

# THEMESCENE

September 2014

*In this issue we:*

*Visit Scotland and the  
History Man*

*With Jeff Dugdale*



Sci



*Puzzle over some of nature's conundrums*

*Prodigality of species*

*With Barry Floyd*



*Hold our AGM plus meetings:*

*Swindon, London and Wakefield reports*

*Make use of fundamental knowledge*

*Back to basics, part 2*

*With John Hayward*



*Note philatelic commemorations of World War I*

*As well as all the Usual Features*

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*George IV in full Highland kit*



*Walter Scott*

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# THEMESCENE

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SEPTEMBER 2014

## THEMESCENE

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

I can start this Editorial on a very positive note. In last month's *Themescene* we appealed for a new Chairman, and I'm delighted to say that Barry Stagg has accepted this post. Some of you will have seen him displaying to local societies, or seen his entry at Stampex and other major exhibitions. If you don't know Barry, he introduces himself on page 79.

There is something of a Scottish theme to this issue. Having been lucky enough myself to attend the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, I was delighted to receive this issue's Just4Kids page on the same subject (page 109). At the time of going to press only GB had issued stamps for the event, but I must say I thought their design well above average for sports themes. And on page 80 we commemorate the bicentenary of *Waverley* by the Edinburgh-born author Sir Walter Scott. But I felt we could not let this issue pass without something on World War I. It was difficult to decide what to write, given the massive coverage in the media over the last few months, so I have contented myself with just looking at a few new issues (page 101). This is unlikely to be last we have on that event.

We also have reports of meetings held in various parts of the country. The most successful in terms of attendance was our joint meeting with the Guild of St. Gabriel, held in London (page 91). A central location no doubt helped, but its primary success was due to support from two societies (notwithstanding several people were members of both). This seems to be a good idea, and if any of our affiliated Groups would like us to repeat the idea, please contact our Displays Organiser Gerald Lovell at [fdc.silverstone@tesco.net](mailto:fdc.silverstone@tesco.net). Over the last few years we've held meetings in Perth, Sheffield and now Wakefield (page 94), so we do try and spread ourselves geographically.

Collecting isn't all about exhibiting, but for those who do, it's a lot of work. Of course this reaps its reward for the exhibitor in terms of pride and satisfaction, but it also results in plenty for us visitors to see at an event. Barry Stagg supplied us with a Report on Planète Timbres (page 104), which he clearly enjoyed, and a good excuse to visit Paris if ever there was one. And a quick 'stop press' congratulations to Richard Wheeler, who obtained Gold at PhilaKorea with 'Evolution of Puppets' which he hopes to next exhibit at Essen and then possibly be displayed at Europhilex London 2015.

Turning to our membership, sadly I have to announce the death of one member: Mrs Ursula Goulding from Oxford; but I am delighted to welcome six new members:

Mr. N. Blackburn	Eltham
Mr. J. Hutchinson	Devizes
Mr. & Mrs. R. Knight	York
Mr. M. Ellis	Grantham
Mr. C. Wheeler	Bournemouth

We hope you find your membership rewarding.

Finally, my usual plea for contributions for this magazine. I seem to say this in most Editorials, so here goes again. I would particularly welcome:

*Continued on next page*

# CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

**Barry Stagg**

The world is full of surprises, some good and some not so good. Finding that elusive postcard, not on eBay but in some chance visit to a shop on holiday is a nice surprise, but realising that one of your prize stamps is most likely a forgery is a big disappointment! A big surprise for me last month was when I was asked by my BTA committee colleagues to stand as Chairman. I thank them all for their confidence in me – I only hope I can live up to it. So, as many of the BTA membership know nothing about me I thought it might be useful if I give a short summary of my philatelic background.

I started to collect stamps, GB stamps, when I was at school over fifty years ago. During the late 1960s and early 1970s I built on my GB collection by adding all the spaceflight themed stamps I could find in an attempt to collect them all. In hindsight a rather ambitious goal! And that's how the collection stayed until the 1980s when I met my wife and we later had three children. The collection was put away and did not come out until the late 1990s. I now noticed that many of the spaceflight stamps had parachutes so I started to collect stamps with parachutes and then any philatelic item with parachutes. I had tried parachuting in the 1970s (though I was not very good!). A major new direction came when I fell in love with postcards ten years ago and now I have dozens of postcards with, yes, you guessed it, parachutes on them. Despite there still being some elusive parachuting items for me to find, in the past few years I have started other thematic collections and I'm rather excited to be going to show one of these, my Arrow collection, to my local Cheltenham club in a few months time. This will be its first outing. I enjoy talking about thematic collecting, the challenges and the joy of finding that special item. But I do like exhibiting as well, although that Gold medal is still evading me! I retired from full time work a few weeks ago and now have time to spend on writing those articles I promised various editors – I do enjoy telling people about a thematic story and sharing with them the pleasure of collecting thematically.

I hope I can serve the BTA for a number of years am aware that previous Chairmen have been experienced and highly respected thematic collectors and I thank them all for bringing the BTA to where it is today. I hope I can continue the march forward, without too many surprises! ☺



*Editorial continued from previous page*

Articles by members who have not contributed before. This is your chance to air your collection and subject.

Contributions to the 'How I Started' series.

Just a short piece on 'My Favourite Item'. One paragraph and a picture. That can't be too hard can it!

If you want to know more, please contact me on [wendybuckle@btinternet.com](mailto:wendybuckle@btinternet.com)

# HISTORY MAN

*Jeff Dugdale salutes Scotland's first great novelist*

2014 sees the bicentenary of the publication of *Waverley*, the first of two dozen or so of “The Waverley Novels” written by Sir Walter Scott (born in 1771) between 1814 and his death in 1832. These became famous for their innovation and have seen Scott referred to by some as the Father of the Historical Novel. The series is so called because Scott concealed his identity until their established popularity allowed him finally to acknowledge authorship, thirteen years later. Till then novels in the series were simply published “by the author of *Waverley*”.



Writing novels about long past events was not widely practised before Scott's work, the settings of which range from the eleventh to the nineteenth century: *Count Robert of Paris* is set in 1097, *The Fair Maid of Perth* in 1396, *Peveril of the Peak* between 1658 and 1680, with *Waverley* itself in the years of the Jacobite rebellion (1745-6). Most of the novels are set in Scotland but some portray more exotic scenarios like Malta, Syria and Turkey. One effect of so many stories being set in Scotland's wonderful scenery was to encourage moneyed Victorian readers who,

via the novelty of the burgeoning railway system, were able visit the places referenced, and as a result Scott has also been credited with inventing the Scottish tourist industry! *Guy Mannering* is located in Galloway for example, *The Antiquary* in Angus, *The Pirate* in Shetland and Orkney, *Rob Roy* around Loch Lomond and *The Heart of Midlothian* in Scotland's capital city itself.

That romantic image of Scotland of glens and mountains and bekilted Highlanders (however inaccurate) has stuck in the minds of many who live in distant countries, and has promoted millions of pounds of sales of Scottish kitsch items, often to the unease of natives. Scott, a legal man by profession, understood from the start how important it was to sell his novels and Scotland itself, and he promoted the visit of the debonair and grandiloquent King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822, which naturally encouraged others to follow in the King's footsteps, if not in his style (funded by a grudging public). This image of Scotland fostered by Scott is now pooh-poohed by many natives as “tartan and shortbread” yet the still successful selling of that kitsch today is evident from a walk down Edinburgh's Royal Mile and copied wherever you go in Scotland, with local variations on a theme like cringe-worthy cheap models of the Loch Ness Monster in Inverness, of Highlanders tossing the caber in Braemar and of Robert Burns' cottage in Ayrshire.

