

THEMESCENE

June 2014

In this issue we:

Use deductive techniques

History of the Fictional Detective

With Steven Cross



Identify a post office

The office was not in the right place!

With David Roseaveare



Stir the heart

Julia Ward Howe

With Jeff Dugdale

Make use of fundamental knowledge

Back to basics, part 1

With John Hayward



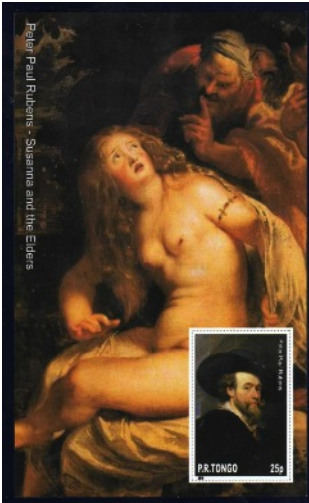
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FICTIONAL DETECTIVES page 45

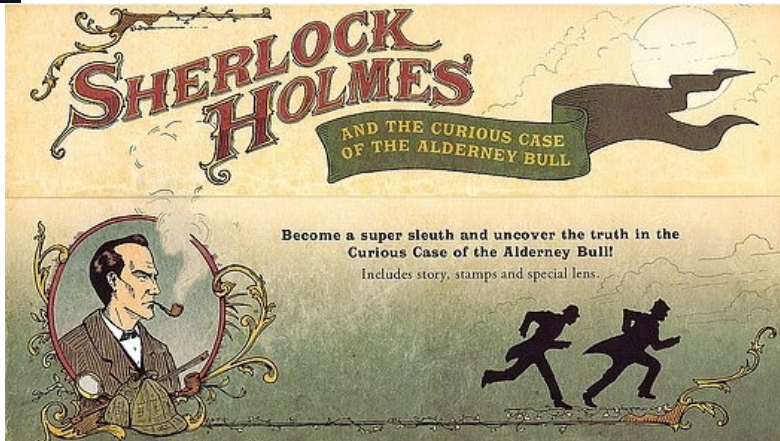


Voltaire

Edgar
Allan Poe



Susanna and the Elders



THE OFFICE WAS NOT IN THE RIGHT PLACE! Page 50



THEMESCENE

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THEMESCENE

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

As you know from the previous issue of *Themescene* the BTA is celebrating its 30th birthday this year. We started the year with a bang, through the support of many of our members enabling us to put on a big display at Stampex. However with our AGM coming up we need to step back and take a serious look at ourselves. Over the last few years our membership has fallen, very largely due to the age demographic of the majority of our members. This has meant a steady fall in income, a situation our auditor recommends we immediately address. An initial start on this has been made. *Themescene* will continue to be published quarterly but will be reduced to 36 pages. This will be achieved mainly by omitting officers' reports so hopefully your reading enjoyment will be unaffected. The Committee felt we should not reduce *Themescene* drastically (for example by going down to three issues a year) since for many members this is their primary benefit of membership.

We also have a more serious short-term challenge: we need to appoint a new Chairperson at the AGM, our present Chairman Simon Moorcroft having to stand down due to work commitments. The present Committee members are unable to take up this post and feel that playing musical chairs will gain us nothing.

So when you read the AGM papers in this issue (page 56) please think:

- what do I want to see from the BTA?
- what can I do for the BTA? Am I prepared to chair a committee of hard-working individuals who all get on and do whatever needs doing?

Sadly we will also be losing our President, John Hayward, who will be standing down at the AGM due to ill-health. John gave us all a nasty fright in March when he suffered a major heart attack. Thankfully he is fully recovered but of course will have to be careful in what he does. We all owe John a huge debt for everything he has done for the BTA. Now he needs to put his feet up.

I like to think that the BTA has done, and is doing, a lot: special displays at Stampex; regional and national meetings (see page 62); production of a well-received CD by Margaret Morris; the popular biannual 'Fun With Philately' weekend; and next year a stand and meeting at London 2015. All of this takes time, effort and money; so if you enjoy your Association and want to see it prosper please, please consider offering your services.

Don't let this plea put you off coming to the AGM. As well as the formal part of the meeting there will be the presentation of the Franceska Rapkin Trophy, awarded each year to the best article written in *Themescene* the previous year. This year it goes to Jim Etherington for 'Telling a story: postcards are a plus!' from the December issue. And following the AGM will be a display and talk from last year's BTA Cup winner Grace Davies on 'The dove and the olive branch'

On a very positive note, having said that we have a falling membership we do still attract new members, and I am very pleased to welcome Mrs. S. Knight of Shoeburyness, Essex, and Mrs. S. Targett of Hadlow, Kent. We hope you enjoy and benefit from your membership.

This issue of *Themescene* has a mix of thematic subject articles and practical ideas for collecting. I'm delighted to publish a first-time article from Steven Cross (page 45). Who knew the detective novel began with the Greek classics? Detection of another sort is demonstrated by David Roseavere, whose research, and careful organisation of information collected over many years, uncovered a fascinating story (page 50). Following a short article by regular contributor Jeff Dugdale (page 51) we have the first of a new series on "Back to Basics" (page 53). As you see it takes more than a heart attack to stop John Hayward, and over the next few issues he intends to look at the fundamentals of philately and how they can apply to thematics. At this point I have to state that I read this article with particular interest since his subject - paper - is my thematic interest. And I promptly queried something he said, but was persuaded by him not to alter it. If you spot anything you don't agree with, please write in - and don't think I missed it!

I always try and give variety to the choice of topics in the magazine, and I will repeat what I said in the last Editorial: if you have a collection which you have never had featured fully in *Themescene* please send me a piece (any length) and a few illustrations. There must be many topics out there which have never been mentioned before. Similarly, would you like to contribute to our 'How I Started' feature (page 64)? We all have our own story to tell; what's yours?

And finally, two reminders:

1. It is not too late to join this year's "Fun With Philately" weekend, see page 44.
2. Don't forget this year's BTA annual competitions. The application form is on page 75. We were very pleased with the level of support last year, and would like to maintain or increase it this year. If you want to test your mettle against national standards try the BTA Cup (32 sheets). If you get grumpy at the mere idea of rules and judges try the Fosbery Trophy: 16 sheets judged by those present. No rules. Absolutely no rules. Just do exactly what you want to, and enjoy seeing it displayed at the South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention. ☐

**URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE FUTURE
WELL-BEING OF THE BTA**

A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF CHAIRPERSON

Someone who will support the BTA by:

- Having the energy and drive to move the BTA forward
- Actively look for ways to promote theme based collecting
 - Attending (and if necessary chairing) BTA events
 - Chairing the Annual General Meeting
 - Chairing two committee meetings a year

If you are willing to take on this role please contact the BTA Secretary Anne Stammers, email annies1@btopenworld.com, in time for the AGM on 14th June.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

From Bob Gibson, by email

Just about to file the March 2014 of *Themescene* issue in our library when I realised I was to write to you.

On page 6 there is a letter to the editor relating to a series of four postcards. It is suggested that these particular cards would be acceptable in a 'philatelic display'. The nature of such a display was not made really clear.

I certainly would have no problem with them being used in a display to philatelic societies and it would appear as though this is what Richard does do. I agree postcards in this situation would be welcomed by viewers (or should be).

However, I am totally bemused by the statement by Brian Sole. The implication is that such postcards would be acceptable in a Thematic exhibit and gain high rating because of rarity. In my humble opinion these postcards would be acceptable in an Open exhibit as part of the non-philatelic component and yes, in that case, would be given a good assessment for rarity but NOT in a thematic exhibition.

A postcard simply by going through the mail does not make it a philatelic item – the postmark possibly. The only way a postcard (as distinct from a postal stationery item) could be used in a thematic exhibit, and then sparingly, is as a maximum card. The images do not suggest these postcards were maximum cards even with the relaxed conditions applying to maximum cards of this 'classic' period.

