

# THEMESCENE

December 2014

*In this issue we:*

*Enjoy our birthday celebrations*

**Report on the BTA Weekend**



BRITISH THEMATIC



ASSOCIATION

*Puzzle over antiquities*

**Enigma of the Nazca Lines**

*With Raymond Ireson*



*Make use of philatelic knowledge*

**Back to basics, part 3**

*With John Hayward*



*As well as all the Usual Features*



*We wish all our readers a  
very happy Christmas*

**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**

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# NEW ISSUES

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# THEMESCENE

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DECEMBER 2014

## THEMESCENE

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Thematic Association.

### Editor:

Wendy Buckle  
87 Victoria Road  
Bournemouth, BH1 4RS

### Advertising Manager:

Mike Blackman  
45 Kenwood Drive  
Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6QY

### Printer and Distributor:

Printing for Pleasure  
Elder House, The Street,  
Chattisham, Ipswich  
Suffolk IP8 3QE

### Website:

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

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Coming to the end of our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday I think the BTA can look back with satisfaction at our achievements. Many of our members contributed to a very successful Spring Stampex display, plus an inspiring talk by Jørgen Jørgensen. We held a well attended joint meeting with our affiliate society the Guild of St Gabriel, and continued our commitment to a national, not just southern, approach by holding a meeting in Wakefield. Attendance at fairs such as Swinpex for the AGM, and South of England Stamp Fair for the BTA Competitions, kept our presence ‘out there’ to attract membership. But perhaps the most enjoyable event of the year, for those who attended, was the second BTA Weekend at Oxford. A large percentage of this issue is taken up with a report (page 120) for which I make no apology (except perhaps for the brevity of detail on the members’ displays). For one issue only *Themescene* has gone for a full-colour centre in order to do justice to the reports and articles. It was a resounding success and comments at the time and emails received afterwards indicated how much everybody enjoyed it, including perhaps the best compliment we could ask for, from a new member of the BTA who said “I wish you’d persuaded us to join the BTA years ago”. This is a message everyone reading it needs to send out to theme-based collectors: the BTA is about entertainment and enjoyment.

As mentioned above, the BTA Annual Competitions were hosted by The Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies at their South of England Stamp Fair at Ardingly, West Sussex, on 11th October. Our thanks go to ASPS for providing spacious and well-lit accommodation as well as help from their members with the frames. With 43 dealers it’s a fair worth attending anyway, plus the chance to view the ASPS competitions as well as the BTA competitions, judged this year by Brian Sole and John Hayward. Results are on page 119.

At the BTA Weekend our Librarian Ron Backhouse made a plea for members to use the Library more. Ron lists all articles as they come in, see page 147, and is keen to help members. Tell him (via post to 10 Hoe lane, Ware, Herts, SG12 9NU, or email Ron@10nis.fsnet.co.uk) what your areas of interest are, and he will send you a list of articles on your topic. Just pick what you want and he’ll provide articles as either photocopies through the post or scan via email. If you borrow books from the Library you are only responsible for paying the return postage, not the outward postage. Please do make use of this comprehensive facility.

Turning to the new year, you will see your membership renewal form enclosed. You may have seen from the AGM Minutes in the last issue that we have had to increase subscriptions. Regretfully costs are outstripping income, and despite every effort to make savings we have no choice. One small saving is on the Programme, which has not been printed separately this year. You will find it on page 140 and it will be repeated in each issue. While we will be holding fewer meetings in 2015 we do have one very important one arranged: on the Friday of the London 2015 exhibition there will be a BTA meeting with guest speaker Rudolph Spieler. This is one not to be missed. Put the date in your diary now!

*Continued on next page*


# CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Barry Stagg

**O**n my drive home from Scotland I came through Edinburgh and had an unexpected and pleasant surprise. There it was! One of the rarities of the stamp world. A real and working stamp shop. So many have now gone and have been replaced by the soulless internet. I know that financial pressures, an aging collecting base and the downturn in collecting has made the stamp shop a rare thing but I do miss them. When I was a lot younger I lived in Ipswich and we had at least two stamp shops. It was fun to search through the boxes of postcards, covers and stamp albums to try and find that illusive item. It is just not the same flicking the mouse wheel through endless and often repetitive items on an auction site, although I can't deny that it is still a pleasant surprise when I find something of real interest.

But surprises can be unpleasant as well, especially if you are not careful when you are buying off the internet. Recently I had bought a postcard on a well-known auction site. It looked in good condition and had a low starting price. Much to my surprise I won it and when I received it I was disappointed to see that part of the abstract design on the postcard was in fact a dirty ink smudge! I checked the description and right on the bottom was the comment that it was damaged ... but I had not noticed it. So it was my fault but it was still a big disappointment. Even worse, I bought a used stamp from another auction house only to find that the stamp I received was much more heavily franked than the one shown. And yes, down in the small print, it did say the illustrated stamp was not necessarily the


one you would get, but I still felt disappointed.

Perhaps I'm a Luddite, but give me a box of postcards or album sheets to sort through rather than spending hours on a website and I will be a happy man. Sadly there are few, very few, stamp shops in my part of the world; consequently, I do try and get to as many of the stamp and/or postcard fairs as possible, even the small ones with only a few dealers. After all, every box contains a surprise for somebody! 



**Editorial** *continued from previous page*

And if you are planning to be at London 2015 for a few days please consider helping out at the BTA Stand. We will be there for the duration of the Show and it will be a prime opportunity to promote the BTA. If you can spare an hour or two please email Gerald Lovell [fdc.silverstone@tesco.net](mailto:fdc.silverstone@tesco.net) and let him know your availability. We already have a presence on their website at [www.london2015.net/videos/](http://www.london2015.net/videos/) via a video interview with Simon Moorcroft.

Christmas will be nearly here by the time *Thamescene* goes out, so can I wish everyone a very happy holiday and successful collecting new year. 

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

## Membership Secretary's Page

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**Total number of members** 208 (at 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014)

## New Members joining since the September 2014 issue

Mr. M. Cayley of Hayling Island

Mrs. S. Knight of Shoeburyness

## Deaths advised since the September 2014 issue

Mr W. Sammons of Littlehampton

We are delighted to welcome two new members and hope that they will find their membership rewarding. In the last twelve months recruitment has seen 14 new members joining, some through personal contact with most others accessing the Association through the website.


Included with your copy of the December *Themescene* will be found the form for the renewal of membership for the coming year. General running costs and the recent sharp increase in postal charges have meant that your committee has found it necessary to increase the cost of membership.

The new rates are as follows:

<b>UK Members and family membership</b>	<b>£18</b>
<b>Euro Area Members and family membership</b>	<b>£22</b>
<b>All other areas Overseas</b>	<b>£24</b>
<b>Overseas Societies</b>	<b>£25</b>
<b>Affiliated organisations</b>	<b>£20</b>

As the cost of postage is now not so very different to the cost of using PayPal, should you wish to pay by this convenient means, the form explains the procedure for renewing your subscription.

One of the pleasures of the Membership Secretary's job is the contact with members for many differing reasons. Earlier in the year, a junior member who resides in Nepal asked for help in locating material for her first time competition entry based on the relationship between man and animals. A number of our members kindly donated stamps, miniature sheets and other items which were used to enhance the entry. It is good to be able to record that a bronze medal was awarded for her efforts, and we can now add our congratulations, and hope this encourages her to pursue future thematic interests.