•The Waverley novels find a home in the libraries if not the heart of many Scots, but as the years pass they become more and more unreadable even set in modern type. I have a complete set of the 1817 “Centenary” edition (valued at around £175) myself with handsome maroon and gold spines but I hazard a guess that no one will ever read any of my copies, and if some are opened in the future it will be out of curiosity only and quickly put back on the shelf; a fate which has befallen the work of many later Victorian historical novelists because of their antiquated and verbose language, turgid style and the understandable inability to go into certain areas which titillate readers of modern historical “bodice-ripping” fiction. (Incidentally this problem appears to be the reason why Mark Twain abandoned his writing of *Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn Among the Indians*, the

fragments of which we have stop in mid-sentence, just we are about to discover what the natives had done to a “recalcitrant” female!).

So what are the *Waverley* novels like? The first novel (with the author’s notes) is some 500 pages long although that’s not a problem for an enthusiastic reader. The language, I assert is.

In the year following publication Scott, then known to only a select few as the author of *Waverley*, dined with George, Prince Regent, a dandy and dilettante already, who clearly wished to lionise him, and over dinner Scott persuaded the heir to the British throne that as a (very) distant relative\* of King James VI of Scotland and King James I of England he could claim to be a Highland Chieftain. So when, as King George IV, he did visit Edinburgh he sported tartan in a very over-the-top way, which possibly amused some then as indeed it does many today. George IV, shown in the painting by Sir David Wilkie (see inside front cover) is known to have worn Royal Stewart tartan at a levee in the Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh in 1820, the first time a crowned head wore this tartan.

*Waverley* proved to be widely popular: the time difference between publication and events is eerily similar to a modern writer today penning a story about the Second World War, not so long ago. As a result Scott produced a novel a year on average till he died and prospered accordingly.

Scott influenced many later writers of historical fiction, notably Dickens and Thackeray, Honoré de Balzac and James Fenimore Cooper, and a number of European composers of grand opera, like Donizetti (*Lucia di Lammermoor*, 1835 based on *The Bride of Lammermoor*, 1819), Rossini (*La Donna del Lago*, 1819 based on *The Lady of the Lake* poem, 1810), Bizet (*La Jolie fille de Perth*, 1867 based on *The Fair Maid of Perth*, 1818) and Sir Arthur Sullivan’s *Ivanhoe* of 1891 based on Scott’s novel published in 1819). Other lesser known operatic works (mainly by Italian composers) number over two dozen.

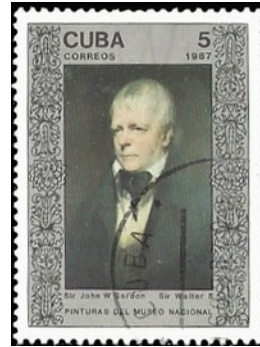
*Note:*

*\*In 1714 the Elector of Hanover in Germany was made King George I of Great Britain and Ireland, being distantly related to James VI and I. George IV, who became King in 1820, was George I’s great great grandson.*

### Stamps for Scott and the Novels

In addition to the 1971 GB issue on the previous page, there are portrait stamps for Scott from GB in 2006 and from Cuba in 1987 and Malta in 1990. The Malta issue (which also features other writers of English literature with a connection to the island like Coleridge and Thackeray) presumably references Scott’s novel *The Siege of Malta* written from 1831 to 1832 but published posthumously only in 2008. It tells the story of events surrounding the Great Siege of Malta by the Ottoman Turks in 1565.





### Memorials to Scott in Edinburgh

The 200 foot tall sandstone Scott monument in Princes Street, completed in 1844, is the most obvious commemoration to the memory of Walter Scott in his home city. Just detectable in the illustration of the monument on the cover below is a white marble statue of the writer at its base. Close-up inspection of the statue shows carvings of dozens of characters from his novels.

Within five minutes' walk of the monument is Waverley station, Edinburgh's main railway facility built in 1866 and named in Scott's honour.

Neither of these two features has yet appeared on a stamp but both lie just below and to the left of the imposing buildings in this 2006 night time view of Edinburgh Castle and the old town. ☰





# THE PRODIGALITY OF SPECIES

*Barry Floyd marvels at nature*

Recent estimates show that we share our planet with more than eight million species, with some 6,500 new species identified every year. This prodigality is truly remarkable. There is no more self-evident imperative than that living things should ‘go forth and multiply’ and indeed most do, and often on a vast scale. For example, some trees shed countless seeds while rabbits breed like, well, rabbits. But this extravagant conduct is also puzzling. For every plausible law of biology which might account for this fecundity there are numerous countervailing examples.



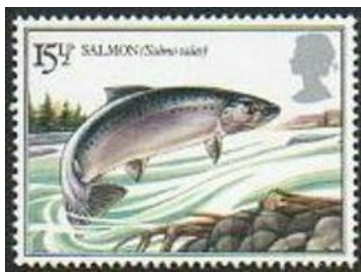
*Trees shed seeds  
and rabbits breed*

Pandas are notoriously disinterested in procreation and the Chinese have had to resort to artificial insemination with creatures in captivity in efforts to avoid their possible extinction. Chimpanzees would be far more numerous if

they gave birth more than the average three times during their 21-year life span. Some birds, such as the albatross and golden eagle, and mammals such as the brown bear and heavily-poached rhinoceros have far fewer offspring than they might.



Furthermore, while the complexities and considerable energy required to reach sexual maturity should be a prelude to prolonged fecundity, many species expire after a single effort at procreation. The migration of salmon and eel across thousands of miles of ocean proves so exhausting that they die after releasing their sperm and eggs. After their metamorphism from one form of life to another butterflies produce a single batch of eggs before expiring. While hunting dogs may have the highest kill-rate of any predator on the African savannah, they are one hundred times less common than lions.



Once achieved, the urgency to preserve life may be lacking in some species. For example, a tarantula spider lives by seizing and injecting its paralysing sting on other insects. Yet when a spider-killing wasp appears it makes no effort to inject the attacker and so save its own life. Perplexing too are some other inconsistencies of nature where the instinctive drive for food, shelter and sex have either become diminished or lost altogether. A species of beetle attracted by the sweet scent of nectar, is unable to satisfy its desire to taste it since its mouth parts are not designed to reach the nectar and they show no signs of evolving to meet successfully the plant's honey cups.

Perhaps the purpose of such inconsistencies, if there is one, is to remind us that, despite all our modern advances in earth sciences, nature is still too abstruse to be readily accessible to the finite human mind.

Thematic collectors may well wish to record further examples of the intriguing complexity of earth-bound species, then to locate illustrative stamps to match. Such collections could keep their creators busy for the rest of their lives. ☐

#### Acknowledgement.

The ideas expressed in this article are those of Dr. James Le Fanu, writing in his column "Profitable Wonders: Inconsistent Nature" for the *Oldie Magazine*.

## **Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at Swinpex, at St Joseph's Roman Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR**

### **Presentation of Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl**

As the winner, Jim Etherington, was unable to be present there was no presentation – the bowl will be presented at the BTA Weekend in October.

**Present:** There were 18 members present

The Chairman, Simon Moorcroft, welcomed everyone to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting particularly anyone who had not attended our AGM before,

**1) Apologies:** Jim Etherington, Vice Chairman, Gerald Lovell, Brian Sole, Charles Oppenheim, Edward Quinton, Jean Alexander, and Frank Spencer.

### **2) Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

These had been published in Themescene September 2013 and were circulated at this meeting. Barry Stagg proposed and Wendy Buckle seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record – *agreed unanimously*.

### **3) Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4) Chairman's report**

Simon reported that it had been a great year for the BTA, in its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. There was an excellent display at Spring Stampex in February, which many people were able to come and see and participate in. There were over 70 frames of displays and competitive exhibits with a huge variety of themes on show. This generated an enormous amount of interest from the visiting public and was an excellent way to showcase theme-based philately and celebrate the BTA Anniversary.

At Stampex the BTA was privileged to have Jørgen Jørgensen come and speak at a special members meeting. Jørgen is President of the Danish Thematic Association as well as an international judge and those present were lucky enough to be able to hear his advice on how to improve an exhibit or a collection without having to dip too far into one's pocket. Had more philatelic spouses heard this talk their view of philately may well have been changed forever! Simon once again thanked Jørgen for giving up his time to display to us and impart such interesting and helpful advice.

