, however, take him to task about postcards inadmissible where you are using the picture as part of a competition entry. Admittedly it is the exception, but there is a set of four postcards Wrench's "Links of Empire" Set No. 3 for Captain Scott's Discovery Expedition in 1901. Three were carried on the expedition, the first being cancelled in London 21st July 1901 when the Discovery sailed.

Card 2 of the set has a map showing the intended route of the Discovery and cancelled at Simonstown (near Cape Town), South Africa. Therefore I would seriously consider using it to illustrate the route south with a copy of the postmark to confirm that it was posted on the voyage.



Card 3 of the set was posted in Lyttleton, New Zealand, being the last port of call on the way to Antarctica.

The fourth card shows a picture of a polar bear and was posted in Lyttleton, the first port of call on the return journey. I would use the picture to indicate how little we knew of life on



the continent and we assumed that because polar bears lived in the arctic, they would also exist in the Antarctic. It was not until 1904 that this perception was disproved!

All four cards have a printed "cancel" DISCOVERY ANTARCTIC EXPDN. 1901 on the picture side.

It would be interesting to know what the judges think about the use of these pictures to illustrate the theme.

(Apologies for the poor reproduction quality, but I have had to take scans of photocopies as I sold the originals in 1997).

Comment by International Judge Brian Sole:

I agree that these particular postcards could be used and would rate highly for rarity.

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BTA DISPLAYS AT STAMPEX

Wendy Buckle enjoyed the variety

Members of the BTA featured prominently at Stampex, being offered the chance to mount competitive or non-competitive displays. For some this was a chance to see whether they could improve a competitive exhibit, for others it was a chance for the first time to pit themselves at National level, but most importantly it was a chance for those who enjoy collecting but have no interest in competitions to display anyway. It was a great effort by everyone who took part, and it was noticeable that all the time Stampex was open people were going round the displays. I suspect the sheer range of topics covered, and the ingenuity with which the stories were told, would have been an eye-opener to some people.

The BTA had an information stand, which gave us the chance to talk to old friends and encourage others to join us. Thanks are due to all those Committee members who took time out from visiting the dealers to staff the stand.

The displays were:

Barry Stagg

Parachuting through the ages

The history and development of parachutes and parachuting techniques from its original concept to the present day, including its military use and parachuting as a hobby.

John Hayward

The Motorcycle Industry

How the invention of the motor cycle in 1885 by Gottlieb Daimler led to the establishment of a worldwide industry of manufacturers and dealers.

John Hayward

The Iron Steed

The evolution of the motorcycle over 128 years, including its early development and growth into a major industry, and its many uses.

Peter Wood

It's an Irish World

The story of a small nation at the edge of Europe who have spread around the world and often found fame. The display demonstrates how Irish men and women, or their descendants, have transported their culture and retained their identity.

William McKinlay

Clouds

A cloud is a visible mass of water droplets, ice crystals or a mixture of both, suspended in the air. The display showed cloud formations with descriptions of their build-up, and how some can give an indication of the coming weather.

Jean Osborne

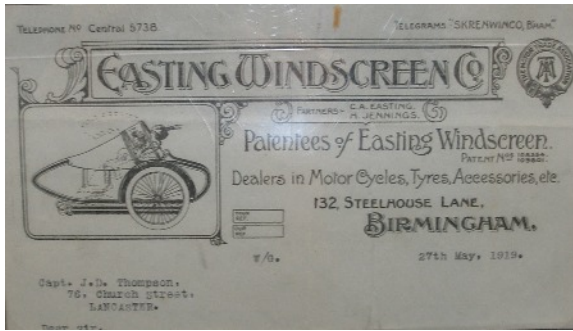
1901 Glasgow International Exhibition

The story of the Exhibition held in Kelvingrove Park and its surroundings from May to November 1901. Its aim was to illustrate the growth of art, industry and science during the nineteenth century. With an attendance of 12 million it made a profit of £40,000.

Wendy Buckle

Illuminated Manuscripts

The text of medieval documents, religious or secular, were usually written on vellum and often supplemented and embellished by the addition of decoration. The display covered types of decoration and examples of specific works.



Motorcycles

Illuminated manuscripts

Parachuting



Glasgow International Exhibition



An Irish World

Clouds



Grace Davies *The Dove and the Olive Branch*

The dove and olive branch are the best-known symbols of peace. The display gave their history, how they became symbols, and how these were adopted into society worldwide.

Janet Nelson *1000 Years of Annoying the French*

Based on the book by Stephen Clarke this entertaining display examined both the French and English perspectives (invariably rather different) on major historical events from the Norman Conquest to the Entente Cordiale.

Grace Davies *The Story of the Peace Rose*

In the 1930s Francis Meilland first bred what was later called the Peace Rose. The display covered its breeding, how it was sent away from France at the start of World War II, becoming a symbol of peace and eventually promoted by the United Nations.

Jim Etherington *1940: A Desperate Year for Britain*

The first four chapters of a much larger display were shown, covering Prelude to War; The Phoney War; War at Sea; and the Home Front.

Anne Stammers *From Rocks to Riches*

Rocks are made up of a variety of minerals, some of which are highly prized for their durability, beauty and rarity when extracted from the host rock. This display showed stories of gold and diamonds.

Jeff Dugdale *Soviet Space Stations*

The story of the Soviet Salyut space stations, from the first launched on 10th April 1971, which orbited for six months, through to the sixth launched in November 1980.

Shalom Zaiden *Synagogues of South Africa*

The synagogue as a house of worship dates from the time of the destruction of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem in 586 BCE. The term originated from a Greek word meaning “a gathering of people”. This display showed postcards of South African synagogues.

Jean Alexander *Supermarket Philately*

Since 1971 Royal Mail has been involved in marketing stamps and other philatelic materials. This striking display of postal material and associated ephemera gave a flavour of the offers and gimmicks used to promote sales of various products.

Ian Billings *Maximum Cards*

Starting with a definition and explanation of what Maximum cards are, supplemented by the use of QR codes, the display then showed examples of maxicards on a dozen different themes.

Bob Catto *Skylab*

The USA launched its first experimental space station on 14 May 1973. Its objectives were to prove that humans could live and work in space for extended periods, and to expand our knowledge of solar astronomy.

Richard Wheeler *The Art of Puppets*

Puppets are a means of communication and an extension of human expression. This display of postcards showed a wide variety of different types of puppets: shadow, finger, marionette, rod, glove, and large carnival figure.



The Dove



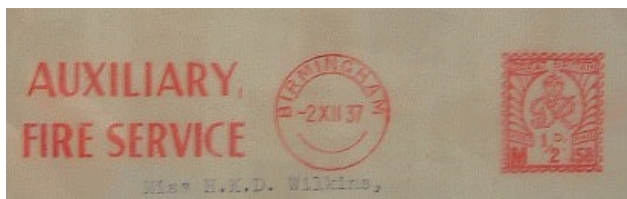
Supermarkets



Synagogues



Salyut



A desperate year

Annoying the French

Lesley Marley *There She Blows!*

Whaling started early in man's history, with stranded beached whales. This postcard display showed the whales, the ships, the chase, cutting up the flesh, the harpoon gun, and brought it up to the present with tourist attractions.

Brian Sole *Go by Cycle!*

The origins of cycling go back to the crude invention in 1818 by Karl von Drais of what was essentially a plank with two wheels attached. The arrival of the diamond frame safety bicycle led to a surge in manufacture

Adrian Boggust *Wonders of the Underground World*

Speleology - the study of caves - is captured in this display covering exploration, diving, human and animal use, and cave illustrations.

Brian Sole *A Glimpse into the World of Insurance*

The different types of insurance were illustrated: life, marine and aviation and fire; plus insurance companies and advertising.

Brian Sole *Cycle Past*

The golden era of cycling, between the 1880s and early 1900s, coincided with the most popular period of postcard collecting, pictures which captured the growth of this industry

James Dickinson *Jesuit Powder*

'Jesuit Powder' is another name for quinine. The display covered its history and its importance in curing malaria.