Recently, a number of emails sent to members have been rejected, so **I take this opportunity to remind members**, that when making changes to addresses whether **postal or email** please be sure to inform the Membership Secretary, which amongst other things will ensure your copy of *Themescene* is delivered correctly. 

# THE ENIGMA OF THE NAZCA LINES

*Raymond Ireson investigates a mystery*

As everyone knows, when Columbus set out to find a sea route to the Far East, he missed the turn and landed up in what became known as the 'New World'. Except that it wasn't really 'new' in so far as age was concerned. That land was as old as the hills in the known world of those bygone days. As a matter of fact, some of the cultures in the Americas were far more advanced in some respects than the peoples of Europe. The architectural prowess of the Mayas and the Incas staggers our imagination even today. But what I talk about here is no great colossus such as Chichen Itzá or Sacsayhuamán, but rather about a series of geoglyphs - figures or shapes produced on the ground by clearing or rearranging stones - known as the Nazca Lines. Covering an area 75 miles long by one mile wide they are the world's most remarkable inscriptions.

The Nazca Desert is a high arid plateau located 250 miles southeast of Lima, the Peruvian capital, between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains. The desolate plain containing the art is called *Pampa Colorado* (Red Plain) and covers an area of about 280 square miles stretching between the towns of Nazca and Paipa. Running across this plain is an array of perfectly straight lines of varying widths and lengths, the longest more than eight miles in length, the shortest just a little more than 1,640 feet. There are also enormous geometric forms, including triangles, spirals, circles and trapezoids, as well as 70 extraordinary animal and plant figures including a humming bird, a monkey, a spider, a lizard, and a pelican of more than 900 feet in length. Anthropomorphic figures are rare at Nazca, though there are a few examples etched into the slopes of steep hillsides at the edge of the desert.

The Nazca Lines are believed to be the creation of the Nazca culture, who lived in the region from around 300 BCE to AD 800. The connection between this culture and the lines is based on Nazcan pottery found in association with the lines (*All illustrations page 132*).

How the lines were made is no great mystery. The iron oxide-coated stones that cover the surface of the desert were simply removed to reveal the underlying lighter coloured soil. In this way, the lines were drawn as a groove of a lighter colour contrasting with the darker red of the surrounding desert. Sometimes the lines were outlined with stones to provide emphasis to the shape. The incredibly dry desert conditions - it rains less than 50 centimetres a year on average - have preserved the lines and figures for more than 1,000 years.

The Nazca lines were rediscovered when commercial airlines began flights over the Peruvian desert in the 1920's. Although Julian Tello, the founder of Peruvian archaeology, had recorded the designs in 1926, it was not until American historian Dr. Paul Kosok and his wife Rose first visited Nazca in 1941 that serious research began on the enigmatic inscriptions.

For years scientists and archaeologists have debated why these lines were constructed, and various theories - ranging from the plausible to the wildly implausible - have been put forward. Suggestions have included that the lines functioned as an astronomical observatory, as ritual pathways, a calendar, a landing strip for alien spaceships, or that they were used to map underground water supplies. The investment in time and effort required to draw the shapes in the desert floor so precisely surely indicates that the lines had a vital role in the lives of the Nazca culture. It used to be believed that the markings

can only be seen from an aeroplane; in fact they are visible from surrounding foothills, although the best way to appreciate them is by plane.

But the purpose of the Nazca lines still defeats our understanding. Perhaps the best known researcher associated with them is the late Martha Reiche, a German mathematician and archaeologist who began her work in Nazca in 1946. She devoted her life to the study and preservation of the lines, living in the desert for 50 years. Her theory about them was that they served as an astronomical calendar to keep track of planting and harvest times, and that the Nazca plain itself was a huge observatory. She died in 1998 at the age of 95, and her tomb is next to her house which has been made into a museum in her memory.

Another school of thought contends that they were created as sacred pathways, maintained by local kin groups, and connected with the ritual acquisition of water. Some research has shown that many of the Nazca Lines are located close to waterways. Perhaps part of the function of the lines was to point to sources of water.

But some 19 miles away from the Nazca Lines lies the ruins of Cahuachi, an ancient adobe complex of vast proportions which is believed to have been a most important ceremonial and administrative centre of the Nazca culture. Surely they must have had a reliable source of water. Excavations of the ruin have unearthed a spectacular collection of coloured textiles made with seven different dyes, and some of the finest examples of Nazca ceramics in existence, many sporting designs which bear unmistakable similarity to some of the figures to be seen in the Nazca Lines.

Research into the religious road theory found a tradition of wayside shrines, often merely a pile of stones, linked together by straight lines or 'folkways'. The supposition was that the Nazca Lines represent huge versions of those folkways along which their shamans would walk 'a voyage of the soul'. The shamans acted as mediums between the visible world and the invisible spirit world, and were prominent in most Native American societies. Perhaps when the shamans walked along the lines of the animal glyphs they were attempting to put themselves in touch with potent animal spirits possessing supernatural powers in an attempt to utilise their energy, perhaps to bring rainfall, or perhaps for a purpose we could never begin to understand. However, if the motivation for the creation of the Nazca Lines was connected with the mountain spirits of the Nazcans high up in the misty Andes, their gods dwelling in the sky could look down and admire their subjects' handiwork crafted in their honour. 📖





# BTA COMPETITIONS

## BTA CUP

This is the BTA's premier competition, 32 pages marked to National standard, and is seen as a way of helping those who are considering Stampex by giving them a chance to try out their ideas and get detailed feedback on what is expected of a 'National' exhibit.

There were four entries:

Malcolm Hawkins got 55 points for *Year of the Horse*. Inspired by the Chinese zodiac it looked at illustrations of the horse in countries around the world.

Mehmet Guney got 72 points for *United Nations for a Better World*, which looked at its establishment in 1945, UN Day, and its headquarters and structure, including 15 organisations and special agencies. Today its headquarters is Manhattan in New York, with additional HQs in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

A second entry by Mehmet, coming a close second 78 points, was *the Petroleum Industry* looking at the exploitation of crude oil and gas, including drilling, derricks and rigs, storage, terminals, pipelines and tankers.

The winner of the BTA Cup 2014 was Jeff Dugdale. His title *EVA is Fifty* needed a second look to realise this was about Extra Vehicular Activities, or space walks to you and me. From the very first human to step into space, to recent exploits by the Chinese and the future of such missions, the exhibit looked at endeavours while in flight and while on the moon, as well as international ventures such as the Hubble space telescope and the International Space Station.

## JOHN FOSBERY THEMATIC TROPHY

Unfortunately there was only one entry this year, but still a worthy winner. *An Introduction to New Zealand Health Stamps* by Paul Leonard looked at stamps from the first issues in 1929 up to the to 1949 set. Designs, stamps, covers and slogans were shown. The first issue was a fairly simple design followed in 1931 by the 'Smiling Boy' set followed a year later by the 'Hygieia' stamp.

## HEALEY & WISE SALVER FOR THE INTER-FEDERATION COMPETITION

This comprises a 16 page entry from each of three competitors. The only entry - and so the winner - was Kent Federation. Erica Banks got 72 points for *Scallops*. Hundreds of these species are found worldwide in temperate climates, and as well as showing some of them the exhibit also looked at scallops as a religious and heraldic symbol, used as a design in chariots, jewellery and artefacts, and its adoption as logos. Michael Thompson got 76 points for *History of the Balloon: from the early experiments to the ballooning pioneers*. Starting as early as 1670 with a design by Francesco de Lana for a 'flying boat' lifted by metal spheres filled with air (it didn't work!), it covered early designs, the Montgolfier Brothers, and the 'Great Aeronauts' from Vincenzo Lunardi to the Boesman's. Grahame Boutle got 83 points for *Sentinels of the Sea* a study of lighthouses and other structures which aid navigation. Starting with perhaps the earliest recorded, the Pharos of Alexandria, it looked at early history, the lighthouse authorities of the British Isles - Trinity House, the Northern Lighthouse Board and Commissioners of Irish Lights - and then went on to the various locations: onshore, islands, ports and harbours, and lakes and rivers.