The BTA has also had a number of other excellent meetings and events in the last year including the BTA Competitions which were staged at Ardingly in West Sussex for the first time. We are grateful to the Sussex Federation for hosting these competitions which were very successful. Stephen Dixon won the John Fosbery Trophy while Grace Davies won the BTA Cup [see following report p.89].

The BTA held a very successful joint meeting with the Guild of St Gabriel last month. It was interesting to see how many BTA members were able to find material in their own collections with an ecclesiastical or religious connection. Thanks go to the Guild for hosting this joint meeting. If any other BTA affiliated societies are interested in hosting a similar joint meeting please do get in touch with the Displays Organiser, Gerald Lovell.

Turning to our committee who have continued to do so much this year for the BTA Simon outlined his own position. With his new job he has been unable to devote the time and energy necessary to fulfil the role of Chairman in the manner in which it should be

fulfilled. Because of this he has decided to stand down and was delighted to say that Barry Stagg had agreed to allow his name to be put forward to take over this very important role.

Work pressures have meant a substantial and additional burden being placed on the other members of the committee over the last year, especially John Hayward, Wendy Buckle, Anne Stammers and Gerald Lovell. Simon formally recorded his grateful thanks to them for all the additional work they and others have had to do, especially with the organisation of events at Stampex.

Turning to other matters, *Themescene* has continued to go from strength to strength. Wendy has upgraded the magazine so that it now features full colour covers while maintaining the quality and variety of the content. Changes have to be made to reduce costs wherever possible, but it will continue to be published quarterly. *Themescene* is an enormous amount of work and we are all grateful to Wendy Buckle for all that she does on this.

Simon thanked Anne Stammers for all the work she does as Secretary, ensuring the Association runs smoothly, and to Gerald Lovell for the efforts he has put in to organising meetings and displays over the last year, and for updating some of the material we show on our table at events.

The Committee has continued to work at expanding the role and scope of the BTA. Its display at Stampex was an excellent illustration of how it now encompasses all of theme-based philately and Wendy Buckle has worked very hard to expand the range of articles and features in *Themescene*.

The Committee are also working to upgrade our website. Jim Wigmore, who was central to getting the BTA online in the first place, decided it was time to step down from his role as Webmaster back in December 2013. Simon put on record his thanks to him for all the work he did on behalf of the BTA over the years. Following this, Charles Oppenheim has been working on a wholesale re-examination of what sort of website the BTA requires and the best way to achieve it. He has come up with some fantastic ideas and is now looking at how we can take these forward and incorporate them into a much improved, modern and usable website. Thanks to Charles for all the efforts he has put in to this project so far.

Regarding finances, the Treasurer will set out full details, but in basic terms the BTA has to cut costs and raise additional revenue if it is to remain solvent and continue to operate and provide services for members. It is for that reason that the committee has decided to raise subscriptions from next year, with UK membership rising from £15 to £18. At the same time it will be working to make every cost saving it can whilst driving forward efforts to recruit new members. This will not be easy but it is vital that difficult decisions are taken if the BTA is to continue to operate and provide the services and events that everyone enjoys.

On a more positive note the BTA has an excellent year coming up with an interesting and varied programme. This includes the competitions in October, and it would be lovely to see more people enter this year; a meeting in Wakefield in July; the 'Fun with Philately' weekend, and of course the BTA will be present next year at the London 2015 International Exhibition with a table and a special meeting. .

Finally, the Chairman thanked the members for their continuing support, without which the BTA would not survive. He wished everyone and the BTA well for the next 12 months.. Harry Wright proposed and Lesley Marley seconded that the Chairman's report be accepted *agreed unanimously*.

## **5) Treasurer's report**

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013 were published in *Themescene* June 2014

### Income

Subscriptions were £484 lower than the previous year. This continues a trend of the last half-dozen years which has seen an average reduction in subscription income of about £240 per annum, which equates to approximately 16 memberships. Advertising income has fallen by £239 which continues a downward trend. On the plus side a donation on the winding-up on Friends of Thematica was received, and CD sales produced income in 2013 as production costs were mainly written off in the previous year.

### Costs

The Auction experiment showed a loss although this was covered by a donation shown in income. The meeting at The Royal was expensive and as a venue it is questionable if it can be afforded any more. There is a need to explore cheaper venues or methods of holding meetings. The recent joint meeting with Guild of St Gabriel perhaps shows a way forward. Administration and Committee meeting costs were higher and has given us a wake-up call to make cost cutting attempts.

The CD produced income rather than costs and a payment to Friends of Thematica is no longer made.

### Subscriptions for 2015

Unlike many societies who have auctions or exchange packets the BTA's only reliable source of income is subscriptions, and as mentioned this is shrinking. The Committee have taken on board some cost cutting measures but there are limits to this or the Association ceases to function in a meaningful way. We have made commitments regarding our attendance at Europhilex London 2015 which the Treasurer believes members would think necessary if the BTA wants to retain a role in organised philately.

Reserves only cover about a year's cost and this is at the borderline of what is acceptable for the BTA's continuing survival, so reluctantly the decision has been taken to increase subscription rates for 2015. These will be: UK Members £18; European £22; Affiliate £20.

### Examiner

Graham Boutle confirmed he is willing to act as Examiner (Auditor) for the BTA next year and the Treasurer expressed his thanks for the help Graham gave him this year. Barry Stagg proposed and Mike Blackman seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted, *agreed unanimously*.

## **6) Election of Chairman and Officers**

After the notice in *Themescene* had been published concerning the Chairman's vacancy a member had come forward but unfortunately they did not use a computer; as email cut committee costs considerably it was deemed necessary for all committee members to use this form of contact.

A nomination had been received – Anne Stammers proposed and Jim Etherington had seconded Barry Stagg for the position of Chairman. He had agreed to stand and was duly elected.

Other officers as shown on the Agenda:-

Vice-Chairman Jim Etherington, Secretary Anne Stammers, Treasurer Peter Wood. Graham Boutle proposed and Peter Denly seconded that they be elected 'en bloc'. This was *agreed unanimously*.

### 7) Election of Committee Members

There were no nominations for committee and Peter Weir proposed and John Hayward seconded that the committee, as shown on the Agenda, be re-elected 'en bloc', to include Simon Moorcroft as Publicity Officer. *Agreed unanimously*

Gwyn Hughes proposed and Pauline Boddye seconded that the present committee members be re-elected 'en bloc', *agreed unanimously*.

### 8) Ratification of the Librarian & Examiner

Peter Denly proposed that the positions of Ron Backhouse (Librarian) and Grahame Boutle (Examiner) should be ratified, seconded by Simon Moorcroft, *agreed unanimously*.

### 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. *Agreed unanimously*

### 10) Any Other Business

a) BTA Weekend 2014 – Anne Stammers said the bookings were going well, but there was room for one or two more residential delegates as well as day delegates. Details had been in *Themescene* and she suggested if anyone wished to attend they let her know as soon as possible.

b) Thanks to the committee – John Hayward thanked the committee for all their hard work in the running of the BTA. In response the committee were delighted to see John 'back on his feet' after the health scare he gave us all in March when he had a bad heart attack and then a triple by-pass – we wished him a continued good recovery!

c) President – Simon Moorcroft, outgoing Chairman, presented Wendy Buckle with the President's Badge. She was a mine of information and he wished her well for her term of Office.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.00p.m.

The meeting was followed by a display on 'Symbols of Peace' by Grace Davies.



*Outgoing Chairman,  
incoming President*



*Chairman and Secretary*


# SYMBOLS OF PEACE

*Grace Davies tackles an abstract subject*

Following the Annual General Meeting we followed our tradition of inviting last year's BTA Cup winner to give a display. Grace Davies had won with 'Symbols of Peace' and she brought this display along, augmented with a selection of other pages from her collection which expanded the main themes.