I would be very interested in Brian expanding on his justification for the statement made. *Editor's note: this has been passed back to Brian Sole, who will respond in the next issue.*

**BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND 3RD - 5TH OCTOBER 2014
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS:**

Friday p.m.	Arrival; welcome drink; member's displays Speaker and display: Michael Blackman 'Umbrellas'
Saturday a.m.	Speaker and display: Margaret Morris 'Aspects of Astronomy' Member's displays
Saturday p.m.	Browse and buy: thematic dealer <i>Thames Themes</i> BTA table sales Free time in Oxford Member's displays
Saturday eve	Dinner Quiz
Sunday a.m.	Speaker and display: Jean Alexander 'Waterfalls' Members' displays

Full details and booking form in December *Themescene*;
or contact the Secretary or Editor
Day Delegates are very welcome

A HISTORY OF THE FICTIONAL DETECTIVE

Steven Cross goes sleuthing

The earliest puzzles

In an English country house a murder takes place. There are a large number of suspects. The bungling local constabulary cannot solve the crime, distracted by various red herrings. The detective arrives, or was perhaps one of the guests. Inquiries and questioning follow. The least likely suspect is revealed as the perpetrator, but there is a final twist in the plot.

These are the classic features of the modern detective story, but early crime fiction was just simple story telling. They were puzzles often laced in emotion, but ultimately they were description and practical explanation of what has happened. So how has the detective developed from the naïve questioner to the forensic investigator?

In ancient Greek myth, Oedipus was abandoned on a mountainside so that the prophesy that he would kill his father and marry his mother would not come true. He is rescued and brought up by the King and Queen of Corinth. He hears of the prophesy and travels to Thebes. He meets a man coming the other way, they squabble and argue and Oedipus kills him. On reaching Thebes he learns that the King has recently died. He wins the crown of Thebes by solving the riddle of the sphynx, and marries the Queen. Oedipus discovers the truth of his origins after questioning various witnesses, and he is ultimately exiled. This story was turned into the Greek tragedy 'Oedipus Rex' by Sophocles (476-406 BC). The only country to issue a stamp showing Sophocles is Greece in 1998.



The lecherous Elders had been watching Susanna, then blackmailed her by claiming she had been meeting a man. However when questioned they had very different versions about what they saw. This uncomplicated story appears in the Bible, Daniel ch.13, written between 167 and 164 BC. The Rubens painting of Susanna and the Elders has featured on a stamp of Paraguay and maxi card of Tonga (inside front cover).

In order to save her life Scheherazade told 1001 stories, one each evening to the Sultan. Amongst this early Arab fiction is what is argued as the first detective story 'The Three Apples'. A woman's body is found in a chest on the bank of a river and the Caliph orders the Vizier Ja'fa to investigate. This collection of stories goes back as far as the 9th Century and has Indian and Persian origins. Several countries, including Ajman in 1967 have all celebrated the Aladdin or Sinbad or Ali Baba stories, but none feature this tale.



Early Chinese detective fiction is often referred to as Gong'an and dates from the 16th Century. It often has a supernatural element, huge casts and a detective who is a local Judge. There are philosophical digressions and we often know the criminal from the start. This earliest Chinese fiction takes its name from the 'case records of the public law court'. Whilst significant numbers of Ming dynasty objects and people and lifestyle have been issued, there are no examples of these tales on stamps (this issue comes closest with its folk tales).

It took a long time before western culture and as a result Western writing turned its attention to the concept of crime, but again it followed the idea of simple description and questioning to reveal the mystery. Voltaire's *Zadig* (1694-1778) features a main character who carries out analysis and deduction, and is considered one of the earliest examples of detective fiction. France has issued a number of different portraits of Voltaire. The Hungarian issue had the French writer as one of ten authors on its 1948 issue.

'The Rector of Veilbye' by Danish author S S Blicher (1782-1848) was written in 1829.



A village rector is accused of murdering his servant, and the evidence is against him. He is sentenced to death. Years later the servant reappears; it was a hoax perpetrated because he wasn't allowed to marry the rector's daughter. The judge has a heart attack and the servant is found dead on the grave of the rector.

S. S. Blicher

In 1819 E T A Hoffman, a German Romantic author, published 'Mademoiselle de Scuderi' the investigation into the murder of a jeweller by his apprentice. It too has a claim to be regarded as the first detective story. 150 years after his death West Berlin produced this stamp and commemorative cancel in 1972.



A series of French authors introduced characters like Rocambole, a murderer turned villain fighter, written in the 1860s by Pierre du Terail. *Fantomas* (1911) appeared in 32 novels created by Allain and Souvestre. *Lupin the gentleman thief*, a contemporary of Holmes, was penned by Maurice Leblanc (1905). *Rouletabille* (1907), created by Gaston Leroux is a young journalist who becomes a detective. These four detectives appeared in a set of six issued in 1996 by France (the other two being 20th century detectives).



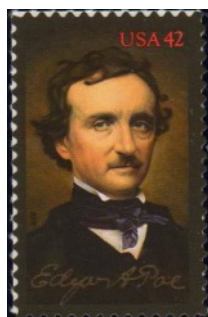
'Father of Detective Fiction'

Edgar Poe (born 1809) had a miserable childhood. His father abandoned the family and his mother died when he was just two. He moved in with John and Frances Allan, but was unable to form any positive relationships, and the unhappiness continued until his foster father eventually disowned him. His military career was difficult and he tried to focus on writing, releasing poems and prose with little success. He was court-martialed out of the army and tried his hand at editing several different journals. He married his

thirteen year old cousin Virginia in 1835.



A number of countries issued stamps to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth, including Monaco in 2008. Poe's best known fiction works are Gothic, with recurring themes of death, including its physical signs, the effects of decomposition, concerns of premature burial, the reanimation of the dead, and mourning. He became known for the macabre and for mystery, publishing 'Murder in the Rue Morgue' in 1841, also acclaimed as the first detective story. The brutal murder of two women is heard by numerous witnesses but there is no agreement on the language spoken by the assailant. The detective Dupin finds a non-human hair. After advertising in the papers, a sailor comes forward saying his pet orangutan had escaped, and in the frenzy which followed it had killed both of the women. 'The Mystery of Marie Rog e' and 'The Purloined Letter' followed.



The story also established common elements in mystery fiction: the eccentric but brilliant detective, the inept police, and narration by a close personal friend. Poe also had his detective recap the analysis of his deductions. In this way Poe devised a formula that has been successful ever since and he is often referred to as 'the father of detective fiction'. Poe describes his stories as 'tales of ratiocination': the process of reasoning. Dupin is eccentric and brilliant and laid the groundwork for detectives to follow.

Poe's death in 1845 is a mystery. Delirium or heart disease, syphilis, cholera, rabies or alcoholism have all been suggested. Whichever one believes it is agreed that he became more and more unstable following the death of his wife. The 100th and 150th Anniversary of his death were commemorated in stamps issued by the USA (see inside front cover).

In 1972 Nicaragua featured Dupin and eleven other fictional detectives, one of forty countries recognising the Interpol Fiftieth Anniversary. The others reproduced the Headquarters Building or the Interpol Symbol. Nicaragua was the first country to portray detectives making an influential contribution to the portrayal of law enforcement.



Another early example of a whodunit is a subplot in the novel 'Bleak House' (published in twenty instalments March 1852 – September 1853) by Charles Dickens. The lawyer Tulkinghorn is murdered in his office, which is investigated by Inspector Bucket. He cross examines all the people who were on the staircase that night in order to identify the culprit. A large number of countries have celebrated various Dickens's anniversaries, and in 2012 the UK produced a se-tenant set of four stamps to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of his birth, including an illustration from 'Bleak House'.