Sadly a reducing interest in this competition over the last few years has meant that the BTA has decided to discontinue it from 2015. This people who would have been interested in taking part are urged to consider entering the other BTA competitions: the Fosbery Trophy and the BTA Cup. *Illustrations to all competitions on page 133.*

# BTA WEEKEND

*Wendy Buckle reports*

**W**e returned to our previous venue of the Oxford Spires Hotel for a weekend of displays and conviviality. The programme offered a mixture of guest speakers and members' displays, plus time off to either browse dealer's stock or visit Oxford. There was plenty of time for chatting over pre-dinner drinks and meals, plus a quiz and a raffle organised by John Hayward to continue the social side. And with 2014 being the BTA's 30th anniversary it was especially pleasing that five founder members of the BTA were present to ceremoniously cut the birthday cake made by our Secretary. Photos accompanying this article follow on page 127.

## **Mike Blackman *Umbrellas***

This turned out to be a rather more topical subject than either the organisers or the speaker expected when first booked, with ongoing protests on the streets in Hong Kong about proposed electoral reform being dubbed the 'Umbrella Revolution'. The term was coined to describe the large number of protesters who used umbrellas to protect themselves from pepper spray and tear gas; hardly the image of umbrellas which Mike described as something we take for granted and only notice when they fail us. Nevertheless, the display covered no less than 24 different aspects of the subject.

They have a noble and ancient pedigree, being developed originally around 2,000 BCE as a stick with some sort of solid cover, with evidence of early use in Sri Lankan cave paintings and a Roman floor mosaic in Sicily. In Africa and the Far East in particular they became associated with power and prestige, often being very large, elaborate and multi-tiered, and would be carried in procession behind a ruler or person of high status. Emblems of umbrellas were included in thrones, and thrones could be crowned with umbrellas - think of the pictures of rulers riding on elephants.

In the West they were seen very differently, being fashion accessories from the 18th century, with examples seen in some impressionist paintings. In Victorian England the broolly got its nickname of "gamp" from the character of Mrs. Sairey Gamp in Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*. They are often found in entertainments such as carnival and the circus. There was plenty of humour in the display with comic postcards and a Mulready lampoon featuring an umbrella.

More seriously they were adopted by the Catholic Church as part of the Papal regalia. When a Pope dies the cardinal temporarily in charge has an umbrella as his symbol. And the symbolism extends to images employed to suggest protection, such as those used for insurance and healthcare companies. A range of very attractive advertising items were shown, including illustrated envelopes and trade cards.

I suspect few in the audience knew there is one museum in the world dedicated to the umbrella: the Museo Dell 'Ombrello e del Parasol at Gignese in Italy. (One wag in the audience wanted to know whether Mike had visited it on holiday in the rainy season).

Mike had kept his audience fascinated with so many different aspects of his subject, illustrated through stamps, covers (including some wonderful pre-stamp), postmarks, postal stationery, meter marks and postcards. He finished with a delightful flourish by showing some memorabilia, including most beautiful lacquered parasols from Japan, an umbrella-shaped umbrella stand and umbrella-shaped cake stands. None of us will ever take umbrellas for granted again.

### **Margaret Morris *Aspects of Astronomy***

Voted by the Chairman the “the most appropriately dressed attendee” sporting as she was a very smart sweatshirt illustrating our galaxy, Margaret showed material from her extensive collection illustrating particular themes. This included a 2008 issue for the Astronomical Society of Japan, the first philatelic item to feature a demoted Pluto as a dwarf planet; where the sweatshirt still featured it as a full planet. However first up was the oldest aspect of astronomy: neolithic settlements including Stonehenge and the Orkney sites which are thought to measure the calendar year. Various eclipses were shown, Edmund Halley and his eponymous comet, something of the life of William Herschel, the International Year of Astronomy in 2009, and some important observatories.

Margaret demonstrated her research and dedication to detail by showing how even the very small part of a design can be used, such as the Newfoundland 1933 stamp which shows an image of Sir Humphrey Gilbert holding a navigational instrument, taken from his statue in Truro Cathedral. It does need sharp eyes though!

Throughout the display Margaret had picked out errors made by designers or printers. St. Kitts has a stamp celebrating its discovery by Christopher Columbus, showing him searching the night sky with a telescope, a piece of engineering not invented until over a hundred years after his time. The Bayeux tapestry showed Halley’s Comet correctly, but 900 years later Royal Mail managed to produce a commemorative postmark showing the comet shooting straight up in the air like a rocket. After representations from Margaret it was corrected. A GB first day cover from 1970, for the Royal Astronomical Society, adapted the stamp’s design by featuring an indoors view of Herschel and his telescope; an unlikely scene since the telescope was 40 foot long. Sometimes designers are just plain lazy. A GB half sheet has a background of a constellation which Margaret was unable to identify. After some research Royal Mail admitted “it was not a true constellation”.

This was both an entertaining and informative display, finishing with a frame of humorous postcards on the theme of Time. No-one hearing Margaret’s talk will ever again think of astronomy as a dry subject.

### **Jean Alexander *Waterfalls***

A world tour began with a stunning item showing a waterfall: a Tasmania composite essay, one of only two in existence. We were then taken round Europe, including Austria, Belgium, and a personalised stamp with a view of Betws-y-Coed; Africa, including - of course - the Victoria Falls; the Yoro Falls in Japan; the Churchill Falls in Newfoundland, Australasia and the Americas. The display then looked at different aspects of the story: Discoveries, including Livingstone and Stanley; Statistics: did you know that the height of a waterfall can change after particularly high or low rainfall?; Bridges; Boundaries and Tourism. The GB Sherlock Holmes set of 1993 included Holmes and Moriarty tussling at the Reichenbach Falls. At this time Jean was serving on the Stamp Advisory Committee, and the stamp was referred to by the Committee as “Jean’s stamp”.

This amazing display including stamps, covers, postcards, and a huge range of illustrated postal stationery. Somewhat disingenuously Jean described herself as “Not a thematic collector, but an all-world collector, just of waterfalls”. The audience begged to disagree, this was a breathtaking example of just what a dedicated thematic study could encompass.

### **Delegates’ displays**

As well as the guest speakers, an equally important part of the Weekend was the chance for delegates to display their own material: one session of six sheets and three sessions of

twelve sheets. Nearly everybody showed something, and some people managed multiple sessions, so much so that we couldn't quite accommodate everything. I couldn't help thinking that if all members of local societies were just as enthusiastic it would make the life of programme secretaries very much easier. But more importantly it demonstrated, by the interest shown by everybody in the wide range of subjects, the strength of a generalist theme-based society. Regrettably space limitations dictate only an overview can be given here; and the first session of "six sheets one minute" meant there was only time in that session for very brief notes to be taken, so apologies if I've missed things.