We all know the Biblical story of Noah sending out birds from the ark to look for dry land. First he sent a raven, which returned with nothing, but then he sent a dove, which returned with an olive branch. Today both dove and olive are an international symbol of peace, but also, as Grace suggested, symbols of hope. In philatelic terms the key artist portraying the dove was Picasso, and his illustration has been used and adapted by many countries, including China in the early 1950s when the People's Republic was newly formed. The olive not only has a Biblical association. Grace suggested that the olive tree, being very slow-growing and slow to fruit needs a long peaceful time in which to flourish. The olive branch features in many symbols, including that of the United Nations: an olive wreath surrounding a globe, and refers to the hope for world peace which drove the foundation of the UN. Agencies of the UN each have their own logo, such as UNICEF, featuring a woman and child surrounded by olive wreath; the International Labour Organisation: ILO within a cog wheel within an olive wreath; and the World Health Organisation: globe and caduceus within an olive wreath. There is also the allegorical figure of 'Peace', always female and always holding an olive branch. As symbols of peace both dove and olive branch feature regularly on stamps, some designs more thoughtful than others.

The concept of peace does not stand alone, it is also associated with freedom, prosperity and justice among other things. And all these ideas can be explored further philatelically.

Barry Stagg proposed the vote of thanks for this interesting and thought-provoking display on one perhaps less common subject in thematics. 



# BTA NEWS

## ATA CHECKLISTS

The BTA is an affiliate chapter of the American Topical Association (ATA). The ATA for several years has maintained a checklist service composed of several hundred individual stamp checklists, and BTA members can still request them from our society. However, those older checklists will no longer be updated. Beginning in May of this year, the ATA checklist service migrated to a centralized database now containing 1200 checklists, almost 400,000 stamps and 595,000 listings. Many listings are still being added

- 11,000 in one recent month. Individual lists are not maintained but are produced when an ATA member orders a checklist. The basic cost for each checklist is one penny per item listed. A complete thematic listing and alphabetical and people listings can be found at <http://americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml>. An electronic ATA membership costs USD\$25 and includes access to six bi-monthly issues of the gold award-winning journal Topical Time plus the ability to purchase checklists and member pricing on handbooks.

Members wishing to order older checklists should contact Jim Etherington on [jespeth@hotmail.com](mailto:jespeth@hotmail.com)

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# JOINT MEETING WITH GUILD OF ST GABRIEL

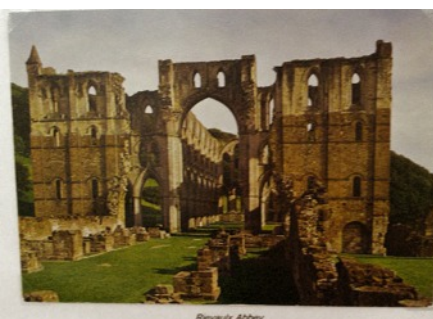
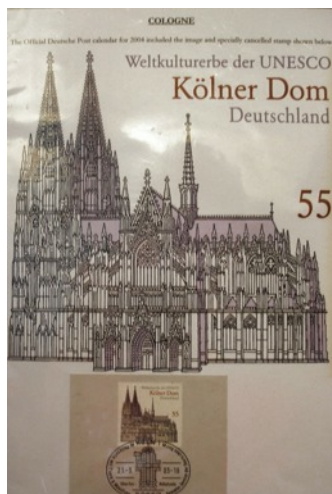
**T**welve or more BTA members joined an equal number of Guild of St Gabriel (Religion on Stamps) members for a joint meeting. There were words of welcome from David Hague, Gabriel Secretary, and Simon Moorcroft, BTA Chairman.

Members of both societies had been invited to display anything they wanted, but hopefully with a religious aspect: easy for Gabriel of course, but in fact a challenge which BTA members largely managed to achieve as well. An impressive 16 people gave 12 sheet displays:

Len Yandell kicked off with Gothic Germany, part of his ‘God’s House’ collection. Various churches were featured, principally Cologne Cathedral, the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe. Building took a very long time to complete, and necessities such as a crane regularly featured on postcards, and even postmarks.

Peter Hann entertained us with the problems and pitfalls of thematic collecting. How do you control your story? Collecting ‘Missionaries’ involved the Melanesian Missionary Society, and the stamps of Melanesian countries; then there is Norfolk Island, which has links with Pitcairn and the *Bounty*. Various personalities have visited these islands, but where do you draw the line in collecting?

Derek West displayed Monasteries of the British Isles, including Iona, St. Alban’s, Tewkesbury Abbey (originally a Benedictine monastery and after the Dissolution a parish church), Rievaulx, Gisborough, and Caldey Island. The display showed some of the work the monks did, including as illuminators of manuscripts.



*Missionaries*

*Monasteries*

*Gothic Germany*

The first BTA speaker was Jim Etherington. Since his subject is “1940” it was not surprising that he did not have any religion-themed material. Instead he showed the ‘phoney war’, the British Expeditionary Force in France, Territorial units and the RAF. There was plenty of mail coming out of France in 1940, but of course considerably less going in.

Lesley Marley was dealt the perfect choice of subject for her ‘Whale’s Tale’: Jonah and the Whale, the inspiration, in regard to her display, for various comic postcards. Then there is the mythical sea-creature the Leviathan, mentioned in the Old Testament. She also

showed a Danish seaman's church, and postcards and photos from Norfolk Island of the blessing of a whaling boat.

Myths and legends also featured in Peter Weir's display of 'Blood', including the pelican who feeds her young on her own blood. The Romans thought Malaria was the will of the gods; and leprosy was known as "the white hand of God". Early Christian symbols and charitable symbols were shown. There is an Italian church dedicated to international blood donors; and perhaps the most obvious religious connotation: the blood of Christ.

Wendy Buckle also showed various monasteries, this time those famous for their scriptoria, producing illuminated manuscripts. Echternach, Melk, Fulda and Pfäfers were shown, with some of their output: Gospels, Missals and Psalters. She explained that there was a constant trade between monasteries, who would order particular texts to be copied.

Anne Stammers showed pages on gold and silver from her 'Rocks to Riches', including gold as one of the gifts brought to Jesus by the Wise Men. A colour trial proof showing a stained glass window was displayed which featured St Eligius, the patron saint of goldsmiths. Easter eggs were shown: in this case the fabulous bejewelled eggs produced by Carl Fabergé for the Tsarist royal family.

Ronald Hyams has a particularly visually attractive thematic interest: composite stamps, i.e. where the picture is spread over more than one stamp. His examples included Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel on an India block; a new year issue from Korea; St. George slaying the dragon from Italy; and a complete sheetlet from Israel (16 stamps) where the background design is the front page from the first issue of *Halbanon* newspaper.



*'Blood' propaganda in wartime*



*Composite stamps*

A choice of thematic subject can be quite ingenious, as exemplified by Hugh Loudon's 'Maslow's Hierarchy of Need'. At the base are physiological needs for human survival, including shelter, food and water. All of these aspects were shown, including the Tree of Knowledge from the Garden of Eden.

This was followed by Peter Wood's 'Irish Life'. Naturally Ireland's patron saint St. Patrick featured, and institutions and events named after him such as St. Patrick's Day. St. Valentine was also included, shown on a greetings telegram.

Academic subjects featured strongly on the day. Greg Wynn showed planned languages: attempts at an international language. How many of us have heard of Volapük, created in around 1879 by Johann Schleyer? This was another apposite choice for the day as Schleyer was a Roman Catholic priest from Baden. Volapük flourished briefly until overtaken by Esperanto. Sadly for a movement which aimed to create a politically neutral language which would foster peace and understanding Esperantists were rounded up in Hitler's Germany.

Brian Sole showed his royalist side with a display of the British royal family, including the Queen, the Queen Mother, Diana, Charles and William. The UK head of state is of course also Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Adrian Nuttall showed stained glass by Marc Chagall. This included the UN memorial window for Dag Hammarskjöld in the United Nations Building, and a set of Israeli stamps showing the twelve windows from the Hadassah Hospital Synagogue in Jerusalem featuring the Twelve Tribes of Israel.



