

# THEMESCENE

June 2015

*In this issue we:*

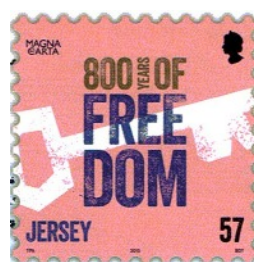
*View everything in sight!*

**Europhilex Stamp Exhibition  
London 2015**



*Take a perilous journey*

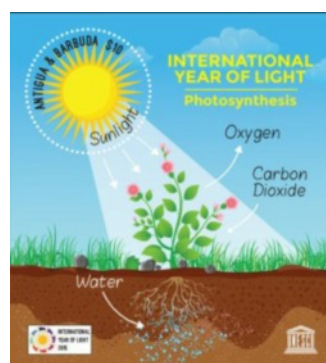
**Amundsen's Northeast Passage  
With Richard Hindle**



*Remember an important anniversary*

**Magna Carta**

*With Wendy Buckle*



*Encourage light-based technologies*

**2015: the UN Year of Light**

*With Owen Green*

**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**

**Volume 32, No.2. Whole Number 119**

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*Lesley, Jim and Peter enjoying the occasion*

**LONDON 2015**



*Chairman, Editor, Thematic Commissioner, Secretary and friends relaxing after a long day*

# THEMESCENE

Vol.31, No.3, Whole Number 119

JUNE 2015

## THEMESCENE

Journal of the  
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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

If this issue of *Themescene* arrives on your doormat a little late it is because I wanted to include our reports on London 2015, which I felt deserved one of our forays into a colour centre spread. With a BTA Table to help staff, seminars, demonstrations and meetings to go to, and the amazing competitive exhibits to see, not to mention well over 100 dealers, I did come home feeling rather tired! From the BTA perspective it was very successful. We shared our table with two of our affiliated societies: the Bicycle Stamp Club and the Masonic Philatelic Club. Thanks to them for their support, and their help in staffing the table when we were absent. It was well worth having a table. The society tables were all located together on the mezzanine floor adjacent to the dealers so there was plenty of passing 'trade'. We did well on sales of publications and signed up new members, as well as hand out plenty of application forms and talked to people about the benefits of belonging to the BTA. We also held a meeting, open to members and non-members (page 50) which was very well attended - well over 30 people, and from unscientific observation I would say one of the best attended public meetings in the show.

The event programme included twelve seminars open to everyone. I didn't get to as many as I would have liked, but notes from two of them are written up on page 58. Of course I spent time looking at the exhibits, it was just a shame the lighting needed to be better; I overheard several jokes about miner's lamps. As you would expect, there were fabulous entries in all classes, and I found myself rapidly taking notes from a few entries in my collecting areas (it's called "research"). BTA members did exceptionally well in the Thematic and Open classes (see page 51).

I suspect everyone who attended London 2015 made a bee-line for the *Philatelic Events That Changed the World* display, sponsored by the Club de Monte-Carlo. This was widely previewed in the philatelic press so needs no explanation here; suffice to say that it was staggering, from an 800 year old document to a cover taken on the first moon landing, 20 major events were displayed and explained. The Club de Monte-Carlo also sponsored a 38 page full colour catalogue of the display which in itself makes a lovely souvenir.

Regular demonstrations of the Sperati Press by a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London also attracted much interest. Since one of my thematic areas is 'printing' I could not miss this. The press itself is very small, and it's hardly surprising that only a few copies of any specific stamp were produced since it was a very labour-intensive operation. What I found fascinating was the extraordinary skill Sperati employed to make his forgeries. He was a true artist - even if he did go over to the 'dark side'.


But all things come to an end, and now we are back to the day-to-day. June 13th sees our AGM, and we would love to see as many as possible of you there (page 45). Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange a guest speaker this year, so following the formal business there will be a members' display of 12 sheets / 5 minutes. Please come along and bring a something with you. (If you really don't want to talk, 12 sheets and 0 minutes is acceptable!). Before the formal business two important presentations will take place:

*Continued on next page*

# CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Barry Stagg

## LET'S TELL A STORY


**T**hematic collectors, philatelic or postcards, are an interesting group of people! What stories we can tell. Stories based upon great knowledge and a lot of passion for the topic. Non-thematic collectors are always interested to hear about our topic, be it a collection on birds, or whales, or archery. My colleagues at work are more than aware of what I collect! Only last week I shared a car with my boss for four hours and we had a long talk about postcards, in my case postcards with parachutes on them. He was interested and asked many questions and now he is searching for material to support his interest in the London regiments during World War I. And a few months ago I was talking about postcards to one of my colleagues and next day she brought in twenty or so lovely postcards of Portland to show me. All about lighthouses and prisons. She certainly knew her topic and was clearly very pleased to find somebody with a similar interest. Every week I hear somebody telling me that 'stamp collecting' is dying but based upon my experience I would say that philatelic collecting has changed. There is interest in people who can tell a story, particularly if it is highlighting some aspect of social history. And postcards can support this interest. Genealogists and social commentators are starting to see a lot of value in what we know as Thematic (and its close cousin Open) collecting. Genealogists, as an example, see postcards as an important source of information. So, I would ask all of you to challenge this concept that 'stamp-collecting' is dead. And I would ask you to talk about your collection at every opportunity, as not only will you find others with a similar interest but everybody loves a good story. 

*Editorial. Continued from previous page*

- John Hayward will be presented with a certificate awarding him Life Membership of the BTA. Only a very few people have been given this, and as with his predecessors it is in acknowledgment for the outstanding service he has given the BTA over many years.
- Steven Cross will receive the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl, awarded each year to the author who in the opinion of the Committee has written the most enjoyable article in *Themescene* the previous year. Steve's article was *A History of the Fictional Detective*. John Hayward's series *Back to Basics* and Raymond Ireson's article *The Royal Grand Commonwealth Tour* came a joint second in the voting.

I am sorry to have to announce the death of one of our members: John Mackenzie. I am very pleased to welcome four new members:

Mr. S. Gerrard      Southampton  
Mr. S. Hogg          Market Rasen  
Mrs. S. Thatcher    Shrewsbury  
Rev. J. Tollan        Caroliner Springs, Australia

We hope you will find your membership rewarding, and look forward to seeing you at meetings where possible. 

# AMUNDSEN'S NORTHEAST PASSAGE EXPEDITION 1918-23

*Richard A. Hindle goes North*

## Contents

1. The story of the Expedition.
2. The Postcards. (To be published in *Themescene* September 2015)
3. The North Star Air Post Mail. (To be published in *Themescene* December 2015)

## 1. Story of the Expedition

Landing in Tasmania after attaining the South Pole in 1912, Roald Amundsen turned his attention to the idea of traversing the Northeast Passage in both directions using the ship the *Fram* (=Forward), which had been used by Fridtjof Nansen in 1893 in an attempt to reach the North Pole using the movement of the icecap, and then by Amundsen to Antarctica in 1910. (Fig. 1)

The designer of the *Fram*, Colin Archer, had hit upon the idea of preventing a ship trapped in the ice from being crushed by enabling it to “pop up like a cork in water”, enabling it to withstand the rigours of a polar winter.



*Amundsen  
and Archer*

Amundsen's brother, Leon, suggested that stamp collectors could be a useful source of revenue to help fund the expedition. Postcards were printed indicating they would be carried by the *Fram* across the Polar Sea and then conveyed by post to the addressee.