#### Crawford Alexander

- Drinks bottle labels featuring illustrations of ships.
- The steamer *PS Ivanhoe* famous as the only teetotal steamer on the Clyde. Despite this when the King of Saxony travelled on it, it is alleged that bottles of wine were found in the medicine cabinet. The first item was an 1893 cachet, perhaps the only one known, followed by advertising timetables, illustrated envelope and postcards.
- Flying boats and the routes they serviced, including BOAC, which bought civilian conversions of Sunderland flying boats in the 1940s. The last British airline operating flying boats was Aquila, which ran a service to Madeira until 1958.
- St. Kilda, an island 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, whose inhabitants were finally evacuated in 1930. In such an isolated community many of the inhabitants couldn't write, so most of the correspondence comes tourists who visited on the cruise ships which stopped there.

#### Jean Alexander

- Post Office greetings cards.
- Philatelic birthday cards from special promotions such as Boots, who started selling packages of cards, envelopes and stamps in 1994. Family members, knowing Jean's interest, took it to its logical extreme by giving her the cards, including Christmas card and Mother's Day card, unopened and in original packaging.

#### Ron Backhouse

- Tennis in wartime, including a 1917 postcard of a prisoner of war playing tennis, Wimbledon bombed in World War II, the Battle of the Tennis Court in India in 1944, and various censor marks. In 1916 Ron's grandfather, in the army at the time, had witnessed a plane being shot down. He rescued one of its propellers and on it painted a scene of battle. This family heirloom was proudly displayed by Ron at the meeting.

#### Erica Banks

- The fight against cancer.
- Krill. Different aspects of the subject including a 1954 card on the economic exploitation of Antarctica, German cancels on research and an Australia/Russia joint stamp issue for mutual research. In the past it was over-exploited, at one point Russia was harvesting 900,000 tons per year, but now limits have been put in place.
- Crabs, including fiddler crab and a study of the robber crab showing aspects of a single issue - overprints, specimens, official use etc, plus signed original artwork and a photograph of the artist signing the work.

#### Pauline Boddy

- From her collection on wine, a pre-stamp cover to a vineyard near Dorking

#### Wendy Buckle

- Writing materials used before the invention of paper. Some of the earliest - and best preserved - were stone and clay. Wood, bark, particularly birch bark, and palm leaves have also been used.
- The alphabet. First devised by the Phoenicians, early alphabets consisted of consonants only. Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Roman and Cyrillic were shown.

#### Grace Davies

- Thankful Villages, i.e. those of World War I where every person who served in the forces came back safely at the end of the war. “Doubly Thankful” are those few villages (13 identified) where the same happened in World War II.
- Artwork for the 2001 British Virgin Islands set commemorating the centenary of the Nobel Prize. Designed by Nick Shewring it showed the process of design from the commissioning letter through to the letter of acceptance.
- Nobel Peace Prize, or rather a snapshot of some peace campaigners who did *not* get awarded it: Albert Einstein, Sophie Scholl, Pablo Picasso, Olof Palme, Ludwig Zamenhof, Eric Gill and Mahatma Gandhi.

#### Jim Etherington

- Selection of postcards from his “1940” theme, including sets on “Britain prepared”, the French artist Maurice Toussaint who had a reputation of military “uniformology” (the study of military uniforms), and some comic French cards.

#### Malcolm Gascoyne

- A collection on coffee houses which Malcolm is considering developing as Open class. The first London coffee house opened in 1652, and coffee houses soon became important sources of information by providing newspapers. A number of different institutions were shown, including the Chapter coffee house, a particular haunt of writers, publishers and booksellers, and the New England coffee house, which set up its own postal service to the USA which undercut Post Office prices. Needless to say the authorities banned the service.

#### Owen Green

- Four subjects that sparked Owen’s initial interest in thematics and stimulated him to write for *Themescene*. The artist Thomas Baines, who went to Africa in the 1850s, was sacked from Livingstone’s expeditionary force and became a war correspondent. The 1989 GB issue for the 150th anniversary of the Royal Microscopical Society. The geologist and Antarctic explorer T. Edgeworth David. The Ediacara rocks in South Australia, which contain some of the earliest fossils known to man.

#### David Griffiths

- Pages from his ‘Dragons’ collection, featuring some which may not immediately come to mind when thinking about this subject. These including early China and Japan covers, the *Leviathan* battleship, naiads (water nymphs), and a fascinating ‘hex’ cover: the stamps arranged in a circle supposedly laying a curse.

#### John Hayward

- The 2014 Tour de France, featuring Isle of Man stamps for Le Grand Départ.

- ‘Fun and Serendipity’ showed a few unusual items such as cachets for wartime motor cycle units and a cancel for the 1921 Allied Boundary Commission. The most unusual item was a Spanish ATM label, one of a set on the history of transport. Normally printed on white paper this example was on grey paper. After much research John discovered that this was due to paper discolouring: most ATMs are housed indoors; a few, located outside, get hot and the temperature inside the machine affects the paper making it change colour.

#### Edith Knight

- Tourist labels and postcards from Majorca.
- Displaying stamps showing the Spanish conquistadors and explaining that she was new to thematics, Edith asked for ideas as to how she could turn her subject into a full thematic collection. (Plenty of people did talk to her afterwards, so hopefully she has a few pointers).
- The Spanish Civil War, where, in modern parlance, countries in Europe declined to put “boots on the ground” but where Germany got involved through bombing raids, and France and the UK patrolled the sea routes. A wide range of material was shown, including covers, postcards, letters, aerogrammes, labels and cigarette cards.

#### Rodney Knight

- Issues of Spanish Guinea written up from a thematic perspective.
- Another newcomer to thematics, Rodney has just started a collection on ‘instantaneous communication’. He has already identified an impressive list including the human voice (sometimes amplified such as megaphones), sign language, semaphore, drums, telephone, telegraph, cable, and right up to date with the Internet. None of these, he noted, used a postal system!
- Postcards of Micklegate Bar, the main gateway into York from the south.

#### Lesley Marley

- *Charles W Morgan* whaling boat. It has a particular link to philately since it was owned by Edward Robinson whose son bought the USA Inverted Jenny.
- Artwork for the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands set which commemorated the one hundredth anniversary of the visit to South Georgia by Captain Anton Larsen, a Norwegian who established the Antarctic whaling industry at Grytviken. Pictures of the *Fortuna* whale catcher, the remains of which can still be seen today on South Georgia, and a complete sheet of stamps featuring Bird Island, just off the western end of South Georgia.

#### Charles Oppenheim

- Patents, i.e. official documents conferring rights. Examples shown included Australian postal stationery, a UK aerogramme for James Watt, advertising covers and a cover from the US Patent Office with the signature of Henry Ellsworth, first Commissioner of the US Patent Office. You may think the concept of protecting your ideas and inventions to be a fair one, but there were well known critics of the British system including Charles Dickens and Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
- A second session included a Mulready with an advertisement for textbooks on patent law, and disputes including the Wright Brothers v. Curtiss (the Inverted Jenny was a Curtiss); and the Singer Sewing Company v. Elias Howe, whose companies finally merged. A US tobacco fiscal in the form of a tax wrapper shows the word ‘patent’.

#### Brian Sole

- Asymmetry, which is to say postmarks such as 9.9.1999, 10.10.2010 and 11.11.2011.
- The 2014 Tour de France, including Isle of Man postcards and presentation pack. Ordered before the event, Brian was able to get GB cancels on the cards for the five stages of the Tour held in Britain. Then PHQ cards with FDCs for the recent GB set on seaside architecture; plus inkjet cancellations for the winners of children's stamp designs for Christmas issues. Why, he asked, does the *British Postmark Bulletin* not feature inkjet cancellations?
- Ship letters including the Ocean Post, from the 1920s when ships that passed one another crossing the Atlantic exchanged mail. Ship Letter telegrams including Christmas and birthday greetings.