*70th anniversary of Esperanto*



*Chagall window*

Jiri Keller showed a range of religious paintings by Albrecht Dürer and Leonardo da Vinci.

David Hague finished off the day with pages on the Protestant Reformation, featuring Martin Luther and other Protestant leaders. Luther was a figure commemorated by East Germany, perhaps not such an odd choice when one remembers Protestant support for the Peasant's Revolt in Germany.



*Protestant Reformation*

Thanks are due to the hospitality of Gabriel members. Many of those present expressed the hope that we can repeat a joint meeting some time in the future. ☰

*Len Yandell showing Gothic Germany.*



*By prior arrangement this article was also published in 'Gabriel' July 2014*

## MEMBERS' MEETING AT WAKEFIELD

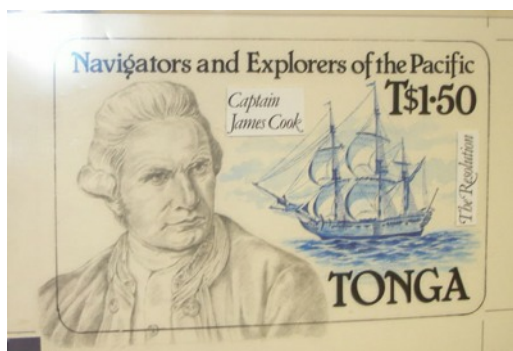
It was not the best of weekends for a meeting, with the Tour de France kicking off that day not 20 miles away, and Wimbledon finals and the British Grand Prix also competing for attention. But it was also the day of the Yorkshire Philatelic Federation Convention and Fair, and a chance for the BTA to hold a members' meeting in the north of England. Unfortunately we did not have many attendees, but those who did were an enthusiastic mixture of members and non-members. The subject of the talk had been advertised as "What is thematic collecting". We made it clear from the start that for the collector it is anything you want it to be, and the talk concentrated on ways of enlivening your collection by the use of as many different types of material as possible. It is not expense that holds back a collection, but failing to think about the huge range of philatelic (and non-philatelic) items which can enliven a story. An array of material was shown by Anne Stammers and Wendy Buckle, who also touched briefly on title and plan. Inevitably this did raise questions about competitions, which we were happy to answer, while making it clear that competitions are only one aspect of collecting.

Following this three people showed some pages:

Alwyn Peel showed an array of portraits of Captain Cook, including stamp proofs and artwork. I was surprised to learn that the first Cook stamp was issued in 1888. Who said thematics are modern? Despite the rarity of some of the items shown, what attracted most comment was a painting done for Alwyn's daughter based on the famous Cook portrait, but with Alwyn's face instead of Cook, and his daughter as a rather buxom wench looking on (see inside back cover). That would liven up any thematic collection!

Lesley Marley followed with a range of items on whales, starting with postcards of the American whaler *Charles W. Morgan*. Launched in 1841, after 80 years at sea the ship is now preserved at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut. She had connections with the Baker Robinson Whale Oil Refinery.

Finally Richard Hindle showed a competition entry done for the Federation on the Australian Polar explorer George Hubert Wilkins. Described by Richard as the greatest polar explorer of the mechanised age, his first venture was the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-17. A range of items were shown, including signed covers, cachets for various expeditions and a telegram sent from one of his expeditions. Following his death in 1958 his ashes were buried at the North Pole. ☰



*Captain Cook artwork*



*Richard and display*

# HERE AND THERE

## TOPICAL TIME DIGITAL ARCHIVE



The American Topical association has released a complete digital archive of all *Topical Time* issues from 1949 to 2013. It contains 382 issues of the thematic journal, totalling 34,272 pages in pdf format.

It is supplied in a 16Gb water-style flash drive the size of a credit card, which plugs into USB ports, and is compatible with both Microsoft and Apple products.

This contains plenty of space to download future *Topical Time* issues. There is a comprehensive

searchable index of the data currently on the drive.

The cost is \$99.00 which can be paid by Paypal to [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com).

## HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND RIDES TO THE RESCUE

At last it looks as if the UK will be getting a new national postal museum. The British Postal Museum & Archive has been awarded £4.5m by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the creation of the new national postal museum in London. This means 95% of the funding is now in place and building work is expected to begin this summer.

## THE CRAWFORD LIBRARY DIGITISATION PROJECT

The British Library's Philatelic Collections, with the support of funding from the British Philatelic Trust, is undertaking to digitise the Crawford Library of philatelic literature. Bequeathed by James Ludovic Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford in 1913, the Crawford Library comprises circa 4,500 volumes, (including books, periodicals, and catalogues).

All languages and places of publication are represented, from 1860 until about 1913. It is undoubtedly the most important and comprehensive library in the world of philatelic literature from this period.

For preservation purposes in the 1990s the British Library prepared high-resolution microfilms of every page of every publication, approximately 900,000 pages. Trials have been conducted and these films are still in excellent condition and of sufficiently fine granularity to be converted into digital images and then successfully made searchable by optical character recognition techniques.

The Library is listed in the Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library, which was first published in 1911, and reprinted in 1991 with amendments and additions to the text, including where appropriate the British Library shelfmark.

Thanks to a generous grant by the British Philatelic Trust, this project can now move from being a feasibility study to reality. When the digitisation has been completed, this incredible resource will be made available online, there will be links directly to the digitized text so that researchers from around the world will be able to freely access and download the content. This will be available on both the British Library website and hosted by the partner in this part of the project, The Royal Philatelic Society London, via the Global Philatelic Library.

### **BRING A CHILD TO STAMPEX and ENJOY STAMP ACTIVE!**

Stamp Active is continuing with its efforts to encourage more visitors to bring a child to Stampex. Spring Stampex saw an increase in the number of youngsters as it benefited from being held in half term. Once again, a free prize draw will take place after the children's auction on the Saturday for all adults who visit the Kids Corner with a child during the week. This will become a regular feature of this event, sponsored by the PTS, Stanley Gibbons and Royal Mail, so PLEASE BRING A CHILD TO STAMPEX.

Prizes include

- 1840 Penny Black Wallet, RRP £350, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons
- Royal Mail 2013 Year Book
- £50 Voucher from Gibbons Stamp Monthly,
- Subscriptions to Stamp Magazine and Stamp & Coin Mart.
- IOM Island of Culture Stamp Collection, donated by Isle of Man Stamps and Coins
- Four A5 Stockbooks, donated by Lighthouse (The Duncannon Partnership)
- Bagpuss Smilers Sheet, donated by Buckingham Covers

Stamp Active is a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for young people in the UK. The KIDS CORNER, sponsored by The Philatelic Traders' Society, takes place at both Spring and Autumn Stampex. It can now be found in a new location in the gallery bays on the right hand side of the hall as a result of increased dealer numbers.

There are plenty of fun activities to keep young collectors busy. They can collect points for these activities which will allow them to take part in the free children's auction at an earlier time of 1.30pm on the Saturday. This is always very popular. Once again there will be a free draw at the end of the auction for a classic stamp. An 1840 Penny Black has been generously donated by Mulready Philatelics and My Penny Blacks.

The theme of this year's activities at Autumn Stampex will be "CHRISTMAS" with fun games and a range of interesting displays. The entries in the 2014 British Youth Stamp Championships, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, and the winning entries in the "OUR LIVING WORLD" Active Competition will also be on display.

### **STAMP & POSTCARD FESTIVAL, Ayrshire, Scotland**

South-West Scotland Philatelic Societies will be holding their annual Stamp and Postcard Festival on Saturday 4th October 2014. Collectors and non-collectors alike are invited to come along to a warm welcome at the event being held at Prestwick Community Centre, Caerlaverock Road, PRESTWICK, Ayrshire, KA9 1HR., from 10am to 4pm. Dealers from across Scotland will be present with their stocks of stamps, postcards and accessories. Junior collectors are greatly encouraged and there will be an activity room for young collectors, with stamp-related crafts, puzzles, displays and demonstrations. Why not bring the children or grandchildren! On show will be a number of award winning displays from some of the most talented young philatelists in the UK.