Five cards were put on sale in 1913. Amundsen needed to take the *Fram* to the West Coast of America so that he could find out what repair and other facilities were available. In doing so the *Fram* would become one of the first ships to sail through the Panama Canal. This card is dated 12/3/13, the American date format for 3rd December 1913. The canal was not officially opened until 15th August 1914; the first crossing being made on

7th January 1914. The card was not stamped and was taxed. The pre-cancel stamps indicate receipt of payment for the Postage Due.

Unfortunately for Amundsen, the First World War interrupted his plans. With Norway being



a neutral country there was a big demand for shipping. Amundsen invested in shipping and became a krone-millionaire. Before the end of the war he revived his plans for the expedition. The *Fram* was no longer seaworthy but with his fortune he was able to build a new vessel, the *Maud*, named after the Queen of Denmark. She was built by Christian Jensen at Asker, near Oslo and launched on 7th June 1917. Initially Amundsen was able to afford the 300,000 kr estimate, but inflation due to the war more than doubled the cost.

With the war still raging, Amundsen could not sail across the oceans to the Bering Straits, believed to be the best place to depart for drifting to the Pole, so he had to traverse the Northeast Passage along the Russian coastline.

Despite being one of the best equipped geophysical expeditions to go into the Arctic, the *Maud* only had a crew of nine: Leader Roald Amundsen; Master Helmer Hanssen; Mate Oscar Wisting; Meteorologist and Oceanographer and Leader of the Scientific Team Harald Ulrik Sverdrup; Chief Engineer Knut Sundbeck; Sail-maker Martin Rønne; Second Engineer Paul Knudsen; Carpenter Peter Tessem; Seaman E. Tønnesen. The Radio Operator and Engineer who replaced Knudsen, Genadi Olonkin, joined the expedition in the Yugor Strait. As well as its onboard postal facilities for servicing the mail, the ship carried oceanographic, meteorological and earth magnetism measuring instruments; a lot of equipment for such a small expedition.

In July 1918, the *Maud* left Vardö, Norway, headed east past North Cape into the Arctic Ocean. The route between the Barents and Kara Seas was through the Yugor Straits (between



Vaygach Island and the mainland). Near Cape Chelyuskin (September 1919), Tessem and Knudsen were left behind with instructions to wait until the sea froze then sledge to Dikson and deliver the expedition's scientific readings along with the expedition mail. The two were never seen alive again. A Soviet-Norwegian search expedition in 1921 discovered evidence that they had passed through Mys Vil'da (=Cape Vilda, Taymyr Peninsula, Kara Sea). Later they found the remains of a campfire with charred bones near Poluostrov Mikhaylova.

It is thought that one of the men died and was cremated. The body of the other was never found. The mail and scientific data were recovered.

The *Maud* continued eastwards, finding the ice worse than usual and was forced to use a passage between ice and land. Having spent a second winter in the ice, the *Maud* was free on 6th July 1920 and arrived in Nome, Alaska on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Only three men, Wisting, Sverdrup and Olonkin, were prepared to undertake the return journey. They intended to employ the native Chukchi to bring the boat back. However severe ice delayed her arrival until 1st September 1920, by which time her propellers had broken and she was again frozen in. She would not be released from the icy grip until 1st July 1921. The US Coastguard cutter *Bear* towed her to St. Lawrence Island and she then made her own way to Seattle. Amundsen returned to Norway leaving the *Maud* under Wisting's command.


The damage was so severe it would take nine months to repair the *Maud*. Amundsen returned to Norway and continued to raise money for the expedition by giving lectures. During this time period, he conceived the idea to add a new dimension to his quest for the North Pole. He was going to take two aeroplanes to the Arctic on board the *Maud*. On his return he brought with him Finn Malmgren, a Swedish meteorologist, and Oscar Omdahl and Odd Dahl, both pilots. He informed them that he intended to fly from Point Barrow, Alaska, over the North Pole and land at Cape Columbia in Greenland. The *Maud* was also to be returned to the Arctic and allowed to drift over the North Pole. He was lent the *Elisabeth* and the *Kristine*, a Curtis Oriole bi-plane, to accompany the *Maud* for short exploratory flights and bought a Junkers F13 for the flight to Greenland. The planes were named after his lover, Kristine Elisabeth Bennett. Amundsen certainly knew how to flatter her!

Both of these ideas appeared to have some merit; however, they proved to be complete and utter failures.

A heavily overladen *Maud* sailed from Seattle on 3rd June 1922 heading for the Bering Straits. A few trial flights were carried out in Seattle, Nome, Wainwright and Point Barrow. Rather than fly the *Maud* to Point Barrow, Amundsen and his pilot Omdahl were given a passage on the trading schooner *Holmes*. The weather conditions were unsuitable for flying and they had to walk the 500 miles (800 km) back to Wainwright in Kotzebue Sound. (Hubert Wilkins and Ben Eielson claimed the honour of this pioneering flight in 1928 when they flew from Point Barrow to Spitsbergen. However they followed the lines of latitude flying west to east avoiding the North Pole.)

Wisting then attempted to undertake the return journey into the Arctic ice. Throughout 1922-23 the *Maud* drifted erratically on a north-westerly course. By September 1923 she was close to the De Long Islands. Wisting received a telegram from Amundsen instructing him to take the *Maud* out of the ice. He eventually reached open water on 4th August 1924 and returned to Seattle via the Bering Straits on 5th October 1925.

The expedition bankrupted Amundsen, and the *Maud* was sold to the Hudson Bay Company, who renamed her *Baymaud*. She developed a bad leak and sank at her berth in Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories (now Nunavut) in 1930. Some of her main timbers have been plundered to make supports for houses and others burnt. It is hoped that the *Maud* can be salvaged. "The Maud Returns Home" has been set up to raise funds to enable an attempt to raise her and bring her back to Norway. See [www.maudreturnshome.no/](http://www.maudreturnshome.no/).

*A detailed study of the postcards will be published in September Themescene* 

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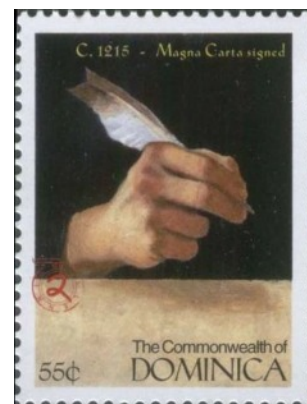
# MAGNA CARTA

*Wendy Buckle demands justice*

In June 1215 King John I of England put his seal to 'Magna Carta' or the 'Great Charter', setting in motion one of the most potent symbols of freedom ever to echo down the ages. No-one at the time could have foreseen its influence, least of all King John, who was confident (correctly) that the Charter would immediately be annulled by the Pope. But the principles of the administration of justice as set down at Runnymede have been invoked ever since.



King John had acceded to the throne in 1199. Fighting in France, he lost the Duchy of Normandy in 1204 and spent the rest of his reign trying to recapture that and other French territories. These military campaigns were financed by extortionately high taxation in England and the seizing of baronial estates. Rebellion was met with summary imprisonment. The English barons sought a charter of liberties to defend themselves against the king, and John eventually opened negotiations at Runnymede on 10 June 1215. Many copies of the agreed document were made by scribes and distributed across the country, but only four survive: two in the British Library, and one each at Lincoln and Salisbury Cathedrals. John had agreed to the demands partly because he was confident that Pope Innocent III, his feudal overlord, would never agree to the charter's restrictions on royal authority; and on 24 August 1215 a papal bull was issued declaring the charter null and void.



Within months of the papal bull civil war broke out in England. In October 1216 King John died and was succeeded by his nine year old son King Henry III. To get the baron's

support for the young king revised versions of Magna Carta were issued in 1216 and 1217, and King Henry issued his own version in 1255. Medieval kings continued to affirm its principles and King Edward I added it to the statute roll in 1297.