Sherlock

The brilliant work of the world's first consulting detective was described by his biographer Watson, and set out in four novels and 56 short stories. The stories have attracted huge amounts of analysis and comment on their literary quality; he has been

filmed more than any other character and he is the most widely recognised literary figure in the world. Besides the stories there are two musicals and a ballet. Conan Doyle himself solved a murder, was a failed candidate for the British Parliament, a believer in fairies and the occult and was knighted for his propaganda work during the Boer War. Sherlock's every utterance has been interpreted and behaviour studied. The philatelic collection of the main characters and the adventures is an extensive catalogue.

Arthur Conan Doyle, one of ten children, was born in 1859. His life has been commemorated by various countries including GB, Monaco and Guinea

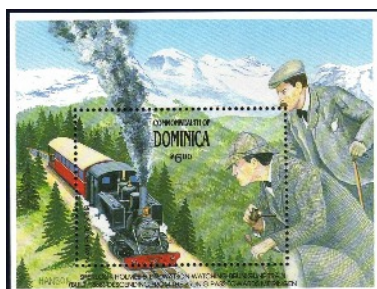
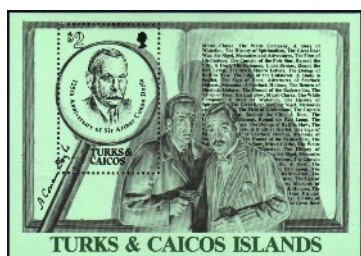


The American actor William Gillette (1853-1937) is responsible for the image of Holmes in deerstalker hat, Meerschaum pipe and cape. The Nicaraguan Interpol issue reflects this iconic picture. A huge number of different actors used the image to represent Holmes, most recently GB (2013) when the actor Peter Cushing played the role. The San Marino Fictional Detectives series depicts Holmes as a blood hound. In The Tales of Terror (1997) GB published the Hound of the Baskervilles as one of four literary monsters.

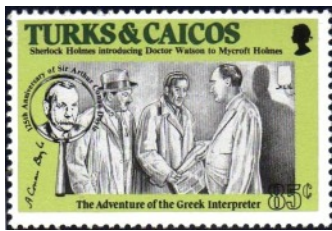


Dr John Watson, originally named Orman Slacker, returned from the Second Afghan War after being wounded at the Battle of Maiwand. He joined Holmes at 221B Baker Street where they lived for six to seven years, and where Watson documented the most interesting cases. He does not

appear in his own right on any stamps. In 1984, with Conan Doyle and Holmes, he is represented on the Turks and Caicos issue in front of a book containing the names of the Holmes' stories. He is also shown with Holmes on Dominica 1991 Souvenir Sheet watching the Brunigline Train, and Switzerland had the Reichenbach waterfall. Both of these appear in 'The Final Problem'.



GB acknowledged the other stories from the canon in its booklet series from 1987. ‘A Study in Scarlet’ has Holmes examining a wall with the word RACHE in blood written on it. It is the first novel by Conan Doyle and the one in which Holmes and Watson meet. Conan Doyle’s favourite, and voted best Holmes short story, is ‘The Speckled Band’, shown on another booklet. An unknown man features on the cover of ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles’ booklet and the classic fight between Holmes and Moriarty is shown on ‘The Final Problem’.



The Greek Interpreter introduces the character of Mycroft in ‘The Adventure of the Empty House’ in which Holmes returns after the great hiatus. ‘The Adventure of the Second Stain’ is about catching a spy and ‘The Adventure of the Final Problem’, which has the waterfall as a backdrop, were all issued by Turks and Caicos in 1984.

In 1993 the UK Post Office produced a se-tenant set of five Holmes adventures. Hidden in each stamp was a letter, which formed a word when rearranged. This is the only example of such an idea by the UK.



In 2009 Alderney produced a presentation pack of six stamps. Reading the accompanying story and looking at the stamps for clues, you are asked to solve The Curious Case of the Alderney Bull (see inside front cover).

And so the detective entered the great age of deduction and reasoning, establishing and verifying the facts, which provided the model for the Golden Age of Detective Fiction to come.

THE OFFICE WAS NOT IN THE RIGHT PLACE!

David Roseveare reaps the rewards of research

An article appeared in a French stamp magazine over twenty years ago regarding the 1974 Ivory Coast “Stamp-Day” issue which was designed and engraved by Pierre Bèquet. The date of issue was set for the 19th April. He produced an image of a post office which he copied from a document that he borrowed from the colonial archives. Apparently all the offices were built to a standard design with only minor differences. Unfortunately he got the name wrong, “BUREAU DE DABOU” instead of “BUREAU DE GRAND-LAHOU”. The error was spotted by the postal administrator in that country and stamp production ceased. Completed sheets were returned to Paris to be destroyed and the task of producing a replacement was given back to Bèquet. This led to a delay of one month and the new stamp was issued on the 17th May. I read the article at the time and kept a copy, hoping that one day something might turn up.

Imagine my surprise when, a month ago, whilst looking through eBay I saw a picture of the “Dabou” stamp on a French dealer’s site. It was with a small group of Ivory Coast stamps on a stockcard and I decided to buy it. A week later I acquired another from the same person. I then decided to track down the writer of the original article for more information. Michel Daulard is now aged 84. In 1974 he served as the personal diplomatic envoy to the President of the Ivory Coast and was there when the problem arose. He said that only one sheet of 25 stamps survived, all the others having been destroyed. The replacement issue “Bureau de Grand-Lahou” totalled 500,000. He has a block of four in his collection and in 1987 he was pleased to receive, from an old friend still living in the Ivory Coast, an envelope bearing two of the “Dabou” stamps. It is reported that these are the only examples known on cover (see inside front cover).

The seller of the stamps I acquired said that they were part of a large collection housed in a “one country” album. He took the pages out and sold them individually. It contained other “gems” from that country many of which have found new homes.

Long live eBay and Delcampe! Without them we wouldn’t have a chance to develop our collections. ☐



Grand-Lahou



Dabou

JULIA WARD HOWE (1819 - 1910)

Jeff Dugdale looks behind the words of an iconic song

Julia Ward Howe, who died in October 1910, is famous for two connected reasons: her passion for the abolition of slavery, and for the writing of the words of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” in 1861. Howe was paying a supportive visit to a Union Army camp on the Potomac when the stirring marching song that the soldiers were singing, to the tune of “John Brown’s Body” (Brown himself was an abolitionist) stuck in her mind and inspired her to write those inspirational words about her mission.

She recalled, in the manner of many poets, exactly how she came to pen the words:

“I awoke in the grey of the morning, and as I lay waiting for dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to entwine themselves in my mind, and I said to myself, ‘I must get up and write these verses, lest I fall asleep and forget them!’ So I sprang out of bed and in the dimness found an old stump of a pen, which I remembered using the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper.”

Early in the following year the lyric was published in *The Atlantic Monthly* and it quickly established itself as an American institution, sung on countless formal, state and emotional occasions.

Howe had been born in New York and on marrying Dr “Chev” Howe, who had founded The Perkins Institute for the Blind, she set up home in South Boston, becoming active in religious and political circles. After the end of the Civil War Howe took on new challenges in promoting peace and universal suffrage, also contributing articles to the *Woman’s Journal*. Towards the turn of the century her horizons broadened and she took a keen interest in the freedom of individuals in Russia, where there existed a different form of slavery: the feudal system which had subdued millions of serfs for centuries, as exposed and ridiculed in the writings of Russian Nikolai Gogol in for example *Dead Souls*.

Howe was commemorated by this American definitive in 1985. Compare her portrait in this taken from a photo of her in her forties with the one of her as a grand old lady.



Middle age



Old age

The words of “The Battle Hymn” have inspired many, sending a shiver down their backs, when sung for example by The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and quotations from it appear in literature, notably in the title of John Steinbeck’s 1939 masterpiece and Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.


I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

I have read a fiery Gospel writ in burnished rows of steel;
“As ye deal with My contemners, so with you My grace shall deal”;
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel,
Since God is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free*;
While God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,
He is wisdom to the mighty, He is honor to the brave;
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of wrong His slave,
Our God is marching on.

*[originally ...let us die to make men free]. 