#### Barry Stagg

- A mixture of old and new material on parachuting. The early days of barnstorming shows produced daredevil, if not plain crazy, displays where one in three performers were either seriously injured or killed. One survivor was Dolly Shepherd who, among various stunts, in 1905 ascended on a trapeze slung below a hot-air balloon and had to pull a cord to release herself to descend on a parachute. Even as late as World War II the Germans had not developed parachutes which could be steered, causing real problems when their paratroopers landed in the invasion of Crete.

#### Anne Stammers

- Aspects of copper, and copper alloys including malachite, bronze and bell metal, a specific form of bronze.
- A variety of new acquisitions including a cover from Carrara (where the marble comes from), an Argentine cover with a 'Diamante' postmark, a Wells Fargo cover which had carried gold dust, and a cover from Silverton, Colorado.
- Postcards showing the bridges of the Middle Thames from Sonning near Reading to the planned village of Newnham Harcourt near Oxford.
- The 'Big Bang' at the creation of the universe, when rocks and minerals in the earth were formed. Included an 1857 letter from Quartz Reef.

#### Richard Wheeler

- Postcards of puppets, including some that first caught his attention and motivated him to start his collection.
- Postcards purchased in Oxford when attending the first BTA Weekend two years ago, including some humorous ones such as families of pigs enjoying a seaside holiday, complete with Punch and Judy.

#### Peter Weir

- AVIS - The Association of Italian Voluntary Blood Donors - have sponsored over 600 handstamps on an enormous range of themes. Examples shown included featured churches, bridges, maps, transport, sport, mountains, birds and minerals.
- "Don't die of Ignorance" a one-frame exhibit on AIDS. From the virus that causes it, through its first recorded description in the 1970s, developments in treatment, through to the positive outcome for anyone who contracts it today. Chillingly, Peter pointed out that its first recognition predates that of Ebola, but being a virus that badly hit the West, and especially the USA, money was poured into research; unlike Ebola which hit African populations and where there was, until now, relatively little research done.

Peter Wood

- Literary Irishmen including Seamus Heaney, George Bernard Shaw and James Joyce, illustrated by attractive maxi cards using older cards with new issues of stamps and relevant postmarks.
- Irish Hospital Sweepstake. A collection of cinderellas and memorabilia
- Ways to collect the Penny Black. The original stamp (of course) but also as featured on commemorative stamps. Using the security corner letters for your own subject such as a name, e.g. RH for Rowland Hill. Commemorative items often used the impossible letters, which were never used on the issued sheets.

*Pictures follow*

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*Founder members  
l - r: Jean Alexander,  
Brian Sole, Anne  
Stammers, Margaret  
Morris, Erica Banks.*

*Charles (with  
John) winning the  
quiz - and a raffle  
prize*



*Barry and Anne*



*Caution: men at work*



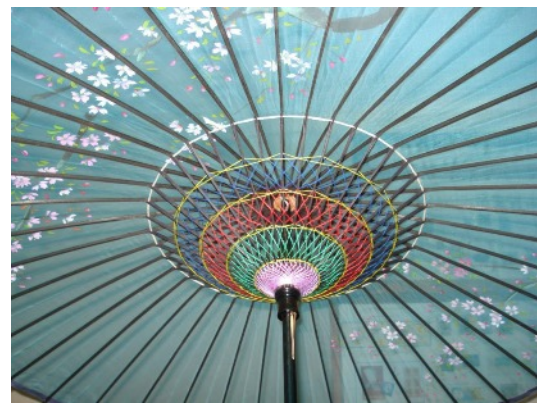
Mike and display



Japanese parasols



1864 entire Rome to Toscanella showing cachet, with umbrella, of the Director General of Stamps, Registry and Mortgage taxes.



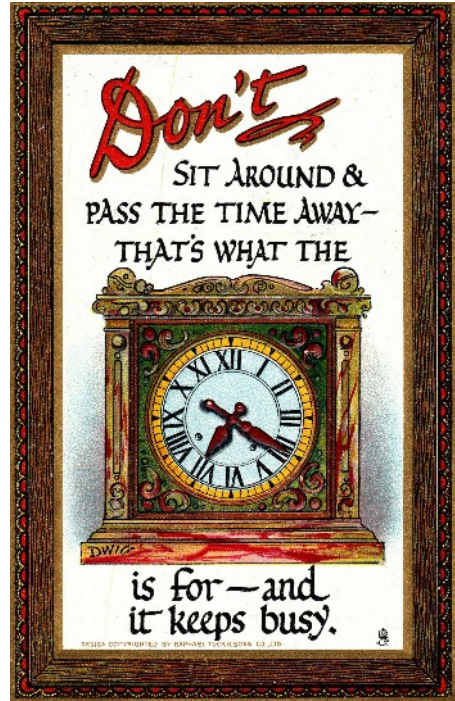
Flying boats from Crawford





Margaret and 'universal' sweatshirt.

Postcard with a message for us all



Sir Humphrey Gilbert: stamp plus enlargement showing his statue at Truro Cathedral holding a navigational instrument.

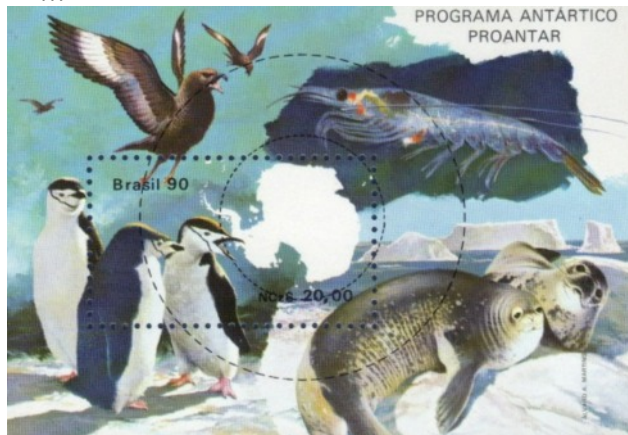


Ron and World War I propeller

Krill



Olof Palme





*Jean and waterfalls from Greece and Micronesia*



*The Alphabet*



*Paintings by Thomas Baines*



*'Hex' cover and Chinese dragon from David*



*Spanish Guinea*

*Whaling at South Georgia*





Henry Ellsworth patent cover



From the high seas

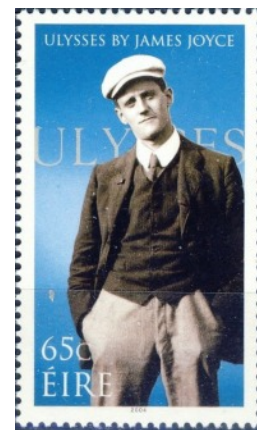


Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company advertisement

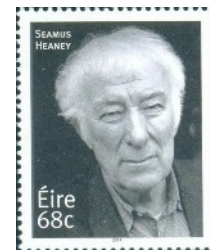
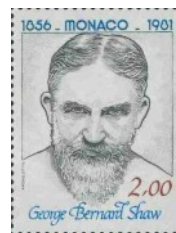
"Don't die of ignorance"



Penny Black with impossible letters



Famous Irishmen: Joyce, Shaw and Heaney



ENIGMA OF THE NAZCA LINES page 117



**BTA COMPETITIONS page 119**



*Graham Boutle and Ron Burn being presented with the Healey & Wise Trophy by Brian Sole*