The original charter was nothing like a great bill of rights. It applied to ‘free men’ who were a minority of the population. Much of it dealt with the regulation of the feudal system and operation of the justice system. It had clauses on towns and trade, regulation of the royal forests, debt, and the role of the Church. Of the original 63 clauses only three remain on the statute book, covering the freedom of the English Church, the ‘ancient liberties’ of the City of London, and perhaps most famously clause 39:


“No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice”

In other words the right to justice and a fair trial.

But if most of it has passed out of law why is it so famous and influential? When Sir Edward Coke drew up the Petition of Right in 1628 which limited the authority of King Charles I he drew on what he saw as its guarantee of individual liberties; and Magna Carta was quoted by both prosecution and defence at the King’s trial in 1649. Its principles were exported to North America and parts of it were embedded in the laws of several American colonies. Magna Carta greatly influenced Thomas Jefferson in his drafting of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. There are echoes of the Charter in the United States Bill of Rights of 1791. Back home, by the nineteenth century it was becoming a household name, and inspired the Chartist movement in their campaign to extend the right to vote. By the twentieth century it was being used both to justify British imperial colonialism in the guise of spreading ‘civilisation’ across the world, and equally was invoked by those who objected to British rule and colonial subjects who appealed for recognition of their rights. It has inspired drafters of modern documents including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1953). Its enduring impact was perhaps best summed up by Chief Justice Lord Bingham (died 2010):

“The significance of Magna Carta lay not only in what is actually said, but in what later generations claimed and believed it had said”.

### Acknowledgement

This text is largely based on *Magna Carta: an introduction* British Library website [www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-an-introduction](http://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-an-introduction) , and on the current exhibition at the British Library. 



## AGENDA

**For the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association to be held on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 2.30 p.m. at Swinpex at St Joseph's Catholic College, Octal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting published in Themescene September 2014
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

6. Election of Officers

The following Officers have been nominated or are willing to stand for re-election:

Barry Stagg	Chairman
Jim Etherington	Vice Chairman
Anne Stammers	Secretary
Peter Wood	Treasurer

7. Election of Committee members

The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Peter Denly	Membership Secretary
Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor Themescene
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising Manager
Currently	Gerald Lovell	Displays Organiser
Currently	Brian Sole FRPSL	Publicity Officer
Currently	Charles Oppenheim	Committee member

Lesley Marley                      FIP Representative

a co-opted member of the committee and willing to continue as such.

8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of :

Ron Backhouse	Librarian
Grahame Boutle	Examiner

9. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by June 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 or will be taken from the floor

The meeting will be followed by 'Members Displays' with each member being allowed up to a maximum of 12 sheets.

Signed: *M. Anne Stammers* (Hon. Secretary)    dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

<b>2013</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2014</b>
3,102	Subscriptions	3,231
310	Donations	277
90	Sales of donated items	12
119	CD net income	105
0	Weekend	759
27	Other income (incl.sales of Themescene binders)	10
<u>3</u>	Bank Interest	<u>3</u>
<u>3,651</u>		<u>4,397</u>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
2,582	"Themescene" - Printing and distribution expenses	2,140
-309	less : Advertising Income (net)	<u>-200</u>
563	Meetings ( incl. AGM)	73
150	BTA Cup expenses	338
-45	less : entry fees	<u>-45</u>
330	Committee Meeting expenses	105
86	Publicity and Web Site	60
0	STAMPEX	112
86	Loss on auction	0
119	Insurance	121
217	Affiliations	219
268	Administration expenses	176
<u>0</u>	Sundry expenses	<u>0</u>
4,047		3,099
0	Weekend surplus transferred to Weekend Events Reserve	759
<u>-396</u>	SURPLUS (Deficit 2013)	<u>539</u>
3,651		4,397
	<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014</b>	
	<b>Accumulated fund</b>	
5,818	Balance at 1.1.2014	5,422
0	Weekend Events Reserve	759
<u>-396</u>	add : Surplus for the year	<u>539</u>
5,422		6,720
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	4,890
1,062	Current Account	2,888
142	Stock of Binders	132
360	Amounts due and Payments in advance	360
6,454		8,270
-153	less: Subs Received in advance	-866
<u>-879</u>	less Amounts due or Received in advance	<u>-684</u>
<u>5,422</u>		<u>6,720</u>

Hon. Treasurer P. J. Wood

Hon. Examiner G. C. Boutle

# BACK TO BASICS

*John Hayward concludes his series of articles with overprints and surcharges and their relevance to thematic collecting*

## OVERPRINTS

Stamps have been overprinted almost from their commencement in 1840. There are a multitude of reasons in the last 175 years for overprinting stamps. I will look at the most common reasons like a country's first stamp issue, the occupation of another country by military conquest, change of a country's name, special events, particular postal services, etc and a few of the more obscure reasons for an overprint.

### First Issues

Many countries, especially in the 19th century, were part of a European country's former empire and when they started issuing stamps the European country's stamps were often overprinted. So we have Great Britain's stamps overprinted for Cyprus, Oil Rivers and Zululand; France's stamps overprinted for Algeria, Reunion and Indo-China; and Spain's overprinted for Cuba. These are all relevant to thematic collections on each country's development or the former British, French and Spanish empires. also the Oil Rivers overprints for the British Protectorate in Nigeria are extremely apt for collections on energy, oil, petroleum etc. Later in the 20th century British stamps were overprinted as the first issues for various protectorates in the Arabian Gulf, e.g. Qatar and Bahrain.

There is one very odd overprint for the first issue of Gibraltar where the stamps of Bermuda were used. Why Bermuda? Why not Great Britain? Apparently, there were not enough British stamps of the right value around in 1885, but there were of Bermuda – a colony 2,000 miles away – so they were used. I am at a loss to discern which thematic collection the Bermudan overprints would enhance and would appreciate suggestions from readers.

### Military Conquest

Military conquest of another country has not only been acknowledged in overprinted stamps of the conquering country during and following World War I and World War II. This is a feature of parts of Europe in the 19th century also. At the end of World War I as part of the Treaty of Versailles various territories that had been part of the German Empire, but which had not been fought over, were formally handed over to the victors as part of the war reparations. Thus Nauru was handed to Great Britain and part of Samoa to the USA. Overprinted stamps of Great Britain and the USA for these islands are therefore relevant to any collection regarding the legacy of World War I.

### Change of Name and Independence

Quite a number of countries have changed their name since they first issued stamps – we can recall former British colonies changing their name on gaining independence, but most of the stamps bearing their new name were prepared in advance to issue on independence. Not so with some former French colonies though. Upper Volta became Burkina Faso, Dahomey became Benin and the French Territory of the Affairs and Issas once again became Djibouti. The new countries' first issue had their names overprinted on the former countries' stamps. Such stamps would fit well into collections on the development of those countries or Africa or perhaps the "*winds of change blowing through Africa*".

When parts of countries are granted independence it is quite common for the stamps of the larger country to be overprinted for the first issue of the new country. Examples of this are the first Irish issues on British definitives, Burma and Pakistan on Indian definitives, and Ukraine on USSR. Similarly part of a country may be ceded peacefully to another country permanently or for a number of years. Panama's stamps were thus overprinted 'Canal Zone' and such stamps could appear in collections on the Panama Canal, waterways generally and international trade.