BACK TO BASICS

John Hayward links the basics of philately to thematic collecting

This series of articles will examine the basics of philately, how relevant they can be to thematic collecting and how much they can add to the scope of a collection and enhance your enjoyment of the hobby. Future articles will look at perforations and postal markings among other things, but I begin here with the very start of stamp production – the paper on which stamps are printed.

The two aspects of the paper used to print stamps I will explore are its colour and nature or texture. Here I would recommend collectors to read the excellent explanatory notes on paper set out in the information and guidelines at the beginning of Stanley Gibbons stamp catalogues. However, you may ask in what way is the colour of the paper on which a stamp is printed relevant to thematic collecting? Well, there are people who actually collect a colour theme – yellow and blue immediately come to mind, and these could also fit in with a medical theme. I am sure there are also collectors of gold and silver out there, but there are no stamps to my knowledge printed on gold or silver paper (having written that someone is going to correct me I am sure), only gold or silver ink or perhaps foil used in the printing process which I shall cover in a future article. An example of a stamp printed on blue paper would not be too difficult to locate – the GB imperforate 1d reds and 2d blues issued between 1841 and 1857 were printed on blued paper



which was due to the presence of prussiate of potash in the ink or paper that tended to colour the paper when the sheets were damped for printing. So not only would such a stamp printed on blue paper enhance a thematic collection based on the colour blue, it would also be relevant for a collection on chemicals / chemistry or on a similar theme. Fortunately there is a very limited range of coloured paper for stamps to be printed on as the darker colours, black for example, are impractical. I will deal with these and the myriads of shades when I come to printing inks in a future article.

Now to the texture of the paper on which stamps are printed. Stamps have been printed on wove, laid, card, cartridge, chalk, glazed, granite, quadrille, rice, silk thread and numerous other types of paper. There is little point in illustrating these aspects as they would only show as a blank white space if reproduced here. Instead I will, where possible, describe the stamps involved so they can be located, and provide illustrations only of those types of paper which better lend themselves to good reproduction. Wove paper suggests stamps printed on such paper would grace a collection on weaving or textiles. A collection on rifles or guns ought to include an example of a stamp printed on cartridge paper and I hope my old friend, Jim Weston, will respond by informing me which stamp(s) printed on cartridge paper he has in his collection of hand held guns. Chalk and glazed paper were used extensively for printing stamps up to World War II mainly as a security measure to prevent the removal of postmarks and re-use of stamps. The use of such papers has declined in recent years with the improvements in security printing. It would not be difficult to search the stamp catalogues for examples of stamps printed on chalk and glazed papers, and can I suggest the chalk examples would be suitable for a collection on education and writing just as much as on geology.

Quadrille paper is clearly relevant to the theme of dancing. The GB George V 8d black on yellow-buff definitive of 1917 was printed on granite paper which shows very clearly on the reverse and is ideally suited to a thematic collection on geology, stone and even architecture. Did you know that early Japanese stamps were printed on rice paper? What a nice item this is to include in a collection based on rice or any form of agriculture. A key stamp, though quite expensive, in any collection on silk, weaving, textiles etc, has got to be the GB embossed 10d brown or 1/- green of 1847. These stamps were printed on Dickinson paper with silk threads running through the paper and which can be seen very clearly on the reverse of the stamp. My last example under paper texture is very often mentioned in Themescene, a stamp from Latvia printed on the reverse side of a map. This was done because of a shortage of plain white paper for printing stamps. Such stamps are eminently suitable for any cartographic collection.



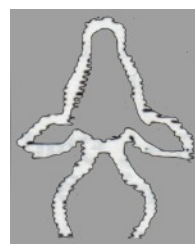
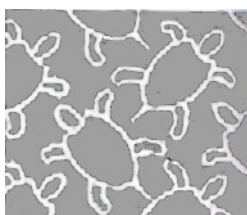
Japan 1871



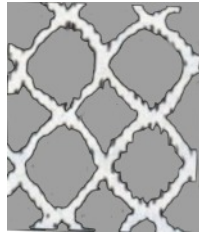
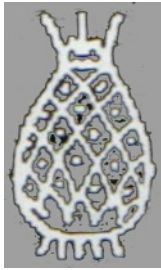
Latvia strip of three

Let me now move onto the different types of watermark to be found in the paper on which stamps are printed. Once again I would draw your attention to the explanatory notes on watermarks set out in the information and guidelines at the beginning of Stanley Gibbons' catalogues. Needless to say watermarks are a security measure imprinted into stamp paper usually by a wire mesh at the production stage, but as security printing has become much more sophisticated in modern times they have in the main disappeared. They are still a rich source of material for thematic collectors though and not just on stamps: postal stationery can also be watermarked. There are countless different watermarks and these are well illustrated in Stanley Gibbons stamp catalogues, and you do not have to look far for them. Most show up well on the reverse side of a stamp, but the ones which are more difficult to see may be better discerned in the adjacent selvedge. They include letters and words and may be spread over more than one stamp. Most represent the symbol of the country issuing the stamp, so you have crowns, shields, heraldic designs, flowers, anchors, flags etc. Let me mention and illustrate just a few in particular as some of them are quite superb items for a thematic collection.

Stars appear on the stamps of India, Grenada, Queensland and New Zealand, all very suitable for all the fields of astronomy. Elephants appear on the stamps of India, turtles




on Tonga, springbok on South Africa, sea shells on Travancore, a pineapple on Jamaica and losenges on Germany.



Even the value of the stamp appears on the New South Wales 5/- stamp of 1861, which would enhance any collection on numeracy, accounting, currency etc. One of the best thematic watermarks to my mind is from Cochin, an Indian state, which has an umbrella, one of the state's symbols as it also appears on the printed side of many of its stamps (see inside back cover).

Finally, do not forget postal stationery, which is sometimes watermarked. Some of the best examples come from the huge volume of postal stationery issued by the USSR after World War II. It is best seen through the sticky flap on the reverse side when the stationery item is unused. The best example I have in my collection has a pattern of hexagons as the watermark. This is eminently suitable for a collection based on bees or geometry (inside back cover).

I hope this first article has been a taster of what is available to add spice to your collection. Next time round I will look at perforations and gum. 

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AGENDA

For the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association to be held on Saturday June 14th 2014 at 2.30 p.m. at Swinpex at St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* Sep 2013
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for year ended 31st December 2013
See Annual Accounts next page

6. Election of Officers
The following Officers have been nominated or are willing to stand for re-election
Jim Etherington Vice Chairman
Anne Stammers Secretary
Peter Wood Treasurer
There is a vacancy for the position of Chairman

7. Election of Committee members
The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:
Currently Peter Denly Membership Secretary
Currently Wendy Buckle Editor Themescene
Currently Michael Blackman Advertising Manager
Currently Brian Sole FRPSL Committee member
Currently Gerald Lovell Committee member
Currently Charles Oppenheim Committee member
Currently Barry Stagg Committee member

There is a vacancy on the committee

8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of
Ron Backhouse Librarian
Grahame Boutle Examiner
9. Motion for Discussion
This meeting agrees that the Constitution of the BTA be amended in Clause 4e iv by deleting 'cii and' as **proposed by the Committee** and as published in Themescene June 2014

10. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by June 7th 2014 or will be taken from the floor

The meeting will be followed by 'The Dove and The Olive Branch' by Grace Davies

Signed: *M. Anne Stammers* (Hon. Secretary) dated 28th April 2014

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

1. Title

The Association shall be known as “The British Thematic Association” (BTA)

2. The membership of the BTA will consist of :

- a) ordinary members
- b) family members i.e. a second adult and all children under 18 years of age in the same household
- c) junior members i.e. under 18 years of age
- d) Societies, i.e. any National, Specialist, Federation or local philatelic organisation with an interest in theme based philately or postcard collecting. Members of such Societies are not themselves full BTA members and services which are provided must be requested through the Secretary of the Society.
- e) Honorary members, who may be elected by the committee from time to time for outstanding services to thematic philately.