*International Court of Justice of the UN*



*Fosbery Trophy winner Paul Leonard with Brian Sole*

*Alexei Leonov undertook Russia's first spacewalk in 1980 [from BTA Cup winner display]*



*Health stamps 1933 and 1946*

BACK TO BASICS



*Green for postcards,  
red for internal letters*



*Ruby gemstone*



*Olive for trees, fruit and food*



*Yellow for cowardice, and for jaundice*



*Purple for royalty*



*Mourning black from Belgium and Yugoslavia*



*Silver border, Iran*



*Gold and silver embossing*

*Nice example of error  
of colour: missing red*





# BACK TO BASICS

*Part 3 of John Hayward's series examining the basics of philately and how relevant they can be to thematic collecting*

## **Gum**

Nearly all stamps since 1840 have been printed with some form of adhesive on the reverse. A very few have been printed without gum of some kind, notably China from 1949 to the 1960s where pots of glue were provided in post offices for the public to apply to envelopes to affix the stamps! The most common form of adhesive since 1840 has been gum arabic at least until the 1960s when synthetic adhesives were introduced. So the reverse of a stamp showing glossy gum Arabic can find its way into a thematic collection not just on glue and adhesives, but on languages (Arabic), trees etc. Examples of stamps using the more modern adhesive, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA as it is generally known), would not only be suitable for themes on glue and adhesives, but alcohol too and some of its derivatives. And don't forget taste and themes associated with taste as quite a few modern stamps have been printed with gum tasting of chocolate etc or smelling of something sweet on the reverse.

## **Colour**

I dealt with the colour of the paper on which stamps are printed in Part I of this series (June *Themescene* page 53). Here I am going to cover the colour in which stamps are printed and how relevant that can be to a thematic collection. I do not intend to discuss words describing colour which appear in the postmarks of numerous towns and cities; another article another day perhaps.

Let me start with the basic colours of stamps. From the late 19th Century to the 1960s countries within the Universal Postal Union (UPU) generally adhered to the UPU's regulations regarding the use of certain colours on stamps to denote the postal service being used. This adherence to a specific colour even extended to commemorative stamps. Green was for postcards, red for internal letters and blue for foreign mail. So GB had halfpenny green stamps for postcards, 1d red stamps for internal mail and two and a halfpence blue stamps for foreign mail. If your theme is postal services or the UPU, this feature should be illustrated appropriately.

## **Relevance**

The printed colour of a stamp can be directly relevant to thematic collecting, e.g rose, pink, lilac or violet, for a collection of that particular flower, or indirectly because of the connotations a particular colour may have in the world at large, eg yellow for cowardice, or red or blue for a political persuasion. A very good starting point for direct relevance are the GB Machin definitives and I can do no better than to draw readers' attention to an article in *Stamp Magazine*, June 2014, where one of Jeffery Matthews' colour palettes was featured showing a whole range of named colours used for printing the Machin definitives. In recent years when the sheets of Machins are printed, the name of the colour appears in text in the sheet margin in the specific colour in which the stamp is printed and so "ruby" and "emerald" appear in the margin and collectors of precious stones or jewellery should consider obtaining examples. I will not list all the colours involved, but a few more are worth mentioning such as rust, terracotta, rhododendron, and olive, and you can see


how the thematic connection can be very widespread. Aquamarine does not appear amongst the Machin colours however, but it should not be too difficult to locate a stamp printed in this colour and add it to a precious stones or jewellery collection.

The colour magenta is hugely significant to anyone who collects Red Cross or anything to do with blood. It derives from the battle of Magenta fought in Italy in the mid 19th Century when Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross movement, walked on the battlefield after the battle and was horrified by the numbers of the wounded who needed attention amidst all the bloodshed. Maroon is another colour directly connected with a theme - safety at sea this time. Why not enhance your collection with a stamp of this colour? A current GB Machin definitive will set you back all of 1p! Purple is the colour of majesty and imperial power. It was the colour worn by Roman Emperors and monarchs through the ages. A purple stamp is a must for any collection associated with royalty and power.

Stamps printed in silver or gold are of course directly relevant to thematic collections on precious stones, mining, coins and money. Silver was used to overprint the stamps of Palestine in the 1920s and was also used on the borders of the stamps of Iran in 1926. Many modern stamps have been printed in silver or gold, not always as a gimmick. For instance, Tonga issued stamps in 1967 showing silver and gold coins, and some of Sierra Leone's free-form self-adhesive stamps from 1965 had silver round the edges. Additionally, you will all be aware that GB commemorative stamps have for many years had the Queen's head printed in gold. A few countries take their names from a colour, notably Gold Coast, but do forget Argentina. Argentum is the Latin for silver and Argentina was named as the country of silver.

There are not many stamps printed in the colours white or yellow as they show up details very poorly, but these colours have thematic relevance. White is for purity and yellow not only for cowardice as already mentioned, but also for jaundice. So far as the latter is concerned "jaune" is the French for yellow and you may have seen a very good thematic exhibit entitled "The Colour Yellow" by the BTA's old French friend, Michel Abram, which shows how yellow stamps and other philatelic material can fit into a colour-based theme. Olive and orange of course are linked to fruit and sage to herbs, and would complement such collections.

Green can mean many things. Let's start with inexperienced or envy. Then there is the village green or a bowling green. In addition, green is synonymous nowadays with protecting the environment. Any of these themes could include a stamp printed in green. Blue not only has political connotations, but it has been associated with sadness and with matters risqué for many years. Black is even more significant as it is associated with death and mourning. There are many examples of stamps printed with black margins to signify mourning: Belgium 1935 famously for Queen Astrid and also Yugoslavia 1934 for King Alexander I are illustrated.

Missing colours, caused by printing errors, can add great interest to a thematic collection although they may be rather costly. I have not touched on many colours nor have I particularly mentioned stamps printed in two or more colours, red, white and blue for instance. However, I hope I have suggested enough to readers to start you thinking how you can show a certain coloured stamp in your thematic collection. In the next article I will cover the different types of printing stamps. 

# MY FAVOURITE ITEM


*Charles Oppenheim collects down the pub*

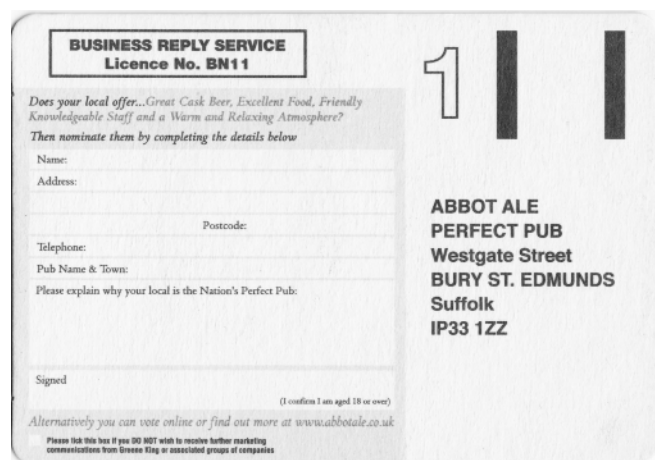
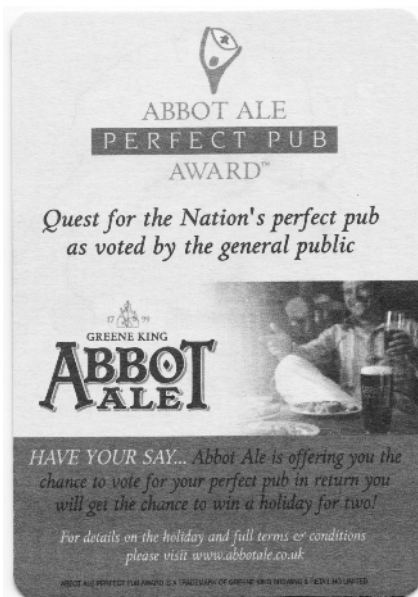
**M**y favourite piece was produced by the thousand and cost me nothing to obtain, yet I doubt many people have got an unused example, and I suspect there are no used examples extant at all. The item would fit nicely into an alcohol-based thematic collection, a religion-based collection, a beer-based collection, a pub-based collection, or (as it does for me) in a chess-based thematic collection.