Lesley Marley *Baleen*

A postcard display showing the nature of the material, the whales that were slaughtered to obtain it, and its uses in the nineteenth century

Jan Morris *Man in Sheep's Clothing*

A display on wool, from the sheep to its final products, including shepherding, properties of wool, weaving and the wool trade. A rather striking picture of Dolly Parton was shown on (of course) page 3 of the exhibit

Brian Sole *Wish you were here*

A train ride to the traditional UK holiday resorts for sun, sea and sand; an exhibit inspired by railway poster stamps of the 1930s.

Ron Trevelyan *Paris International Exposition 1937*

International expositions had begun in 1855. The 1937 Paris Expo, the *Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie Moderne* (1937) held between May and November, was devoted to the arts and sciences of the modern world.

Wendy Buckle *Paper Past and Present*

Paper was invented by the Chinese two thousand years ago, and even now, despite claims about the paperless office, it is in use everywhere. The display includes the history of its manufacture, and various types of paper.

Grace Davies *Towards United Nations*

Three global efforts to prevent war through international co-operation: the International Peace Bureau, League of Nations, the United Nations. "A story of optimism and failure".

Leif Rasmussen

Animals Subjected to Man

For many centuries animals have been used by man for communication, commercial activities and warfare. A wonderful display, including much early postal history, showed the various species involved, husbandry, work, food, sport, and entertainment and pastimes

Other competitive entries were:

Roger Van Laere

People of the Sun

Valevij Khomyn

King of Cars is a Car of Kings

Roy Richardson

Disney Scenes from Winnie Pooh

Graham Winters

Silk Postcards with Butterfly Motifs

John Dahl

The Great Hoboken Fire, New York

The range of topics and the ways in which the stories were told was a great advertisement for thematic collecting, whether by stamps, other philatelic material, ephemera or postcards. . Many of the exhibitors give talks and displays to local societies, or perhaps to societies further afield. If you think your local stamp club would enjoy a thematic speaker please contact Membership Secretary Peter Denly (address on page 2) who will give you full details. ☒

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BTA MEETING AT STAMPEX

Wendy Buckle listened, and tried to learn

The BTA was delighted to welcome a distinguished speaker: Jørgen Jørgensen, President of the Danish Thematic Association, member of the Board of FIPA, and international judge, not to mention international gold medal winner. He delivered the first half of the meeting with a talk entitled “Focus on the Cheap Points”. Aimed primarily at exhibitors, or potential exhibitors, Jørgen explained how one can get marks without spending a lot of money on rare material. He warned against buying expensive items before giving due consideration to your story: one or two expensive pieces will not make your exhibit any closer to a higher mark. A look at the marking schedule illustrates this:

Title and plan	15	
Development	15	
Innovation	5	35
Thematic knowledge	15	
Philatelic knowledge	15	30
Condition	10	
Rarity	20	30
Presentation		5
<i>Total</i>		<i>100</i>

Condition and rarity are going to cost you: but they are only 30% of the total. You can pick up good points under all the other sections by using your material to best effect. This means: Title; Plan; Development; Innovation

- Your title must be backed up by the plan. A catchy title might sound good, but if the plan does not reflect it you will lose marks.
- The plan must be logical. One tip for doing this within each chapter/section: write a whole sentence and then break it down into sub-sections of your plan.
- Your story must flow throughout every page of the exhibit, with each page linked to the next.
- Each item you show must be in the correct place on the page in relation to the text telling the story.
- The story must be balanced, don't squeeze an irrelevant item in just because it is expensive.
- Do it your way - don't copy!

Thematic knowledge

- Choose your material carefully to precisely illustrate that particular part of the story.
- Only use one stamp (or other philatelic material) to illustrate one specific point
- Avoid 'borderline' items such as privately printed envelopes unless there really isn't anything else available

- Be innovative in your choice of material - find an illustration that makes your point but is not immediately obvious to the judges - make them read it!

Presentation

- Make the storyline very visible on each page
- Go into the detail of your story. You don't need to use everything shown on a philatelic item, just what is relevant, for example one advertisement in a booklet.
- Use your imagination. For instance, if you are talking about something that changes colour you could use progressive proofs
- Try and find a punchy ending

Remember: expensive material in an ordinary story will not get points.

A few pages of the exhibit, demonstrating some of these points, are shown on the inside front cover. The complete exhibit can be viewed on the web at [p://motivsampler.dk/Fisheries/?](http://motivsampler.dk/Fisheries/) and at the meeting we were treated to a display of the first four frames.

ht




Jørgen and Margaret Morris relaxing later that evening

Rereading my notes when writing this article it struck me what good advice this is at any level of competition, not just at National or above. I think marking schedules for most local societies only give 5% for rarity, but maybe 20% or more for presentation - and those are cheap points we can all aim for.

It has to be said there were only a few people in the room who would ever aspire to this level of competition, but the meeting was balanced in the second half by members displays; a chance for all of us to show what we enjoy. Eleven people displayed:

- Margaret Morris showed ten pages from members of the Glasgow Thematic Society, the first thematic society in the UK, founded in 1948 by Captain Philip Durand. Originally a large society, its numbers have decreased as local general stamp clubs have embraced thematics more and more. It has no competitive element, just a friendly meeting.
- Ron Trevelyan, in honour of the BTA's 30th anniversary, showed just that - anniversaries - of postal services, royalty, religion, people, international organisations, battles, and more.
- Grace Davies displayed the life of Alfred Nobel. Born in Sweden in 1833 he moved to Russia in 1837. He filed many patents during his lifetime, the most famous of which is dynamite. In his will he left a bequest for the foundation of the Nobel Prize.
- David Hague is Secretary of the Guild of St Gabriel, but his subject this time was certainly not religion. Living near Pevensey Bay, he has always been interested in the life of William the Conqueror, who landed there (not at Hastings) in 1066. William's father was a Duke, unmarried to William's mother due to her lowly status (a washerwoman). He was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066 and died in France in 1087.
- Mike Blackman took the prize for the briefest talk "This was my initial collection, but not my first - I started collecting Heraldry in 1965". No prizes for working that one out: a collection of material featuring the letters M B, including perfins, a penny black, and postmarks.

- Brian Sole is well known to us all for his cycling collections. He showed some of the lighter side of social philately, including a Christmas card with Santa Claus on a bike, instructional leaflets, route plans, poster stamps, postcards and illustrated letter headings.
- Charles Oppenheim's main collection is chess (see *Themescene* December 2013). He showed the section on chess clubs as organised at local level, including postal stationery produced by the clubs, meter marks, and slogan postmarks.
- Ernie Clayton is another keen philatelic cyclist. Here he concentrated on the Cyclists' Touring Club, which was founded in Harrogate in 1878. As well as covers and meter marks there were memorabilia including membership cards, correspondence and magazine letters. (I heard Brian Sole exclaiming that classic collector's lament as he viewed it "I haven't got that"!).
- Peter Denly was in reminiscent mood, reflecting on how he first went to sea 60 years ago, leading to his collection "Man's Marine Adventure". As always when Peter displays, the talk was enlivened with anecdotes. He showed Navigation, including the Mercator chart, instruments such as sextants, and the vital invention of the chronometer, which for the first time meant a seafarer could accurately calculate longitude.
- Anne Stammers selected the section on silver from her "Rocks to Riches". One of the earliest known silver mines was in Alsace, mined by the Romans in the first century. Broken Hill in New South Wales is a very big silver mine, and more mines can be found in Tasmania. A 1926 price leaflet made us all rather envious of prices!
- The meeting finished with John Hayward showing "a bit of fun" around motorcycles. There were some royal reprints from Egypt: King Farouk, an ardent stamp collector, ensured the stamp issuing authorities came up with some juicy varieties; a Czech mourning envelope turned out to be an invitation to a speedway rider's cremation; a Victorian advertisement for a medicine claimed to cure everything you hope never to suffer from; and there was a letter from a Doncaster postmaster who appears to have committed treason (as far as we know he was not beheaded).

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting, and we hope to see you all at future BTA events. 