3. Aims and Objects

- a) To promote, encourage and assist the study and development of all theme based philately and postcard collecting and to promote the wider understanding of them within both philatelic organisations and non-philatelic clubs, societies and other organisations.
- b) To provide the means to record the collecting interests of ordinary, family and junior members and to endeavour to put members in touch with other collectors with similar interests.
- c) To encourage the formation of new specialist theme based and postcard Societies or Groups.
- d) To publish and distribute the magazine "Themescene" a number of times per year and to issue any other publications whenever considered appropriate by the Committee.
- e) To provide:
 - i. a library service for members, with the option to borrow items or to purchase photocopies of articles.
 - ii. an auction service for members so long as appropriate material is available.
 - iii. a panel of speakers willing to visit Societies.
 - iv. for the training of judges at Local, Federation and National level by means of workshops.

- f) To organise from time to time exhibitions, meetings, seminars, workshops and any other appropriate event.
- g) To affiliate to other philatelic organisations as decided by the Committee.
- h) To maintain a website containing information pertinent to the activities of the BTA.

4. Business Organisations

- a) The business of the BTA shall be conducted by an Honorary Committee consisting of its Officers and elected members.

- b) The Officers elected by the membership shall consist of:

a Chairman who shall act as chief executive of the BTA and take the chair at meetings of the Committee; in the absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman the Committee shall elect an acting Chairman for each particular meeting. The term of office of Chairman shall be limited to a maximum period of 4 years.

a Vice –Chairman: the term of office of Vice –Chairman shall be limited to a maximum of 4 years

a Secretary who shall be the Chairman's principal assistant in dealing with day to day matters and shall have particular responsibility for the agenda and minutes of Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings.

a Treasurer who shall be responsible to the Committee for the management of the financial affairs of the BTA, shall keep proper books of account and once a year as soon as possible after the close of the financial year submit all books and vouchers to the examiner. He shall prepare a set of audited accounts for the presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

Such additional officers as the committee may deem it necessary to appoint. Such appointments shall be submitted to the next Annual General Meeting for ratification by the membership.

- c) Members of the Committee shall hold office for 12 months, and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Casual vacancies within the Committee may be filled by the committee by co-option. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the next AGM but shall then be eligible for election.
- e) The Committee shall:
 - i) meet not less frequently than half-yearly, and Committee members shall be given not less than 14 days notice by the Secretary. Four members shall form a quorum.

- ii decide on the acceptability of applicants for membership of the BTA and lay down procedures for applications, membership and resignation of members.
 - iii have the power at its absolute discretion to suspend or terminate the membership of any member whose conduct is considered prejudicial to the BTA.
 - iv delegate any of its powers (other than those in e III) as it may think fit. In carrying out its duties it may appoint such committees, sub-committees and working parties as it may deem appropriate.
 - v have the power to elect a President for a maximum period of 4 years. The President shall not be entitled to a seat on the Committee by reason of that office.
 - vi submit a report of its activities during the year to the AGM
 - vii have the power to fix the subscription rates.
- f) An Examiner of the BTA's accounts shall be appointed at the AGM. No member of the Committee shall be Examiner
 - g) The BTA's Financial Year shall end on 31 December
 - h) All members of the Committee and co-opted Members of the Committee shall be entitled to re-imbusement of expenses incurred on BTA business subject to individual items in excess of £50 requiring authorisation by two of the Officers.
 - i) In case of the BTA ceasing to exist, any residual funds will be vested in the Association of British Philatelic Societies or any such other philatelic ruling body having similar objectives which may be in existence at the time.

5. Annual General Meeting

- a) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year not later than ten months after the end of the financial year on 31 December.
- b) Resolutions proposed and seconded for inclusion on the AGM agenda must be received by the Secretary at least 8 weeks before the AGM.
- c) Nominations for election to the Committee must be received by the Hon Secretary at least 8 weeks before the AGM.
- d) The Secretary shall give notice of the AGM to all members at least 4 weeks in advance.
- e) All members are entitled to speak and command one vote at the AGM. A family membership will command one vote. Societies may nominate 2 delegates in

5. Annual General Meeting (cont.)

advance, to attend and speak at the AGM but each Society will have only one vote. No voting by proxy will be allowed.

6 Extraordinary General Meeting

- a) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by the Committee by giving members four weeks notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- b) A minimum of 20 members may by notice in writing instruct the Secretary to call an EGM. The Secretary shall send the notice required by rule 6a, within 28 days of receiving such instructions.

7. Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the 1st February each year and are to be sent to the Hon. Membership Secretary. Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 30th April will be deemed to have resigned from the BTA and shall cease to be entitled to the benefits of membership.

8 Amendments to Rules

These rules may only be amended at the AGM of the BTA, or an EGM called for the purpose.

S.A.F.

1-7.95 (adding President and 4 year limitation of office)

M.A.S.

24-6-2000 (Clause 4h inserted, committee expenses)

26-6-2004 (Clause 4b and 4f (twice) change auditor to examiner)

M.A.S.

09-6-2012 (Clause 3d removed 'publish other booklets, newsletters' inserted 'issue any other publications' instead)

M.A.S.

June 2013 (Clause 2d removed Thematic collecting and replaced with 'theme based philately or postcard collecting').

(Clause 3a removed thematic collecting and replaced with 'all theme based philately and postcard collecting')

(Clause 3b removed 'thematic')

(Clause 3c changed 'thematic to theme' and added 'based and postcard'

(Clause 3f removed 'thematic' and 'and' added 'seminars, workshops and any other event deemed appropriate'.

Added Clause 3h

(Clause 4e spelling of quorum corrected)

(Clause 5e 'by' amended to 'but')

(Clause 7 1st April altered to 30th April)

M.A.S.

June 2014 (Clause 4e iv 'cii and' removed)

BTA NEWS

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.

The Convention offers a selection of dealers, a display of the Yorkshire Philatelic Federation competition entries, and has free admission and free parking. For further details, including map and how to get there, see their website www.y-p-a.org.uk/page_5.html#one

MEMBERS' MEETING AT LONDON 2015



London 2015, Europhilex, will be held at the Business Design Centre from 13th - 16th May 2015. The BTA is planning a major presence during the show. Firstly we will have a stand there, manned throughout, where we hope to advertise ourselves and hopefully attract new members. In addition, we have a members' meeting booked for Friday 15th May, where we will welcome a major international collector Rudolph Spieler displaying and talking on "The Motor Car". Although Rudolph won a Large Gold at London 2010 don't let this put you off!

He will be showing his 'fun collection' and will not be talking about exhibiting, rules, or those things that only a few members are interested in.

So put these dates in your diaries now, and if nearer the time you feel you can spare an hour or two to help out on the BTA Stand during the Show please let the Editor know.

HERE AND THERE

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION: TOPICALS ONLINE

The ATA has launched a new facility for its members: an online sales site. The Topicals Online database can be searched by country (narrowed down to Scott cat no if required), by topic, or by keyword. Anyone may register on the site as a buyer, but only members of the ATA can sell. There are no listing fees for sellers, but a small commission is charged on successful sales. It's a clean, easy to use site, and a welcome addition to online services for thematic collectors. Find it at www.topicalsonline.com/

WORLD WAR I RESOURCES ONLINE

Online contributions to World War I archives continue to be put up (see March *Themescene* p.28). The British Postal Museum and Archive has teamed up with Google Cultural Institute to mount *Last Post: remembering the First World War* which explores the role of the postal service in the First World War.

NEWS FROM STAMP ACTIVE

There were many new names among those who entered the Stamp Active competitions for 2014, on display at Spring Stampex, and the judges were particularly impressed with the originality shown by many of the entrants. As a result, the judges were able to award no fewer than five Golds.