Entry to the event is free, refreshments will be available, and there is plenty of free parking. The nearest train station is Prestwick.

Further details can be obtained on 01294 276990



# BACK TO BASICS

*John Hayward continues his series examining the basics of philately and how relevant they can be to thematic collecting*

## PART 2: PERFORATIONS

Once again let me start by recommending that you read the explanatory notes on perforations in the general philatelic information and guidelines at the beginning of Stanley Gibbons stamp catalogues. They provide excellent background knowledge. How can the way a stamp is perforated or indeed imperforated fit in with a thematic collection? Well, I think this needs a bit more lateral thinking than most basics of philately.

Let me start with what perforating is all about. It is intended to facilitate the separation of stamps. It started in the 1850's to save people having to separate imperforate stamps by cutting them. There are two basic methods of perforating stamps which have been used universally since the 1850's: perforation by a series of holes punctured around the stamp; or rouletting where the paper surrounding the stamp is cut, but none is removed. In the last 160 years perforating stamps has greatly predominated, but in recent times rouletting has grown in favour with the advent of self-adhesive stamps.

### Perforating

I am not going to go into the measurement of perforations as this has no immediate relevance to thematic collecting, but for those thematic collectors who want to differentiate the precise size of perforations by all means employ a good perforation gauge to do so. What you will notice just from looking at a stamp is the different types of perforation made by differing perforation machines. "Line" perforation results from one line of pins punching single rows of holes at a time. "Comb" perforation results from pins disposed across the sheet in comb formation punching out holes at three sides of the stamp a row at a time. "Harrow" perforation is applied to a whole pane or sheet at one stroke. Now from this you can see that examples of comb and harrow perforations would fit in neatly in thematic collections on hairstyles, toiletry, agriculture and farming, etc. In addition you may come across stamps which have been "pin" perforated: where instead of being punched out, round holes are pricked by sharp pointed pins and no paper is removed. Such stamps would be ideal for a theme where pins are involved.



*Comb perforation*



*Pin perforation*

Some perforations catch the eye immediately like the zigzag or dragon's teeth perforations on the early stamps of Finland. Some good lateral thinking will allocate zigzag perforations to a theme, but dragon's teeth would easily find their way into a collection on dragons, as I am sure David Griffiths is only too well aware. Perforations are often

used to separate stamps from the sheet margin or selvedge. You may want to show an example of this, as very often the margin will include something relating to your theme. The most interesting stamps in this area to my view are those from Belgium and Israel. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Belgian Post Office printed what are known as ‘Dominican labels’ at the bottom of the stamp, the text thereon indicating that the item would not be delivered on a Sunday. If the label was removed by the sender it would be delivered on a Sunday. Such stamps would fit well in thematic collections covering postal services or days of the week [or religious beliefs, Ed.]. Almost all Israeli stamps since they were first issued in the late 1940’s have had separate labels at the bottom of each stamp with some text or symbol relating to the nature of the issue concerned. Stamps with such labels are worth considerably more than those without, especially the very early issues.



*Zigzag perf*



*Belgian tab Israeli tab*



Don’t forget some stamps may be perforated on two sides and imperforate on the other sides. These are often from stamps sold in coils from machines, or over the counter, or from booklets – Sweden and Canada notably issued stamps in this format. Your thematic collection may contain such stamps to show the variety next to stamps of the same design perforated on all four sides, if they exist.



### Imperforate

Up until the 1860’s those countries that issued stamps did so in imperforate format until perforating had been perfected. Since those days the issue of imperforate stamps for genuine postal use has been very limited. However, there are some imperforate issues that spring to mind such as Austrian and Czechoslovakian newspaper and postage due stamps and Russian definitive from the 1920’s. Other imperforate issues will be printing errors, well worthy of inclusion in a thematic collection if you can afford them, or specially issued, often restricted in numbers, imperforate stamps of genuine perforated issues – here France



in particular and its former colonies still issue such varieties, and Hungary did so during Communist rule. Collect these latter stamps of course if you want to, but bear in mind what they are.



### Rouletting

Examples of stamps which have been rouletted should find their way into any collection connected with gambling/cards etc; but think also about the several types of rouletting. There is “Perce en arc” where the cuts are minute spaced arcs roughly in a semi-circle and also “Perce en croix” where the cuts are tiny diagonal crosses. Then look at “Line” roulette where the cuts are short and straight parallel to the frame of the stamp. This is the most common form of rouletting – see the illustrations from China and Uruguay. Don’t forget rouletted in colour where the cuts have coloured edges and “Saw tooth” roulette where the cuts are applied in a zigzag fashion.



All these different styles of rouletting – arcs, crosses etc – suggest different themes including geometry, religion, and I am sure readers can think of others. They are also relevant to today’s many self-adhesive stamps with their simulated perforations which to all intents and purposes are a form of rouletting. However, one can go further than just the type of rouletting with these

modern day self-adhesive stamps. Nowadays as part of the security measures employed in printing stamps we have elliptical perforations and lozenges from Great Britain and other countries, letters from Brazil and crosses from Portugal. These lend themselves to thematic collections on mathematics, geometry, sugar, confectionery, writing, religion, heraldry, and many more.



*Elliptical perfs*



*Letter perfs B R*



*Cross perfs*

## Perfins

So far in this article I have looked at the perforations surrounding stamps. Now I will turn to perforations one often comes across within the confines of the stamp itself. These are known as perfins [i.e. Perforated Initials] and fall into two broad categories. The first category are perfins cut into the stamps officially by a post office or official government body of some kind. These do not remove a stamp's postal status, but signify they are being used for some official purpose other than public postage. Australia, some of the former Australian states, and Canada have perfined stamps with "OS", "SA" (South Australia), "T" (Tasmania), or "OHMS" denoting they are to be used on Official Service or "On Her/His Majesty's Service" respectively. These are eminently collectible and should find their way into thematic collections on postal services and any theme to do with specific government departments, eg military, income tax etc. The second category are perfins cut into stamps by private organisations for security purposes (to prevent theft). This type of perfin predominantly uses initials to denote the organisation concerned, but sometimes symbols are used, both types being very collectible. It pays to know the organisations connected with your own theme so you can recognise their initials. Enhancing your collection with perfins can be very rewarding.



*SA on  
South Australia*



*L & K for  
Laurin & Klement*



*OHMS*



In my next article I will cover gum and colour. 

# WORLD WAR I

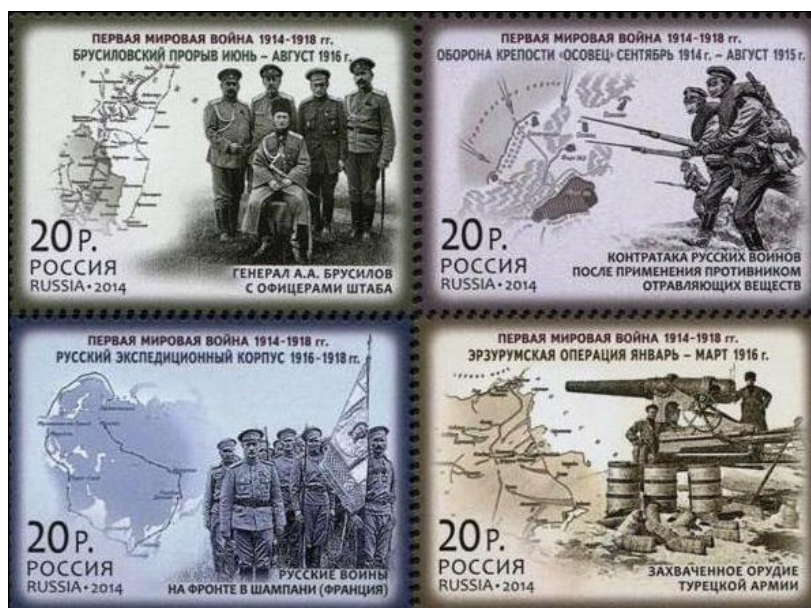
*Wendy Buckle looks at some new issues*

Over the next four years we can expect an awful lot of stamps commemorating the centenary of this cataclysmic event. Some of them will be from countries not involved, but it was the first ‘world’ war, and few parts of the globe remained unaffected. This is a look at some of the 2014 issues which had been released by early August.