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
MEMBERS' MEETINGS IN 2014

17th May
Joint meeting with the Guild of St. Gabriel

5th July
Members' meeting in the North - Wakefield

14th June
AGM and Display

3rd - 5th October
BTA Weekend, Oxford

Full details are on page 27

THE ROYAL GRAND COMMONWEALTH TOUR 1953 – 1954

Raymond Ireson looks back to the start of a reign

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Golden Jubilee in February of 2002. And this year will mark the 60th anniversary of the Royal Grand Tour of the Commonwealth following her Coronation on June 3rd 1953.



The great Round-the-World Royal Tour of the Commonwealth had been planned years previously, but had to be postponed in 1949 on account of the illness of King George VI, and was aborted in 1952 because of his death. It finally took place between November 23, 1953 and May 15, 1954, and would take Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to fourteen countries over a period of almost six months. This resulted in thirteen “Royal Visit”

stamp issues from ten countries and a souvenir cover from another.

So now let us accompany the royal couple on their momentous journey, and, through the medium of stamps, share the highlights of the points they visited or saw on their travels. They departed on the evening of November 23rd aboard a British Overseas Airways Corporation Boeing Stratocruiser from London airport for the flight across the Atlantic. They touched down at Gander, Newfoundland, but that was only a refuelling stop, so there was no civic delegation on hand, far less any philatelic memento.



An hour later the plane took off again and headed south for Hamilton, Bermuda, where they landed at 10 in the morning. Waiting to greet the royal couple were the Governor of Bermuda, Sir Alexander Hood, the Bishop of Bermuda, leading civil dignitaries and top military brass. After inspecting the guard of honour, the Queen and Duke boarded a

limousine to pay a courtesy call on the USAF base at Kinley.



The next stop was at Government House and from there they rode in an open carriage to the House of Assembly. They lunched aboard a launch cruising from Great Sound to Mangrove Bay, and the day was rounded off with a special Royal Garden Party. To commemorate the Royal Visit, a single stamp was issued on November 26th, shown on this cacheted FDC.

The Stratocruiser departed Bermuda the following morning, heading for Montego Bay, Jamaica. After landing there Her Majesty invested the aircraft's captain, A.C. Loraine, with the MVO. Waiting to greet the royal couple were Sir Hugh Foot, Governor of

Jamaica; and the Chief Minister, The Honourable Alexander Bustamante. Also on hand were delegates from other West Indian colonies. Their Highnesses were then driven 120 miles across the island to Kingston, the capital. En route they would pass some of the loveliest spots on the island: two of which are featured on these stamps of Jamaica.



Bustamante Fern Gully Dunn's River Falls House of Assembly

As they drove through the main square of the original capital city of Spanish Town, they would have passed by the original House of Assembly from the early colonial days. I was among the throng of well-wishers waiting on that balcony to wave and cheer them as they passed by.

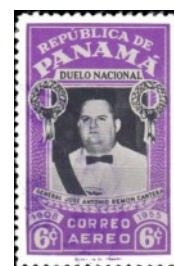


The Duke had informal discussions with the academic staff of the embryonic University of the West Indies, and on November 27th the Queen formally opened the University's Senate House. On November 25th Jamaica issued this stamp to mark the Royal Visit.

After an investiture at Government House, and a military parade at Port Royal, the Queen and Duke boarded the *SS Gothic* to continue their trip. This cruise took them through the Panama Canal where they had a brief audience with the President of Panama, Colonel José Remón (who was to die by an assassin's bullet two years later). They had a lightning tour of Cristobal and Colón, then re-embarked for the long voyage across the South Pacific.



SS Gothic



Colonel Remón

The highlight of this leg of their trip was on December 1st when the Queen inspected *HMS Sheffield*, which was acting as her escort. After those formalities, she gave the order to splice the mainbrace. (Sadly, the *Sheffield* was the first Royal Navy casualty in the Falklands conflict.)

On December 17th the *Gothic* docked at Suva in Fiji. A hectic round of sight-seeing, inspection of schools and hospitals, and a ball at the Grand Pacific Hotel, was followed on December 18th by visits to the Legislative Council and the new Anglican Cathedral. At Lautoka they toured the RNZAF base, and boarded a flying boat for the trip back to Suva. Then a sports meeting at Churchill Park and a farewell supper with the Governor, Sir Ronald Garvey, and his lady aboard the *Gothic*.



This stamp was issued on December 16th to mark the Royal Visit. On December 19th the Queen and Duke boarded a flying-boat for the trip to Tonga. Arriving in mid-afternoon they were met by Queen Salote and members of the Tongan Royal Family, accompanied by the British Consul, J.E. Windrum. Wreath-laying at the war memorial was followed by a feast and dancing in the main park. Dinner was held at the Residence where the Queen invested Queen Salote with the GCVO. The night was spent at the Royal Palace.



The next day, after a picnic lunch, the Queen and Duke boarded the *Gothic* for the voyage to New Zealand. (No Royal Visit stamp was issued by the Tongan postal authorities).

Hundreds of boats greeted the *Gothic* as she docked at Auckland on December 23rd. Sir Willoughby Norrie, the Governor General, and Prime Minister S.G. Holland greeted the Royal couple.

The Royals spent five weeks in New Zealand - a punishing schedule of visits, inspections, parades and civic receptions. But, sadly, the tour was marred by a tragedy on Christmas Eve. A train packed with people, intent on seeing the Queen, was derailed at Tangivai as a result of a landslip following volcanic activity: 146 lost their lives, and hundreds were injured. The following day the Queen made her first Christmas broadcast outside the U.K. and expressed her sorrow.

By the end of January 1954 the Queen and Duke had travelled to the far south of South Island, where they would have seen the majestic Mount Cook and the Chapel in the Southern

Alps. They were then driven to Bluff, on the coast, where they boarded the *Gothic* for the voyage to Australia. Sailing through the Foveaux Strait they might have seen the whalers operating there.



Mount Cook

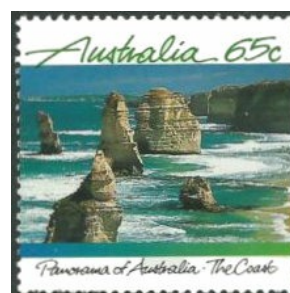


Chapel in Southern Alps



This Royal Visit was commemorated with the issue of these two stamps specially designed for the occasion: they went on sale on December 9, two weeks before the Royals' arrival.

On the morning of February 3rd they docked in Sydney Harbour. The tour of Australia lasted two months. Travelling by sea, road, rail and aircraft, they made their way up the East Coast as far as Cairns, the highlight being the cruise over the Great Barrier Reef. Then they flew to Broken Hill and Adelaide.



A side trip to Woomera enabled the Duke to inspect the British troops at the missile proving grounds and to launch a Jindivik practice missile. Then back on the plane to Kalgoorlie and Perth. On March 31 they sailed by royal barge up the Swan River from Freemantle to Perth, cheered by crowds lining the river banks.

On the afternoon of April 1st the royal couple re-boarded the *Gothic* at Freemantle and set sail for Ceylon. As early as February 2nd Australia had released these three stamps to record this Royal Visit.



On April 5th they put in at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands where the Queen and Duke spent 90 minutes with the Laird, John Clunies-Ross, and his wife. It wouldn't be until 1963 that the Cocos got their own stamps. At the time of this Royal visit a postal agency was operated



by the Straits Settlements. (As an aside, this colony also ‘jumped the gun’ in releasing a Royal Visit stamp in advance of the proposed 1952 visit by King George VI. But that stamp did not go to waste, it was issued in the normal course on February 1, 1952).

On the next day (April 30th) the royal couple visited the recently opened Queen Elizabeth National Park in South-Western Uganda. The highlight of that visit was a sail by canoes across Lake George. In the evening they returned to Entebbe, whence they flew north on May 1st to Tobruk in Libya, where they landed at the El Aden RAF base. This was only a lightning visit, but nonetheless a commemorative cover was produced to mark the occasion.



At mid-day they were re-united with their children, Charles and Anne, who had sailed out from England aboard the Royal Yacht, *Britannia*. Early in the afternoon they set sail for Malta. *Britannia* docked at Valetta on May 3rd. Later the Queen unveiled a War Memorial to the Commonwealth forces who had lost their lives in and around Malta during World War II. Malta

marked the visit by issuing this ‘Royal Visit’ stamp.