### **Special Events**

This is the area of overprints that will probably interest thematic collectors the most. The number of overprints for special events is too numerous to go into them all here. Let me mention a few. Independence again and independence/national days are often celebrated with overprints on stamps. Exhibitions and fairs, especially large international ones, are often recorded on overprinted stamps. Sporting events of all descriptions are common too. Perhaps the Olympic Games is most prevalent. I particularly like the German set of 1939 commemorating the Berlin International Motor Show which was overprinted 'Nurburgring-Rennen' for the German Grand Prix. Even the death of a well known person has been recorded by overprinting, such as the Pope on stamps of Vatican City. If your theme involves a special event of any description you need to look out for overprinted stamps commemorating such events.

### **Particular Postal Services**

Instead of printing a special stamp for a particular postal service, many countries have resorted to overprinting stamps for such use. Registered, express delivery, airmail, parcel post services have all featured as overprints worldwide and fit well not just in collections of postal services, but also in any concerned with a particular form of transport, e.g. Zeppelin mail in a thematic collection on airships or balloons.

### **SURCHARGES**

Surcharges are of course another version of overprints on stamps. Here I am going to concentrate on the change in face value of a stamp rendered by a surcharge and how it can be relevant to a thematic collection. The reason for the surcharge may be for a change in currency or postage rates, shortage of particular values, or special usage such as raising money for war, charity or disaster relief. Changes in a country's currency have often been dealt with by surcharging stamps. Changes in postal rates have also been met with surcharges on stamps, frequently because the change was imminent and stamps with the new values could not be printed in time. One of the most common forms of surcharging has occurred in the past where rampant inflation has changed postal rates almost every day! We are all familiar with German stamps surcharged in the 1920s with massive increases in value, but do not forget Hungary experienced massive inflation in the 1930s and then China in the 1940s. Examples of such stamps, especially on cover showing their actual use, could be included in a thematic collection on money, currency, or banking and more besides.

### **Shortages**

One of the best known examples of a surcharge comes from the Faroe Islands during World War II. The islands used Danish stamps, but the supply of 2 ore stamps ran out and it was not possible to order any more from Denmark as it was occupied by Germany. So other

stamps were surcharged '2' locally, it is rumoured with the carved end of a chair leg. Examples are none too easy to find and would grace any thematic collection on World War II hardships and even furniture!

One of the oddest surcharges appears on the 3d and 6d stamps of Great Britain in 1883. These stamps were surcharged in red 3d and 6d respectively, which happened to be the face value of the stamps in the first place! The reason for the surcharge was that post office sorting staff were unable to see clearly in dingy candlelit premises the face value of the stamps concerned to check if the correct postage rate was paid. Hence the surcharge in red to make them more visible. Either or both of these stamps, preferably used on cover (expensive), would be most relevant to a collection on postal services, candles, and social working conditions in Victorian times.

Surcharging to raise funds for wars is quite common. War tax surcharges appear on the lower value stamps during World War I of nearly all British Empire countries. Raising funds for charities has often been effected by surcharging stamps. Many of the Spanish speaking countries of Central and South America have surcharged their stamps 'Habilitada' and an additional value to raise money to improve health in the country. If you collect Red Cross, Disabled, Tuberculosis etc, these stamps are also a must for your collection. Most poignant are surcharges made to fund large disasters – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, floods etc.



The collecting themes here are too numerous to mention, but examples of these surcharges are relevant to such collections.

Surcharging postage due stamps to make them valid for normal postage is not that common. Italy and Monaco did this, the latter on a beautifully printed se-tenant set in 1956. Examples would fit in a postal services or postage due collection.

### **Errors and Varieties**

These exist in abundance for overprints and surcharges. Missing overprints are highly valued and should be collected se-tenant with the correctly overprinted version. Printing variations, either positional, double or upside down, are also eminently collectible and if collected should also be se-tenant with a correctly overprinted stamp.

### **Postal Stationery and Booklets**

Finally, don't forget that overprinted or surcharged postal stationery and booklets can be relevant to a thematic collection. Postal stationery that has been overprinted or surcharged abounds worldwide and has been issued for very much the same reasons I have mentioned for stamps. Of relevance here are the BLP overprints on Italian stamps in the early 1920s. These are for the 'Busta Lettera Postale' service solely printed for use on special advertising postal stationery at a discount with surplus funds going towards disabled soldiers. BLP overprints are therefore relevant to World War I, war charities, or disabled soldiers collections.

I hope this series of articles has given you some avenues to explore as a means to enhancing your thematic collections. 📖

*Illustrations to this article are on the inside back cover.*

# AAA: ALL ABOUT AUTOMOBILES

*Wendy Buckle admires our London 2015 guest presentation*

This was London 2015 with the Europhilex Stamp Exhibition, the first international in the UK for five years. If the BTA was going to hold a meeting we needed a stunning speaker. And we got one. Rudolf Spieler from Salzburg kindly came over to show us *AAA: All About Automobiles* which won a Large Gold at the London 2010 International. A collector for 35 years Rudolf explained that space limitations meant he could only bring the first four chapters out of the total seven. He outlined the thinking underlying his exhibit: the story of the car envisaged as a human being, a collection rewritten after its previous title as "I am automobile".


In any thematic competition we are always being told by judges that they expect to be able to trace a "red line": the thread of the story starting at the top left of page one and finishing bottom right of the last page. Rudolf solved this by printing a clear red line down the length of the plan page! But that was the only joke on the plan page, which demonstrated the depth and study involved in telling his story. It began - of course - at the beginning, with inventions and technical developments which paved the way for the automobile and the first two manufacturers Daimler and Benz. The names of cars were derived from various sources including the name of the designer or company founder, or its city or country of origin. An automobile must look good from the outside and feel comfortable inside. And it is very much the sum of its parts: chapter three went into great detail on the various parts of the engine including the starter, ignition, gearbox, steering mechanism, chassis and tyres.

Chapter four looked at different types of automobiles: private cars obviously; cars as support vehicles for services including the Red Cross, the fire brigade and the police; those involved with running car races; and one section we may not immediately think of: toy cars for children of all ages.

The display was spectacular in the quality and variety of its philatelic material. It is impossible to do justice to it here, but one thing can't be missed. The star of the show was a page of the USA 4c stamp in the Pan-American Exposition set (SG 302). This shows an electrically-driven Columbia Mark IX from 1899, used for transport between the train station and the city of Washington. Varieties of this stamp were shown, with a detailed description of how the varieties occur, and slap-bang in the middle of the page was one of the USA great rarities, the 'inverted automobile'.

In his vote of thanks John Hayward said what many of us were thinking "what we have seen today is staggering" with extremely elusive items including 'fabulous' perfins. I particularly liked the stamp error which resulted in a Red Cross item having a black cross! Also some early period USA fancy cancels on cover including a wheel, a whole range of postal stationery, telegraph forms and much more beside. Where stamps were used it was nearly always with a variety or error (plus normal to compare). This is the sort of collection few people can aspire to, but for the rest of us it did not detract from the enjoyment of a talk delivered modestly, in immaculate English, to an audience who were enthralled.

Following Rudolf's talk we had one frame displays from members:

John Hayward showed different types of airmails from his Iron Steed, including Mexico and the USA. Grace Davies showed a study of a China issue showing Tiananmen Square, Tiananmen meaning "Gate of Heavenly Peace", and Anne Stammers showed an Open competition entry on 'Copper', the first metal to be mined by man. 