Starting in 2003, Greene King, the brewers, sponsored the “Abbot Ale Perfect Pub Award”. Members of the public were invited to vote for their favourite pub, and the pubs with the most nominations were then shortlisted and visited by a judge, who had to pick the winners. The winning pub received the award at one of those glittering awards ceremonies with a famous guest compère that we are familiar with. The contact details of one of the people who nominated the winning pub were also drawn and they too won a prize. Entry was free. The last award was made in early 2014, but Greene King no longer sponsors the award. By chance, I visited a pub in 2003 and noticed that instead of the usual beer mats on the tables, scattered around were beer mat invitations to nominate a pub for the award. It’s not often you find a reply-paid postcard on a beer mat, so I picked one up and pocketed it. I regret now not picking up more. The front and reverse can be seen on the illustrations.

So why is it in my chess collection? Because of the word “King” that appears (as part of “Greene King”) once on the address side of the beer mat and twice on the reverse. But of course, the reply-paid beer mat would be even more appropriate for the other themes mentioned at the start of this article.

I suspect the item is unique, or extremely rare because the pubs and Greene King would have destroyed unused examples once the competition for that year closed, and used examples, sent to the Award address, will have been pulped or otherwise destroyed once the competition was decided. I have no idea if the Award is still promoted by means of

reply-paid beer mats, but I recommend you visit your local pub if you want to check. (Well, that’s my excuse.....). 



# HOW I STARTED

*Bill McKinley started young*


I started collecting stamps when I was in primary school. One of my big sisters had a stamp album and I liked to look at it. She gave me some of her doubles and I started a small whole world collection. One of the boys in my class also collected and we swapped stamps. The great thing at that time was to count the number of stamps you had. Our local newsagent used to sell small packets of XLCR stamps for a few coppers, and most of our pocket money went on these. My school friend brought in his father's stamp catalogue. I was amazed. I had never seen anything like this before. We poured over this looking at the value of our stamps. At that time there were three stamp shops in Glasgow - now, sadly, only one. We used to visit these shops on a Saturday morning and spend what little money we had left!

During the Second World War years nothing much happened, though I still kept up my interest. After hostilities ended a stamp collector Mr. W. L. Morton (well known in the Glasgow area) heard that I was interested in stamps and he took me to a meeting of the Bearsden Society. I was hooked! I had never seen stamps mounted on sheets and displayed on boards. I could hardly wait to get started.

Then in 1973 the programme called for members to produce 10 sheets on the letter 'G'. I had never produced a thematic display but decided to have a go. Being an engineer the letter G meant gears or gearwheels. So a display under this heading was born.

Looking back now, my first thematic collection was embarrassing. It included a few stamps and cutouts from engineering magazines and catalogues to illustrate the various types of gearwheel. Margaret Morris and her late husband Edwin took me aside and explained the fundamentals of thematic collecting - and I have never looked back! I have got displays on a number of subjects covering 16, 32, 48 and 64 sheets. I have won the Thematic Rose Bowl at the Scottish Congress a number of times - and I am not over yet!

One of my brothers-in-law was a rubber planter in Malaya before the war and he used to enthral me with tales of life in Malaya. So naturally I collected Malaya. I also started a thematic collection illustrating and describing the harvesting of natural rubber called "Rubber: the Weeping Wood".

During my working life I visited a number of countries and have collections of China, India, Bulgaria etc. I also have collections of Christmas Island and Cocos-Keeling Island, but these are now out of bounds for me as they are in the attic! I now don't put my stamps in the attic but pile them up on the dining room table. Needless to say you have probably guessed that I live alone! 



# HERE AND THERE

## WHAT A HOWLER!

All thematic collectors love a design error, so ‘canal’ or ‘civil engineering’ collectors must be rubbing their hands with glee at the moment. In August Egypt issued a se-tenant strip of three commemorating a new construction project to build a second channel along part of the Suez Canal. Left hand and right hand stamps showed ships and views of the canal, while the centre stamp showed locks. The locks were surrounded by forest. In Egypt? Well no, in fact they had inadvertently used an image of the Panama Canal. A completely new design was hastily issued. Sets of the original very soon appeared on Ebay and Delcampe. Images of both sets are on the inside back page.

## KIDSTAMPS REVEAL TOP TEN FOR YOUNG COLLECTORS

Kidstamps is a free postal club for young stamp collectors aged between 5 and 18. They receive a starter pack containing a selection of items. Then children receive vouchers which they return with a stamp-addressed envelope, in exchange for more stamps, First Day Covers etc. Members advise their collecting interests so that Stamp Active can try to send suitable items. Worldwide stamps remain the top choice but the top ten thematic collecting interests for young collectors are currently:

- |                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Animals                   | 6 Birds     |
| 2 Sport, including Olympics | 7 Cars      |
| 3 Flowers                   | 8 Transport |
| 4 Football                  | 9 Dogs      |
| 5 Space                     | 10 Planes   |

If you know anyone who is interested in joining Kidstamps, you can download an application form from the Stamp Active website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk)

## BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

It may not be convenient to get to London, but did you know the BPMA have an Online Exhibition feature on their website? Currently featuring 26 displays from current or past exhibitions held at the BPMA or external venues, or developed especially for the web, there are some fascinating topics, the latest topical one being “Christmas through the Post”.

## IS IT A BIRD, IS IT A PLANE?

Or maybe it’s the latest in ‘postal’ delivery systems. In December 2013 Amazon started research in Seattle to develop Prime Air, a method of delivering small packages by drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), which aims to get items up to 5kg weight into customers hands within 30 minutes of placing their order. Another research centre has now opened in the UK in Cambridge. Amazon claims this service may be operational as soon as 2015. The only drawback is that the drone lands in your garden, so flat-dwellers may miss out.

But the real question for stamp collectors is: will there be special delivery labels to collect?