On the evening of May 7th the Royal Family boarded the *Britannia* and sailed westwards to Gibraltar, arriving there on the 10th. On landing, the Queen was presented with the keys of the fortress by the Governor, then they drove through flag-bedecked streets and inspected the combined forces. In the afternoon Prince Charles and Princess Anne had a jaunt up ‘The Rock’, to see the famous rock apes. This illustration of the Rock was Gibraltar's contribution to the philatelic record of the Royal Tour. Shortly before her departure on the morning of May 11th the Queen held an investiture, and then it was off through the Straits, heading back to dear Old Blighty.



As *HMS Britannia* passed start point on May 14th she was joined by ships of the Home Fleet for a grand procession of naval might, steaming up the Channel. Off the Isle of Wight the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, came aboard to welcome the Queen home.

At 3.15pm on May 15th the royal family stepped ashore from the Royal Barge at Westminster Pier, London. Accompanied by the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret they drove through cheering crowds to Buckingham Palace. Up to 11pm that night they came out on to the floodlit balcony to acknowledge the rapturous cheers from the vast crowds thronging the Mall.



They were finally home, after a gruelling six months tour around the world which was a huge success, as it had cemented her peoples’ affection for their new Queen.

LONG MAY SHE REIGN! ☐

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Brian Sole looks back

“THEMATICS - The Way Ahead or a Passing Phase?” That was the title of a paper read by Raife Wellsted, Curator of the National Postal Museum, at the 1983 Philatelic Congress in Bath. He wanted to stimulate interest in Thematics and to raise the standard of British entrants at International level. Some prominent UK thematic collectors, including Franceska Rapkin and Margaret Morris, spoke in favour of thematics in the debate that followed. Ron Lee, Chairman of Congress and the British Philatelic Federation (BPF) halted discussions, but promised that he would call a meeting to discuss the formation of a British Thematic Society.



True to his word, Ron Lee issued an open invitation for all collectors with an interest in thematics to attend a meeting at Spring Stampex 1984. This resulted in the foundation of the British Thematic Association (BTA) on 7 March 1984.

Cover produced for the Thematic Exhibition at the National Postal Museum in 1983

At the outset, the Chairman said the purpose of the meeting was to create a Federation of Thematic Groups. Franceska Rapkin had recently formed the Society of Olympic Collectors. The Glasgow Thematic Society had been formed in 1948 and more than a dozen thematic groups had been formed since then. These groups were represented but others collected themes for which there was no specialist thematic group in existence. After lengthy discussions it was agreed that the new organisation would be called the British Thematic Association (BTA) and that both Thematic Groups and individual thematic collectors could become members. However on one matter, Ron Lee was adamant. The new organisation would become a Committee of the British Philatelic Federation (BPF). This meant that any collector or Thematic Group wishing to join the BTA had to become a member of BPF. Elections to the BTA Sub-Committee were held and Franceska Rapkin became the first Chairman; Margaret Morris, Secretary; Brian Sole, Assistant Secretary; Alma Lee, F.I.P. Co-ordinator and John Osborne, Public Relations Officer. There had been no volunteers to fill the posts of Editor or Librarian but within a short period, Franceska's invitations to Tom Wilson of Medi-Theme and Patricia Peters of the Railway Philatelic Group, to fill these vacancies, were accepted.

The next few months were quite exciting. In due course Franceska held the first Committee meeting at her house. Tony Field joined us, having accepted the position of Displays Officer. Margaret Morris reported that every enquiry had been recorded on a card index. (This was before computers were used at home). Enquiries had come from all over the UK and also

from the USA, Australia, Canada, France, Belgium, Romania, Yugoslavia, Singapore and Zimbabwe. *Themescene* was selected as the title of the magazine and the design of the BTA logo was quickly resolved. Names were put forward as possible printers of the magazine. The newly appointed Editor, Tom Wilson, had been unable to attend, but an outline of the contents of the first issue was provisionally agreed.

Franceska Rapkin had reached agreement with Dr Ernst Schlunegger for his book *An Introduction to Thematic Philately* to be serialised in *Themescene*. The book had been published in German but Franceska was able to translate each part into English for the Editor. Shortly afterwards I met up with Tom Wilson and explained what was required.

Later, John Miller, who worked in the Printing Department of Lancaster College, offered to print *Themescene*. He and his wife Elizabeth were invited to attend the next Committee Meeting in London. John had brought examples of his work and the committee was happy to accept his offer. His wife kindly agreed to act as distributor of *Themescene*. Patricia Peters had begun assembling a library of thematic books and articles. When some time later it became difficult for her to continue, John Miller succeeded her as Librarian.

As a sub-committee of the BPF, BTA did not require a Treasurer but we did need access to membership records. I worked in London, less than a ten-minute walk away from the BPF Offices in Smithfield and called on Herbert Grimsey, Secretary of BPF, from time to time in my lunch hour. Herbert agreed to add the code "T" to the BPF membership records for all new or current members of the BTA and to arrange the printing of address labels for each issue of *Themescene*. Not every existing BPF member with a thematic interest had applied to join the BTA. I was allowed to work through the BPF application forms to identify any member who had disclosed a thematic interest. These individuals were added to the BTA membership list. At the same time I began compiling a list of the many different themes members collected. When the BTA became independent in 1991, Ian Paton of Cambridge was appointed as Membership Secretary, and he devised the coding system of group interests still used by Peter Denly today.

The first BTA meeting was held during the 1984 British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE) at the Royal Horticultural Halls. We requested an optional charge of 50p to everybody attending. Copies of the first issue of *Themescene* were available and also BTA advertising material. Prior to the meeting, Thematic Group Secretaries had been invited by Margaret Morris to bring a short display connected to their special theme. Over 60 collectors enjoyed displays by members of Judaica, Ships, Railways, Masonry, Music and Royal Portraits Groups. Erica Banks showed Marine Invertebrates and a French member, Jacques Riboulet, showed Fungi. Volunteers came forward to start new Groups for Maps and Botany. Despite initial enthusiasm neither of the two new Groups flourished for long.

Shortly after BPE, Margaret Morris was able to promote Thematics by displaying "Astronomy" to the Royal Philatelic Society London and to talk about the pioneers of Thematic Philately. Dorothy Martin was to follow in her footsteps with a Christmas display to the Royal PSL on 3 October 1985

On Sunday 3 March 1985 at STAMPEX 85, we were honoured to have as guest speaker, the President of the FIP Thematic Philately Commission, Dr Giancarlo Morolli. A large audience of over 70 enjoyed his presentation, using an overhead projector and slides. Dr Morolli stressed that philately should be a pleasure; nobody was forced to exhibit. The theme chosen should give personal pleasure. He divided his talk into three sections – material, building the collection (with an emphasis on the need for a logical plan and the use of all types of appropriate philatelic material) and exhibiting. The morning session concluded with a lively question and answer session. In the afternoon, Dr Morolli kindly provided critiques

to those members who had brought nine sheets. Not everybody was happy with his remarks. One of those was Bob Bryant who decided he would throw away his collection after listening to the talk! However he didn't. Instead, he re-wrote his collection "Postal Mechanisation" and was rewarded by winning the Link House Trophy and a small silver-gilt medal at BPE in Autumn 1985.

By the end of 1985 Franceska had requested Margaret Morris to become Editor, after she acquired a word processor. I agreed to become Secretary and Tom Wilson became Assistant Secretary. Franceska had undertaken the redrafting the National Thematic Philately Rules with help from Alma Lee and myself, to more closely align them to the FIP International Rules. Franceska continued to lead the way for British thematic collectors by becoming the first UK exhibitor to receive a gold medal with her entry "1936 Olympic Games" at ISRAPHIL '85. In 1986 Franceska was invited to give a Lunch time talk by the American Topical Association (ATA) during AMERIPEX 1986. and in 1988 was awarded a second gold medal at OLYMPHILEX '88.