We have to start with Serbia. As we all know, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria by a Serbian nationalist triggered a sequence of events which became seemingly unstoppable. Austria used the event to make impossible demands on Serbia, and declared war on 28th July 1914.



Germany, as an ally of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, supported the Austrians. Russia however supported the Serbs, and on 30th July ordered general mobilisation against Austria-Hungary. On 31st July Germany sent a 24-hour ultimatum to Russia, which was ignored. On 1st August Germany declared war on Russia.





*Both Slovenia and the Czech Republic were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1914, and thus immediately drawn into war. Troops were conscripted, but there were also strong nationalist, anti-Austria feelings among many in the Balkans.*

*The unusual Slovenian design features a war memorial.*



France refused to agree to neutrality in the event of war between Russia and Germany. On 3rd August Germany declared war on France, and that night German forces invaded Belgium. Great Britain, having a treaty to defend Belgium, declared war on Germany on 4th August.



*This GB set features the themes of Poppy, Poetry, Portraits, War Art, Memorials and Remembrance and Artefacts*



*Part 1 of a series from Jersey is on the theme of Participation.*

British colonies, as they were then, immediately came out in support of Britain.



*More than 416,000 Australian men volunteered to fight during the First World War between 1914 and 1918*

*Gibraltar provided an important naval base for supply and repair of Allied ships*



*Despite anti-British feeling among the Boers, South Africans fought in German South-West Africa and on the Western Front.*

To see the full extent of involvement in World War I across the world, go to the Wikipedia entry 'Participants in World War I' [\[link\]](#)

# PLANÈTE TIMBRES: PARIS INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW

*Barry Stagg fancies French philately*

If I asked you what is spacious, noisy and full of young school children I doubt you would answer a stamp show! Yet this was what it was like when I visited the recent Paris show. And they were having a great time (but perhaps a day off school was good enough reason to be happy anyway!). They had giant jigsaws of stamps to complete, drawings of stamps to make and colour in and a quiz involving them walking around the exhibits making notes. Being young children nothing was done quietly or slowly! It was great to see them there. My wife overheard a young girl asking an exhibitor why they collected stamps –there was a pause – and he replied ‘because it is fun’. As they wrote that down I thought to myself that I don’t think I could better that answer!! And the other displays were fun as well. I rather liked watching the printing presses and the engraving work, fascinating stuff. There were lots of dealers of course and I recognised many of them. But what was different was the amount of space they each had. You could drive a bus down the aisles between the rows of dealers and no rugby scrums to see a dealer’s stock. A real treat. I believe the whole event was sponsored by the French post office, La Poste. I suspect they arranged for the many children to visit the show but no doubt saw it as an investment for the future. Perhaps a lesson for Royal Mail!?

I did spend a lot of time looking at the competition entries and I was pleased to see so many written in English and a good number from BTA colleagues. The Thematic class alone had 40 international entries and many were very well presented. It is always a pleasure to see BTA member Ron Backhouse’s thematic collection on Tennis, and there were many other good thematic entries as well. I personally liked the exhibits on Lighthouses, Chess and Pigeons. Thematics is nothing if not diverse! I am a great fan of plagiarism so I am always looking for good ideas to use in my own collection although I think I will stick to cream coloured paper and not the orange, yellow and red A3 sheets used by the Volcano exhibitor (although the exhibit was good I had left my sunglasses at home!). I do like looking at the non-thematic collections as well and there were some interesting topics and lovely material to see. This was my first visit to a non-UK stamp show and I really enjoyed it – perhaps not as much as the *stamp*-ede of children – and I am looking forward to the next one. I wonder what it is like in New York? ☰



# EXHIBITING PAGE

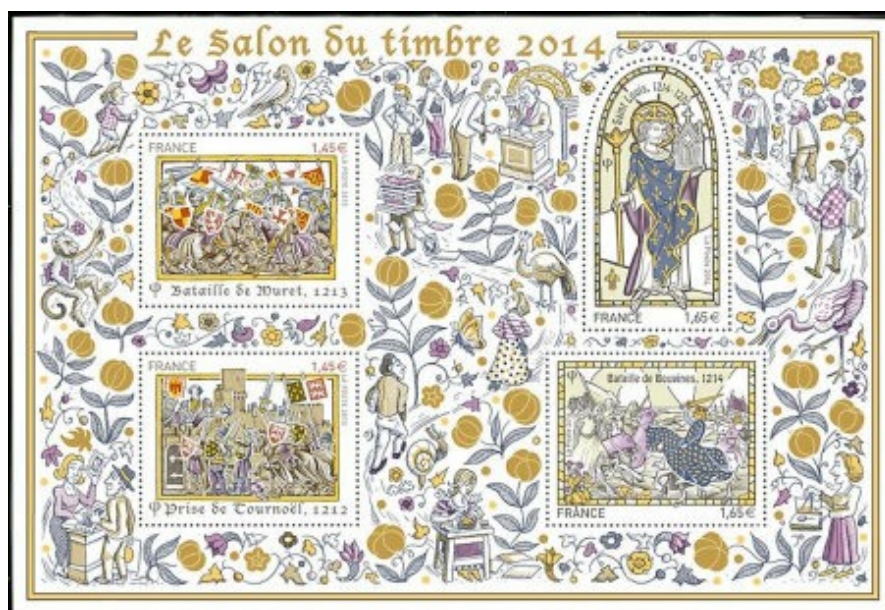
## RESULTS FROM PLANÈTE TIMBRES

The postal history class was by far the largest, but it was pleasing to see that the second largest class was Thematics, with 40 entries. Major winners were:

### T H E M A T I C S

	Points	
Lev Safonov	Polar history of Russia	95
Turid Veggeland	Bitter pills and strong drops	95
Raino Heino	Weather: from observation to forecasts	94
Vojtech Jankovic	My life as a bicycle	93
Leif Rasmussen	Animals subjected to man	93
Michel Abram	Recontre avec le cheval	92
Ryszard Prange	Vine and Wine:the gifts of gods, sun and soil	91
<b><i>Congratulations to BTA members:</i></b>		
Ron Backhouse	Anyone for Tennis?	85
Barry Stagg	Parachuting through the ages	82

The Open Class attracted 17 entries. The only winner in the 'gold' category (90 points or above) was Jari Majander with 'Your cuppa tea: the history, culture and business of tea'. Congratulations too to BTA members Brian Sole, Postal History Class, 'The story of the British greetings telegram service' (90 points), and Joyce Boyer, Aerophilatelic Class, 'Austrian Airmail 1918 - 1939' (82 points). There was no postcard class.



# HOW I STARTED

*Wendy Buckle was enticed by hot metal*

I've collected stamps since the age of about ten, when my father, who at the time worked for a tin mining company, brought home stamps from what was then the Malayan Federation. I was fascinated by all the different states, and the (to me) exotic designs. So I started what became the classic childhood collection: in later years an absolutely worthless world collection. But I was hooked.