Main Awards:

The Kidstamps Cup: Lucy Hobbs - What is Great About Australia
Best entry in Class B: Lucy Hobbs - What is Great About Australia
Best entry in Class C: Robyn Archibald - The Progress of Medical Science
Best entry in Class D: Rachel Moore - The Ins and Outs of Energy
Best Group entry: Neyland Community School The Food We Eat
Schools Trophy: Doonfoot Primary School

Stamp Active Network Anne Dummer Award Young Collector of the Year 2014

This year's award, sponsored by Midpex, goes to Callum Wood of Montgomery High School, Blackpool. Callum was chosen by the committee of the Stamp Active Network for his work in getting a stamp club started in his own school.

British Youth Stamp Chamionships

Entries are now open for the 2014 Competition, organised by Stamp Active Network, and sponsored by Stanley Gibbons. The entries will be displayed at Autumn Stampex as part of the National Competitions. The Championships are open to all young collectors up to the age of 21 normally resident in the United Kingdom.

Entries can be submitted in one of two categories: Traditional and Postal History; and Thematic.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the website in the "Fun & Games" section or the Competition Page of Stamp Active www.stampactive.co.uk

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.

HOW I STARTED

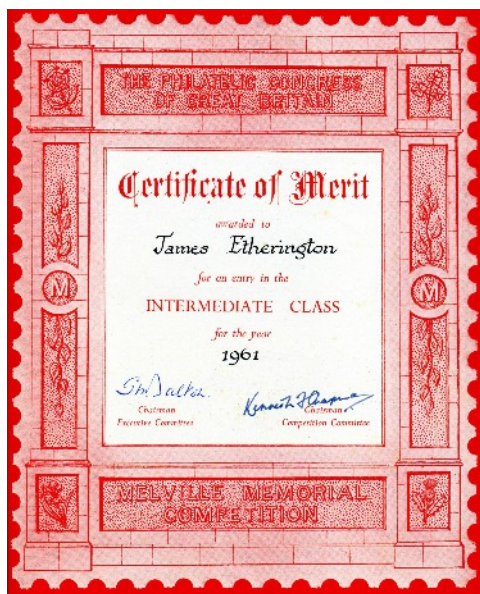
Jim Etherington moved from Traditional to Thematic - slowly

I suppose I got started twice. First as a stamp collector and then as a thematic collector. I was six when I first started to collect stamps. My uncle was serving with the RAMC in Malaya at the time and I was intrigued by the ‘strange’ stamps stuck to the envelopes that regularly arrived from him to my mum. These were carefully soaked off and put into a wooden cigar box for safe keeping. Presumably mum told my uncle of my interest as his letters soon started to arrive with various Malayan stamps enclosed. I was hooked.

As I recall, my parents bought me a blue Gibbons Strand album for Christmas and it was not long before I was visiting WH Smiths and Woolworth to buy packets of large brightly coloured stamps from places that I had never previously heard of. As I strove to acquire at least one stamp from every country listed in my album my knowledge of geography flourished with the aid of the world map at the front of the album. Soon I knew the capitals of all the countries and was able to recognise their national flags. While the inscriptions on some stamps, particularly those emanating from Arab countries, still eluded me it was not long before I could identify the country of origin of most stamps in my ever expanding collection.

I grew of age as a stamp collector when I joined the local philatelic society. I had started to purchase my stamps from a counter in the town’s independent stationers shop. Their printing works was situated behind the shop and one of the printers, a keen stamp collector, had persuaded the owners to allow him to set up a stamp counter in the shop. He encouraged my interest and it was not long before he invited me to join the society. As I was only 12 at the time my father accompanied me to the regular Tuesday evening meetings for the next four years.

It was during this formative stage of my collecting career that I was advised to get a loose leaf album and to start writing up my collection. I still use one of the Viking spring back albums that I bought at that the time. I was also encouraged to specialise, and learning from the displays I observed at the club decided to confine my collecting to QE II Commonwealth. For some reason, perhaps because of the exotic images, I particularly liked the stamps of Aden.



I cannot recall the circumstances surrounding my decision to create my very first thematic collection, but in 1961, prompted by the club secretary I entered the Melville Memorial Competition. This was breaking new ground for me. I chose as my theme ‘Tribes of the World’ and created eight pages depicting Eskimo (Inuit), red Indians (Native Americans), Australian aborigines, Maoris, Incas and various African tribes. These were the days when a thematic exhibit had only to include stamps and for sometime afterwards I amassed stamps, largely purchased from the club packet, that would enable me expand this initial foray into thematic collecting. I never did.

I got started as thematic collector in a roundabout way. Teenage and then family life drastically curtailed my philatelic pursuits. By the age of sixteen I had ceased to attend club meetings, but continued my annual subscription and to receive the club packet. Meanwhile my collection remained on the shelf although I did occasionally add to it. Again I do not recall why and when I changed my collecting interest, but as I reached middle age I was collecting GB QE II 1953-70 commemoratives with a particular focus on positional varieties. At some point the decision was taken to expand this a little by including stamps from other countries that were commemorating the same event as the UK. For example all the 1953 Coronation issues were added, and the GB 1963 Red Cross Centenary issue was joined by the Commonwealth omnibus and whole world issues.

One might say 'themed' collecting was creeping in via the back door. However it was club competitions that provided the spur. In 2000 I entered my club's annual thematic competition with an exhibit, based largely on the GB 1965 '25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain' issue, entitled 'The Battle of Britain'. Still thinking that thematics meant collecting stamps depicting a theme, the exhibit consisted almost exclusively of stamps showing aircraft that flew in the Battle of Britain. Needless to say the judge recommended that other philatelic items should be included and suggested that the story line could be expanded. Invaluable feedback from judges of other competitions I subsequently entered provided the direction and impetus for my present thematic collection: '1940 – A Desperate Year for Britain'. Anticipating that I would not return to my GB collection I am in the process of selling it. ☐

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GROUP NEWS

ALBA



Programme for 2014 / 15

13th September. Visit by Stirling & District PS Falkirk
 11th October The letter 'K' Motherwell
 13th December Clans Falkirk

Falkirk meetings are held at St. Francis Xavier Church Hall, Hope Street, Falkirk. Motherwell meetings are held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Avon Street, Motherwell. All meetings start at 2.00pm. If you have any queries please contact the Alba Stamp Group Secretary, Elizabeth Nairn: a.enairn@btinternet.com

GUILD OF ST GABRIEL



Programme for 2014 / 15

21st June A philatelic look at the Old Testament Len Yandell
 18th October Cards / stamps / covers All members
 15th November One sheet display; plus bring & buy and bourse

All meetings are held at St Wilfreds Convent, Tite Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 4JX. Meetings start at 2.00pm. If you have any queries please contact the Guild of St. Gabriel Secretary David Hague: david@hagueonline.net

BTA PROGRAMME 2014

June 14th	Annual General Meeting followed by display by BTA Cup Winner 2013 Grace Davies	Swinpex St Joseph 's Roman Catholic College , Ocotol Way , Swindon , SN3 3LR
July 5th	Members Meeting	Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention Queen Elizabeth Grammar School 154 Northgate, Wakefield , WG1 3QX http://www.y-p-a.org.uk/page_5.html
October 3rd – 5th	BTA Weekend Guest speakers Members' displays Full board or day delegate	Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel Abingdon Road Oxford OX1 4PS
October 11th	BTA Competitions Fosbery Trophy and BTA Cup Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Convention Competition entries (no meeting)	South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex , RH17 6TL http://www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php

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

Bicycle Stamp Club

Mr. B. J. Sole, 49 West Carr Lane, Hersham, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, KT12 5ER.