When the BTA was founded, John Fosbery, a very knowledgeable collector of South American countries, turned his attention to Thematics. John had founded "The Spanish Main" and won several International medals with his collections. At the Norwich Philatelic Congress in 1986 he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and decided to hold two thematic evenings during the Congress, with the agreement of the organisers. He appealed through the philatelic press for assistance and in my innocence, I volunteered to assist him. Franceska was not pleased because she considered that only the BTA committee should organise thematic displays. John Fosbery was not deterred. On the first evening Ron Butler showed "Railway Engines", followed by Peter Burnett with "Chess"; Colin Fraser with "The Waterlow Story"; John Pert with "Modern South America"; Mrs Wornum with "Owls" and finally Peter Foden, with a show of "Water Wings". It was an excellent evening's entertainment and well attended. Franceska Rapkin relented and gave the vote of thanks to John and the participants. On the following evening, John Fosbery spoke for 40 minutes on "The Adventures of Christopher Columbus" and I gave a shorter talk and display on "The History of the Bicycle". Tony Field gave the vote of thanks on that occasion.

The Chairman of each BPF sub-committee had to be an elected member of the BPF Council and could only serve a maximum of two terms of 4 years. Franceska was already a member of the BPF Council when the BTA was formed and her second term of office on the Council ended in 1986. Tony Field, the BTA Displays Officer, agreed to be elected to the BPF Council and to become the new Chairman of BTA. Franceska Rapkin remained on the BTA Committee as Consultant but Tony presided over the meeting held at BPE in October 1986. Tony's style as Chairman was very different to that of Franceska's and this led to disagreements. After 12 months Franceska was re-elected to the BPF Council and assumed the position of BTA Chairman again.

In November 1986 BTA held its first Thematic Seminar at a Hotel in a wet and windy Weston-Super-Mare. There was a full house for George Gibson's welcome and Andrew Watton's introduction. Franceska Rapkin began with, "Getting started and thinking logically". Margaret Morris followed up with "Putting it together - presentation and layout", using slides. In the afternoon Margery Wharton and I spoke on "Choosing material for the collection and exhibiting" before Franceska closed proceedings with "What the judges look for". Some nine-sheet exhibits were then put into the frames and those present invited to mark the exhibits and to discuss the reasons for their marks with the seminar team.

John Fosbery continued to be a thorn in the side of Franceska Rapkin. He did not consider that BTA was doing enough to encourage thematic collecting. I suspect he was unhappy not

to be asked to join the BTA Committee. He proceeded to organise “Thematica ’87”, hosted by the London & Provincial Stamp Club, in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Service Club on Saturday 30 May 1987. John invited 15 or 16 Thematic Groups and thematic dealers to take tables and asked BTA to provide speakers to give short displays during the day. In practice the noise from the dealer tables meant that the speakers could not be heard so the talks were abandoned, but the displays were changed at regular intervals. The BTA also had a table, which was manned throughout the Exhibition. A Souvenir Programme was provided free to all visitors. The day was a success and John immediately booked the Hall for the following year. A similar format was followed for Thematica ’88, with 15 dealers and several thematic groups taking tables. There were no talks however but there were standing displays of “Picasso” by John Fosbery and “Pre-Columbian Art” by Margaret Morris.

Another protagonist was Raife Wellsted. He spoke to me at a Stamp Exhibition in the West Country, whilst I was on holiday. Raife considered that he had been the catalyst for the formation of the BTA, following his paper to the Bath Congress in 1983. He had anticipated that he would be asked to become the Chairman of BTA and was disappointed that he had not been approached. As Curator of the National Postal Museum he had organised a special thematic exhibition, prior to the Thematic Philately International Exhibition, “Tembal ’83”, held in Basle, Switzerland 21 –29 May 1983. A very fine Gold medal exhibit on Ships by an overseas collector had been shown, but smaller exhibits by GB thematic collectors had been added, including a frame from my Bicycle collection. I was asked to pass on his comments to the BTA Committee. It was the beginning of my holiday and when I returned home, Raife’s remarks were not uppermost in my mind. However, I soon learnt that Raife had also spoken to Margaret Morris and Irene Lawson on the same subject. Margaret sent an apologetic letter to Raife but the Committee decided not to take the matter any further.

BTA’s Thematic Evening at Congress in Eastbourne on 11 September 1987 attracted over 40 persons. The emphasis was on the fun of thematic collecting and displaying. Raymond Brown showed his collection on Banking; Margery Wharton showed “Of Ice and Man” describing the exploration of the Antarctic; Michael Gosney showed extracts from his Rotary collection and Frank Jones completed the evening with a display on Bridges. The meeting began at 9pm but by 11pm, with Frank Jones still in full flow, Franceska declared the meeting closed so that we could all go to bed.

As part of Glasgow Thematic Society’s 40th anniversary celebrations in 1988, an exhibition entitled “Theme World” was held at the Glasgow Transport Museum. Each exhibitor was asked to provide Margaret Morris with a brief summary of his or her display. Margaret then reproduced the opening pages in common typeface, each headed with the logo of the Exhibition and the words “Transport The Philatelic Movement”. Each title was shown in block letters within a red border. Encouraged by Margaret Morris, the BTA held a Thematic Seminar in Glasgow, which was successful and a meeting of the BTA Committee.

Thanks to the efforts of Ronald Hyams, Advertising Manager, BTA’s first competition was held at Keydex Stamp Fair in Aylesbury on 28 December 1988. I recall driving along the M25 from Cobham on a very foggy morning, thinking I would never reach the turn off to Aylesbury. The venue was not too difficult to find and the organisers kindly provided the floor above the Stamp Fair free to BTA. Ronald collected and arranged erection of frames and an anonymous person donated the BTA Trophy, which is still competed for annually, although now referred to as the BTA Cup. Visitors voted for their favourite exhibit and Franceska Rapkin presented the trophy to the winner, Mrs Mary Marsh, who displayed “The World of Embroidery”. Unfortunately visitors were reluctant to climb the stairs to the upper floor, and the number of viewers of the exhibits was disappointing. In 1989 it was intended

to continue the competition but a week beforehand, Ronald Hyams had received no entries. Following a number of telephone calls 15 displays were provided, several coming from Scotland. The booking was not repeated the following year.

John Fosbery was keen to continue organising Thematica '89 but following a stroke, he reluctantly passed the reins to Maurice Gale, proprietor of Cameo Stamps. Maurice extended the Exhibition to two days and, despite opposition from John Fosbery, booked dealers only, in Carisbrooke Hall. However, he also hired the El Alamein Room, on behalf of the BTA, as the Exhibition Hall where Thematic Groups were invited to take tables; a Kids Corner was introduced and frames were borrowed to mount exhibits. The hire of the Exhibition Hall was on the understanding that the BTA organised and took financial responsibility for it. A new feature was a competition for the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy, with no entry fee. Knowing John Fosbery's dislike of Rules, entrants could choose any theme provided 16 sheets were presented, in protectors. Visitors were asked to vote for their favourite exhibit and the winner was the entrant with the highest number of votes. It was necessary to hire frames from BPF and Ronald Hyams drove his Luton van to a lock up near West Wycombe to pick up frames for us. In later years, with a larger requirement for frames, Maurice Gale hired a truck and two of us helped him pick up frames from a shed in a farmer's field near Fleet in Hampshire.

Franceska ensured that the BPF met the invoice from Maurice Gale in 1989 and 1990. When the BTA became independent in 1991 Franceska then approached the British Philatelic Trust (BPT) for a grant to meet Thematica costs. As a successful new venture we met the criteria and BTA continued to claim up until 1996.

In 1989 Franceska Rapkin was awarded the Congress medal for her work over many years with Youth and Thematics. She also appointed new Committee members. Margery Wharton became Assistant Secretary and John Griffin, a collector of Birds on Stamps, agreed to be auctioneer. He was able to bring lots for viewing to Thematica in the summer and provided the BTA with a small surplus. Graham Atkins, a radio announcer with a Christian organization, became our Public Relations Officer. He was familiar with recording equipment and recorded conversations with committee members on the way to collect thematics and separate slides of their thematic material. A printed script was prepared, marked with the point in the commentary when the next slide should be shown. Societies were invited to hire the tape and slides but only a few requests were received.