If you want to follow the story go to their website at:

[www.amazon.com/b?node=8037720011](http://www.amazon.com/b?node=8037720011)

# BTA PROGRAMME 2015

- February 18th - 21st    Spring Stampex  
National Competitions - all classes  
Business Design Centre, London, N1 0QH  
*No BTA meeting*
- May 13th - 16th        London 2015  
BTA and affiliated societies stand throughout the show  
International competitions in 9 classes  
Business Design Centre, London, N1 0QH  
[www.london2015.net/](http://www.london2015.net/)
- May 15th**            **BTA Meeting at London 2015: guest speaker Rudolf Spieler**  
Rudolf Spieler from Salzburg, Austria, has honoured us by accepting an invitation to give a talk at London 2015. The talk will be his international award winning "AAA, All About Automobiles". The talk and display has won several international honours including a large gold at the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition with a score of 95.  
Rudolf, with his good English, deep knowledge of his subject and smooth delivery, will entertain fellow collectors. It will be a talk that every thematic collector, whatever your interest, can appreciate, while gaining some knowledge and tips to improve your own collection.  
The display will be at 10.30, and there will be a £5 entry fee to help defray costs
- June 13th              Annual General Meeting  
Guest speaker. BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive  
*At:* Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College  
Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
- July 4th                Midpex  
Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa  
<http://midpex.wordpress.com/>  
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive
- Dates to be confirmed*    Autumn Stampex. *No meeting*
- October 10th          BTA Competitions:  
Fosbery Trophy. 16 sheets. NO rules  
BTA Cup. 32 sheets, judges to National standards.  
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive  
*At:* South of England Stamp Fair  
Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL  
[www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South\\_of\\_England\\_Stamp\\_Fair.php](http://www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php)

## BTA COMMITTEE

<b>Patron</b>	Brian Sole	brian.sole@btinternet.com
<b>President</b>	Wendy Buckle	wendybuckle@btinternet.com
<b>Chairman</b>	Barry Stagg	bastagg@btinternet.com
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Jim Etherington	jespeth@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne Stammers	annies1@btopenworld.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Wood	peter.wood95@btinternet.com
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Peter Denly	peter.denly@uwclub.net
<b>Editor</b>	Wendy Buckle	wendybuckle@btinternet.com
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Brian Sole	brian.sole@btinternet.com
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Mike Blackman	mblackmanwpi@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Displays Organiser</b>	Gerald Lovell	fdc.silverstone@tesco.net
<b>F.I.P. Coordinator</b>	Lesley Marley	lesley.marley@ntlworld.com
<b>Committee members</b>	Charles Oppenheim	c.oppenheim@btinternet.com
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# 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](http://www.astrospacestampsociety.com)

## 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

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



# OBITUARY: TOM WILSON

**THOMAS HAROLD WILSON 04 December 1915 - 19 February 2014**

Tom was born in Kennington, South London, attended Battersea Grammar School and qualified as a pharmacist (his father's profession) in April 1937. He married Sonia on Boxing Day 1939. During World War II Tom served with the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps) in Field Hospitals in Baghdad and Ceylon. After the War he moved to Kennington near Ashford in Kent, where his two children were born, Robert in 1947 and Valerie in 1953.

Not surprisingly, Tom's collecting interest was medicine. He set up a correspondence club for collectors interested in the theme of medical philately in 1982. Tom became the first Editor of the Club's journal *Meditheme* when the club formed, and held that post through to May 1999. He was also the Club Secretary from 1982 until his death in 2014. In addition Tom was a prolific writer of thematic articles on medical matters. Many articles were printed and reprinted worldwide.

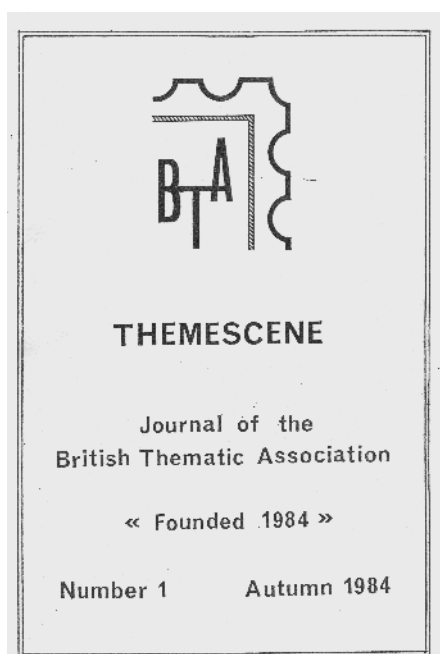
Following the formation of the BTA in March 1984, Tom volunteered to be the first Editor of our journal, *Themescene*. Francesca Rapkin had been elected Chairman of the new Group but Tom was unable to attend her first committee meeting. As Francesca was anxious to push ahead with a journal, an outline of the contents of each issue was agreed at the meeting. I was Assistant Secretary and was asked to communicate the committee's requirements to Tom. I recall that I met Tom at a village pub on a sunny day, roughly halfway between our homes in Surrey and Kent. It was a productive meeting and Tom proceeded to prepare the first issue of *Themescene* in October 1984 and Issue No. 2 in April 1985. There was however a change of editorship later in 1985. Tom had used his

trusty typewriter to produce the copy for the first two issues but Margaret Morris, the Secretary at the time, had begun using a word processor. Francesca considered that the word processor should be used to produce the journal and arranged a shuffle of duties. Margaret was appointed Editor, Tom became Assistant Secretary and I became Secretary. Tom continued as Assistant Secretary until 1987.

John Fosbery organised the first "Thematica" exhibition in May 1987 at Carisbrooke Hall and Tom Wilson occupied a table representing the Medical Philatelic Study Group. When Maurice Gale took over the organisation of the Dealers at "Thematica" the BTA became responsible for all collector activities in a separate hall, along a corridor from Carisbrooke Hall. All the thematic groups within the BTA were offered a table in the Collectors Hall and for many years Tom was a familiar figure at the Medical Philatelic Study Group table.

My memory of Tom is of a quiet friendly man, always willing to help, with a wide knowledge and passionate interest in medical philately.

Brian Sole



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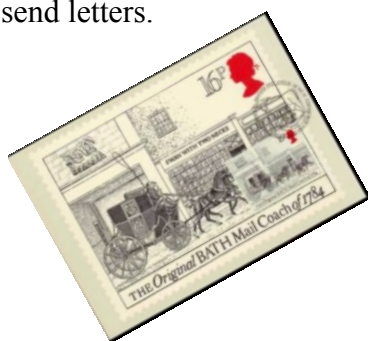


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*Erene was 2012 national winner of the Marsh Trust Volunteers for Museum Learning Award*

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## **Animals**

- 4 Shuker, K. Dead as the dodo Stamp Magazine 4/2002

## **Archaeology**

- 3 Swanston, A. Buried Treasure (Tutankhamun) Stamp Magazine 11/2002

## **Architects**

- 2 Mackay, J. Death of an architect (Stafford White) Stamp Magazine 6/2006

## **Bicycles**

- 3 Lewis, K. On your bike! Australian Bicycle Couriers 1894-97 Stamp Magazine 7/2012

## **Charles Darwin**

- 2 Wood, E. Thematic Evolution (Charles Darwin) Stamp Magazine 8/2003

## **Circus**

- 2 Forster, K. The Big Top Stamp Magazine 4/2002

## **Crimean War**

- 4 Goldsmith, B. A Pointless War Stamp Magazine 10/2004

## **Ecology**

- 5 Mackay, J. Greenpeace Stamp Magazine 4/1999

## **Espionage**

- 4 Dugdale, J. Licensed to kill Stamp Magazine 1/2008

## **Fashion**

- 2 Backhouse, R. The long and shorts of it British Philatelic Bulletin, 9/2013

## **Flags**

- 5 Goldsmith, B. Flying the Flag Stamp Magazine 5/2006

## **Folklore**

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*Much more in next issue*

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*Suez Canal original, and corrected*



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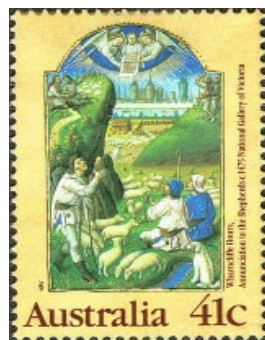
## THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE GOSPELS

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Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and . . . said to them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; . . . you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.



Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.