Web: <http://bicyclestamps.tripod.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

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

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

Glasgow Thematic Society

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

Guild of St. Gabriel

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

Masonic Philatelic Club

Mr. 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/>

EXHIBITING PAGE

CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

7-9 June 2014	EXPHIMO 2014 www.philcolux.lu/2014/exphimo2014.htm	Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg	National thematic exhibition (with international participation)
14-22 June 2014	Salon du Timbre 2014 www.planete-timbre.fr	Paris, France	International FEPA exhibition
27-29 June 2014	National Topical Stamp Show http://americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2014.shtml	St. Louis, Missouri, USA	National thematic exhibition
7-12 August 2014	PHILAKOREA 2014 www.philakorea.com	Seoul, South Korea	International exhibition
29-31 August 2014	BALTEX 2014 www.baltex2014.se	Malmö, Sweden	7 Nations Challenge; national exhibition
17-20 Sept 2014	Autumn Stampex (see ABPS website)	London, UK	National exhibition (special guest Germany)
1-6 December 2014	MALAYSIA 2014 www.psmonline.org	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	World Youth Stamp Exhibition; FIAP exhibition
7-9 May 2015	ECTP – London 2015 EUROPHILEX	Essen, Germany	European Championship Thematic Philately (in cooperation with LONDON 2015)
13-16 May 2015	LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX www.london2015.net	London, UK	International FEPA exhibition
13-17 August 2015	SINGAPORE 2015 www.singapore2015.com	Singapore	International exhibition
28 May – 4 June 2015	World Stamp Show NY 2016 www.ny2016.org	New York, USA	International FIP exhibition

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



BOOK REVIEWS

Ken Norris and Stanley Brown

Scottish Congress Covers

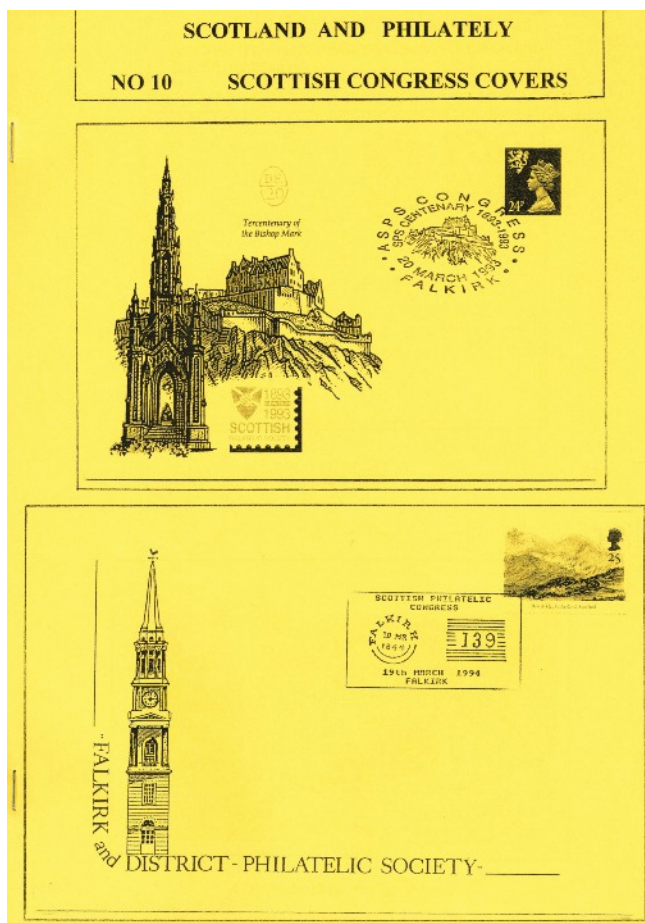
Scotland and Philately no.10

2013.

A4. 40pp, paperback. Available from Stanley Brown, 14 Buchan Drive, Perth, PH1 1NQ.
Tel: 01738 628818. Price £5.00 inc. postage

This is the latest addition to a series of books produced by the authors on various aspects of Scottish philately.

Although the first annual gathering of Scottish philatelists took place in 1924, it was not until 1962 that the first recorded special handstamp was introduced, an innovation not repeated until 1965, since when a special commemorative handstamp and cover has been issued every year for the Scottish Philatelic Congress. Many clubs in Scotland have hosted the event, with venues in Glasgow, Stirling, Falkirk, and since 2002 Perth. This book is a comprehensive record of every handstamp and cover via monochrome photocopies of each item. Many aspects of Scottish philately have been commemorated, often on topics of interest to other thematic collectors such as history or engineering. The Appendix illustrates additional philatelic souvenirs produced by host societies, including cards, booklets and stickers.



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.

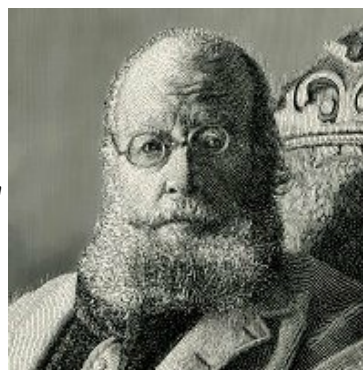
When you photocopy this, please enlarge each page to A4 size (enlarge to 141%).

Thank you

Do you like poems that make you laugh? **Edward Lear** (1812 – 1888) was an English poet who is famous for his nonsense poems and limericks. A limerick is a five-line poem. Here is one of his funny limericks:



There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!'



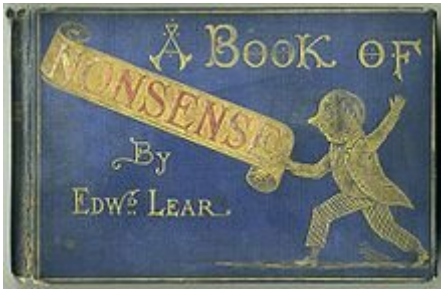
As well as a poet, Edward Lear was also an author, an extremely talented artist and an illustrator. He was very fond of birds and animals, and illustrated lovely pictures and paintings of them. He had a cat called Foss who appeared in many of his drawings and poems. Foss only had half a tail because a servant had cut it off thinking that it would stop Foss straying away!



Edward Lear was a very funny man, and he would introduce himself as "Mr Abebika Kratoponoko Prizzikalo Kattefello Ablegorabalus Ableborinto phashyph" or "Chakonoton the Cozovex Dossi Fossi Sini Tomentilla Coronilla Polentilla Battledore & Shuttlecock Derry down Derry Dumps" He must have been great fun to be with!

He loved the sound of words, and he liked changing words into other funny sounding phrases,

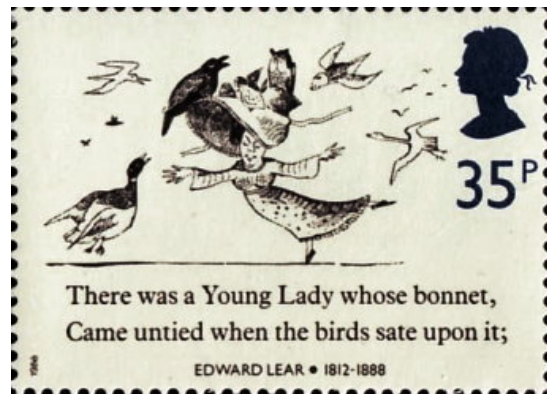
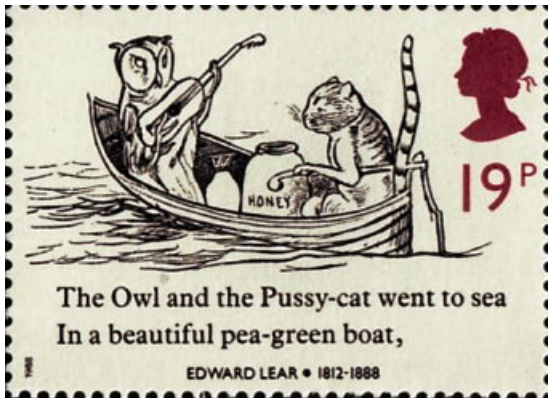
for example, he would change the words ‘a stuffed rhinoceros’ into ‘diaphanous doorscraper’!



In 1846 he published ‘A Book of Nonsense’, a book of funny limerick poems, which became very popular, and people enjoyed copying him and writing their own limericks. People still like to write limericks today.

He also wrote other poems. His most famous poem is ‘The Owl and the Pussycat’.