It was becoming apparent that the BPF was having difficulty balancing its books. BTA was responsible for an increase in membership of BPF, but also for an increase in outgoings, with a quarterly issue of *Themescene* for example. In 1991 a split from BPF was arranged amicably. Brian Asquith became BTA Treasurer and Ian Paton was appointed Membership Secretary. Ian was familiar with computer systems and set up a database from BPF records and my records of themes collected by members. Franceska Rapkin continued as Chairman and other members of the committee retained their positions. The foresight of the BTA Committee became even more apparent at the Newcastle Congress in 1992. The BPF had to be disbanded because it had no funds left.

The existence of BTA as an independent body began a new chapter in the life of the BTA. I am very pleased that the Association has thrived and has now reached its 30th anniversary. However, having concentrated heavily on the first few years, I regret that a further chapter in the History of BTA will have to wait until another time. ☒

BTA NEWS

MEMBERS' MEETING 17TH MAY 2014

St. Wilfrid's Convent, Tite Street, Chelsea, London SW3 4JX

The British Thematic Association (BTA) has arranged an additional members' meeting to its 2014 programme. This will be a joint meeting with the members of the Guild of St. Gabriel, one of the thematic societies affiliated to the BTA. It will be held on Saturday 17th May 2014 from 2 - 4pm at St. Wilfrid's Convent, 29 Tite Street, Chelsea, London SW3 4JX (nearest Tube station Sloane Square). The meeting will comprise displays by members of both societies, so please bring along up to 12 sheets on any thematic subject, although anything based on a religious theme would be greatly appreciated; and be prepared to talk about your display for no more than 5 minutes.

Members do not have to display if they do not wish to. There will be a small charge of 50p per person to help defray the costs of tea/coffee and using the room.

BTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DISPLAY BY BTA CUP WINNER, 14th JUNE 2014

The BTA Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.30pm on 14th June, in conjunction with SWINPEX, at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College, Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR. Following the formal part of the meeting there will be a display by 2013 BTA Cup winner Grace Davies on "The Dove and the Olive Branch". SWINPEX will have around 40 dealers, making the whole event well worth a visit.

MEMBERS' MEETING 5TH JULY 2014

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, 154 Northgate, Wakefield WF1 3QX

The British Thematic Association is holding a thematic meeting for the general public and BTA members at the Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention on the morning of Saturday 5th July 2014 from 1030 hrs until 12 noon. The venue is the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, 154 Northgate, Wakefield WF1 3QX. The meeting will comprise a presentation by the BTA on what constitutes thematic collecting followed by a question and answer session and displays by members. So, local BTA members are particularly encouraged to come along and bring up to 10 sheets on any thematic subject to display and talk about for no more than 5 minutes.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Congratulations to Australian member Chris Yardley, who has been awarded a PhD from the Australian National University for his thesis *The representation of science and scientists on postage stamps*. The good news for collectors is that Chris's next project is to convert it into a book, and he has promised *Themescene* an article along the way. And should you wonder how he managed to combine education and hobby, the explanation is in the Department which supervised it: the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science.

BACK RUN OF THEMESCENE

John Biddlecombe has an almost complete run of *Themescene* from no 12 to no 83. If anyone lives in Gloucester he could deliver for a small contribution, or could post anywhere for cost of post and packing. The Editor has his contact details.

HERE AND THERE

CANCELLATION OF THEMATIX

Due to circumstances beyond their direct control the organisers have had to cancel ThematiX at Chessington in July, and their attendance at the WETS Day in October. Please would you note this cancellation on your programmes.

PHILATELIC TRIBUTES TO WORLD WAR I

Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914, a sombre anniversary already being remembered in books and on radio and television. The British Postal Museum and Archive has a touring exhibition from April to December 2014 *Last Post: Remembering the First World War* telling the story of postal workers at war and on the Home Front, and examining the essential role played by postal communications. It will be on display at Mansfield, Guildford, Charville (Hillingdon) and Brading Isle of Wight.

Full details can be found at www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/last-post-tour

Meanwhile the BBC has put up an interesting page on its website *How did 12 million letters reach WWI soldiers each week?* It's a little basic for most collectors, but it would be nice to think it might just attract a few non-collectors, with brief information about:

1. The importance of letters
2. What was sent
- 3 The delivery process
- 4 Censorship at the front
- 5 Why letters were censored
- 6 What got through?

It can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zqtmyrd#z9gjn39

UPU SEARCH ENGINE

This is a helpful search tool for thematic subjects. Although it is primarily aimed at finding the World Association for the Development of Philately designated number, it has a useful Subject Keyword search box, as well as classified list of themes. The database goes back to 2002, and while it may miss some things due to the index words chosen, it does give specifications of each stamp and a good quality illustration. It's worth trying out at:

www.wnsstamps.ch/en

HOW I STARTED

Barry Floyd combined career and collecting

Reflecting recently over a life-long association with stamps I was drawn to Wendy's invitation (*Themescene* Editorial, December 2013) to consider sending her a few lines on the topic, considering that I was only five years old when my hobby began; this perhaps makes my story a bit special. I was encouraged to collect pretty stamps from Ceylon by my Great Grandfather, a delightful old Father Christmas character who also passed on exotic curios from the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' where his son was a Baptist missionary and – fortunately – a seasoned correspondent.

Fast forward to 1941 when, during the Luftwaffe blitz on London, I would take shelter and review my embryonic collection, now enlarged through packets of mixed used stamps purchased from Woolworth's with my weekly pocket money of 6d.




From 1943 to 1947 I served as a navigator with RAF Bomber Command and we travelled widely, from South Africa to Palestine, Egypt, Italy, India and even Ceylon, where I was able to meet my letter-writing great uncle. Naturally I acquired stamps from these countries along the way, while also serving as a censor for letters from other ranks.

I finished my military service in Germany and, in exchange for cigarettes (we had a free weekly ration of 50) I acquired various Hitler stamps from a Hamburg dealer. He came by train to the countryside each weekend hoping to barter 'cigs' for food from farmers.

At this stage my stamp collection clearly had no real focus or direction, although the urge to keep acquiring these fascinating bits of coloured paper was irresistible. Following a degree from Cambridge as a mature student, and post-graduate studies in the USA (where I acquired a loving wife – we celebrated 60 years of marriage in 2013) I now directed my academic interest into problems of rural development in the tropics. A year as a Land Development



Officer in Southern Rhodesia, followed by posts at the Universities of Nigeria and West Indies, meant that I now had an ideal theme to pursue philatelically: tropical agriculture, with special reference to 'Third World' small farmers, their crops and livestock and modes of cultivation. So this has now been my main topic within the hobby for many years. I have mounted club displays and written articles on agro-philately, published in American and British journals, including *Themescene*.

More recently I have ventured into writing various other themes which have appealed to me, such as 'Where Land and Water Meet' and of course 'Military Aviation'. Eventually I even tackled a couple of books: *Captain James Cook the Explorer: an Historical and Philatelic Review* and *Charles Darwin: his Life Though Commemorative Stamps*. Quite satisfying, to look at the Large Silver Medal on my study wall. I'm sure Great Grandpa would be pleased too... 

B24 Liberator as flown by the author with RAF Bomber Command.



GROUP MEMBERS

Alba Stamp Group

Mrs. Elizabeth Nairn, 4 Strenaby Avenue, Burnside, Rutherglen, G73 5DL

Astro Space Stamp Society

Mr. J. Dugdale, Glebe Cottage, Speymouth, Mosstodloch, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7LE

Web: www.astrospacestampsociety.com

Bird Stamp Society

Mr. A. Statham, Ashlyns Lodge, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 2ST

Email: tony.statham@sky.com

Web: <http://www.birdstampsociety.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

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

Glasgow Thematic Society

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

Guild of St. Gabriel

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

Masonic Philatelic Club

Mr. P. Nason, 3 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 4QD Email: pnason@aol.com

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. R. E. Robertson, 17 Whitehall Road, Northburn Park, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 3QW

Web: <http://shipstampsociety.com/>

West of England Thematic Society

Mrs. S. Ellam, 101 Dunraven Drive, Derriford, Plymouth, PL6 6AT

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

TC NEWS NO.26

To explain this title to those readers not familiar with it, *TC News* is the occasional publication of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Thematic Philately Commission. Of course it is primarily aimed at exhibitors, but don't let that put you off. Your Editor thought the latest issue had some particularly interesting articles, whether you compete or not; so here's a short précis of the major articles, which if you want to read in full you will find at www.fipthematicphilately.org/ (click on 'TC News current'). If you do not have access to the Internet please send a C5 stamped self-addressed envelope to the Editor, with a note of which article(s) you would like copied.