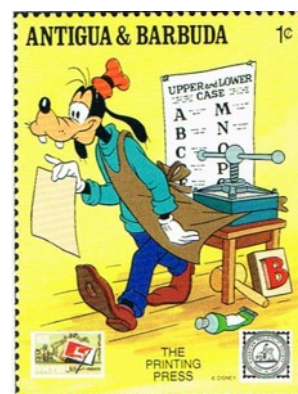
From there I went through the standard process of realising a world collection was unfeasible, a Commonwealth collection equally so, and a comprehensive GB collection out of my pocket. What to collect? In around 1980 a dealer suggested the answer. "What you need to look for" he said "is a 'dead' country with no new issues, with an interesting history reflected in its stamps, and somewhere unfashionable so that there is little demand and it is not expensive". He gave as an example the Baltic States. I thought about it; I did a bit of reading on Baltic history, and I looked at the stamp prices in Gibbons. It seemed a good idea, so off I went. But this was 1980: there was no internet, so finding stamps and covers from obscure countries (at a time when GB and Commonwealth still ruled) was not easy. Very often at stamp fairs there would not be a single dealer with stock in 'my' area. So to give me something else to look for when going round the dealers I decided to start a side-line thematic collection. I was clear in my mind that I was not going to spend a lot of money on it, or even time, just put a few pages together.

How wrong can you be? I decided to start collecting something on the history of printing. Whilst studying librarianship I had looked at the history of book production. We learnt about Gutenberg's invention, about how some early printers designed their own type, and how the industry grew and spread throughout Europe. It was all interesting, but the best bit was going off to Twickenham College once a week to be let loose playing with historic presses, making paper, and binding a book. I loved it. So when it came to starting a thematic collection I already had an interest and a few books on the subject. But we all know how collections seem to grow tentacles and spread. Printing led to book production, which lead to writing materials, and of course I could not ignore illuminated manuscripts, and how it all started with the development of writing.

It is no longer just a few pages, it is no longer a sideline, and I prefer not to contemplate how much money I've spent on it. But I still find the subjects endlessly fascinating. And whilst I can never afford to own a book printed by William Caxton or William Morris I can appreciate the typefaces chosen for stamps as the next best thing. ☰



*Gutenberg started it,  
Goofy practices it*





# GROUP MEMBERS

## Alba Stamp Group

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## Astro Space Stamp Society

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## Bird Stamp Society

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

Email: [tony.statham@sky.com](mailto: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](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](mailto: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

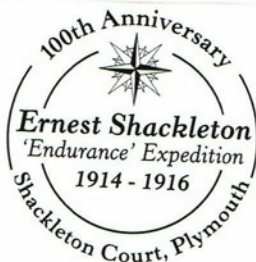
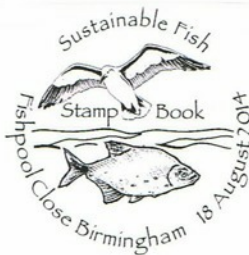
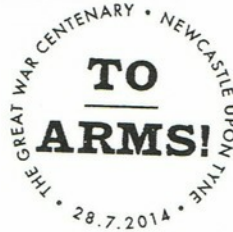
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# HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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

For a free sample copy, write to:

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



# JUST4KIDS

By Lise Whittle

*(Adult members - please photocopy these pages and pass them on to a youngster you know, and perhaps include a few nice stamps to help them. When you photocopy this, please enlarge each page to A4 size (enlarge to 141%). Thank you*

Did you see the Commonwealth Games recently? Did you watch some of the games at home on TV? Or were you lucky enough to get tickets and go and see the Games in Glasgow?



The Commonwealth Games are the third largest multi-sport event and involves athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. The Games are held every four years. This year around 4,950 athletes from 71 different countries and territories took part.

Start a new stamp collection and try to find one stamp from all of the 71 Commonwealth countries and territories that took part. It can be any stamp, it doesn't

have to be a sports stamp. It might show you what life is like in that country or territory. Try to find where each one is on a map. This collection might take you a long time to collect – ask people you know to help you. Here is a list of the countries and territories that took part in the Commonwealth Games this year:



Anguilla; Antigua & Barbuda; Australia; Bahamas; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Bermuda; Botswana; British Virgin Islands; Brunei; Cameroon; Canada; Cayman Islands; Cook Islands; Cypress; Dominica; England; Falkland Islands; Fiji; Ghana; Gibraltar; Grenada; Guernsey; Guyana; India; Isle of Man; Jamaica; Jersey; Kenya; Kiribati; Lesotho; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Malta; Mauritius; Montserrat; Mozambique;



Namibia; Nauru; New Zealand; Nigeria; Niue; Norfolk Island; Northern Ireland; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Rwanda; Saint Helena; Saint Kitts & Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent & The Grenadines; Samoa; Scotland; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Swaziland; Tanzania; Tonga; Trinidad & Tobago; Turks & Caicos Island; Tuvalu; Uganda; Vanuatu; Wales; Zambia.



## Commonwealth Games Sports

In the 2014 Commonwealth Games 17 different sports were on the programme. Ten of these sports were core sports (they are always played at Commonwealth Games) and seven were chosen by the Host City from a choice of sixteen. This year basketball and judo were added, and archery and tennis were dropped.

Start another stamp collection and collect stamps showing all of the 17 sports that were played at the 2014 Glasgow Games – the stamps can come from any country in the world so long as they show the sport. Here is a list of the sports:



Aquatics (swimming and diving);  
Athletics; Badminton; Boxing;  
Cycling; Gymnastics; Hockey;  
Judo; Lawn bowls; Netball; Rugby  
7's; Shooting; Squash; Table  
tennis; Triathlon; Weightlifting;  
Wrestling



*On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 Royal Mail issued a new set of GB stamps to mark the Glasgow Commonwealth Games featuring the sports of judo, swimming, athletics, squash, netball and cycling. The stamps are shown below:*



**To win a set of these stamps answer this question:**

Who was the designer of these stamps?

Send in your answer and you could WIN A PRIZE! (competition only open to children).

*Send in letters, drawings, poems, tell us about your stamps!*

**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](http://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

Norris, K & Brown, S. *Scottish Congress covers 2013*

## Articles

- |   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
|   | <b>Explorers</b>         |   |
| 5 | Dugdale, J               | David Livingston : Stepping into the unknown Stamp Magazine 3/2014                  |
|   | <b>Lace</b>              |   |
| 4 | Von Bahr, M              | Bobbin along Stamp Magazine 2/2013  |
|   | <b>Literature</b>        |   |
| 3 | Buckle, W                | The Raven King and His Library (King Matthias of Hungary) Philately Graphics 2/2013 |
|   | <b>Medicine</b>          |   |
| 3 | Barnes, P                | Stop Cancer Now! MediTheme 5/2013   |
|   | <b>Motor Cars</b>        |   |
| 3 | Burger, J                | The Story of Mercedes-Benz ThemNews 5/2013  |
|   | <b>Myths and Legends</b> |   |
| 3 | Agrawal, S               | Mythical Creatures of Himmapan Forest ITS Stamp News 2/2013                         |
|   | <b>Royalty</b>           |   |
| 4 | Van Gelder, P            | The Other Diamond Jubilee (1897) Gibbons Stamp Monthly 6 /2012                      |
|   | <b>Slavery</b>           |   |
| 5 | Dugdale, J               | The pens that broke the chains Stamp Magazine 2/2013                                |
|   | <b>Stamp Production</b>  |   |
| 5 | Chambers, M              | Graven images Stamp Magazine 2013   |
| 4 | Buckle, W                | Watermarks: A Philatelic Primer Philately Graphics 3/2012                           |
|   | <b>Thematics</b>         |   |
| 5 | Dodson, L                | Does Your Topical Collection Have Holes In It? ThemNews 5/ 2013                     |
| 4 | Jagtap, A                | Stepping into Philatelic Shoes ITS Stamp News 2/2013                                |

- Tobacco**
- 2 Tobacco A Philatelic counterblast to tobacco MediTheme 2/2013
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- 2 Pai-Dhungat, J Disturbing Demise of George Washington MediTheme 2/2013

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### **FINAL REMINDER**

#### **BTA 2014 ANNUAL COMPETITIONS**

The closing date for the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy,  
the BTA Cup and the Inter-Federation Thematic  
Competition is

19th September

Application forms in March and June 2014 *Themescene*



*Alwyn Peel and his hero*

WORLD WAR I page 101

*Hungary, part of the Empire*



*New Zealand forces captured Western Samoa from Germany in the early stages of the war*

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