In 1988, 100 years after he died, a set of four British stamps were issued to commemorate Edward Lear. The stamps showed some of his own drawings and poems.



Why not try writing your own funny limerick? Close your eyes and point to any stamp in your collection, and write a funny limerick about it



Send it in, and you'll WIN A PRIZE! Just4Kids, c/o The Editor, Themescene, 87 Victoria Road, Bournemouth. BH1 4RS. For more stamp fun go to Stamp Active website



LIBRARY LISTING

Please send the librarian a stamped and self addressed envelope when requesting a list of articles on the topic(s) of your choice. N. B. Copies cost 10p each plus adequate return postage. The Librarian recommends you phone him (01920 484974) asking how best to proceed and say if you prefer to make your own copies.

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

Aircraft

- 2 Foy, K. Chocks Away! (Spitfire) Stamp and Coin Mart 9/2012

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- 3 Jagtap, A. Camel: The ship of the desert Indian Thematic Society
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- 2 McNamee, D. Pacific Canoes Topical Time 2/2012

Charles Darwin

- 18 Ericson, C. Darwin, God, and the Philosophers Topical Time 4-6/2012
(3 parts)

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- 2 Mallik, P. K. Strasbourg Cathedral Indian Thematic Society
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Cinema

- 6 Dugdale, J. Great American Movie Directors Topical Time 1/2011
3 Dodson, L. Journey To The Center Of The Earth Topical Time 10/2010
3 Dugdale, J. Femme Fatales in Film Topical Time 2/2010
2 Silvester, W. Disney in Your Topic Topical Time 4/2012
4 Lawrence, K. Thematic Exhibiting: The Walt Disney Example Topical Time 6/2012

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3 Agrawal, S. Children's Stories in Philately Indian Thematic Society
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2 Frux, J. Saint-Exupery and the Andes Topical Time 8/2011

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- 3 Swafford, J. History of the Automobile: From Benz to Ford Topical Time 10/2011
2 Swafford, J. A Car to Remember: The Ford Model T Topical Time 10/2010

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- 4 Floyd, B. Music Maestro (Beethoven) Stamp Magazine 1/2013
1 Shaw, D. 2010: The Year of Chopin Topical Time 1/2011
10 Ericson, C. Richard Wagner Pts 1 & 2 Topical Time 2/2011

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- 4 Schreuder, F. The Olympic Games in Stockholm 1912 Topical Time 12/2012

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- 4 Jagtap, A. Owl: The Symbol of Wisdom Indian Thematic Society
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- 6 Winchester, J. Praise the lord ! Earl of Crawford Stamp Magazine 2/2013
(Philatelist & Astronomer)

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- 2 Hammond, P. The story of the post box Stamp & Coin Mart
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- 1 Hill, M. Albert Decaris (1901-1988) of France Stamp and Coin Mart
9/2012

Telecommunications

- 4 Vegter, W. Cyber Heroes of the Past - T J Watson, Jr ThemNews 2/2013

Whales

- 1 Watson, A. Whaling Era long gone Whale Errors Topical Time 1/2013
abound

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).....

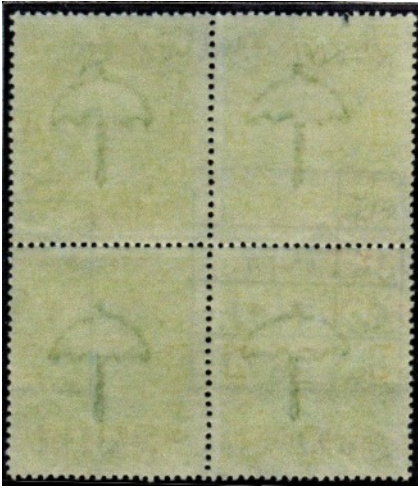
Entry 3).....

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.....

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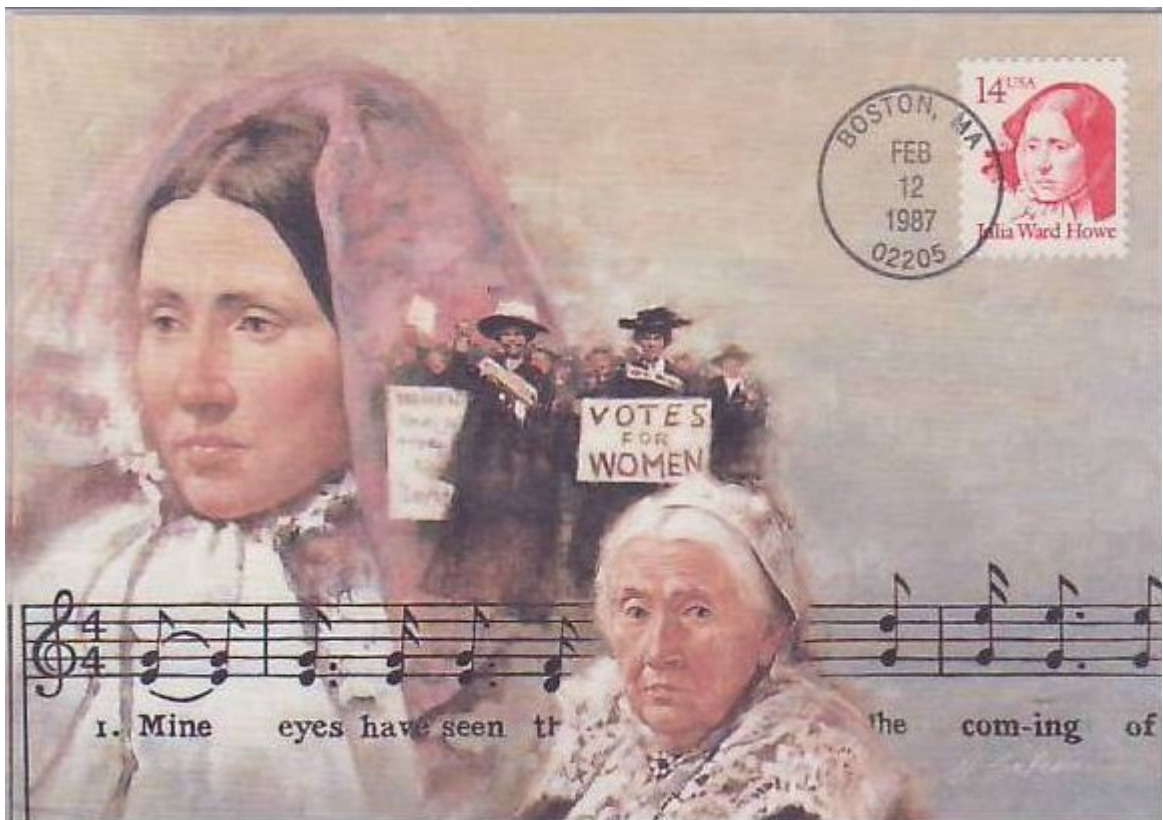


Cochin watermark and stamps



USSR postal stationery

JULIA WARD HOWE page 51



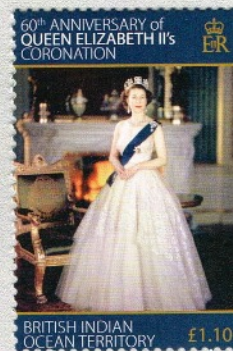
NEW ISSUES

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



Brendan Behan, 1923 - 1964, was an Irish poet, short story writer, novelist and playwright who wrote in both English and Irish.

This image of St Patrick, on a stamp commemorating St. Patrick's Day (17 March), is a detail from a stained glass window in Saint Canice's Church in Kilkenny, one of the most important ecclesiastical sites in Ireland.



The term "Trench art" is used to describe the wide variety war souvenirs made from the detritus of war or from pieces of military equipment. It was not produced on the front line, but by combatants in reserve trenches, or by prisoners of war or civilian internees, or by civilians collecting detritus from the battlefield after the war.