FRENCH PROOFS – A COMMENT by *Gunnar Dahlvig*

This is a very informative, well-illustrated overview of the various types of French proofs.

Die Proofs (Épreuve d'artiste)

Between 1928 and 1956 engravers made proof prints on a hand press, using the original engraving. Often in black, there were printed on a soft, thick paper and signed by the engraver in pencil. From 1956 the printing house took over this production, using paper with an impressed seal '*Republique Francaise*'. From 1964 the impressed seal changed to a hand press.

Sepia Printer's Die Proof (Epreuve de reception)

These are the scarcest type of die proof, a few copies made from unhardened dies for final checking before printing. They were printed on soft paper in sepia, unsigned with no seal.

Trial Colour Proofs (Epreuve de couleur)

Unsigned, colour proof prints produced from the hardened original die, with a pencil note in the bottom right-hand corner giving the number of the colour. From the 1950's colour proofs were printed in small sheets, three colour proofs at first, and by the 1960's up to six colour proofs. The stamps are found for sale in singles, pairs and rows, but rarely as full sheets.

De Luxe Sheets (Epreuve de Luxe)

These have been produced since 1923 in colour using a special die. In the lower right hand corner is "*Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Poste – Paris*" or "*Imprimerie des Timbres-Poste – Paris*" or "*Imprimeries des Timbres-Poste – France*" (different texts used at different periods).

Imperforated Stamps

Some were printed before 1941 and are considered postally valid. From 1941 up to 2,000 stamps could be printed imperforate and were not valid for franking.

TOURIST PUBLICITY CARDS by *John Barker*.



This detailed and very well illustrated article examines the range of postal stationery produced by postal authorities to promote their country as the perfect holiday destination. In 1897 New Zealand issued a 1d. postcard with a composite of four views, plus a space for the message. This was followed by issues from Argentina, Cape of Good Hope, Queensland and Hungary. The early twentieth century saw a range of countries

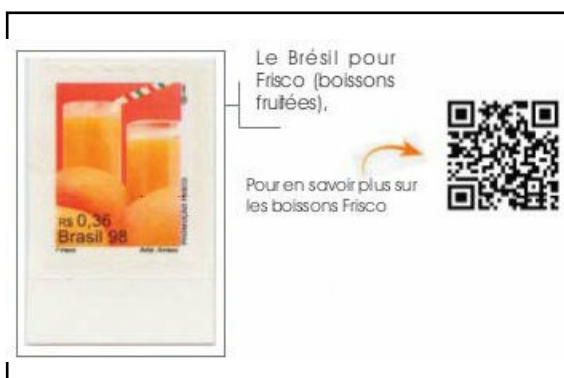
getting involved. Between 1900 and 1929 Uruguay, the Mozambique Company (illustrated lettercards), Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Sweden, Liechtenstein, and the Soviet Union all issued cards. The list of countries grew in the 1930s: Belgium, Poland, Italy, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Estonia and Lithuania. The article describes the designs, printers and printing methods for this range, and ends with a new innovation from China: prepaid postcards attached to the admission ticket for a national park or other tourist attraction.

COLLECTING THE PICTURE POSTCARDS OF SWITZERLAND

by Ernest Schlunegger. Reproduced from *The American Philatelist*, November 2013

There are over 2,000 postcards catalogued between 1924 and 1964. The purpose of these postal stationery cards was to promote tourist resorts and places of interest. Five cities featured heavily: Basle, Bern, Geneva, Lucerne and Zurich. Views covered landscapes, buildings, holiday activities, transportation, zoo and domestic animals, and sports. The article has three full pages of illustrations.

QUESTION: HOW TO KEEP READER/VIEWER IN FRONT OF A THEMATIC PHILATELY EXHIBIT AND EXCITE HIS CURIOSITY? ANSWER: BY USING THE TOOLS OF TODAY. By Francois Krol



Describes an innovation first used at Brasiliana 2013: QR codes. This is that square barcode you often see inviting you to scan it in to your smart phone or similar device. (QR stands for Quick Response). The suggestion here is that you add a QR code to one or more specific parts of your exhibit, giving a link to further information on the web about your topic. It is suggested that this may be a way to engage the public more; at Brasiliana there were 155 hits on a specific site coded from the exhibit.

AN EARLY THEMATIC EXHIBITOR Gunnar Dahlvig



About the life and collections of the British philatelist George Allen Higlett (b.1860– d.1940), and his highly entertaining analysis of glaring design errors, specifically the caravel shown on Denmark 1927 SG 246-251 which appears to be sailing sideways.

INNOVATION IN THE THEMATIC CLASS by Daryl Kibble.

Reproduced from *The Asia Pacific Exhibitor* no. 96

The author uses his exhibit “Angelic beings: our story” to explain how different ways of telling a story and adding interest.

PERSONALISED STAMPS IN A THEMATIC EXHIBIT by Peter Lang.

Reproduced from *ThemNews* November 2013.

While these stamps can often be seen as a modern gimmick, there are occasions when they can add value to a thematic exhibit, particularly where the design of the stamp itself, not just the accompanying label, can be freely designed, as for instance with Austria. This may provide the opportunity to create a relevant illustration not found on any other postal material.

Comment on this article by President John Hayward:

The author suggests that personalised stamps and even personalised postal stationery are acceptable in an international thematic exhibit on a limited basis if they display a thematic aspect which is not otherwise available philatelically. Is this correct? Up to now exhibitors have refrained from exhibiting personalized items because they are *per se* restricted issues, that is they are not generally available to the public for postal use from post offices and like all restricted issues at present they should be avoided. In addition, there could be a more compelling reason for not including them. After all, what is to prevent a potential thematic exhibitor from obtaining from their national post office a personalised stamp or postal stationery which depicts the very thematic aspect which is not available anywhere philatelically and exhibiting it? Surely such an item belongs on the title page only if anywhere at all? Clarification is obviously needed here and it is something perhaps our newly appointed GB delegate to the FIP Thematic Commission, Lesley Marley, can take up.

Comment by Lesley Marley:

I think the approach is quite simple:

- Thematic philately allows everything selected on philatelic qualification. - Personalised philatelic material through the official post is philatelic qualification.
- Secondly thematic philately demands qualification and if the personalised philatelic item thematically is qualified - so yes why not.
- Another factor is philatelic importance - personalised philatelic material with thematic qualification has very low (if any) philatelic importance. . . . ☒

EXHIBITING PAGE

MALAYSIA 2014

An international stamp exhibition will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 1st to 6th 2014. While essentially an international youth exhibition, it will also include Thematic Philately and Modern Philately (the latter defined as material issued in the 21st century, although some prior material can be included if needed).

The frame fees will be US\$50 per frame (youth is free).

In order to obtain the necessary exhibiting qualification you need to have been awarded at least a Vermeil at National level. A number of BTA members got very good results at Stampex last month, and if you are considering trying an International competition for the first time this may be an attractive place to start, particularly with the frame fees somewhat below the average charge. Naturally, those who have exhibited internationally before are also very welcome to submit an application.

If you are interested in submitting an application, you can receive details by sending an email to Richard West (richjwest@btinternet.com), or by sending a stamped C5 addressed envelope to Richard West, 39 Waverley Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3JX.

Completed entry forms should be received by Richard West by March 31st 2014.

The official Exhibition website is at <http://malaysia2014.com.my/>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

At the world philatelic exhibition 'Brasiliana' held in Rio de Janeiro in November, former BTA Chairman Richard Wheeler gained a Gold Medal for his entry 'Evolution of Puppetry'. Nice to see thematics represented at top level.