# EUROPHILEX STAMP EXHIBITION LONDON 2015

*Lesley Marley, Thematic Commissioner 2015, reports*

The Thematic arm of Europhilex Stamp Exhibition London 2015 took place at the bi-annual European Championship for Thematic Philately held 7-9 May 2015 at the Messe Essen in Germany a week before the London show. There were a feast of 71 thematic entries judged of which eight were from the U.K. The entries were divided into nine categories (see below). Each class was awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze for first, second and third according to the score given. You can win your class with 7 or 11 frames (the frames hold twelve pages each) and you do not have to have a gold medal score of 90 plus to win your class. At the Palmares there was a Eurovision style competition for the winners of each of the nine categories where the judges voted for their favourite entry. This is always very exciting as the scores are shown on a screen as they are given. *Fascinated in Feathers* was a clear winner. I came second which was exciting for me. The British were the best country overall with 5 Golds: John Hayward, Richard Wheeler, Peter Weir, Linda Lee and Lesley Marley; one Large Vermeil to Jim Etherington with 89 points, so close to a Gold; one Vermeil Alan Watson and a Large Silver Mark Humphries. John Hayward and I won our class and our entries were taken to London; if any one saw them you were probably using a torch!! It was a shame that not everyone of us were able to get to Essen or see our exhibits in the frames at London, which was a disappointment I know. The judging seemed to be very hard this year, I presume because it was FIP recognised and was an International, but I think that we all did well.

Full details of the winners, and thus shown in London, are:

*Category: Arts and Culture (7 entries)*

Renaat Nuyts	The Silver Screen	91
--------------	-------------------	----

*Category: History and Organisations (14 entries)*

Lawrence Fisher	The Jewish Homeland	92
-----------------	---------------------	----

*Category: Man and Everyday Life (12 entries)*

Raino Heino	Weather, From Observation to Forecasts	93
-------------	--	----

*Category: Sport and Leisure (13 entries)*

Peter Suhadolc	The Conquest of the Unprofitable World	91
----------------	--	----

*Category: Transport and Technology (7 entries)*

John Hayward	The Iron Steed	90
--------------	----------------	----

*Category: Medicine and Science (5 entries)*

Bengt-Göran Österdahl	The History of Chemistry	92
-----------------------	--------------------------	----

*Category: Animals and Plants (7 entries)*

Damian Läge	Fascinated in Feathers: how birds inspire people	98
-------------	--	----

*Category: Agriculture and Pets (5 entries)*

Ryszard Prange	Vine and Wine: the gifts of gods, sun and soil	92
----------------	--	----

*Category: Champions Class (3 entries)*

Lesley Marley	A Whale's Tale	94
---------------	----------------	----

Very pleasingly three of the winners are BTA members: Peter Suhadolc, John Hayward and Lesley Marley. Other BTA members also did well:

Richard Wheeler	Evolution of Puppetry	90 marks and second place in class out of 7
Jim Etherington	1940: a Desperate Year for Britain	89 points, 5 <sup>th</sup> out of 14
Peter Weir	Liquid of Life: blood from an ancient myth to a modern medicine	90 points, 3 <sup>rd</sup> out of 5
Mark Humfrey	The Globalisation of Vanilla	76 points, 5 <sup>th</sup> out of 6

Full results from Essen can be found at:

[www.ectp.de/ectp-en/index\\_htm\\_files/Palmares-korrigiert.pdf](http://www.ectp.de/ectp-en/index_htm_files/Palmares-korrigiert.pdf)

London 2015 also had an Open class. Out of the 14 entries there were two Large Gold medals: BTA member John Davies with *A Jubilee Reminiscence* and Birthe King with *Denmark: conscience, conflict and camps 1932 - 1949*. BTA member Brian Sole got a Large Vermeil with *The Story of the British Greetings Telegram Services*. Six gold medals were awarded; these plus the Large Golds made a remarkably high percentage of top marks across the class as a whole.

Full results from London 2015 can be found at: [www.london2015.net/palmares/](http://www.london2015.net/palmares/) 

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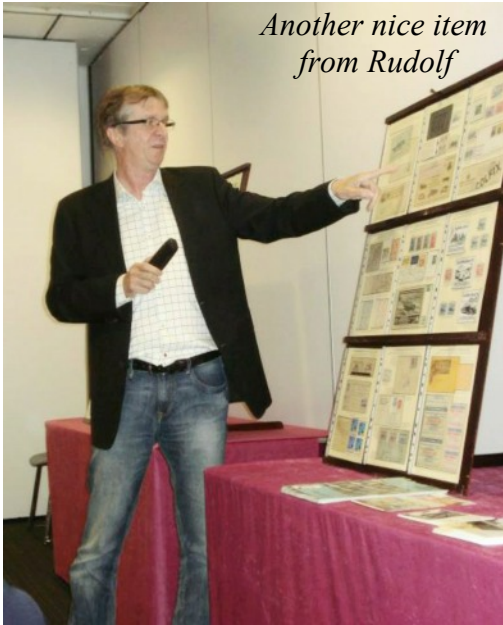
*Cadillac advertisement on a Giro form*



*The first three and four wheeled cars in the world*



*Volkswagen Beetle*



*Another nice item from Rudolf*



*Après talk*



*Champion! Essen Championship Class winner Lesley and category winner John*



*Sharing a table with the Masonic Philatelic Club*



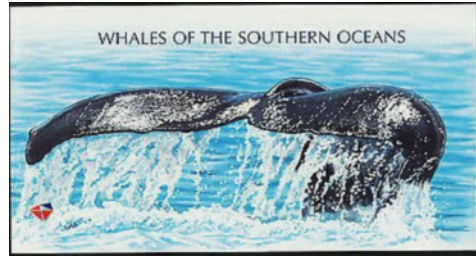
*An offer you can't refuse?*

# THEMATIC AND OPEN ENTRIES

*Weather*



*Whales*



*Fascinated in Feathers*



*Your Cuppa Tea*



*The Silver Screen*



*The Jewish Homeland*

## 3.1 Lingering Legends

Some manufacturers have been confined to history, but others have survived to the present day.

## Famous Marques



\*\* Specimen intended for demonstration of Roneo-Neopost machine



\*\* Former post-stationery envelope with letter-writing sheet sold for 15 s.

Rudge sadly folded on the death of its proprietor, but Triumph and BMW have continued until today as leading manufacturers.

Velocette 1904-1970

Horex 1923-1959



\* Machine used for motor-cycle manufacture.

From the early days Velocette built large single cylinder machines. Horex was a leading German motor-cycle manufacturer for many years. Parra only survived for eight years in Argentina. All three firms succumbed to the Japanese onslaught in the 1960s and 1970s.



Parra 1954-1962

\*\* Argentinian postal stationery envelope sold for 5 s. with additional 15 s postage for letter use.



Greeves was one of the first manufacturers of motor-cycles that initially made only competition machines. It had great success in England in cross country events such as trials and tria-cross.

## The Iron Steed

# 2015: THE UNITED NATIONS YEAR OF LIGHT

*Owen Green sees the light*

On December 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution that proclaimed 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light Based Technologies (IYL 2015). Principle objectives of the IYL are to raise global awareness in how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy supply and production, education, agriculture and health. Most people are aware of the vital role light plays in our daily lives, and its study and applications are evident in 21st century interdisciplinary science. Light and photonic (generating, controlling and detecting the particles of light) technologies have revolutionised medicine and international communications, and continue to be a fundamental component in linking cultural, economic and political aspects within the global society.


The UN program associated with IYL 2015 (details at [www.light2015.org/Home.html](http://www.light2015.org/Home.html)) was designed to promote improved public and political understanding of the role of light in the modern world, and coincides with celebrating a number of noteworthy anniversaries in 2015. These include the first study of optics 1,000 years ago, and the applications of light technologies used to power the Internet today. Events in the UK this year, which may be registered on the IYL website, include the 175th anniversary of the Royal Microscopical Society, and the 350th year of the publication of *Micrographia* by Robert Hooke, the first book detailing and illustrating objects viewed under the light microscope.

The opening ceremony for IYL was in Paris in mid-January this year, commencing with plenary lectures, thematic sessions and cultural events from the international community of light and light based technology. Other events during the year will consist of international, national and regional coordinated activities, planned for people of all ages and all backgrounds who will gain an appreciation for the central role of light in science, culture, and as an inter-disciplinary scientific subject that can advance sustainable global development.

Related philatelic offerings currently include a postcard issued by the UN with poster-style images promoting the IYL.



From the Caribbean island of Montserrat, released on January 29<sup>th</sup> this year, a sheetlet of four \$3.25 stamps illustrating the visible spectrum of light (a se-tenant pair), a prism that is decomposing white light into the primary and complimentary colours of the visible spectrum,

and a portrait of natural philosopher Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727). A \$7 value mini-sheet illustrates the ultraviolet and infrared parts of the electro-magnetic spectrum. Let us hope that more postal authorities and organisations commission more stamps, commemorative sheets and covers to mark key events during the year. 



*Editor's Note:*

A number of attractive stamps have been issued since this article was written.

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# EXHIBITING PAGE: EUROPHILEX SEMINARS

**F**EPA organised seminars throughout the London 2015 show. The two of particular interest to the BTA were:

## **OPEN PHILATELY: PHILATELY FOR ALL!**

by Graham Winters, a leading exhibitor.

When Open philately started it was new, fun, different, about ideas and creativity, and about allowing non-philatelic material in a philatelic exhibit. The rules state that philatelic material must be at least 50% of the exhibit. This does not mean that non-philatelic material must comprise half the exhibit, but its variety will influence the judging of Treatment as well as Material.

Treatment and Importance is worth 30 points. There must be a clear relationship between title, scope of story and structure of exhibit. It must have a comprehensive title page, and the treatment must give equal weight to philatelic and non-philatelic material. Importance will be scored as the same way as Treatment, i.e. equal weight to both philatelic and non-philatelic material. Knowledge and research is worth 35 points. A thorough knowledge of your subject should be demonstrated through your choice of material and brief but sufficient text. But remember that within this section philatelic material scores a maximum 20 points, but non-philatelic material 15 points. Material (i.e. condition and rarity) is worth 30 points. The philatelic material must be original, as should the non-philatelic where possible. Indicate to the judges the rarity of material, and present a selection of non-philatelic types, don't just concentrate on (for instance) postcards. Presentation can earn 5 points. Make it appealing by sheet, by frame, and by overall effect. Non-philatelic material must be no more than 5mm in thickness. Consider different sheet sizes [and see page 60].

Graham then went through his gold medal winning entry on golf *A Good Walk Spoiled*.

## **HOW TO IMPROVE A THEMATIC EXHIBIT: THE IMPORTANCE OF PHILATELIC MATERIAL**

by Bernard Jimenez, FIP Director for Europe and leading thematic exhibitor.

The seminar concentrated on what types of philatelic material are not only acceptable in a thematic competition entry, but will get good marks. The speaker stressed the importance of including as many postal items as possible. Acceptable material includes:

- Stamps. Only use countries acknowledged by the UPU. Include distributor labels and local posts. Artist die proofs and colour proofs document the progress of the design and printing, which should be written up; introduce these at important parts of your story, not when it is a minor detail.
- Miniature sheets. Not only the stamps but any part of the design. Similarly official information found in the margin of stamp sheets; thematic information in a margin is important.
- Reverse of stamps. Text or designs found on the back; for instance the Latvia 'map' stamps can be used to show the location of a particular place or a feature such as a structure.

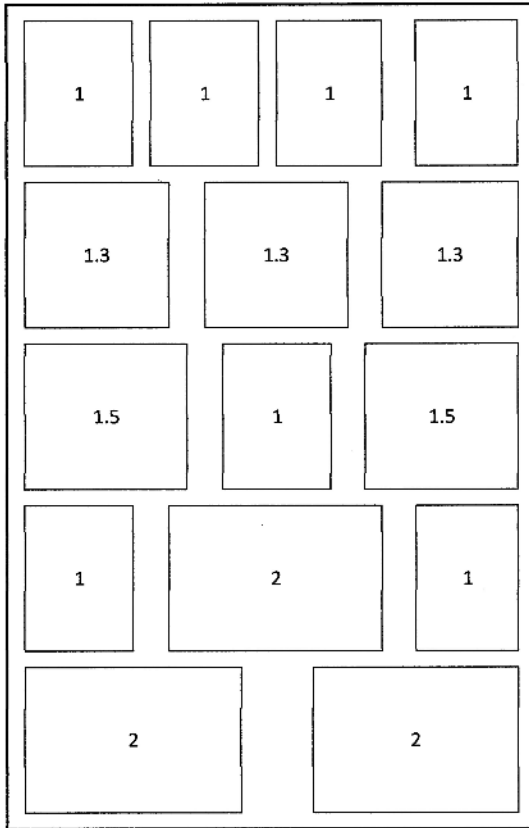


- Watermark. Show it clearly, black backing helps.
- Overprints. But beware of forgeries, best shown on cover.
- Booklets. Must be complete, not just the cover. Must be official, beware private issues. Can use the stamps, the cover, or the text and illustration, including advertisements, inside. Not necessary to show all the stamps, just some extending out of booklet.
- Perfins. Better on cover as that proves which company they come from. Can use additional stamp off cover, on black backing to illustrate perfin.
- Maxi card. Choose cards which will bring in an extra element in comparison with the stamp.
- Meter marks. Better as whole cover than a piece, but show 'windowed'. Should have a clean, neat strike. Write up philatelic knowledge, e.g. type of machine, period of use. If denomination is 000 the meter must say 'specimen'. The German Francotyp 'stammkarte' provides all the information about the machine and parts of the strike: value head, datestamp and advertising.
- French commemorative cancel slogans. Better as whole cover than a piece, but show 'windowed'. Write up philatelic knowledge, e.g. type of machine, period of use / temporary or permanent cancel.
- First Day cancellations. Better as whole cover than a piece, but show 'windowed'. What is important is the cancel, the FDC illustration does not count.
- Postmarks. Old material carries a lot of thematic importance. Explain its relevance to the theme.
- Postal Stationery. This covers cards, envelopes, aerogrammes, newspaper wrappers etc. Ideally use those made for use by the postal authorities. For private printed, note in text "printed to order". Postal Stationery must be shown entire, not windowed. Mint is less interesting than used. The printed stamp does not have to be linked to the topic, you can use any text or illustration on the item. Display whichever side is the most thematically interesting, and show a 50 - 75% size scan of the other side. Examples of specific types are Publubels (Belgium), Meghdoot (India), Echo (Japan), Postal Lottery (China), Lettre Annonce (France), Cartes Lettres (France). Also the advertising on a Mulready: show the original plus a scanned enlargement of your particular advertisement.
- Military franking. Make sure they are official and not private; better postally used.
- Illustrated telegrams including aerographs and V-mail.


A few general points:

Try and include at least three different types of postal material on each page. Make sure the pages tell a story with an introduction and an ending. It is important to tell the story in the right order, so don't put large items at the bottom of a page if they don't fit there. Both very old and very new material can occupy the same page. The judges will look at the top of frame one first, so put some better items in the first two rows. Also finish your story with better items.

Page sizes. There is no rule about page size, the fee is per frame not per sheet, so the limitation is the size of the frame. The next page gives examples of different paper sizes within one frame:



It was also suggested that because the width of the frame is slightly wider than A4 then pages could be 220mm wide rather than A4 at 210mm. However the speaker did not discuss the ‘fun’ to be had with getting bespoke pages cut and a printer to handle them!

This was a very helpful seminar which answered several queries raised by the audience. 