And congratulations to BTA member, and Large Gold medallist Lesley Marley on her appointment as UK Representative on the FIP Thematic Philately Commission. ☒

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 encourage them.

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

Thank you



The BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

is celebrating its 30th BIRTHDAY!!!
So let's look at the number 30 on stamps.



How many stamps do you have in your collection with the number 30 on? It might be a stamp with the number 30 showing how much the stamp cost, like these two stamps below. Where are they from?



This 1957 Special Delivery stamp (shown below) from the United States of America cost 30c. It shows a letter being delivered. What does the letter 'c' with a line through it stand for?



This stamp above shows a stamp on a stamp from Canada! It shows a picture of a three pence stamp on a stamp costing 30 cents. It was issued in Canada in 1982 to commemorate the first International Youth stamp Exhibition held outside Europe. What animal is shown?



STAMP FACTS!

This is a very old **30** stamp issued in 1879 in USA. It says 'POSTAGE DUE THIRTY CENTS'. That means that the person who received it had to pay 30 Cents!

This stamp was issued in Iceland in 1931. It cost **30** Aur, or Aurar. An Aurar was 100th of a krona – a bit like we have 100 pence in a pound – but the aurar is no longer used in Iceland. In 1931 a German airship called 'Graf Zeppelin' visited Iceland to deliver and collect mail, but it couldn't land at the capital city Reykjavik, so the mail from the airship was delivered and collected at Oskjuhlío, just outside the city. The Icelandic Post Office celebrated the visit by overprinting stamps of their King Christian 10th with the words 'Zeppelin 1931', to be used on letters going out on the airship only. They overprinted 50000 of the **30** Aur stamps.



In **1930**, a set of three Graf Zeppelin stamps were issued in USA. This stamp shows the zeppelin flying over the Atlantic Ocean on its way to America. It cost \$1 and **30** cents. Can you find the other two stamps in the set in a stamp catalogue or on the internet?

This is the back of a postcard. If you look very carefully at the round date mark on the cancellation (black circle shape) you can see that it was posted on 18th August **1930** in Herts (short for Hertfordshire in England).



What stamps do you have with the number 30 on?

Write and tell us and you'll WIN A PRIZE!

Just4Kids, c/o The Editor, Themescene, 87 Victoria Road, Bournemouth. BH1 4RS.

For more stamp fun go to the Stamp Active website www.stampactive.co.uk

LIBRARY LISTING

If you would like to receive a list of articles on your topic(s), send a stamped sae to the Librarian (contact details page 2). To assist, he will quote the current postal rates when he sends the list.

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

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

Books

Hogarth, D. *An illustrated guide to walking and climbing on stamps.*
(return postage will cost £1.60 at current prices)

	Alcohol	
4	Norris, D. Up spirits! [Rum]	Stamp Magazine 8/2012
	Aircraft	
1	Lewis, B. Aircraft used by Winston Churchill 1939 - 1946	ThemNews 9/2012
	Art	
4	Keppel, A. Michelangelo's masterpiece	Stamp Magazine 11/2012
	Churches	
6	De Jager, M. The History of The Church Of The Vow, Pietermaritzburg	ThemNews 2/2012
	Churchill	
1	Lewis, B. Aircraft used by Winston Churchill 1939 - 1946	ThemNews 9/2012
	Communication	
3	Vegter, W. Cyber Heroes of the Past: Arthur Charles Clarke	ThemNews 6/2012
3	Vegter, W. Cyber Heroes of the Past: Galileo Galilei	ThemNews 11/2012
	History	
6	Dugdale, J. History in the making on GB stamps	Stamp Magazine 10/2012
	Insects	
2	Whittle, C. The Honey Bee	ThemNews 9/2012
	Lord Nelson	
3	Whittle, C. Naval Legend: Lord Horatio Nelson	ThemNews 6/2012
	Medicine	
2	Kumar, S. Smallpox - A Philatelic Obituary	ThemNews 6/2012
4	Kumar, S. AIDS: the Tragedy of Our Times (pt 1& 2)	ThemNews 11/2012; 2/2013

Mining

- 2 Bantz, U. Minerals - Fossils - Mining ThemNews 5/2011

Music

- 3 De Klerk, M. Franz Liszt: musical genius and brilliant pianist ThemNews 6/2012

Police

- 1 Van Greunen, E. Bophuthatswana Police Medals ThemNews 9/2012

Red Cross

- 1 Menzies, S. History of the Russian Red Cross MediTheme 8/2012

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



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Brian Sole (see Patron)

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Librarian: **Ron Backhouse** 10 Hoe Lane, Ware, Herts, SG12 9NU. Tel: 01920 484974

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

2014 COMPETITIONS

To be held at The South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention,
Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground,
Ardingly, RH17 6TL

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2013 10.00am – 4.30pm

The John Fosbery Thematic Trophy competition requires 16 sheets inside protectors and is for collectors who have never won a thematic medal in a National competition. It has NO OTHER RULES! The entries will be judged by visitors to the Exhibition.

We are looking for more than last year's seven entries, on our first visit to Ardingly!

The BTA Cup Competition is judged to National Thematic competition rules and requires 32 sheets, any theme, inside protectors, to fill two frames. This competition is intended to be a stepping-stone towards entering a National thematic competition. The entry fee is £15.

The winners of the John Fosbery Thematic trophy and the BTA Cup may not enter the same exhibit, even if changes have been made, in the two following years.

However, a new exhibit in either competition will be acceptable one year after winning a trophy.

The Inter-Federation Thematic Competition for the Healey & Wise Salver is a team event. It requires 16 sheets, any theme, from three individual Federation members. It is judged to National Thematic Rules, and there is no entry fee! If a BTA member has had success in a local thematic competition, why not badger two friends to make up a Federation team?

Please complete the form overleaf and send it to -

Brian Sole,
49 Westcar Lane, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 5ER
Telephone: 01932 220677; e-mail: brian.sole@btinternet.com

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY FORMS:
FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Receipt of the sheets by THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2014
Details will be sent to entrants.**



British Thematic Association Competitions 2014 Entry Form



I wish to enter

A. The 16 sheet JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY Competition (please tick)

OR

B. The 32 sheet BTA CUP competition..... (please tick)

OR

C. The INTER-FED Thematic Competition..... (please tick)

AND

enter the NAME of the Federation/Association.....

Name (If "C", name of contact)..... Tel No.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

E-mail address.....

Title of Entry (A or B).....

Names of Exhibitors and Titles of exhibit in C) Inter- Federation Thematic Competition

Entry 1).....

Entry 2).....

Entry 3).....

Re: entry to the JOHN FOSBERY competition -

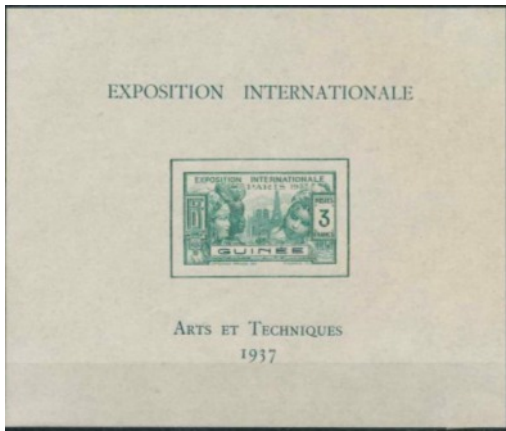
I have not won a medal in the Thematic Class of a National or International Exhibition.

Re: entry to the JOHN FOSBERY, the BTA CUP or the INTER-FED Thematic competitions -

I/We accept that the material is submitted entirely at my/our own risk and I/we undertake to make my/our own arrangements with regard to the insurance of the entry whilst it is out of my/our possession; this includes all transit risks, temporary housing of the entry and its display at Ardingly Showground. I/we confirm that all information on this form is correct and, if entering the BTA CUP competition, enclose a remittance of £15, payable to the British Thematic Association.

Signed.....Date.....

BTA DISPLAYS AT STAMPEX, page 13



Paris Exposition



Caves



Wool



Paper

Whaling



NEW ISSUES

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