## HERE AND THERE

### BTA MEMBER RECEIVES DISTINCTION

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. An invitation to sign the Roll is regarded as the world’s pre-eminent philatelic honour.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Election four new recipients were invited to sign the Roll, including BTA member Jørgen Jørgensen FRPSL of Denmark. The Signing Ceremony will take place on Friday 7th August 2015 in Leeds, West Yorkshire, during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Among many accomplishments Jørgen’s thematic collection of Fisheries has gained many Gold medals and four Large Golds at FIP exhibitions. He showed some of it at a BTA meeting last year. He is an accredited FIP judge in Thematic Philately and has been a Team Leader since 1999. His literary work includes Thematic Philately from A to Z, published in twelve articles between 2005 and 2008 in Thematic News.

# STAMP ACTIVE AT EUROPHILEX

## EUROPHILEX WINNERS

Stamp Active again put on a lively Show for the young collectors attending the London 2015 International Stamp Exhibition sponsored by Spears Charitable Trust. The theme of the youth area was “STAMP COLLECTING” with a range of free activities and prizes awarded for completion of each activity. All young collectors received an exciting goodie bag.


## “BRING A CHILD” PRIZE DRAW RESULTS

A prize draw was also held at the end of London 2015 for the adults who brought a young collector to the Stamp Active stand at any time during the Show.

The winners were: **1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 1840 Penny Black Cover**, sponsored by Beckett Philatelics, was won by Connie Latham-Warde of Kirk Ella.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Royal Mail 2014 Year Book**, sponsored by Royal Mail, was won by Chris Barker of Crayford

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Guernsey Post 2014 Year Book**, sponsored by Guernsey Post, was won by Mia Lee of London.

John Davies, Chairman of Stamp Active, commented “We have, once again, been well supported at a major London Show by the PTS and our Dealer Patrons as well as receiving lots of donations from collectors to enable us to create a fun activity area. We hope the continuing prize draw will continue to be an additional incentive to parents and grandparents to “Bring a Child to Stampex” in September and February. Young Collectors have a great time and really enjoy the activities. We just want to see many more come along”. 

## BTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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# MY FAVOURITE ITEM

*Wendy Buckle admires the art of the engraver*

**T**hematic collectors are fascinated by their theme, and philately is just an excuse to put together our story. So perhaps it's not surprising that my favourite item is not philatelic. It's a piece of ephemera: an advertisement for the printer De La Rue Giori in the guise of a banknote. Gualtiero Giori founded a printing company in 1952 which later went into partnership with De La Rue. It specialised in security printing, particularly banknotes, and produced a series of imitation banknotes to show off the quality of its printing. The company changed hands over the years and is now KBA-NotaSys.


This particular example ticks all the boxes for me. As a thematic collector on the history of printing I'm delighted to own an item engraved and printed to the highest standards by a name known to all stamp collectors, and one which commemorates the inventor of printing in the western world. On one side is a portrait of Johann Gutenberg with his typeface, and on the back an imaginary scene from his printing shop featuring Gutenberg, Johann Füst and Peter Schoeffer who took over the business from Gutenberg (who went bankrupt, but that's another story) and an apprentice.

Security printers have produced many advertising and specimen notes featuring famous people, items which may well be attractive to the thematic collector. 

# THE NEW AGE OF STEAM

*David Roseveare continues an idea started in a previous 'My Favourite Item'*

**R**ecently I found this unusual item in one of my books and I cast my mind back to the December 2014 issue of *Themescene* which featured an article "My Favourite Item - Charles Oppenheim collects down the pub".

Here's one for you Charles: A Newquay Steam Beer mat sent from Versailles France to Sidmouth in Devon. The addressee Richard Steward, sadly deceased, was a personal friend who had relations living in Versailles. His mother was involved in the setting-up of the Berlitz language schools in many cities. Maurice Gale also knew him well and we would often speak of him when we met. Richard had a wonderful sense of humour and was always testing the postal authorities, and this was one of his best. He called it the "Beer Post", this example postmarked 23rd April 1989 (should have been the 1st!) and bore two 2f 20 stamps, the left one overprinted ECU 0,31 which was the forerunner of the euro. Furthermore it was delivered in one piece. Obviously the postman wasn't drunk! Why don't they include Beer Post rates in the catalogue, this could catch on! 

*Illustrations for this article are on the outside back cover*

# 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)

## Bicycle Stamp Club

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

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## Bird Stamp Society

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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

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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

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Rev. Derek West, 35 Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8SA.

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Web: <http://www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk/>

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

# HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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Available from: [www.phil-shop.de](http://www.phil-shop.de) cost €14.90, plus €1.50 postage and packing within Germany or €3.50 postage and packing overseas.

The English introduction explains why this book was written. Standard dual language



dictionary sites such as Leo <http://www.leo.org/> or translation services such as Google Translate are not designed for philatelists, so words in common philatelic use are not included. This work remedies that. It is not a thematic dictionary, but anyone faced with understanding a German cover in their thematic collection will find it useful. It will also help when looking at German thematic websites. I'm sure many non-German speakers like myself have Googled something, found an illustration, and then struggled to understand the caption. This book will help with that. It also includes auction terms, for those who are buying from overseas. If you have a postal history German language area country collection as well as your thematic collection I would say this book is a requirement. Of course it will not be relevant for all thematic collectors, but for anyone who chooses to exhibit it would be a most helpful addition to their reference books.

30<sup>th</sup> Sept to 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2016

Will be the next  
**Fun With Philately**  
**BTA Residential Weekend**

As previously, the location will be  
Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel

Full details and outline programme will be  
published in September *Themescene*

Put this date in your diaries now!

# JUST4KIDS

By Lise Whittle

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

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

*Thank you*

## MAKE YOUR OWN CHESS SET!

Do you like playing board games? Can you play chess? If you have never tried it, now is a great time to learn. It's a great game for 2 players. See if someone you know can teach you, or find out if there is a Chess Club in your school or town.



There are hundreds of different chess stamps, from dozens of different countries. Why not make your own board and start collecting chess stamps to use as the pieces? This might take you quite a long time to collect, as you will need two sets – one for each player - so ask people you know to help you.

Check with the person who looks after you if you can search online for images of chess stamps to try and collect. You could find ones you like and draw them on stamp-sized pieces of paper until you have the real stamp.

A book called ‘Stanley Gibbons Collect Chess On Stamps’ is out of print just now, but you may be able to get a second-hand copy. Ask your Club Leader how to collect chess stamps, or find out if there are Stamp Fairs near you where dealers may have some.

For the board, draw yourself 64 squares, 8 squares across and 8 squares down, as shown on the stamps shown from Algeria and the Netherlands.



For the ‘pieces’, mount the stamps you collect into clear covered card pockets to protect them.

**Below are a black King (*Jersey stamp*), a black and white Queen (*Barbados*) and a white Queen (*Jersey*).**





For two sets, you will need to collect: 1 black King, 1 white King, 1 black Queen, 1 white Queen, 2 black Bishops, 2 white Bishops, 2 black Knights, 2 white Knights, 2 black Castles (also called Rooks), 2 white Castles, 8 black Pawns and 8 white Pawns.

Below are stamps showing a white Bishop (*Jersey*), a black Knight (*Jersey*) and a white Knight (*Yugoslavia*)



Below: a black Castle (*Barbados*), a white Castle (*Jersey*) and a black Pawn (*Jersey*)



Below: a white Pawn (*Yugoslavia*) and a board, black Knight and white Castle (*Finland*)



Have fun playing Chess!

Write and tell us what chess stamps you have collected, and junior collectors could win a **FREE CHESS PRIZE!**

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

For more stamp fun go to the Stamp Active website [www.stampactive.co.uk](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: Mr. R. Backhouse, 10 Hoe Lane, Ware, Herts, SG12 9NU. Tel: 01920 484974; email: ron@10nis.fsnet.co.uk. 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.

## Aircraft

- |   |             |  |                     |
|---|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 2 | Lewis, B.   | For the Love of Lituania [flight attempts 1933-35] | ThemNews 11/2013    |
| 2 | Cartier, R. | The B-32 Bomber: A Footnote in WWII Aircraft       | Topical Time 2/2013 |

## Authors

- |   |             |  |                       |
|---|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 4 | Nillson, M. | Literary gems                          | Stamp Magazine 7/2013 |
| 5 | Floyd, B.   | Jane Austen: Renowned English Novelist | Topical Time 12/2013  |
| 4 | Floyd, B.   | Literary Characters of Charles Dickens | Topical Time 6/2013   |

## Ballet

- |   |             |                     |            |
|---|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| 2 | Dugdale, J. | Two Popular Ballets | TAT 8/2013 |
|---|-------------|---------------------|------------|

## Bible

- |   |             |                    |                  |
|---|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2 | Whittle, C. | Birds of the Bible | ThemNews 11/2013 |
|---|-------------|--------------------|------------------|

## Birds

- |   |             |                    |                  |
|---|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2 | Whittle, C. | Birds of the Bible | ThemNews 11/2013 |
| 3 | Rowland, S. | The Sea Eagle      | ThemNews 5/2014  |

## Butterflies and Moths

- |   |               |   |                 |
|---|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 4 | Geertsema, H. | Lepidopterous Philately of S Africa 7th Defs series | ThemNews 5/2014 |
|---|---------------|---|-----------------|

## Cats

- |   |             |                           |                 |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | Whittle, C. | Smallest of the Wild Cats | ThemNews 8/2013 |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|

## Christopher Columbus

- |   |          |  |                      |
|---|----------|--|----------------------|
| 2 | Seff, L. | The Joys of Columbus (stamps, that is) | Topical Time 12/2013 |
|---|----------|--|----------------------|

## Communication

- |   |            |  |                 |
|---|------------|--|-----------------|
| 3 | Vegter, W. | Cyber Heroes of the Past - Walter Houser Britain | ThemNews 8/2013 |
|---|------------|--|-----------------|

		<b>Dentistry</b>	
5	Muslow, S.	St Apollonia; Patron Saint of Dentists	MediTheme 2/2014
		<b>Dinosaurs</b>	
4	Noad, J.	Dinosaur Hunter	Stamp Magazine 6/2013
		<b>Fashion</b>	
4	Jagtap, A.	Stepping into Philatelic Shoes	ITS Stamp News 4/2013
		<b>Football</b>	
4	Dehorned, G.	Soccer Matches 'Cancelled'	TAT 8/2013
		<b>Libraries</b>	
3	Buckle, W.	The Raven King and His Library (King Matthias of Hungary)	Philateli-Graphics 7/2013
		<b>Medicine</b>	
3	Barnes, P.	Stop Cancer Now!	MediTheme 3/2013
		<b>Motoring</b>	
3	Burger, J.	The Story of Mercedes-Benz	ThemNews 5/2013
		<b>Mythology</b>	
3	Agrawal, S.	The Mythical Creatures of Himmapan Forest	ITS Stamp News 4/2013
7	Dugdale, J.	Divine family (Greek gods)	Stamp Magazine 5/2013
		<b>Perfins</b>	
5	Dodson, L.	Does Your Topical Collection Have Holes In It?	ThemNews 5/2013
		<b>Printing</b>	
4	Chambers, M.	Forgotten art? (French Stamps)	Stamp Magazine 6/2013
5	Buckle, W.	Going to press (Johannes Gutenberg)	Stamp Magazine 6/2013
		<b>Railways</b>	
5	Winchester, J.	Blue streak (steam train records)	Stamp Magazine 2013
4	Ghatak, S.	On the fast track (TGV French Trains)	Stamp Magazine 5/2013
		<b>Rainbows</b>	
3	Van Zupthen, H.	Fantastic Rainbows on Stamps	ThemNews 5/2014
		<b>Royalty</b>	
3	Buckle, W.	The Raven King and His Library (King Matthias of Hungary)	Philateli-Graphics 7/2013
4	Livingstone, B.	Portrait of King George VI	Stamp Lover 6/2014
		<b>Space</b>	
4	Hillger, D.	GPS Equipment and Satellite	Topical Time 6/2013
		<b>World War II</b>	
5	Chambers, M.	Fighting back (French Resistance)	Stamp Magazine 8/2013
2	Cartier, R.	The B-32 Bomber: A Footnote in WWII Aircraft	Topical Time 2/2013

# BTA PROGRAMME 2015

- June 13th                    **Annual General Meeting**  
**Plus Member's Meeting: 12 sheets of your choice**  
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive  
*At:* Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College  
Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
- July 4th                      Midpex  
Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa  
<http://midpex.wordpress.com/>  
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive
- September 16th - 19th      Autumn Stampex. *No meeting*  
Key Participant: GB Overprints Society 45 Years
- 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)
- Competition details follow on the next two pages. Why not 'Have a go and show'? If you have never seen your material on display in frames this is your chance.

# **BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**

## **2015 COMPETITIONS**

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

**SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2015 10.00am – 4.30pm**

This is a chance for you to dip your toes into competing, even if you have never tried it before. If you have been put off in the past because you don't like rules, try the:

### John Fosbery Thematic Trophy

This competition requires 16 sheets inside protectors and is for collectors who have never won a thematic medal in a National competition. It has NO OTHER RULES! The entries will be judged by visitors to the Exhibition, so an interesting subject and/or an attractive appearance is all that is needed. This is your chance to tell your thematic story.

Have you tried competing at club level and want to take it further, perhaps to Federation or National level? Then try out the:

### BTA Cup Competition

Judged to National Thematic competition rules it requires 32 sheets (2 frames), any theme, inside protectors. It is an excellent stepping-stone towards entering a Federation or National thematic competition as it is sympathetically judged, with instructive and positive feedback which will help you understand the sometimes tricky rules which apply nationally. The entry fee is £15.

**Please complete the form on the next page and send it to -**

Brian Sole,  
49 Westcar Lane,  
Hersham,  
Walton-on-Thames, KT12 5ER

Telephone: 01932 220677; e-mail: [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY FORMS:**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Receipt of the sheets by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Details will be sent to entrants.**

# British Thematic Association Competitions 2015

## Entry Form

*I wish to enter*

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

*OR*

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

Name .....Tel No.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

E-mail address.....

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

Re: entry to the JOHN FOSBERY competition -

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

Re: entry to the JOHN FOSBERY or the BTA CUP competitions -

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

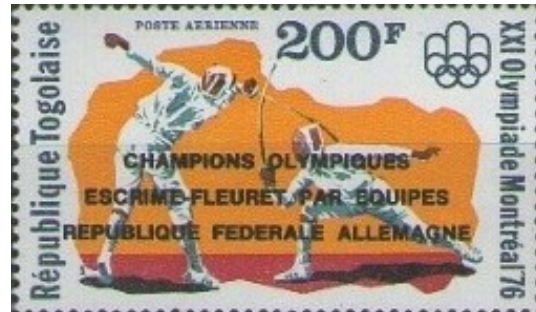
Signed.....Date.....



*First issue*



*Change of name*



*Special events*



*Particular postal services*



*Shortages*

*Postal stationery*



MY FAVOURITE ITEM page 62



De La Rue Giori  
'banknote'



THE NEW AGE OF STEAM page 62



Beer mat mail!

